

## New EU Funding Schemes for Businesses

As industries continue to evolve and businesses face new challenges, **access to funding** becomes increasingly vital for **digital transformation, efficiency improvements, and sustainable development**.

New EU-funded grant schemes are now available to promote business growth and encourage digital transformation across Malta and Gozo. The following schemes are highlighted in this newsletter:

- **Digitalise Your Business Scheme** – Supporting businesses of all sizes in adopting digital solutions, with funding categories for **large enterprises, SMEs, and micro businesses**.
- **SME Enhance Scheme** – Providing financial support for **investment in equipment and business expansion initiatives**.
- **The Retrofit Scheme** – Assisting companies in **reducing energy consumption** and **improving sustainability** through building upgrades.
- **Business Reports for SMEs Scheme** – Assisting businesses in accessing professional insights and reports to **improve strategy and decision-making**.

### Digitalise Your Business Scheme

The Digitalise Your Business Scheme is designed to help businesses enhance their operations by adopting digital technologies. This non-repayable grant supports businesses in adopting digital technologies to enhance efficiency, resilience, productivity, and customer experience.

#### Key Details:

- **Grant Value:** Range from €10,000 to €128,400, covering up to 50% of eligible costs—rising to 60% for Gozo-based businesses and 70% for start-ups.
- **Eligible Actions:**
  - a) Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) and Custom Software
  - b) Hardware (Laptops, Docking Stations, Monitors, Tablets, etc)
  - c) Analytical Tools (including necessary hardware and software)
  - d) Cyber Security Systems
  - e) Cloud Computing
  - f) Internet of Things (IoT)
  - g) Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - h) Big Data Analysis
  - i) Routers, Switches, and Wi-Fi Equipment
  - j) Quantum Technology (SMEs only)
  - k) Other hardware/software deemed eligible in the application
  - l) Installation and training costs (if included in the purchase price).

## SME Enhance Scheme

The SME Enhance Scheme is designed to support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with grants to help finance investments aimed at expanding, diversifying, or innovating business operations. It seeks to improve the productivity of enterprises by supporting productive investments in both tangible and intangible assets.

### Key Details:

- **Grant Value:** Range from €10,000 to €128,400, covering up to 50% of eligible costs—rising to 60% for Gozo-based businesses and 70% for start-ups.
- **Eligible Actions:**
  - **Equipment and Machinery:** Includes the purchase of:
    - Equipment
    - Fixtures and Fittings
    - Furniture
    - IT Equipment (both tangible and intangible)
    - Vehicles (land and water)
  - **Ancillary items**
  - **Lease of Private Operational Premises**

## Retrofit Scheme

This scheme is designed to help Micro, SMEs and large enterprises in the private address the high upfront costs of building renovations. This initiative focuses on reducing primary energy demand of commercial buildings.

### Key Details:

- **Maximum Grant Value:** €5,000,000 per undertaking
- **Eligible Actions:**
  - Actions that reduce the primary energy demand of the building by reducing the energy used for heating, cooling, ventilation, hot water and lighting are eligible.
  - The building renovations undertaken are to lead to a reduction of Primary Energy Demand of at least 30%.

## Business Reports for SMEs Scheme

This scheme aims to support SMEs through grants to part-finance a business report procured from external consultancy service providers.

### Key Details:

- **Maximum Grant Value:** €4,000 (representing 80% of the eligible costs)
- **Eligible Actions:**
  - Process and Systems Review aimed at improving the efficiency of the undertaking;
  - Business plan addressing proposed investment initiatives for enhanced competitiveness.

**DFK Malta is here to assist you with the application process, ensuring you take full advantage of these new funding opportunities. Our expert team will guide you every step of the way to help your business grow.**

### *For further information contact:*

#### **Daniel Borg**

Director, Accounting & Advisory

E: [daniel.borg@dfkmalta.com](mailto:daniel.borg@dfkmalta.com)

#### **Mark Baldacchino**

Assistant Manager, Accounting & Advisory

E: [mark.baldacchino@dfkmalta.com](mailto:mark.baldacchino@dfkmalta.com)

*\*The objective of this summary is to outline the principal elements of the rules being summarized herein. Accordingly, it is not intended to be provided by way of comprehensive and definitive advice. Interested parties should seek professional advice by contacting DFK Malta Tax & Consultancy Limited before acting upon any information included in this document.*