



EMPOWERING
SUSTAINABLE TRANSITIONS FOR
BALTIC & NORTH SEA BLUE
COMMUNITIES

2nd Open Calls Webinar

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Funded by
the European Union

www.blueactionbanos.eu

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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

A photograph of an underwater scene with sunlight rays filtering down through the water, illuminating a patch of green seagrass. A small fish is visible in the background.

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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



Netherlands



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Belgium



BLUE
CLUSTER

VLIZ pioneer in
marine science

Norway



Norsk institutt for vannforskning

Sweden

Innovatum
science
park



Swedish Environmental
Research Institute

Finland



Latvia



LATVIJAS
HIDROEKOLOGIJAS
INSTITĀTS

Lithuania



**BLUE
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Coordination



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.



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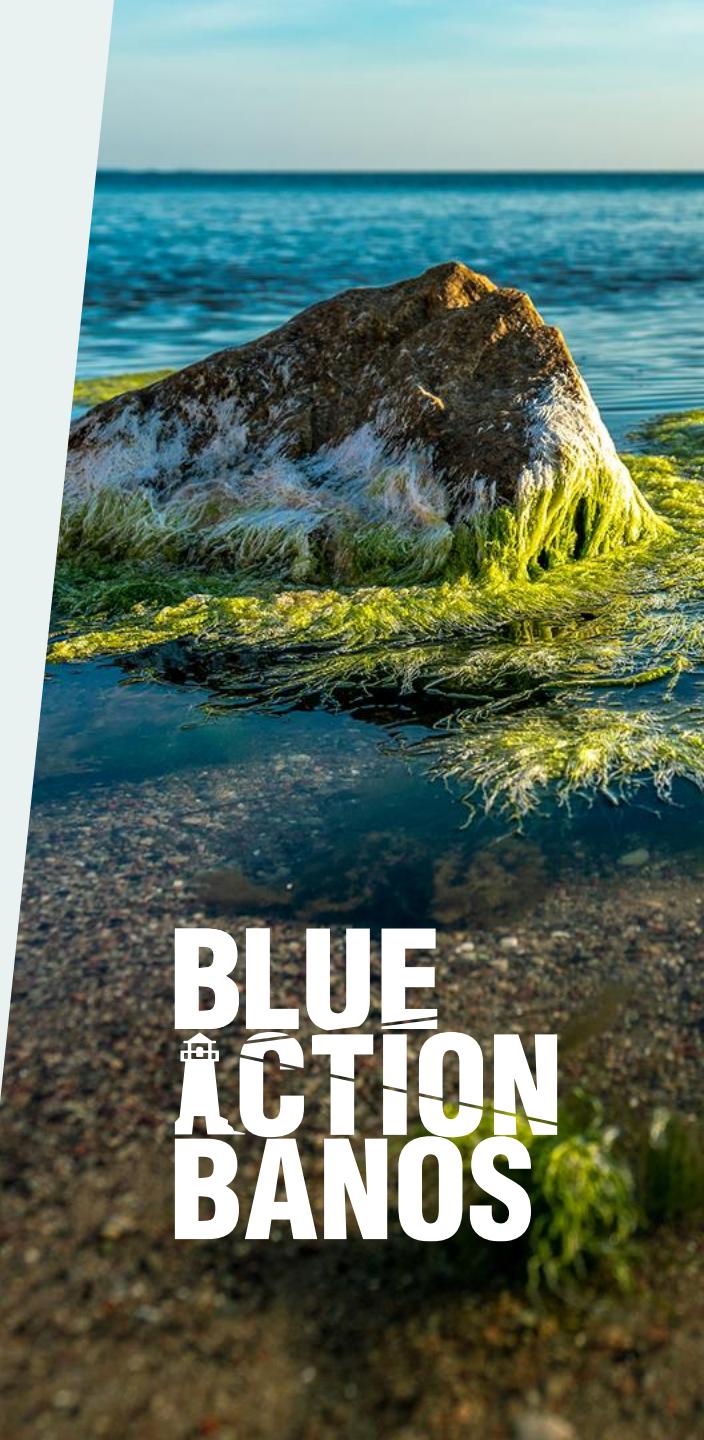
BlueActionBANOS & Mission Ocean

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



Mission Ocean and Project Objectives

- Aligned with the UN’s “Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2030”
- To deliver on the following areas:
 - Biodiversity
 - Pollution
 - The Blue Economy
- To facilitate the scaling up of actions in the Blue Economy
 - Scaling up existing actions
 - 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



2.

Overview of the Open Calls

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Senior Project Manager

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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



BLUE ACTION BANOS

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**



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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 potential conflict of interest**

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**



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

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.

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



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

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

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FundingBox Accelerator



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Application process



Project Idea Form

- Short and simple
- Let us know your idea
- Estimate the budget
- **Not evaluated**
- **Compulsory**
-  **16 March 2026, 17:00 Brussels time**

Consultations

- Scheduled individually
- Online
- About 30 mins
- BlueActionBANOS experts
- To support you
- **Not evaluated**
- **Compulsory**

Full proposal

- Long form where you provide complete information
- **Evaluated** (independent evaluation)
-  **29 May, 2026, 14:00 Brussels time**

Selection Process

The selection process consists of the following 5 steps:



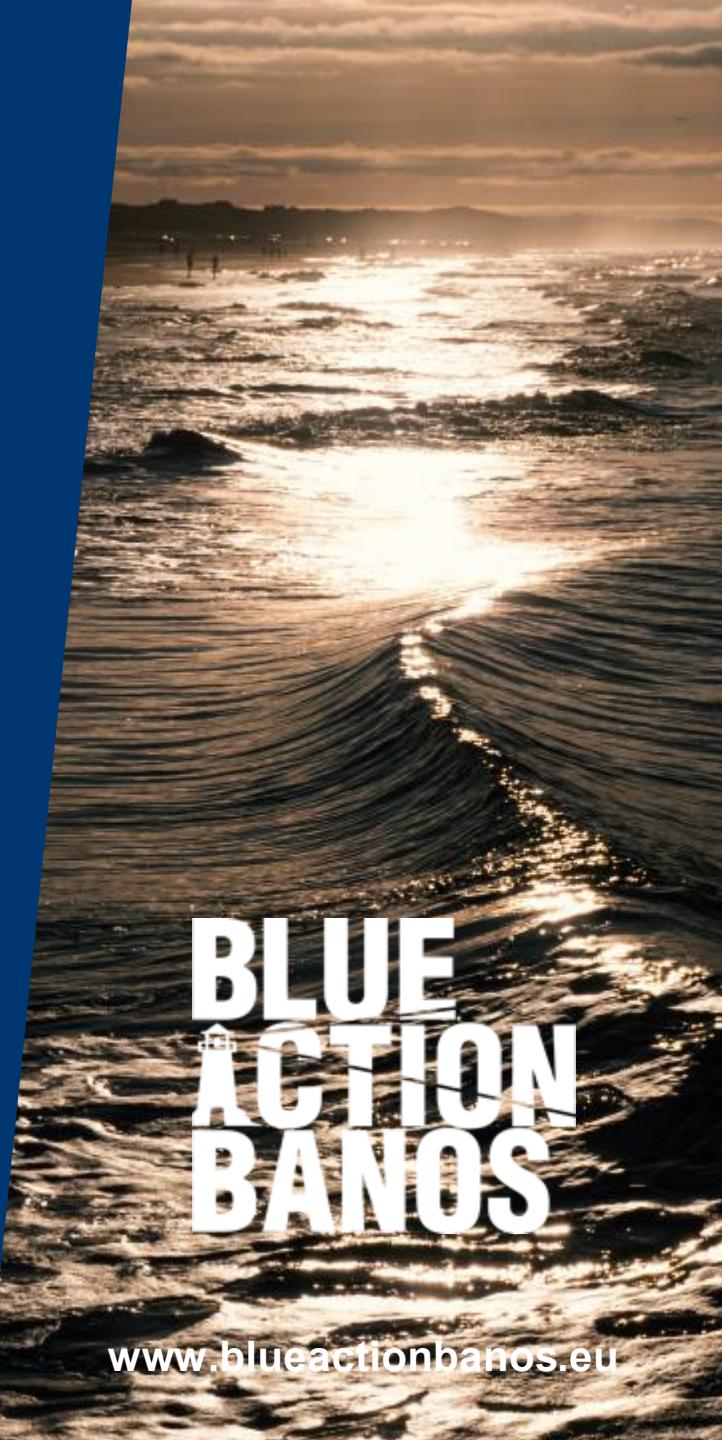
5.

Evaluation criteria and the independent evaluation process

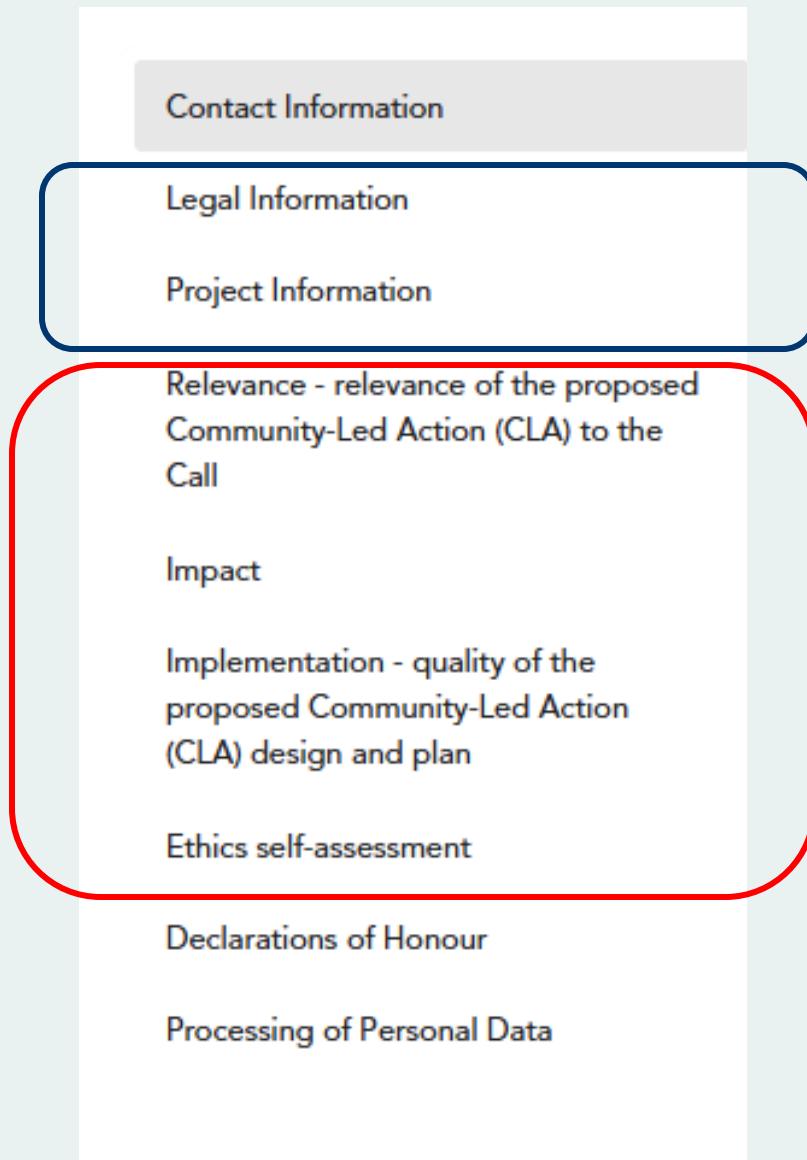
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Full proposal form – 9 sections



Admissibility and Eligibility

Independent Evaluation

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



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 1 0 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

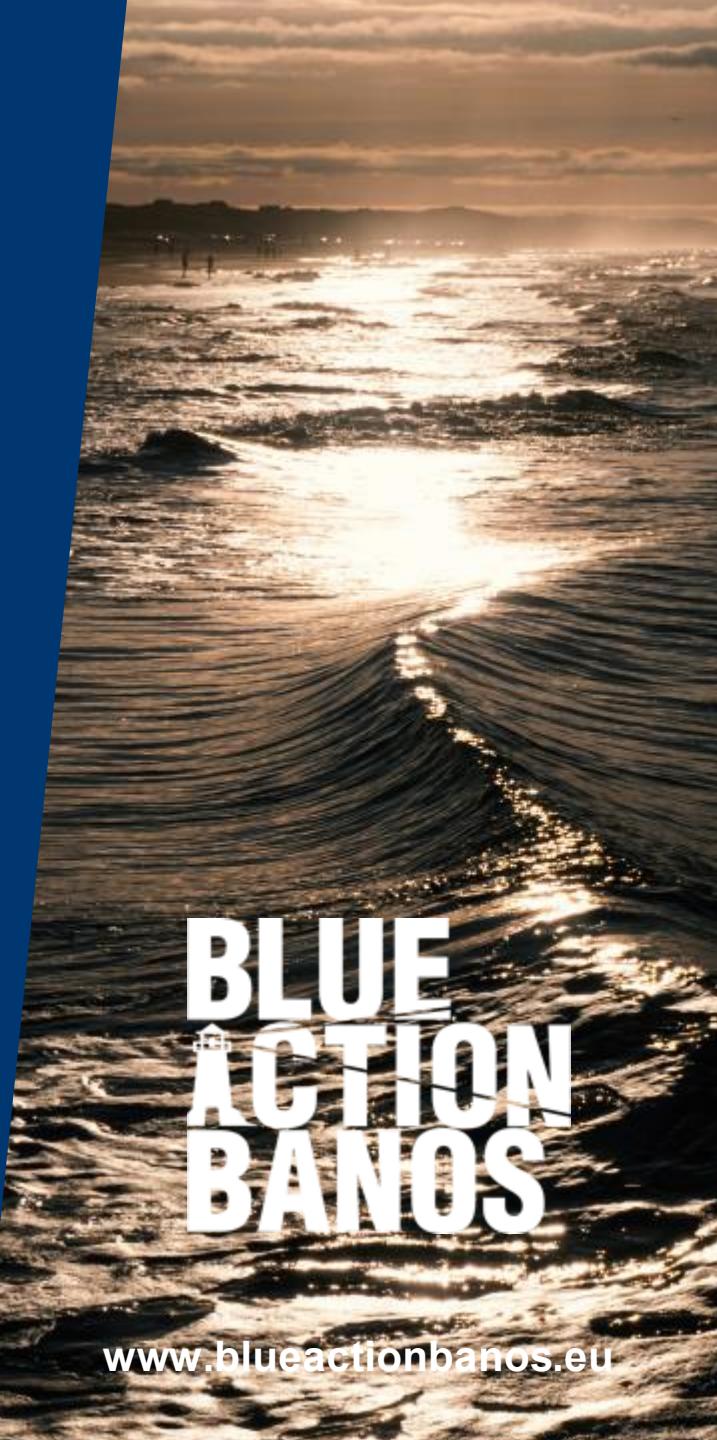
6.

How to prepare for full proposal submission

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Senior Project Manager

FundingBox Accelerator



Before you start the application process

1. Visit our website <https://blueactionbanos.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/>
2.  Read Terms & Conditions!!!
3. Questions? Send an email to BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com



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To apply

1. Go to

<https://opportunities.getonepass.eu/applications/bab/start>

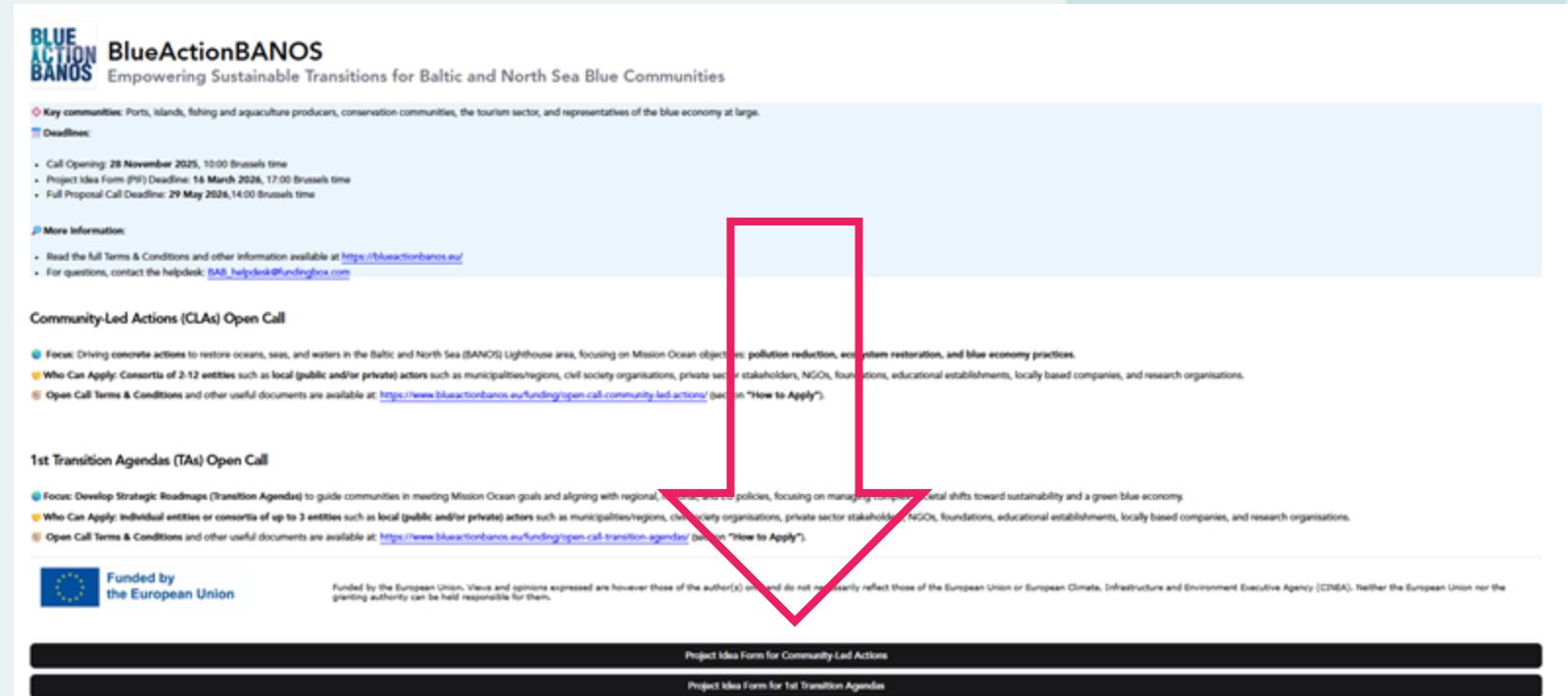
2. Select the programme

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 (PI) 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: BAI_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 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



Follow us on
LinkedIn!

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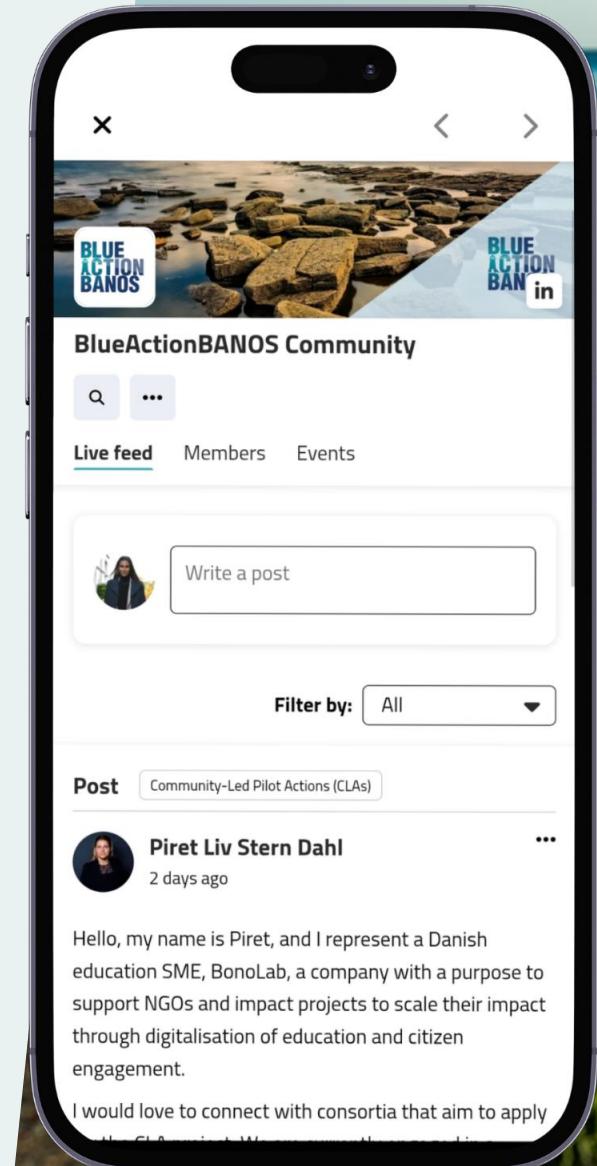
<https://qrco.de/beWskQ>

**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



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