

Research Support Services Directorate Funding Team



Angie Mifsud
Post-UMRE Outreach
28th May 2026

RSSD Funding Team

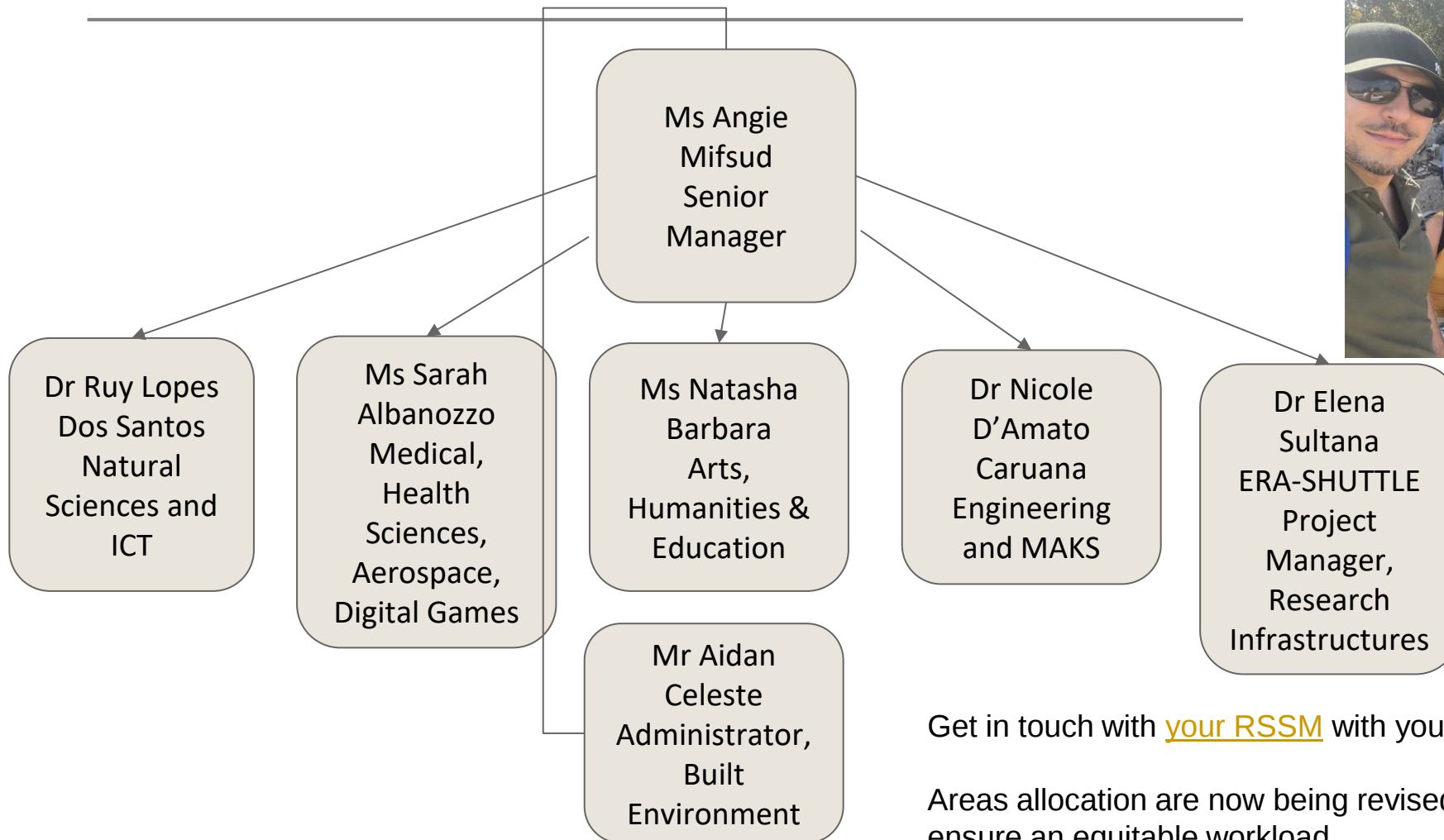
What do we do?

We support UM Academics and Researchers to match their research vision with Funding opportunities, supporting them throughout the proposal preparation and submission process

Activities:

- Outreach
- Website with calls, info and resources
- Dissemination through Mailshots
- Training
- Proposal review and submission support

The Team



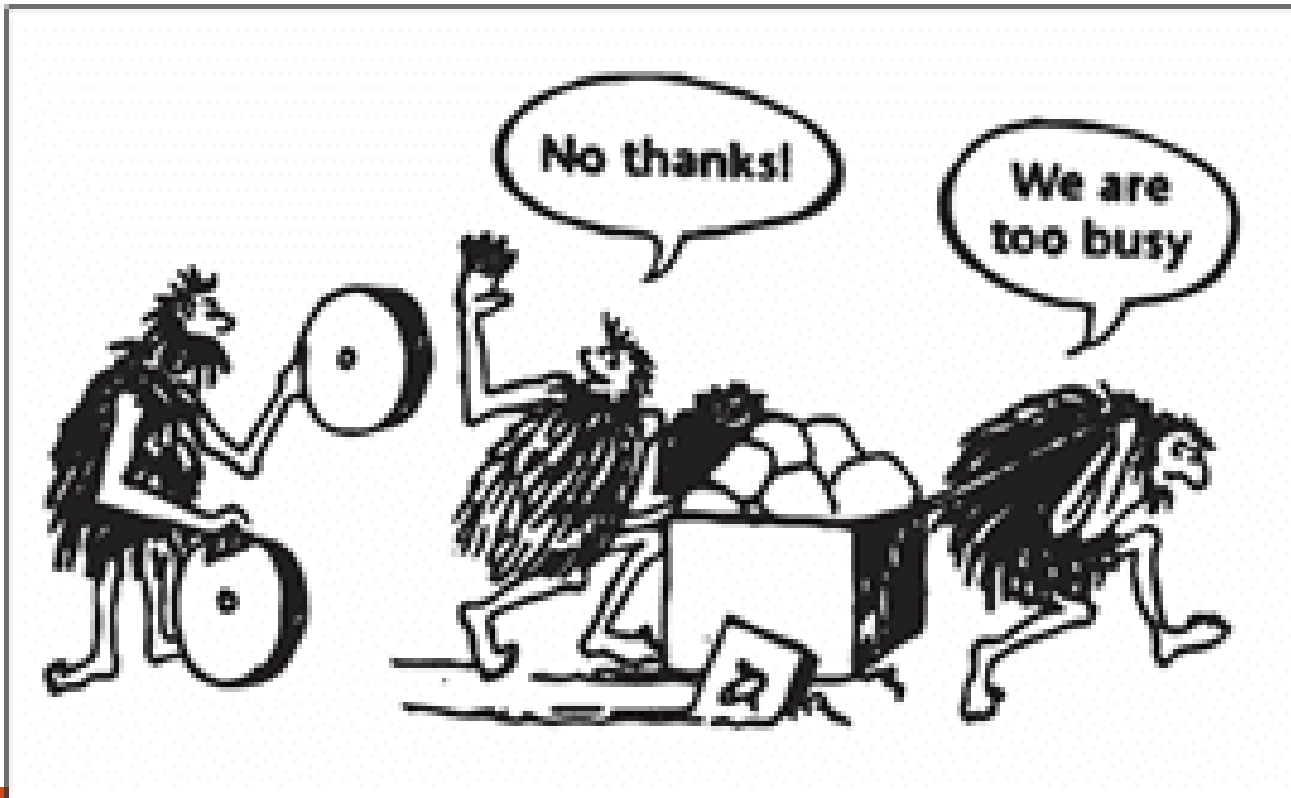
Get in touch with [your RSSM](#) with your ideas!

Areas allocation are now being revised yearly to ensure an equitable workload.

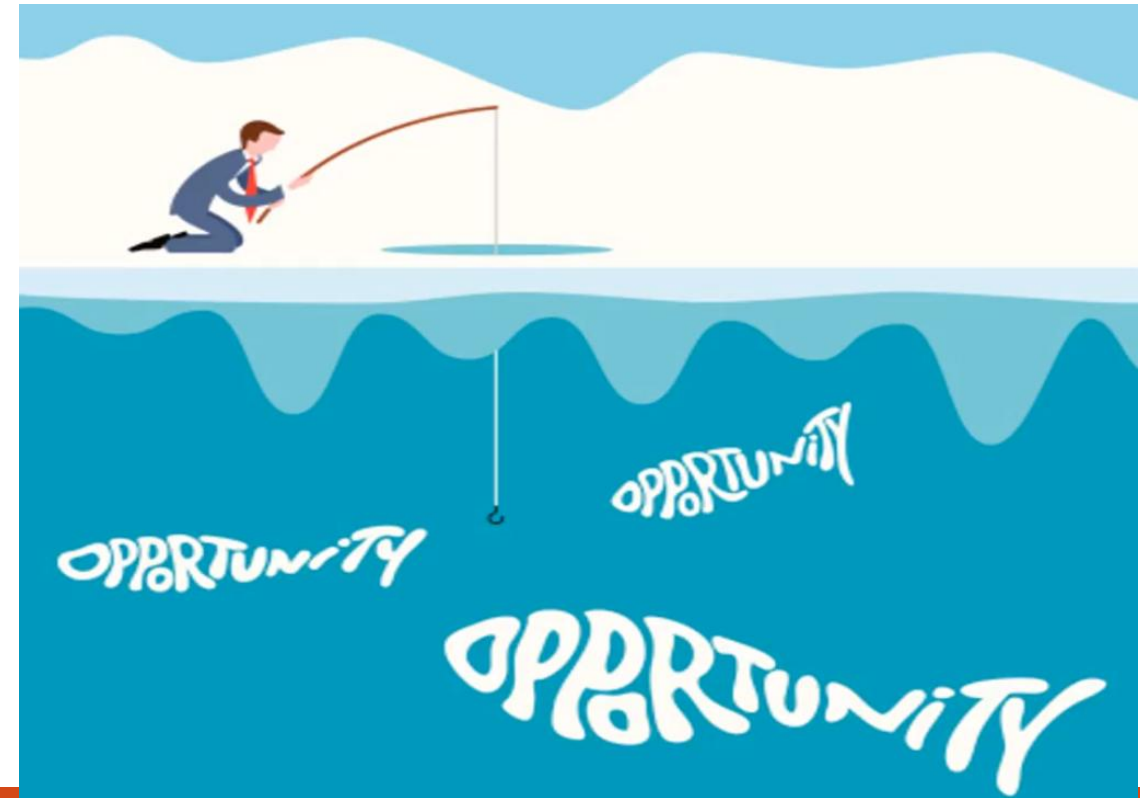
OUTREACH



This?



Or This?



RESEARCH & PREPARATION

1. Identify the academic or academics you want to target
2. Go through the research area/interest of the targeted academic/s
3. Pick a few topics and match them with awarded projects on the results platform
4. Copy the links to the chosen awarded projects
5. Match the research interest with a particular call/s
6. Make sure that the identified call is a forthcoming call
7. Check the funding mechanism and if local/EU funds
8. Check requirements of the call
9. Make an appointment with the academic/s

The main funding scenario

Networking, support and training:

- Research Networking Scheme; NET2HE; PF2MT, Support schemes; COST

Local funds (benefiting locals):

- Research = RIDT, Research Excellence, XM Thematic programmes
- Commercialisation = XM Fusion programme for R&I

Internationalisation (each participating country provides own funds):

- Partnerships
- Bilateral collaborations, e.g. Sino-Malta, Tubitak

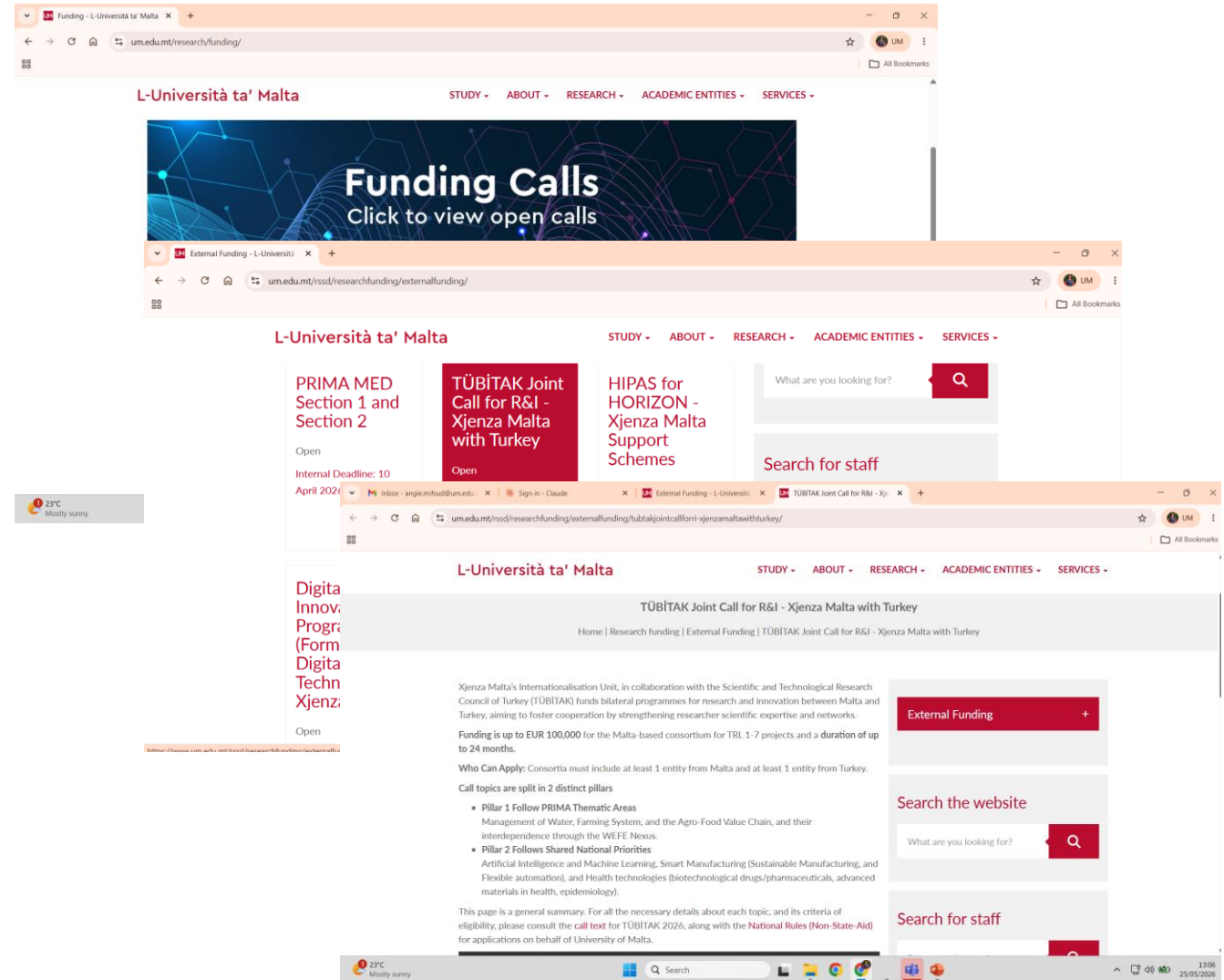
European Funds (benefiting European citizens):

- Education = Erasmus+

Research = Horizon Europe; DG Funding; INTERREG

NEW RSSD Website - Funding Opportunities

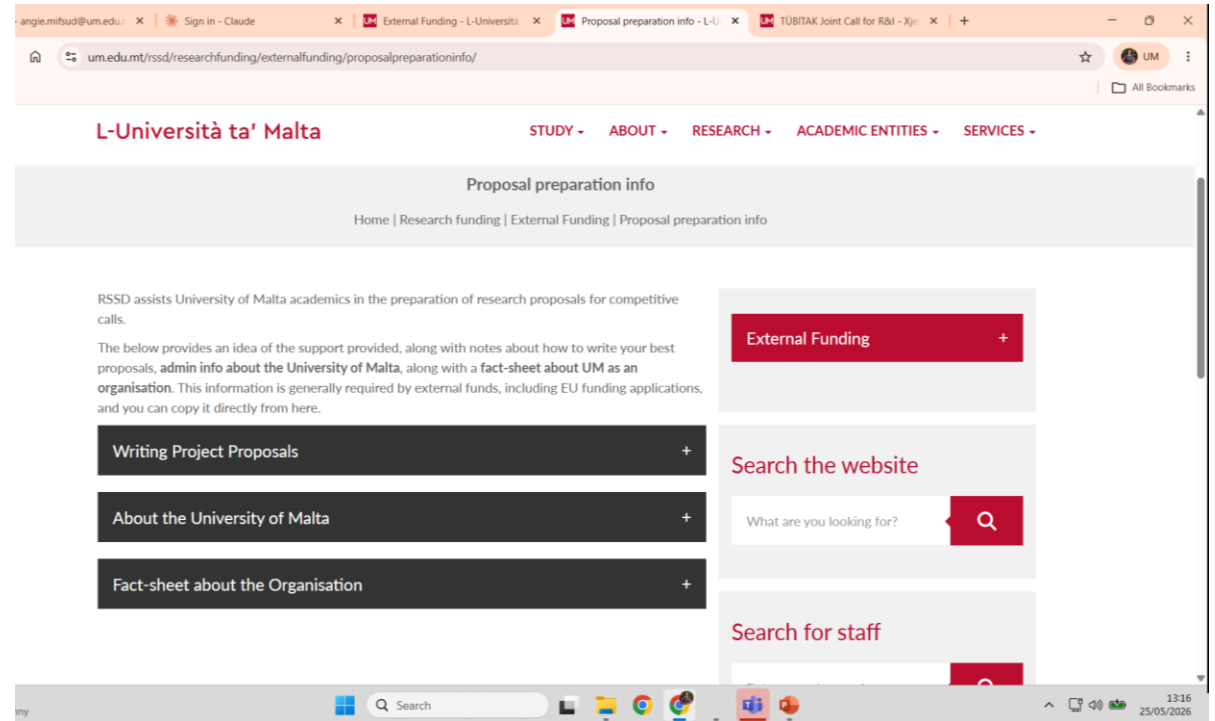
- New RSSD website, including publication of call pages
- Mailshots reduced to once per week, or few weeks, for announcing new calls and opportunities
- On site info sessions have been discontinued, replaced with announcements and recordings of the online sessions by the Funder on the call page
- Academics are welcome to contact their RSSM by email for queries, 1:1 sessions



RSSD Funding website – proposal support

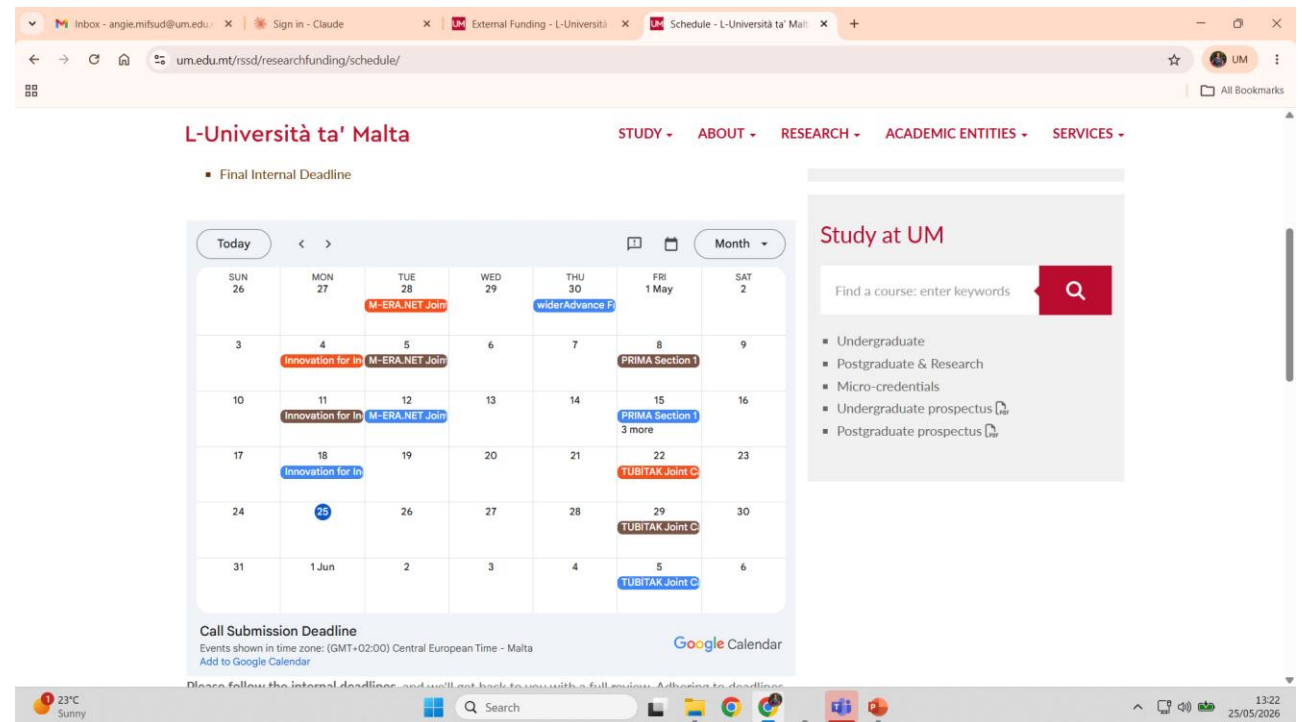
Visit our website for:

- Tips and tricks about writing successful proposals
- Training on proposal writing (more resources available to applicants upon request)
- Information about the UM to include in the proposal
- Fact sheet about the organisation



RSSD Funding website - Schedule

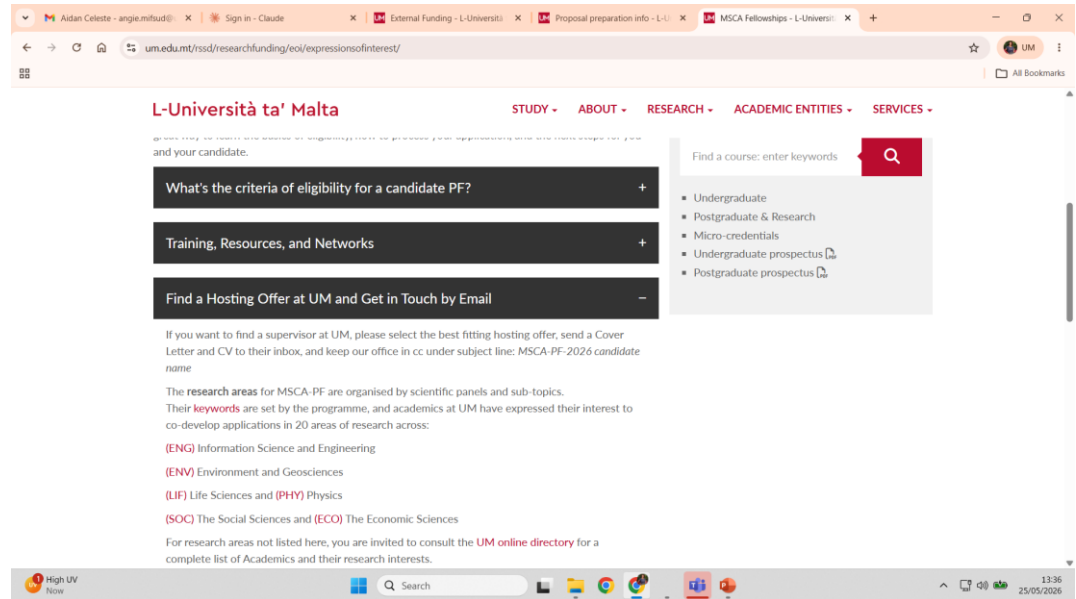
- We apply internal deadlines to receive draft proposals for review and for finalising proposal documents
- Missing the deadline may compromise having your proposal reviewed and processed
- Don't miss the deadline! Include the internal deadlines in your google calendar directly through the call pages!



RSSD Funding website Expressions of Interest

This applies to:

- MSCA PF hosting candidates and publishing of hosting offers
- Intention to apply: In the age of AI, more funders are choosing to cap the number of proposals per institution. In high volume calls, UM will start to apply internal capping
- This means that we need to select who submits from the UM internally through Eols



Erasmus+ Cooperation and small scale partnerships non-HED - Max. 10;
Max. 5 respectively

Creative Europe – Max. 3 as Coordinator and Partner combined

EIT HEI – Max. 1 per Institution

Sino-Malta – Max. 2 per PI

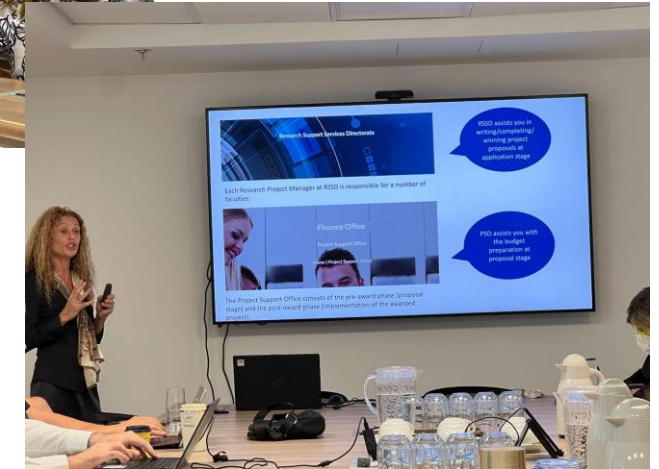
UM Internal capping on the Research Excellence Programme – Maximum
2 per PI; Erasmus+ Max. 1 per PI non-HED; Max. 3 per PI HED

Get in touch early; look for calls with capping to avoid disappointment!

Training

- Introduction to Funding
- Erasmus+ from Idea to Reality
- Mastering Horizon Pillar II
- Doctoral School

Coming 2027: ERC training with
a focus on MSCA PF



Networks

EARMA

Utrecht Network - Hosting of
annual workshop 2018 and 2025

SEA-EU Alliance



University Maritime Platform
(UMP)



Proposal flow

From Idea to
Funding



Handover arranged with -> RGFM

Proposal review and submission support

As per [SOP ZRH-008](#) – Review and processing of project proposals and Manual for Principal Investigators (coming soon):

- PI meets with RSSM to discuss idea and find best fitting funding programme (UM is Coordinator), discuss invitation and UM role (UM is Partner)
- 4 to 6 weeks (Coordinator); 2 weeks (Partner): Draft Proposal and Budget uploaded in dedicated google drive set up by RSSM
- RSSM creates Project Review document for circulation
- RSSM reviews proposal and provides feedback, checks for cases of conflict of interest
- RGFM Reviews the Budget and finalises with the PI
- RSSM sends documents for signature
- Signed documents are sent to the PI for submission.

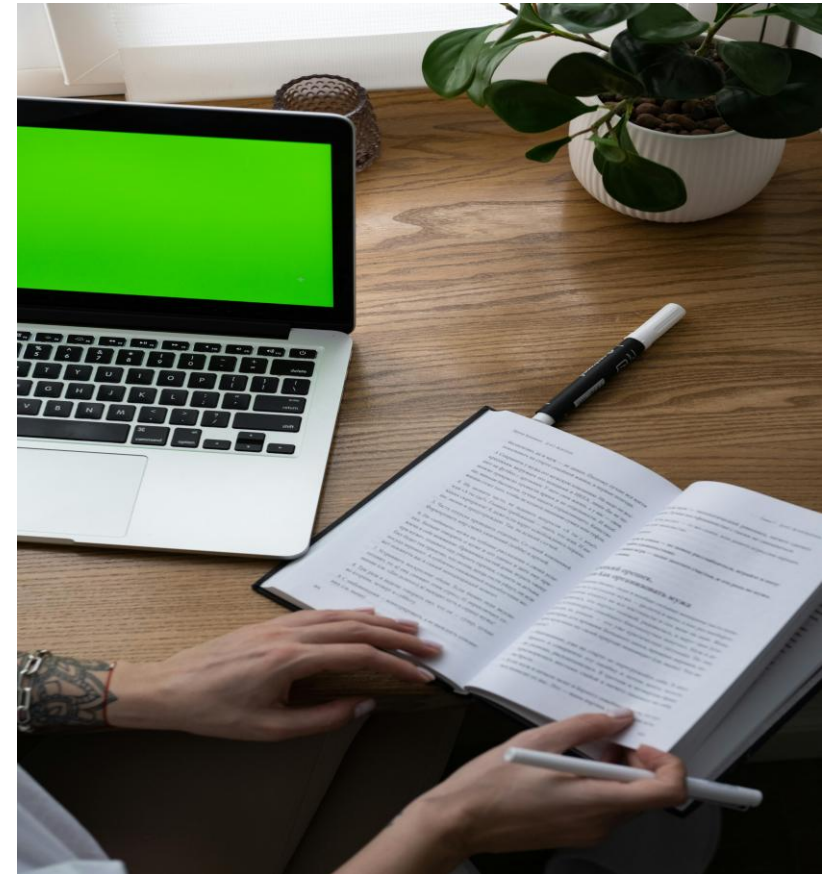


Manual for PIs (coming soon)

A comprehensive manual including everything a PI needs to know about the funding lifecycle....and more!

Developed by RSSD with input from Research Support Structures and reviewed by HR4SR and Academic PIs

Covering: Pre and Post Award, Grant Award, Project Implementation, Laboratory Based Projects, Research Integrity, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, IP, Data Management, Ethics, Publishing, Training and Professional Development.



Streamlining our processes

From This

Contact RSSD Funding for proposal reviews

Contact HR for Personnel Matters

Contact RGFM for Budget

Contact Legal office for forms, documents, due diligence

Contact KTO for IP matters

To this

Contact RSSD Funding for proposal reviews. RSSD consults with Legal, HR and KTO only in specific cases

Contact RGFM for Budget, except for support schemes

Rector Power of Attorney for signing documents - up to € 25 K RSSD Director; € 25K to € 250K Pro-Rector for Research and Innovation. Moving to google e-signatures

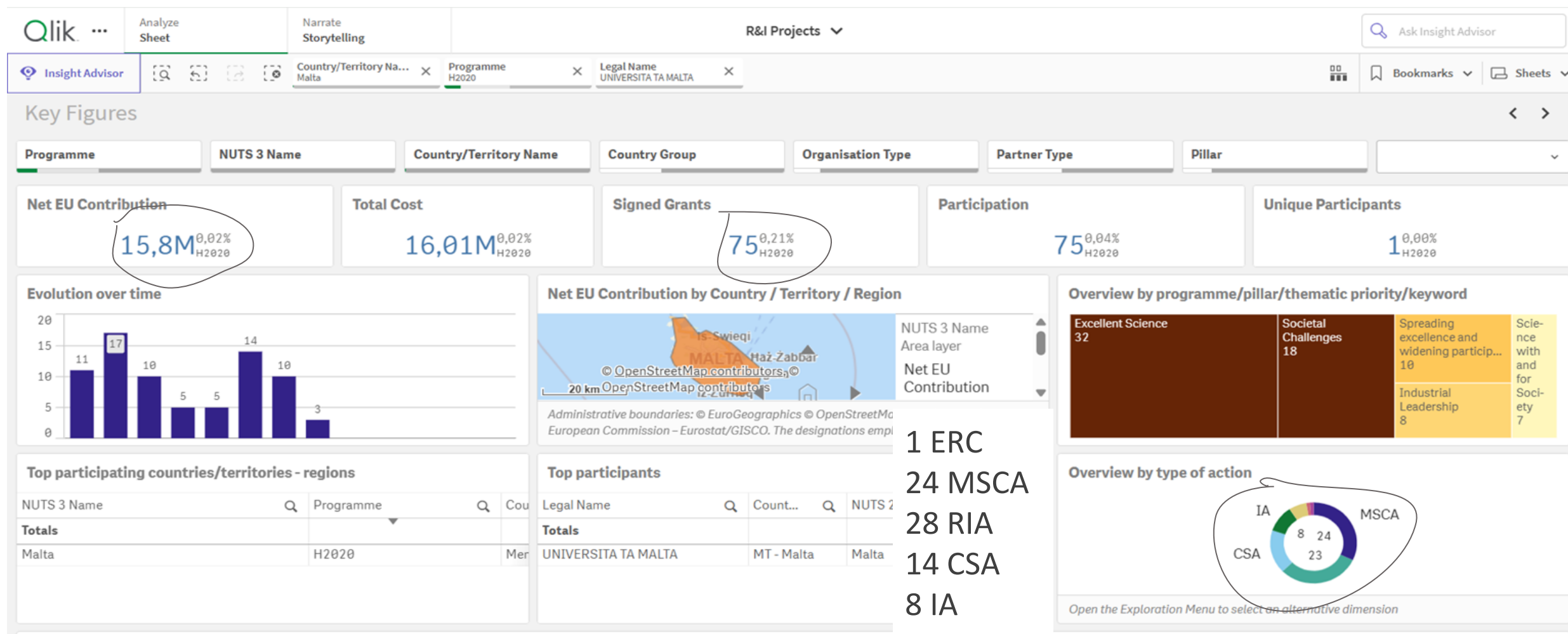
Next step: Process automation

Main Achievements since RSSD

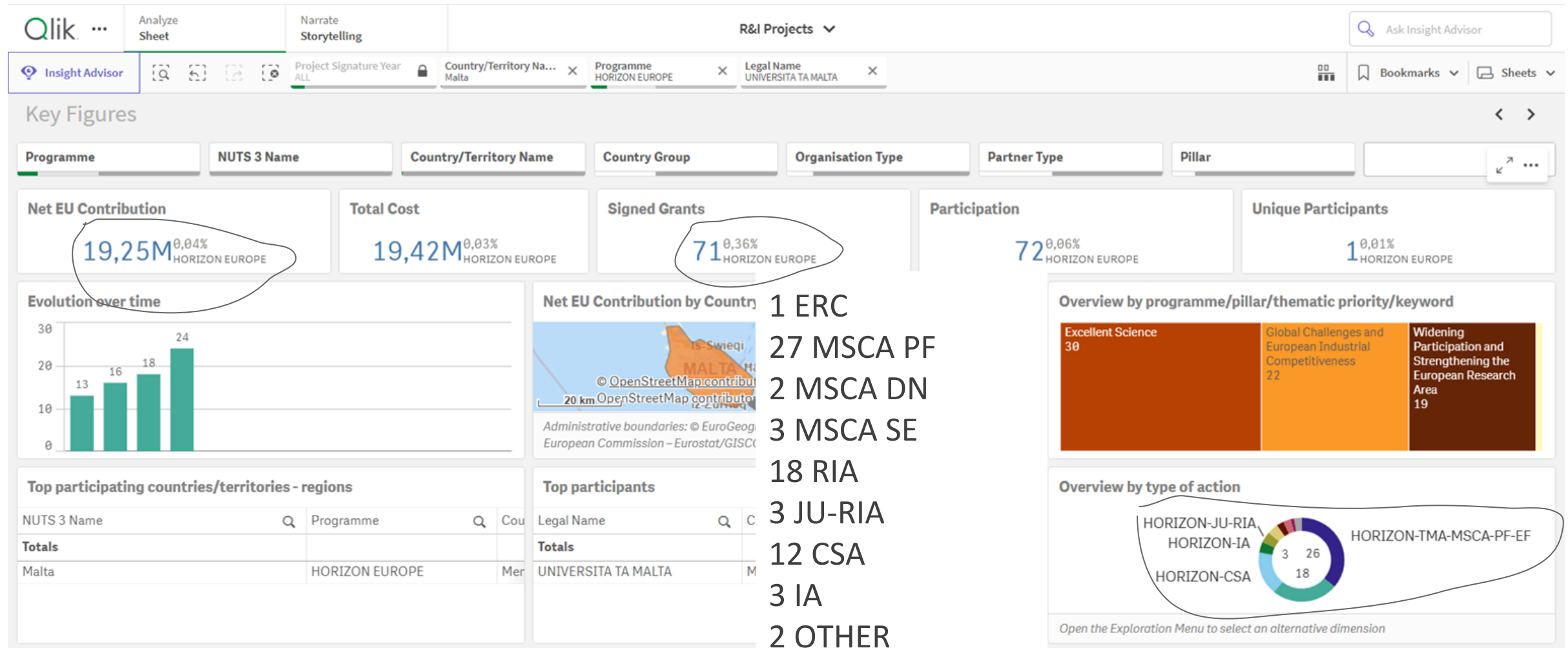
- 2018 - First Maltese led COST Action MyWave. We now lead COST actions, chair others and participate in the majority
- 2022 - First ERA chair awarded in bioinformatics
- 2022 - First EIC Pathfinder project UM Lead
- 2022 - First awarded ERA-Talents proposal - ERA Shuttle
- 2022 - Excellence Hubs proposal - Excel4Med
- 2023 - First Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees awarded to UM as lead - FLOURISH
- 2024 - First SESAR JU project awarded to UM as lead - ASTRA
- 2024 - First awarded ERC CoG



Funding Results - Horizon 2020



Funding Results - Horizon Europe



1 ERC
27 MSCA PF
2 MSCA DN
3 MSCA SE
18 RIA
3 JU-RIA
12 CSA
3 IA
2 OTHER

Funding Results Academic Year 2024/25

- Xjenza Malta - 141 projects - € 10,328,090
- Horizon Europe - 20 projects - € 4,957,166
- Erasmus+ KA1, KA2 and KA3 - 18 projects - € 3,823,759
- Collaboration agreements - 40 projects € 3,397,606
- INTERREG Italia-Malta NEXT MED - 13 projects - € 3,126,257
- Malta Enterprise - 2 projects - € 1,501,855
- Digital Europe - 2 projects - € 885,074
- Rural Development Programme - 2 projects - € 705,926
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme - 4 projects - € 677,120
- Energy and Water Agency - 2 projects - € 291,547
- European Innovation Council - 1 project - € 236,802
- Creative Europe - 2 projects - € 101,958
- Others - 27 projects € 2,056,545
- **Total - 274 projects - € 32,089,705**

SUCCESS
STORY

University Research Explores Kites to Boost Offshore Wind Energy (ParaWIND)



FUSION
The R+I
Programme



Lead: Prof. Tonio Sant, with Dr. Jean-Paul Mollicone and Researchers Karl Zammit and Luke Jurgen Briffa, Institute of Sustainable Energy

Offshore wind farms are a key pillar of the global shift toward renewable energy, but they face a major challenge—interference. This project is exploring the use of large inflatable kites to redirect high-altitude winds toward wind turbines, enhancing their efficiency and energy yield.

SUCCESS
STORY



L-Università
ta' Malta

The rise and fall of Maltese terraced landscapes (TerraForm)

Funder: ERC Consolidator Grant

Lead PI: Dr. Huw Groucutt, Department of Classics & Archaeology



Exploring the origins, evolution, and impacts of agricultural terracing in Malta, a key aspect of sustainable farming.



SUCCESS
STORY

Climate Shocks and Subjective Wellbeing in Small Island Developing States (CLIMWELB)

Tackling pressing global questions on climate and wellbeing: How do floods, droughts, and extreme heat affect wellbeing? Through which pathways—health, food security, employment, or conflict—do these effects unfold? Can subnational foreign aid help cushion their effect? CLIMWELB's findings will provide fresh insights for global policy and donor strategies, advancing both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal.



Funder: MSCA PF

Researcher: Dr. Musharavati Ephraim Munyanyi
Supervisor: Prof. Marie Briguglio, Department of Economics

SUCCESS
STORY

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Resilience in Educational Contexts



Funder: Erasmus+ Joint Masters Degrees

Lead PI: Prof. Carmel Cefai



AIM: *To provide a meaningful, relevant and balanced education for children growing up in adverse and marginalised circumstances*



SUCCESS
STORY



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SEA MARVEL



Funder: INTERREG V-A Italia-Malta

Lead PI: Prof. Adriana Vella

Raising awareness of the risks and mitigating the effects of plastic pollution, declining populations of marine species, alien species invasion and climate change effects in order to support the protection of marine Natura 2000 sites, hand in hand with youths, fishermen, sea users, and Ministries/Authorities for the Environment, Education and Sustainable development.

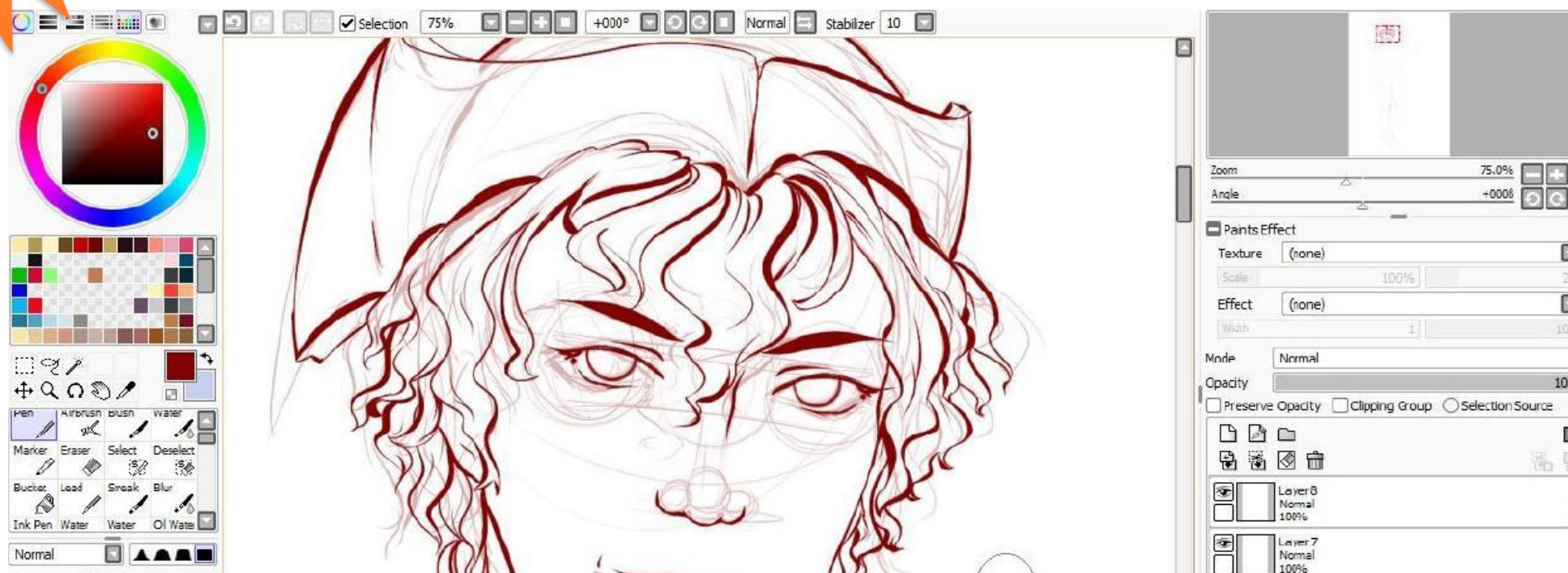


SUCCESS
STORY



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Classics through Digital Leisure-Learning (CITADEL)



Funder: Creative Europe

Lead: Dr. Carmel Serracino, Department of Classics and Archaeology, University of Malta

Partners: University of Gdansk (Poland), Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (the Netherlands) and Weebee Ltd.

Aim: to revive the interest of young people in Classics and classical literature. This will be achieved through the creation, promotion, and distribution of a digitised game downloadable through a mobile phone app.



SUCCESS
STORY



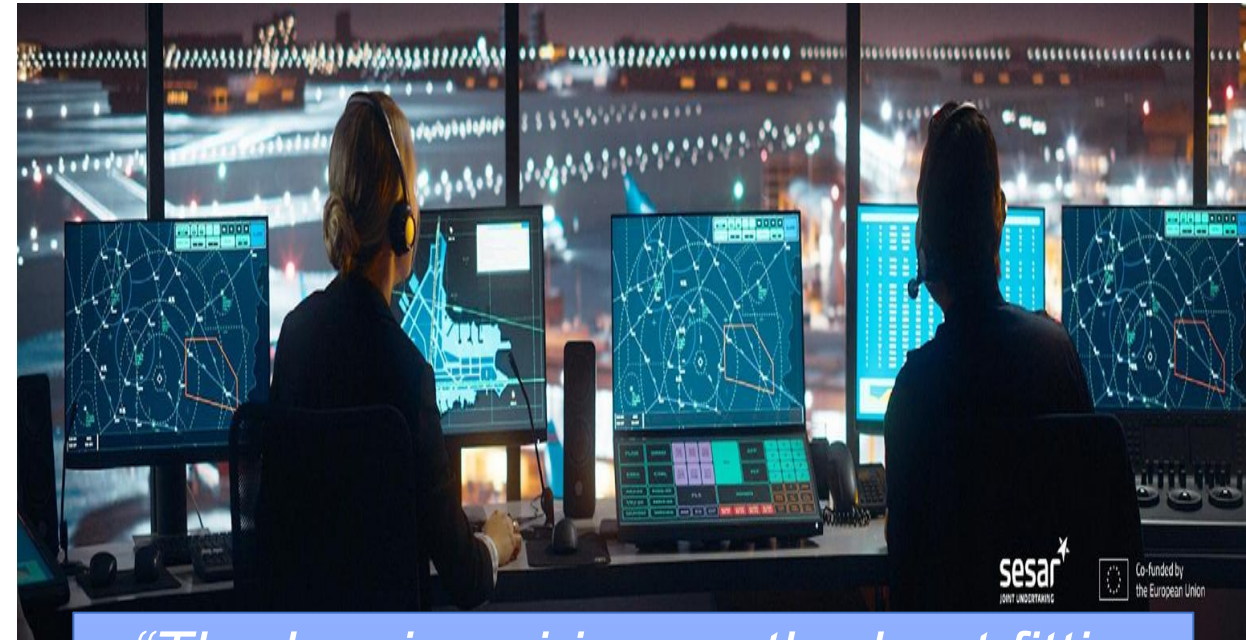
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AI Enabled Tactical FMP Hotspot Prediction and Resolution (ASTRA)

Funder: Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research 3 Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU)

Lead PI: Dr. Ing. Jason Gauci

Bridging gaps in Air Traffic Control with an Artificial intelligence tool which can predict and resolve hotspots earlier



“The key is pairing up the best fitting idea with the right consortium from Academia and Industry.”



SUCCESS
STORY

ERA-SHUTTLE



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Funder: ERA TALENTS

Implemented by RSSD



Enhance research and innovation (R&I) capacity within the European Research Area (ERA), with a particular emphasis on benefiting Widening countries, including Poland, Croatia, and Malta.

Progress:

- November 2023 - Organisation of the hybrid workshop Improving Productivity and Output quality of Academics with AI tools by Schiller and Mertens GbR in Malta
- February 2024 - Mapping Research Infrastructures in the partner countries
- September 2024 - Summer school in Split, Croatia
- September 2024 - Pilot secondment
- 2024 - Use of Business Intelligence to manage researcher secondment placements with research interests
- 2025 - First Secondments Implemented - 4 University of Malta; 1 University of Split; 1 University of Gdansk
- 2025 - Second Summer School in Gdansk, Poland
- 2026 – Second call for secondments; Third Summer School in Malta



Thank you for your attention.

Contact us on the details below for further info:

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