

## Get ready for the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's Regional Portfolio Call for interest

2 waves of calls to be launched on 29/07/2026, 15:00 CEST (wave 1) and 09/09/2026, 15:00 CEST (wave 2) (provisional dates)

*Provisional deadlines for project submissions of interest:*

*-Wave 1 (Atlantic Ocean and Black Sea Regional Portfolios): 28/10/2026, 15:00 CET,*

*-Wave 2 (Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea and North Sea Regional Portfolios): 09/12/2026, 15:00 CET*

**The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)**, a European Partnership under the European Commission's Research & Innovation Framework Programme Horizon Europe, **is pleased to pre-announce its first Regional Portfolio Calls for Interest**. These calls aim to connect ongoing projects to create and boost networking activities at the sea-basin scale for a 2-year period, from early 2027 to early 2029. Five active networking Regional Portfolios composed of projects funded by SBEP and/or by a different national, regional or EU funding stream will be established in each EU sea-basin.

Two waves of calls will be launched, starting with two sea-basins on 29 July 2026 (provisional date):

- *Atlantic Ocean Regional Portfolio: 'Addressing the Atlantic Ocean coastal Resilience in Practice'*
- *Black Sea Regional Portfolio: 'Addressing knowledge gaps in the Black Sea: Information, Data Exchange and Good Practices in the Context of Climate Change'*

The second wave of calls for interest will address the three other Regional Portfolios and will be launched on 9 September 2026 (provisional date), addressing:

- *Mediterranean Sea Regional Portfolio: 'Fostering Inclusive Governance and Multi-Use Coastal and Maritime Infrastructure for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Sea'*
- *Baltic Sea Regional Portfolio: 'Improving the Baltic Sea Resilience: Resilience to Large-Scale Events, Infrastructure Resilience, and Ecosystem Resilience'*
- *North Sea Regional Portfolio: 'Exploring Nature-based Solutions to Address Cumulative Impacts on Marine Ecosystems while Supporting Sustainable Fisheries and Offshore Sectors in the North Sea'*

Each Regional Portfolio will run independently and produce its own implementation plan and roadmap of activities. With the support of SBEP, the Regional Portfolios are expected to increase synergies and information sharing, reduce duplication, strengthen collaboration with key regional

stakeholders, and respond to the challenges and opportunities identified regionally. By reaching a critical mass of projects focusing on similar themes, the Regional Portfolio Action will contribute to leveraging the projects' impact at the regional and European levels by e.g. providing efficient scientific support for strategic and political decision-making, whilst also addressing regional research gaps and avoiding duplication.

Some of the benefits of participating in the Regional Portfolios are listed below:

- *increased visibility at the regional and international level*
- *networking with regional and quadruple-helix stakeholders (industry, government, research institutes, and the public)<sup>1</sup>*
- *career boost, especially for early-career scientists*
- *identification of new opportunities for cooperation*
- *identification of potential beneficiaries of the project outputs*
- *co-design market-uptake plans*
- *meetings with EU Commission experts*
- *participation in SBEP events*

To participate:

- *Projects must fall in the thematic scope of the regional portfolio*
- *Projects must be active and ongoing during the Regional Portfolio activities timeframe (for at least 6 months between early 2027 and early 2029) and must be recipients of a regional/national/EU grant.*
- *Projects must address at least the geographical area of the portfolio they are applying for (e.g. Atlantic Ocean, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea or North Sea) or their scope must be proved to be relevant for the concerned geographical area. Projects that express an interest in joining more than one Regional Portfolio will be asked to select the portfolio they wish to join.*
- *Applicants must prove their commitment, availability and capacity to engage in the activities (as self-funded)*

To apply to the Atlantic Ocean and Black Sea Regional Portfolios:

*The Coordinators, PI or alternate will be required to fill out a brief online questionnaire detailing their project's interest in joining the portfolio. This questionnaire will be available on the SBEP website*

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<sup>1</sup> A quadruple-helix collaboration ('QHC') is a form of collaboration in research and development between the four major sectors of society: industry, government, research institutes, and the public. For more information, please consult the report entitled 'Quadruple Helix Collaborations in Practice: Stakeholder Interaction, Responsibility and Governance' from RICONFIGURE

*([Homepage](#) | [Bluepartnership](#)) upon the official launch on **29 July 2026 (15:00 CEST)** for the **Atlantic Ocean and Black Sea Regional Portfolios**.*

- *Applicants will have up to **28 October 2026 (15:00 CET)** to submit their interest in the call (provisional date).*
- *A single-step selection process will apply, and selected projects will be announced in December 2026.*

To apply to the Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea and North Sea Regional Portfolios:

*The Coordinators, PI or alternate will be required to fill out a light online questionnaire detailing their project's interest in joining the portfolio. This questionnaire will be available on the SBEP website ([Homepage](#) | [Bluepartnership](#)) upon the official launch on **9 September 2026 (15:00 CEST)** for the **Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea and North Sea Regional Portfolios**.*

- *Applicants will have up to **9 December 2026 (15:00 CET)** to submit their interest in the call (provisional date).*
- *A single-step selection process will apply, and selected projects will be announced in January 2027.*

General Information webinar:

*- An **information webinar will be held on 7 October, from 13:00 to 14:30 CEST**, via Webex, to present the Regional Portfolio Action and the launch of the five calls for interest, and to address questions from interested projects.*

*- Please register here to attend: [Registration link](#)*

**For more information:** We invite you to regularly consult [our website](#) and social media channels to stay updated on funding and networking opportunities.

**Contact – Portfolio Secretariat (ANR, France):** [sbep-portfolio@anr.fr](mailto:sbep-portfolio@anr.fr)

*Please note that the information provided here is provisional. Changes may occur in the official call announcement.*