



EMPOWERING
SUSTAINABLE TRANSITIONS FOR
BALTIC & NORTH SEA BLUE
COMMUNITIES

Open Calls Webinar

December 10, 2025



Funded by
the European Union

www.blueactionbanos.eu

Maria Karpiłowska

Senior Project Manager

FundingBox Accelerator



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Agenda

- 1. Vision & objectives of BlueActionBANOS and Mission Ocean**
- 2. Types of Projects and Activities Eligible for Financial support**
- 3. Application and Evaluation Process**
- 4. Key Requirements for Successful Applications**
- 5. Q&A**



1.

Vision & Objectives of BlueActionBANOS and Mission Ocean

Alberto Terenzi

Team Lead, Innovation Support and Blue Skills

SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG

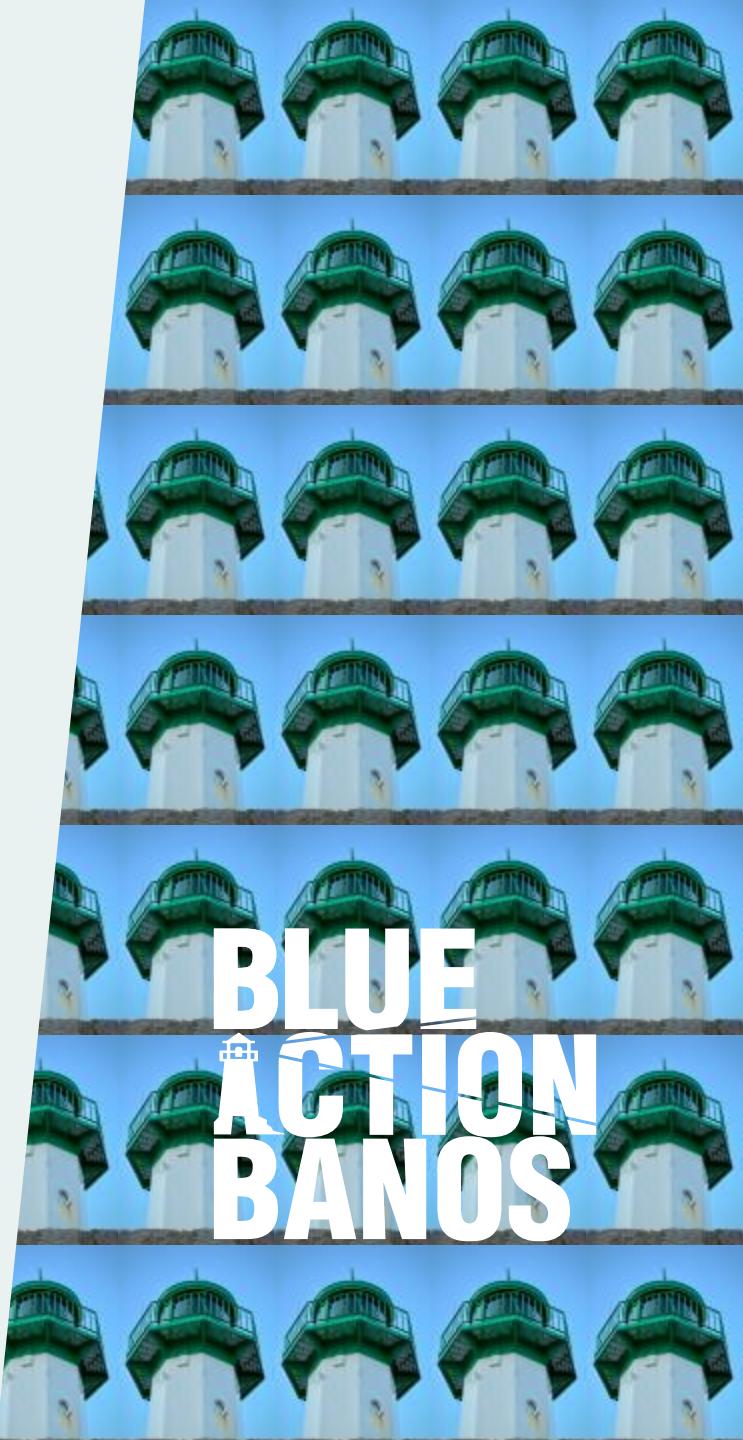


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Project Facts

- **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
INSTITŪTS

Lithuania



**BLUE
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Coordination



Denmark



Food & Bio Cluster
Denmark



Germany



Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Poland



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#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.



ATLANTIC - ARCTIC



BALTIC & NORTH SEA



DANUBE-BLACK SEA



MEDITERRANEAN

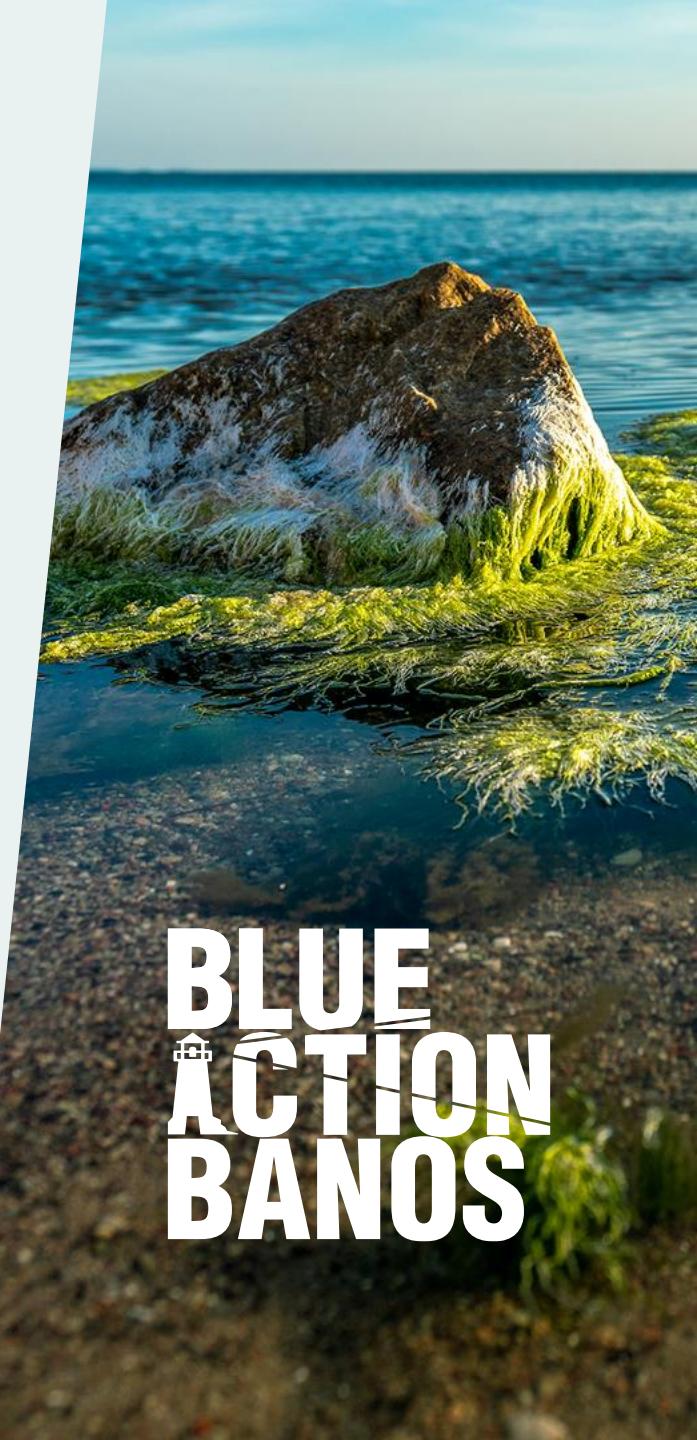
BlueActionBANOS & Mission Ocean

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 UN Sustainable Development Goals 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



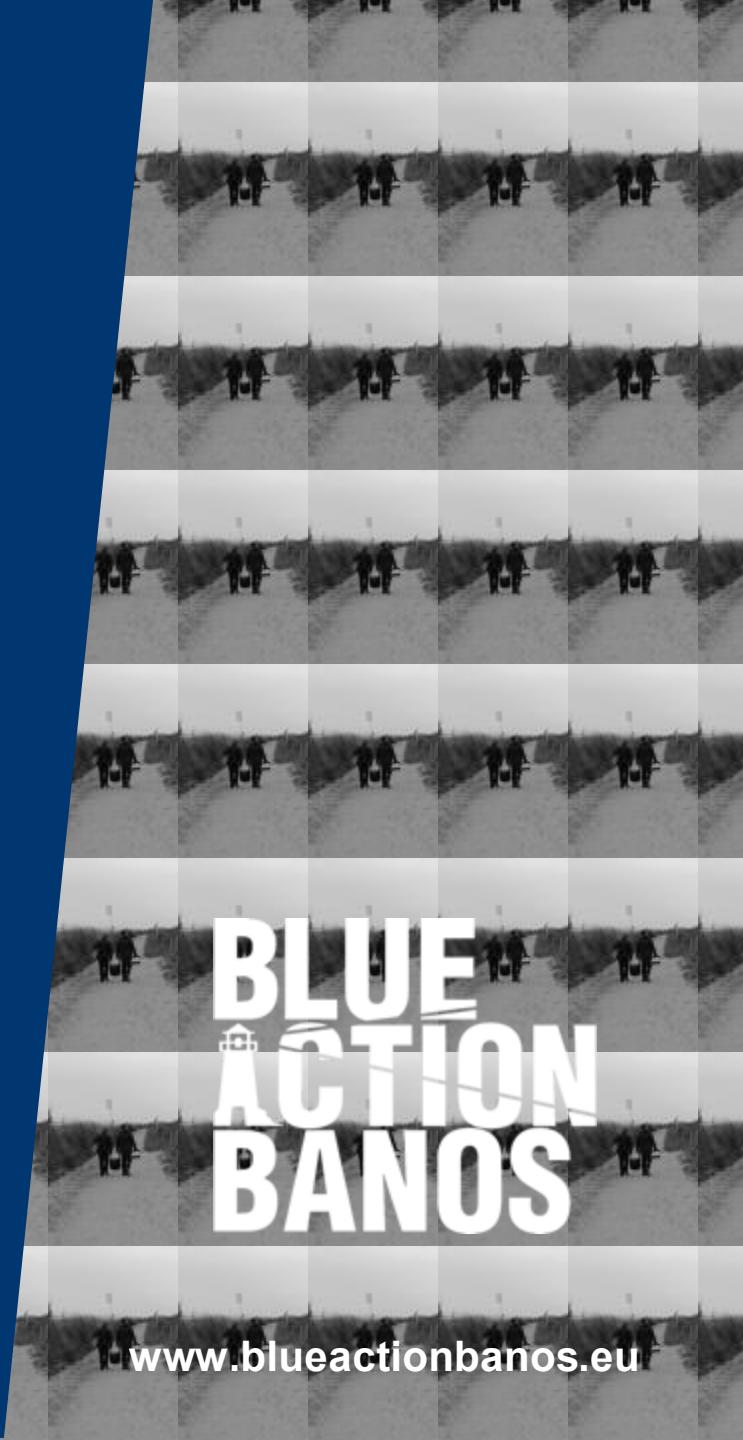
2.

Types of Projects and Activities Eligible for Financial Support

Maria Karpiłowska

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

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Basic rules

- Goals aligned with **Mission Ocean 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**

A photograph of an underwater environment. Sunlight rays filter down from the surface, creating bright highlights on the sandy ocean floor and illuminating a small school of fish swimming through a patch of green seagrass.

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Eligible applicants

Types of actors

- Regional and local authorities
- **NGOs, foundations, professional associations**, and other entities engaged in **local development and nature conservation activities**
- Educational establishments
- Locally based companies (provided this is not in conflict with the State Aid rules)
- Research performing organisations

Fishing communities, aquaculture producers and other representatives of blue economy -
Local Action Groups described by the Community-Led Local Development strategies -
Waterfront cities or regions / communities (avoiding overlaps with Cities' Mission) -
Maritime infrastructure operators (incl. offshore platforms and their operators) -

Ports (including inland ports) -
Islands -
Operators of various vessels -
Conservation communities -
Representatives of the tourism sector -

Communities

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/>

We will also provide:



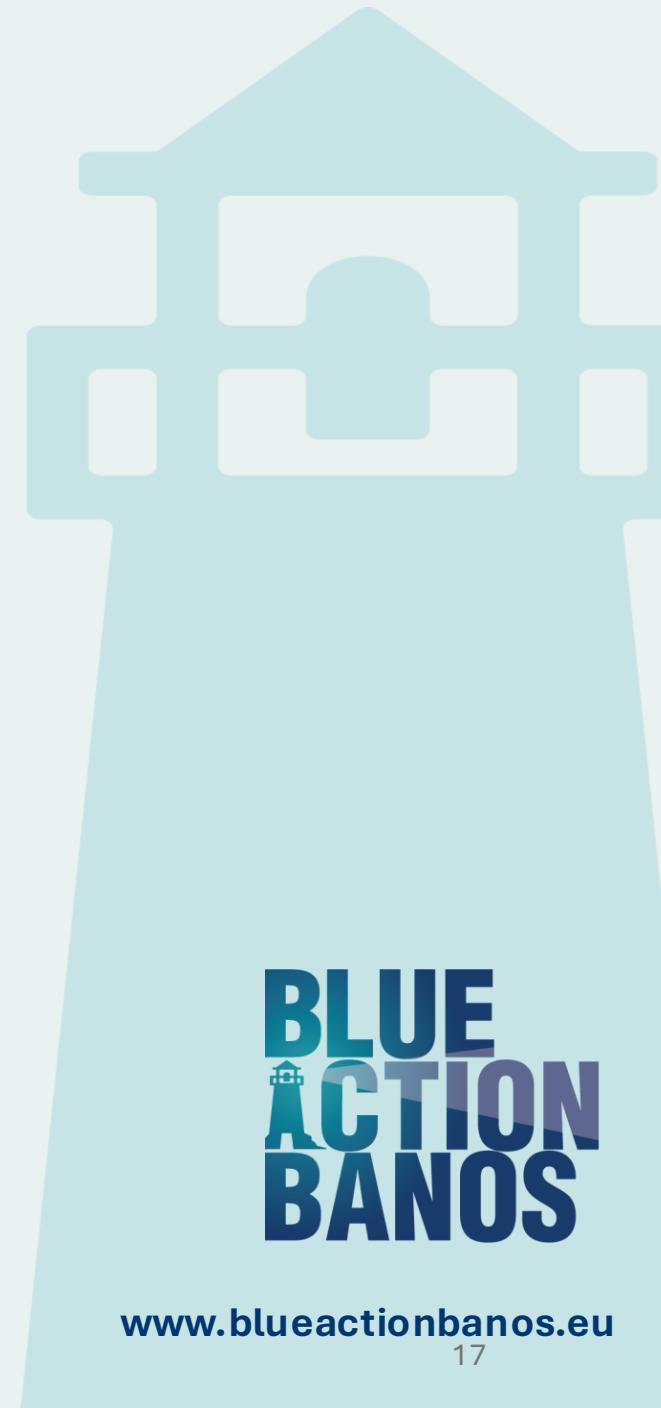
Networking and collaboration



Further financing opportunities



Monitoring & evaluation



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3.

Application and Selection Process

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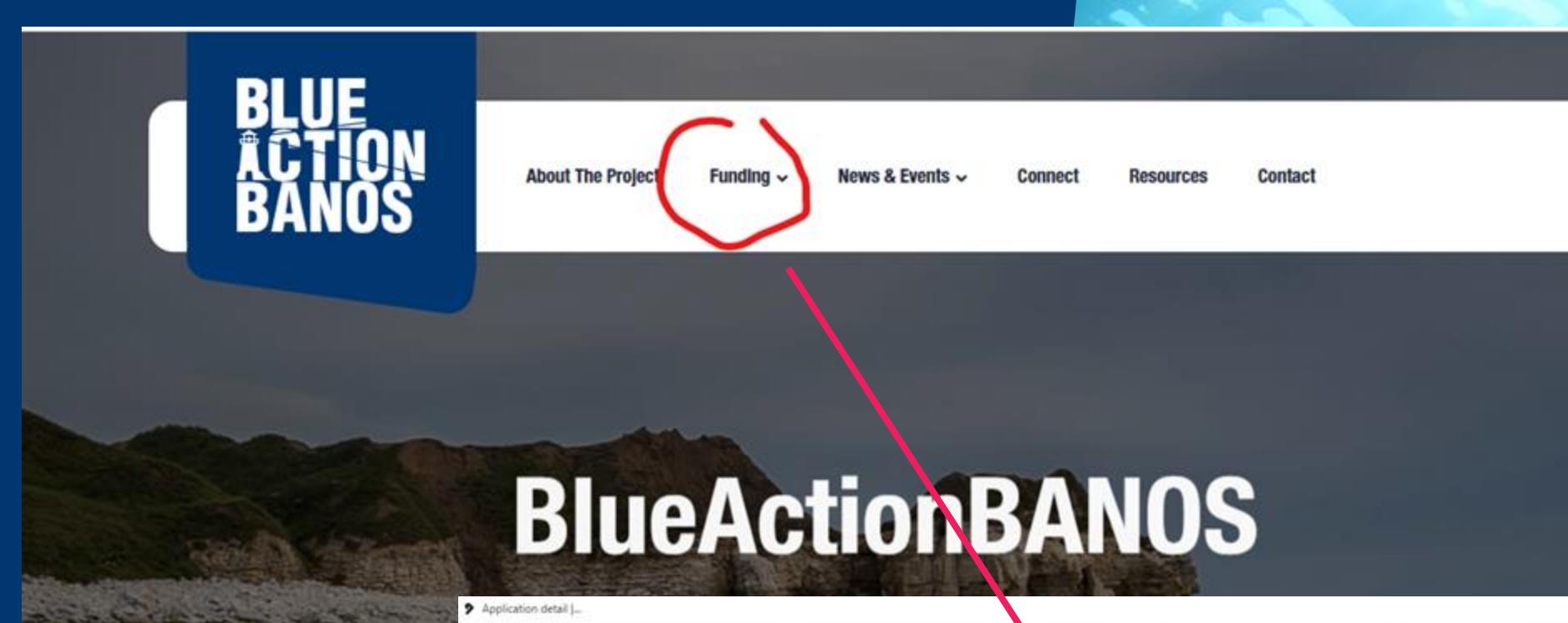
Senior Project Manager

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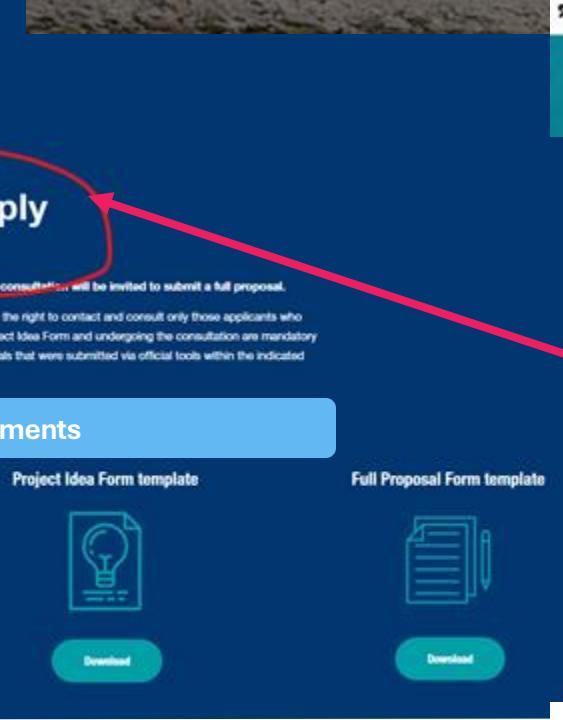


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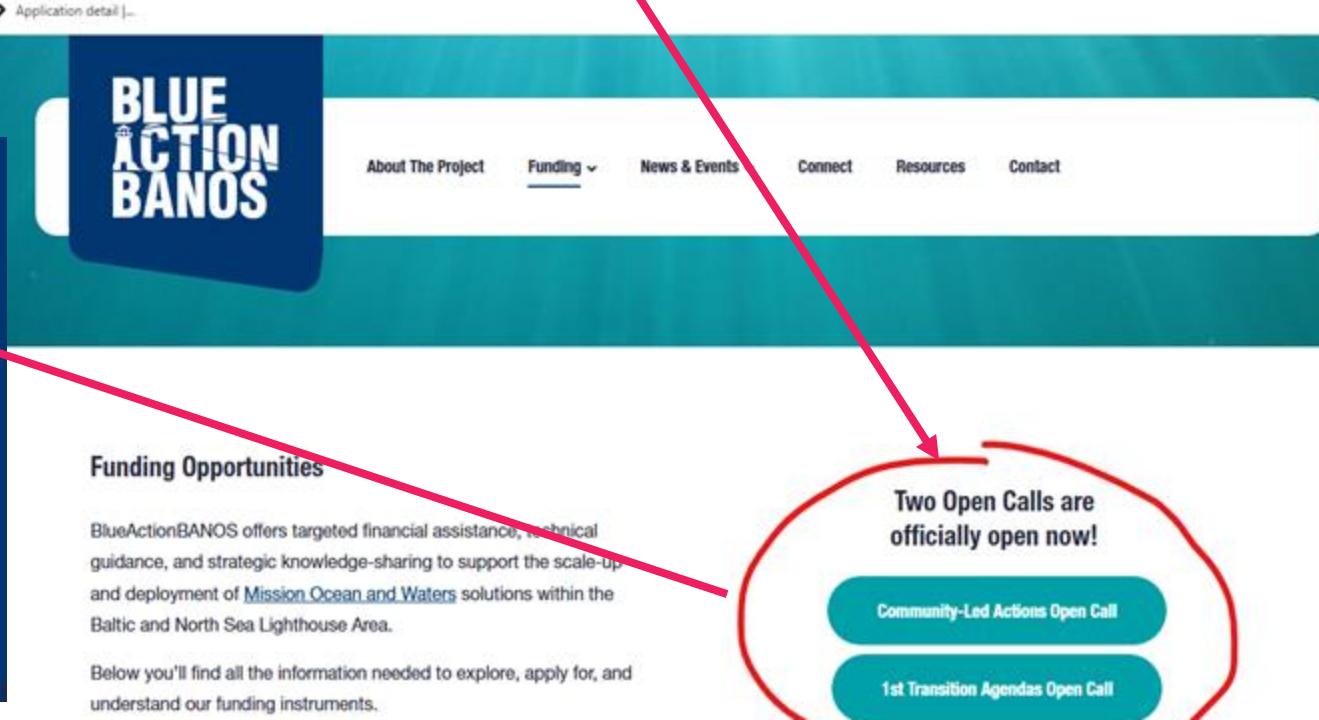
How to Apply

Only projects that submit the Project Idea Form and go through the individual consultation will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The Project Idea Form must be submitted by 16 March 2026, 17:00 CET. We reserve the right to contact and consult only those applicants who submit complete and full information in the Project Idea form. While submitting the Project Idea Form and undergoing the consultation are mandatory steps, these are not subject to evaluation. We will evaluate only complete full proposals that were submitted via official tools within the indicated deadline.

Open Call Documents

- FAQ
- Project Idea Form template
- Full Proposal Form template



Funding Opportunities

BlueActionBANOS offers targeted financial assistance, technical guidance, and strategic knowledge-sharing to support the scale-up and deployment of [Mission Ocean and Waters](#) solutions within the Baltic and North Sea Lighthouse Area.

Below you'll find all the information needed to explore, apply for, and understand our funding instruments.

Two Open Calls are officially open now!

- Community-Led Actions Open Call
- 1st Transition Agendas Open Call

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



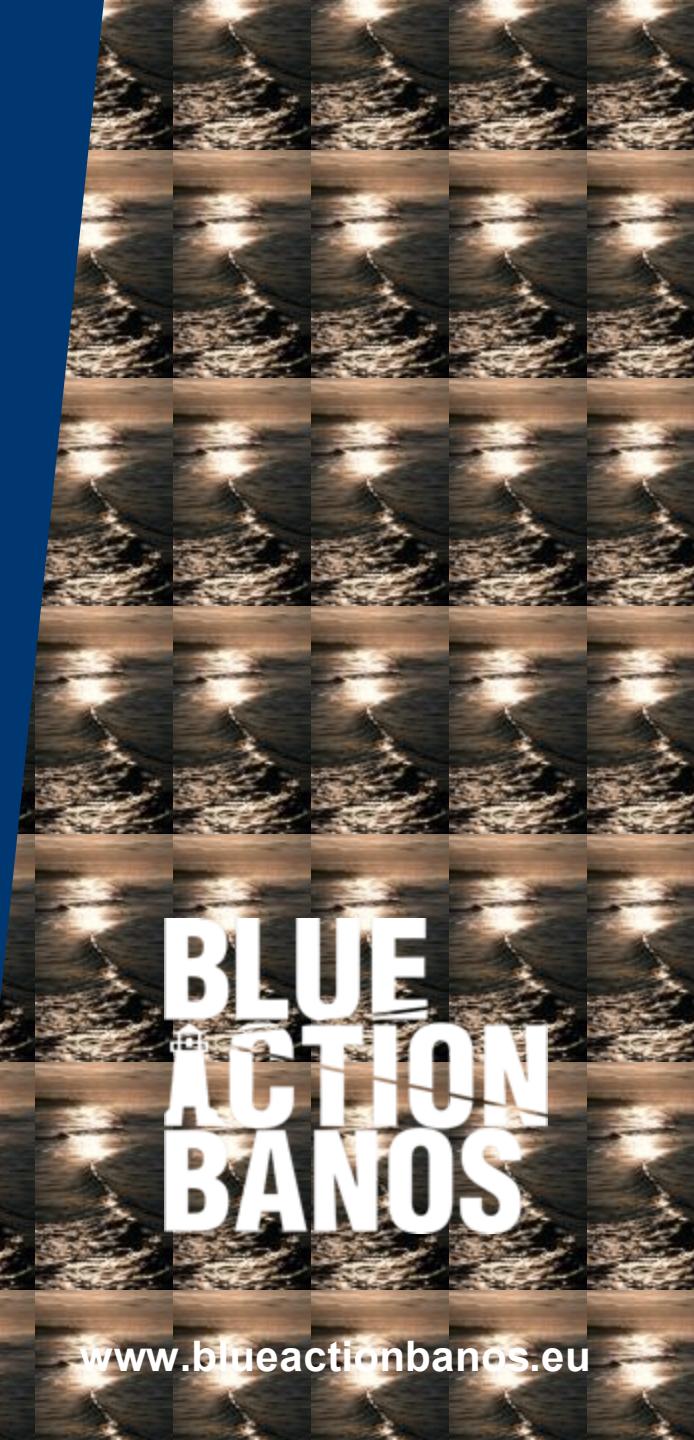
4.

Key Requirements for Successful Applications

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Senior Project Manager

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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



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To apply

1. Go to

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

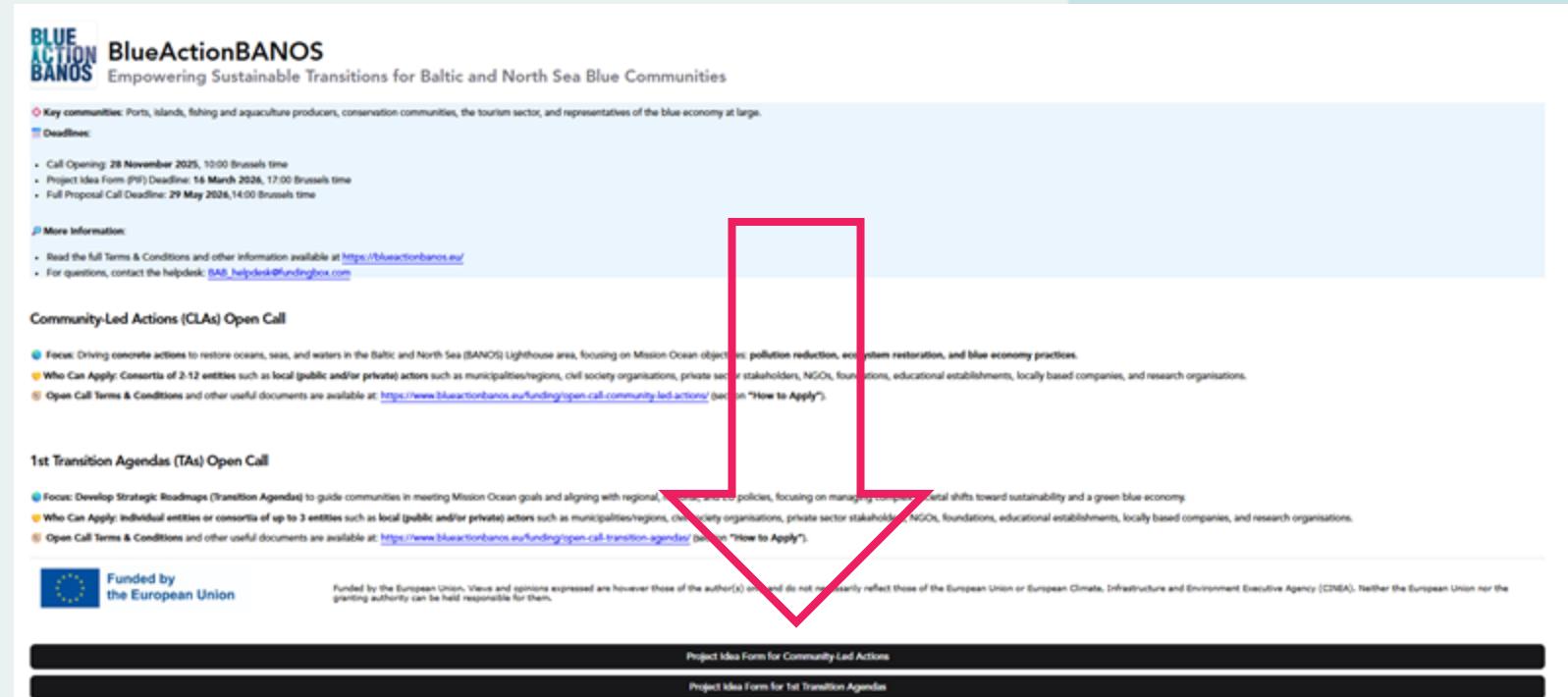
2. Select the programme

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. Both Project Idea and Full Proposal forms must be completed **in English**.
2. Both Project Idea and Full Proposal forms must include **complete, true and up to date information**.
3. **No Project Idea Form** -> no consultation
 - > no Full Proposal -> no evaluation -> **no** 

- 1. Deadlines**
- 2. Mission Ocean and Waters goals, impact in BANOS region**
3. No Conflict of Interest
4. Financial stability
5. Original work
- 6. Gender Equality Plan (Full Proposal)**



Next steps

1. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)
2. [Register](#) for the 2nd webinar - **16 Dec., 10:00 - 11:30 CET**
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
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5.

Q&A

A photograph of an underwater environment. Sunlight rays filter down from the surface in the upper right corner, illuminating a patch of green seagrass in the foreground. A small, dark fish is visible swimming near the seagrass.

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