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DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE POLÍTICA DO MAR

**Blue Growth Programme**

## **Blue Growth Research & Education Matchmaking**

**Research and Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship**

**16th October 2019**

**Nova School of Business and Economics - Carcavelos, Portugal**

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## 1. Background

The Directorate General for Maritime Policy is organizing a Matchmaking in the area of Research and Development and Education, to be held on 16th October 2019, in the Nova School of Business & Economics, in Carcavelos, with the aim to promote bilateral partnerships and identify cooperation opportunities for Norwegian, Icelandic, Liechtenstein and Portuguese entities operating in the Blue Economy sector under the Blue Growth Programme.

The Blue Growth Innovation and SMEs Programme's main objective is to increase value creation and sustainable growth in the Portuguese blue economy. In addition, the intention is to increase research and promote education and training in marine and maritime areas.

The synergy between the business, research and education and a holistic approach in the programme will contribute to a sustainable blue growth in Portugal. The research will support businesses with a research, development and innovation component, strengthening their competitiveness in the market. The education component will promote the improvement of human resources skills and awareness of marine and maritime issues.

### A) Research

The intention is to enhance the performance of Portuguese research organizations in Blue Growth, including technological development (TRL from 1 to 9 in accordance with Horizon 2020 guidelines), and promote monitoring and knowledge improvement of marine environmental issues, including natural capital and ecosystems services.

The programme aims at partnerships between research organizations, or between research organizations and enterprises, from Portugal and the Donor countries, to develop collaborative projects in basic and applied research. Partnerships with donor states entities will be mandatory.

For projects aiming technological development with a TRL between 5 and 9, the objective is to promote cooperation between research organizations and business sector.

**Priority areas of research under this Matchmaking will be:**

- Sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and blue biotechnology in order to improve added value from fishing products and other marine resources and to develop and standardizing new methodologies to assess the stock status of Portuguese national fishery resources, not evaluated by international scientific fora. Approaches to develop integrated ecological-

economics fisheries management and to improve aquaculture in open offshore conditions in Portuguese maritime areas, including bio-economic modelling;

- marine natural capital and ecosystem services in order to fulfill gaps of data and knowledge on new areas with potential natural value for conservation (including economics, human activities pressures, legal regimes or management solutions), with emphasis on deep sea habitats, and/or restoration solutions, namely through sea forestation;
- climate change forecast or impacts on marine ecosystems services and natural capital, including economic impacts in Portuguese maritime zones;
- data analysis and methodologies/tools for multidimensional assessment of cumulative environmental and socioeconomic impacts to support decision making on marine spatial planning and on localization of maritime activities in the Portuguese maritime zones;
- new technologies for environmental monitoring and maritime surveillance, development and/or transfer, namely in deep-sea habitats and resources, to improve data and knowledge.

## B) Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurships

The aim is to increase training and education, to improve skills and competences of students and staff, ranging from elementary school to university levels, including professional degrees.

It will support new courses in maritime affairs, professional internship programmes for SMEs, multidisciplinary postgraduate programmes, summer schools, intensive programmes, training courses, students/trainees, teachers exchange and scholarships. It can include support to on board training of seafarers, required to perform tasks under the standards of the STCW Convention. Programmes for education and training can be designed in the context of existing/ongoing research projects between Portuguese and donor countries entities, to maximize cooperation between these entities. Exchange programs can be at master or PhD level already in place.

Registration for the event and application for travel expenses must be made through the website:

<https://eea-grants-2014-2021-bg.b2match.io>

## 2. Eligibility of applicants

The following candidates are eligible:

- a) Research organizations established in Portugal (defined in accordance with the Community guidelines on state aid for research and development and innovation (2006 / C323 / 01).
- b) Any public or private, commercial or non-commercial entities, as well as non-governmental organizations, whose principal location is both in Portugal and in the Donor States.

### 3. Available Fund

The available fund for this notice is EUR 20.000.

The evaluation and awarding of support is carried out 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 - amount of 600,00 Euros
- Entities of the Autonomous Regions (Azores and Madeira) - 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).

### 5. 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.

### 6. Deadline for submission of applications

Deadline for submission of applications: 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2019.

## 7. Selection criteria

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

- Eligibility of candidates
- Concrete idea of projects of Research & Development and Education, scholarships, literacy and youth entrepreneurship (identified in point 1)
- Request for partnership / cooperation
- Order of submission of applications (applications **submitted until 14/10/2019**)
- Presentation of the non-debit statements to the updated Tax and Social Security Authority

## 8. Selection and decision-making process

The assessment is carried out continuously on the platform up to the allocation limit available under this notice. Applicants are notified of the decision to sign up and request support through the automated email platform.

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

## 9. Payment of financial support and report condition

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 DirectorateGeneral for Maritime Policy, after the displacement.

The refund request must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Request for the travel support signed and dated (available at: <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth>)
2. Proof of travel (e.g. copy of boarding pass)
3. Confirmation of participation in the event (signature on registration of entry to the event)

The documents mentioned in points 1 and 2 should be sent to the email: [eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt](mailto:eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt) within one month after the event.

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

## 10. Additional Information

Requests for clarification should be sent to: [eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt](mailto:eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt)

More information available at: <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/pt/programas/crescimentoazul/>