

# BLUE ACTION BANOS

EMPOWERING  
SUSTAINABLE TRANSITIONS FOR  
BALTIC & NORTH SEA BLUE  
COMMUNITIES

## 2nd Open Calls Webinar

January 15, 2026



Funded by  
the European Union

[www.blueactionbanos.eu](http://www.blueactionbanos.eu)

# Maria Karpiłowska

Senior Project Manager

*FundingBox Accelerator*

A vertical strip on the right side of the slide shows an underwater scene. Sunlight rays filter down from the surface, illuminating a field of green seagrass at the bottom. A small, dark fish is visible swimming in the water above the seagrass.

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# Agenda

1. Vision & objectives of BlueActionBANOS and Mission Ocean
2. Overview of the Open Calls
3. How to carry out an eligibility self-assessment
4. Overview of the selection process
5. Evaluation criteria and the independent evaluation process
6. How to prepare for full proposal submission
7. Q&A

1.

## Vision & Objectives of BlueActionBANOS and Mission Ocean

Sonja Andrén

Innovation Leader

*Innovatum AB*

The BlueActionBANOS logo, featuring the text "BLUE ACTION BANOS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The word "ACTION" is stylized with a small house icon above the letter 'A'. The logo is set against a background of a fish swimming over a field of green seagrass.

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## Project Facts

- **18** Project Partners
- **11** Countries
- **48** Months (September '25 – August '29)
- **12.4** Million EUR Budget (Horizon Europe Programme)
- Coordinated by SUBMARINER Network For Blue Growth EEIG



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## Netherlands



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

## Norway



Norsk institutt for vannforskning

## Sweden



Swedish Environmental Research Institute

## Finland



## Latvia



LATVIJAS  
HIDROEKOLOĢIJAS  
INSTITŪTS

## Belgium



Coordination



## Estonia



## Lithuania



Klaipeda  
University

## Denmark



Food & Bio Cluster  
Denmark



## Germany



Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

## Poland



FundingBox  
#FundingChampions

UBC

UNION  
OF THE BALTIC  
CITIES



ERRIN  
European Regions  
Research and  
Innovation Network

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# MISSION LIGHTHOUSES

Mission lighthouses are sites to test, demonstrate, and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins.

They try out new ideas and involve local businesses and people in the process.



**EU MISSIONS**

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



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ATLANTIC - ARCTIC



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BALTIC & NORTH SEA



SOS2LearnDBS  
Danube - Black Sea

DANUBE-BLACK SEA

TASC  
RESTORE  
MED

MEDITERRANEAN





# BlueActionBANOS & Mission Ocean

Four-year project part of the EU Mission *Restore Our Ocean and Waters*.  
To **restore, protect, and preserve** the health of our ocean, seas, and inland waters by 2030.

Protect and restore marine  
and freshwater  
ecosystems and  
biodiversity.

Prevent and eliminate  
pollution of our oceans,  
seas, and waters.

Make the sustainable blue  
economy carbon-neutral  
and circular.



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# Mission Ocean and Project Objectives

- Aligned with **the EU Mission “Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030”** and the European Green Deal.
- To deliver and support measurable contributions to:
  - Biodiversity conservation
  - Pollution reduction
  - The transition to a climate-neutral, sustainable blue economy
- To facilitate the transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of Mission Ocean in the BANOS Lighthouse Area:
  - Scaling up solutions piloted in the early stages
  - Deploying them across a broader set of contexts and regions



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## Mission Ocean and Project Objectives

- Aligned with the “2030”
- To deliver
  - Biodiversity
  - Pollution
  - Threats
- To facilitate in the E
  - Scaling
  - Deploying them across a broader set of contexts and regions

**Mobilise & empower** diverse communities of actors with **practical, easily accessible support** to implement **innovative, high-impact actions** to restore our ocean, seas and waters.

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# BlueActionBANOS: Vision

Provide **targeted financial assistance**, **technical guidance**, and **strategic knowledge-sharing** to support the scale-up and deployment of Mission Ocean solutions within the **Baltic and North Sea Lighthouse Area**.

Community-Led  
Actions



Transition  
Agendas



Technical Assistance &  
Knowledge-Sharing

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2.

## Overview of the Open Calls

Maria Karpiłowska

Senior Project Manager

*FundingBox Accelerator*

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# Community-Led Actions

🌐 Initiatives led by **area-based or interest-based stakeholder groups within Baltic and North Sea (BANOS) countries that contribute to Mission Ocean and Waters objectives**

📋 Impactful solutions that are innovative for their community, presenting **participatory approach that empowers local stakeholders**, builds on their local know-how and application of sustainable practices, and **encourages their long-term commitment to Mission Ocean and Waters objectives.**

🤝 Eligible applicants are **consortia of 2 to 12 entities** registered in one or more BANOS countries

💰 Grants of up to **EUR 2M per Community-Led Action**, and **up to EUR 500k per one entity**

📅 Duration of support programme: up to 24 months

## Transition Agendas

🌐 Development of **strategic roadmaps for sustainable systemic shifts, targeting Mission Ocean and Waters objectives in the Baltic and North Sea.**

📋 Projects will develop **multi-year plans** for goals that support Mission Ocean and Waters objectives.

🤝 Eligible applicants are **individual entities or consortia of up to 3 entities** registered in one or more BANOS countries

💰 Grants of up to EUR **100k per Transition Agenda**, and **up to EUR 60k per one entity**

📅 Duration of support programme: up to 18 months

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# Basic rules

- Goals aligned with **Mission Ocean and Waters objectives**
- Applicants must be established in a **BANOS** country that is a Member State or Associated Country to Horizon Europe.
- Proposals may concern actions in one BANOS country or several BANOS countries
- **Impact** of proposed projects **must be within BANOS area**

An underwater photograph showing a school of small fish swimming above a dense field of green seagrass. Sunlight rays penetrate the water from the top right, creating a bright, hazy effect.

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3.

## How to carry out an eligibility self-assessment

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# Eligible applicants

1. **Which Community are you engaged in?**
2. **Is this Community relevant for BlueActionBANOS?**
3. **What type of entity are you?**
4. **Where are you established?**
5. **Will your project contribute to Mission Ocean and Waters goals?**
6. **Will the impact of your project be in the BANOS area?**
7. **Does your project fit into the type of eligible activities?**
8. **Check for potencial conflict of interest**

Check Open Call Terms&Conditions  <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>

# Eligible applicants

1. **Which Community are you engaged with?**
2. **Is this Community relevant for BlueActionBANOS?**

Ports, Islands, Fishing/aquaculture, Vessel operators, River basin/inland water groups (focusing on water management/pollution), Citizen education/science initiatives for monitoring/restoration, Indigenous/traditional knowledge groups, Blue tech/digital innovation communities (supporting observation, data sharing, or circular blue economy), Cultural heritage/maritime identity groups (promoting ocean literacy), Local financial institutions/cooperatives/impact investors, Enterprises fostering inclusion/skills/employment in the blue economy, Local Action Groups (CLLD), Waterfront cities/regional authorities (excluding overlap with Cities' Mission), Conservation/environmental groups, Tourism sector, Maritime infrastructure operators (including offshore energy), and **any other community within the BANOS area that could benefit from the impact of funded projects**



Check Open Call Terms&Conditions 🖱️ <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>



# Eligible applicants

## 3. What type of entity are you?

Regional/local authorities (including island/waterfront);

NGOs, foundations, professional associations focused on local development, nature conservation, environmental protection, sustainable marine resources, or blue economy;

Educational establishments, research organizations;

Locally based companies, SMEs, and startups (State Aid compliant);

Knowledge brokers, facilitating organizations;

Enterprises, cooperatives, and registered organizations fostering inclusion, skills, or sustainable blue economy;

Financial institutions or registered cooperatives supporting sustainable investments/local development;

**Any other legal entities in the relevant communities**

Check Open Call Terms&Conditions  <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>

# Eligible applicants

## 4. Where are you established?

Baltic and North Sea basin (BANOS) countries that, at the time of application, are Member States or Associated Countries to Horizon Europe:

**Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany,  
Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway,  
Poland and Sweden.**



Outside the BANOS area? - > must be justified! The project impact must be within BANOS area

Consortia: **the Coordinator's entity must be registered in a BANOS country**

Check Open Call Terms&Conditions 🖱️ <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>



## MISSION LIGHTHOUSES

Mission lighthouses are sites to test, demonstrate, and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins.

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**EU MISSIONS**

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



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**ATLANTIC - ARCTIC**



**BLUE ACTION BANOS**

**BALTIC & NORTH SEA**



**SOS2LearnDBS**  
Danube - Black Sea

**DANUBE-BLACK SEA**

**TASC RESTORE MED**

**MEDITERRANEAN**



# Eligible applicants

**5. Will your project contribute to Mission Ocean and Waters goals?**

**6. Will the impact of your project be in the BANOS area?**

**Protect and restore marine  
and freshwater  
ecosystems and  
biodiversity.**

**Prevent and eliminate  
pollution of our oceans,  
seas, and waters.**

**Make the sustainable blue  
economy carbon-neutral  
and circular.**

Check Open Call Terms&Conditions 🖱️ <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>



## 7. Activities eligible for financial support

Community-Led Actions	Transition Agendas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Re-naturalising coastal zones</b> and reducing artificial <b>surfaces</b> within and around port areas.</li><li>● Introducing <b>nature-based solutions</b> within port and coastal <b>environments</b>.</li><li>● <b>Establishing protected areas</b> or restoring natural <b>ecosystems</b> in riverine, lacustrine and marine coastal areas and ports.</li><li>● Designing and deploying solutions that <b>enhance coastal and riverine resilience to sea level rise and extreme weather events</b>.</li><li>● Supporting spatial and temporal management of coastal and fisheries activities to <b>reduce ecosystem pressure</b>.</li><li>● Promoting <b>nature-based infrastructure</b> to buffer coastal <b>communities</b> against climate-related risks.</li><li>● Supporting <b>local initiatives</b> for ecosystem-based planning and <b>stakeholder-led</b> resource management.</li><li>● Supporting <b>sustainable blue tourism practices</b>, especially from a multi-use perspective.</li><li>● ... <b>21 items more!</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Developing <b>integrated strategies for decarbonising coastal and port areas</b>, combining renewable energy deployment, clean fuel adoption, and electrification of port operations. Plans should include <b>stakeholder dialogues, policy mapping, and investment pathways</b>.</li><li>● Coordinating <b>multi-stakeholder decarbonisation roadmaps for maritime, riverine, and hinterland logistics</b>, including modal shifts, port-hinterland electrification, and collaboration across the transport chain to reduce emissions and improve efficiency.</li><li>● Designing <b>multi-annual action plans for circular blue economy practices</b>, including roadmaps for zero-waste seafood processing, innovative blue bioproduct valorisation, smart waste reuse systems, or closed-loop supply chains.</li><li>● Developing <b>multi-annual action plans for sustainable blue tourism, combining tourism with nature restoration, sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices</b>, and other relevant sectors.</li><li>● ... <b>14 items more!</b></li></ul>

### FULL LIST

OC Terms&Conditions, **Annex I**  <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>

# Eligible applicants

## 8. Check for potential conflict of interest (Col)

Capital or personal connections such as:

- **ownership** relations;
- **family and personal** relationships;
- **material, especially financial** relationships ;
- **employment, cooperation or existing civil contract**;
- 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.

- > 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.

All cases of Col will be assessed on a case-by –case basis.

Check Frequently Asked Questions  <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>

# Eligible applicants



## Can one entity apply with different consortia?

**Within one programme:** Yes, but 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).

**Within two different programmes:** one entity can participate in only one programme under BlueActionBANOS. 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.

4.

## Overview of the selection process

Maria Karpiłowska

Senior Project Manager

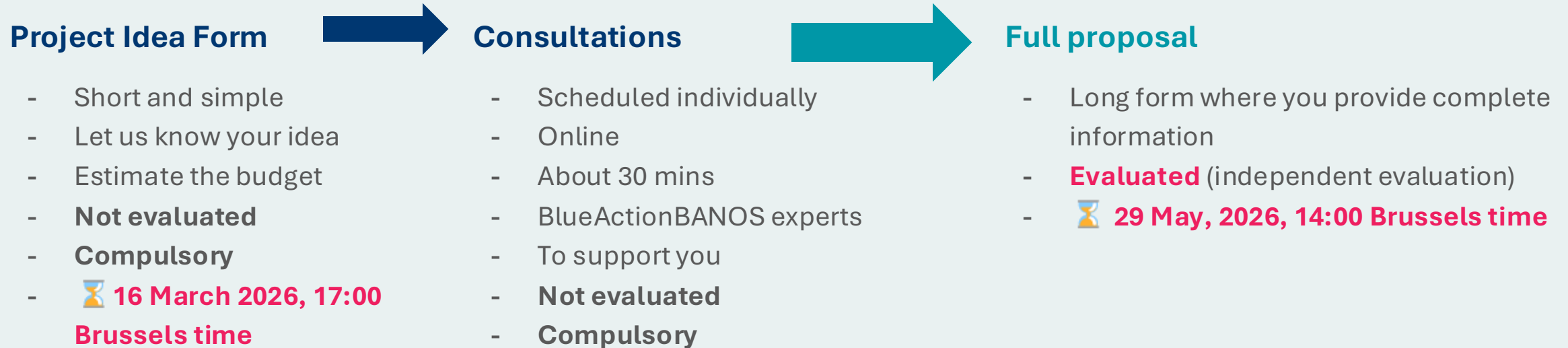
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# Application process



# Selection Process

The selection process consists of the following 5 steps:



5.

## Evaluation criteria and the independent evaluation process

Maria Karpiłowska

Senior Project Manager

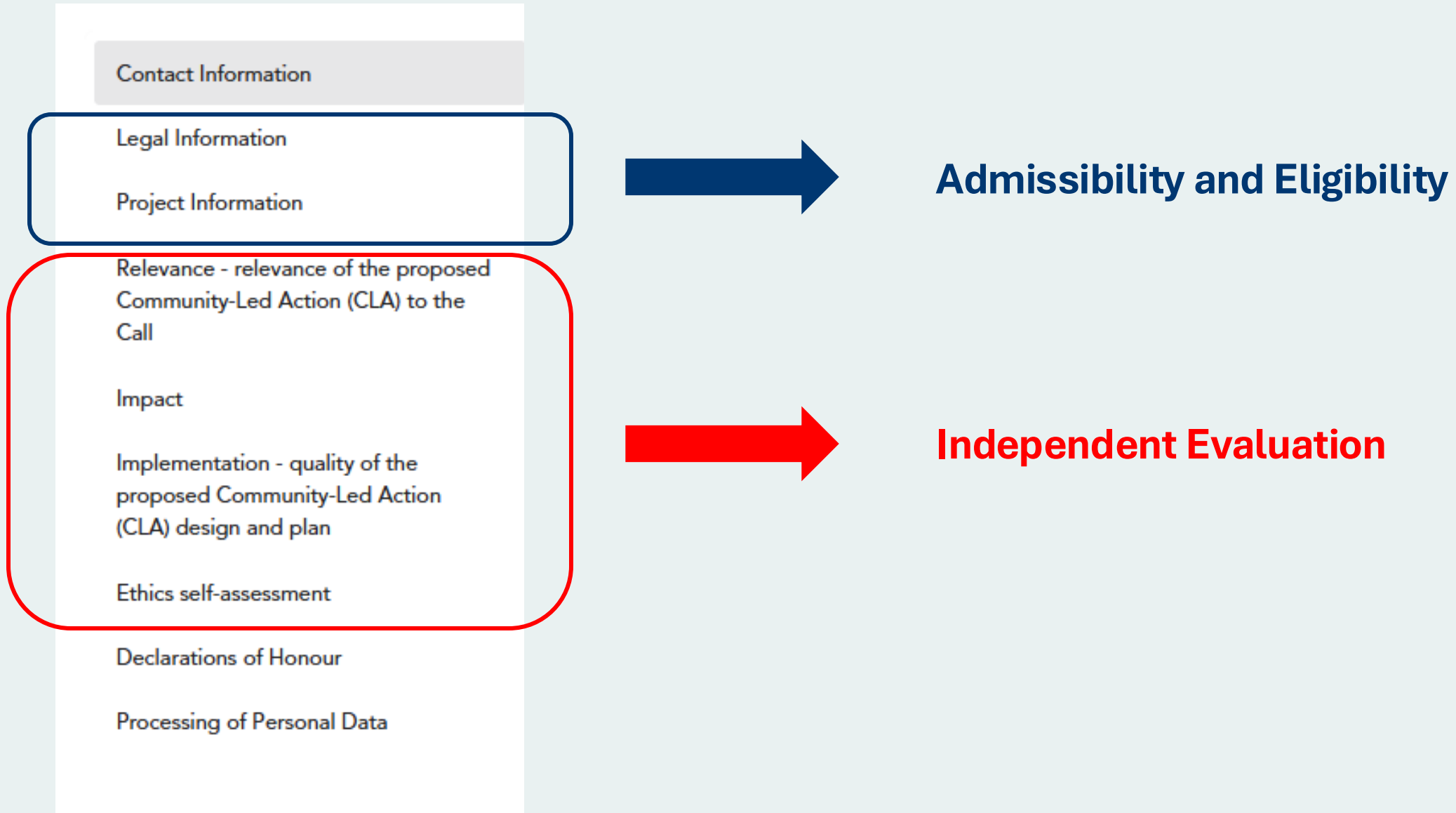
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# Full proposal form – 9 sections





# Independent Evaluation criteria

## (1) **RELEVANCE** - relevance of the proposed project to the Call

- Ambition - proposal's relevance to the Call objectives and expected results.
- Innovation *defined in relation to the area-based context of the proposed project*
- Soundness of the approach and credibility/ feasibility of the proposed methodology

## 2) **IMPACT**

- Measurable impact
- Societal impact
- Economic/Technological impact

## (3) **IMPLEMENTATION** - quality of the proposed project design and plan

- Work Plan
- Resources
- Team
- Stakeholder and/or citizen engagement

# Independent Evaluation process

Principles of **transparency, objectivity and fairness**

 Dual Evaluator System

 Complementary Expertise

 Unified Ranking

 Merit-Based Selection



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# Scoring

**Per criterion:** scale from 0 to 5

How adequately a criterion is addressed/ what are the shortcomings?

**0** Fail

**1** Poor

**2** Good

**3** Good

**4** Very good

**5** Excellent

**Final score per criterion:** average of the 2 scores/ threshold **3** points.

**Total score:** sum of scores per criterion/ threshold **10** points



Relevance	4
Impact	2.5
Implementation	4.5
TOTAL	11



Relevance	3
Impact	3.5
Implementation	3.5
TOTAL	10

# What happens next

## 1. Ranking List

All proposals that meet or exceed the required threshold

Optional Jury Day – only for Community-Led Actions

## 2. Consensus Meeting

- alignment with BlueActionBANOS goals and scope
- the ability to achieve the highest impact possible across the BANOS region
- significant ethical concerns or a potential conflict of interest

## 3. Invitation to formal check

*entity's registration document, tax ID number, ownership structure, financial statements, bank account details for grant payments*

## 4. Sub-grant Agreement signature



6.

## How to prepare for full proposal submission

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Senior Project Manager

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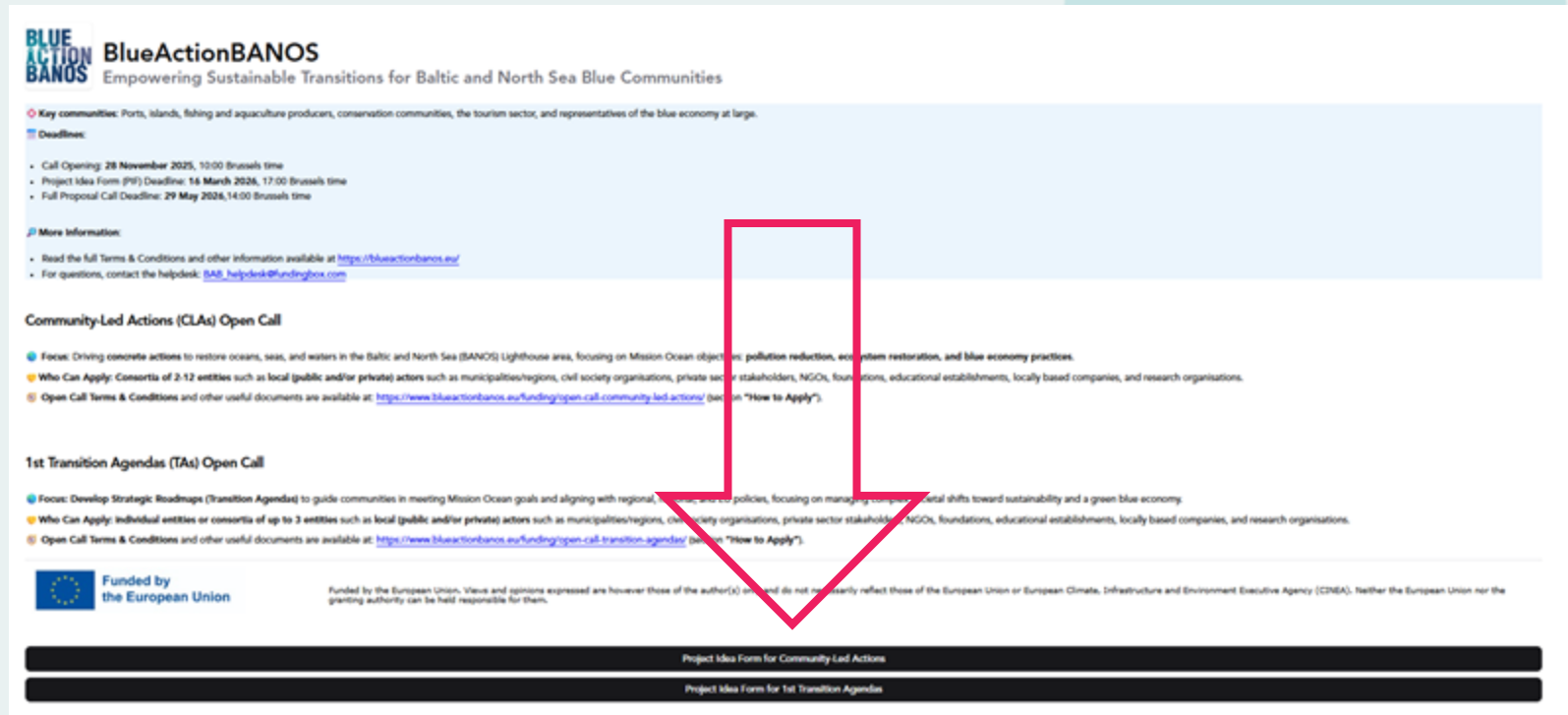
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# Before you start the application process

1. Visit our website <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>
2. 📖 Read Terms & Conditions!!!
3. Questions? Send and email to [BAB\\_helpdesk@fundingbox.com](mailto:BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com)

# To apply

1. Go to  
<https://opportunities.getonepass.eu/applications/bab/start>
2. Select the programme
3. Use the right button:
4. Register an account
5. Complete the form
6. Submit the form



**BLUE ACTION BANOS** BlueActionBANOS  
Empowering Sustainable Transitions for Baltic and North Sea Blue Communities

**Key communities:** Ports, islands, fishing and aquaculture producers, conservation communities, the tourism sector, and representatives of the blue economy at large.

**Deadlines:**

- Call Opening: 28 November 2025, 10:00 Brussels time
- Project Idea Form (PIF) Deadline: 16 March 2026, 17:00 Brussels time
- Full Proposal Call Deadline: 29 May 2026, 14:00 Brussels time

**More information:**


- Read the full Terms & Conditions and other information available at <https://blueactionbanos.eu/>
- For questions, contact the helpdesk: [BAB\\_helpdesk@fundingbox.com](mailto:BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com)

**Community-Led Actions (CLAs) Open Call**

- **Focus:** Driving concrete actions to restore oceans, seas, and waters in the Baltic and North Sea (BANOS) Lighthouse area, focusing on Mission Ocean objectives: pollution reduction, ecosystem restoration, and blue economy practices.
- **Who Can Apply:** Consortia of 2-12 entities such as local (public and/or private) actors such as municipalities/regions, civil society organisations, private sector stakeholders, NGOs, foundations, educational establishments, locally based companies, and research organisations.
- **Open Call Terms & Conditions** and other useful documents are available at: <https://www.blueactionbanos.eu/funding/open-call/community-led-actions/> (section "How to Apply").

**1st Transition Agendas (TAs) Open Call**

- **Focus:** Develop Strategic Roadmaps (Transition Agendas) to guide communities in meeting Mission Ocean goals and aligning with regional, national, and EU policies, focusing on managing complex societal shifts toward sustainability and a green blue economy.
- **Who Can Apply:** Individual entities or consortia of up to 3 entities such as local (public and/or private) actors such as municipalities/regions, civil society organisations, private sector stakeholders, NGOs, foundations, educational establishments, locally based companies, and research organisations.
- **Open Call Terms & Conditions** and other useful documents are available at: <https://www.blueactionbanos.eu/funding/open-call/transition-agendas/> (section "How to Apply").

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[Project Idea Form for Community Led Actions](#)

[Project Idea Form for 1st Transition Agendas](#)

# Key requirements

1. **No Project Idea Form** -> no consultation

- > no Full Proposal -> no evaluation -> **no**   

2. **Deadline for Project Idea Form – 16 March 2026 17:00 Brussels Time**

3. **Schedule a consultation**

4. **Start working on the Full Proposal**

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# Next steps

1. Follow our [website](#) and [LinkedIn](#)
2. Register for the upcoming webinars:  
<https://blueactionbanos.eu/news-events/events/>
3. Join our [BlueActionBANOS Community on BlueBioMatch](#)
4. Prepare your Project Idea and submit it before **16 March 2026, 17:00 CET**
5. Have a **consultation**
6. **Submit your full proposal** before **29 May 2026, 14:00 CET**



**Questions?**

[BAB\\_helpdesk@fundingbox.com](mailto:BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com)



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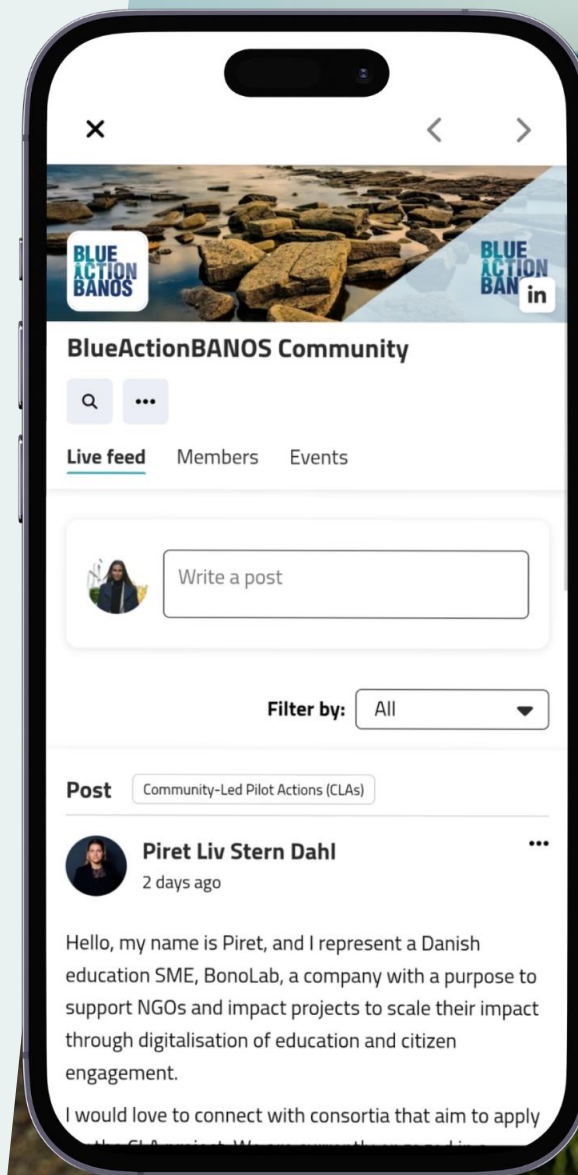
<https://qrco.de/beWskQ>

**Register on BlueBioMatch to  
join the BAB Community!**

## Join our BlueActionBANOS Community on BlueBioMatch!

Find relevant contacts, explore partnerships, and share updates related to our Calls for CLAs and TAs!

<https://bluebiomatch.hivebrite.com/topics/55370/feed>



7.

Q&A

An underwater photograph showing a small fish swimming above a field of green seagrass. Sunlight rays penetrate the water from the top right, creating a bright, hazy effect.

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# BLUE ACTION BANOS

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