

Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2014 – 2021

Blue Growth, Innovation and SMEs Programme

Blue Growth Matchmaking event

Fund for Bilateral Relations

Support for travel expenses

1. Background

The main objective of the Blue Growth, Innovation and SMEs Program is to increase value creation and sustainable growth in the Portuguese blue economy.

The Blue Growth program aims to support projects that promote sustainable marine and maritime growth by giving priority to SMEs.

This program also supports research, science and technology, as well as supporting education and vocational training. The Blue Growth program includes three distinct program areas:

- Business Development, Innovation and SMEs
- Research
- Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship.

The Blue Growth Program contributes to the macroeconomic objectives of the European Economic Area (EEA) to reduce economic and social disparities in Europe and to strengthen bilateral cooperation relations with donor countries based on business development and innovation.

The dissemination of the Blue Growth, Innovation and SMEs Program aims to achieve specific goals considered favorable to the satisfaction of the objectives of the Program and is in perfect alignment with the Communication Plan, which aims to:

- a) Increase public awareness and inform the public and Stakeholders of the Sea on the contribution and role played by the Blue Growth Program and donor States.
- b) Ensure the visibility and a coherent image of the Blue Growth Program - EEA Grants in Portugal and of the Donor States.
- c) Inform potential and actual beneficiaries, as well as potential and current partners on the opportunities of the Blue Growth Program - EEA Grants.
- d) Communicate the impact and results, including the bilateral results of the contribution of the Blue Growth Program - EEA Grants and Donors in Portugal.

In order to achieve these objectives, it will be necessary to organize initiatives and events of international dimension that give focus and notoriety to the EEA Grants brand.

2. Purpose

On May 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lisbon Congress Center, a conference will be held under the theme "**Working together for a Sustainable Blue Growth**" organized by DGPM as Program Operator of the Blue Growth Programme. Is also foreseen a launch of the first Call dedicated to the program area "Business Development, Innovation and SMEs".

This event will occur during the European Maritime Day 2019, to be held on 16 and 17 May 2019 at the Lisbon Congress Center as a parallel event.

This event intends to give a broad vision on blue growth and sustainability, taking advantage of the effort, however developed for the mobilization and involvement of

Stakeholders, government entities, academia, the scientific community and the business sector, in a scenario of sharing and unprecedented cooperation in the areas of Innovation and Blue Startups, Financing and Investment with the aim to promote a dialogue associated to the Ocean sustainable development.

This notice aims to support the participation in the **Blue Growth Matchmaking** event which will take place in the afternoon session, (3:00 p.m.), including a stage for discussion and pitches as well as an area for B2B business meetings and private network, where Blue Economy partnerships will focus on the following emerging areas:

- Technologies and solutions for fisheries/aquaculture (development of innovative products and technologies in fisheries/fish farming sector)
- Fish and seafood transformation industry
- Ocean renewable energy sector
- Maritime industry, including maritime transports technologies
- Off-shore infrastructures
- Robotics related to marine and maritime technologies
- Technologies for deep sea resources and mapping
- Shipbuilding and shipping (development of innovative products and technologies)
- Blue biotechnology and environmental monitoring and surveillance activities
- Innovative products and technologies which are already available in the market, or to develop new ones, that use marine litter as raw material
- Nautical Tourism

Innovation appears as a structural factor, and through it will be possible to achieve technological advances of a sustainable nature, which will increase the long-awaited development of the Blue Economy.

The matchmaking registration is mandatory on the following platform: <https://eea-grants-matchmaking.b2match.io/>

3. Availability of Financing

The available funding for this notice is EUR **20,000.**

The evaluation and attribution of the support is executed in order of submission, according to the available budget.

4. Amount of support

The non-reimbursable support from the Fund for Bilateral Relations to be granted within the scope of this notice constitutes a travel allowance, allocated in a single payment, per entity, as a reimbursement, through a lump sum, subject to the following limits:

- Entities of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway - maximum amount of 600,00 Euros
- Entities of the Autonomous Regions (Azores and Madeira) maximum amount of 250,00 Euros
- Entities of Continental Portugal maximum amount of 100,00 Euros (except for entities based in the Lisbon metropolitan area)

Entities operating in the market under competitive conditions are subject to the application of the Commission Regulation (EC) n.º 1407/2013, of 18th of December, (de minimis rule), and Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (de minimis rule).

4. Procedures for submitting applications

All applications must be submitted in English.

Applications form are available at <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth> and must be submitted by email: eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt

All sections of the online application must be completed, including:

- Name of the Entity, contact person, telephone, e-mail and website;
- Tax Identification Number;
- Business Area / Economic Sector;
- Main purpose of the trip;
- Description of the project or idea / concept to be developed;
- Expected result of the participant in the event.

Written approval must be obtained prior to travel. The confirmation will be sent to each candidate from the official Program addresses: eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt

5. Eligibility of candidates

Entities legally established in Portugal and in donor countries of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism are eligible: Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland, namely:

- Private for-profit entities (with no more than 25% public ownership), legally established in Portugal, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland (e.g. Small and Medium Enterprises, Startups).

6. Activities and eligible expenditure

Travel expenses for participation in the matchmaking event, with a view to establishing bilateral partnerships between Portugal and Donor Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) operating in the blue economy value chain (Blue Growth), are eligible.

The application must demonstrate a project idea eligible for EEA GRANTS Blue Growth Programme and will be promoted both as a promoter and / or as a partner with responsibility for performing tasks.

The travel shall be provided by the Entity to which the travel support is allocated.

Travel support is allocated by entity.

7. Deadline for submission of applications

Deadline for submission of applications: **03rd of May 2019 at 11.59 pm.**

8. Selection criteria

The allocation of travel support is defined according to the following criteria:

- Framework of the activities described in the application, in the objectives of this notice and in the business, areas related to the Blue Economy (identified in section 2)
- Eligibility of candidates
- Order of submission of applications
- Presentation of the non-debit statements to the updated Tax and Social Security Authority.

- The application must demonstrate an idea of an eligible project that will be promoted both as a promoter and / or as a partner with responsibility for performing tasks
- Correct formalization of the application, namely filling in the form.

9. Selection and decision-making process

The evaluation shall be carried out on an ongoing basis within the limits of the appropriations available under this notice.

Candidate entities are notified of the decision on the application for support **until 06th May 2019**, by email.

Candidate entities must ensure written approval is obtained prior to travel.

10. Payment of financial support and report conditions

Non-refundable support is awarded to applications that meet all eligibility requirements, in accordance with EEAGRANTS 2014-2021 Regulation, and other applicable legislation, up to the limit available in this notice.

The grant will be awarded as a lump sum of expenses already incurred. The applicant must cover the expenses and request the reimbursement to the Directorate-General for Maritime Policy, after the displacement.

The refund request must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Travel Report
2. Request for the travel support (available at:
<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth>)
3. Proof of travel (e.g. copy of boarding pass)

4. Confirmation of participation in the event (signature in the register of entry to the event).

The mentioned documents from (1) to (3) must be stamped, signed and scanned and sent to the entities responsible for evaluating applications up to one month after the event.

Expenses are reimbursed to the entity that made them and not to an individual person.

11. Additional information

Requests for clarification should be sent to: eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt

More information available at:

Blue Growth Program - <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth>

Relevant documents EEA Grants 2014-2021 - <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/eea-grants/documents>