

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR MARITIME POLICY

## Fund for Bilateral Relations – Open Call BILATERAL BLUE GROWTH#1

BLUE GROWTH PROGRAMME

**ISO 9001:2015**

SISTEMA DE GESTÃO DA QUALIDADE

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**REPÚBLICA  
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## 1 FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS MAIN OBJECTIVES

Bilateral relations between countries means cooperation between their institutions and individuals at administrative, political, private sector, academic and civil society levels.

In this sense, the FBR intends to strengthen relations between Portugal and the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) by financing bilateral initiatives to increase strategic cooperation, networking, and knowledge exchange.

The Open Call Bilateral Blue Growth#1 aims to finance initiatives that contribute to: the search for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of a project application; the development of such partnerships; and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project under the Blue Growth Programme's Calls.

## 2 FUND AVAILABILITY

A total allocation of €50.000 is made available for granting support to selected Bilateral Initiatives under the this Open Call.

Open Call Bilateral Blue Growth#1 will remain open until the deadline for the last Blue Growth Programme's Call or until the allocated funds are depleted.

## 3 MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT FOR EACH BILATERAL INICIATIVE

Minimum: 1.200€ (One thousand and two hundred Euros) e Maximum: 5.000€ (Five thousand Euros)

## 4 ELEGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

### Bilateral Initiative Promoters and Partners

Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, including any civil society organization such as non-governmental organizations, established as a legal person in Portugal either in the Donor States, are considered eligible bilateral activity promoters and partners.

Only applications with one or more legal person in Portugal and in Donor States will be accepted.

Natural persons are not eligible under this Open Call.

Applicants can apply for support with more than one application for distinctive Bilateral Initiatives under the Open Call Bilateral Blue Growth#1 and can be granted with more than one funding decision with no other limitation than the merit of the application. No limitation on eligible partners in different applications also applies.

## 5 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Activities eligible for the purpose of this notice are used to **search for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of a project application for the Blue Growth Programme's Open Calls.**

The Bilateral Initiatives may take place in Portugal and/or in the Donor States.

## 6 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

The allocation of funding and the eligibility of expenditure is subject to the existence of a clear bilateral profile of the activities to be financed that serve the tangible purpose of strengthening bilateral relations between Donor States and Portugal.

Under this Open Call, are considered as eligible expenditures a **travel and subsistence allowance support**, allocated in a single payment, per entity, as a reimbursement, through a **lump sum**, subject to the following limits:

From	To	Lump Sum
Continental Portugal	Norway	1.500 €
Continental Portugal	Iceland	1.800 €
Continental Portugal	Liechtenstein	1.500 €
Autonomous Regions of Portugal (Madeira / Azores)	Norway	1.750 €

Autonomous Regions of Portugal (Madeira / Azores)	Iceland	2.050 €
Autonomous Regions of Portugal (Madeira / Azores)	Liechtenstein	1.750 €
Norway	Continental Portugal	1.200 €
Iceland	Continental Portugal	1.500 €
Liechtenstein	Continental Portugal	1.200 €
Norway	Autonomous Regions of Portugal (Madeira / Azores)	1.450 €
Iceland	Autonomous Regions of Portugal (Madeira / Azores)	1.750 €
Liechtenstein	Autonomous Regions of Portugal (Madeira / Azores)	1.450 €

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).

Applications will be eligible if **all the following criteria are met:**

- The application must demonstrate to which Blue Growth Programme's Open Call(s) the promoter and partners intend to apply .
- 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 grant shall be provided by the Entity to which the travel support is allocated (Travel support is allocated by entity).

## 7 APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The applications shall be submitted electronically to [eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt](mailto:eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt) using the applications forms available on the website <http://www.dgpm.mm.gov.pt/candidaturas-eea-grants-rb>. Applications must be submitted with the English application form completed. Applicants may choose to submit applications both in English and Portuguese. Translations of administrative and original documents in Portuguese are not demanded.

The involvement of the Portuguese and/or Donor State Partners shall be made evident by mandatory signed letters of commitment of the entity.

Evaluation of applications will be done in a sequential manner following the order of receipt.

## 8 SELECTION PROCESS AND DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURE

The Programme Operator (PO) will carry out a formal assessment of the applications. If, following the formal assessment of the applications any elements indicated in the application form are missing or incomplete, the PO will notify the entities to correct the detected deficiency within 10 working days, under penalty of immediate exclusion.

Upon completion of the formal assessment, the eligible applications received will be evaluated based on the following selection criteria:

Selection Criteria (SC)	Yes/No
<b>1. Overall merit and relevance of the initiative to the Programme</b> Contribution to the objectives and expected outcomes of the Blue Growth Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate to which Blue Growth Programme's Open Call(s) the promoter and partners intend to apply;</li> <li>Demonstrate a project idea eligible for EEA GRANTS Blue Growth Programme.</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Overall Merit of the Initiative for Strengthening Bilateral Relations and Partnership Sustainability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate potential to present a partnership project;</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate capacity to create new bilateral relations and their sustainability in terms of bilateral cooperation.</li> </ul>	
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The application must comply with the two criteria (“Yes”). If the application does not comply with one of the two criteria will be excluded for the purpose of granting financial support.

The entities will be notified by the PO of the final decision on the application. In the case of the entities whose applications are not approved, they will be given by the PO the deadline of 10 working days to comment, in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure.

The approved Bilateral Initiatives will be published in the website:  
<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth/>.

## 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 Directorate General 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/calls/fund-for-bilateral-relations-open-call-bilateral-blue-growth1/>)
2. Proof of travel (e.g. copy of boarding pass)
3. Confirmation of participation in the initiative (notice of meetings, attendance list, minutes of the meeting)

The documents mentioned should be sent to the email: [eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt](mailto:eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt) **within one month after the initiative.**

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/en/programmes/blue-growth/calls/fund-for-bilateral-relations-open-call-bilateral-blue-growth1/>