

National Ocean Data integration

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Reference information:

- EEA PT02 PA objective – Good environmental Status in European marine and inland waters
- EEA PT02 PA expected outcome #3 - Increased capacity for assessing and predicting environmental status in marine waters
- Output 3C -Management, information and surveillance systems on the marine environment, human activities at sea and the atmosphere are integrated and linked to geographical data
- Call nr 5 – National Ocean Data Integration
- Description - Integration of information on human activities, marine environment and their economic, social and environmental impacts

1. AREA OF INTERVENTION:

The integrated management of marine and coastal waters relies, among other, on the quantity and quality of information available on human activities, marine environment and their economic, social and environmental impacts. Furthermore, it relies on the efficient and effective dissemination of that information to all relevant stakeholders, namely public authorities. Moreover, it can be enhanced by the ability to create knowledge based on the existing information, thereby increasing the stakeholders' decision making capability.

However, frequently, the relevant information is scattered by several heterogeneous and disparate databases and systems, from the same or different entities, and presents inconsistencies and duplication within high volumes of data, which hampers achieving the aforementioned goals and demands for appropriate technological solutions.

2. OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES FOR THE PROJECTS:

The projects covered by this application are intended to improve the knowledge on the human activities, marine environment and their economic, social and environmental impacts in Portugal. The projects thereby, shall contribute to:

- Improve the ability to assess and predict the environmental status of marine and coastal waters

- Improve the temporal, spatial and technological strategies for monitoring marine and coastal waters based on the defined indicators;
- The study of ecosystems, definition of Good Environmental Status (GES), recovery of functions and monitoring of resources and promotion and preservation of the environment and marine biodiversity;
- The intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth in the ocean and coastal areas (including the atmosphere), based on innovative and competitive solutions;
- Addressing global challenges as well as objectives relating to climate change and energy sustainability;

The selected projects will contribute to the following output indicators:

1) Management, information and surveillance systems on the marine environment, human activities at sea and the atmosphere are integrated and linked to geographical data

Specifically, each selected project has to deliver, at least, the following results:

Indicator#1 - Number of different systems which information has been integrated
Target: 2 systems

Indicator#2 - Number of different domains (human activities, marine environment monitoring, socio-economic impacts) which information has been integrated
Target: 2 domains

Indicator#3 - Number of different services developed, exposing the integrated information
Target: 2 services

Indicator#4 - Number of different developed added value services
Target: 2 services

3. TYPE OF PROJECTS:

The projects eligible for submission under this Call shall integrate information from different domains and systems, and then expose the resulting information through new services. Additionally, added value services shall be developed, in order to create new information and knowledge from the existing information, so to increase the offer on tools for decision support.

Upon developed, these services shall be made available to the national maritime information sharing environment (NIPIM@R), so that the inherent information can then be made available to the relevant stakeholders, through this node, according to the applicable legal framework.

The proposed developments shall take into consideration the following:

- sustainability
- cost-effectiveness
- contribution to national and European related initiatives
- contribution to the integrated marine and coastal waters management in Portugal
- contribution to the National Ocean Strategy

The applications shall contain a publicity plan in line with Annex 4 to the EEA Grants 2009-2014 Regulation.

Projects must be completed no later than April 30, 2016, the last date of eligibility for projects (see Chapter 9).

4. AVAILABLE FUND:

The total amount available to the present Call is € 424.647.

5. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNTS FOR EACH PROJECT:

Min: € 170.000

Max: € 212.323

6. GRANT RATES EEA GRANTS:

The funding rate will not exceed 85% of total eligible project costs.

The remaining costs shall be provided or obtained by the Project promoter. The project promoter must demonstrate their co-financing ability through a document evidencing the financing capacity.

The project grant rate shall be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects and/or the Project Promoter or partner, where relevant.

7. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

The call is open from 2015/03/12 and remains open **until to 23:59:59 TMG 2015/05/12**.

8. ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS:

Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the respective Beneficiary State as well as inter-governmental organisations operating in the Beneficiary State are considered eligible applicants of projects.

Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, all of whose primary locations are either in the Donor States, Beneficiary States or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with the respective Beneficiary State, or any inter-governmental organisation, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project, are considered eligible partners.

9. PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURES:

From the date the Programme Operator signs the granting decision **until April 30, 2016.**

10. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURES:

Expenses that comply with Articles 7.2 to 7.5 of the Regulation of the EEA Grants 2009-2014 Regulation are considered eligible. (<http://eeagrants.org/Results-data/Results-overview/Documents/Legal-documents/Regulations-with-annexes/EEA-Grants-2009-2014>)

For calculation of **overheads/indirect cost**, please see the - Guidelines - Methodology on the calculation for the flat rate to be applied to indirect eligible costs (overheads)
http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea_grants_documentos.aspx

11. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

Applications must be submitted, in Portuguese or English, to the Programme Operator by the deadline stipulated in paragraph 7., in digital format, by email, to the following address: eeagrants@dgpm.mam.gov.pt, using the standard application form and having attached all documents that constitute the application folder (i.e. list of documents to be submitted by the beneficiary and demandable on application).

In addition, all original documentation, in paper form, must be conveyed to the address identified in paragraph 16. of this Call, with the application form duly signed and stamped.

In case there is a difference between the digital version and paper copy, the digital version shall prevail.

The application form and the list of all documents to be submitted are available in www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt (“EEA Grants” sub-menu)

It is suggested that before submitting your application to read the information on the EEA Grants Fund 2009-2014, available through the “EEA Grants” sub-menu on the DGPM website, namely, the following documents:

- Regulation of the EEA Grants 2009-2014
<http://eeagrants.org/Results-data/Results-overview/Documents/Legal-documents/Regulations-with-annexes/EEA-Grants-2009-2014>
- Project Promoter´s Procedures Manual
http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea_grants_documentos.aspx
- Guidelines - Description of the Selection Procedures
http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea_grants_documentos.aspx
- Guidelines - Methodology on the calculation for the flat rate to be applied to indirect eligible costs (overheads)
http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea_grants_documentos.aspx

12. SELECTION AND DECISION PROCEDURES:

Only the applications meeting the conditions in accordance with national and Community legislation, the Rules of the EEA Grants 2009-2014, the Project Promoter´s Procedures Manual and with this Call are acceptable in this procedure.

The project's selection and approval process is carried out in two sequencing phases, as follows:

1st phase – Administrative Checks

- **Correct preparation of the application process** - verification whether the application, in particular the Application Form, has been correctly completed and whether all required and mandatory annexes have been attached thereto.
- **Administrative and eligibility compliance** – verification of compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria.

2nd phase - Selection - The final score will be assigned to the project by applying the selection criteria approved by the Programme Operator and published in this Call for Proposal.

All sequencing phases are qualifiers.

During these phases there will be a communication with applicants and appeal's processes whenever the applications don't comply with the necessary and mandatory framework requirements.

Each application will be scored on a scale of 0 to 5 points, according to the selection criteria set out in paragraph 13. of this Call for proposal.

The selection criteria allow assessing the applicant's ability to complete the proposed action, namely the:

- **Operational capacity** of the applicant and partners: professional and/or institutional competencies, qualifications and requirements needed to implement the project;
- **Financial capacity**, ensuring this way stable and sufficient financial flows to maintain its activity throughout the period during which the proposal is being carried out and to participate in its funding;
- **Technical Capacity**, the project quality and its contribution to the objectives, as well as the programme outcomes and respective outputs.

Two independent and impartial experts shall (separately) score the project in accordance with the selection criteria provided in paragraph 13. of this Call for proposal. For the purposes of ranking the projects, the average scores awarded by the experts shall be used.

In case the difference between the scores given by the two experts is higher than 30% of the highest score, a third expert shall be commissioned by the Programme Operator to score the project independently. In such cases the average score of the two closest scores shall be used to rank the projects.

The Programme Operator provides the Selection Committee with the list of ranked projects.

The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of projects and, and may modify the ranking in justified cases. The justification for the modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee. In case a project is rejected as a result of such amendment, the affected applicant shall be informed in writing regarding the justification for the amendment. The Selection Committee shall submit the list of recommended projects to the Programme Operator.

The Programme Operator shall establish whether the election process has been conducted in accordance with the EEA Regulation and if the Selection Committee's recommendations comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification the Programme Operator (Decision Body), based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, shall make a decision regarding which projects shall be supported. In case the

Decision Body modifies the decision of the Selection Committee, it shall inform the Selection Committee and provide it with a justification.

Project selection shall be done by **open competition**, ie, applications that meet the required minimums are ranked in descending order according to the scores from the assessment of selection criteria provided in paragraph 13. of this Call for proposal. The applications with the highest scores within the financial allocation for each call will be awarded grants.

Applications that have sufficient quality, but are not awarded granting because of the limitations in funding set by each call, should be put on a ranked reserve list.

In case funds are uncommitted, a second call may be launched and shall make available any remaining funds for re-granting.

Applications scoring **lower than 2,5 points** will not be selected for awarded granting.

Further details are provided in paragraph 13. of this Call for proposal.

13. SELECTION CRITERIA:

a. Selection Criteria

In the selection of applications relating to the types of projects provided for in paragraph 2 of this call will be applied taking into account the assessment criteria and weightings, as the following table:

Selection Criteria	Weighting (W)	Indicative aspects	Criteria Classification (CC) (points)*	Global Score
1. Contribution to achieving the Programme's objectives and expected outcome(s) and outputs	30%	Demonstration of the contribution for the overall objectives, outcomes and outputs of the Programme:		
		a) Achieving and sustaining the Good Environmental Status (GES) in the European marine and coastal waters? (25%)	25% * CC1a	
		b) Strengthen bilateral relations with the Donor States (25%)	25%*CC1b	
		c) Demonstration of the contribution of the project to the Programme's expected outcomes and outputs? (50%)	50%*CC1c	
2. Technical coherence and understanding	30%	a) Identification and understanding of the specific needs the proposal is intended to solve? (20%)	20%*CC2a	
		b) Demonstration of solid knowledge and experience relevant for the development of the project accordingly with the objectives which aims to achieve? (20%)	20%*CC2b	

		<p>c) Qualification of the team members in the subject matter of the present call for proposals and of the proposed project, as demonstrated by relevant academic qualifications and sufficient (for senior members this would mean several years) relevant professional experience? (20%)</p> <p>d) Identification of distinct, relevant and realistic deliverables? (20%)</p> <p>e) Feasibility, clarity, logic and coherence of the proposal? (20%)</p>	<p>20%*CC2c</p> <p>20%*CC2d</p> <p>20%*CC2e</p>	
3. Approach and added value	20%	<p>a) Measures proposed to involve stakeholders, ensuring visibility of the project? (35%)</p> <p>b) Complementarity with the projects identified in the National Ocean Strategy 2013-2020 Action Plan - Mar-Portugal Plan – Programmatic Area/Ocean - Action Programme “Marine Strategy Framework Directive”; Programmatic Area/Governance – Action Programmes “Administration”, “Education, science and technology” and “Identity and Culture”?(35%)</p> <p>c) Relevance of expected results and potential impact in terms of stimulation of best-practice, innovation and demonstration? (30%)</p>	<p>35%*CC3a</p> <p>35%*CC3b</p> <p>30%*CC3c</p>	
4. Financial coherence and availability	20%	<p>a) Feasibility of proposed project in terms of coherence of resources and timetables? (30%)</p> <p>b) Demonstration that the project is implemented with the aim of achieving economic efficiency? (35%)</p> <p>c) Budget: consistency of the expenditures with the foreseen activities? (35%)</p>	<p>30%*CC4a</p> <p>35%*CC4b</p> <p>35%*CC4c</p>	

*Score CC	Meaning
0	no contribution
1	very poor
2	poor
3	adequate
4	good
5	very good

b. Classification of each selection criteria

Accepted applications will be classified according to each criteria on a scale of 0 to 5 points.

c. Final Classification

The Final Classification (FC) of each application is based on the scale of 0 to 5 points for rating criteria aggregation, using the following formula:

$$FR = W_1 * (25\% * CC_{1a} + 25\% * CC_{1b} + 50\% * CC_{1c}) + W_2 * (20\% * CC_{2a} + 20\% * CC_{2b} + 20\% * CC_{2c} + 20\% * CC_{2d} + 20\% * CC_{2e}) + W_3 * (35\% * CC_{3a} + 35\% * CC_{3b} + 30\% * CC_{3c}) + W_4 * (30\% * CC_{4a} + 35\% * CC_{4b} + 35\% * CC_{4c})$$

Where:

- $W_1... W_4$ = Weighting Criteria

- $CC_{1a}... CC_{4c}$ = Criteria Classification

(The classification will be established to 2 decimal places without rounding)

The application to be submitted under this call may be subject of an approval only if its final classification is **higher or equal than 2,5 points**, resulting from the application of the selection criteria and methodology presented.

The application who obtains a final score **lower than 2,5 points** will be excluded for the purpose of granting financial support.

Funding of applications also depends on the total available amount previously established in the paragraph 4. of this call.

Applications that meet a final score **higher or equal than 2,5 points** are ranked in descending order according to the scores from the assessment of selection criteria within the financial allocation available.

14. NOTICE OF DECISION TO BENEFICIARY:

The communication on the final decision of the applications will be made to the beneficiary within 45 working days after the deadline for submission of applications specified in paragraph 7. of this Call.

The Programme Operator shall notify applicants regarding the results of the selection process within 10 working days and publicize the results on websites where the advertisement was released.

15. PAYMENT FLOWS:

Following the granting of financial support, and after signing the Project Contract by both parties, the Programme Operator may make payments to beneficiaries in the following ways:

- **Advance payment:** Each promoter of the project, after the signing of the project contract, may receive an advance payment to cover the period until the next interim payment that in normal circumstances should not exceed 10% of the total grant amount, depending on the liquidity needs. Exceptionally, and in duly justified cases, this percentage can be increased up to 25%. The project promoter must provide an indicative estimate of expenditure to be carried out to prove the amount of the Fund requested. An advance payment is disbursed within 20 working days after the project contract has been signed.
- **Interim Payment:** Promoters shall present interim payments quarterly. The interim payment is made by the expenditures proposed for the current reporting period, and the difference between the proposed expenditures and the amount of expenses actually incurred in the previous period. The deadlines for the submission and review of quarterly reports will be defined in the financing agreement for the project.
- **Final Payment:** The sum of the advance and interim payments cannot exceed 90% of the total project grant at any time during project. The payment of the final balance will be disbursed within 30 calendar days after the approval of the final report.

16. CONTACTS:

E-mail contact for information and submission of application:

eeagrants@dgpm.mam.gov.pt

Address:

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