

BLUE FUND - Open Call N.º 6/2017

Marine Environment Monitoring and Protection

Aim:

To fund projects unswerving to the marine environment monitoring and protection challenges in line with the international commitment undertaken by Portugal in the context of the United Nations and the European Union to ensure the good environmental status of marine waters. Projects addressing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive are particularly relevant.

Legal framework and Strategic priorities:

The operations covered by the "marine environment monitoring and protection" typology may be supported by the Fund in accordance with point c) of article 17 of Ministerial Order no. 344/2016 of 30 December, which approves the Blue Fund Management Regulation, namely:

- a) Ensuring the good environmental status of the maritime public domain;
- b) Preventing and combating pollution of the marine environment;
- c) Protection or restoration of ecosystems and marine biodiversity;
- d) Dealing with emergency situations to safeguard national maritime interests;
- e) Social awareness of the importance of the sea.

In the scope of this announcement the priorities for submission of applications are:

- i) Contribution to the national marine waters knowledge at the level of any of the descriptors of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- ii) Compliance with the requirements of international conventions, in particular the International Maritime Organization and the European Union, regarding preventing air and marine environment pollution as a contribution to the sustainable development of the maritime transport;
- iii) Development of innovative Information and Communication Technologies to support decision-making in the context of the monitoring, assessment and management of environmental risks of natural or human origin, including climate change;
- iv) Development of studies and implementation measures for marine ecosystems and biodiversity protection and / or recovery, in national waters, particularly in classified zones, including collaborative platforms and environmental co-management and marine resources projects, involving local communities;
- v) Development of technological tools to support the circular economy in the area of the sea, including the development of integrated online digital platforms and technologies providing information on port services for selective collection of marine litter and

enabling the ships and craft industry to make environmentally conscious decisions regarding waste management;

- vi) Contribution to the knowledge and awareness regarding the importance of the national marine ecosystem services for the general well-being and their valuation, in particular concerning the relationship between the health of the marine environment and the human health;
- vii) Ocean literacy awareness and promotion focusing on the relationship between the importance of a healthy ocean, the human well-being and the long-term development of the sea economy, actively involving the schools and the local communities, scientific community, the business sector of the sea, municipalities and professionals of the economy of the sea.

Who can apply:

- Profit or non-profit private entities, including environmental non-governmental organizations;
- Institutions of higher education, institutes and R & D units;
- Other educational institutions;
- State laboratories;
- Public Administration bodies and the State business sector, including those of the regional and local administration.

Entities with head offices outside the national territory may submit applications, provided that they have a branch with business registration in Portugal, and unequivocally demonstrate that the results of the application target the general objectives of the Fund and this call in particular.

The applications presented in a consortium are privileged.

The maximum number of applications accepted per beneficiary is three.

Type of support:

Non-reimbursable grants.

Type of support:

Within the scope of this announcement, a total available funding of 1,000,000 € (one million euros) is foreseen.

The maximum support per project is 150,000 € (one hundred and fifty thousand euros), except for projects addressing the Ocean literacy awareness and promotion, which have a maximum budget of 75,000 € (seventy five thousand euros).

The maximum co-financing rate is 90% of the total eligible project value.

Eligibility period for project expenses:

Two years after the decision date to fund the project.

Expenditure criteria for eligibility:

a) Direct costs:

- Human resources;
- Acquisition of scientific and technical instruments and equipment, essential to the project, if they are used throughout their useful life in the business project;
- Amortization of scientific and technical instruments and equipment, essential to the project, whose useful life is contained in the execution period;
- Expenses associated with national and foreign patent registration;
- Expenses with demonstration, promotion and dissemination of project results;
- Acquisition of other goods and services directly related to the execution of the project, including the costs of consultants that do not constitute subcontracts.
- Travel and accommodation in Portugal and abroad;

b) **Indirect costs**, with a flat rate of 15% of eligible costs, excluding subcontracting and resources provided by third parties.

c) Expenditure relating to projects co-financed by other public or private funds under national, European or international law, provided that they fall under paragraph (a) of this section and are not subject to financing by another fund, shall also be eligible.

How to apply:

The applications shall be submitted in Portuguese or English languages. The applications are submitted to the e-mail address: fundoazul@dgpm.mm.gov.pt. Applications must be submitted between 04 December 2017, and 04 March 2018.