

**BLUE FUND - Open Call N.º 5/2017****Blue Biotechnology****Aim:**

To fund projects on Blue Biotechnology – based on aquaculture, coastal or marine resources. This is the only sector of biotechnology defined by the fraction of the biosphere being exploited and not by process orientation, such as white biotechnology (oriented to the industrial sector), green biotechnology (targeting the agricultural sector), yellow biotechnology (targeting the food and nutrition sector) and red biotechnology (targeting the medical and health sector). Applications of blue biotechnology can fit into any of these four areas.

**Strategic priorities:**

- a) Development of new products of biotechnological origin from marine resources;
- b) Development of production systems that implement the circular economy of the sea, namely through solutions for the use of by-products of the sea industries, resulting in the reduction of waste with added value and less environmental impact;
- c) To contribute to the fight against climate change and ocean acidification by developing more energy efficient processes with a reduced dependence on fossil resources, contributing to the reduction of the environmental footprint of economic activities;
- d) Development of technologies that contribute to the fight against marine pollution and the reduction of marine litter.

**To address these priorities, the present announcement aims to fund Research, Innovation & Development projects:**

- i) in the development of new uses for molecules of biological origin, with bioactivity or not, and metabolic pathways with potential for application in other sectors;
- ii) supporting the demonstration of innovative systems and / or production components designed to extract value from marine resources;
- iii) promoting aquaculture production of new species, or improving production processes for species already in use, with a focus on food production, feed, parasite control, anti-fouling coatings, or other value-added applications;
- iv) allowing the use and valorization of by-products from aquaculture, fish processing and fisheries discards;
- v) presenting solutions for environmental monitoring and remediation;
- vi) applying biotechnology to reduce the environmental footprint of economic activities linked to the sea.

**Who can apply:**

- Private and public non-profit institutions;
- Private and public companies.

The applications presented in a consortium are favored, preferably involving partners from the business sector. Preference will also be given to applications from start-up companies with services and / or products, at any degree of technological maturity scale.

The maximum number of applications accepted per beneficiary is two.

**Type of support:**

Non-reimbursable grants.

**Budget allocation:**

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

The maximum amount support per project is 200,000 € (two hundred 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 longer than the execution period of the project;
- 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 20% 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 are submitted to the e-mail address: [fundoazul@dgpm.mm.gov.pt](mailto:fundoazul@dgpm.mm.gov.pt). Applications must be submitted between 04 December 2017, and 04 March 2018. The applications shall be submitted in English language.