



Atlantic Arc Commission

# Call for Proposals “Blue Careers in Europe”

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## Main features of the Terms of Reference

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- **Duration:** maximum **24 months**
- **Budget:**
  - o **Total budget:** €3.452.000
  - o **Maximum cofinancing rate:** 80%
  - o **Budget per project:** between €500.000 and €700.000
  - o Up to 7 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
- **Main targeted sectors**

Coastal tourism, shipbuilding & ship repair, transport, offshore oil and gas, blue biotechnology, aquaculture, renewable energy
- **Objectives**
  - o “Contributing to **fill existing skills’ gaps** by supporting activities that will **increase the employability of various target groups** in blue economy sectors (e.g. students, workers, unemployed people etc.);
  - o Addressing the **gender imbalance** in the blue economy (careers traditionally seen as male-oriented);
  - o “Investing in an **appropriately skilled workforce**”;
  - o “Addressing the **shortage of skilled workforce**”;
  - o “Addressing the **mismatch between graduates’ knowledge and business expectations**”;
  - o “Enhancing the **visibility and attractiveness of the different career opportunities** in the blue economy (especially for young people)”.

- **Challenges to be addressed**

- **Attract higher education graduates or persons with a vocational/technical qualification to maritime professions** through targeted and innovative education and/or training initiatives (including career guidance);
- **Retrain and upskill workers** employed in **other sectors** and/or people currently **unemployed** for a job in the blue economy;
- **Diversify and expand the skills** of people currently **employed in the blue economy** to progress in their career and/or to **facilitate their mobility to other maritime jobs**.

- **Activities**

○ **Core activities**

- Design or adaptation of **training courses, modules and/or curricula** for initial Vocational Education and Training (VET) or higher education with **strong elements of work-based learning** such as **traineeship schemes**;
- Develop **training schemes**, provide **training courses** and **career guidance** to **experienced workers** with technical qualifications, such as electricians, metal workers and mechanical engineers to (re)train/upskill for jobs in marine or maritime sectors;
- Provide **courses/training** such as specialised courses or bachelor/masters courses providing **specific knowledge and skills** (including career guidance) for jobs in the blue economy to **highly qualified professionals** such as lawyers, logisticians, biologists, chemists, civil engineers etc.
- Develop **(re)training and upskilling opportunities** for blue professionals to **upgrade their knowledge and competences** (e.g.. to acquire IT skills or environmental management skills, learn new technologies, entrepreneurship or languages, etc.) allowing them to **progress in their career or move to other promising job opportunities** in the blue economy.

○ **Complementary activities**

- **Awareness raising and dissemination activities** on relevant ocean-related issues and the maritime economy with a view to **increase the visibility and attractiveness of blue careers' opportunities** for their target group, including, where relevant, also for school students;
- 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 (e.g. other funding sources, accreditation, recognition aspects etc.);
- Measures to **seek complementarity and synergies** with **relevant projects** funded under **other EU programmes** as well as with **other relevant initiatives**.

- **Expected outputs/impacts**

- **New synergies and concrete links** between the **sectors of education and training** on the one hand and **maritime industry** on the other hand;
- **New high quality and multidisciplinary education and training offers** (including career guidance), clearly matching the local or regional needs of the blue economy;

- **Improved employability** for the target group selected;
- **New and accessible pathways facilitating career advancement and job mobility** within the blue economy;
- **New and highly visible training opportunities** (including career guidance) allowing professionals to acquire the right skills to find a job in the blue economy;
- **Increased awareness of ocean issues and increased visibility and attractiveness of blue career opportunities for students** from secondary and higher education in general.

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

- **Eligibility**

- **Only participants from EU Member States are eligible.**
- **Partnership:** Projects should bring together stakeholders from both the industry and education and training providers, as well as public authorities.
- Public and private bodies active in the fields of education, training, labour or blue economy and related sectors (such as marine renewable energies, blue biotechnology, coastal tourism, aquaculture, maritime transport, shipbuilding and ship repair, shipping, offshore oil and gas, fisheries or aquaculture).
- The consortium must consist of **minimum two legal entities** including at least:
  - **One educational/training organisation** such as a **higher education institution**, a **secondary school/institute/educational centre**, a **public or private VET provider**;
  - **One company or chamber of commerce, of industry, of skilled crafts or of labour, or other intermediary bodies.**

- **Award criteria**

- **Relevance of the project (25 points)**
- **Added value (20 points)**
- **Methodology and implementation (20 points)**
- **Complementarity of partners (15 points)**
- **Dissemination, sustainability and transferability (20 points)**

More information is available here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-careers-europe>

Direct link to the terms of reference:

[https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sites/easme-site/files/call\\_for\\_proposals\\_blue\\_careers.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sites/easme-site/files/call_for_proposals_blue_careers.pdf)