



“ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOW CARBON ECONOMY” PROGRAM

Small Grants Scheme # 1 - Projects for the Prevention and Awareness to Reduce Marine Waste

Total allocation available: € 1.000.000

Minimum amount of financing for each project: € 100.000

Maximum amount of financing for each project: € 200.000

Legal framework:

“De minimis” aid under the terms of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013, of 18 December, rectified by the Rectification of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013, of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to "de minimis" aid.

In fact, the following conditions are fulfilled:

- Support is provided by the State or comes from state resources;
- The intervention is liable to affect trade between MS (affects tradable goods or services);
- The intervention confers an advantage on the beneficiary (the support to be granted constitutes an economic advantage for those who receive state aid compared to other competitors, that is, it could not be obtained on the market);
- It was assigned on a selective basis (i.e. it is a discretionary act unlike general measures);
- Competition has been or is likely to be distorted, which presupposes that there is a competitive market.

This tender is intended to:

Priority areas

A. Reduction of plastics in the oceans through:

- 1) Voluntary schemes aimed at reducing single-use plastics in the fast-food, hotel, restaurant, supermarket, etc sectors;
- 2) Voluntary schemes aimed at reducing the use of plastic bottles in sectors other than beverages and plastic packaging in production, distribution and retail;
- 3) Solutions that promote recycling by diversifying collection points;
- 4) Installations for collecting fishing equipment recovered from marine waste;
- 5) Support for the promotion of the use of biodegradable fishing nets.

B. Promoting awareness of the challenges related to plastics in the oceans and proposing solutions through:

- 1) Awareness and awareness campaigns. Production and dissemination of information materials;
- 2) Local campaigns to reduce marine plastic waste.

In terms of long-term impact, the aim is to:

- Improvement of the environmental status of marine waters and coastal areas;
- Increase the resilience of human communities;
- Business and job creation opportunities, based on the prevention of marine plastic waste as well as its collection for recycling or reuse.

In the case under analysis, the support comes from state resources; the intervention focuses on tradable goods or services; the support to be granted constitutes an economic advantage for those who receive state aid over other competitors, that is, it could not be obtained on the market; was allocated on a selective basis; and competition is likely to be distorted in the context of a competitive market

However, the financing in question constitutes low-value aid granted and is therefore not likely to significantly affect trade and competition between Member States, falling below the threshold of "de minimis" aid.

It should be noted that under Regulation 1407/2013, of the Commission, of December 18, 2013, (as rectified by the Rectification of Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of the Commission, of December 18, 2014), a company cannot receive more than € 200 000 over a period of three financial years (the financial year in question and the two previous financial years); it is necessary that through the central register, the assessment of the aid accumulation limit is made, considering the total amount of "de minimis" aid granted to the company, over a period of three financial years, that is, taking into account the "de minimis" aid granted to the tax number of the company to which it is intended to grant new aid.

Control of "de minimis" aid

Therefore, the accumulation of aid granted under the “de minimis” Regulation should be monitored, under the responsibility of the entity granting the aid, by registering in a central register of all these supports.

It is the Agency for Development and Cohesion, IP, as established in Decree-Law no. 140/2013, of 18 October, that defines and keeps updated the "de minimis" aid central register and exercises the control of the accumulation of financial and tax support granted in this context.

To this end, it is necessary to accredit the aid scheme and the entity responsible for granting / communicating the support;