

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME POLICY

Blue Growth Programme

SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT

Environment Programme

**Call for Expression of interest for in-person participation at
Business Cooperation and the European Green Deal**

Sofia, Bulgaria

4-5 June 2024

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1. Background

Innovation Norway is organizing a Conference and Matchmaking to be held on 4th and 5th June 2024 in Sofia/Bulgaria, to discuss business possibilities within the European Green Deal. The European Green Deal aims to turn climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across policy areas, creating extensive possibilities for European businesses. Join to meet with 100 of the most green and innovative businesses from Central/Southern Europe, Norway and Iceland.

The event "**Business Cooperation on the European Green Deal**" is organised in cooperation between the 12 partners in the EEA and Norway Grants and will gather businesses, clusters, researchers, policymakers, representatives from the top innovation agencies and other stakeholders from Northern and Southern/Central Europe: Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovakia.

The European Green Deal - The European Commission presented the Union's plan to overcome the challenges faced by climate change and environmental degradation in December 2019, the European Green Deal. The plan aims to turn climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across policy areas - creating extensive possibilities for European businesses to create new technologies and sustainable solutions that leads to value creation.

The event aims to contribute to reaching the goals set out in the European Green Deal, identify challenges for business cooperation on green solutions, explore how to best cooperate on green business solutions, and create synergies between the EEA and Norway Grants, and European and national funding schemes or programs.

This event will contain the following thematic sessions focusing on the following areas within the European Green Deal:

- The Role of Carbon Capture and Storage
- Digitalisation of the Sustainable Blue Economy
- Hydrogen for Greening Transportation

The event will give the following opportunities:

- Business and cooperation on the latest green solutions
- Partnerships, cooperation and networks in Europe
- Insight into new markets
- Learn more about the European Union's Green Growth Strategy
- Networking and matchmaking for future partnerships

Matchmaking

The event aims to connect entrepreneurs, businesses, scaleup professionals, researchers, investors and other stakeholders for partnerships, business and cooperation on the European Green Deal.

During the event, there will be a matchmaking session with scheduled meetings. Join the matchmaking in the online platform, [B2Match](#), and schedule meetings with other businesses from across Europe in advance.

The matchmaking will take place on June 5 from 14:00 to 16:00 at prepared tables on site.

By making a profile in this platform, you will register for the event, and once your registration is confirmed you will find a list of European partners from these 12 countries willing, ready, and able to cooperate on the goals set out in the European Green Deal. Signing up with a profile will:

- Allow you to book short B2B meetings before, during or after the event, and make a network
- Give you visibility so that other participants can contact you with ideas for cooperation
- Give you an overview of participants so that you can contact them with ideas for cooperation

How to schedule meetings:

- Join the matchmaking in the online platform [B2Match](#)
- Make a profile that presents you, your company and interest
- Browse the other profiles to connect with the ones that are relevant to you
- Chat and plan a meeting for the physical matchmaking in advance

The platform remains open for contacts to plan meetings after the event as well.

For more information visit the website: [Home | EEA and Norway Grants: Business Cooperation and the European Green Deal \(b2match.com\)](#)

2. Event Participation

This is a physical event, and the matchmaking will happen on site.

To apply for in-person participation and application for travel expenses it is mandatory the registration for the event through the website: [Home | EEA and Norway Grants: Business Cooperation and the European Green Deal \(b2match.com\)](#)

3. Eligibility of applicants

Natural persons are not eligible.

The applicants must comply with the following eligibility criteria:

- **Businesses, clusters, associations, research institutes and others**, established in Portugal, acting in green and innovative businesses, on the scope of the Blue Economy and Environment, in particular within the following thematics: **The Role of Carbon Capture and Storage; Digitalisation of the Sustainable Blue Economy and Hydrogen for Greening Transportation.**
- Must register in the platform, [B2Match](#) until the deadline: **13th May 2024 at 23:59 Portugal Continental.**
- Each entity may submit one application only.

Applications submitted by natural persons or by entities that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be excluded.

In addition to the above eligibility criteria, all entities must complete the following information in the application form on the [B2Match](#) platform until the deadline for submission of applications:

- Description of your entity;

- Description of your product or project idea under green and innovative businesses, on the scope of the Blue Economy and Environment, in particular within the following thematics: **The Role of Carbon Capture and Storage; Digitalisation of the Sustainable Blue Economy and Hydrogen for Greening Transportation.**
- Description of the motivation to attend this networking event;
- Description of the partners you would like to meet at these events, plans for cooperation and what role a partner, would have in the development of your product or project idea.

4. Available Fund

The travel and accommodation expenses of the selected participants (**one representative per selected entity**) will be supported by the EEA Grants, by the Bilateral Relations Fund of the Blue Growth Programme and Environment Programme.

The available fund for this notice is **EUR 9.000** (EUR 4.500 per Programme).

5. Amount of support

For in-person participation, the non-reimbursable support from the Blue Growth and Environment Programmes Bilateral Relations Fund to be granted within the scope of this initiative constitutes a reimbursement, through a **Lump Sum in the amount of EUR 900**, under the “de minimis” State of Aid regime, provided in Commission Regulation (EU) n.º 1407/2013 of 18 December.

Travel support is assigned by application and entity.

The scheduling and booking of the travel must be ensured by the entity to which the travel support is attributed, being subsequently reimbursed in the in the fixed of the **lump sum**.

A **maximum of 10 entities** can be supported.

Registration and application for travel expenses must be done trough the website: [Home | EEA and Norway Grants: Business Cooperation and the European Green Deal \(b2match.com\)](#)

6. Deadline for submission of applications

Deadline for submission of applications: 13th May 2024 at 23:59 Portugal Continental.

7. Selection Application process

In the selection of applications, the following selection criteria and weighting coefficients will be applied:

- 1. Description of the entity and the product/service or project idea (30%):** Description of your product or project idea under green and innovative businesses, on the scope of the Blue Economy and Environment, in particular within the following thematics: The Role of Carbon Capture and Storage; Digitalisation of the Sustainable Blue Economy and Hydrogen for Greening Transportation.
- 2. Participation in event and matchmaking (40%):** the importance of participating in the event for the development of the business must be highlighted.
- 3. Ideas for Cooperation (30%):** Description of the partners you would like to meet at these events, plans for cooperation and what role a partner, would have in the development of your product or project idea. The importance of an international partner in the development of the product/service or project idea must be demonstrated.

Each criterion should be scored from 0-100 as follows:

Score	Justification
0	The proposal does not meet the criteria under evaluation or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
1 – 20 (weak)	The criterion is handled inappropriately or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
21 - 40 (reasonable)	While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
41 - 60 (good)	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements are needed.
61 - 80 (very good)	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although some improvements are still possible.
81 - 100 (excellent)	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minimal.

In case of equal classification the tiebreaker criteria will be applied in the following order:

1. Best classification in selection criteria 2, 3, and 1, successively;
2. Not having participated in missions organized by the Blue Growth and Environment Programme.

Candidate entities are notified of the decision on the request for support by **20/05/2024**, by email.

The attribution of non-refundable support from the Bilateral Relations Fund to be granted within the scope of this initiative requires, obligatorily, prior written approval by the Programme Operatores.

8. 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 and Secretary General for Environment, after the displacement.

The refund request must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Request for the travel support provide by Programme Operators after approval.
2. Proof of travel (e.g. copy of boarding pass)
3. Confirmation of participation in the event (signature on registration of entry to the event)
4. Presentation of the non-debit statements to the updated Tax and Social Security Authority.

The documents mentioned should be sent to the email: eeagrants@dgpm.gov.pt or ambiente.eeagrants@sgambiente.gov.pt; within one month after the event.

Expenses are reimbursed to the entity that made them and not to an individual person.

9. Additional Information

Requests for clarification should be sent to: eeagrants@dgpm.gov.pt or ambiente.eeagrants@sgambiente.gov.pt.