**Local Action Group Expression of Interest**

**L.E.A.D.E.R Local Development Strategy**

**COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY STRATEGIC PLAN (MALTA) 2023 - 2027
Regulation (EU) 2115/2021**

**Call reference number: CSP/2023/I77.3/01**

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| Call | 1 |
| Programme | COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY STRATEGIC PLAN (MALTA) 2023 - 2027  |
| Intervention  | 77.3 - RD COOP LEADER  |
| Reference Number *(For office use only)* | (For office use only) |

**DEADLINE: Thursday 15th June 2023 (12:00HRS CET)**

**⚠ IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The Managing Authority reserves the right, in particular (but not limited to) on the basis of approval or direction by the European Commission, to amend from time-to-time certain provisions established by the respective guidance documents and their application form.

Such amendments may become applicable and enforced retrospectively.

In case of any conflicts between the guidelines and the text of the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (CAP SP) 2023-2027 and other legislative text, the interpretation given by the CAP SP and relevant legislation will be given priority.

The English version will be the legally binding text.

The Managing Authority also reserves the right to request additional information not included in the Guidance Document and/or this application form.

**Instructions**

Applicants are reminded to check that they have referred to the latest guidance notes as available on the website fondi.eu, and that they have filled in the latest available version of the application form that is available for download from the same website. Only the latest version available at the time of application will be accepted.

Please read the accompanying Guidance Notes ‘Local Action Group Expression of Interest LEADER Local Development Strategy **Intervention 77.3**’and ‘How to Design and Develop a Local Development Strategy’ Guidance Notes before filling the application.

* The information you provide in your application form will be used to check the eligibility of your Expression of Interest.
* The information in your application will also be used to grade your application according to the selection.
* Applicants are to check that all necessary supporting documents are submitted together with this form.
* The Managing Authority may request additional material following submission of the application.

For further information regarding the CAP SP 2023-2027, you can also visit the website of the Managing Authority at: [fondi.eu](http://www.eufunds.gov.mt)

**Brief Background information on the Community-led local development - LEADER**

Community Led Local Development (LEADER, ***Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale***) is an important element of the framework for supporting rural development in Malta. Jointly funded by the EU and the Government of Malta, this unique approach to development ensures that all members of rural communities have the opportunity to participate in decision making at a local level through the formation of Local Action Groups and the design and implementation of local development strategies.

Through these strategies Local Action Groups determine the needs in a local area and make decisions on what types of investment are best suited to address those needs. This application as part of the call for expressions of interest is stage one of a two stage process to select LEADER Local Development Strategies for Malta.

# **Call for new Local Action Groups for the 2023-2027 programming period**

Any foundation interested in being considered as a Local Action Group for the delivery of LEADER 2023-2027 should complete the EOI form and send it via email to rdsubmissions.mefl@gov.mt **by not later than Thursday 15th June 2023 (noon).** In view that multiple foundations may submit an EOI to develop a strategy within their respective region, the MA retains the right to grant approval of the EOI before the closure of the deadline. Hence, prospective foundations are encouraged not to await until the deadline of this period to submit their EOI. This shall have no bearing on the deadline of the submission of the LDS.

# **Funding**

Potential Local Action Groups successful in this EoI process will be eligible for funding under CAP SP 2023-2027 Intervention 77.3. Some of the funding for the costs linked to the development of the LDS may be financed under the RDP 14-20.

**A formal letter of confirmation will be issued by the Managing Authority to potential LAG’s after the submission of an EOI application.**

**Part A – Administrative forms**

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| **Name of Organisation** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **Postal Address** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **Post Code** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **MBR Registration Number[[1]](#footnote-2):** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **Project Leader[[2]](#footnote-3)** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **Position within organisation** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **I.D. Card No.** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **Phone Number** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **E-mail address** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **VAT number (if any)** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **Person authorised to sign on behalf of the organisation** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **Position within organisation** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **I.D. Card No.** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **Phone Number** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **E-mail address** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |
| **LAG Sub-Regional Area[[3]](#footnote-4)** | Click or tap here to enter text.  |

# **Part B – Technical description**

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| **LAGS must demonstrate that they satisfy the criteria of each of the below areas** |
| **Define the subregional/local areas that will be covered by this LAG, population to be covered and other elements present within the area.** ***Kindly refer to Section 3.3 of Guidelines ‘How to design and develop a Local Development Strategy’*** | Max 1,000 words |
| **Please provide details of how the foundation considers itself to be a competent actor to deliver and implement a LDS. Include how the foundation as LAG will organise itself internally and the administrative capacity present to manage such funds.**  | Max 300 words |
| **Please provide how the Public-private principle is enshrined within the foundation.**  | Max 300 words |
| **Capacity to administer public funds including proof of sufficient financial resources.**  | Max 150 words |
| **Provide an analysis of how the LAG aims to achieve gender balance and the participaton, in particular, of young people and margalinsed groups in the proposed LAG decision making body both during LDS development and implementation.**  | Max 150 words |

## **Supporting Documentation[[4]](#footnote-5)**

Supporting documentation required with regards to the applicant.

The applicants will be advised further, during the evaluation process, with regards to the submission of any necessary clarifications/documents required

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| The following sent in one compressed zipped folder to **rdsubmissions.mefl@gov.mt**1. a soft copy of the application form
2. soft copies of **all** annexes, documents and supporting documentation.

**Each separate document** is to be individually presented and adequately titled for ease of reference. | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  |  |
| Tax Compliance [[5]](#footnote-6)Certificate – A certificate issued not earlier than **three (3) months** from the date of the application, by the Office of the Commissioner for Revenue (CfR) confirming that the Applicant has submitted all returns and has no pending liabilities with CfR; or can otherwise provide official CfR documented evidence that an applicant is honouring an agreement for settling any outstanding amounts.  | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  | N/A [ ]  |
| Audited financial statements of year n-1and n-2[[6]](#footnote-7). If n-1 year audited accounts are not available, the applicant is to submit management accounts.  | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  | N/A [ ]  |
| In case of start-up foundations: Cash flow and revenue projections for next year certified by CPA.  | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  | N/A [ ]  |
| A declaration by the foundation’s accountant / lawyer, dated not earlier than 3 months, from the submission of the application, attesting the liquid funds are available to match the private financing. This Declaration will be conditional on the event of a successful EOI submission.  |  |  | N/A [ ]  |
| Foundation Statute | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  | N/A [ ]  |
| All Applicable Sections of the Application have been filled in.  | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  | N/A [ ]  |
| Foundation Registration Certificate in line with Malta Civil Code. | Yes [ ]  |  |  |
| Signed Declaration by Decision Committee Members of the Foundation, approving the application.  | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  | N/A [ ]  |
| Signed Declarations of at least 40% of the Local Councils (in terms of number of Local Councils) within their regions supporting the EOI Application.  | Yes [ ]  | No [ ]  | N/A [ ]  |
| Signed Declarations of at least 40% of the Local Council (in terms of number of Local Councils) within their regions supporting the Local Development Strategy. These Declarations will be conditional on the event of a successful EOI submission.  |  |  | N/A [ ]  |

**Declarations**

*The Applicant is requested to read through the below statements and confirm that the Applicant will abide with the stipulated declarations. If the information is found to be false or deliberately misleading, any EU Funds awarded may be withdrawn and any funds paid may be recovered from the Applicant organisation completing this form. These obligations shall be considered binding upon signing of the Grant Agreement if the application is approved for co-financing.*

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| 1 | I declare that the entries in this Declaration form, the details in the whole Application Form which is being submitted and any other annexes enclosed are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct. | [x]  |
| 2 | I confirm that access will be allowed to the sites which fall within the scope of this project, to any authorized person for the purpose of carrying out an inspection in order to verify the accuracy of the information in this application and subsequent submissions.  | [ ]  |
| 3 | I will follow the set procedures by the Managing Authority with regards to any proposed changes to the project.  | [ ]  |
| 4 | I confirm that the proposed project is not directly affected by a reasoned opinion by the Commission in respect of an infringement under Art 258 TFEU that puts at risk the legality and regularity of expenditure or the performance of operations. | [ ]  |
| 5 | I declare:- to be fully compliant with the eligibility criteria set out in the call;- to have the financial and operational capacity to carry out the proposed project. | [ ]  |
| 6 | I confirm that I am not aware of any reason why the project may not proceed or be delayed and the commitment can be made within the timescales indicated in the guidelines to which this project relates. I acknowledge that the application will be subject to regular monitoring/auditing/evaluations and undertake to keep records for this purpose in line with instructions received from the MA and ARPA and as described in and any manuals and guidance provided by the MA/ARPA/other stakeholders, as applicable. | [ ]  |
| 7 | I declare that this project is not being supported through other EU and/or National Funding nor have I presented, for the same proposal, other applications for public aid. I will abide by the principle of good governance and with the spirit of the Public Procurement Regulation on matters related to procurement as applicable.  | [ ]  |
| 8 | I declare that the Applicant and/or project partners are not in an exclusion situation in accordance with Art 136(1) and Art 141(1) of 2018/1046 Financial regulation. | [ ]  |
| 9 | I declare that I will follow any applicable planning and environmental regulations as may be applicable to the proposed project.  | [ ]  |
| 10 | I also declare that by submitting this application, I am hereby giving my consent for the publication of information related to the organisation and the project (including budget) as required by the applicable EU Regulations. | [ ]  |
| 11 | I declare to abide to the durability period obligations in line with the guidance notes.  | [ ]  |
| 12 | I agree to allow the Managing Authority to access all data necessary for the latter to be able to carry out its duties in line with applicable Regulations. Personal data transmitted to the Managing Authority and any other stakeholders within the scope of implementation of projects being co-financed by Cohesion Policy is processed, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and any subsequent amendments. | [ ]  |
| 13 | I confirm that should the applicant benefit from a grant under this Intervention, the applicant as beneficiary, must complete the project in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in the Grant Agreement. Should the beneficiary fail to do so, the beneficiary will not receive the grant and, if the beneficiary would have already received any payments from the grant, the beneficiary would have to reimburse the funds received and interest charges may be applied. | [ ]  |
| 14 | I confirm that information will be provided on the results achieved following implementation of the project and the applicant undertakes to provide this information may be requested, during the durability period of the project.  | [ ]  |
| 15 | I confirm that any further information will be provided as may be required by relevant stakeholders that may undertake audit checks and controls throughout the application and durability period. | [ ]  |
| 16 | I understand that I will not be eligible to apply for other grants or obtain additional funding for the same items if financed through this application. | [ ]  |
| 17 | I also understand that if the information included in the Application Form is found to be not factually correct, the application may be rejected, or the project withdrawn.  | [ ]  |

1. Registration with the Malta Business Registry. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The **Project Leader** is the person responsible for the implementation and must be from the Applicant organisation given that he/she will carry the overall financial and legal responsibility for the implementation of the operation. There must be only **ONE** project leader responsible for the operation even if the operation is composed of different components. In such cases, internal arrangements should be made in order to co-ordinate the different components. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Kindly refer to Annex 1 of Guidance Notes [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Note that in case where applicable documentation is still missing at the time of the application, the MA will request the applicant to rectify their situation within a stipulated timeframe. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. This can be retrieved from: https://cfr.gov.mt/en/eServices/Pages/IRD-Services-Online-Individual-Taxpayers.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. N is the calendar year when the Application is submitted [↑](#footnote-ref-7)