



European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

Call for proposals

Blue careers for a sustainable blue economy
(EMFAF-2023-BlueCareers)

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EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D – Natural Resources, Climate, Sustainable Blue Economy and Clean Energy
CINEA.D.3 – Sustainable Blue Economy

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of maritime affairs under the **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (EMFAF Regulation [2021/1139](#)¹).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2022-2023 EMFAF Work Programmes² and will be managed by the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('Agency').

The call covers the following **topic**:

- **EMFAF-2023-BlueCareers — Blue careers for a sustainable blue economy**

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:
 - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
 - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
 - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
 - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (OJ L 247, 13.7.2021, p. 1).

² Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 371 final of 26.01.2022 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2022-2023 and the financing decision for the implementation of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

- award criteria (section 9)
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- how to submit an application (section 11)
- the Online Manual outlines the:
 - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
 - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
 - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

You are also encouraged to visit [EMFF Projects & Results](#) to consult the list of projects funded previously.

1. Background

The EU has put in place comprehensive policies and legislation to protect our marine environment and ensure sustainable development in the blue economy, under the European Green Deal³, including Maritime and the Common Fisheries Policies.

This policy framework sets ambitious environmental, climate and energy targets, aiming to reduce marine pollution, and increase offshore renewable and ocean energy production in an attempt to reach carbon neutrality. Sustainable fishing and aquaculture (including algae) are also essential to alleviate the pressure that food production puts on our land resources (soil, land, freshwater, etc.) ultimately contributing to climate change.

On May 2021 the European Commission adopted a new approach for achieving a sustainable blue economy⁴ that offers solutions for a green recovery whilst also addressing the challenges brought forth by the green and digital transitions. In its current implementation phase, we expect that this transition for a more sustainable blue, circular, carbon-neutral economy will create opportunities for new jobs and businesses.

The blue economy sectors are evolving to provide innovative services including, for example, new propulsion and automated control systems for shipping, installation and maintenance of offshore renewable energy farms, ocean energy technologies, blue-biotechnology production, circular approach for aquaculture, digital applications and/or robotics for logistics, tourism, observation, underwater archaeology, data collection and many others.

In this context, the maritime workforce will have to update and adapt⁵ over the next decade(s). Much will depend on the ability of workers to upgrade their skills or acquire new ones, or their ability to move from a job in a given sector to a potentially different sector and job. Moreover, workforce ageing and likely regional shifts in

³ [COM\(2019\)640 final](#)

⁴ [COM\(2021\)240 final](#)

⁵ For example, transitioning from a job in a sector experiencing net losses in employment to a job in another sector, or transitioning within the sector to a job more aligned with the needs of the green deal.

employment will bring about the challenge of attracting and training new talents, and expanding the educational offer to appeal to a younger generation. The advent of digitalisation in the maritime sector provides an additional opportunity for skills acquisition. In this regard, education and vocational training systems - to train and/or re-train workers - will be vital.

To capitalise on the exceptional room for growth within the Blue Economy - currently hindered by a lack of highly qualified workforce and knowledgeable operators - the European Commission envisages to build a skilled and competent labour force across the board.

These efforts are also in line with the new European Skills Agenda⁶ which aims to help businesses and individuals adapt to digitalised processes and new technologies through upskilling and reskilling. Similarly, the European Strategy for Universities⁷ commits to supporting higher education institutions in developing short learning courses on skills for the green transition, such as micro-credentials.

In addition, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission developed the European sustainability competence framework - GreenComp⁸ - and also the Digital Competence Framework - DigComp,⁹ which both identify a set of relevant competences to feed into education and training systems to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote digital and green pathways.

Competence schemes relevant for this Call were also addressed by the Blueprint for sectoral cooperation and skills for maritime technologies¹⁰, the tool ESCO, and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)¹¹, which support transparency, recognition and joint development in the field of qualifications and skills.

In this respect, future blue careers should address one or more specific gaps and provide concrete and effective solutions taking into consideration labour market trends and perspectives, e.g.:

1. Lack of digital, green, soft, transversal, inter-/multi-disciplinary, managerial, entrepreneurial and project management skills of graduates at both higher education and vocational education and training (VET) levels.

Students need to be better equipped to learn, adapt and take advantage of the technological advancements and growing climate, energy and biodiversity ambitions reshaping all sectors of the blue economy. It is essential to prepare the next generation of digital blue skills so students/workers can seize upcoming opportunities provided by digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as handling, organising and managing increasingly large amounts of (e.g. real time) data (scientific, environmental, energy, transport) in relation to ocean, fisheries science and management in the blue economy, and the increasing needs in the field of data modelling. Such advanced technical¹², digital, interdisciplinary, and transversal and soft skills¹³ are

⁶ COM/2020/274 final

⁷ <https://education.ec.europa.eu/document/commission-communication-on-a-european-strategy-for-universities>

⁸ https://green-comp.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/jrc128040_greencomp_f2.pdf

⁹ https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/digcomp/digital-competence-framework_en

¹⁰ Mates project: <https://www.projectmates.eu> & <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=17029&langId=en>

¹¹ ESCO: <https://esco.ec.europa.eu/en> & EQF: <https://europa.eu/europass/en/european-qualifications-framework-eqf>

¹² Example of advanced technical skills are IT tool management, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, robotics, mechanics, 3D printing, big data management, remote operation of new devices.

¹³ Examples of soft skills are communication, analysis of complex issues and problem solving, working in team, resilience, leadership.

expected to enable students/workers to develop new ideas and products and potentially launch their own start-up. Similarly, developing highly adaptable profiles will empower the workforce to update and transfer its skills in response to future needs, upgrade traditional blue economy jobs and ensure talent attraction.

2. Lack of structured, continued collaboration between industry and educational/VET institutions.

This collaboration is needed to promote curricula and training programmes adapted to identified gaps in the job market and in line with technological developments; lack of on-the-job training, apprenticeships, mentoring and job shadowing or mobility schemes set by companies to re-train graduates internally and provide hands-on experience.

3. Lack of “skills ecosystems” at sea basin level bringing together education, industry and public authorities.

Tackling this challenge will contribute to: i) develop and provide quality upskilling opportunities, ii) support trans-regional cooperation and innovation strategies and iii) complement actions in the context of the newly set up thematic smart specialisation platform for sustainable blue economy¹⁴.

4. Lack of coherent and mutually recognised training certifications and skill/qualification recognition processes.¹⁵

The different approaches that institutions and countries have adopted so far are lengthy, hindering the development and transfer of skills as well as talent acquisition and retention in the blue economy.

Lastly, the EU has supported similar actions funded by the EMFF programme between 2016 and 2018. 18 projects were funded, including organisations from 20 different countries, with a total budget of approximately 13.6 M EUR and a corresponding EU contribution of approximately 11 M EUR. The focus areas included vocational training and higher education projects from the following sectors: Aquaculture, Fisheries, Biotechnology, Shipping, Shipbuilding, Nautical charters, Seafarers, Logistics, Water sports and Tourism.

EMFAF support to Blue Careers will now expand to cover the training needs stemming from the European Green Deal and the recent recovery effort and pandemic crisis.

2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

Objectives

The overall aim of this Call is to contribute to the development of the next generation of blue skills and to provide opportunities for attractive, sustainable maritime careers. The objective is to develop the necessary skillsets to support the European Green Deal initiatives promoting a sustainable blue economy, e.g. the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy, the EU Offshore Renewable Energy strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy and the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP).

¹⁴ <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/blue-growth>

¹⁵ With the exception of the mutual recognition scheme of certificates issued by Member States found in Directive 2008/106/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the minimum level of training of seafarer, as amended.

More specifically, this Call aims to support innovative cooperation projects, bringing together the blue economy industry and relevant marine and maritime educational/academic institutions and/or vocational training providers at all levels (local, regional, national, transnational), and other stakeholders to promote:

- Green and digital blue skills, professions and careers as well as the acquisition of transversal and inter/multidisciplinary skills and competences to further boost the digitalisation and greening of jobs, also by promoting the use of competences frameworks, such as GreenComp and DigComp.
- Reskilling and upskilling schemes and cooperation between education and industry to support the active labour force to acquire the necessary environmental and sustainability skills and become acquainted with modern standards, principles and practices.
- "Blue careers" awareness and attractiveness among students and young professionals, in an attempt to attract and retain new talent and counter human capital depletion because of an aging labour force.

Themes and priorities (scope)

Proposals should address **at least one of the themes below, or a combination thereof**:

1. Developing innovative **educational material**, skills development **modules, content, learning outcomes and curriculum, such as micro-credentials**, to build and enhance digital, green, soft, transversal, interdisciplinary, managerial and entrepreneurial and project management skills;
2. **Developing and piloting innovative teaching and training approaches** (at both higher education and VET levels) and promoting career development in any sector of the sustainable blue economy, including but not limited to:
 - aquaculture, algae, marine and coastal habitats conservation, blue biotechnology,
 - eco-tourism, coastal protection, offshore renewable energy, marine knowledge, port activities, ocean monitoring, shipbuilding, maritime and underwater technologies, sustainable cruise tourism, digital skills for ocean observation, etc.
3. **Establishment and maintenance of structured collaboration frameworks** between **blue industries/sectors and education/VET providers**, to promote curricula and training programmes adapted to the needs of industries, addressing the gaps in the market and in line with ongoing technological developments. Besides stand-alone educational programmes and training/educational modules, projects proposing apprenticeships, on-the-job skilling and reskilling, mentoring, short-term placements or mobility schemes and job shadowing schemes run by companies are encouraged.
4. **Pooling and sharing of resources** (e.g. training simulators, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) learning objects, platforms, schemes, courses, micro-credentials, training materials, multipliers, digital tools, e-learning solutions, hybrid teaching, teachers' kits, self-assessment tools, etc.) between VET providers, higher education and industry for the development and promotion of training programmes/courses, VET or higher education curricula and mobility schemes (learners and teachers).

5. Proposing, testing and piloting **mutual recognition schemes** (of training and/or qualification development)¹⁶ to enable an efficient uptake of graduates into the labour market.

The chosen theme(s) should be clearly indicated in the proposal. Solutions for re-/upskilling existing and attracting and training new talent in any sector are sought, built around actual needs in the labour market (in consideration of the situation on the ground, prompted by innovations, sustainability targets, etc.).

Industry representatives should be involved since the designing of the proposed actions.

Proposals need to develop to the extent possible an inter-/multi-disciplinary approach in a variety of blue economy sectors, whilst also being mindful of gender dimension and the need to further promote equality, diversity and inclusion and broad geographical representation in the sector.

Applicants need to propose solutions overcoming the existing constraints in all areas of marine and maritime activity, in particular recruitment, training, capacity-building and promotion of talents, in order to allow for full, safe and inclusive participation of skilled human capital in the various sectors of the blue economy and in the various coastal regions. They also need to address the growth and sustainable development of businesses of all sizes, and enhance regional partnerships, cooperation and interactions among relevant stakeholders (industries, education/VET providers, local/regional authorities, etc.).

As the sector's workforce is growing older, solutions for enhancing job attractiveness are also considered essential for attracting young talents and boosting digitalisation and greening of jobs. Projects should liaise with and conduct activities that will create complementarities and synergies with relevant projects funded under previous EMFF calls (Blue Careers 2016, 2017 and 2018 calls) and other EU programmes, (e.g. Erasmus+, ESF+, Climate Copernicus Academy, etc.).

Proposals should also take into account other relevant initiatives, policies and blue economy specific strategies, e.g. sea-basin/macro-regional strategies and the Outermost Regions Forum established by the European Commission, the future EU Algae initiative, the strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030, etc. Due consideration should also be given to the specificities of each sea basin and the need for regional cooperation between Member States, including Outermost Regions and, as far as relevant, with non-EU countries. This will help identify and address common challenges in terms of reskilling and upskilling employees and operators and further boost the transition towards a sustainable blue economy. Any development in the international legislation should also be taken into consideration, especially when the EU Member States are parties of several international conventions (for example STCW, MLC).

Proposals need to take the above strategies and initiatives into consideration as far as relevant, ensure synergies and complementarities with their objectives and priorities and explain how such alignment will generate added value while avoiding duplications. Links with incubators, innovation hubs, social enterprises and early-stage investors are also encouraged.

Finally, proposals should engage, to the extent possible, with partners across different sea basins¹⁷ and notably, as far as relevant, from Outermost Regions (ORs), as these

¹⁶ In the scope of the theme, proposals referring to the mutual recognition scheme of certificates issued by Member States found in Directive 2008/106/EC on the minimum level of training of seafarers, as amended, are excluded.

last, due to their remoteness, face additional challenges and may miss the necessary critical mass to update skills and develop new maritime careers. This Call for proposals aims to address this gap by promoting the cooperation of partners located in the Outermost Regions with other relevant entities located in the EU continental territory, to the extent possible and as far as relevant.

Activities that can be funded (scope)

Proposals should aim to strengthen and diversify the skills and competences available within the sustainable blue economy and attract new talents by carrying out activities related but not restricted to solutions that:

- Develop and test **innovative training modules**, identify schools and universities taking actions to include these modules in the educational programmes.
- Promote the necessary skills (soft, green, digital, transversal, managerial, entrepreneurial, inter-/multi-disciplinary, project management) through a variety of means: for example, traditional trainings, hybrid teaching, e-learning, practical placements, etc., at higher educational or vocational training levels.
- Strengthen operational **links between academia and industry, including via the setting up** of continuous training of the trainers, on-the job trainings, apprenticeships, mentoring, and/or job shadowing schemes for the up/reskilling (including career guidance) of blue economy professionals.
- Reinforce structured and continued collaboration, including improved **pooling and sharing of resources**, between educational and VET institutions and the maritime industry.
- **Encourage sustainable** and circular **approaches** in the blue economy via relevant training (e.g. fishing for litter, coastal tourism sustainable practices, port activities, environmental management for marine ecosystems, marine environmental practitioners, etc.) and **give up** obsolete or ineffective activities and adopt **new**, sustainable ones, also improving the image of the sector and its attractiveness to newcomers.
- **Facilitate** talent retention and mobility in the blue economy.
- Raise **awareness campaigns** amongst blue economy operators (including fishers) and harness their support and experience in achieving a sustainable blue economy, through upskilling and reskilling schemes.

The applicant's choice of sector and action has to be based on an analysis of the needs in the labour market including at cross-border level.

Finally, solutions can address higher education/academic development and vocational training, as technical education and VET are indispensable to implement the green and digital transition. Indeed, their promotion and reinforcement is necessary to address current shortages (in skills and labour force) and avert future ones.

Networking with other EU projects

¹⁷ For sea basins strategies and other relevant sea basin information for the Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean or North Sea, please see: https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/ocean/sea-basins/eu-sea-basins_fr

During the lifetime of the projects funded under this topic, a number of meetings may be organised at EU level for the grant beneficiaries to facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices across sea basins, to foster synergies with relevant projects from other EU programmes and to enhance the European dimension of the blue economy focus. Project beneficiaries are expected to participate in these meetings, which will be held in Brussels or other locations.

Expected impact

The expected project results will need to address solutions at local or regional/sea basin level for skills development in a variety of blue economy sectors, according to the needs identified in the respective sea-basins, with an accent on digital and green skills, upskilling and reskilling schemes.

In line with the objectives and themes addressed, the projects are expected to:

- Deliver new content, educational, training or other material or processes and methodologies, enhancing skills and competences of human capital in a given blue economy sector.
- Set up 'Trainings of the trainers' schemes, to ensure dissemination of the most recent available knowledge, practices and technology operation requirements.
- Set-up reskilling and upskilling schemes (including career guidance) to facilitate career advancement, job mobility, and talent retention within the blue economy sectors.
- Improve employability and adaptability of students following acquisition of digital, green, soft, transversal, inter-/multi-disciplinary, managerial and entrepreneurial skills through learning or through practical work (on-the job trainings, mentoring and job shadowing schemes run by companies).
- Provide hands-on experience and learning for the blue economy labour force.
- Increase awareness, visibility and attractiveness of blue career opportunities for students from secondary and higher education in general or from maritime academies, VET institutions etc.

Applicants have to list the main results¹⁸ in a concrete, realistic and quantified way, as far as possible and include relevant KPI for EMFAF¹⁹ as per below list:

- Jobs created (number of persons)
- Jobs maintained (number of persons)
- Persons benefitting (number of persons)
- Entities increasing social sustainability (number of entities)
- Cooperation activities between stakeholders (number of actions)

Proposals must also include a legacy (and/or business) plan describing 1/ how the outputs of the project and various deliverables will carry on, 2/ ideas and options for continuing project activities once the EU funding is over and 3/ the sustainability and market potential of the proposed actions.

¹⁸ Results: capture more direct, short to medium term changes in a situation, which are achieved by the end of the project. E.g. if four FTE jobs are expected to be created by the end of the project, this will be an expected project result.

¹⁹ See Annex I of EMFAF Regulation [2021/1139](#)

3. Available budget

The available call budget is **EUR 7 500 000**. This budget might be increased by maximum 20%.

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	13 October 2022
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>31 January 2023 – 17:00:00 CET</u> (Brussels)
Evaluation:	February-May 2023
Information on evaluation results:	June-July 2023
GA signature:	October 2023

5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section. Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*to be uploaded*):
 - detailed budget table: not applicable
 - CVs of core project team: not applicable
 - activity reports of last year: not applicable
 - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (*template available in Part B*).

A detailed budget table is available for information on [Portal Reference Documents](#). You are NOT obliged to use it to prepare your project budget, nor upload it with your

application, but you will be requested to provide it later on, if you are selected for funding.


Please note that the amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable**.

Proposals are limited to maximum **60 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries:
 - Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya
 - Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey
 - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia.

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc. (*see section 13*).

Specific cases

Exceptional funding — Entities from countries mentioned in the work programme (if any) are only exceptionally eligible, if the granting authority considers their participation essential for the implementation of the action.

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons²⁰.

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'²¹. ⚠ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)²² and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)²³). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

[Consortium composition](#)

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- minimum 3 independent entities from 2 different EU countries
- include at least:
 - an educational/training organisation, e.g. universities, educational institutions, research centres or an organisation providing vocational training; and
 - an industry representative body, including industry associations, representative groups, chamber of commerce or legally established maritime clusters.

The coordinator must be established in an EU Member State.

[Eligible activities](#)

²⁰ See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

²¹ For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

²² Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

²³ Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

- Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc.*).

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals shall relate to activities:

- taking place in EU territory and waters;
- concerning one or more of the following sea basins/areas: North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea basins including the WestMED and the Adriatic-Ionian Seas as well as the EU Outermost regions marine areas.

Proposals can focus on a part/sub-region of these sea basins/areas and should involve, to the extent possible, partners from Outermost Regions.

Proposals may extend into eligible non-EU countries, if this is necessary for the implementation of the projects (in view of their nature and their objectives).

Duration

Projects should normally range between 24 and 36 months (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment).

Project budget

Project budgets (maximum grant amount) are expected to be around EUR 1 000 000 per project, but this does not preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Ethics

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards and
- applicable EU, international and national law (including Directive 98/58²⁴, Regulation 1099/2009²⁵, and Regulation (889/2008²⁶).

Projects must pay particular attention to the principle of proportionality, the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of animal welfare and human health protection.

Applicants must show in their application that they respect ethical principles and

²⁴ Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes (OJ L 221, 8.8.1998, p. 23).

²⁵ Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing (OJ L 303, 18.11.2009, p. 1).

²⁶ Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (OJ L 250, 18.9.2008, p. 1).

applicable regulatory framework.

Projects involving ethics issues may be made subject to specific ethics rules.

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
 - an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
 - prefinancing paid in instalments
 - (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)
- or
- propose no prefinancing
 - request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate²⁷:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct²⁸ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that²⁹:

²⁷ See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

²⁸ Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).


An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each topic) against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their score.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic or budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) Projects focusing on a theme and/or priority (as indicated in section 2) that is not otherwise covered by higher ranked projects will be considered to have the highest priority.
- 2) The *ex aequo* proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'.
- 3) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call. These factors will be documented in the panel report.
- 4) After that, the remainder of the available call budget will be used to fund projects across the different topics in order to ensure a balanced spread of the geographical and thematic coverage and while respecting to the maximum possible extent the order of merit based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

Grant preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also

²⁹ See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

- **Relevance:**
 - Clarity and consistency of project, objectives and planning; extent to which they match the themes and priorities, and objectives of the call/topic; contribution to the EU strategic and legislative context, including, where relevant, to the objectives of sustainable blue economy and sea basin strategies or initiatives³⁰
 - Extent to which the proposal demonstrates innovation potential and provides added value compared to the state-of-the-art/existing solutions; extent to which the proposal addresses specific industrial/ economic/ social/ environmental challenges/priorities (10 points)
- **Quality:** quality and effectiveness of the methodology for implementing the project (concept and methodology, management, procedures, timetable, risks and risk management, monitoring and evaluation); feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; cost effectiveness (sufficient/appropriate budget for proper implementation; best value for money); quality of the consortium, including possible involvement of Outermost Regions (ORs) partners and project teams; appropriate procedures and problem-solving mechanisms for cooperating within the project teams and consortium (if applicable) (10 points).
- **Impact:**
 - extent to which the outputs of the project contribute to each of the expected impacts of the call/topic; suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts
 - possibility to use/transfer the outcomes to other countries/regions; appropriateness of the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities and, if applicable, measures linked to intellectual property and knowledge protection and regulatory issues; sustainability of results after EU funding ends
 - potential to create new market opportunities and long term impact on economic and social and/or environmental parameters at European or international level. (10 points).

³⁰ For sea basins strategies and other relevant sea basin information for the Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean or North Sea, see [Europa website](#).

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	6	10
Quality	6	10
Impact	6	10
Overall (pass) scores	21	30

Maximum points: 30 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 6/10, 6/10 and 6/10 points.

Overall threshold: 21 points.

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. Retroactive application can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: between 24 and 36 months (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment).

Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The following deliverables will be mandatory for all projects:

- a policy brief at the end of each reporting period
- a project factsheet at the beginning of the project

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (maximum grant amount): see *section 6 above*. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse **ONLY** certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (*see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a*).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement **80%**.

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (*see art 22.3*).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (*e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc*).

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 6*).

Budget categories for this call:

- A. Personnel costs
 - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
 - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
 - C.1 Travel and subsistence
 - C.2 Equipment
 - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- E. Indirect costs

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

- personnel costs:
 - SME owner/natural person unit cost³¹: Yes
- travel and subsistence unit cost³²: Yes
- equipment costs: depreciation
- other cost categories:
 - costs for financial support to third parties: not allowed
- indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)

³¹ Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

³² Commission [Decision](#) of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35).

- VAT: non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)
- other:
 - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost
 - kick off meeting: costs for kick off meeting organised by the granting authority are eligible (travel costs for maximum 2 persons, return ticket to Brussels and accommodation for one night) only if the meeting takes place after the project starting date set out in the Grant Agreement; the starting date can be changed through an amendment, if needed
 - project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for *separate* project websites are not eligible
 - other ineligible costs: the GA specifies other non-eligible costs under article 6.3

Reporting and payment arrangements


The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).

After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **40%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest.

There will be one or more **interim payments**, if applicable, (with detailed cost reporting).

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (*see art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (*by one or several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc*). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to us in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement.

Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
 - unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*
- or
- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts*.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

Provisions concerning the project implementation

Security rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 13 and Annex 5)*

Ethics rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 14 and Annex 5)*

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5):*

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):*

- communication and dissemination plan: Yes
- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5):*

- specific rules for blending operations: No

Other specificities

n/a

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).



For more information, see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (see *section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (see *section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (see *section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk](#)

[webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: cinea-emfaf-calls@ec.europa.eu.

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances declared to two different EU actions.
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).
Organisations may participate in several proposals.
BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).