



Atlantic Arc Commission

# Call for Proposals

## Blue Labs: innovative solutions for maritime challenges

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### Main features of the Terms of Reference

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- **Duration:** maximum **24 months**
- **Budget:**
  - o **Total budget:** €1,700,000.
  - o **Maximum cofinancing rate:** 80%
  - o **Budget per project:** between €200.000 and €500.000
  - o Up to 5-6 projects will be financed

- **Timetable**
  - o **Deadline:** 31/05/2016 (16.00 Brussels time)
  - o **Information to applicants:** October 2016
  - o **Starting date of the project:** January 2017

- **Geographical Scope**

The geographical area covered by the action includes the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, **the Atlantic** and the Mediterranean Sea basins.

Third countries that participate in the EU Atlantic Strategy are also eligible: Canada and United States of America

- **What is a Blue Lab?**

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

- **Result-oriented:** resulting in a tangible deliverable, such as a marketable service or product; - Innovative: having a pilot and/or demonstrative dimension;
- **Multidisciplinary:** developed by a team of post-graduate students, recent postgraduates, other students, researchers and experienced tutors from business and/or the public sector;
- **Stakeholder driven:** being designed and implemented in consultation with a group of relevant partners (e.g. research bodies, businesses and local authorities).

- **Priorities for this calls for proposals**

1. **Blue (bio)remediations:** to exploit new metabolites and biomolecules, enzymes and genes from micro-organisms living in extreme marine environments; to develop and test (bio)remediation measures in different areas/places, including the possible re-use and recycling of hazardous materials.
2. **Marine litter:** to develop new technologies, tools and products to address mitigation and management of specific types of litter, including nanomaterials, micro-plastics and explosive litter.
3. **Underwater cultural heritage:** to develop new services, technologies or products (e.g. unmanned autonomous vehicles/robotic systems/etc.) to discover, protect and value underwater cultural heritage.
4. **Invasive alien species and jelly fish proliferation:** to develop new products, services and tools to address invasive alien species and/or jelly fish proliferation in the marine environment, including early detection, prevention, mitigation and management measures. Where relevant, management may include sustainable exploitation of the resources, for example jellyfish harvesting can be used for food, health and industrial applications.

- **Objectives**

This action aims at promotive innovative “laboratories” to pilot new and viable solutions addressing the 4 maritime and marine challenges & opportunities (cf. above) in the blue economy. **Blue Labs must develop the following specific elements:**

- leveraging young peoples’ **skills** and creativity and increasing **awareness** of marine challenges and opportunities;
- supporting **pioneering partnerships** between maritime stakeholders and fostering multidisciplinary approaches by combining competences from **businesses, the public sector and research bodies**;
- supporting enhanced **cooperation and coordination amongst maritime stakeholders** at local and **sea basin levels** (including at sub-region level of the sea basin), whilst capitalising on local stakeholders’ knowledge.

- **Activities**

- **Core activities (non-exclusive)**
  - Design, testing and piloting of the innovative services/products/tools to be developed;
  - Field work necessary for the development of the planned solutions;
  - Market analyses, studies and business plans;
  - Training activities;
  - Patents registration and deposit;
  - Legal and financial counselling (including crowdfunding and fund raising).
- **Complementary activities (must be addressed)**
  - Awareness raising and dissemination activities on the marine/maritime topic or theme the project focuses on;
  - Measures to facilitate the transferability of the project activities and results to other sea basins or regions of the EU facing similar challenges;
  - Measures to ensure the sustainability of the project activities/results after the end of the EU support (i.e. other funding sources, profit making activities, etc.);

- Measures to seek complementarity and synergies with relevant projects funded under other EU programmes (e.g. H2020, LIFE programme, European Structural and Investment Funds) as well as with relevant initiatives and transnational programmes or policies (e.g. Sea-basin and macro-regional strategies).

- **Expected outputs/impacts**

- New services/products/tools relating to selected marine/maritime challenges/opportunities developed at **pilot or commercial stage**;
- Smart partnerships combining multidisciplinary competences from **businesses, the public sector and research bodies**, and integrating local knowledge, resulting in an increased capacity to drive innovation forward;
- Increased **awareness** on marine challenges and opportunities and increased focus of research and development activities on these issues.

**NB:** A list of relevant indicators (qualitative/quantitative) to measure the expected outputs/impacts of the project must be included in the proposal.

- **Eligibility**

- Participants from EU Member States as well as third countries are eligible.
- Applicants must be legal entities: public or private bodies
- Applicants must be active in the field of research, marine, maritime affairs (other field if relevant to the proposal)
- Example: non-profit organisations, public authorities (national, regional, local), universities, educational and training institutions, research centres, enterprises, federation and associations, fisheries local action groups

- **Partnership:**

- A minimum of 2 organisations established in EU Member States, at least:
  - One scientific/research body/institutions
  - One private or public entity

- **Award criteria**

- **Relevance of the project (25 points)**
- **Added value (15 points)**
- **Relevance of partnership (15 points)**
- **Relevance at sea basin level (10 points)**
- **Methodology and implementation (20 points)**
- **Dissemination, sustainability and transferability (15 points)**

More information is available here:

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

Direct link to the terms of references:

[https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sites/easme-site/files/call\\_for\\_proposals-blue\\_labs.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sites/easme-site/files/call_for_proposals-blue_labs.pdf)