

BlueActionBANOS

Community-Led Actions Open Call

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Open Call starts on **28 November 2025, 10:00 (Brussels time)**

Call deadline: **29 May 2026, 14:00 (Brussels time)**



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BlueActionBANOS

Open Call for Community-Led Actions (CLAs)

Frequently asked questions

Welcome to the BlueActionBANOS CLA Open Call Frequently Asked Questions. This document will be regularly updated throughout the Open Call with questions most frequently asked through our helpdesk email address.

Please take a moment to read this document carefully to understand the requirements and process of the Open Call. For any further questions, please contact us at BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com.

BlueActionBANOS Open Call Team wishes you the best of luck!

Document history

Version	Changes	Date
1	First version published on the date of Open Call launch	Nov 28, 2025
2	Second version including questions asked during Open Call webinars and via helpdesk	Jan 30, 2026

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1. Questions concerning eligibility

1.1. Are applicants from outside the BANOS area eligible?

Applicants from outside the BANOS area are eligible as long as:

- they are registered in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country;
- in special cases, when their participation in the applying Community-Led Action is justified (i.e. strong contribution to the proposed Action's goals, strong connection with the area of the proposed Action, otherwise important role in the Action consortium).

Even if applicants from other regions are part of the project consortium, the impact of the proposed Community-Led Action must be within the BANOS area.

1.2. What is the conflict of interest?

Conflict of interest is a situation where there are capital or personal connections between two or more entities (Applicant, BAB Consortium partner or any person involved in the selection process); in particular, it should be understood as:

- any ownership relations - ownership of shares, financial links and economic connections – like joint venture, holding, joint participation, silent partner. E.g. Applicant's entity owns shares in the BAB Consortium partner company or BAB Consortium partner company owns shares in the Applicant's company (it also refers to the Applicant partner/linked enterprises). As economic connection, we can understand exclusive license, sale agreements if they concern products or solutions covered by your application;
- family and personal relationships - in particular: with marriage, kinship, a relationship of affinity to the second degree in a straight line or lateral line, adoption, custody or guardianship or actual life and other close personal ties binding the Applicant and BAB Consortium partner or any person involved in the selection process (it refers also to employees, shareholders, members of the management body, members of the board, managers, subcontractors etc.) – e.g. person representing the BAB Consortium partner company has family/personal relationship with any person representing the Applicant company;
- the existence of material, especially financial relationships (such as the receipt by a person involved in the selection process from Applicant any significant gifts, donations, future contracts or employment, etc);
- relationships based on employment, cooperation or existing civil contract between the BAB Consortium partners and people involved in the Applicant structure, including managerial or supervisory functions, position in managing or supervising bodies. E.g. Director of the BAB Consortium partner is involved in the management bodies of an Applicant company; the Applicant employees involved in the Community-Led Action are employed or contracted by the BAB Consortium partner company;

- remaining in a legal or factual relationship that may give rise to justified doubts as to the impartiality of the people involved in the selection process (expert/evaluator/employee/member of the management bodies of any of the BAB Consortium partners).

The reasons above may result in a conflict of interest if they occur at the time of an action or have occurred in the past (during the last 3 years before the action starts). Time limits do not apply to family and personal relationships.

Remember that the concept of the conflict of interest should be understood widely, so if you have any doubts about the conflict of Interest, please consult it with our team.

1.3. Is it a conflict of interest if my organisation has ownership relations with a BAB partner?

If your organisation is owned or partly-owned by a BAB partner, the risk of conflict of interest is high. Similarly, if your organisation owns or partly owns a BAB partner entity, the risk is similarly high. Each situation will be examined and evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the BANOS project partners after the close of the open call.

1.4. Can I apply if I am a member of the BAB partner's network?

This type of cooperation may constitute a conflict of interest, but whether it is possible to mitigate this conflict depends on the nature of the cooperation and the exact relationship between the two entities. However, this can only be thoroughly investigated after the close of the open call. Each situation will be examined and evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the BANOS project partners.

It will be important to determine whether and what role the organisation plays in the BAB partner's network. For example, if the organisation is a member of the board or other similar management bodies. If yes, then there is a risk that the conflict of interest can be difficult to mitigate (which can result in exclusion from the open call/project). If not, there might be a possibility to mitigate the conflict in some way.

In addition, it is also important whether, as a member of the BAB partner's network, the organisation pays fees to the network and, if so, whether these fees are fixed or dependent, for example on the organisation's income/turnover. If the fees are fixed, there might be a possibility to mitigate the conflict. If the fees are dependent on the company's income/turnover, the mitigation may not be so obvious. However, as stated at the beginning, each case will be investigated individually, and only then, the BANOS project partners will be able to state whether the organisation can participate in the BANOS support programme or not.

1.5. What is “multiple submission”?

“Multiple submission” is a situation where two or more proposals are submitted by either:

- the same individual entity or
- the same consortium of entities (i.e. the composition of the consortium is exactly the same in those submissions).

Multiple submissions are not allowed. In cases where multiple proposals are submitted by the same applicant (the same individual entity or the same consortium of entities) only the submission with the date closest to the deadline will be considered.

1.6. Can I apply for two projects?

Yes, you may apply in two projects, for example as coordinator in one project and as a partner in another project as long as:

- the consortium composition for those two projects is different and
- both project proposals are submitted for the Community-Led Actions Open Call.

However, please be aware that while both projects could potentially be accepted for evaluation and selected for funding, the Open Call Terms & Conditions state that an entity can only receive a grant from BlueActionBANOS **once**. Consequently, if both projects are successful, your entity would have to participate in one of them without a budget (i.e., for €0).

1.7. Can I participate in both Open Calls: Community-Led Actions and 1st Transition Agendas?

As stated in the Terms & Conditions, an entity is permitted to participate in **only one** programme under BlueActionBANOS (each entity can receive grant funding from BlueActionBANOS only once). Therefore, you should decide from the outset whether to apply to the Community-Led Actions (CLAs) or the 1st Transition Agendas (1st TAs) Open Call. While it is not prohibited to submit proposals for both programmes, you must be aware of the consequences if both projects are selected for funding. In such a scenario, your entity would be forced to choose only one project, potentially causing the other project to fail due to the partner's inability to participate.

1.8. Is a published Gender Equality Plan required from coordinating partners only, or of all partners (that are public entities)?

A published Gender Equality Plan (GEP) is required of all organisations from EU or Associated countries, regardless of their role in the proposed project consortium.

GEP is mandatory for public bodies, universities, and research organisations.

1.9. Can the state institutions be part of the project ?

Yes, they can.

1.10. Can various research groups from one university apply as separate entities?

It depends on how the university is organised. By separate entities, we understand separate legal entities. Therefore, if various research groups operate under the same legal entity (university) and represent this entity, they will not be able to apply as separate entities.

1.11. Is there a specific type of entity that can act as the consortium Coordinator?

No, any type of entity can act on behalf of the consortium as Coordinator, depending on the consortium's needs.

1.12. How is “financial stability” understood?

Financial stability means that an applying entity is not under liquidation, in financial difficulty (definition: Article 2.18 of the [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014](#)), or excluded from receiving EU funding - in such cases, the entity is not eligible. We will also exclude companies in bankruptcy.

1.13. What kind of documents are required to confirm an entity's legal status and financial stability?

As stated in Terms&Conditions, finalists of the CLA open call will undergo a formal check to confirm their legal status (e.g., company registration, financial documents, ownership structure, tax ID, etc.). Therefore, to confirm your formal status and eligibility, we will ask you for (not an exhaustive list): entity's registration

document, tax ID number, ownership structure, financial statements, bank account details for grant payments. Documents must be provided within the given deadline (normally 3-7 working days) that we will communicate to you. If you fail to deliver the requested documents on time without a clear and reasonable justification, we will have to exclude you from further formal assessment.

2. Questions concerning technical matters

2.1. What is the submission platform?

The submission platform for both Project Idea Form and full proposal is OnePass - the open call management tool owned and managed by FundingBox Accelerator Sp. z o.o. You can submit your Project Idea Form via OnePass through this dedicated link.

2.2. What to do in case of technical issues with the submission platform?

If you experience any technical difficulties using the OnePass platform, as the first step, please check the [Frequently asked questions](#). If you require further assistance, you can contact OnePass helpdesk at support@getonepass.eu, or BluActionBANOS helpdesk email at BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com. If you are requesting technical support, please add screenshots wherever possible so that we can solve the issue as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

2.3. Can you submit a full proposal without the Project Idea Form and Consultation?

No, Project Idea Form and consultation are mandatory. You will not be able to access the full proposal form without completing the Project Idea Form and consultation first.

2.4. Would you still be invited to submit the full proposal if you need to make some changes to your project idea?

Yes, based on the consultation outcome, you can adapt your final approach in the full proposal form.

2.5. Do you also consult before the submission of Project idea Form?

Consultations about the specific project ideas are carried out only after the PIF is submitted. However, for general questions, you can reach out to the National Contact Point in the Project Consortium for your

country: <https://www.blueactionbanos.eu/contact/> or contact the general support email address: BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com.

3. Questions concerning support programme and funding

3.1. How will the Sub-Grant Agreement be signed if a CLA consortium includes e.g. 8 partners?

The Sub-Grant Agreement (SGA) will include the list of all the consortium partners, and every partner will have to sign the SGA. We will accept handwritten signatures or QES.¹

3.2. What is a lump sum?

The lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed from Horizon Europe funds. Under this method, you are not required to present strictly defined accounting documents to prove the cost incurred (e.g. invoices), but are obliged to demonstrate the implementation of the Action in line with the budget and milestones set for the Action in the Individual Integrated Project Plan (IIPP). The lump sum does not release you from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulations.

3.3. Are all types of entities funded 100%?

Yes, the funding rate for all types of entities is 100% of the budget indicated in the full proposal and later approved following its further development during Stage 1 of the support programme.

3.4. Are subcontracting costs eligible?

If an applicant wants to buy some works or services, he/she should consider this as a purchase cost and include it in the purchase costs category instead of subcontracting.

3.5. Is investment in infrastructure considered an eligible cost?

Yes, as long as they are directly connected to project implementation and necessary to achieve project goals. Also, they will need to be incurred for project duration and consider costs depreciation for the project period if investment is in a fixed asset that will be used outside project duration

¹ A qualified electronic signature - an electronic signature that is compliant with EU Regulation No 910/2014 (eIDAS Regulation).

3.6. Is it possible to combine this funding with other funding sources, e.g. national, to boost the impact of a restoration project?

Regarding the CLA open call, the Terms&Conditions state that for locally based companies, SMEs and startups, funding received under BlueActionBANOS cannot be in conflict with the State Aid rules.