



# EASME

Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

## BLUE LABS

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[#bluegrowth](#)

**Launch of the Blue Growth Calls under EMFF**  
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## BLUE LABS: innovative solutions to tackle maritime challenges



## Blue Labs – Objectives

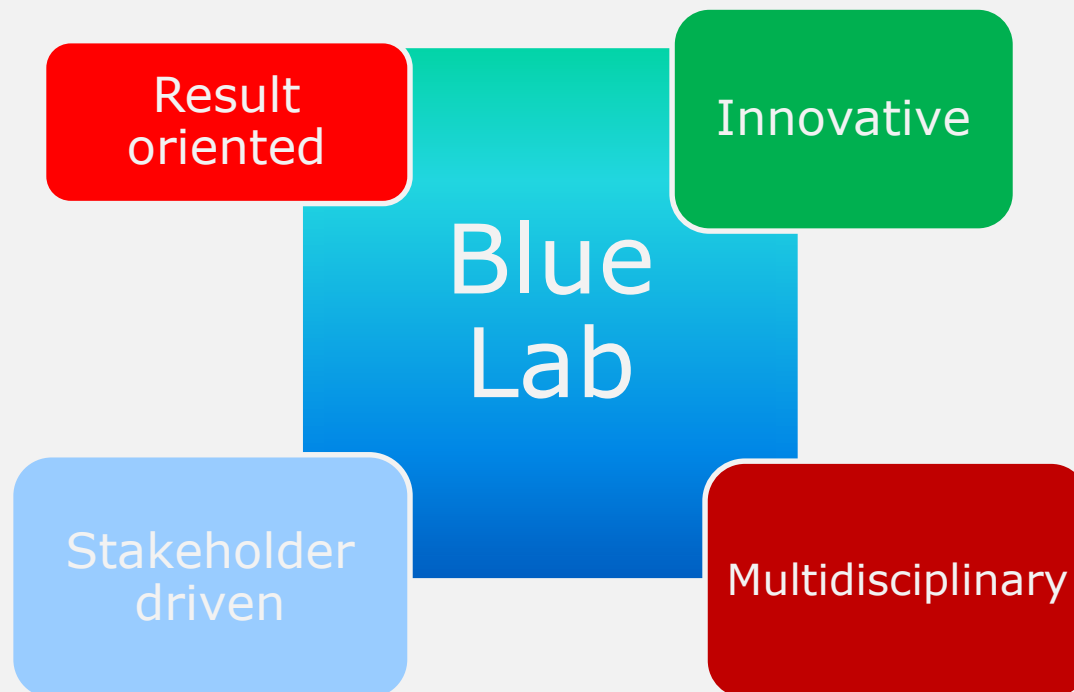
- **Piloting** new and viable solutions:
  - addressing **selected maritime and marine challenges** and **opportunities** in the blue economy, and
  - tailored to the **specific problems or needs** of one or more **sea basins** surrounding the EU coasts.
- Providing an **interface** between research and commercial exploitation so that results from research are taken forward to the market and can generate jobs and business opportunities in the blue economy.

**Why?**

## Blue Lab – The concept

A "Blue Lab" is the collective endeavour to develop a new idea and to apply it in the maritime domain and/or marine environment.

**How  
and  
who?**



## Blue Labs – 2016 Priorities

- Blue (bio)remediations;
- Marine litter;
- Underwater cultural heritage;
- Invasive alien species and jelly fish proliferation.

**What?**



- These 4 topics reflect the priorities of this year's call. However, other topics are not excluded (meeting objectives and duly justified).

## Blue Labs – Geographical scope

### Where?

- North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean sea basins (incl. sub-regions).
- EU Member States and third countries bordering the selected sea basin(s) and participating in the respective cooperation frameworks, excluding volatile regions.

## Blue Labs – Type of activities

Examples of "core activities" (non-exclusive):

- Design, testing and piloting of the innovative services/products/tools to be developed;
- Field work;
- Market analyses and studies;
- Training activities;
- Patents registration and deposit;
- Legal and financial counselling (incl. funding).

Complementary activities:

- Awareness raising and dissemination, transferability, sustainability, complementarity and synergies.

## Blue Labs – Expected outputs

Concrete results within the project duration:

- New services/products/tools developed at pilot or commercial stage;
- Smart partnerships to drive innovation forward;
- Increased awareness and focus of research and dev. activities on marine challenges & opportunities.

Fully implement solutions and reach the market beyond the project duration and within 2 years after the end of the project (reporting).

*Anything that won't sell, I don't want to invent ...  
Its sale is proof of utility... (T. Edison)*





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# BLUE LABS: PRACTICAL ASPECTS



# ELIGIBILITY

## section 6 of the call



- **Geographical scope:** All sea basins surrounding EU coasts
- **Eligible applicants:**
  - from EU MS
  - from third countries bordering EU sea basins & participating in cooperation frameworks (e.g. EU Atlantic Strategy, UfM, ...)
- **Project consortia:**
  - minimum 2 legal entities both from an EU MS:
    - 1 scientific/research organisation + 1 private entity or public entity
    - additional partners can participate

# ELIGIBILITY

## section 6 of the call



- Participants active in research/marine/maritime affairs (see examples 6.2.3)
- **Blue Lab Team** requirements:
  - A team has to comprise at least:

**Post-graduate students and/or recent post-graduates**

+

**One or more researchers and a tutor from business or public sector**

- In addition:

**Other students**

**Working in consultation with local communities**

# AWARD CRITERIA

## section 9 of the call



- **Award criteria:**  
to evaluate the quality of proposals against transparent criteria published in the call
  
- **For Blue Labs:**
  - 6 award criteria (with sub-criteria) for a total of 100 points
  - Minimum required - **50%** for each criterion
  - **However, overall pass threshold - 60 points**

# AWARD CRITERIA

## section 9 of the call



### Award criteria: score table

Name of the award criterion	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
1. Relevance of the project	12,5	25
2. Added value	7,5	15
3. Relevance of the partnership	7,5	15
4. Relevance at sea basin level	5	10
5. Methodology and implementation	10	20
6. Dissemination, transferability and sustainability	7,5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

**BEWARE:**  
reaching 50% for each criterion is not enough –  
Minimum overall mark is 60%

# AWARD CRITERIA

## section 9 of the call



### 1. Relevance (25 pts)

- 1.1 – relevance of the proposal objectives, activities and expected outcomes (17 pts)
- 1.2 – relevance to the call priorities (identified topics)(8pts)

### 2. Added value (15 pts)

- 2.1 – originality (new thinking, creativity) (5 pts)
- 2.2 – innovation (new doing) (10 pts)

### 3. Relevance of the partnership (15 pts)

- 3.1 – partnership composition, team competences and multi-disciplinarity (10 pts)
  - business involvement is a plus (up to 3 pts)
- 3.2 – geographical coverage (added value of transnational approach (5 pts)



### **4. Relevance at sea basin level (10 pts)**

- Relevance of the proposed action for specific needs/challenges of the targeted sea basin

### **5. Methodology and implementation (20 pts)**

- 5.1 – methodology (methods and techniques proposed, expected results, indicators) (8 pts)
- 5.2 – implementation (description of activities, workplan, risks, budget, value for money, ...) (12 pts)

### **6. Dissemination, transferability, sustainability (15 pts)**

- 6.1 – dissemination and transferability (7 pts)
- 6.2 – sustainability (8 pts)

# INDICATIVE TIMETABLE



- **Submission deadline: 31/05/2016**
- **Evaluation period: June-September 2016**
- **Information to applicants: October 2016**
- **Grant Agreement preparation: November/December 2016**
- **Start of the projects: January 2017**



# PAYMENTS & REPORTS

## section 11 of call text



### • Payments

- **Pre-financing: 40%** within 30 days after signature by EASME
- **Interim payment: 40%** within 60 days of receipt and approval of interim report
- **Balance payment: 20%** within 60 days of receipt and approval of final report

### • Reports

- **2 Progress reports – M6, M18**
- **1 Interim report – M12 + 60 days**
- **1 Final report – End of project + 60 days**
- **1 report on the distribution of the EU financial contribution – within 60 days of balance payment**



- **What is at stake?**  
**Support creativity and multidisciplinary approaches to address maritime & marine issues & boost blue growth**
- **What do we expect?**  
**Smart partnerships that develop innovative solutions tackling marine & maritime challenges**
- **Total budget and co-financing rate:**  
**EUR 1.700.000 and 80% co-financing**
- **Budget range per project:**  
**EUR 200.000-500.000**
- **Duration of projects: max 24 months**
- **Deadline for submission: 31/05/2016**



# ANY QUESTION?

## Useful links:

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-labs-innovative-solutions-maritime-challenges>

**FAQs:** <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/questions-and-answers>

## Beginner's guide from DG BUDG:

[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/funding/index\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/funding/index_en)



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**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**#bluegrowth**

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