BlueActionBANOS
1st Transition Agendas Open Call
Terms & Conditions

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

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

Version 1, Nov 28, 2025

Open Call Terms and Conditions for BlueActionBANOS
1st Transition Agendas (1st TAs)

Open Call Terms and Conditions

Welcome to the BlueActionBANOS 1st Transition Agendas Open Call Terms and Conditions (also Terms or Guide). This document outlines the rules for participation in the 1st Transition Agendas Open Call, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant amount, timeline, submission rules, and the evaluation process.

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

BlueActionBANOS Open Call Team wishes you the best of luck!

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1. OPEN CALL BASIC CONDITIONS

Section	Description
Call opening date	**28 November 2025 10:00 (Brussels time)**
Project Idea Form submission deadline	16 March 2026 17:00 (Brussels time)
Call deadline	**29 May 2026 14:00 (Brussels Time)**
About the opportunity	The BlueActionBANOS 1st Transition Agendas Open Call funds development of strategic roadmaps for sustainable systemic shifts, targeting Mission Ocean and Waters[1] objectives in the Baltic and North Sea. Projects will develop multi-year plans for areas like decarbonising coastal zones, circular blue economy, sustainable blue tourism, ecosystem-based fisheries management, marine restoration, and climate adaptation, plastic and nutrient pollution reduction and other goals that support Mission Ocean and Waters objectives. Eligible applicants are individual entities or consortia of up to three, registered in one or more BANOS countries, including regional/local authorities, NGOs, educational establishments, local companies, and/or research organisations.

Project scope - type of activities that can be funded	Activities that can be funded under Transition Agendas include development of strategic roadmaps that:
	
	● build a structured, actionable and implementable multi-year plan (for a defined number of years) covering expected steps, timeline, and resources allocated to achieve the defined goals grounded in one or more Mission Ocean and Waters objectives:
	
	  ○ protection and restoration of marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity;
	  ○ prevention and elimination of pollution of our oceans, seas and waters;
	  ○ making the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular;

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[1] EU's 'Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030' initiative (Mission Ocean and Waters)

	● mobilise local communities to integrate their efforts with regional, national and EU policy makers and, where relevant, the private sector; ● foster new networks, partnerships, social learning and collaborations for a coordinated approach across sectors, redefining how local governments and citizens collaborate to achieve shared sustainability goals. For a more detailed description of the type of activities that can be funded, please check Annex I.
Max. grant amount	The **max. grant amount** is up to **EUR 100 000.00** per Transition Agenda, **based on the budget included in the full proposal form.** The maximum amount to be granted to each third party within the Transition Agenda can be up to EUR 60 000.00. The total amount you list will be fixed and will determine the grant you'll receive. The funding rate is 100% of the budget included in your full proposal form. The grant will be paid as a lump sum[2].
Number of grants and total funding available	We will support ~10 Transition Agendas (projects) in this Open Call. The total budget available for this Open Call is EUR 1 000 000.00.
Support programme	Support programme for Transition Agendas (TAs) covers: ● **Financial support** based on project budget. ● **Ongoing support** provided by dedicated Project Key Accounts and tailored technical assistance, defined during onboarding workshops, for a maximum duration of 18 months.

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[2] The lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed from Horizon Europe Programme funds. It means that the subgrantee is not required to present strictly defined accounting documents to prove the cost incurred (e.g., invoices) but is obliged to demonstrate that the implementation of the project is in line with the milestones set for it. The lump sum does not release the Beneficiary from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under the fiscal regulation.

	● **Technical Assistance** will be provided by the BlueActionBANOS consortium tailored to the specific needs and context of each funded Transition Agenda, leveraging the collective expertise of the consortium and drawing on best practices and advances from the multitude of other European projects and initiatives related to the Mission Ocean and Waters. Funded Transition Agendas will be able to benefit from individual counselling, in-depth sessions, expert and peer-to-peer reviews, workshops, webinars and training to empower them with the skills, knowledge, and motivation needed to implement their projects successfully.
Duration of the Support Programme	The Grant is offered together with the BlueActionBANOS Support programme. Our Programme for Transition Agendas lasts **18 months at maximum.**
Who can apply?	Transition Agendas can be proposed by individual entities or consortia of up to 3 entities. Applicants should be registered[3] in **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. Applicants from EU Member States[4] and Horizon Europe Associated Countries outside the BANOS area will be eligible in special cases, where justified. Even if partners from other regions are part of the Consortium, the impact of the proposed Transition Agendas must be within the BANOS area. In the case of applications by a consortium, each Transition Agenda consortium must appoint an entity which will act on behalf of the consortium as the consortium Coordinator. The Coordinator's entity must be registered in a Baltic and North Sea basin (BANOS) country. Types of entities in the communities listed below that can apply for the support (individually or within the Transition Agenda team/consortium): ● Regional and local authorities (including island and waterfront authorities);

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[3] Registration date must be no later than the full proposal submission date.

[4] Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 15th December 2022, no legal commitments can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in this open call. In case of consortium, co-applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

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- Non-governmental organisations, foundations and professional associations engaged in local development,nature conservation, environmental protection, sustainable use of marine resources, or blue economy activities;
- Educational establishments, research performing organisations and/or similar;
- Locally based companies, SMEs and startups (provided this is not in conflict with the State Aid rules);
- Knowledge brokers, facilitating organisations;
- Enterprises, cooperatives, and other registered organisations fostering inclusion, skills development, or sustainable blue economy activities;
- Financial institutions or registered cooperatives supporting sustainable investments or local development initiatives;
- any other legal entities in the below-described communities.

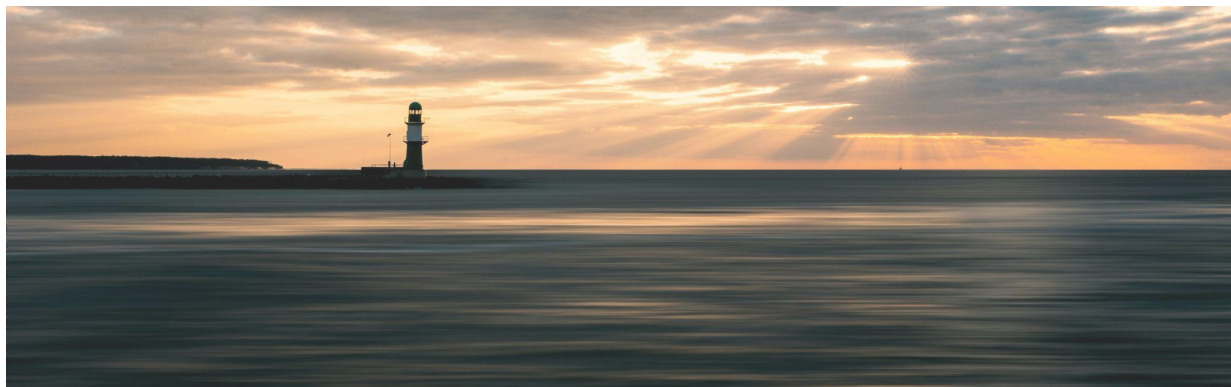Types of communities relevant to the Transition Agendas Open Call:

- Ports (including inland ports);
- Islands authorities and communities;
- Fishing and aquaculture communities, producers, processors, retailers and manufacturers, and other representatives of blue economy;
- Operators of various vessels;
- River basin and inland water communities engaged in water management and pollution reduction;
- Citizen education, science and community innovation initiatives contributing to marine or freshwater monitoring or restoration;
- Indigenous and traditional knowledge communities involved in sustainable use and stewardship of marine and freshwater resources;
- Blue tech and digital innovation communities contributing to ocean observation, data sharing, or circular blue economy;
- Cultural heritage and maritime identity communities promoting ocean literacy and traditional connections to the sea;
- Local financial institutions, cooperatives, and impact investors supporting sustainable blue investments;
- Social enterprises and organisations fostering inclusion, skills, and employment in the blue economy;
- Local Action Groups described by the Community-Led Local Development strategies;
- Waterfront cities/regional authorities and communities (avoiding overlaps with Cities' Mission)[5];
- Conservation and environmental protection communities;

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[5] To prevent double funding, activities must not overlap with actions already financed under the EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, for which cities, local, or regional authorities may have previously received support.

	● Representatives of the tourism sector; ● Maritime infrastructure operators (including offshore wind, wave/tidal energy, and similar infrastructure and their operators); ● Any other community within the BANOS area that could benefit from the impact of funded Transition Agenda(s). Proposed Transition Agendas must be focused on the BANOS area. Proposals may concern actions in one BANOS country only or in several BANOS countries.

How to apply?	Our application process involves 2 steps:
	
	1) **Compulsory submission of a short Project Idea Form followed by individual consultation**. Submit your Project Idea via our online form. **Project Idea Forms must be submitted by 16 March 2026 17:00 (Brussels time).** Upon submission of the Project Idea Form, you will be contacted to schedule an individual online consultation to present your idea for the Transition Agenda. **We reserve the right to contact and consult only those applicants who submit complete and full information in the Project Idea form.** During the consultation, you may be advised on:
	  a) General fit of the project idea with the BlueActionBANOS funding programme and its goals;
	  b) Project maturity - whether your idea is developed enough for a Transition Agenda;
	  c) Integration of innovative approaches - how to better integrate existing innovative approaches from relevant communities to your ideas;
	  d) Collaboration opportunities: how to potentially collaborate with other applicants from within your country and/or across the Baltic and North Sea area to strengthen your idea;
	  e) Impact pathway: how to make sure your Transition Agenda is developed to drive impact;
	  f) Application alignment: how to best align your project idea with the final full proposal form.
	
	Only those projects who submit the Project Idea Form and go through the individual consultation will be invited to submit a full proposal.
	
	While Project Idea Form submission and consultation are a mandatory step, they are not subject to evaluation.
	
	2) **Submission of the full proposal**. Once you conclude the individual online consultation, you will be invited to submit the full proposal. **The deadline for full proposal submission is 29 May 2026 14:00 (Brussels Time).**

	Project Idea Form and full proposal must be written in English, and all mandatory sections must be completed.

Full proposal form can be modified after submission but **only until the deadline of 29 May 2026 14:00 (Brussels Time).**

Multiple submission*s* are not allowed*.* In cases where multiple proposals are submitted by the same applicant, only the submission with the date closest to the deadline will be considered. Also, participation in more than one programme under BlueActionBANOS is not allowed: each entity can receive grant from BlueAcionBANOS only once.

For the purpose of identification of submitted proposals, Project Idea Form and full proposal should be submitted by the same user (from the same OnePass username). |
| **Additional conditions related to who can apply** | Consortium cannot include entities linked to each other by capital, which means that entities within one consortium each should have a separate owner.

Applicants under EU restrictive measures are ineligible.

BlueActionBANOS partners, their affiliated entities (meaning entities financially or personally linked to the BlueActionBANOS partners) and employees cannot apply due to the conflict of interest. |
| **Ground rules and formal requirements** | When applying to the BlueActionBANOS 1st TA Open Call, please also note that the following conditions will be checked:

1) **Submission system and deadline:** Only proposals submitted through the online form before the deadline will be considered.
2) **Compulsory submission of the Project Idea Form and individual consultations:** Only Projects who have submitted the Project Idea Form and had an online consultation with BlueActionBANOS experts will be invited to submit the full proposal (step 2 in the application process - see 'How to apply' section above). Only full proposals will be considered for the evaluation and selection process.
3) **Language requirement:** Proposals must be written in English. If mandatory sections are in another language, the proposal will be rejected. Non-mandatory sections in another language will not be evaluated, but the proposal will remain valid.
4) **Data accuracy:** The information you provide must be correct, complete, and allow proper evaluation. Extra material provided by you that was not requested in the form will not be considered for evaluation. |

	5) **Completeness:** Ensure all required fields are filled out - only complete full proposals will be considered for evaluation. You can edit your full proposal submission until the deadline, but no changes are allowed after that.
	6) **European dimension:** Your proposal must align with one or more EU and [Mission Ocean and Waters](#) goals and contribute to creating a positive impact within the EU.
	7) **Conflicts of interest:** We will check for any conflicts of interest between applicants and Consortium partners. Partners, their affiliated entities, and their employees cannot participate. Each case of conflict will be reviewed individually.
	8) **Financial stability:** Entities under liquidation, [in financial difficulty](#), or excluded from receiving EU funding are not eligible. We also exclude companies in bankruptcy.
	9) **Original work:** Execution of your project should not violate third-party IPR. It must be based on your intellectual property or you must be allowed to use third-party rights. IPR to the project can not be subject to any dispute.
	10) **Gender Equality Plan (GEP):** Public bodies, universities, and research organizations from EU or Associated countries must have a GEP.
	11) **Acceptance of rules:** By applying, you agree to the Open Call Terms and Conditions outlined in this document.
More info about BlueActionBANOS	You can find more information about our Project on https://blueactionbanos.eu. The Open Call is managed by FundingBox Accelerator Sp. z o.o. (FBA) and organised by the BlueActionBANOS Consortium partners listed at https://blueactionbanos.eu. All documents can be found at https://blueactionbanos.eu.

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2. SELECTION PROCESS

Our evaluation process is transparent, fair and equal to all participants, with a clearly defined complaint procedure (see Section 5). The process includes several main phases:
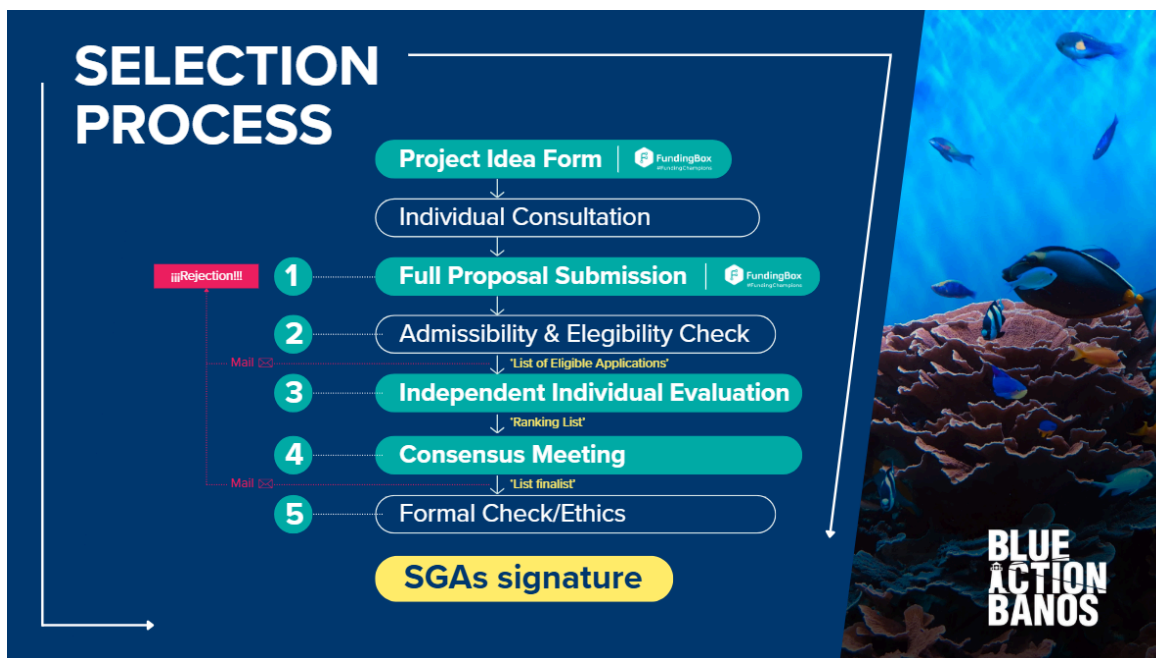
Figure 1 -Overview of the selection process

2.1. Full proposal submission

In order to submit a full proposal for a Transition Agenda, you will be requested to:

1) Submit your Project Idea Form here;

2) Have an individual consultation with BlueActionBANOS Experts;

3) Follow instructions and **complete the full proposal**.

Only full proposals submitted through the online form before the Call Deadline **will be considered**. You will receive an email confirmation if the form is submitted correctly. If not, contact us immediately.

Figure 2 - Application process

Project Idea Form and full proposal should be submitted by the same user (from the same OnePass username).

2.2. Admissibility & Eligibility check

After the closure of the Open Call, the system will review your proposal to ensure it meets the Call basic conditions (Section 1). This check will be based on the declarations in your proposal. As a result, *'List of Eligible Applications'* will be produced.

Later on, during the evaluation process, the above conditions will be verified, and non-compliant applicants will be excluded.

2.3. Independent Individual Evaluation

Proposals that appear on the *'List of Eligible Applications'* will proceed to the independent individual evaluation phase. To guarantee transparency, objectivity and fairness, the BluActionBANOS evaluation process is guided by the following principles:

- **Dual Evaluator System**: Your proposal will be evaluated by two evaluators: one BlueActionBANOS partners' expert and one external expert;
- **Complementary Expertise**: One evaluator will be familiar with the topical focus of your proposal, and the other one - with the main country/-ies where the proposed Transition Agenda is planned;
- **Unified Ranking:** All evaluated proposals will be ranked on a single, comprehensive list;
- **Merit-Based Selection**: Quality will be prioritised.

Your proposal will be evaluated against the following three criteria, which correspond to the sections of the proposal form.

(1) RELEVANCE - relevance of the proposed Transition Agenda to the Call

Under this criterion, the evaluators will assess the following aspects of your proposal:
- **Ambition - proposal's relevance to the Call objectives and expected results.** The applicants have to demonstrate to what extent the proposed Transition Agenda contributes to the BlueActionBANOS project scope and is beyond the State of the Art for the community/-ies addressed by the project.
  - *How does your Transition Agenda contribute to the BlueActionBANOS project scope (e.g., the Mission Ocean and Waters target, the target community)?*
  - *What are the challenges or gaps in your target region/community (state-of-the-art baseline) that your Transition Agenda will address?*

- **Innovation.** Applicants should provide information about the level of innovation[6] of the proposed Transition Agenda in relation to the community in which it will be implemented, and how it will differentiate itself within its implementation area.
  - *What is the evidence of innovation in your roadmap: new methods, topics, technologies, governance models, partnerships (within your community)?*
  - *How will your approach stand out in your target community?*
- **Soundness of the approach and credibility/ feasibility of the proposed methodology**. Applicants have to demonstrate that;
  a) their proposal is based on a deep understanding of the sector, community or location in which the Transition Agenda will be implemented and on the latest available scientific data.
  - *What understanding do you have of the sector, community or location addressed in your Transition Agenda (data, baseline, context analysis)?*
  - *Explain the credibility and feasibility of your approach within the context of the multi-year plan proposed, including risk management, governance and organisational arrangements to ensure the roadmap is implementable and resilient.*
  b) their proposal includes co-creative transdisciplinary elements and relies on collaboration with various community actors (experts, civil society, private sector, local communities and authorities, etc.) to ensure success and/or the longevity/sustainability of the project output.
  - *How does your approach involve co-creation and transdisciplinarity (the integration of knowledge and expertise from multiple fields and sectors, incl. research & educational sector, industry & trade, policymaking & public service, civil society and local communities)?*
  - *What are the outcomes for your Transition Agenda and how do they go beyond current practice in your area?*

2) IMPACT

Under 'IMPACT', the evaluators will assess the following aspects of your proposal:
- **Measurable Impact** - the proposed Transition Agenda is designed to have a measurable impact beyond the state-of-the-art in supporting one or more of Mission Ocean and Waters objectives.
  - *Describe measurable indicators that demonstrate how your proposed Transition Agenda will support one or more of the Mission Ocean and Waters objectives.*
- **Societal Impact** - the proposed Transition Agenda has the potential to inspire, engage, and educate the communities it targets (experts, private sector, local communities, citizens, authorities, youth, etc.) with due consideration for diversity, equity and inclusion, and - where appropriate - involvement of vulnerable or marginalised communities.
  - *Demonstrate the potential of your Transition Agenda for societal impact, including community engagement, empowerment of local actors, and inclusiveness (gender, youth, and vulnerable groups).*

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[6] Within this Open Call, the concept of 'innovation' is defined broadly and encompasses partnerships, governance models, stakeholder engagement, topics addressed, etc., as well as the overall objective of the Transition Agenda, and it is defined in relation to the area-based context of the proposed Transition Agenda. To help establish this context, reference may be made to the categories outlined in the European Commission's Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS).

- **Economic/Technological impact** - the results of the proposed Transition Agenda are significant and transferrable to other communities outside the local implementation community during and after the project's lifetime (long-term financial sustainability).
    - *What is your plan for economic or technological sustainability of your Transition Agenda, e.g., long-term financing or a business model that extends beyond the project's lifetime?*
    - *How will you concretely exploit the results and implement your roadmap after the project ends?*

(3) IMPLEMENTATION - quality of the proposed Transition Agenda design and plan

Reviewing this section of your proposal, the evaluators will look into:

- **Work Plan** - objectives of the proposed Transition Agenda are clearly defined and realistic, and the project work plan is clear, complete, and effective.
    - *What are your main objectives, and how realistic are they given the resources, time and multi-year context of your Transition Agenda? Please outline your work plan: key activities, milestones, who does what, and when.*
    - *What are your assumptions about external existing political, economic, social, legal and environmental factors (PESTLE) in the community(-ies) your Transition Agenda addresses? How will these contribute to your project's implementation?*
    - *How do you plan to integrate the technical assistance mechanism into your project? What type of technical assistance do you foresee that you will need? When should it be provided in your project's timeline? What goal should it achieve?*
- **Resources** - proposed Transition Agenda is cost-effective and allocates appropriate resources to each activity.
    - *How have you allocated resources (budget, people, partners) in a way that is appropriate and cost-effective?*
    - *Please provide the cost estimate for your Transition Agenda.*
    - *Are there any other resources or parallel initiatives outside the BluActionBANOS project you may need to rely on?*
- **Team** - applicants experience and profile:
  a) The applicants have to demonstrate that they are embedded in the stakeholder community in which they wish to implement the Transition Agenda;
    - *What are your links to the community/region where the proposed Transition Agenda will be implemented?*
  b) Applicants have to prove their expertise and experience in the sector addressed (through a demonstrated track record of previous activities);
    - *Please describe the expertise and experience of key team members of your Transition Agenda in the sector addressed..*
  c) Gender diversity and inclusion. Applicants have to demonstrate how the entities' teams contribute to gender diversity and inclusion (e.g. through gender/inclusion action plans or equivalent strategies).
    - *How will you contribute to gender diversity and inclusion within your Transition Agenda team?*

- **Stakeholder and citizen engagement** - proposed Transition Agenda foresees a clear stakeholder and citizen engagement, dissemination and exploitation strategy (including attracting additional funding during and after the project's lifetime).
    - *How will local communities, civil society, the private sector and authorities be involved?*
    - *How will you build dissemination, exploitation and follow-up (including attracting additional funding) into the plan?*

Each evaluator will score each criterion on a scale from 0 to 5:

0 = The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1 = Poor – criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2 = Fair – the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3 = Good – the proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.
4 = Very good – the proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5 = Excellent – the proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion, any shortcomings are minor.

Each evaluator will produce an Individual Evaluation Report. Once the Individual Evaluation Reports are submitted, the final score per each individual criterion will be calculated as the average of the scores provided by each evaluator. **The final score per proposal** will be calculated as the sum of the final scores for each individual criterion, with the maximum of 15 points.

For each criterion, the minimum threshold is 3 out of 5 points. The maximum total score will be 15 points, with a minimum total threshold of 10 points in order to pass this phase.

Ties will be solved using the following criteria, listed in order of priority:
- the highest score in the Relevance section (first priority),
- the highest score in the Impact section (second priority in case a tie is not resolved by the highest score in the Relevance section).

Proposals that meet or exceed the threshold for each criterion and the overall proposal will be added to the *'Ranking List'* and moved directly to the Consensus Meeting.

Please note that we need time to process all the proposals in this phase, so you probably will not hear back from us for approximately 7-8 weeks.[7]

Evaluation Consensus Group (optional)

After carrying out the Independent Individual Evaluation, there may be cases of proposals where there is a significant divergence between two evaluators' scoring. Experts who have evaluated such proposals may join an Evaluation Consensus Group to discuss those cases and agree on a common position,

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[7] The timeline could change, depending on the number of applications received.

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including comments and scores. If no consensus is reached between the evaluators, a third evaluator will be appointed to provide an extra evaluation.

2.4.   Consensus Meeting

The **Selection Committee**, composed of BlueActionBANOS consortium partners and, if needed, external experts, will review and discuss the results of the Independent Individual Evaluation, based on the *'Ranking List'*. They will reach a consensus or majority of ⅔ votes on the list of proposals to be selected, i.e. the *'List of Finalists'*, and '*Reserve List'* (if applicable).

Please keep in mind that although the highest-ranked proposals will be selected for funding, the Selection Committee might have fair reasons for objecting to a specific proposal, like the alignment with BlueActionBANOS goals and scope (including geographic spread and diversity of topics and any other factors related to the objectives of the call), the ability to achieve the highest impact possible across the BANOS region, commercial competition, as well as the existence of significant ethical concerns or a potential conflict of interest. In this case, the choice may pass to the next-ranked proposal. The exact number of proposals approved will be decided based on the overall quality of the proposals.

2.5.   Formal check & Agreement signature

Formal check

Finalists 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.

Ethics Assessment

During the formal check, each selected proposal will be reviewed by an ethics expert to ensure compliance with ethical principles and regulations. As a result, an 'Ethics Summary Report' will be produced when applicable, and specific requirements will be included as deliverable in the Individual Integrated Project Plan - IIPP (See Section 3 below).

Sub-Grant Agreement Signature

After you pass the formal check, we will invite you to sign the Sub-grant Agreement with the BlueActionBANOS consortium to officially participate in the programme. Please note that in the case of consortia, each entity in the Transition Agenda consortium will be requested to sign the Sub-grant Agreement.

3. AFTER SUB-GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNATURE

3.1. Payment conditions

Once your Transition Agenda is selected and the SubGrant Agreement (SGA) is signed, you will become an official beneficiary of the BlueActionBANOS support programme for the 1st cohort of Transition Agendas. You will receive a grant based on the budget indicated in the full proposal and later approved following its further development during Stage 1 of the support programme (no more than EUR 100 000.00 per Transition Agenda and no more than EUR 60 000.00 per participating entity and no more than requested in the full proposal form). For eligible cost categories, please refer to Annex I.

The grant will be paid as a lump sum. Payments depend on the successful and timely completion of each stage of the work planned and outlined in the Individual Integrated Project Plan (IIPP) developed at the beginning of the support programme. Payments are scheduled in tranches as follows:

Stage	Stage duration	Deliverable	Deliverable due date	Payment due date and conditions	Payment value
Stage 1 Individual Integrated Project Plan	M1 - M2	Completed IIPP	M2	M3 (approximately one month **after approval and validation of all the deliverables** for this stage)	Up to 10%
Stage 2 Mid-Term Review	M3 - M12	Transition Agenda Roadmap	M12	M13 (approximately one month **after approval and validation of all the deliverables** for this stage)	Up to 50%
Stage 3 Final Review	M13 - M18	Transition Agenda Implementation Report	M18	M19 (approximately one month **after approval and validation of all the deliverables** for this stage)	Up to 40%

Table 1 - Payment conditions

A delayed payment mechanism will be applied to all payments. 15% of each tranche will be paid once the whole BlueActionBANOS Project is completed. This should happen approximately 9 months after the end of the BlueActionBANOS Project. The expected end of the BlueActionBANOS is 31 August 2029. Relevant provisions will be included in the Sub-grant Agreement. Please consider that the BlueActionBANOS Project might be extended.

3.2.   Progress evaluation

We pay upon the delivery of the agreed results - not upon delivery of certain receipts. Therefore, Consortium Partners, gathered in the Selection Committee, will evaluate your progress regularly.

Stage	Explanation
Individual Integrated Project Plan (IIPP)	Within the first month of the support programme you will prepare an **Individual Integrated Project Plan (IIPP)**, outlining the final budget for your Transition Agenda, KPIs, and deliverables for performance assessment. The IIPP will also cover any specific Ethics Assessment requirements (if applicable). KPIs for targeting the objects of the Mission Ocean and Waters and creating impact in accordance will be checked, co-created and confirmed together with the BlueMissionBANOS experts. The IIPP will be evaluated by the Selection Committee taking into account Deliverables quality (90%) and Deadline compliance (10%).
Milestone reviews	Before each payment, the Selection Committee will review your progress. Performance will be evaluated by Project Key Accounts, Technical Assistance Experts (if needed) and Ethics Experts (if applicable) based on: ● Deliverables' quality (30%) ● Technical performance indicators (60%) ● Deadline compliance (10%) Each criterion will be scored from **0 to 10**, and the final score will be calculated based on the weights indicated. A total score of **7 out of 10 points** or more is required to continue in the programme. The project not reaching the threshold will be asked to submit a plan on how to address the delays and shortcomings in their projects and improve them. If the consortium fails to comply with the requested improvement, the project will be invited to leave the program without receiving the corresponding payments. For more details, please check the template of the Sub-grant Agreement.

Table 2 - Overview of the progress evaluation process

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4.   CONTACT US

If you have any questions about our application process, feel free to reach out to us at BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com .

Please note that responses are given individually and do not change these Terms; the responses are provided for informational purposes only.

In case of any technical issues or problems, please include the following information in your message:
- your OnePass username, phone number and email address;
- details of the specific problem (e.g. error messages you encountered, bug description, i.e. if a dropdown list isn't working, etc.); and
- screenshots of the problem.

5.   COMPLAINTS

If you believe there was an error in one of the evaluation phases, you may submit a complaint within three (3) calendar days after the date the results were sent to you. Send it to BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com in English and include:

- your contact details (including email),
- the subject of your complaint,
- evidence of the specific issue.

Please note that we will review only complaints related to:
- errors in the process caused by our staff,
- technical issues beyond the applicant's control,
- clear human or mechanical errors made by our staff,
- incorrectly marked statements, minor clerical errors, and obvious typographical mistakes.

Please note that we will not review complaints related to the content of the expert evaluations.

Complaints will be reviewed within seven (7) calendar days. If more time is needed, we will inform you via email. Anonymous complaints or those with incomplete information will not be considered.

6. LAST BUT NOT LEAST - FINAL PROVISIONS

Any issues not covered by these Terms and Conditions are governed by Polish law, Horizon Europe Programme rules, and EU grant regulations.

We make our best effort to keep all provided data confidential by complying with EU regulations, GDPR and our own Data Management Plan; however, for the avoidance of doubt, you are solely responsible for indicating your confidential or sensitive information as such. Please be aware that your application form will be shared with the external evaluators and BlueActionBANOS Consortium partners.

You retain ownership of your intellectual property rights (IPR).

The TA project results have to be made available as open access and offered as part of the BLueActionBANOS ecosystem. The progress in achieving project-specific KPI's for Mission Ocean and Waters objectives will be aggregated from all TAs and reported as a part of BlueActionBANOS deliverables on project monitoring.

The signature of the Sub-grant Agreement is the initial condition to establish any obligations among applicants and any Consortium partners (with respect to the obligation of confidentiality of the application). The Sub-grant Agreement will include a set of obligations towards the European Commission (for example: promoting the project and giving visibility to the EU funding, maintaining confidentiality, and understanding potential controls by the EC/ECA, EPPO, and OLAF).

Please be aware that eligibility criteria will be checked throughout the process, including a final review and support programme.

In the event of any discrepancies between these Terms and their Annexes, the Terms shall prevail.

The BlueActionBANOS Consortium reserves the right to cancel or modify the call at any time, informing applicants accordingly.

To ensure timely submission, please plan ahead for the entire proposal completion. We advise against submitting your proposal at the last minute before the call deadline.

Need more help? Contact us at BAB_helpdesk@fundingbox.com , and we'll be happy to assist.

ANNEX I

Activities that qualify for financial support

The type of activities that qualify for financial support for the TAs is the development of strategic roadmaps as structured, actionable and implementable plans that address complex societal shifts towards sustainability. They are specifically aimed at achieving the objectives of Mission Ocean and Waters within the Baltic and North Sea basins.

The type of of activities that qualify for financial support for TAs must fit under the Mission Ocean and Waters objectives:

- 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.
- Creating basin-specific frameworks for ecosystem-based fisheries and aquaculture management, including spatial and temporal coordination, promotion of low-impact fishing gear, and innovative practices like integrated multitrophic systems in water and on land.
- Formulating action-oriented roadmaps to boost low-trophic and underutilised species in aquaculture and fisheries, promoting biodiversity-conscious food systems and unlocking new economic value chains while supporting zero-waste ambitions.
- Planning regional programmes for marine, coastal, and freshwater restoration, including identification of priority areas for re-naturalisation, nature-based infrastructure, and community-led restoration initiatives aligned with biodiversity and habitat protection targets.
- Preparing climate resilience and adaptation strategies for vulnerable coastal and riparian zones, including risk assessment of sea-level rise and extreme weather, infrastructure vulnerability, and nature-based adaptation solutions.
- Mapping pollution sources and designing reduction pathways, including action plans to limit marine litter from fisheries, aquaculture, and port activities. Strategies could include innovation pilots, regulatory mechanisms, and industry commitments.
- Designing investment blueprints for long-term ecosystem recovery, identifying suitable financing instruments (EU, national, private) and proposing governance models to implement marine protected areas or restoration corridors across the basin.

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- Supporting local entrepreneurship and innovation in the blue bioeconomy, including valorisation of underutilised species, processing by-products, and creation of sustainable value chains.
- Promoting digitalisation, automation, and smart technologies in fisheries, aquaculture, and bioresource processing for efficiency, quality monitoring, and waste reduction.
- Developing digital and citizen engagement strategies to enhance environmental monitoring and ocean literacy, including citizen science campaigns, open-access data platforms, or integration of AI and sensor technologies for pollution tracking.
- Strengthening stakeholder capacity, education, and training for sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal management, including formal and informal education programmes.
- Enhancing ocean literacy and public outreach beyond monitoring, fostering citizen engagement in stewardship, sustainable practices, and marine ecosystem understanding.
- Integrating cultural and historical heritage considerations into ecosystem restoration, sustainable tourism, or blue economy initiatives to increase societal engagement and awareness.
- Developing basin-wide or regional strategies for multi-use of marine and coastal space, including co-location models that combine activities such as tourism, renewable energy, conservation, fisheries, or aquaculture. These roadmaps should assess spatial synergies, reduce user conflicts, outline governance and regulatory pathways, and identify investment needs for sustainable multi-purpose coastal and marine areas.
- Formulating action-oriented roadmaps to boost low-trophic and underutilised species in aquaculture and fisheries, promoting biodiversity-conscious food systems and unlocking new economic value chains while supporting zero-waste ambitions.

Eligible costs

Costs for the Transition Agenda are eligible if:

- corresponding tasks or parts of the TA have been properly implemented in line with the Individual Integrated Project Plan (IIPP) and accepted by the Selection Committee;
- they are incurred during the TA support programme duration.

The BlueActionBANOS grant - paid as a lump sum - will cover the following cost categories:

- **Personnel costs** - costs of the team members participating in the Transition Agenda: estimated Full Time Equivalent (FTE) persons that each team participating in the granted Agenda have to allocate (the FTE persons needed per the number of months per stage);
- **Travel costs** - costs of business travel related to the Transition Agenda implementation;
- **Purchases** - (i.e. purchase cost of goods, works, equipment and services) connected to the Transition Agenda and necessary for its implementation, directly linked to the performance of the Agenda i.e. to achieve the Agenda's objectives;
- **Overheads** - 25% of the abovementioned costs

In the full proposal form, you will be asked to set the budget per proposed Transition Agenda, with an indication of percentage share for all the Agenda consortium partners involved - in the case of consortium.

During Stage 1 of the TA support programme, as part of the Individual Integrated Project Plan (IIPP), you will refine the Agenda budget, providing costs breakdown per stage (per agenda partner if needed). The total cost of the Agenda defined in IIPP cannot exceed the total budget for the Agenda estimated in the full proposal.

GLOSSARY

BANOS	Baltic and North Sea
CINEA	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
TA	Transition Agenda
EC	European Commission
ECA	European Court of Auditors
EPPO	European Public Prosecutor's Office
GA	Grant Agreement
IIPP	Individual Integrated Project Plan
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
SGA	Sub-Grant Agreement