

Maltese biotechnology company seeks European hospitals, clinics, research labs, psychology/psychiatry research units, and academic institutions to contribute to an R&D project to be submitted for EU/national/regional funds.

Summary

Profile type

Research & Development Request Malta

Company's country

POD reference

RDRMT20260109009

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

**Research and development
cooperation agreement**

Targeted countries

• **World**

Contact Person

[Sabrina WODRICH](#)

Term of validity

12 Jan 2026

12 Jan 2027

Last update

12 Jan 2026

General Information

Short summary

The proposed project aims to explore associations between biological profiles' microbiome composition, genetics and anxiety-related characteristics using a non-invasive, research-focused approach. The Maltese SME is seeking international R&D partners to work on some tasks related to participant recruitment, collection of saliva, stool and/or urine samples, administration of assessments and interpretation of results.

Full description

Anxiety-related disorders represent a significant public health challenge in Europe and are increasingly associated with biological factors beyond psychosocial determinants. Growing scientific evidence suggests that microbiome composition, host genetic variability, and microbiota-derived metabolites are involved in neuroimmune and metabolic pathways relevant to anxiety-related traits.

The central hypothesis is that inter-individual differences in microbiome composition and function, together with host genetic variants (SNPs) and urinary metabolic signatures, are associated with anxiety-related phenotypes. The project follows a clear, stepwise workflow:

1. Recruitment of participants by clinical or research partners;
2. Collection of non-invasive biological samples (saliva, stool, urine);
3. Laboratory and computational analysis of microbiome, genetic, and metabolic data;
4. Bioinformatic correlation analysis linking biological data with phenotypic or questionnaire-based information.

The study is exploratory and intended to generate high-quality, reproducible datasets to support future validation studies and larger collaborative projects. It does not aim to diagnose or treat anxiety disorders.

At this stage, collaborators are expected to apply for support through national or local funding mechanisms.

Advantages and innovations

The proposal has already been drafted and requires improvement in terms of a larger consortium.

The Maltese SME is willing and has the experience to act as Lead of the project.

The Maltese company will be working on:

- Microbiome analysis (oral and/or gut microbiota);
- Bioinformatics and statistical analysis;
- Integration of microbiome data with genetic, metabolomic, and phenotypic datasets;
- Correlation and exploratory association analysis;
- Scientific coordination related to data analysis outputs.

Technical specification or expertise sought

Depending on partner expertise, collaborators may be responsible for:

- Participant recruitment and informed consent;
- Ethical approvals at local sites;
- Collection of saliva, stool, and/or urine samples;
- Administration of validated anxiety-related questionnaires or assessments;
- Generation of complementary datasets (e.g. SNP genotyping or metabolomics), where applicable;
- Contribution to interpretation and dissemination of results.

Stage of development

Under development

IPR Status

No IPR applied

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

Partners sought include European:

- Clinical centres, hospitals, or psychology/psychiatry research units - to support participant recruitment, consent, and phenotypic data collection.
- Research laboratories or academic institutions - to support sample collection and, where relevant, complementary data generation (e.g. SNPs or metabolomics).

Partners may participate by applying for funding through their own national or local funding schemes. Future EU-level funding opportunities may also be considered depending on project evolution.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **SME 11-49**
- **Big company**
- **R&D Institution**
- **SME 50 - 249**
- **University**

Call Details

Framework program

Eureka

Call title and identifier

2026 calls

Submission and evaluation scheme

Anticipated project budget

Coordinator required

480,000EUR

No

Deadline for EoI

30 Jun 2026

Deadline of the call

31 Aug 2026

Project duration in weeks

156

Web link to the call

Project title and acronym

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **06002008 - Microbiology**

Market keywords

- **05001005 - Molecular diagnosis**
- **04010 - Microbiology**
- **05001003 - Differential diagnosis**
- **04016 - Population genetics**

Targeted countries

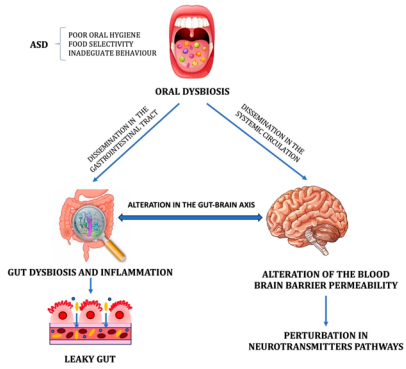
- **World**

Sector groups involved

- **Health**

Media

Images



[Oral-gut-brain interactions](#)