

Call for Expressions of Interest

Blue Ecosystem

Innovative Ideas for a Sustainable Transition to the Blue Economy

About the Blue Ecosystem

The *Blue Ecosystem* is a dynamic and ambitious initiative funded by the Interreg Euro-MED programme. It aims to promote and implement innovative approaches that support sustainable policies, practices, and investments within the marine economy sector.

Focusing on Mediterranean regions, the Blue Ecosystem will implement *Transformative Innovation Labs* (TRAIN Labs)—collaborative spaces acting as accelerators of change. These labs will bring together stakeholders from the public, private, and research sectors to co-develop and test innovative solutions that address environmental challenges related to the blue economy.

Through cross-border cooperation and the exchange of best practices—via the *BLUE ECOMATCH* programme—the most promising solutions will be identified and promoted across the Mediterranean, contributing to increased resilience, sustainability, and prosperity in coastal areas.

 **More information:** blueecosystem.interreg-euro-med.eu

Purpose of the Call

This call, issued by the [Institute of Oceanography – Hellenic Centre for Marine Research \(HCMR\)](#) and [VERIMPACT](#), seeks to gather innovative ideas and technological solutions aimed at improving the management of marine resources in Greek coastal regions.

Selected proposals will benefit from a targeted support process that includes mentoring, access to specialized expertise, the development of strategic partnerships, and opportunities for funding. The objective is to accelerate the development, maturation, and implementation of these solutions, enhancing their impact and facilitating their integration into the blue economy ecosystem.

Target Audience

This call is open to entities that have innovative solutions or are part of collaborative initiatives addressing challenges in the sustainable management of marine resources.

Eligible participants include:

- Private enterprises (SMEs, medium-sized, and large companies)
- Public organizations and authorities
- Research and academic institutions

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), social and local associations
- Active Citizens

Thematic Challenges – What Kind of Innovative Ideas We Are Looking For

We are seeking innovative ideas, technological solutions, and applications that address critical challenges in the following thematic areas:

♦ **Bioeconomy – Agri-Food**

Innovations that promote biodiversity and support the transition to carbon neutrality in aquaculture; advance sustainable marine food systems; and implement Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) and low trophic aquaculture (LTA).

♦ **Environment**

Technologies and systems for monitoring and forecasting water quality; solutions for pollution management and climate change mitigation in coastal and marine ecosystems; and tools for the protection, restoration, and conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a focus on coastal restoration.

♦ **Digital Transformation**

Innovations that utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) for monitoring and effectively managing marine resources, while addressing data-sharing challenges.

♦ **Public Health**

Marine biotechnology technologies and applications that harness Greek marine biodiversity, including the discovery of bioactive compounds from the marine environment and the development of high value-added products, such as pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals. This also includes strengthening R&D and enhancing regulatory frameworks.

♦ **Energy**

Innovations aimed at reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, and integrating renewable marine energy sources such as wave and offshore wind energy, as well as implementing cold ironing in ports.

♦ **Social Innovation**

Initiatives that support regulatory alignment, foster investment in research, and strengthen collaboration between the public and private sectors.

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU 2016/679), all information provided through this Call for Expressions of Interest will be used exclusively for the purposes of the Blue Ecosystem project. This information will not be disclosed to unauthorized third parties, nor will it be used for commercial or promotional purposes.

Personal data collected will be used solely for project management and implementation, including communication with applicants, organization of workshops and support activities, and the evaluation of submitted proposals.

All technical information submitted by applicants will be treated with strict confidentiality and adequately protected.

No personal or confidential data will be retained beyond the period necessary for the completion of the project.

By submitting their proposal, participants consent to the use of their data solely for the purposes described above.

In line with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), participants retain the following rights regarding their personal data: the right of access (Art. 15), rectification (Art. 16), erasure (Art. 17), restriction of processing (Art. 18), data portability (Art. 20), objection (Art. 21), and withdrawal of consent (Art. 7 § 3). These rights may be exercised by contacting the Data Controller or, in the case of a dispute, the Data Protection Officer (DPO). If your request pertains to specific processing activities, please describe them clearly.


To exercise your rights or for any questions regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please contact the Data Controller, **Chrysa Efstratiou** (on behalf of HCMR), at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (46.7 km Athens–Sounio Ave., P.O. Box 712, GR-19013, Anavyssos, Attica, Greece, Tel: +30 22910 76374, ✉ ch.efstra@hcmr.gr).

For issues specifically related to data protection, you may also contact HCMR's Data Protection Officer at ✉ dpo@hcmr.gr.

Submission of Applications

 **Deadline:** September 15, 2025, 17:00 (CET)

 **Online submission:** <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BlueTRAINLabsSurvey2025>

 Multiple proposals may be submitted, provided that a separate application is completed for each idea.