

Interreg
Euro-MED



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BLUE ECOSYSTEM



Blue Ecosystem Call for Expressions of Interest

Solutions addressing port water management challenges

About Blue Ecosystem

The **Blue Ecosystem project**, funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme, aims to test innovative methods to improve territorial decision-making by supporting a sustainable blue economy.

At the heart of the project are the **TRAIN Labs**, acceleration laboratories that will be established in different European regions: the Balearic Islands, Emilia-Romagna, the South Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Occitanie, Zadar County, Alentejo, Attica and Albania. These laboratories will bring together economic, scientific and institutional stakeholders to accelerate solutions to environmental challenges related to the blue economy.

A transnational **twinning process** will help showcase the most promising solutions and encourage their uptake across the Mediterranean.

By combining this local and transnational approach, the Blue Ecosystem project aims to strengthen innovation and sustainability across Mediterranean coastal territories.

For more information about the project: <https://blueecosystem.interreg-euro-med.eu/>.

Objective of this Call for Expressions of Interest

Following an in-depth analysis of the sectors and challenges identified in each of the Blue Ecosystem partner regions, **Pôle Mer Méditerranée** is launching this Call for Expressions of Interest to select innovative solutions addressing environmental challenges related to **water management** in the South Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Occitanie regions.

The selected solutions will benefit from tailored support designed to address the **technical, regulatory or commercial needs** of the project developers. This support aims to maximise their chances of success by providing them with the **tools, resources and expertise** needed to effectively bring their innovations to market.

A Support Service for Solution Providers

The **three highest-scoring solutions** following the evaluation process (with at least one solution selected in the South Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and one in Occitanie) will benefit from **tailored support, with an estimated market value of €5,000 per consultant**.

This support may include:

- **Market analysis and the development of business strategies**, including business planning, marketing strategy and financial management;
- **Regulatory compliance and legal aspects**, including environmental regulations, compliance requirements (e.g. *Water Act application*), and intellectual property;

- **The development of strategic partnerships** with key stakeholders in the maritime sector, particularly ports and port authorities;
- Support for obtaining relevant environmental and industry-specific certifications or labels.

The support services will be provided by specialised experts. To ensure relevant and tailored support, the specific needs of the selected solution providers will be identified jointly with them following the selection process.

In addition, all selected solution providers will have the opportunity to participate in a local workshop to present and showcase their innovations to key stakeholders from the maritime and environmental sectors.

Finally, to further enhance their visibility, the selected solutions will be featured in a catalogue distributed across the Mediterranean region. The most promising solutions will also have the opportunity to participate in a transnational event, to be held in May 2026 in the South Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, providing them with a valuable platform to expand their network and explore new collaboration opportunities.

Target Audience

This Call for Expressions of Interest is open to all entities offering solutions that address the identified challenges, including:

- Private companies, including SMEs, mid-sized companies and large enterprises;
- Public institutions;
- Research organisations;
- Associations and NGOs.

Identified Challenges

Theme	Identified Challenges
Water management in Ports 	• Monitoring and control of water quality; • Collection and treatment of wastewater from ships and port facilities; • Reuse of treated water; • Freshwater production technologies; • Digital solutions and integrated management tools to improve decisions-making process

Application Submission Procedure

Applicants are invited to submit their proposals by completing the following questionnaire: [EU Survey questionnaire](#) by **20 May 2025, 5:00 p.m. CET**. An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by email.

Applicants may submit several solutions, provided that a separate application form is completed for each solution.

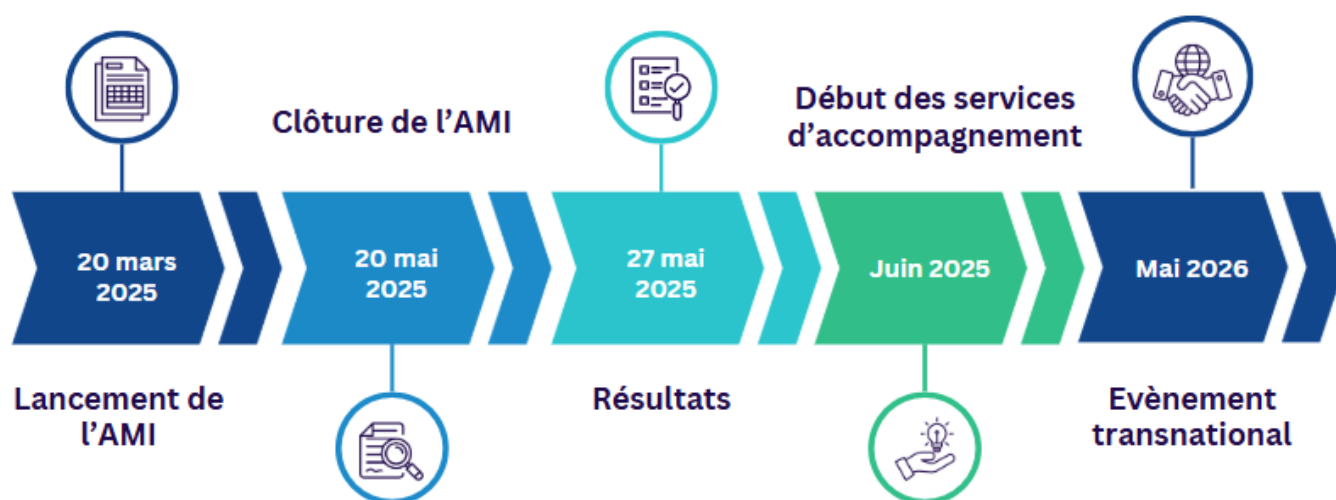
Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the basis of a **common evaluation grid** shared by the Blue Ecosystem project partners. The evaluation criteria will include:

- **Innovation:** the innovative nature of the solution;
- **Relevance:** the extent to which the solution addresses the identified challenges and its ability to be adapted to different port contexts;
- **Impact:** positive environmental effects and expected benefits for marine and coastal ecosystems;
- **Replicability:** the solution's potential for cross-border replication.

Timeline

- **Call launch:** 20 March 2025
- **Application deadline:** 20 May 2025, 5:00 p.m. CET
- **Notification of selected solutions:** 27 May 2025



Confidentiality and Data Protection

In accordance with the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679**, all information submitted as part of this Call for Expressions of Interest will be used exclusively for the purposes of the Blue Ecosystem project. Such information will not be disclosed to unauthorised third parties or used for any commercial or promotional purposes.

The personal data collected will be used solely for the management and monitoring of the project, including contacting solution providers, organising workshops and support sessions, and evaluating submitted proposals.

In addition, all technical information, project ideas and innovative solutions submitted by applicants will be treated with the **strictest confidentiality**.

Finally, no personal data or confidential information will be retained beyond the period necessary for the implementation of the project, unless retention is required by law or regulation.

By submitting their application, solution providers agree to their data being processed in accordance with these principles and exclusively for the purposes of the Blue Ecosystem project.

Disclaimer

This document presents the Blue Ecosystem project's Call for Expressions of Interest for **information purposes only**.

No rights may be claimed on the basis of this document. This document does not reflect the views of the **European Commission**. The Blue Ecosystem consortium shall not be held responsible for any errors or misunderstandings that may arise from this document.

Contact

For any questions regarding this Call for Expressions of Interest or the Blue Ecosystem project, please contact: [email address]