

## Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

### Final Report on the Selection Process

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

- The call for proposals opened at the EEA Grants Site<sup>1</sup> on September 5th, 2019 and closed on January the 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- Thirteen eligible applications were received, summing up a total project value of 10.115 651,07€.
- The total grant amount is of 9.001.753,42€ and 1.095.247,65€ are provided by the project's consortia.
- The projects funding rate was screened in order to comply with State Aid rules in force and considers 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's promoters.
- According to point 13.2 of the Call after the scoring process of the projects, the Secretary General for Environment provided the ranked list of projects to the Selection Committee and to FMO.
- The legal status of each entity, either project promoted or partner, was assessed in face of the Article 25.º of Commission Regulation (EU) n.º 651/2014, of 16 June, declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market, in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (GBER). As such adjustments on the project grant rate were made for some of the projects as set on the respective points, on footnotes, of the table below.
- The provisional list of the projects ranked by Overall Score (OS), is presented on the following table by decreasing order of score.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/2572/environment-programme\\_call1.pdf](https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/2572/environment-programme_call1.pdf)

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

**First provisional list**

Project number	Name of the Project	OS provisional list	Financiado Programa Ambiente Funding of Environment	Taxa de Financiamento Project grant rate
		(0-100)		
<b>07/Call#1</b>	<b>Bottle to Bottle: Top Quality PET para a economia circular das garrafas de plástico em Portugal</b>	<b>92,43</b>	<b>818.660,36</b>	<b>80% (a)</b>
02/Call#1	Sistema de depósito de embalagens não reutilizáveis de bebidas nos Açores	84,83	846.953,07	90%
10/Call#1	Bebidas+ Circulares	84,17	899.552,70	90%
<b>04/Call#1</b>	<b>Oeste + Recicla</b>	<b>81,75</b>	<b>899.708,40</b>	<b>90%</b>
06/Call#1	iREC - Inovar a Reciclagem	81,19	770.764,67	90%
<b>09/Call#1</b>	<b>REAP - Reciclagem e Reembolso de Embalagens de alumínio e PET - sistema piloto</b>	<b>81,17</b>	<b>842.039,10</b>	<b>90%</b>
15/Call#1	TROCA A SEPARAR NO MERCADO	75,11	879.585,30	90%
08/Call#1	MAFRA Reciclar a valer +	74,69	756.000,00	90%
12/Call#1	Para cá do Marão embalagens não!	74,50	675.993,55	90%
13/Call#1	Cantanhede - Reciclar a Valer +	67,46	426.560,40	90%
14/Call#1	EDUCATOR: Educar competindo para a reciclagem em ambiente escolar	65,08	524.955,38	90%
05/Call#1	Deposito Solidário VNP	63,46	493.130,49	90%
11/Call#1	Green Change - Reciclar & ganhar   Recycle & win	30,42	167.850,00	90%

\*In Red Projects which have partners from donor countries.

a) GBER - Article 25º, 2.b) e c), 5.b) e c) (50 points + 25 points) and 6.a) small company (20 points) and Project Promotor has 96,5% of budget don't comply with 6.b.i); But complies with 6.b) ii); Project Grant Rate 110%=80%

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20170710>

- The applications were evaluated at the Selection Committee Meeting on 24 April 2020.
- The Selection Committee analyzed the information provided, having agreed with the ranking provided and submitted the list of recommended projects to the Secretary General for Environment.

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

- After verification 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, the Secretary General for Environment publicized the results, and notified the applicants about the results of the selection process, on 27 April 2020.
- Following to the appealing period of 10 working days, which ended on 13 May 2020, there were four appeals from project promoters.
- The Secretary General for Environment analyzed the allegations and their reasons and informed the respective promoters, leading to the Second Provisional List, in the table below.
- The Secretary General for Environment submitted the allegations as well as the analysis to the Selection Committee that was scheduled to the 25<sup>th</sup> of May.
- The Selection Committee assessed the justifications for changing the applications’ classification. It should be noted that three of the complaining projects were corrected and the classification went up. As a result of these changes the order of classification has changed and with it the projects selected for funding. The justifications for these changes are summarized in the notes of the Second Provisional List, in the table below.
- The seven projects proposed for financing are marked in green, reaching a financing by the 'Environment Program' of € 5,833,678.30 and the remaining € 761,889.31 will be provided by the consortia that manage the projects. The eighth project can still obtain part of the remaining financing (€566,321.70).
- The PO will maintain a reserve list of assessed projects which are considered to detain good quality, but not funded because of the limited budget available.

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

## Second Provisional List

Project number	Name of the Project	Overall Score Final List	Financiado Programa Ambiente Funding of Environment	Taxa de Financiamento Project grant rate	Alegations	Justification	Overall Score Provisional List
07/Call#1	Bottle to Bottle: Top Quality PET para a economia circular das garrafas de plástico em Portugal	92,43	818660,4	80% (a)	Yes		92,43
02/Call#1	Sistema de depósito de embalagens não reutilizáveis de bebidas nos Açores	84,83	846953,1	90%			84,83
10/Call#1	Bebidas+ Circulares	84,17	899552,7	90%			84,17
04/Call#1	Oeste + Recicla	81,75	899708,4	90%			81,75
06/Call#1	iREC - Inovar a Reciclagem	81,19	770764,7	90%			81,19
09/Call#1	REAP - Reciclagem e Reembolso de Embalagens de alumínio e PET - sistema piloto	81,17	842039,1	90%			81,17
08/Call#1	MAFRA Reciclar a valer +	79,44	756000	90%	Yes	From 74,69 to 79,44	74,69
12/Call#1	Para cá do Marão embagens não!	76,87	675993,6	90%	Yes	From 74,50 to 76,87	74,5
15/Call#1	TROCA A SEPARAR NO MERCADO	75,78	879585,3	90%	Yes	From 75,11 to 75,78	75,11
13/Call#1	Cantanhede - Reciclar a Valer +	67,46	426560,4	90%			67,46
14/Call#1	EDUCATOR: Educar competindo para a reciclagem em ambiente escolar	65,08	524955,4	90%			65,08
05/Call#1	Deposito Solidário VNP	63,46	493130,5	90%			63,46
11/Call#1	Green Change - Reciclar & ganhar   Recycle & win	30,42	167850	90%			30,42

\*In Red Projects which have partners from donor countries.

- a) GBER - Article 25º, 2.b) e c), 5.b) e c) (50 points + 25 points) and 6.a) small company (20 points) and Project Promotor has 96,5% of budget don't comply with 6.b.i); But complies with 6.b) ii); Project Grant Rate 110%=80% <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20170710>

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

Table: Summary of the Complaints received during the appeal period | Replies to each complaint

Number	Name of the Project	Promotor	Complaint Description   Date	Reply by email  Date of Reply	State of Play	Overall score proposed	
						Provisional List	After Appeal Period
a) 07_Call#1	Bottle to Bottle: Top Quality PET para a economia circular das garrafas de plástico em Portugal	Ecoibéria- Reciclados Ibéricos, S.A.	Regarding the financing percentage of 80% (project #07), can you please provide more detail on how it was allocated? We understand, through the legislation explained in the application evaluation, that this fee is related with the project activities (which would be classified as industrial research and experimental development). These could go up to a maximum financing of 80%. However, all other candidates obtained a rate of 90%. Did this happen because they had fundamental research activities in their projects (100% financed, which would have resulted in a higher average rate for the other beneficiaries)?  email 05/05/2020	Application # 7 - Bottle to Bottle. As a company, it has a financing percentage of 80%, due to the application of rules of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 16 June 2014, declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market, with the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (Hereinafter referred to as RGIC).  Thus and under the terms of article 25 of the referred RGIC, which determines under which conditions can be established aid for research and development projects and in accordance with paragraphs b) and c) of number 2 of the aforementioned article, the categories "Industrial research" and "Experimental development" are verifiable in this project. Bearing in mind that the aid intensity must not exceed 50% of the eligible costs for industrial research (paragraph 5 (b) of the same article) and 25% of the eligible costs for experimental development (paragraph c) of number 5), this Application brings together, in view of the aspects present in this project, 75% of aid intensity. Bearing in mind that, a medium-sized company will still accumulate another 10 percentage points, or 20 if it is a small company (which is the present case) as determined in paragraph 6 a), and plus 15 percentage points if one of the conditions set in paragraph 6 (b) is met - which manages to achieve, with the existence of the activities defined in the communication plan. It appears that it would even exceed the rate of 100%. However, the GBER requires a maximum aid intensity of 80% (Article 25 (6)), which is why we cannot guarantee a higher financing rate in this situation and set it at the maximum allowed of 80%.  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20170710">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20170710</a>  email 07/05/2020	No further feedback from Project Promotor	92,43	92,43
b) 08_Call#1	Mafra Recilar a Valer +	Câmara Municipal de Mafra	The complaint focused on the following aspects: Component C - Schedule, Sub criteria G4 - Representativeness of the project in terms of quantity of packaging placed on the national market, Sub criteria G5 - Contribution to the circular economy.	Response to the complaint: Regarding component C, the experts considered that the classification given to this criterion results from the fact that the start of the activities in the schedule begins long before the expiration of the procedural deadlines in the Call, namely for the communication of the results in the selection process, and the duration of the project covers the maximum period allowed. For this reason, it is not considered there is a gap that guarantees the execution of the project until the end of December 2021, taking into account the expected duration for each proposed activity and the possibility of starting the project at a later date than the one indicated, for reasons related to procedural and independent issues of the current pandemic situation by Covid-19. The PO highlights all the elements introduced in the schedule and propose to increase it from zero to 50 points.	No further feedback from Project Promotor	74,69	79,44

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

Number	Name of the Project	Promotor	Complaint Description   Date	Reply by email Date of Reply	State of Play	Overall score proposed	
						Provisional List	After Appeal Period
			Saída 2020/7501 12.1.1/2020/3, 06/05/2020	<p>As for Subcriteria G4 - Representativeness of the project in terms of quantity of packaging placed on the national market, the experts considered that, after reanalysis of the technical documents and the application form, it is confirmed that there is no reference to the quantity of packaging covered by the project, expressed either in weight or in number of units. In the documents set, only the packaging market share to be covered by the system is indicated (Form - SPECIFIC CRITERIA), which led to the conclusion that it is not possible to validate the value presented due to lack of complementary information, and hence the attribution of zero points in subcriterion G4, according to the evaluation grid for this criterion defined in the Call. It was also confirmed that the technical documents and form included in the application do not contain the information that the applicant claims regarding the number of tons of plastic that will be recycled and used as a secondary raw material. In the documents set, only the Cronograma_projeto.xls file refers to indicators, namely units of collected packaging and tons of recycled plastic, however, they are not quantified. Hence the attribution of zero points in the G5 subcriterion, according to the evaluation grid of this criterion defined in the Call. However, as a basis for calculating the expected revenues from the project, it was found in two lines of "observations" in the document Budget Mafra, reference to the forecast of selling 120 t of plastic packaging and 80 t of aluminum cans. Although this relevant information about the project should be made explicit in the technical documents / application form, it is considered that it should be taken into account in the assessment, for the purposes of calculating the packaging market share, the quantities of packaging recovered in the project indicated above (200 tons) and the quantity of packaging placed on the national market (756 746 tons), calculated based on the activity reports of the three management entities (SPV, Novo Verde and Eletrão), it is obtained a market share of 0.03%, that is, below 10%. Thus, according to the evaluation matrix of this sub-criterion defined in the Call, the score will to 30 points.</p> <p>As for Sub criterion G5 - Contribution to the circular economy, experts considered that the project has scarce contribution to the program's goal in terms of tons of recycled plastic and use of secondary raw materials. Thus, according to the evaluation matrix for this sub-criterion defined in the Call, the score is revised to 30 points.</p> <p>After the review, the application had a final score of 79.44.</p>			
				email 14/05/2020			

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

Number	Name of the Project	Promotor	Complaint Description   Date	Reply by email Date of Reply	State of Play	Overall score proposed	
						Provisional List	After Appeal Period
c) 12_Call#1	Para cá do Marão embalagens não!	Câmara Municipal de Vila Real	The complaint focused on the following aspects: Criterion C - General quality of the submitted application: Budget, Criterion E - Financial sustainability of the project, Criterion F - Innovative Character of the Project, Criterion G - Specific Criteria: G4 - Representativeness of the project, Criterion C - General quality of the application submitted: Communication Plan.  email 12/05/2020	Response to complaint: Regarding component A, the experts indicated that the evaluation of criterion A was made based on two sub-criteria: professional qualifications of the team members (maximum 40 points) and demonstrated experience (maximum 40 points), plus the expected valuation in the Call depending on the type of entities involved (maximum 20 points). To the first sub-criterion were given 20 points, taking into account the assessment made to the individual curricula of the five elements that make up the team. In turn, the CV - CMVR_2020.pdf file was not considered for this assessment as it appears as a presentation by the promoter and not as a document certifying any qualification. From this analysis it follows that the professional qualifications of two of the five elements are of little interest for the execution of the project, as they refer to areas that cannot be considered relevant, namely: zootechnical engineering and geography. In the sub criteria related to the demonstrated experience, the maximum score was assigned: 40 points. Finally, the score of this criterion was increased by 20 points (the maximum) since there is a partnership between the Municipality of Vila Real and Resinorte. In view of the above, it is considered perfectly justified to maintain the final score attributed to the criterion: 80 points. Regarding Criterion C - General quality of the application submitted: Budget, it is considered that the budget sent by email on 10/02/2020 complies with the defined requirements, having been reassessed to 98 points. Regarding Criterion C - General quality of the submitted application: Communication Plan, it was considered that the Communication Plan presented does not meet the requirements defined in the Communication and Design Manual EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, namely, the use of the EEA Grants logo. By strictly applying the reasoning, the Plan would have an evaluation of 10 points. However, the Plan presents a description of the project, defines general and specific objectives, indicates the target audience, adequate means of communication and dissemination, description of activities to be carried out, implementation and monitoring of the project and evaluation metrics, having been evaluated at 80 points. Regarding Criterion C - General quality of the submitted application: Proposed timetable, the experts awarded to the evaluation of the proposed timetable a score of zero points, resulting effectively from the fact that it was not included in the documents presented in the application. The allegations presented by the candidate for this fact are related to procedural issues related to the submission of the application, to which the expert's team is completely unaware. It should be noted that, even if it were decided to accept the schedule now presented, a score of zero points would be attributed, as it proves to be globally inappropriate: It presents activities whose execution deadline exceeds the date imposed in the Call (2021-12 -31). According to the candidate's own allegation, there are activities to run until March 2022 and it does not disaggregate in detail the planned activities to be developed, it is not possible to assess the chain of actions and their interdependence, as all activities take place simultaneously, with the exception of the playground installation. And some of the deadlines presented for the execution of the proposed activities are apparently out of place, for example, it is not understandable how long it will take to install the 4 vending machines and the equipment for collecting chewing gum and cigarette butts, which starts in May 2020 and only ends in December 2021. As for the criterion - Ability to support the financing of the project, the evaluation of this criterion depends on the arithmetic average of three components: Budget, Income	No further feedback from Project Promotor	74,5	76,87

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

Number	Name of the Project	Promotor	Complaint Description   Date	Reply by email Date of Reply	State of Play	Overall score proposed	
						Provisional List	After Appeal Period
				Statement and Equity. With the revaluation of the Budget to 98 points, the evaluation of criterion E1 now has a score of 99.33 and criterion E - Financial sustainability of the project now has a score of 99.67. For subcriterion G5 - Contribution to the circular economy, the experts indicated that the evaluation of this criterion does not have to do with the application of the circular economy principle per se, but with its contribution to the program goal, measured in terms of tons of recycled plastic and use of secondary raw materials. Carefully analyzing the project and taking into account the quantities of packaging it expects to recover (128 tonnes through the installation of 4 reverse vending machines in the municipality of Vila Real), it is concluded that the contribution is of little significance to the program goal, resulting in the score of 30 points that was attributed to this criterion. After this revision, the final score was 76.87.  email 15/05/2020			
d) 15_Call#1	TROCA A SEPARAR NO MERCADO	Câmara Municipal de Lisboa	The complaint focused on the following aspects: Criterion C - General quality of the submitted application: Budget, Criterion E - Financial sustainability of the project, Criterion F - Innovative Character of the Project, Criterion G - Specific Criteria: G4 - Representativeness of the project, Criterion C - General quality of the application submitted: Communication Plan.  OF/198/DMHU/CML/20 12-05-2020	Response to complaint: Regarding Criterion C - General quality of the submitted application: Budget, it totalled 98 points because it demonstrates the ability to financially support the project, but the activities have no specific designation in the headings of the second and third tables of the excel file. Regarding Criterion E - Financial sustainability of the project, the financial sustainability score is 98.75 points. The technical analysis considered that a ratio that falls within a neutral range loses 1.25 points, that is, in this case, indebtedness is considered to have a neutral risk. Regarding Criterion F - Innovative Character of the Project, the 2 experts gave a score of 100 points to F1 and F2 components, as shown in the respective reports. In light of the above, the criterion F score is revised to 100 points. For G - Specific Criteria: G4 - Representativeness of the project, the experts indicated that the classification attributed, zero value, according to the evaluators' reports, is due to the fact that the application documents do not present the number of packages expected to be recovered with the project, in order to be able to confirm the packaging market share indicated by the candidate on the form (0.30%). In relation to Criterion C - General quality of the application submitted: Communication Plan, the Communication Plan presented does not meet the requirements defined in the Communication and Design Manual EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, namely, the use of logos. Due to the strict application of the criteria, the Plan would have an evaluation of 10 points, however, elements such as the identification of the objectives, description of the type of event to be held, identification of the target audience, identification of the means of communication and dissemination, having been taken into account. been rated at 50 points. It is considered that there is no change in the score, standing at 75.11 points.  email 20/05/2020	No further feedback from Project Promotor	75,11	75,78



EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

- The Selection Committee met on 25/05/2020 and analysed the second provisional list, the information related to the complaints and the justifications for the changes in the classifications of the projects, having agreed with the ranking.
- According with number 13.7 of the Call, the Programme Operator verified 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. The Programme Operator, decided, based on the Selection Committee decision, which projects will be selected.
- All procedures adopted by the Selection Committee and the Programme Operator are in accordance with the provisions of numbers 13.2 and 13.7 of the Call.
- The Selection Committee decided the procedure to follow: the remaining funds up to the amount of 6.400.000€, may be transferred to the next Promoters, by order of ranking, in case they accept a lower funding and a higher co-financing guaranteeing the integrity of the project.
- The Selection Committee approved the Final List, presented below:

### Final List

Project number	Name of the Project	Overall Score Final List	Financiado Programa Ambiente Funding of Environment	Taxa de Financiamento Project grant rate	Alegações	Justificação	Overall Score Provisional List
07/Call# 1	Bottle to Bottle: Top Quality PET para a economia circular das garrafas de plástico em Portugal	92,43	818660,4	80% (a)	Yes		92,43
02/Call# 1	Sistema de depósito de embalagens não reutilizáveis de bebidas nos Açores	84,83	846953,1	90%			84,83
10/Call# 1	Bebidas+ Circulares	84,17	899552,7	90%			84,17
04/Call# 1	Oeste + Recicla	81,75	899708,4	90%			81,75
06/Call# 1	iREC - Inovar a Reciclagem	81,19	770764,7	90%			81,19
09/Call# 1	REAP - Reciclagem e Reembolso de Embalagens de alumínio e PET - sistema piloto	81,17	842039,1	90%			81,17

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

08/Call# 1	MAFRA Reciclar a valer +	79,44	756000	90%	Yes	From 74,69 to 79,44	74,69
12/Call# 1	Para cá do Marão embagens não!	76,87	675993,6	90%	Yes	From 74,50 to 76,87	74,5
15/Call# 1	TROCA A SEPARAR NO MERCADO	75,78	879585,3	90%	Yes	From 75,11 to 75,78	75,11
13/Call# 1	Cantanhede - Reciclar a Valer +	67,46	426560,4	90%			67,46
14/Call# 1	EDUCATOR: Educar competindo para a reciclagem em ambiente escolar	65,08	524955,4	90%			65,08
05/Call# 1	Deposito Solidário VNP	63,46	493130,5	90%			63,46
11/Call# 1	Green Change - Reciclar & ganhar   Recycle & win	30,42	167850	90%			30,42

a) GBER - Article 25º, 2.b) e c), 5.b) e c) (50 points + 25 points) and 6.a) small company (20 points) and Project Promotor has 96,5% of budget don't comply with 6.b.i); But complies with 6.b) ii); Project Grant Rate 110%=80%  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20170710>

## Conclusions

- Thirteen eligible applications were received, summing up a total project value of 10.115.651,07€. The total grant amount is of 9.001.753,42€ and 1.095.247,65€ are provided by the project's consortia.
- The list of selected projects for funding have been changed (12\_Call#1 and 15\_Call#1 and 08\_Call#1), comparing to the initial list. It should be noted that these three of the complaining projects were corrected and the classification went up. As a result of these changes the order of classification has changed and with it the projects selected for funding.
- 7 projects for financing were approved may receive a maximum of € 1,000,000 each.
- The seven approved projects have a total project value of 6,595,567.61 €, of which 5,833,678.30 € will be provided by the 'EEA Grants Environment Program' and the remaining 761,889.31 € by the consortia that manage the projects.
- The eighth project may still obtain part of the remaining financing (€ 566,321.70).
- The projects approved have a duration between 18 and 36 months each.
- In general, the Programme Environment will reimburse 90% of all projects.
- The remaining funds up to the amount of 6.400.000€, may be transferred to the next Promoters, by order of ranking, in case they accept a lower funding and a higher co-financing guaranteeing the integrity of the project.
- PO will maintain a reserve list of projects assessed and considered of good quality, but not funded because of the limited budget available.



EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2020  
Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme

The final list is published on the Programme Operator's website.

The Secretary General for Environment

---

---

Alexandra Carvalho