

Support for local news media during the COVID-19 outbreak

This measure is designed for media providers that have incurred additional costs for the provision of a local news service in Malta during the COVID-19 outbreak.

News providers had to work in unexpected conditions following the restrictions imposed by the Health Authorities to restrict the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Notwithstanding these conditions, media operators have continued and continue to provide a valuable service to the community. This support should cover part of the additional costs incurred during this period.

1. Eligibility

- a) The measure is open to undertakings active in the provision of local, daily news services via television, radio, printed media and/or online platforms intended mainly for persons living in Malta.
- b) The applicant must employ at least four (4) full time journalists.

2. Extent of Aid (Support that may be approved)

- a) Applicants should note that since this measure will be implemented in line with the de minimis Regulation¹, the total amount of de minimis aid granted per single undertaking² shall not exceed €200,000 over a period of three (3) rolling fiscal years (as outlined in Section 6 below).
- b) A single undertaking may apply for the maximum support, provided that the amount requested will not raise the total amount of de minimis aid granted to the single undertaking to a level above the de minimis threshold as outlined in the de minimis Regulation. To this effect, the applicant needs to consider the total de minimis aid awarded to the single undertaking through other de minimis schemes (even if these are not administered by Malta Enterprise).
- c) The aid provided shall be capped as follows:
 - TV media providers - up to €45,000 per month.
 - News Print media providers - up to €10,000 per month.
 - Online News portals media providers - up to €5,000 per month.
 - Radio media providers - up to €3,500 per month.
 - Providing a News service on more than one portal and/or channel – up to €10,000 per month.

¹ Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid.

² Refer to Section 6 below for the definition of a 'single undertaking'. (Companies that have common control such as a group of companies are considered to be a single undertaking. Businesses owned by the same person or group of persons, are also considered to be a single undertaking).

This measure provides monthly grants as detailed herein intend to support beneficiaries cover costs incurred from 1st March 2020 until 30th June 2020. Beneficiaries shall submit one application for each month after the end of that month. No applications shall be accepted after the 20th of July 2020.

3. Form of Aid

Support shall be awarded in the form of a cash grant.

4. Application

Separate applications must be submitted in respect of each month for which this support is claimed. The application form and all additional documentation should be submitted via email to mediasupport@maltaenterprise.com

5. Approval

Once the application is approved, the Corporation shall issue a letter of approval indicating the value of aid awarded. This letter will be sent by email and once confirmed as accepted by the applicant, the Corporation shall proceed to disburse the funds approved.

6. Applicable State Aid Rules

This measure is in line with Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (the de minimis Regulation) [OJ L 352/1].

The total amount of de minimis aid granted to a single undertaking shall not exceed the amount of €200,000 (or €100,000 in the case of single undertakings performing road freight transport for hire or reward) over any period of three consecutive fiscal years.

This aggregate maximum threshold applies in principle to all economic sectors with the exception of the agriculture and fisheries sectors for which different thresholds and criteria apply. The term 'undertaking' includes also all companies in a group (which fall under the direct or indirect ownership or control of the same ultimate parent company) and relevant partner and linked enterprises as defined in Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17th June 2014). This period covers the fiscal year concerned as well as the previous two fiscal years. 'Fiscal year' means the fiscal year as used for tax purposes by the undertaking concerned.

This maximum threshold would include all State aid granted under this aid measure and any other State aid measure granted under the de minimis rule including that received from any entity other than Malta Enterprise. Any de minimis aid received in excess of the established threshold will have to be recovered, with interest, from the undertaking receiving the aid.

The term 'single undertaking' includes all enterprises having at least one of the following

relationships with each other:

- i. One enterprise has a majority of the shareholders' or members' voting rights in another enterprise;
- ii. One enterprise has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of another enterprise;
- iii. One enterprise has the right to exercise a dominant influence on another enterprise pursuant to a contract entered into with that enterprise or to a provision in its memorandum or articles of association;
- iv. One enterprise, which is a shareholder in or member of another enterprise, controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other shareholders in or members of that enterprise, a majority of shareholders' or members' voting rights in that enterprise.

Enterprises having any of the relationships referred to in points (i) to (iv) above through one or more other enterprises shall also be considered to be a single undertaking.

The de minimis declaration form must be filled in and submitted together with the application form. The de minimis declaration form may be downloaded from the Corporation's website.

7. Cumulation

In terms of Article 5 of the de minimis Regulation, de minimis aid granted under this measure may be cumulated with de minimis aid granted in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 360/2012 up to the ceiling laid down in that Regulation. It may be cumulated with de minimis aid granted in accordance with other de minimis regulations up to the relevant ceiling fixed in terms of the de minimis Regulation.

De minimis aid approved under this measure shall not be cumulated with State aid in relation to the same eligible costs, if such cumulation would exceed the highest relevant aid intensity or aid amount fixed in the specific circumstances of each case by a block exemption regulation or a decision adopted by the European Commission. De minimis aid which is not granted for or attributable to specific eligible costs may be cumulated with other State aid granted under a block exemption regulation or a decision adopted by the Commission.

APPLICATION FORM

Support for local news media during the COVID-19 outbreak

Notes to Applicants

- a) The quality of the information provided in this application will impact the time Malta Enterprise will need to process your request. You should hence make sure that your entries are clearly explained and substantiated and that sufficient detail is provided.
- b) Malta Enterprise shall only accept electronically filled in forms using either the Maltese or English languages. Only these forms shall be processed.
- c) This Form and any attached documents will be treated as confidential.
- d) In processing this Application Form, Malta Enterprise may request further information and documentation.
- e) Forms should be submitted along with supporting documentation to mediasupport@maltaenterprise.com. This form should be submitted as a word document, yet you should print the last page of this document, sign, scan and include it with your submission.
- f) Further information, as well as guidance on filling in this form may be obtained by sending an email to mediasupport@maltaenterprise.com

1. **Name of Applicant**
2. **Address of Applicant**
3. **Telephone Number**
4. **Email Address**
5. **VAT Number**
6. **Legal Form of Undertaking**
7. **Company Registration Number**
[partnerships and self-employed should list down their ID card No]
8. **Media Sector**
9. **This Application / Claim is for the month of**

Choose an item.
Choose an item.

10. **Kindly enter details of the four (4) full time journalists employed with your media house registered with Jobsplus.**

Name & Surname	Date of Birth	I.D. Card Number

Kindly ensure that the data provided is correct in order to be able to verify records with Jobsplus.

11. **Provide the below details so that Malta Enterprise may process any approved disbursements electronically.**

Bank Name	Choose an item.	If other please specify	
SWIFT Code	Choose an item.	If other please specify	
IBAN			

Detailed information concerning applicable State aid under the de minimis rule for fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020

SECTION 1 – DE MINIMIS STATE AID AWARDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Source/Grantor</i>	Type of State Aid (Name of Measure)	Awarded to	<i>Amount in €</i>
TOTAL (A2) Enter total of above				€

SECTION 2 – DE MINIMIS STATE AID STILL PENDING FOR APPROVAL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Source/Grantor</i>	Type of State Aid (Name of Measure)	Awarded to	<i>Amount in €</i>
TOTAL (A3) Enter total of above				€

SECTION 3 – DE MINIMIS STATE AID REQUESTED IN THIS APPLICATION

<i>Date</i>	<i>Source/Grantor</i>	Type of State Aid (Name of Measure)	<i>Amount in €</i>
<i>1st March to 30th June 2020</i>	<i>Malta Enterprise</i>	<i>Support for local news media during the COVID-19 outbreak</i>	€

TOTAL of Sections 1,2 and 3 above	€
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In submitting this Claim Form, the applicant is:

- declaring that aid approved under this measure is in line with the terms and conditions set out above and in line with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid.
- confirming that any employment and personal data included in this application form is covered by the appropriate data subject consent as required by the prevalent Data Protection laws and regulations.
- For the purpose of processing this Application, I, the undersigned, authorise Malta Enterprise to verify employment history of the full time journalists directly with Jobsplus Corporation.

Name of Applicant
(full legal name)

Name and Surname of Signatory
legal representative of the applicant
(CAPITAL LETTERS)

Position in Establishment

Email of Legal Representative
This email will be used for official
communication about this application

Signature

Date

[Click here to enter a date.](#)