



## EURAXESS members in focus: Malta



[Research and Innovation  
Landscape of Malta](#)

[VIDEO]



### Malta at a glance

The Republic of Malta is an island country situated right in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, yet close to the European mainland. With its rich history, dating back to 5,000 BCE, Malta is often referred to as an open-air museum. Along with its history and heritage, Malta offers 300 days of sunshine, sea-sculpted shores, azure waters and delicious Mediterranean cuisine. The island's lifestyle is modern and welcoming, providing a good base for families. Malta has excellent local and international public and private education, with all schools teaching in English. English is one of the two official languages, along with Maltese.

Malta is considered as one of the safest countries in the world, especially when it comes to natural disasters and crime according to the 2018 edition of the World Risk Report.

In recent years, Malta has experienced above average economic growth and has been ranked as the fastest growing economy in the Eurozone for the first half of 2018.

With efficient support features in place, the island is also an attractive place for business. The government understands that a healthy private sector and an overall pro-investment climate contributes to the country's sustainable development.

Moreover, Malta is on its route to becoming a leading innovation island. It has made important strides in key technological areas by establishing the first regulatory framework for Block Chain, Cryptocurrency and Distributed Ledger Technology.

EURAXESS Malta has produced a video that gives a brief overview of the Maltese science, technology and innovation landscape. **Watch the video [here](#).**



Valletta (source: shutterstock)

## Maltese Policy, Strategy and Funding opportunities

The [Malta Council for Science and Technology](#) (MCST) is the governmental body responsible for Research and Innovation (R&I), space, science and technology in Malta. MCST is responsible for the [National R&I Strategy](#), the [National Action Plan](#) and the [National Space Policy](#).

Being the official contact point for the EU Framework programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) and the PRIMA initiative, MCST is also the managing body of the national funds for research, namely the FUSION programme and the Space Research Fund. MCST has a team of National Contact Points ready to assist you in finding relevant partners, applying for funding or resolving your project related queries.

MCST regularly publishes calls for proposals under various funding mechanisms, some of which are highlighted below:

[FUSION](#), a National Funding Programme, is supported through Malta Government funds and managed by the Malta Council for Science and Technology. The main objectives of FUSION are: to raise the level and profile of locally funded research; to ingrain research and innovation at the heart of the Maltese economy; to spur knowledge-driven and value-added growth and to sustain improvements in the quality of life.

[IPAS+](#) provides researchers with two options:

- Option A aims to foster mutually beneficial international relationships between local R&I-performing academic or private entities and foreign counterparts.
- Option B provides opportunities for Maltese entities intending to submit a Horizon 2020 (H2020) proposal as the coordinator of a consortium to engage a service provider (local or foreign) who will be supporting the applicant through proposal writing and submission.

The [Space Research Fund](#) provides financial support for research, development and innovation in the downstream Satellite Earth Observation (EO) sector, specifically projects that deal with the processing and exploitation of data collected through EO satellites.

## Malta's research landscape

The [University of Malta](#) (UM) is the highest teaching and research institution in Malta and was founded in 1769. It is a publicly funded institution and caters for 11,000 students which include over 1,000 international students from 92 different countries and comprises over 1,000 academics, and approximately 800 technical and administrative staff. The UM is made up of 14 Faculties and a number of



Marsaxlokk (source: shutterstock)

interdisciplinary Institutes, Centres and Schools. The UM is actively participating in MSCA projects and proposals.

The [Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology](#) (MCAST) is a vocational education and training institution. Established in 2001, MCAST offers 180 full-time and over 300 part-time vocational courses ranging from certificates to Master degrees.

[Malta Enterprise](#) is the country's economic development agency, tasked with attracting new foreign direct investment as well as facilitating the growth of existing operations. The agency has developed various R&I incentives for the promotion and expansion of industry and the development of innovative enterprises.

The [Malta Life Sciences Park](#) (MLSP) provides an international class facility for life sciences and information technology development. The MLSP is designed to promote research and development and to spur the growth of the life sciences sector in Malta, building on the base that the country developed in the pharmaceutical industry during the last decade.

Based at the University of Malta, [TAKEOFF](#) is Malta's first technology business incubator. The programme is specifically designed to help innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs create successful science, technology, engineering, creative media and knowledge-based startup business – taking them from idea to investment and, well, to takeoff.

Malta is also home of a number of private companies which main core is research and development in various sectors.

Upcoming developments:

- Construction of new center of excellence for aircraft maintenance which will include ground breaking facilities.
- A state-of-the-art laboratory dedicated to medical cannabis research is being set up in Malta as a result of a memorandum of understanding between Malta Enterprise and the La Sapienza University of Rome.

**EURAXESS in Malta – ready to support you!**

[EURAXESS Malta](#) is hosted by the [Malta Council for Science and Technology](#) and is ready to assist you if you choose Malta as your host country or you would like to cooperate with Maltese researchers!

[PlumTri](#) acts as a platform that facilitates networking and knowledge sharing amongst stakeholders in the Mediterranean, involved in the spheres of research and innovation and serves as a 'one-stop-shop' for information on relevant funding opportunities and events in the EuroMed region.

**Be part of Malta's Research and Innovation landscape!**

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This panEuropean effort is currently supported by over 40 countries, of which we will profile one in each edition of our quarterly e-newsletter.