



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

General Information Webinar

2024 Second Joint Transnational Co-Funded Call

“Unified paths to a climate-neutral, sustainable, and resilient blue economy: engaging civil society, academia, policy, and industry”

15/02/2024

Co-branded by



Co-funded by
the European Union

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



Agenda of the webinar

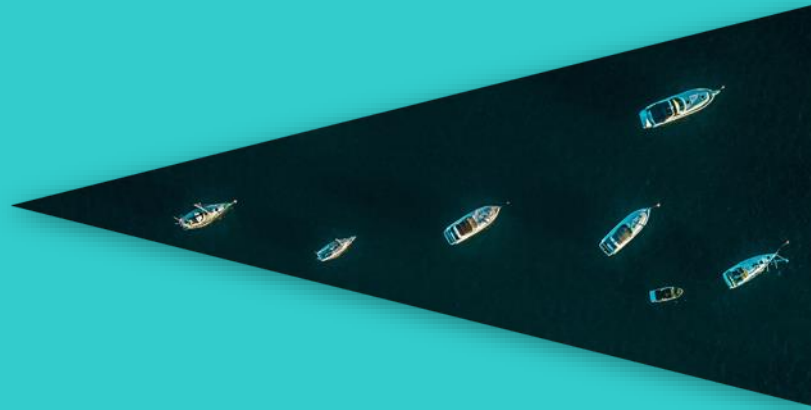
Time	Topic	Speaker	
14h-14H10	Welcome	Coordinator (MUR)	
14h10-14h20	Introduction to the Second Co-funded Call	Carolina Torres (FRCT)	
14h20-14H50	Presentation of the Priority Areas (scientific content)	Maurice Héral (ANR)	Q&A
14H50-15H30	General information towards applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General recommandations• Theory of change; Open Access and Fair Data• Ocean Literacy• Projects monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint Call Secretariat (JCS, Coraline Chapperon, ANR)• Sylvain Pasquier (ANR)• Thorsten Kiefer (JPI Oceans)• Esther Chacón Campollo (AEI)	Q&A
15H30-16H	Call process, eligibility rules, selection procedure and evaluation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JCS (C. Chapperon, ANR)	Q&A
16H00-16H15	Presentation of the submission system (EPSS) and the Partner Tool	Katrin Saar (ETAG)	Q&A
16H15-16H25	Presentation of the Brokerage Event	JCS (C. Chapperon, ANR)	Q&A
16H25-16H30	Closure and Next Steps	JCS (C. Chapperon, ANR)	



Webinar Instructions

- ▶ The webinar is recorded and will be available on replay
- ▶ Audio available to Speakers only
- ▶ Several Q&A Sessions
- ▶ Please ask your questions using the Webex **Chat**
 - ▶ Your question(s) must be related to the ongoing topic session
 - ▶ If you have question(s) related to your National/Regional Funding Organisation, please consult the ANNEX B and/or contact your national/regional contact points
 - ▶ For any other specific questions about the call, please contact the Joint Call Secretariat:

sbep.call-secretariat@agencerecherche.fr



14h-14H10

Welcome
*by the Coordinator, Ministry of University
and Research - MUR, Italy*



14h10-14H20

Introduction to the Second Co-funded Call

by Carolina Torres, FRCT



The SBEP aims to deliver solutions to strengthen European Union (EU) and international science-policy interfaces in marine- and maritime-related domains of the EU Green Deal and Digital Europe strategies through aligning national, regional, and EU R&I priorities and bringing together science, industry, policy, and civil society.

Vision





Background of the call

- ▶ COVID-19 pandemic accentuated the vulnerabilities in the EU economy and the need for greater autonomy in terms of production and supply chains of food, services, and workforce. And the blue economy sectors were not an exception.
- ▶ In addition, the Russian invasion in Ukraine has affected the blue economic sectors in various ways, from increases in oil and marine diesel prices, to trade restrictions and supply chain bottlenecks.
- ▶ The potential of a climate-neutral and sustainable blue economy to deliver innovation, value creation and employment is high, and its role in addressing challenges as articulated in the European Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as energy security, healthy productive and biodiverse ecosystems, human and animal health and well-being, climate change and sustainable food provision is considerable



The Green Deal
Digital Europe
Recovery Package

Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
Nature Restoration Law
Farm to Fork Strategy
Circular Economy Action Plan
European Ocean Observing System (EOOS)
Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)
Water Framework Directive (WFD)
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD)
Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
European Data Strategy



This Call is Co-branded by:

Co-Branding



- ▶ This call is co-branded as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which is coordinated by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (**IOC/UNESCO**) on behalf of the UN system, with the aim that the selected funded research and innovation projects are endorsed as **Ocean Decade projects**
- ▶ The co-branding of this call with the Ocean Decade will ensure that funded projects that are **endorsed as Decade Actions form** part of a highly visible, shared, global effort that opens up opportunities to create new collaborations across disciplines, geographies and generations, and to establish access to new sources of support 8



Priority areas



Planning and managing
sea-uses at the
regional level



Blue economy sectors,
development of
marine multi-use
infrastructures



Blue Bioresources



Digital Twins of the
Ocean (DTOs) at
regional sub-basins
scale



Participating Funding Organisations

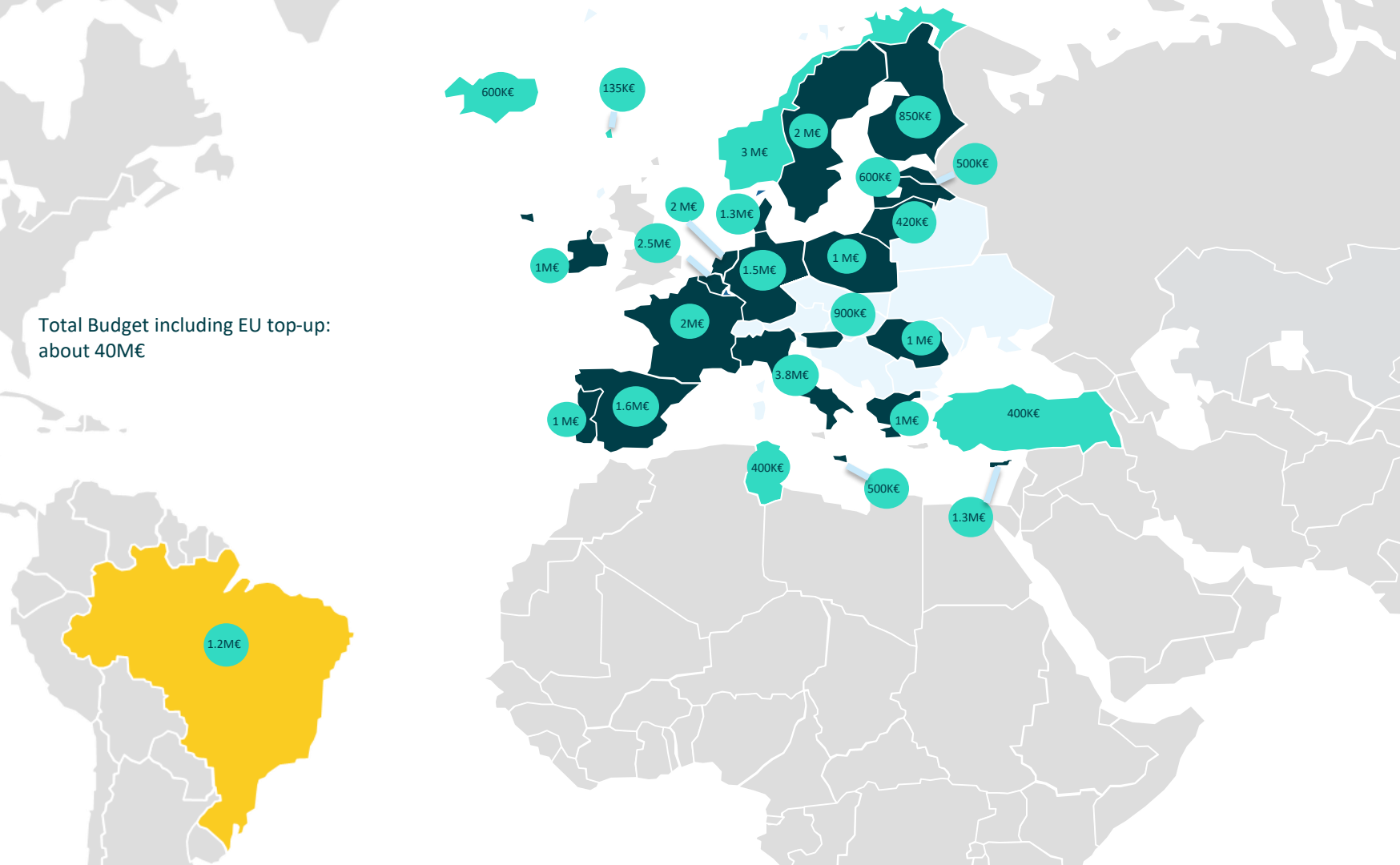
This second co-funded call aims to support transnational research and innovation projects for 36 months.

26 Countries, 38 PFOs responsible for funding R&I actions in the blue economy combined with the contribution from the European Union.

- ▶ 20 Member-States: Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands
- ▶ 5 Associated Countries: Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, Tunisia, Türkiye
- ▶ 1 Third country: Brazil

Consult the Annex B of the Call Announcement

Total Budget including EU top-up:
about 40M€





How does the call works?

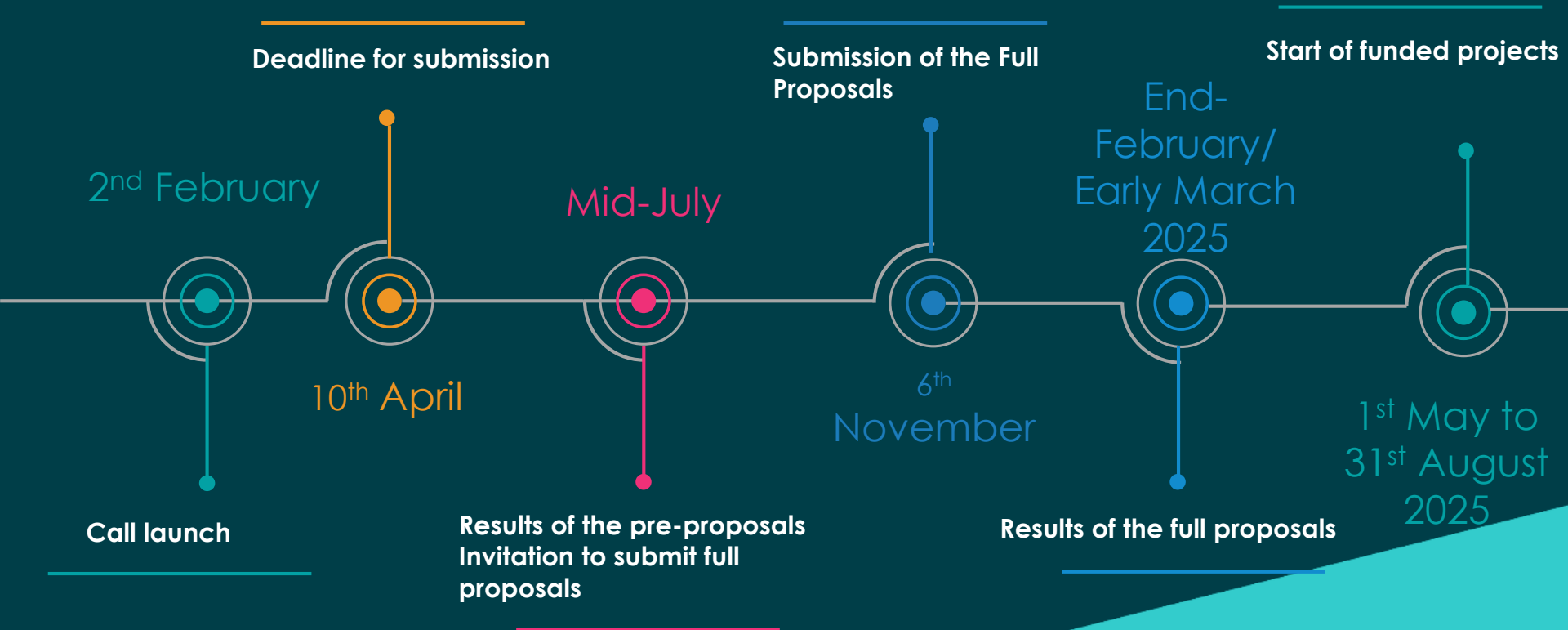
- 
- Financial resources from 38 PFOs
 - Co-funding from the EU

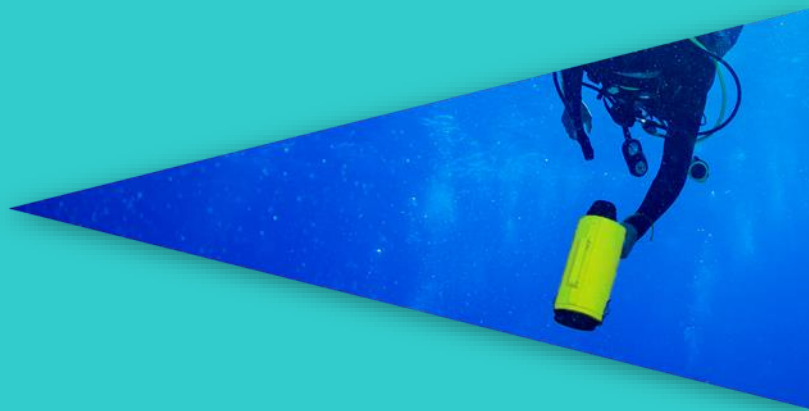
- 
- Two-step submission procedure (pre-proposal and full-proposal)
 - One single International Evaluation Committee (IEC) + independent observer + observer from the Decade Coordination Unit

- 
- One single ranking list
 - Funding the highest-ranked projects



Call Timeline





14h20-14H50

Priority Areas (scientific content)

by Maurice Héral, ANR



Second Joint Transnational Call



“Unified paths to a climate-neutral, sustainable, and resilient blue economy: engaging civil society, academia, policy, and industry”



Addressing geographical differences

Proposals are strongly encouraged to cover a broad geographic scale. The proposals are expected to consider **a minimum of two European sea basins and to assess the project proposal's impact on various basins.**

Proposals can target European regional seas such as Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea, Arctic, Barents Sea, Celtic Sea, etc. but these regional seas must be from **a minimum of 2 different European Sea basins which are: the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.**



Impact driven: addressing industry and stakeholder involvements

- ▶ Projects must be **impact-driven to** contribute to the transformation into a blue economy for a more resilient future and towards carbon neutrality targets, following an **impact pathway** approach including **private partners and relevant stakeholders**

→ **Strong recommendation to engage stakeholders from the quadruple helix (industry, government, research institutes, and the public) in consortia as partners or self-funded partners**, to enhance innovation, policy, and societal relevance and ultimately, to increase the impact of the projects. The modalities of participation of stakeholders are defined in the national/regional eligibility criteria.



4 Priorities areas in relation with the 4 IAs and the SRIA

- ▶ **Digital Twins of the Oceans (DTO) at regional sub basin scale**
- ▶ **Blue economy sectors, development of marine multi-use infrastructures**
- ▶ **Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level**
- ▶ **Blue Bioresources**



Digital Twins of the Oceans (DTO) at regional sub basin scale (1)



“The objective of DTOs is to build realistic digital representations which include the main processes of the targeted marine ecosystems. By combining mechanistic modelling approaches and data-driven models (hybrid models), DTO applications will allow users to build scenarios of the effects of natural processes and anthropogenic activities on the marine environment and blue economy activities”

- ▶ Focus of the coastal areas at the regional EU sea-basins
- ▶ Mapping and understanding the request of actors (policymakers, managers, industries, citizens...) to define joint scenarios of the evolution of coastal ecosystems
- ▶ Existing data collection and representation: Analysis of the available information, quality control and standard format of datasets to improve regional databases. Identifying and assessing data gaps and quantification uncertainties
- ▶ Development of new methods, technologies and sensors to obtain data to fill the **gaps**



DTOs at regional sub basin scale (2)



- ▶ Ecological Modelling of the key elements of the systems
- ▶ Identify precise connections and complementarity with other DTO projects, lighthouses of the EU Mission “Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030”, EDITO and ILIAD Projects
- ▶ In-situ data and marine observations: to be made openly available through EMODnet, the EDITO data lake etc
- ▶ Avoid duplication with Copernicus Marine Services (Home | CMEMS (copernicus.eu) and other operational services
- ▶ When relevant, connections with the partnership Water4All, to consider inputs from the watershed and to be connected to their data sharing tools.



Blue economy sectors, development of marine multi- use infrastructures (1)



“The objective of this priority area is to boost technological innovations covering the entire blue economy sector in agreement with a green and digital transition. The development of multi-use infrastructures and activities at sea is one of the solutions which is expected to minimise conflicts of interests for the demand of space, to increase sustainability”

▶ **Transition of the Blue Economy:**

- ▶ *Tools, techniques, processes, risks with proposed Nature-Based Solutions with a focus on seaweed; sea grasses, shellfish and low-trophic fish*
- ▶ *Remediation solutions to alleviate negative impacts (marine habitats and ecosystems, migration routes for birds, marine mammals, fishes...) of large offshore windfarms*
- ▶ *Decommissioning options in existing and upcoming platforms*
- ▶ *Innovations for reducing environmental footprints - development of new materials*



Blue economy sectors, development of marine multi- use infrastructures (2)



- ▶ **Improve co-existence and multi-use infrastructures :**
 - ▶ Mechanisms to develop sustainable and safe coexistence of several functions and activities
 - ▶ Combination of infrastructure, functions, and logistics
 - ▶ Innovation and technological development of multi-uses structures (4R conceptual approach)
 - ▶ Combination with multi-uses platforms and regulation of fisheries, aquaculture activities and biodiversity conservation
 - ▶ Integrated models of the environmental conditions and the interactions between the different uses to support decision-makers and industry and to propose options to reduce the different impacts
 - ▶ Development of monitoring and control systems for real time management of the multiuse platform

Connection with projects from the 'Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters' and Water4All or Biodiversa+ partnerships to avoid duplication - complementary to the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP) focusing on high TRL (Technology Readiness Level) technologies.



Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level (1)



“The overarching goal of this priority area is to support science-based international decisions that consider environmental status, the legacy of human impacts, climate change trends, the development of the blue economy and future scenarios, considering multitude of pressures from the uses of marine space and marine resources. The objective is to promote a new approach by integrating the national and/or local initiatives at the EU regional sea-basins level and the Atlantic Ocean-basin between the different bordering countries. It includes the common evolution of coastal environments for the identification of suitable areas for different uses, minimising conflicts, and maximising sustainable development.”

- ▶ **Fostering the full use of scientific knowledge for effective management and conservation, examples:**
 - ▶ *provide essential data for the identification of suitable areas for diverse uses, minimising conflicts*
 - ▶ *high-resolution mapping of marine underwater morphology, and marine uses*
 - ▶ *quantification of indicators describing ecosystem distribution, health and pressures caused by human uses, and ecosystem services*



Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level (2)



- ▶ **Changing environmental scenarios**, co-designed with the relevant authorities to address **climate change effects** such as sea level rise, erosion and shifting risks of coastal flooding
- ▶ **Biodiversity conservation and restoration : Marine Protected Areas**
- ▶ **All marine activities in the regional sea-basins will consider the sectoral aspects of marine and maritime space management:** fisheries management, aquaculture zone, navigation, sediment removal, offshore wind farms, oil and gas extraction but also tourism, etc., Ex:
 - ▶ development of suitable population dynamics models to support a better sustainable management of sensitive fish species for recovery
 - ▶ The development of activities on land in these coastal zones have to be estimated and evaluated with their potential impacts and quality requirements
 - ▶ Co-design, co-development, and co-use with MSP competent authorities at national and regional levels
- ▶ **Space-based remote sensing tools**
- ▶ **Development of innovative Decision Support Tools (DSTs)**



Blue Bioresources (1)



“The Blue Bioresources component targets sustainable management of ocean resources to produce environmentally sustainable, high-quality, resilient, and climate-neutral seafood and feed and innovative marine bio-based products. It will be focused on a just transition to the sustainable production and utilisation of blue bioresources, with emphasis on production and processes that minimise the environmental impacts including carbon emission while meeting the demand for healthy and affordable blue food, feed, and other bio-based products.”

▶ **Sustainable Fisheries and Harvesting**

- ▶ possible innovative approaches to avoid or drastically reduce bycatch and discards. Integrated components of innovation for fishing vessels, fishing gears, vessel operations and fishing practices. Innovative ways to address selective fishing.
- ▶ development of innovative fishing gears and fisheries technologies; new fishing techniques on new resources with a focus on **small-scale fisheries**, and on seaweed harvesting
- ▶ development of more selective fishing gears that reduce environmental impact
- ▶ development on knowledge of recreational fisheries
- ▶ research on migratory fish stocks that spend different parts of their life cycle in different jurisdictions



Blue Bioresources (2)



▶ Sustainability in Aquaculture

- ▶ further development, expansion of seaweed and shellfish production, food safety challenges...
- ▶ development of biologically, technically, and economically feasible onshore recirculating aquaculture systems - development of biorefinery to optimise recirculation issues
- ▶ focus on the refinement or the development of new innovative solutions of production processes in sustainable and integrated aquaculture
- ▶ methods to ensure traceability of aquaculture products along the whole chain

▶ Blue Biotechnology

- ▶ development of new sustainable bio-based molecules or products for food, feed, chemical, pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetics and material
- ▶ Post-harvest or processing technology for good conservation of marine products
- ▶ digitalisation to support of traceability of bio-based products from marine sources

Synergies and complementarity with EU partnerships e.g. FutureFoodS, Animal Health and Welfare. Coordination with projects under the Mission 'Restore our Oceans and Waters', CBE-JU and Waterborne platform will be organized by SBEP portfolios.



Q&A Session

***Ongoing Topic:
Presentation of the Priority Areas
(scientific content)***



14h50-15H30

General information towards applicants



1. General recommendations by the JCS, ANR



General recommendations

Projects should/are encouraged to:

- ▶ **Go beyond the state of the art** by providing high-quality R&I and, when appropriate, make use of innovative technologies, approaches, and concepts to do so;
- ▶ **Be scientifically excellent and relevant to policies framed under Blue Economy and consider ongoing research activities funded by other EU Missions, instruments, programmes, or projects.** Cooperation with these activities is of high importance to avoid redundancy, favour complementarity and increase synergies;
- ▶ **Contribute to cross-cutting themes** such as the open data policy, development of capacity-building activities and ocean literacy activities
- ▶ Promote the inclusion of young people in the activities and knowledge transfer
- ▶ Integrate the **gender dimension** of R&I activities
- ▶ Promote equal opportunities for participation of women and men in the research consortia
- ▶ Follow partnership communication guidelines using a common visual identity
- ▶ **Comply with EC ethics self-assessment principles and EU taxonomy**



General recommendations

Projects should/are encouraged to:

- ▶ **Consider geographical balance** and implementation in appropriate geographic settings and according to the objectives of the proposal, including in low- and middle-income countries/regions, and less-performing countries
- ▶ **Self-funded participation** of legal entities from countries (and/or regions) participating in the call, is welcome; Project partners that are not eligible for funding may participate as self-funded if they have their separate source of funding
- ▶ **Every partner in a (pre-)proposal, including a self-funded partner, needs a Participant Identification Code (PIC) from the EC** to be included in the submission. The applicants must check their PIC or ask for the creation of a PIC well in advance of the submission. The same request applies to subcontractors.



2. Theory of change; Open Access - Fair Data, by S. Pasquier, ANR



Development of Impact pathway approach

Annex A: “Theory of Change”

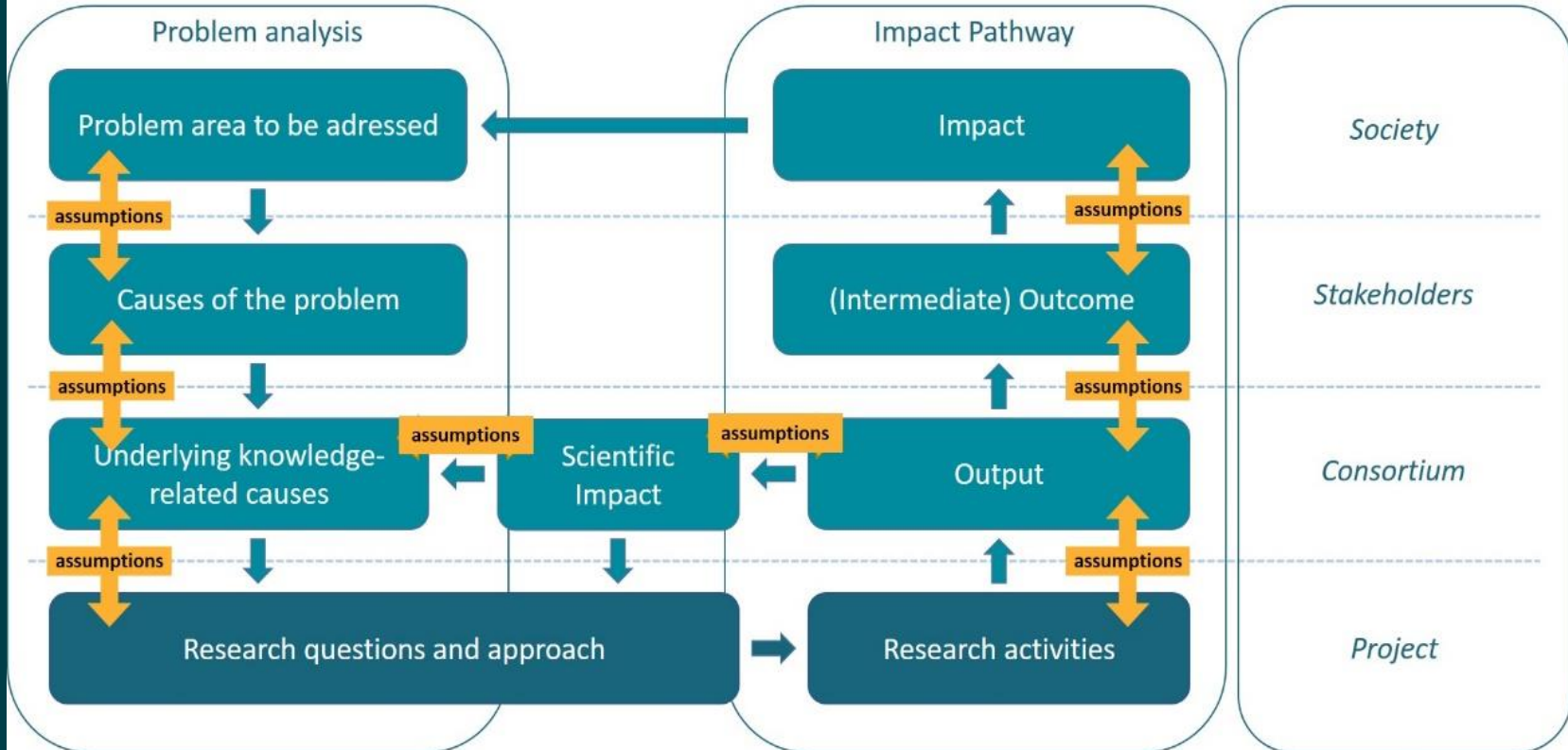


Development of an Impact pathway approach

- ▶ General context: Ambition of Horizon Europe of creating impact-driven R&I projects and significant societal and environmental impacts.
- ▶ It is requested in the proposal to include a plan that describes what impact the research is expected to achieve in the long run
- ▶ One way to make such a plan is to establish a methodology of Theory of Change (ToC) with a related Impact Pathway:
 - ▶ Describes how the research and innovation process can contribute to societal/economic/environmental change



Theory of Change

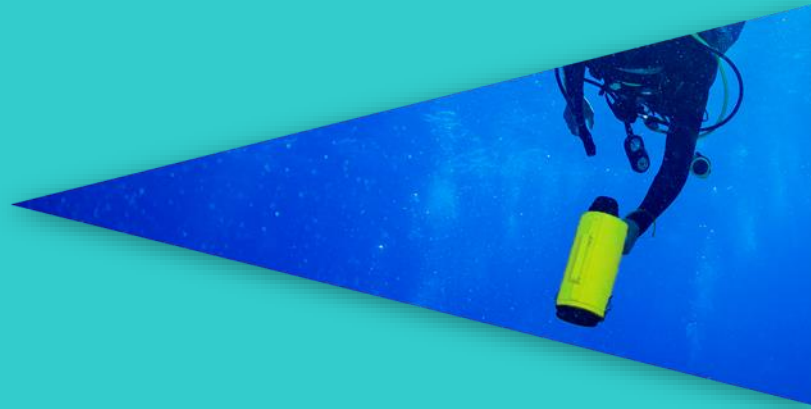




- ▶ Should be for instance considered for the co-design process of the Impact Pathway:
 - ▶ The potential of the R&I project for impact: societal, technical, environmental, economic, ...
 - ▶ How relevant stakeholders can be involved in, and/or benefit from the R&I project
 - ▶ Uptake of R&I findings for decision/policy making



- ▶ Pre-proposal & Full-proposal: plan to be included in the “project description” section on the EPSS platform
- ▶ Please refer to the Annex A “Theory of Change” for guidelines



Open access, FAIR Data

Annex F: “Open access and FAIR Data”



Open Science principles

- ▶ SBEP strongly supports Open Science principles including open sharing of research data generated by the funded R&I projects:
 - ▶ in accordance with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable): collection, reuse, analysis, validation, and data management.
 - ▶ considering balanced approach towards openness: “As open as possible, as closed as necessary” - Ex: data sharing constrained by the need to protect commercial potential



Data Management

- ▶ A Data Management Plan (DMP) is requested throughout the lifecycle of the project:
- ▶ Pre-proposal: short set of questions
- ▶ Full proposal: extended set of questions

Questions related to data collection, data production, documentation, storage, data sharing, ... in your R&I project

- ▶ Funded projects: DMP to be updated along the life of the project: beginning, mid-term and end-term of the project.



Open Access

- ▶ Projects funded have to comply with full and immediate Open Access principles for scientific publications: Use of Open Access journals or publishing platforms, or Open Access Repository

Guidelines

- ▶ Refer to the [Annex F](#) “Open Access and FAIR data” for guidelines:
 - ▶ Set of questions and advice on the writing
 - ▶ Links to further information and documentation



Q&A Session

***Ongoing Topic:
Theory of change; Open Access -
Fair Data***



3. Ocean Literacy by T. Kiefer, JPIOceans



Ocean literacy

the partnership's ambitions

- ▶ Promote **behavioural change** to enable the just and sustainable transformation of Europe's blue economy
- ▶ Generate **interest** in sustainable marine innovation, career and investment options across Europe
- ▶ Target **industry actors** to influence Corporate Social Responsibility for the just transition





Ocean literacy opportunities for impact

- ▶ Integrate ocean literacy into **funded projects**
- ▶ Integrate **citizen science** in the Partnership's R&I activities





Ocean literacy

wider context

- ▶ **Partnership:** Work Package including Ocean literacy
- ▶ **Europe:** EU4Ocean coalition and Mission Ocean & Waters
- ▶ **Global:** UN Ocean Decade ocean literacy actions



Ocean literacy

in the 2nd Call text

4.6.3 Recommendations for the applicants

(Pre-)proposals should contribute to cross-cutting themes such as the open data policy, development of capacity-building activities and **ocean literacy activities ...**

4.8.3 Evaluation criteria and scoring system

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, **including communication activities component of ocean literacy.**





Q&A Session

Ongoing Topic: Ocean Literacy



4. Projects monitoring by E. Chacón Campollo, AEI



Monitoring of the selected projects

Esther Chacón y Abraham Trujillo
Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI) –
Spanish Research State Agency
oceans@aei.gob.es



Projects monitoring

[interaction and networking between projects]

- ▶ **3 occasions** to present and report during the projects' lifetime:
 - ▶ Kick-off
 - ▶ Mid-term
 - ▶ Final-term
- ▶ At mid-term and final-term, **seminars to exchange information** and discuss with the expert reviewers will be organized (one of them could be done online)
- ▶ **Participation of the projects in these seminars is expected and should be covered by the project's budget.**
- ▶ **SBEP will foster interaction and exchange between projects** and with projects funded in other calls (and in other Partnerships!)





Projects monitoring

[written reporting procedure]

- ▶ Reports will be based on **templates with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** to get comparable information from the projects
- ▶ The **monitoring system** will be very similar to the submission system (**EPSS platform**)
- ▶ **Project Coordinators are responsible for reporting** and must collect information from their consortium partners.





Projects monitoring

[Follow-up Experts Group]

- ▶ A **Follow-up Experts Group** of independent reviewers will be **responsible for the assessment of the project execution** (most of them will be already involved in the proposals' evaluation)
- ▶ Members of the FG **must declare any possible CoI** with the selected projects.
- ▶ The process will compare the initial proposal with the reported information, to see the development of the project towards the objectives, deviations from the plan, etc.
- ▶ **FG members will participate in the seminars' discussions**





Projects monitoring

[important points to keep in mind]

- ▶ Reporting obligations for all partners of the funded projects at national level are **mandatory and different** for each national funding institution.
- ▶ During the project 's duration, changes, delays or unexpected circumstances **must be informed to the follow-up authority** (AEI) to find the most suitable solution for each situation.



Projects monitoring

Follow-up Secretariat: Spanish State Research Agency (AEI)

- ▶ Abraham Trujillo and Esther Chacón
- ▶ oceans@aei.gob.es



Q&A Session

***Ongoing Topic:
Project monitoring***



15H30-16H

Call process, eligibility rules, evaluation criteria and selection procedure

by the JCS, ANR



Call process

Stage 1: Pre-proposal Submission

- **Mandatory Step**
- General and national/regional **eligibility checks**
- **Evaluation** by an International Evaluation Committee (IEC)
 - **3 independent evaluators**
 - **2 evaluation criteria: Excellence and Impact**

Stage 2: Full proposal Submission

- **Invited applicants only**
- General and national/regional **eligibility checks**
- **Evaluation** by an International Evaluation Committee (IEC)
 - **3 independent evaluators**
 - **3 evaluation criteria: Excellence, Impact, Quality and efficiency of implementation**



General Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ **Scope:** (Pre-)proposals must address **one main priority area**.
 - ▶ Not all sub-themes within the priority area must be addressed
- ▶ **Duration:** 36 Months
- ▶ **Requested Budget:** Partners from the same country cannot request more than 60% of the total funding requested by a proposal
- ▶ **(Pre-)proposal must:** be written in English, submitted using the EPSS, be complete, respect pages limits, number/type of attachment files
- ▶ **(Pre-)proposal must** be submitted before the deadline

Do not wait the last minute to submit!



General Eligibility Criteria

▶ Consortium composition:

- Each consortium must be composed of eligible partners from at least **three different countries** participating in the call and requesting financial support from at least three different PFO participating in this call
- The projects must involve at least two independent legal entities from two different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries for this call for (pre-)proposal



General Eligibility Criteria

▶ Consortium composition:

- **Self funded partners are allowed** but they are not counted for the minimum requirement of eligible partners and countries
 - They cannot act as a consortium coordinator
 - They must demonstrate the willingness to self-fund their own activities or show evidence that others partners are willing to fund their activities
 - A letter of intent/commitment must be submitted with the full proposal at stage 2



General Eligibility Criteria

▶ Consortium coordinator

- One entity must act as the consortium coordinator
- The consortium coordinator must be eligible for funding by a funding organisation of this call
- The consortium coordinator has the responsibility for submitting the (pre-)proposal
- The PI of an entity can act as consortium coordinator only in one proposal



National/Regional Eligibility Criteria

National/Regional regulations and National Contact Points → ANNEX B at <https://bluepartnership.eu/funding-opportunity/sustainable-blue-economy-partnerships-second-joint-transnational-call> (be careful of updates)

Each National / regional Funding Organisation funds its own national / regional Partner

- ▶ The consortium must comply with all the relevant national/regional eligibility rules
- ▶ **Before applying, each and every partner should verify their corresponding national/regional regulations and checked their eligibility with their National contact points (NCPs).** The Consortium Coordinator should verify that all partners of the consortium verified their eligibility.



Pre-proposal - Evaluation/Selection Procedure (1st Stage)

- ▶ Evaluated by **3 independent evaluators** (International Evaluation Committee, IEC)
- ▶ **2 assessment criteria: Excellence (Threshold: 3/5) and Impact (Threshold: 3/5)**
- ▶ **A ranking list of pre-proposals will be produced** by IEC, including only pre-proposals that meet the minimum threshold
- ▶ Selection of pre-proposal based on **1) ranking list** and **2) funding availability**



Proposal - Evaluation/Selection Procedure (2nd Stage)

- ▶ Evaluated by **3 independent evaluators** (International Evaluation Committee, IEC)
- ▶ **3 assessment criteria: Excellence (Threshold: 3/5), Impact (Threshold: 3/5) and Quality and Efficiency of implementation (Threshold: 3/5)**
- + **threshold on the final score: 10/15**
- ▶ **A ranking list of proposals will be produced** by IEC, including only proposals that meet the minimum thresholds
- ▶ Selection decision: **the CSC will strictly follow the order of the ranking list from the IEC and the funding availability**
- ▶ Official letters on evaluation and selection results will be sent to Consortium coordinators



Evaluation criteria:

Excellence (Stages 1-2)

Threshold 3/5

- ▶ **Fit to the scope:** clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives to the call priority areas
- ▶ **Novelty of research**
- ▶ **Addressing the knowledge gaps**
- ▶ **Are risks properly identified and managed?**
- ▶ **Soundness of the proposed methodology**
 - ▶ including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, **appropriate consideration of the ethical issues** according to the EU "Do no significant harm" principle (DNSH), **gender dimension** in research and innovation content, and the **quality of open science practices**, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.



Evaluation criteria:

Impact (Stages 1-2)

Threshold 3/5

- ▶ The credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the call text, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions to the project
- ▶ Suitability and quality of the measures to **maximise expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the **dissemination** and **exploitation** plan, including **communication** activities component of ocean literacy
- ▶ **The added value of European transnational cooperation and networking**
- ▶ **The quadruple-helix ambition** (*i.e. stakeholders engagement – societal/industrial impact – link between science, politics, industry and science*)
- ▶ **European Sea basins** (*i.e. at least 2 European sea-basins, impact on various EU sea-basins*)
- ▶ **EU Taxonomy compliance**



Evaluation criteria: *Threshold 3/5*

Quality and efficiency of implementation *(only at Stage 2)*

- ▶ **Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, appropriateness of the effort** assigned to work packages, and the **resources** overall
- ▶ **Capacity and role** of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium brings together the necessary expertise
- ▶ **Appropriateness of the partners** and **justification of the resources** to be committed (budget, staff, equipment ...)
 - ▶ Including balance of scientific and financial contributions from respective countries' partner



Reminder

- ▶ Please consult the **Call Announcement and Annexes** including the National/Regional Regulations and National contact Points (ANNEX B) and the Pre-proposal and full proposal forms (ANNEX D and ANNEX E)
→ <https://bluepartnership.eu/funding-opportunity/>
- ▶ (Pre)proposal Submission using the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS):
<https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue>
- ▶ EPSS technical help desk email is epss.sbep@g.etag.ee
- ▶ For question regarding the call (except national/regional rules), contact the Joint Call Secretariat: sbep.call-secretariat@agencerecherche.fr

The JCS is not intended to answer any questions on the scientific content of (pre-)proposal



Q&A Session

***Ongoing Topic:
Call process, eligibility rules and
evaluation criteria and selection process***



16H00-16H15

Presentation of the submission system (EPSS) and the Partner Tool

by Katrin Saar, ETAG



Partner search tool

- ▶ To facilitate consortia building, a Partner Search Tool is provided at <https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue/2024/partner-search>

SBEP EPSS

<https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue/2024/partner-search>

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership [Sign in](#)

Home > SBEP 2024 > partner / project search

Sustainable Blue Call 2024 on "Unified Paths to Climate-Neutral, Sustainable, and Resilient Blue Economy: Engaging Civil Society, Academia, Policy, and Industry"

If you are looking for a partner or for a project to join:

Filter entries by:

Those looking for: **a partner** a project to join display both

Country: -- choose country --

Priority area: -- choose priority area --

Keyword: -- choose keyword --

Description:

[Submit your search](#)

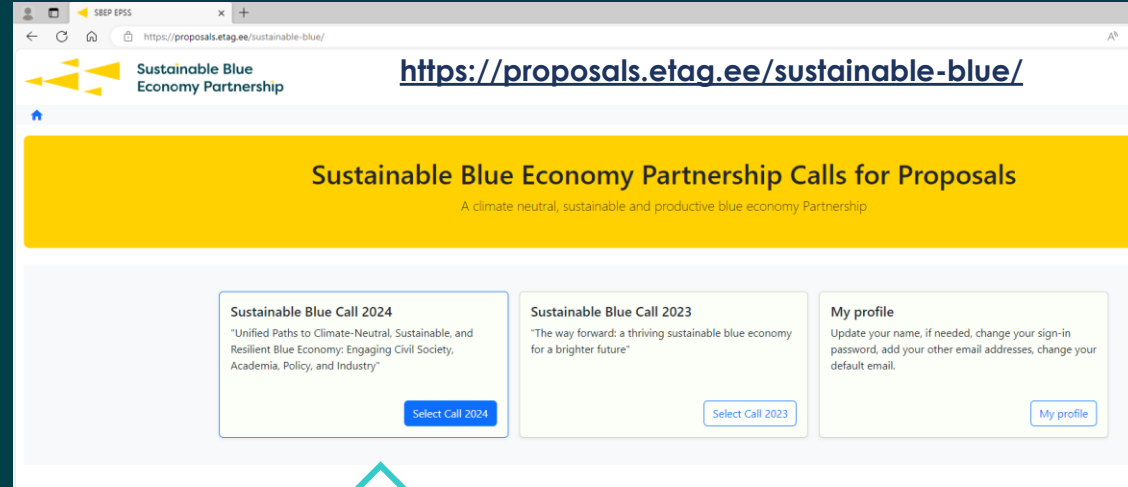
Find submitted profiles/projects

Contact	Looking for a	Country	Description
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Submission platform EPSS

1. Click, Sign in button
2. Choose, Create your EPSS account
3. Fill in the form + accept the checkbox bellow
= Create new user account
4. Once created account, you can Sign in into EPSS anytime
5. Then choose the 2024 Call → For applicants → Create new project proposal
6. Propocal acronym → Create new project proposal → Pre-proposal SBEP2024-nr



Submit your proposal to 2024 Call



Coordinator View

1. **General information** - edit proposal title, acronym, project start date, keywords
2. **Add / edit / remove participants** - add or remove project participants, change participant type, change PI
3. Participants' details:
 - o **Partner 1** - Katrin Saar <katrin.saar@g.etag.ee>
 - Participant's details
 - Brief CV of the Principal Investigator
 - Budget
 - Preview this part of the proposal
 - o **Partner 2** - Katrin Saar <katrin.saar.002@mail.ee>
 - Participant's details
 - Brief CV of the Principal Investigator
 - Budget
 - Preview this part of the proposal
4. **Summary of the project** - summary of the project, priority area, scientific disciplines, sea-basins/ocean, preliminary data management information
5. **Short description of the project** - upload a PDF file with the description of the project
6. **Exclusion / suggestion of potential reviewers (optional)** - indicate experts who could review or should not be asked to review your proposal
7. **Compliance with EU requirements**
8. **Preview the entire proposal** - view the working copy of your pre-proposal **and submit it to the Joint Call Secretariat**
9. **Download proposal budget (optional)** - view / download the budgets of all project participants



- ▶ Coordinator can edit all parts if proposal
- ▶ Only Coordinator can submit the proposal

1. General information
2. Add / edit / remove participants
 - add or remove project participants, change participant type, change PI
3. Participants' details:
 - Participant's details
 - Brief CV of the Principal Investigator
 - Budget
 - Preview this part of the proposal
4. Summary of the project
5. Short description of the project
6. Exclusion / suggestion of potential reviewers (optional)
7. Do no significant harm principle
8. Preview the entire proposal
9. Download proposal budget (optional)



Adding Partners

- ▶ Project coordinator can add/remove participants for them to get access to the proposal
- ▶ It's not possible to edit participant's details, the budget or the CV unless a participant has created an EPSS user account and has accepted joining the proposal

After adding your project participants, please ask them to:

1. sign up for a SBEP EPSS user account at <https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue/>
2. go to the applicant's desktop page <https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue/2024/applicant>
3. accept the invitation to join the proposal.

The steps above should be completed by all project participants whose status in the participants' list below shows 'has not joined yet'.

Please note that the **EPSS does not send invitation email** to the participants. Please inform them yourself via email, etc.

Participant number	Principal Investigator	Country	Status	Edit
Partner 1	Katrin Saar <katrin.saar@g.etag.ee>			

[Add participant](#) [Continue](#)



Adding Partners

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue/2024/applicant>. The page header includes the logo for Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership and the text "SBEP 2024 > applicant's desktop". The main content area is titled "Invitation to join a proposal" and contains a message: "Please review the invitation(s) below and click either Accept or Decline. After accepting an invitation you can start editing your part of the proposal. In case you have any questions regarding the proposal and/or the invitation, please contact the Consortium coordinator." Below this message is a table with the following columns: "Proposal No", "Acronym", "Consortium coordinator", and "Title of the proposal". The table contains one row: "SBEP2024-220", "Test for webinar", "Katrin Saar", and "<katrin.saar@g.etag.ee>". Below the table, there is a message: "You have been invited to become a Partner 2 in this proposal." and two buttons: "Accept" (green) and "Decline" (red). A large teal arrow points from the text "Accept or decline invitation" to the "Accept" and "Decline" buttons.

Accept or decline invitation

- ▶ After creating an account PI can accept or decline the invitation to proposal
- ▶ Each PI must create their account, join the proposal and fill in their data
- ▶ The Coordinator can edit all sections of the proposal
- ▶ PI can preview all sections of the proposal. PI has to fill out their part. Cannot give access to team members/assistants for this
- ▶ The Coordinator submits the proposal on behalf of all PIs

The screenshot shows the "My project proposals" section of the website. It contains a message: "You do not have any project proposals at the moment. If you are a Consortium coordinator (Partner 1 in the proposal), please create a new proposal. If you are a Principal Investigator of any other participant in the proposal, please wait until the Consortium coordinator has added you as a project participant." Below this message is a button: "Create new project proposal". The section is titled "1. Participants' details:" and contains a list of participants. The first participant is "Partner 2 - Katrin Saar <katrin.saar.002@mail.ee>". Below this participant name are four sub-items: "Participant's details", "Brief CV of the Principal Investigator", "Budget", and "Preview this part of the proposal". A large teal arrow points from the text "PI view" to the "Preview this part of the proposal" sub-item.

PI view



Participant details

▶ **Must be filled in the system, can't be uploaded**

▶ Participant details:

- Principal Investigator (PI)
- organisation info
- Other Team members

▶ Brief CV of Principal Investigator:

- Education
- Positions
- Up to 5 most important achievements, publications, IP (e.g. patents) relevant to the proposal over 2018-2023, if any.
- Awards and general expertise

SBEP EPSS

https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue/2024/applicant/proposal/220/1/p1/4033?validate=1

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

SBEP 2024 > applicant's desktop > pre-proposal SBEP2024-220 > Participant 1 > participant's details

Details of the Principal Investigator of Partner 1

Your name and/or email address can be updated on [my profile page](#), if necessary.

First name: Katrin Last name: Saar Email: katrin.saar@etag.ee

Title: [] Gender: female male non-binary

Nationality: [] ORCID ID: []

Principal Investigator's website: [] Phone: []

Choose professional status or specify other: Professor Assistant professor Associate professor Senior scientist Post-Doc Ph.D.-student

Career Stage: A: Top grade researcher B: Senior researcher C: Recognised researcher D: First stage researcher N: Not applicable

Employment status information: on permanent position on fixed-term position

Details of the organisation: []

Cancel Save changes

PI info

Details of PIs organisation



Budget

Cost category	Total cost (in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules)	Funding request (in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules)
Permanent salaries	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Non-permanent salaries	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Salaries total	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Travel	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Participation to joint activities of the SBEP initiative	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Consumables	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Equipment	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Other costs	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Overheads	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Subcontracting costs	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Total	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>

- ▶ Each partner must comply with the limits to budget requests set by its funding organisation (FO).
- ▶ The indicated requested budget per Partner should be considered definitive, unless minor adjustment is requested by the FO.
- ▶ **The total costs** / expenses (column "Total cost") comprise all the costs related to the project independently of national funding rules. You have to indicate here all the costs of the project (including personnel costs of permanent staff not eligible; etc.)
- ▶ Requested funding budget (column "**Funding request**") comprise costs or expenses for personnel (including permanent salaries depending on Funding Organisations' rules), travelling, consumables, overheads (if fundable), subcontracts, etc. that you will request to your Funding Organisation.

Summary of the project

Please choose one **priority area** for your project

Priority areas in the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership joint call 2024

PA1 - Digital Twins of the Oceans (DTO) at regional sub basin scale
PA2 - Blue economy sectors, development of marine multi-use Infrastructures
PA3 - Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level
PA4 - Blue Bioresources

Choose one priority area

The **scientific disciplines** mobilised in your project, depending on the expertise of the members of your consortium.
Choose from the pre-defined list below. The list corresponds to the taxonomy of the Horizon Europe programme.

Here are the discipline(s) you have indicated. To remove a discipline please uncheck a box and save changes.
Select one or more disciplines from the list below

Type a few characters to filter the list / search for a discipline that's relevant to your project

Type to search...

List of all available disciplines. Double click on a discipline, or select one or more disciplines and click Add.

(animal) welfare
(human) rights
(science) communication
(scientific) culture
(user-centric) privacy preservation
AAS ATM Automated Support
Abdominal surgery
Ability to telework
ABP Air-breathing propulsion
Academic profile

Please indicate the sea-basins/ocean covered by your project

Sea-basins/ocean covered by the project

Mediterranean Sea
 Black Sea
 Baltic Sea
 North Sea
 Atlantic Ocean

Choose sea-basins/ocean from the list

Study areas / countries covered by the project
(please do not indicate here the nationality of the members of the consortium but the areas and countries studied in your proposals (research scope, studied sites, etc.))

- ▶ Choose priority area
- ▶ Choose scientific disciplines mobilised in your project
- ▶ Indicate the sea-basins/ocean covered by your project

Write:

- ▶ Describe study areas / countries covered by the project
- ▶ Summary of the project
- ▶ Preliminary data management information

Beware of the character limit in each section!



Short project description

- ▶ **Upload to EPSS as PDF! Page limit: 5 pages!**
- ▶ All tables, figures, references, and any other element pertaining to this section must be included.
- ▶ The page limit will be applied automatically. After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
- ▶ **Links and hyperlinks are not allowed!!!**
- ▶ Formatting conditions listed in the system (applies also to references) + elements that should be included in the description



Important

- ▶ The proposal can be submitted by the Consortium coordinator multiple times before the pre-proposal submitting deadline on 2024-04-10 15:00 CET.
- ▶ Only the very last submitted copy will be used by the Joint Call Secretariat.
- ▶ It is not possible to edit / submit the proposal after this deadline.
- ▶ **An incomplete proposal cannot be submitted** by the Consortium coordinator.
- ▶ All fields in the proposal forms are required to be filled in.
- ▶ Make sure you complete any missing parts and fix any detected problems well before the pre-proposal submitting deadline.
- ▶ **Information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the CSC between the pre-proposals and full proposals.**



For technical help

epss.sbep@g.etag.ee



Q&A Session

Ongoing Topic: Presentation of the Partner Tool and the submission system (EPSS)

▶ SBEP EPSS technical help desk: epss.sbep@g.etag.ee



16H15-16H25

Presentation of the Brokerage Event (Matchmaking platform)

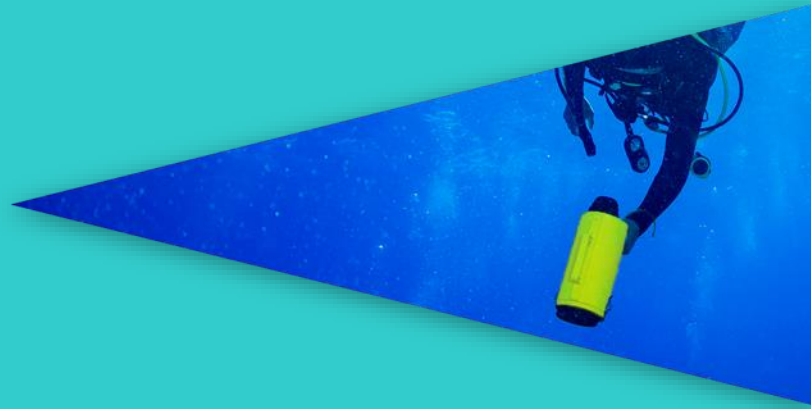
by the JCS, ANR



Brokerage Event – Partnering support

Objective: To identify and meet potential partners

- ▶ **An online event:** use the call specific b2Match matchmaking platform
 1. Register here: <https://www.b2match.com/e/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership/sign-up> (link also available on the partnership website)
 2. Create a profile
 3. Search for partners and start to interact: screen the online profiles and request meetings
- ▶ **You will be able to meet with potential partners (up to 8) for 2 weeks (26/02 au 08/03) on pre-defined time slots** (5 sessions of 2 hours per week, 20 min meeting)
- ▶ **Contact: Joint Call Secretariat: sbep.call-secretariat@agencerecherche.fr**



16H25-16H30

Closure and Next Steps

by the JCS, ANR



Closure-Next Steps

- ▶ For any information about the Partnership, please check the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership website:

<https://www.bluepartnership.eu/>

and follow the Partnership on the Social media channels: follow **@BlueEconomyEU** on #Twitter, #Facebook, #Linkedin and #Instagram

- ▶ All call documents available at **<https://bluepartnership.eu/funding-opportunity/sustainable-blue-economy-partnerships-second-joint-transnational-call>**
- ▶ **Deadline of pre-proposal submission: 10 APRIL 15H CET**



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

Thank you for your attention

sbep.call-secretariat@agencerecherche.fr

Co-branded by:



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EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP