



BLUE ECOSYSTEM

Interreg
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CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BLUE ECOSYSTEM PROJECT

ALBANIA

Call for the collection of solutions
for the Blue Sustainable Economy



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The University “Aleksandër Moisiu” in Durrës is pleased to open a Call for Solutions under the framework of the Blue Ecosystem Project. This Interreg Euro-MED initiative aims to reshape the future of coastal and marine sustainability across the Mediterranean. This call invites innovative ideas, collaborative initiatives, and impactful proposals that can contribute to solving some of the most pressing environmental and socio-economic challenges facing Albania’s coastal areas today.

About the Project:

BLUE ECOSYSTEM aims to promote transformative innovation solutions for the sustainability of the Blue Economy, supporting a better balance between human activities that exploit marine and coastal resources and the health of marine ecosystems, while addressing new threats related to climate change. The methodology is based on participatory and co-creation models, involving active engagement of Quintuple Helix stakeholders to identify complex challenges and define possible actions to be developed. In particular, the project addresses challenges within various innovation sectors of the sustainable Blue Economy, including marine ecosystems and coastal areas, blue biotechnologies, marine renewable energy, fisheries and aquaculture, ports and shipbuilding, marine robotics, coastal, water scarcity & management and maritime tourism.

About the Call:

Albania’s coastline is a key asset economically, culturally, and ecologically. Yet, it is in growth. Marine ecosystems are being threatened by overfishing and habitat degradation. Pollution from coastal tourism is straining waste management systems and damaging sensitive natural areas. At the same time, the potential for sustainable tourism and green development remains largely untapped.

Through this call, we seek solutions that support a resilient, inclusive, and forward-thinking Blue Economy. Ideas that are not only innovative but also grounded in Albania’s regional context, solutions that emerge from and serve local communities.

Why Apply?

We are calling on individuals, research teams, start-ups, non-profits, municipalities, and businesses to propose early-stage solutions or concepts that address one or more of the following themes:

1. Marine resource management

Proposals that explore ways to combat the overexploitation of marine life, rebuild fish stocks, and protect vulnerable marine habitats. From real-time monitoring to community-based stewardship, we welcome bold, collaborative approaches.

2. Pollution and waste management

We are looking for ideas to tackle pollution caused by tourism and urban activities along



the coast. Solutions may range from new technologies for waste sorting and disposal to campaigns that drive behavioral change in local communities and tourists alike.

3. Sustainable tourism

How can we make Albania a model for eco-tourism in the Mediterranean? We invite proposals that rethink the way we manage visitor flows, preserve natural heritage, and create tourism experiences that benefit both people and the environment.

4. Resource and waste infrastructure

Concepts that improve recycling practices, modernize waste processing, or introduce circular economy principles are highly encouraged especially if they can be scaled across coastal municipalities.

Selected participants will be invited to join a two-day co-creation workshop in Durrës. This workshop will bring together stakeholders from across sectors including public officials, researchers, entrepreneurs, and civil society to jointly develop and refine the proposed solutions.

It will be a space not just for pitching ideas, but for building partnerships, aligning with regional development priorities, and turning concepts into actionable roadmaps. Participants will also gain visibility in the broader Blue Ecosystem network and benefit from mentorship opportunities offered through the TRAIN Lab initiative.

Eligibility criteria:

We welcome applications from:

- Researchers and academic teams
- Start-ups and tech developers
- NGOs and civil society actors
- Tourism and environmental professionals
- Local authorities and public bodies
- Youth and citizen innovators

Whether you're an established organization or an individual with a vision, if your idea connects to the sustainable use of Albania's coastal and marine resources, we want to hear from you.

How to Apply:

To participate, please complete the application form available at:
<https://forms.gle/yACNBuExsG8HbFJn9>

Deadline for submission: **31 July 2025**



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Note: You do not need to submit a fully developed project. We're interested in early-stage ideas and concepts that show potential for impact and collaboration.

Selection Process:

All proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for the workshop. Please be aware that all submitted materials may be shared with project partners and published in the spirit of open innovation unless confidentiality is explicitly requested.

We respect your privacy. Personal data collected in this process will be handled according to the EU GDPR regulations, ensuring transparency and protection throughout.

Application Deadline: 31/07/2025

Responsibility and Confidentiality:

Each applicant is solely responsible for the completeness, accuracy, and truthfulness of the data and information provided in the application materials and documentation.

UAMD assumes no responsibility for the content submitted, nor for any inaccuracies, omissions, or violations of third-party rights.

All information and content provided in the application form, as well as any data or materials concerning the submitted solutions and shared during the organization and implementation of the programme, shall be considered public and available to the Blue Economy Community.

Data Protection Notice (EU Regulation 2016/679):

In accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR), UAMD, informs applicants that their personal data, collected as part of project-related activities, will be processed in compliance with the principles of lawfulness, fairness, transparency, and confidentiality, in full respect of the applicable data protection legislation.

More information

For more information, contact us at: ariolaharizi@uamd.edu.al

Or visit our website: <https://blueecosystem.interreg-euro-med.eu/>