

Grants and Funding Updates

1. SME Enhance Scheme

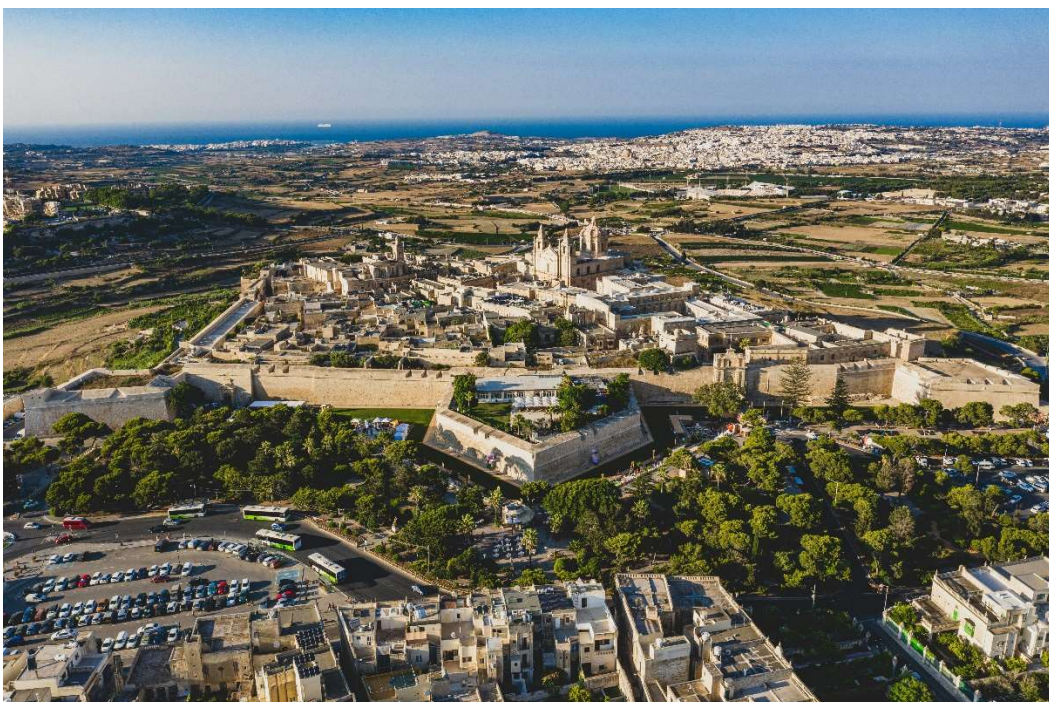
Further cut-off dates for the SME Enhance Scheme up to **28 June 2024**, have been announced.

This incentive seeks to support SMEs through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment towards expansion, diversification, innovation of the operations and initial investment, aimed at potentially improving the productivity of the enterprise.

This Grant Scheme will support eligible enterprises to procure:

- a) **Equipment, Plant and Machinery** - Costs for the purchasing of the main component of the operation in terms of equipment, plant and machinery required by the Undertaking for the operation.
- b) **Equipment, Plant and Machinery (ancillary items)** - Costs for the purchasing of ancillary items to the main activity of the project.
- c) **Lease of private operational premises** - Costs for leasing of privately owned operational premises required for the operations of the Undertaking for the duration of 2 years.

This scheme is being offered under two different state aid regulations, with grants ranging from a **minimum of €10,000 to a maximum of €500,000**.



2. Digitalise Your Business Scheme

This incentive seeks to assist enterprises through **non-repayable Grants** to part-finance investment to **digitalise their operations**, and hence improve their resilience, efficiency, productivity and customer experience by addressing **new digital capabilities and digitalised processes** such as product and process design and engineering, end-to-end procurement, supply chain/distribution and after sales.

The maximum funding amount is **€120,000** per digitalisation investment in digital technologies, part-financing eligible costs **up to 50%** for investments in **Malta** and **60%** for investments in Gozo with an additional 7% flat rate to finance any indirect costs related to the investment.

This scheme has been extended until **30 June 2026**, subject to availability of funds.

This Grant Scheme will support eligible enterprises to undertake costs in tangible and intangible assets in the following actions:

- i. **e-Commerce Website**
- ii. **Digital Solutions –**
 - a) Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) and Custom Software
 - b) Hardware (such as Laptops, Docking Station, Port Replicator, Monitors, Tablets)
 - c) Analytical Tools (including necessary hardware and software)
 - d) Cyber Security systems
 - e) Cloud computing
 - f) Routers, switches and WIFI related equipment
 - g) Other hardware and software (identified in the application and not already identified above, which the division may consider eligible under this scheme)
 - h) Training costs on the use of the specific item acquired under points a to g above and included in the purchase price of the item in question, and thus from the same provider.

3. Revised De Minimis Regulation

As from January 2024, the European Commission has amended the de minimis aid regulation. Under the State aid de minimis regime, Member States are allowed to grant small amounts of aid exempt from EU State aid control. The recently adopted changes to the de minimis State aid regime are set to remain in force for seven years.

The most significant change is the increased thresholds, which significantly increases the cap on the amount of aid per company over a three-year period. The ceiling for de minimis aid will be increased from EUR 200,000 per company over a three-year period (in force since 2008) to EUR 300,000, in order to cater for inflation.

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