

“Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy” Programme

PROGRAMME OPERATOR: Secretary General of the Environment and Climate Action

PROGRAMME PARTNER: Innovation Norway

CALL FOR TENDERS CALL

Call for Tenders Call#1 – Deposit refund system for beverage bottles and cans

Within the scope of the EEA Grants 2014-2021, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, in the capacity of Donors, have financed initiatives and projects in 15 European Union Member States with the aim of reducing social and economic disparities and strengthening bilateral relations with beneficiary states.

The Secretary General of the Environment and Climate Action (SGMAAC) was appointed Operator of the Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed in Lisbon on 22 May 2017 with a total allocation of €28,235,294 (€ 24,000,000 EEA Grants + €4,235,294 from SGMATE).

Through this Programme, innovative and structuring projects in the areas of Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy shall be financed, with the aim of promoting the good environmental state of the eco-systems and reducing the adverse effects of pollution and other human activities, being the transition toward a circular economy one of the main concerns expressed in the ‘Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021’ and in line with the Plan of Action for the Circular Economy ([PAEC](#)).

Application of the principles of the Circular Economy to production and consumption becomes essential to facing the challenges created by the disposal of plastics. At the beginning of 2018, the European Commission (EC) launched its package of measures for the Circular Economy on the basis of previous decisions to update legislation pertaining to waste in favour of a horizontal approach for using resources and managing waste. Currently, the package of measures for the Circular Economy is directed at plastic waste and packaging; however, other areas, such as chemical products, shall be included in the package. The European Commission estimates that these rules, once fully implemented, in 2030, may cost companies over 3 billion euros per year. It will also create savings of approximately 6.5 billion euros per year, helping to create 30,000 jobs and prevent 22 billion euros in environmental damage and cleaning costs.

Currently, plastic bottles are not re-used in Portugal and because they are not re-usable, along with other plastic packaging, they are usually recycled. In 2017, the recycling rate for plastic packaging of consumer products was approximately 41.8%. In order to leverage the increase in this fraction and taking into account the ambition of the new EU targets in this regard, the goal

is to establish a deposit refund system for non-re-usable beverage bottles (and cans) in Portugal. A system of this nature requires consumers to pay a deposit amount upon acquiring a bottle (or can), which is refunded when the latter is returned to any retailer/collection point that belongs to the system. The deposit refund system presupposes cooperation between the producers/importers of beverages and the retailers and it is based on experiences with similar systems in the Donor States.

Beverage bottles constituting single-use plastic products are among the most common items of marine litter in the European Union. This is a consequence of the lack of efficacy of the selective collection systems and the reduced participation of consumers in these systems. Accordingly, the future Directive regarding reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment will establish a minimum selective collection target for beverage bottles of 77% by 2025 and 90% by 2029 in view of contributing to the target for recycling plastic packaging waste (55% by 2030) stipulated in the review of Directive 2008/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November on waste.

In addition to the direct positive impact on recovery rates, the deposit refund systems contribute to the quality of the material collected and subsequently of the material recycled, with a need to promote and support, simultaneously, the recycling sector and the secondary raw materials market, namely through solutions for treating and recycling plastic bottles (and cans) and for incorporating recycled materials into the manufacture of new bottles (and cans).

Having in mind the main objectives described above this outcome must deliver a contribution for implementing a deposit system adapted to the national legislative framework already in place or a proposal of the changes needed to this framework. The results of the projects supported must also indicate the obstacles identified and how to overcome them to achieve the objectives as well as put forward a proposal of technical and financial flows which must include the correct value for the amount of the deposit.

The projects selected within the scope of this call will contribute to achieving the Programme's Outcome 1: "Increased application of circular economy principles in targeted sectors "and Output 1.1 "Increased resource efficiency in the construction sector" which indicators and targets are listed on the table below, in accordance with Annex I of the Programme Agreement, signed in Lisbon on 27 May 2019.

PA Number	Expected programme results	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Source of Verification	Frequency of reporting	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value
PA11 Outcome 1	Increased application of	Construction and demolition waste avoided by the	Percentage	APA data	Annually (APR)	48.6%	2017	70.0 %

PA Number	Expected programme results	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Source of Verification	Frequency of reporting	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value
	circular economy principles in targeted sectors	supported sectors						
		Number of jobs created (disaggregated by gender, age)	Number	Payroll records, employment agreements	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	25
		Tons of plastic recycled through all supported schemes/measures	Number	Project promoter's records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	20000
		Use of secondary materials increased in the supported sectors	Percentage	Project promoter's records	Annually (APR)	0.0%	N/A	15.0%
Output 1.1	Deposit-refund system for beverage plastic bottles (and cans) piloted	Number of beverage industry organisations participating in the deposit-refund system	Number	Project Promoter's records	Semi-annually	0	N/A	2
		Number of retailers participating in the deposit refund system ¹	Number	Project promoter's records	Semi-annually	0	N/A	25

The present Call for Tenders establishes the specifications that are applicable to the submission of applications. The application form and the respective annexes can be found at the website <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment>.

PROGRAMME OPERATOR: Secretary General of the Environment and Climate Action (SGMAAC)

DONOR PROGRAMME PARTNER: Innovation Norway (IN)

¹ Individual shops where bottles / cans can be returned, and the deposit refunded.

1. PRIORITY AREAS

Within the scope of the present call for tenders applicants are not allowed to submit more than one application. An application can cover one or more Priority Areas.

The four priority areas covered within the scope of the present Call are as follows:

A. Solutions for plastic bottle (and cans) deposit

The projects developed within this scope shall incorporate a pilot deposit refund system for non-re-usable beverage packaging, namely plastic bottles, and may also include metal cans.

The deposit refund system presupposes that consumers shall be charged a deposit amount for each plastic bottle (or can) acquired and the deposit will be refunded when the empty package has been returned at designated locations.

The minimum criteria that must be met by the project proposals are as follows:

- The geographical scope can be national or restricted to certain regions and it may also take place within a closed circuit;
- The system may include any categories of beverages sold on the national market destined for the final customer (consumer), along with any type of plastic/metal and packaging capacity;
- The return of plastic bottles (and cans) may take place using automatic equipment or through manual collection;
- The waste collected within the scope of the system shall be forwarded to a recycling system in accordance with all applicable legislation, namely with respect to waste management;
- All matters pertaining to hygiene, health and safety that may arise in relation to operation of the system shall be addressed;
- Communication and awareness within the scope of the project's development should be favoured as much as possible;
- The system should be monitored in a manner that allows measurement of the results and the degree of convergence with the objectives, targets and expected results.

B. Solutions for re-using plastic bottles

The projects developed within this scope shall offer solutions for the design of re-usable plastic bottles and or for systems for re-using plastic bottles and they shall fall into the following areas:

- Circular design through the redesign of products/re-engineering of materials for reuse;
- Circular services and processes that include, for instance, return systems for repair/reuse;
- Consumption through initiatives that encourage reuse behaviour;
- Recovery of the products, namely through advanced systems of reverse logistics;
- New business models based on re-usable alternatives;

- Development and or implementation of reuse systems;
- Positive discrimination models for reuse systems.

For the purpose of this point, “re-usable bottle” is that which has been conceived, designed and placed on the market to accomplish within its lifecycle multiple trips or rotations by being refilled or reused for the same purpose for which it was conceived.

C. Solutions for producers to use recycled plastic bottles (and cans)

The projects developed within this scope shall allow development or implementation of solutions for the design, production and use of plastic bottles (and cans) made as a whole or partially of recycled materials, that have a direct impact on one or more of the following areas:

- Reintroduction of secondary raw materials into the economy, namely through a higher use of recycled plastic;
- Reduction in the use of fossil-based plastics;
- Stimulate demand for recycled material and help create supply chains;
- Promote acceptance of recycled materials on the market;
- Ensure the necessary safety standards in using recycled plastic in products that come into contact with food;
- Create opportunities for the recycling sector and for the recycled plastics market.

The applications to be submitted within this context can be based on voluntary commitments with respect to use of recycled plastic, particularly those which seek to guarantee a certain level of recycled content in beverage bottles (and cans) placed on the market.

D. Solutions for treating and recycling plastic bottles (and cans)

Applications submitted within this scope shall be aligned with the objective of increasing recycling and the quality of the recycled materials, particularly plastic, through the development of recycling capacity, improvement in the efficiency of treatment and recycling processes and innovative solutions, taking into account the development or implementation of solutions in the following areas:

- Development of infrastructures and investment in modern equipment and technologies for treatment and recycling;
- Innovative solutions for advanced sorting and for chemical recycling systems;
- Improvement of waste management practices with a direct impact on the quantity and quality of materials for recycling, namely in terms of sorting and treatment;
- Better identification, tracking and removal of dangerous and polluting substances (contaminants) from the plastic waste;
- Technological specialization that contributes to attaining higher standards of quality for food quality applications;

- Greater integration of recycling activities into the value chain of the plastic, via close collaboration between the industry and the plastic recycling operators;
- Promote voluntary certification of the treatment and recycling installations;
- Increase trust in secondary raw materials and in recycled materials and help support the market.

2. PERIOD FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS:

(in accordance with Article 7.3, no. 2.b. of the of the “Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021” – EEA FM 2014-2021 Regulation)

Applications must be submitted using the electronic application form and the annexes available on the EEA Grants website <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment> between 05.09.2019 until 12:00:00 (GMT) of 31.01.2020.

3. TOTAL AVAILABLE ALLOCATION

The allocation available for this Call is €6,400,000.

Minimum amount of financing for each project: €200,000.

Maximum amount of financing for each project: €1,000,000.

4. DURATION OF THE PROJECTS

With respect to priority area A, the projects shall run until the obligatory deposit system comes into effect, as per article 23 of Decree-Law no. 152-D/2017 of 11 December, i.e., 31 December 2021.

With respect to the other priority areas, projects shall have a maximum duration of 36 months.

Whenever the application covers Priority Area A and any of the other areas it must be noted that the component related to area A, must be concluded until 31 of December of 2021, without prejudice of the other areas remaining in operation until the limit of 36 months established above.

In all priorities the final date of eligibility is 30 April 2024.

5. TERRITORIAL SCOPE:

The Programme shall finance projects in mainland Portugal and in the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira, without prejudice to the activities that are developed in the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) under partnerships established in the selected projects.

6. FINANCING RATE:

The eligible costs of the selected project shall be financed up until a maximum of 90%.

The project rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with state Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects. Any remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the project promoter.

7. ELIGIBLE PROMOTER ENTITIES:

According to Article 7.2.1 of the “Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021”, public or private entities, whether commercial or non-commercial, and non-governmental organizations that have been legally established in Portugal are considered eligible.

Article 7.2.3 of the “Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021” is not applicable to this call.

8. PARTNER ENTITIES:

According to Article 7.2.2 of the “Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021”, a project partner shall be any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, along with non-governmental organizations that have been legally established as a legal person in the donor states, in the beneficiary countries or any international organization that is actively involved in implementing the proposed project.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE:

(According to Articles 8.2 and 8.3 of the of the “Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021”)

9.1 Eligible project costs

9.1.1. Eligible project costs must meet the following criteria:

(a) they are incurred between the first and final dates of eligibility of a project as specified in the project contract;

(b) they are connected with the subject of the project contract and they are indicated in the detailed budget of the project;

(c) they are proportionate and necessary for the implementation of the project;

(d) they must be used for the sole purpose of achieving the objective(s) of the project and its expected outcome(s), in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;

(e) they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular through being recorded in the accounting records of the Project Promoter and/or project partner and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the Project Promoter and/or project partner is established and according to generally accepted accounting principles; and

(f) they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation.

9.1.2. Expenditures are considered to have been incurred when the cost has been invoiced, paid and the subject matter delivered (in case of goods) or performed (in case of services and works). Exceptionally, costs in respect of which an invoice has been issued in the final month of eligibility are also deemed to be incurred within the dates of eligibility if the costs are paid within 30 days of the final date for eligibility. Overheads and depreciation of equipment are considered to have been incurred when they are recorded on the accounts of the Project Promoter and/or project partner.

9.1.3. Where new or second hand equipment is purchased, only the portion of the depreciation corresponding to the duration of the project and the rate of actual use for the purposes of the project may be considered eligible expenditure.

9.1.4. The Project Promoter's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit direct reconciliation of the expenditures and revenue declared in respect of the project with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

9.2 Eligible direct expenditure in a project:

9.2.1. The eligible direct expenditures for a project are those expenditures which are identified by the Project Promoter and/or the project partner, in accordance with their accounting principles and usual internal rules, as specific expenditures directly linked to the implementation of the project and which can therefore be booked to it directly. The following direct expenditures are eligible provided that they satisfy the criteria set out in 9.1.1:

(a) the cost of staff assigned to the project, comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, provided that this corresponds to the Project Promoter's and project partner's usual policy on remuneration. The corresponding salary costs of staff of national administrations are eligible to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken;

(b) travel and subsistence allowances for staff taking part in the project. Having regard to the principle of proportionality, travel costs, including subsistence allowance, may be calculated as a lump sum, on the basis of defined rules approved by the Programme Operator;

(c) cost of new or second hand equipment. In case the Programme Operator determines that the equipment is an integral and necessary component for achieving the outcomes of the project, the entire purchase price of that equipment may, by way of exception from the rule contained in 9.1.3., be eligible;

(d) costs of consumables and supplies, provided that they are identifiable and assigned to the project;

(e) costs entailed by other contracts awarded by a Project Promoter for the purposes of carrying out the project, provided that the awarding complies with the applicable rules on public procurement and “Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021”;

(f) costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the project contract for each project.

9.2.2. Where the entire purchase price of equipment is eligible in accordance with point (c) of paragraph 9.2.1., the Programme Operator shall ensure that the Project Promoter:

(a) keeps the equipment in its ownership for a period of at least five years following the completion of the project and continues to use that equipment for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period;

(b) keeps the equipment properly insured against losses such as fire, theft or other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least five years following the completion of the project; and

(c) sets aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of the equipment for at least five years following the completion of the project.

9.3 Indirect eligible costs in projects (overheads): indirect costs shall be eligible in accordance with Article 8.5 of the “Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021”.

9.4 Non-eligible costs: the costs mentioned in Article 8.7 of the “Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021” are not eligible.

10. SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION:

10.1 Applications should preferably be submitted using the electronic application form and the annexes available on the EEA Grants website [https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment_between_05.09.2019_until_12:00:00_\(GMT\)_of_31.01.2020](https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment_between_05.09.2019_until_12:00:00_(GMT)_of_31.01.2020).

Exceptionally, in case the applicant entity is not capable of using digital signature shall instead send one copy of the electronic application form (in Portuguese or in English) and the original copy of the Term of responsibility duly signed and initialled by the person who has powers to legally bind the company, to the Programme Operator via registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt stamped no later than the date of 31.01.2020.

10.2 It shall be noted that one of the annexes required when filling the application form is the Term of responsibility duly signed, using digital signature, and initialled by the person who has powers to legally bind the company.

Address: Secretary General of the Environment and Climate Action (SGMAAC) – EEA Grants 2014- 2021, Rua de "O Século" n.º 63, Piso 3, 1200-433 Lisbon, PORTUGAL.

Email: ambiente.eegrants@sgambiente.gov.pt

10.3 Only fully completed applications including the Term of Responsibility shall be considered for assessment and selection purposes.

10.4 The applicant entities are responsible for the veracity and authenticity of all the submitted documents and are expressly informed that they may be obliged to submit the original documents to the Programme Operator during any phase of the application process.

11. PROJECT SELECTION:

The project selection procedures follow Chapter 7 of the '*Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014-2021*' (EEA FM 2014-2021 Regulation) and the '*Applicants Guide for Financing of Projects Supported by Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme*'.

11.1 Administrative and eligibility criteria: the application must be accompanied by the following documents (for project promoters and partners):

- a) Statement containing the name of the entity, tax number, taxation address, name of the legal representatives and copy of the statute;
- b) Statement attesting to the fact that there are no debts to the Taxation Authorities and Social Security Authority;
- c) VAT situation of the applicant entity;
- d) Copy of the latest Annual Report.

11.2. The application shall contain the following information:

- a. Project title;

- b. Activities, including execution indicators (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, relevant and time limited);
- c. Geographic coverage and partnerships, particularly between local authorities (individually or in the form of public associations) leveraging the geographic expression of the applicant projects;
- d. Expected results and forecast of the impact on the organization, territory and/or target group, as applicable, including impact indicators (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, relevant and time limited) and proposed targets to be attained;
- e. Plan guaranteeing financial sustainability of the project, if applicable;
- f. Communication Plan;
- g. Project and activities timeline;
- h. Budget (included in Part D of the electronic form);
- i. Summary (Part B of the electronic form);
- j. Please indicate if there were any external consultants involved in the preparation of the initiative application. If yes, who, included in part A.
- k. Annexes, which contain supplementary information for the application:
 - a) Part A – Administrative Information (including CV of the members of the team allocated to the project, namely if there were any external consultants involved in the preparation of the application);
 - b) Part B – Description and Summary of the project drafted in Portuguese and in English, maximum 500 words (including a brief description of the entity’s experience and the team of the project in the priority areas of this call for tenders, along with the identified needs);
 - c) Part C – Detailed Technical Description;
 - d) Part D – Financial Information (including the detailed version of the Budget broken down by year and a statement attesting to the fact that the amounts stated are those that are normally practiced by the entity, e.g., salaries that correspond to the average remuneration of the Promoters; statement pertaining to the partnership commitment between the applicant entity and the respective partner entities, and the Term of Responsibility).

11.3 The Programme Operator shall review the applications in order to verify compliance with the administrative and eligibility criteria. Applicant entities whose applications are rejected during this phase may file a complaint in accordance with article 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

12. SELECTION CRITERIA:

Applications shall be assessed in accordance with the following criteria, which shall be awarded a score of 0 points (min.) to 100 points (max.). The overall score of each application is obtained with the following formula:

$$\text{Overall Score (OS)} = [(A \times 0,15) + (B \times 0,05) + (C \times 0,25) + (D \times 0,10) + (E \times 0,10) + (F \times 0,10) + (G \times 0,25)] \times 100$$

whereby: A – Technical know-how of the project team; B – Inclusion of partner entities of the Donor State(s); C – General quality of the submitted application; D – System of indicators to be implemented and targets to be reached; E – Financial sustainability of the project; F – Innovative aspect of the project and G – Specific criteria.

Only applications where A, C, D, E, F and G value is at least 50 points shall be eligible for allocation of financing. The Overall Score (OS) shall be equal to or greater than 50 points.

12.1 The selection criteria and their weighting shall be as follows:

Selection criteria	Weighting	Score
<p>A – Technical know-how of the project team: applicant entity and partner entities involved</p> <p>For priority area A the following beneficiaries shall be valued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Municipal Waste Management Systems in partnership with the municipalities ii. Entities bound to circular agreements with APA iii. Management entities for packaging and packaging waste or packaging producers iv. Universities and Polytechnics <p>For priority area B the following beneficiaries shall be valued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Packaging producers; ii. Entities bound to circular agreements with APA; iii. Universities and Polytechnics. <p>For priority area C the following beneficiaries shall be eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Management entities for packaging and packaging waste or packaging producers ii. Plastic recycling operators in partnership with packaging producers iii. Entities bound to circular agreements with APA; iv. Universities and Polytechnics <p>For priority area D, the following beneficiaries shall be valued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Plastic recycling operators; ii. Municipal Waste Management Systems; iii. Management entities for packaging and packaging waste; iv. Universities and Polytechnics. <p>In any of the priority areas, the universities and polytechnics shall be valued in innovation projects.</p>	15	0-100

B – Inclusion of partner entities from the Donor State(s)	5	0-100
C – General quality of the submitted application: i. Activities (5 points) ii. Budget (5 points) iii. Communication Plan (10 points) and iv. Proposed timeline (5 points)	25	0-100
D – System of indicators to be implemented and targets to be reached, including an estimate of the number of jobs created (if applicable) and a balanced representation of women and men in the project team	10	0-100
E – Financial sustainability of the project	10	0-100
F – Innovative aspect of the project	10	0-100
G - Specific criteria	25	0-100
TOTAL	100	

For the C (Communication Plan component), E, F and G criteria the respective score shall be as follows:

C - General quality of the submitted application: project Communication Plan

Description	Score
There is not enough information to assess this sub-criterion.	0
The Communication Plan does not comply with the requirements stipulated in the Promoter Manual and graphic norms, namely the use of logos.	10
The Communication Plan complies with the requirements, but does not meet the communication objectives of the Environment Programme stipulated in the Promoter Manual, nor does it correctly identify the target audience and the means of communication and dissemination.	30
The Communication Plan complies with the requirements and meets the communication objectives of the Environment Programme defined in the Promoter Manual, but does not correctly identify the target audience and groups of the project, nor does it correctly identify the means of communication and dissemination.	50
The Communication Plan complies with the requirements and meets the communication objectives of the Environment Programme stipulated in the Promoter Manual and correctly identifies the target audience and groups of the project, but does not offer adequate means of communication and dissemination.	80
The Communication Plan complies with the stipulated requirements and meets the communication objectives of the Environment Programme defined in the Promoter Manual and the graphic norms, as well as correctly identifying the target	100

audience and groups of the project and offering adequate means of communication and dissemination.	
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E - Financial sustainability of the project: this criterion is used to assess whether capacity for proper execution of the project has been demonstrated

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the following sub-criteria:

E1. Capacity to support the Project's financing;

E2. Financial indicators.

In which:

$$E = [(E1 \times 0.5) + (E2 \times 0.5)]$$

The sub-criteria scores are attributed in accordance with the descriptions included in the following tables.

E1. Capacity to support the financing of the Project

Description	Score
Does not demonstrate capacity to finance the non-co-financed component (cannot be assessed due to incomplete information or non-verifiable information)	0
Lacks financing beyond the promoter	50
Financing guaranteed (demonstration)	80
Own funds (demonstration)	100

E2. Financial indicators

Description	Score
Does not offer a provisional schedule of income and costs	0
Offers a provisional schedule of income and costs	100

F – Innovative aspect of the project: this criterion is used to assess the innovation associated with the specific priority area, e.g., technological, business model, service, product or platform.

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the following sub-criteria:

F1: Degree of innovations of the solution to be implemented

F2: Type of innovation that is to be implemented

In which:

$$F = [(F1 \times 0.5) + (F2 \times 0.5)]$$

The score of the sub-criteria shall be attributed in accordance with the descriptions included in the following tables.

F1: Degree of innovation of the solution to be implemented

Description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information, or the proposed project exhibits products/services that are comparable to existing ones	0
The project to be developed exhibits products/services that have been significantly improved or that are new, but it does not introduce anything new in technical-scientific terms	30
The proposed project exhibits products/services that have been significantly improved or that are new and exhibits an incremental degree of newness	60
The proposed project exhibits products/services that have been significantly improved or that are new and exhibits a radical newness	100

F2: Type of innovation that is to be implemented

Description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information	0
The project exhibits innovation that only affects one of the dimensions under analysis: economic, social or environmental	30
The project exhibits innovation that affects two of the three dimensions under analysis: economic, social or environmental	60
The project exhibits innovation that simultaneously affects the three dimensions under analysis: economic, social or environmental	100

G – Specific selection criteria per priority area

Priority Area A

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the following sub-criteria:

G1: Geographic coverage of the project

G2: Number of collection points

G3: Representativeness of the project in terms of the number of organizations of the beverage industry that have joined the system

G4: Representativeness of the project in terms of the amount of packages placed on the national market

G5: Contribution to the circular economy

G6: Potential of information dissemination and promoting sustainable behaviour

In which:

$$G = [(G1 \times 0,1) + (G2 \times 0,1) + (G3 \times 0,1) + (G4 \times 0,1) + (G5 \times 0,2) + (G6 \times 0,4)]$$

The sub-criteria scores are attributed in accordance with the descriptions included in the following tables.

Sub-criterion G1 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
Closed circuit	30
Circumscribed to at least two intervention areas of urban waste management systems	60
Implementation throughout Portugal's Mainland	100

Sub-criterion G2 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
Number of collection points where bottles can be returned equal to or less than 10.	30
Number of collection points where bottles can be returned between 11 and 29.	60
Number of collection points where bottles can be returned equal to or greater than 30.	100

Sub-criterion G3 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
Participation of one organization of the beverage industry that have joined the system	30
Participation of two organizations of the beverage industry that have joined the system	60
Participation of over two organizations of the beverage industry that have joined the system	100

Sub-criterion G4 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
It has a market share of packaging covered by the system less than 10%	30
It has a market share of packaging covered by the system equal to or greater than 10%	60
It has a market share of packaging covered by the system equal to or greater than 20%	100

Sub-criterion G5 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
It contributes insignificantly to the program outcome in terms of tons of recycled plastic and increased use of secondary raw materials	30
It contributes significantly to the program outcome in terms of tons of recycled plastic or increased use of secondary raw materials	60
It contributes significantly to the program's outcomes in terms of tons of recycled plastic and increased use of secondary raw materials	100

Sub-criterion G6 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete information.	0
It foresees only a few isolated communication actions, not demonstrating potential acceptance / adherence to the project.	30
Demonstrates potential of acceptance / adherence to the project, taking into account the form of communication and dissemination proposed, the message conveyed and its scope.	60
Demonstrates great potential for acceptance / adherence to the project, taking into account the form of communication and dissemination proposed, the message conveyed and its scope.	100

Priority Area B

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the following sub-criteria:

G1: Contribution to the circular economy

G2: Impact and scalability of the project

G3: Potential of information dissemination and promoting sustainable behaviour

In which:

$$G = [(G1 \times 0,2) + (G2 \times 0,4) + (G3 \times 0,4)]$$

The sub-criteria scores are attributed in accordance with the descriptions included in the following tables.

Sub-criterion G1 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
It contributes insignificantly, in terms of the impact on the reduction of plastic waste.	30
It contributes significantly, in terms of the impact on the reduction of plastic waste.	60
It contributes in a very significant way, in terms of the impact on the reduction of plastic waste.	100

Sub-criterion G2 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
The parameter under analysis is approached in a generic way or does not demonstrate replicability potential of the project in other contexts.	30
It addresses and objectively identifies project impacts but does not demonstrate replicability potential in other contexts.	60
It addresses and objectively identifies project impacts and demonstrates replicability potential in other contexts.	100

Sub-criterion G3 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete information.	0
It foresees only a few isolated communication actions, not demonstrating potential acceptance / adherence to the project.	30
Demonstrates potential of acceptance / adherence to the project, taking into account the form of communication and dissemination proposed, the message conveyed and its scope.	60
Demonstrates great potential for acceptance / adherence to the project, taking into account the form of communication and dissemination proposed, the message conveyed and its scope.	100

Priority Area C

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the following sub-criteria:

G1: Contribution to the circular economy

G2: Impact and scalability of the project

G3: Existence of a partnership between the beneficiary entities

In which:

$$G = [(G1 \times 0,2) + (G2 \times 0,4) + (G3 \times 0,4)]$$

The sub-criteria scores are attributed in accordance with the descriptions included in the following tables.

Sub-criterion G1 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
It contributes insignificantly to the program outcome in terms of increasing the use of secondary raw materials.	30
It contributes significantly to the program outcome in terms of increasing the use of secondary raw materials.	60
It contributes in a very significant way to the program outcome in terms of increasing the use of secondary raw materials.	100

Sub-criterion G2 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
The parameter under analysis is approached in a generic way or does not demonstrate replicability potential.	30
It addresses and objectively identifies the project's impacts but does not demonstrate replicability potential.	60
It addresses and objectively identifies project impacts and demonstrates replicability potential.	100

Sub-criterion G3 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
Existence of a partnership between two beneficiary entities	50
Existence of a partnership between three or more beneficiary entities	100

Priority Area D

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the following sub-criteria:

G1: Contribution to the circular economy

G2: Impact and scalability of the project

G3: Existence of a partnership between the beneficiary entities

In which:

$$G = [(G1 \times 0,2) + (G2 \times 0,4) + (G3 \times 0,4)]$$

The sub-criteria scores are attributed in accordance with the descriptions included in the following tables.

Sub-criterion G1 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
It contributes insignificantly to increase the quantity and quality of recycled materials.	30
It contributes significantly to increase the quantity and quality of recycled materials.	60
It contributes in a very significant way to increase the quantity and quality of recycled materials.	100

Sub-criterion G2 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
The parameter under analysis is approached in a generic way or does not demonstrate replicability potential.	30
It addresses and objectively identifies the project's impacts but does not demonstrate replicability potential.	60
It addresses and objectively identifies project impacts and demonstrates replicability potential.	100

Sub-criterion G3 description	Score
The parameter under analysis has not been approached/cannot be assessed due to incomplete or unverifiable information.	0
Existence of a partnership between two beneficiary entities	50
Existence of a partnership between three or more beneficiary entities	100

13. SELECTION PROCEDURES:

13.1. The Programme Operator shall be responsible for evaluating the project and granting funding.

13.2. The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee that shall recommend the projects to be funded within the programme. The Selection Committee shall consist of at least three environment experts, two from Programme Operator and one from DPP. The FMC and the

National Focal Point shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the Selection Committee as observers.

The Programme Operator shall review the applications for compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. Applicants whose applications are rejected at this stage shall be informed and given a reasonable time to appeal that decision.

Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by two experts appointed by the Programme Operator, who shall be impartial and independent of the Programme Operator and the Selection Committee.

The experts shall separately score the project according to the selection criteria published with the call for proposals. For the purposes of ranking the projects, the average of the scores awarded by the experts shall be used.

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

The Programme Operator shall provide the Selection Committee with a list of the ranked projects. The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of projects. It may modify the ranking of projects in justified cases. The justification for the modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee. If such a modification results in a project's rejection, the affected applicant shall be informed in writing about the justification for the modification. The Selection Committee shall submit the list of recommended projects to the Programme Operator.

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the "Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021" and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme, following such verification, the Programme Operator shall, based on the decision of the selection Committee, make a decision on which projects shall be supported. If the Programme Operator modifies the decision of the Selection Committee, it shall inform the applicants affected and provide them with a justification.

The Programme Operator shall notify the applicants about the results of the selection process within a reasonable time and publicise the results.

13.3. In accordance with Article 21 of the 'Applicants Guide for Financing of Projects Supported by Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme', notification shall be provided concerning the reasons, duly justified and substantiated, for rejection of applications based on the verification of the formal admissibility and eligibility requirements. The decision may be appealed within 10 working days.

13.4. Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria will subsequently be reviewed by two experts appointed by the Programme Operator in accordance with Article 22 of the 'Applicants Guide for Financing of Projects Supported by Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme'.

13.5. The experts will score the application separately according to the published selection criteria. For the purposes of ranking projects, the average of the scores awarded by the experts will be used. If the difference between the scores is more than 30% of the highest score, a third expert will be appointed by the Programme Operator. In these cases, the final ranking will consist on the average of the three scores.

13.6. In accordance with Article 23 of the 'Applicants Guide for Financing of Projects Supported by Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme', after the technical assessment of the accepted applications, the Programme Operator will provide the Selection Committee with a list of projects classified for review. In duly justified cases, the Selection Committee may decide to change the ranking of projects and the ordering of applications. The justification for the changes will be detailed in the Selection Committee meeting minutes. If the change results in the rejection of a project, the applicant will be informed in writing. The Selection Committee will submit the list of projects recommended for funding to the Programme Operator.

13.7. The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the "Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021" and that the Selection Committee's recommendations are in accordance with the rules and objectives of the Programme. After such verification, the Programme Operator shall decide, on the basis of the decision of the Selection Committee, which projects will be selected. If the Programme Operator modifies the Selection Committee's decision, the affected applicants will be informed.

14. COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS:

14.1. Within 90 days, the results of the selection process will be communicated individually to each applicant by the Programme Operator and the final list of selected projects will be disclosed.

14.2. If the project is approved, a draft contract shall be sent to the promoter, specifying all the terms and conditions of the approved funding.

14.3. The draft contract must be returned to the Programme Operator, duly signed and initialled by the applicant's legal representatives, within a maximum period of 20 working days, counted from the date of its receipt, under penalty of revocation of the approval decision.

14.4. All rejected applications will be notified to respond within a maximum of 10 days in accordance with the Portuguese Administrative Code of Procedure.

14.5. Projects must start no later than 30 working days after the date of signature of the project contract.

14.6. Upon receipt of all signed contracts, the Programme Operator will prepare the final list of selected projects and promoters and publish it on the EEA Grants website (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment>).

15. PAYMENT METHODS

15.1. The Programme Operator shall be responsible for processing payments to projects in a timely manner. Interim and final payments will be made after the approval of the respective project reports.

15.2. Payments to the promoter shall take the form of advance payments, interim payments and final payment. The level of advance payment shall be set out in the project contract. The maximum level of payment shall be as follows:

first advance payment, up to 25%,

interim payments, 65% and

final payment 10%.

The first advance instalment shall be paid following the signature of the project contract. Subsequent payments shall be paid after the approval of the interim reports. The final payment will be paid after the approval of the final report.

Upon approval of the final project report a balance payment, if applicable, shall be made within 1 month.

The approval of project interim and final reports take place 2 months from the submission of the required information.

15.3 Structure of the Final Report

The Final Project Report must contain:

- i. Detailed description, namely: summary of the activities carried out; information regarding the involvement of partners, in particular with regard to partners from Donor Countries; information regarding the participants in the Project;
- ii. Results achieved, namely: evaluation of the Project's results (at each reporting date);
- iii. Description of costs and financial impact assessment;
- iv. Description of the Project's contribution to achieving the overall objectives of EEA Grants and the 'Environment Programme'.

15.4 The frequency and deadline of all reports (interim and final) to be submitted will be half-yearly, and both must be sent within 30 (calendar) days after the respective reference period.

16. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Prior to submitting applications, applicants are encouraged to consult the EEA Grants website (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment>) for information on the Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme, particularly the following documents:

- Electronic Application Form, Annexes and Promoter's Manual;
- 'Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021';
- 'Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021';
- 'Applicants Guide for Financing of Projects Supported by Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme'.
- Information contacts:

e-mail address: ambiente.eeagrants@sgambiente.gov.pt

Telephone: (+351) 213 231 644 (José Manuel Pinto) – Available from Monday to Friday, from 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:30 to 16:30.

- Any changes made to the contents of this call shall be announced on the website of the Programme Operator (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/calls/>)
- A section of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) will be published on the Website of the Program Operator (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/calls/>) and frequently updated based on the queries from the potential applicants and partners.
- Any information regarding this call will be published in the EEA Grants Website within its specific area (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/calls/>)
- All questions shall be answered by email in a timeframe of 3 working days.

17. DATA PROTECTION

All personal data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of 25 May 2018 and the Data Protection Act (LPD) – Law 67/98 of 26 October 1998.