



National Lotteries Good Causes Fund

Guidelines for the approval of projects and initiatives



Scope of the Fund

The National Lotteries Good Causes Fund, is set under the Lotteries and Other Games Act, 2001 Section 50 (7).

The fund is intended to support projects and initiatives of “*a religious, philanthropic, cultural, sports, educational, social or civic nature or in support of other deserving causes, and in such amounts, in such manner and at such times, as may be determined by the Minister from time to time after consultation with an Advisory Board appointed by him for the purpose*”.

As set in the Act, the Advisory Board, is set to seek that the available funds are reasonably shared and that the different objectives of the Fund under four broad areas of activity are met. The areas are:

- Religious, philanthropic and social
- Social, educational and civic nature
- Sport
- Cultural

The Act also contemplates the possibility of “*...other deserving causes*”, as a fifth broad area of activity that might be considered for funding purposes. However, this should, at no time, be considered as a fifth objective.



Parameters of Financing

Due to the nature of the financing of the fund and, in order to ensure that the available funding is shared by as many beneficiaries as possible, any proposed projects and initiatives can only be considered for financing if their:

- Financing needs are “**one off**” in nature and are not to include any recurrent commitments to support the project;
- Total contribution towards the proposed project should not exceed €50,000;
- Promoters would commit themselves to co-finance their project by a minimum of 33 per cent of its total cost;
- The Advisory Board may also consider to recommend allocation of funds in such amounts and in such manner to deserving causes of a recurring nature.
- Agreements of a three-year duration may be entered into to fund philanthropic, social, cultural and sports annual events. At present these include 'L-Istrina', the 'Rockestra' Concert', 'The President's Fun Run' and 'Republic Street Christmas activities'.

Beneficiaries

The fund supports **projects and initiatives** proposed by individuals, NGOs enrolled in the Register of Voluntary Organisations in terms of the Voluntary Organisations Act of 2007 (Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta), sports organisations registered with SportsMalta in the Register of Sports Persons in terms of the Sports Act of 2002 (Chapter 455 of the Laws of Malta), any body corporate set up by any other Act including Clubs and Limited Liability Companies, civic, cultural, educational and religious organisations and also specific groups/Boards set up for the purpose of organising the project or initiative in respect of which funding is requested.

The Advisory Board is to confirm with the relevant competent authorities whether a proponent requires enrolment/registration or not or is otherwise exempted from such enrolment/registration. Where no enrolment/registration is required by law or an exemption is in place, any such proponent will still be eligible for funding in terms of these Guidelines.



However, although not emanating from the Act the following limitations or exclusions apply: -

1. In the case of Limited Liability companies, the Board must ensure that:
 - Its objectives, as outlined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are consistent with the objectives of the Good Causes Fund. For example, a company seeking to finance a cultural event should have the organisation of such events outlined in its objective's clause;
 - The event being financed from the Good Causes Fund would not result in any profits to the company;
 - The beneficiaries of the proposed initiative or project are deemed to fall within the scope of the Lotteries and Other Games Act, by the Advisory Board.

Projects and initiatives proposed by a Limited Liability Company as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, to be jointly supported by the Good Causes Fund and falling within the parameters of Section 50(7) Act do not fall within the above exclusion.

In addition to the above, payments for services rendered or goods delivered by commercial entities for the execution of a funded project or an initiative should not be construed as being a contribution by the fund to a Limited Liability Company. This is especially the case when the Advisory Board advises the Minister that the disbursement of expenditure should be made against receipt and the payment is made directly to the supplier of the goods or services and, particularly, because of the lack of a formalised and accountable structure on the part of individuals and Boards that would have been specifically set up in order to support the proposed project or initiative.

2. Projects and initiatives submitted by political parties, political-party-affiliated organisations or by politically-oriented organisations;
3. Projects and initiatives submitted by non-mainstream religious organisations.
4. Projects and initiatives submitted by entities that are funded by Central Government (such as Local Councils, agencies etc), unless their involvement is limited to a sponsorship of the cause that is being promoted by an individual or organisation that is not excluded by these Guidelines.
5. a) An NGO, an organisation or a Club needs to be enrolled in the Register of Voluntary Organisations as a Voluntary Organisation in terms of the Voluntary Organisations Act of 2007 (Cap. 492) when applying for funding. However, the Board may recommend funding where it is proven that funding will be used for humanitarian cases;



b) A sports organisation needs to be registered with SportsMalta in the Register of Sports Persons in terms of the Sports Act of 2002 (Chapter 455 of the Laws of Malta).

Provided that this paragraph 5 is conditional that where no enrolment/registration is required by law or an exemption is in place, any such proponent will still be eligible for funding in terms of these Guidelines.



Applications and Selection Process

1. Applications may be made by the submission of the formal application form that can be downloaded from the Ministry's website <https://finance.gov.mt> or on completion of an e-form application from the [servizz.gov](https://servizz.gov.mt) website on <https://servizz.gov.mt>. The Advisory Board reserves the right to seek further clarifications when not satisfied with the information being submitted.
2. a) NGOs, Clubs and Organisations are to submit for sighting by the Advisory Board their Certificate of Enrolment issued by the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations in terms of the Voluntary Organisations Act of 2007 (Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta); b) Sports organisations are to submit for sighting by the Advisory Board their Certificate of Registration issued by SportMalta in terms of the Sports Act of 2002 (Chapter 455 of the Laws of Malta).
3. The Advisory Board will carry out a selection process of the requests received.
4. Following the selection process, a report will be presented to the Minister.
5. The Minister will then signify his approval or otherwise on the same report together with any additional directions in respect of each proposed project.
6. When the report is approved by the Minister, a letter of commitment for each beneficiary is drawn up for the Minister's signature and sent to the respective project applicants. This commitment letter would indicate the amount of funding that would be allocated to each project, as well as any approved terms and conditions related to each approved project or initiative.
7. Refused application forms will also be notified.
8. Projects are to be finalised within two (2) years from the letter of commitment.
9. If for whatever reason the commitment is not completed within the set time-frame, the commitment and/or any subsequent balance will be withdrawn.
10. A withdrawal letter will be sent to the Project Leader.
11. The Advisory Board will not disburse any funds unless it is first provided with evidence that the project or initiative would have been carried out. Such evidence is to include original fiscal receipts, certificates of works, photographic evidence, physical inspection or any other form the Board feels appropriate.
12. When a payment is presented to a beneficiary, a declaration confirming its receipt by the appropriate and authorised beneficiary is to be signed.
13. Once the project is finalized, due recognition is to be given with appropriate signage, promotion etc indicating that the project was funded by the National Lotteries Good Causes Fund.

The Advisory Board
National Lotteries Good Causes Fund