

Frequently Asked Questions

Blue Growth Programme
Call #4 - Research

VERSION 1



Call 4 - Research

01



Who can apply?



According to what is defined for Call #4- Research, the eligible project promoters are Research Organizations, defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01), established in Portugal:

«Research and knowledge dissemination organization» or «research organization» means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities, the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, for example in the quality of shareholders or members, may not enjoy a preferential access to the results generated by it”.

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Which grant rates apply to the promoters and partners?



1. The grant rate may vary from 50% to 100%, depending on the type of the state aid awarded, size of the Applicant and other elements included in the provisions of the Regulation 651/2014 (GBER), which are relevant for the respective project.

2. According to Article 25 of GBER, the aid intensity for each beneficiary shall not exceed:

- a) 100 % of the eligible costs for fundamental research;
- b) 50 % of the eligible costs for industrial research;
- c) 25 % of the eligible costs for experimental development;
- d) 50 % of the eligible costs for feasibility studies.

The aid intensities for industrial research and experimental development may be increased up to a maximum aid intensity of 80 % of the eligible costs as follows:

I. by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises;

II. by 15 percentage points if one of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- the project involves effective collaboration between undertakings among, which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two Member States, or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70 % of the eligible costs, or;

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Which grant rates apply to the promoters and partners? (cont)



- the project involves effective collaboration between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results;
- the results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

The aid intensities for feasibility studies may be increased by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises.

3. The definitions for each type of research may be found on both Commission Regulation (EU) N. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty Text with EEA relevance; and Communication from the Commission - Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01)

4. According to the mentioned Communication, where a research organisation or research infrastructure is used for both economic and non-economic activities, public funding falls under State aid rules only insofar as it covers costs linked to the economic activities. For the purposes of this framework, the Commission considers this to be the case where capacity allocated each year to such economic activities does not exceed 20 % of the relevant entity's overall annual capacity.

5. It should also be noted that in the same project, and due to the application of State Aid rules, the application of different rates to promoter and partner(s) may occur.

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How can my project reach 100% of grant rate?



The 100% grant rate may be accomplished by two distinguished ways:

- “Where the research organisation or research infrastructure is used almost exclusively for a non-economic activity, its funding may fall outside State aid rules in its entirety, provided that the economic use remains purely ancillary, that is to say corresponds to an activity which is directly related to and necessary for the operation of the research organisation or research infrastructure or intrinsically linked to its main non-economic use, and which is limited in scope. For the purposes of this framework, the Commission will consider this to be the case where the economic activities consume exactly the same inputs (such as material, equipment, labour and fixed capital) as the non-economic activities and the capacity allocated each year to such economic activities does not exceed 20 % of the relevant entity’s overall annual capacity;
- The project falls into fundamental research, defined by Commission Regulation (EU) N. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, and Communication from the Commission (2014/C 198/01): «experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view».

For more detailed Information., please go to (inserir link)

If your project fulfils the exemption criteria, a declaration of exemption of state aid rule from the promoter’s financial responsible is considered necessary. Please find the template at <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth/documents>

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Can an institution apply more than one project?



The answer is yes. In this call, several projects may be presented by the same Promoter, as long as the Principal Investigator is not the same, as the principal investigator must be responsible for one project only.

The Project Promoter must designate a Principal Investigator – a researcher who provides the scientific lead for the research project daily and complies with the following criteria:

- the Principal Investigator must be researcher with at least a doctoral degree and show relevant professional and/or academic experience in the field related to the project research area;
- the Principal Investigator (of any nationality) must be employed full time in the Project Promoter, with a permanent position or with a fixed term contract covering at least the duration of the project;
- the Principal Investigator cannot be the authorised representative of the Project Promoter;
- the involvement of the Principal Investigator must be significant and sufficient for proper implementation of the project;
- a researcher can be Principal Investigator for only one proposal in the Blue Growth Research call.

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Which documents should be presented in English?



All documents must be presented in English, with exception of the official Portuguese documents. The official documents in other foreign languages must be translated into English, together with a declaration of good repute that confirms the veracity of the document. The necessary templates may be found at:

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth/calls/call-4-research/>

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth/documents/>

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The costs of researchers under the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) contract may be considered at human resources costs?



The answer is no. But they may be part of the research team, as long as the costs are not included at human resources budget, in order to avoid double financing.

Please bear in mind that in the project execution phase, whether or not hours / maturity are imputed to the project (s), the time sheet should always be presented showing the monthly allocation and dedication of the project (this timesheet should take into account not only the project in question but all those in which the researcher is involved).

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Can different schools and research centres from universities apply on their own, despite of the same university tax identification number?



Yes. We consider that, as long as schools and research centres benefit from administrative and financial autonomy, from the university, they may apply.

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Can a PhD, designated as Principal Investigator, participate in other projects, namely, under Call #5?



Yes.

However, the percentage of allocation to the activities carried out in each of the projects (number of hours worked) must be made explicit in the proposals, as well as the tasks that will be performed in each project.

Please notice that, according to chapter 2.1 of Call #4, the involvement of the Principal Investigator must be significant and sufficient for proper implementation of the project, in order not to compromise its scientific quality, and requires daily monitoring, in compliance with what's defined for the mentioned call.

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Do partners from donor countries have a mandatory minimum budget?



No, there's no mandatory minimum budget for donor country partners, but they must not get more than 40% of the estimated total budget.

For more information please access:

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/3218/guidelines-for-applicants.pdf>

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Which are the application mandatory documents?



Promoter and partners can access the checklist, at <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth/calls/call-4-research>

The checklist contains the reference to all mandatory documents that must be presented.

The documents' templates may be found at <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth/documents>

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Are the letters of commitment mandatory?



It is mandatory to present the letters of commitment of all partners, signed by the institution's legal responsible, even if the partner does not have an allocated budget.

In Call #4, however, promoter and partners do not need to present the partnership agreement.

The template for the letter of commitment can be found at: <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth/documents>

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Which thematic area should the project address?



Choosing a thematic area for the project is a responsibility of the Promoter, considering the goals the project aims for, according to chapters 1.2 e 1.3 of the call.

Please notice that one project may be under the scope of more than one thematic area.

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BLUE GROWTH PROGRAMME WEBSITE

Please find all relevant Information at
EEA Grants » Programmes » Blue Growth
<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/blue-growth>



PROGRAMME EMAIL CONTACT

Please contact us using our email: eeagrants@dgpm.mm.gov.pt



BENEFICIARY TELEPHONE LINE

You can use the Blue Growth Programme Beneficiary (+ 351 28 291 000), on weekdays, from Monday to Thursday, from 10:00 to 12:00 (GMT).

