ANNEX C – GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS AND PROPOSAL FORM

1. DEFINITIONS

Applicant	Research staff constituting the proponent team
Project Leader	Organisation coordinating the project proposal
Project Partner	Organisation participating in the project proposal
Principal Investigator (PI)	Main representative of each organisation participating in the project proposal, either as Project Leader or as Project Partner
Research Infrastructure's Provider	Organisation offering access to its own Research Infrastructure in the TA Call
Rolling Call	A call where a project proposal can be submitted any time but evaluated after the first deadline following the submission date.
Team Member (or User Team)	Staff of the Project Leaders and Project Partners involved in the project proposal
Call cut-off	In the Rolling Call scheme, the periodic deadline after which a submitted project proposal enters in the eligibility and evaluation phases. Proposals submitted in between two call cut-offs are evaluated once the second cut-off date is passed; proposals submitted after a cut-off are automatically considered after the next cut-off.
Window	The defined period within the Rolling Call during which proposals shall be implemented, corresponding to an indicative access schedule.

2. GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Before starting a proposal compilation, make sure that: (i) the provider of the requested RI(s) has confirmed that the access is feasible; (ii) your own funding covers all project costs other than the access to the RI(s); (iii) the preferred start date falls within the access window of the cut-off you are targeting.

- The Call Text and its Annexes are available for downloading from the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership project website page Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership Rolling Transnational Access Call to Research Infrastructures 2026-2028 | Bluepartnership
- The direct link to the submission platform is: https://epss.proposals.ee/sustainable-blue/1 and the technical help desk is: epss.sbep@proposals.ee;
- From the EPSS home page (https://epss.proposals.ee/sustainable-blue/), the call is reached through the "Select Rolling TA Call" button (Fig. 1).

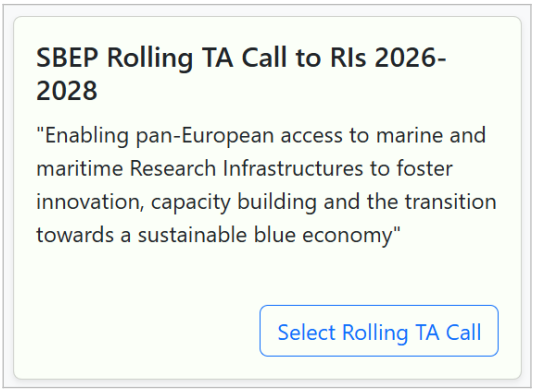

Fig. 1: Access to the Rolling TA Call from the EPSS home page.

- The PI of the Project Leader shall create a Sustainable Blue EPSS account and log in the EPSS to provide the information required for the participation (Fig. 2a). Accounts created on the SBEP-RIs EPSS for the 2025 pilot call do not work on the current platform: a new account must be created (Fig. 2b).

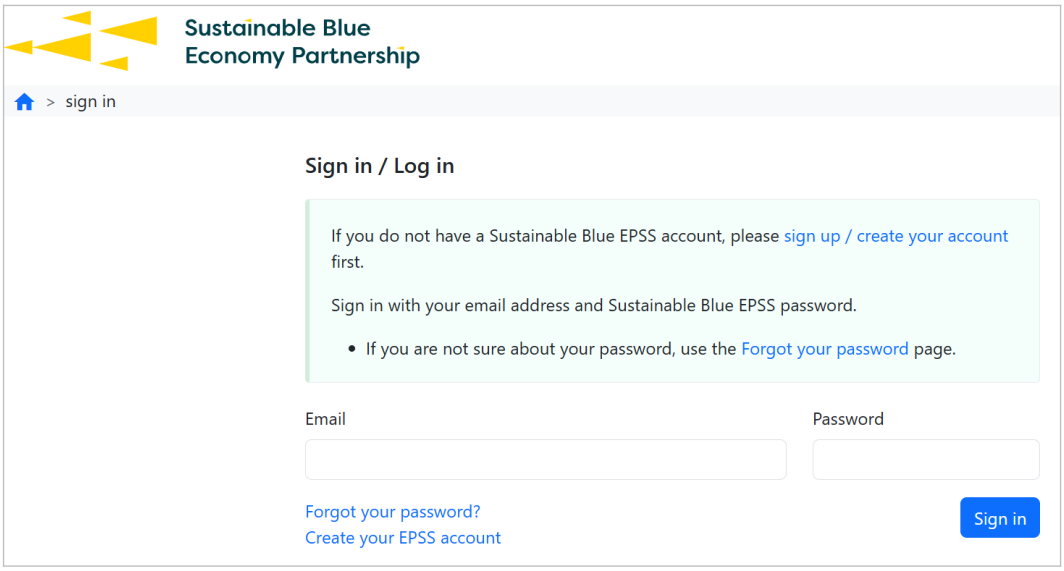

Fig. 2a: EPSS sign-in page.

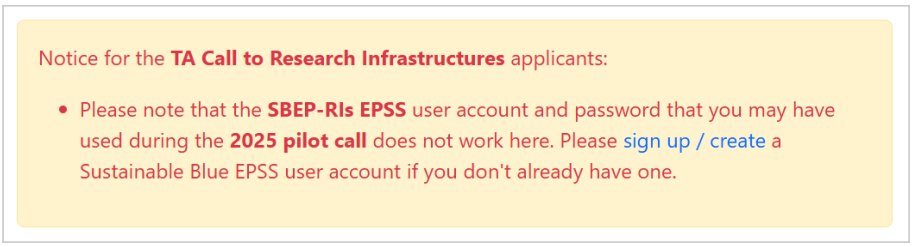

Fig. 2b: Notice for users of the 2025 pilot call platform.

– The PI of the Project Leader is the Partner 1 of the proposal. The PI of the Partner 1 shall create a project proposal from the "My project proposals" page (Fig. 3) and add the other Partners.

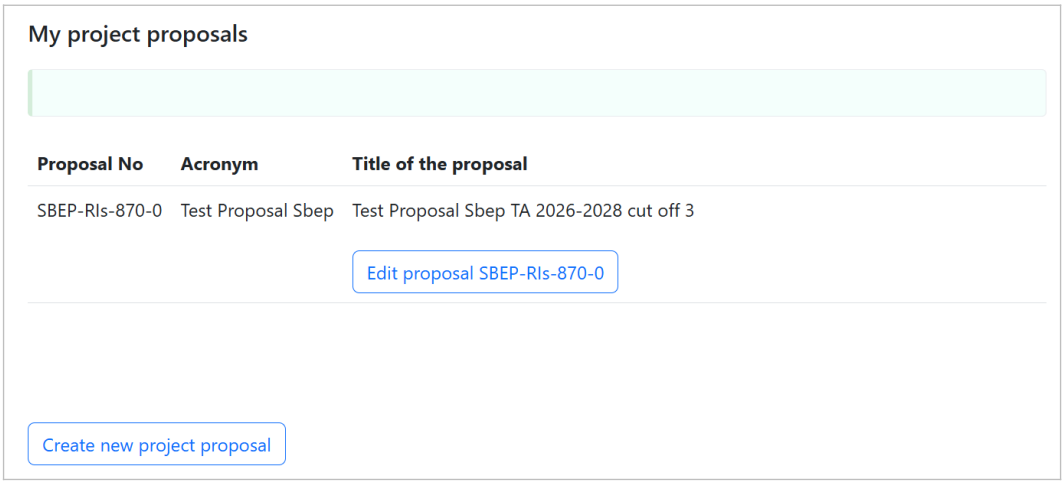

Fig. 3: "My project proposals" page, listing the proposals already created and the button to create a new one.

– During the proposal compilation and before the proposal submission, the PI of the Project Leader shall get in touch with the provider of the desired RI(s) (check **Annex A** for the list of contacts), to explain the general idea of the proposal, get technical details on the use of the RI and draft a sound and really feasible proposal.

– The applicants shall demonstrate the availability of their own funding to conduct the activities. SBEP offers access to RIs but does not support any expenses incurred by the applicants.

– The submission form is composed by four parts, all accessible from the proposal menu in the EPSS (Fig. 4):

  - Part A – GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION
  - Part B – PROJECT DESCRIPTION
  - Part C – ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS, CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE PROJECT LEADER'S PI AND DECLARATION OF RESOURCE AVAILABILITY
  - Part D – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

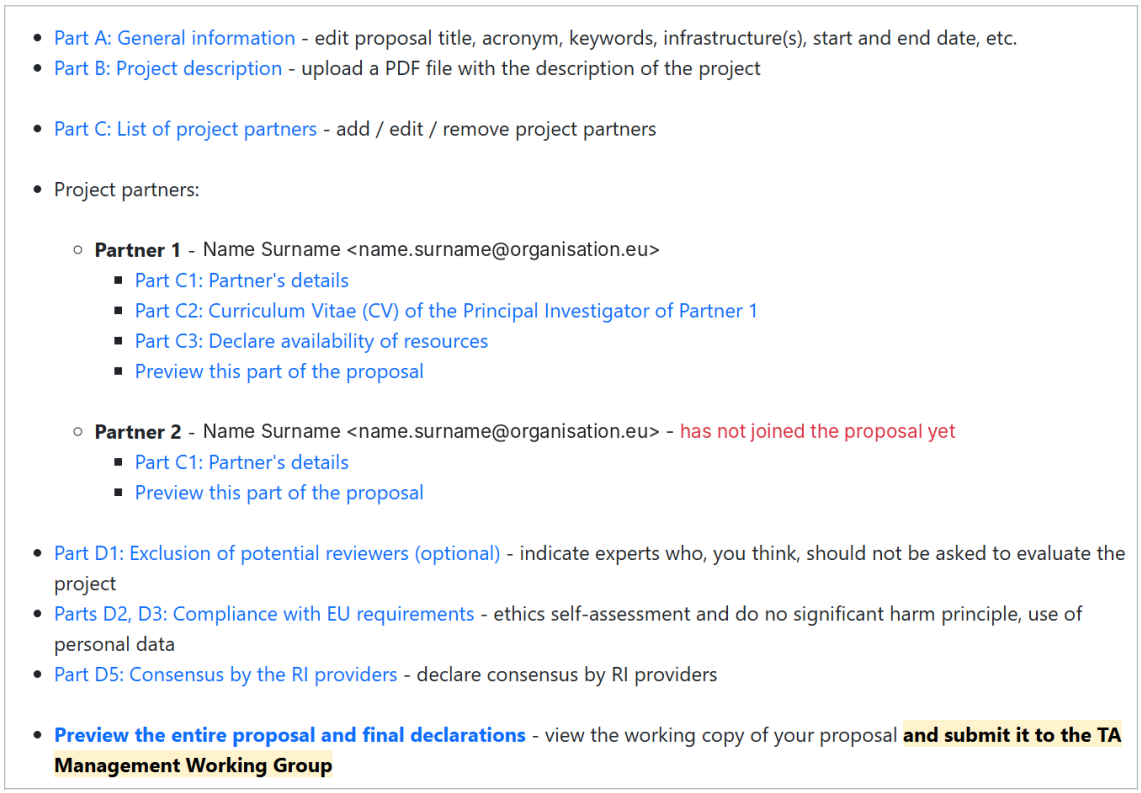

Fig. 4: Proposal menu in the EPSS. The PI of Partner 1 completes all parts; the PIs of the other Partners complete Part C1.

- The different parts of the proposal, written in English, should not exceed the prescribed maximum length. Incomplete proposals will be rejected and will not be evaluated.
- Any documents other than those requested as part of the proposal will not be forwarded to the International Evaluation Panel (IEP) members, including letter(s) of support.
- The proposals can be submitted any time during the period of the Rolling Call by the PI of the Project Leader, who is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of all the information provided at the time of submission.
- The PI of the Project Leader is allowed to upload one or more draft of the proposal on EPSS. However, only the most recent version of a proposal uploaded before the cut-off will be considered by the TA Management Working Group (TA Mgmt WG).
- Once the cut-off date has passed, it will no longer be possible to edit or resubmit the proposal until the next cut-off of the Rolling Call.

PROPOSAL PART A - GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Part A must be filled directly on the EPSS by the Principal Investigator of Partner 1 *(Project Leader).*

PROJECT ID = GENERAL AND LOGISTICAL PROJECT INFORMATION

(*) mandatory

CALL ID:	**SBEP2026-2028RIs**
Proposal ID:	*Automatically from EPSS (e.g. SBEP2026-2028RIs-1)*
Project title (*) (max 255 characters including spaces)	*Please note that the project title shall not be changeable.*
Short name / Acronym (*) (max 20 characters including spaces)	*Please note that the acronym shall be considered as definitive*
Selected SRIA pillar(s) (*)	*Indicate one or more of the three SRIA pillars below. Selecting specific SRIA objectives within the pillar(s) is optional (drop-down list in the EPSS).* *Pillar 1 – A blue economy in harmony with nature (optional objectives 1–11)* *Pillar 2 – Blue economy solutions towards climate neutrality (optional objectives 12–19)* *Pillar 3 – A thriving blue economy for the people (optional objectives 20–29)*
Main Research Infrastructure (*) **(The main infrastructure is necessary and essential to develop the core of the proposal)**	*Indicate one infrastructure in the following categories:* • *Research Vessels* • *Fixed platforms, auxiliary devices and experimental stations* • *Mobile platforms (AUVs, gliders, aircraft)* • *Portable equipment* • *Analytical labs and Test benches (pressure chambers, pools. calibration/inter-calibration bench, including sample analysis)* • *Digital Facilities (high-Performance Computing Infrastructures, data centres, satellite communication stations)*
Typology of access to main infrastructure (*)	*Select one typology of access to main infrastructure:* • *Remote: the requested facility is operated by the owner's staff, and the presence of the user team is not required. Please check with the RI provider whether partially remote access is also enabled.* • *Physical (In person/hands-on): the presence of the user team is required/recommended during the whole operation period* • *Virtual: access is provided entirely through digital or online means (e.g. databases, modelling platforms, virtual laboratories, or simulation tools), without physical presence of the user team staff at the facility.*
Alternative Main Research Infrastructure (optional)	*Should the main infrastructure be not available, PI of the Project Leader are allowed to indicate an alternative RI of the same typology of the main RI indicated.*
Auxiliary infrastructure (optional) (in case it is not available, the experiment is not substantially affected)	*Indicate an auxiliary infrastructure to complement the use of the main one (i.e. it should be of a different typology than the main one). Indicate also its typology of access (remote, physical or virtual, as defined above).*
Geographical area (*)	*Select one or more geographical areas targeted by your project among:* • *Mediterranean Sea,* • *Black Sea,* • *Baltic Sea,* • *North Sea,* • *Atlantic Ocean* *If applicable, indicate regional areas (e.g. Arctic Ocean, Barents Sea, Celtic Sea, Adriatic Sea, Aegean Seas, etc., as far as they belong to one of the European Sea Basins cited above).*
Project duration (project	*Indicate the estimated duration of the proposal implementation in months*

period) (*)	*(maximum 18 months). All projects must be completed by October 2029, so the duration is shorter for the last access windows.*
Access window (*)	*Please indicate the preferred start date of the project in YYYY-MM-DD format. The date must fall within the indicative access windows corresponding to the selected Rolling Call phase (see schedule below, and Section 4.2 of the Call Text).* • *Window 1 (cut-off 20 June 2026): December 2026 – June 2028* • *Window 2 (cut-off 20 October 2026): April 2027 – October 2028* • *Window 3 (cut-off 22 February 2027): August 2027 – February 2029* • *Window 4 (cut-off 21 June 2027): December 2027 – June 2029* • *Window 5 (cut-off 20 October 2027): April 2028 – October 2029* • *Window 6 (cut-off 21 February 2028): August 2028 – October 2029*
Indicative number and duration of accesses (*)	*If applicable, indicate the estimated number of accesses and the tentative duration of each access in working days.* *Please note that multiple accesses to the main infrastructure can be requested upon the RI provider availability* *Please be available to accommodate the time of use of the selected RI(s) according to the provisions of the provider.*
Project total costs and own funding (*)	*Insert the estimate of costs in €; the cost of the project must be covered by the Project Partners excluding the cost of access to the selected RI(s). Indicate the source of own funding for each Partner (institutional budget, in-kind contribution, or grant with funding scheme and end date).*
Previous access under Horizon Europe INFRA schemes (*)	*Yes/No. If yes, name the access scheme (e.g. AQUARIUS, AQUASERV, POLARIN) and the infrastructure used, and explain briefly how the access requested here is complementary or addresses new needs (max 500 characters including spaces).*
Short abstract (*) (max 1500 characters including spaces)	*Briefly describe the project's goal, link to SRIA pillar(s), main RI(s) and access type, and expected results or impact.*
Keywords (*) (min 1 keyword, max 5 keywords)	*Enter up to five words describing the project's field, approach, or expected impact.*

PROPOSAL PART B – PROJECT DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING DATA MANAGEMENT

Please note that the following guidelines and format for project description are not reported in the EPSS.

Part B must be provided as an unprotected PDF document *and uploaded on the EPSS by the* ***Principal Investigator of Partner 1*** *(Project Leader).*

Part B must include a **scientific and technical description of the project**, covering objectives, methodology, expected results, and impact. Proposals are encouraged also to clearly address **data management aspects** in line with Open Access and FAIR data principles (see Call text for guidance).

The information provided in Part B shall **not exceed 8 pages, including the work plan table and the Gantt chart**. The page limit will be applied automatically by EPSS: at the cut-off deadline expiration, pages exceeding the allowed limit will be automatically made invisible and will not be taken into consideration. A font size of Times New Roman 12pt should be used with 14pt spacing and all margins should be at least 1.27cm.

The three mandatory sections of Part B are **(i) Excellence**, including scientific objectives, **(ii) Impact**, including data management, and **(iii) Quality and efficiency of the Implementation**, including the Work Plan. The evaluation of the proposal will be based, in large part, on the information provided in this section. The proposal should provide a comprehensive and robust justification of the request of access to the RIs that can be assessed without consulting other material. Short references in the text are allowed; links and hyperlinks are not. Each section will receive a score from 0 to 5 according to the **evaluation criteria description (Annex B)**. The proposal should be as concise as possible to ease the proposal evaluation.

***** PROJECT DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE *****

EXCELLENCE (B1) = MAX SCORE 5.

(Indicative length: up to 3 pages.)

Scientific objectives of the proposed work

a) General scientific background

Provide information on the current state of scientific knowledge in the field of research directly linked to the proposed work. Please describe your own preliminary work in the field.

b) Specific aims of the project

Provide a clear description of the scientific objectives to be achieved with the proposed R&I project, highlighting its innovative aspects and how they contribute to the selected SRIA pillar(s). What is the expected added value to the present state of knowledge?

c) Methodology

Address the relevance of the requested infrastructure in the context of the project, with specific reference to the proposed concept/methodology/data collection/etc. What is the relevance and added value of the selected RIs to successfully conduct the R&I project?

Briefly describe the overall design of the project, its underlying concepts, models, assumptions and interdisciplinary approaches, and, where relevant, the gender dimension in the research content. Ethics, the DNSH principle and the OSPAR Code of Conduct are covered by the declarations in Part D and do not need to be described here.

IMPACT (B2) = MAX SCORE 5

(Indicative length: up to 2 pages, including data management.)

Expected outcomes and impacts of the proposed work

Describe how the proposed activities and the use of the selected RI(s) will lead to measurable outcomes and impacts at the scientific, environmental, policy, or societal level. Clearly identify the intended users and beneficiaries of the project results and provide evidence of the expected outputs and deliverables that will contribute to achieving these impacts.

Where useful, outline the logical link between activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts (a Theory of Change approach is welcome but not required).

Include a set of realistic and feasible measures for dissemination, communication, and exploitation of results, integrating where relevant ocean literacy and awareness-raising activities. Describe how the project will contribute to skills development and human capacity building, for example through training or educational actions, and how engagement with the relevant stakeholder groups (scientific community, policymakers, industry, civil society) will continue after the access.

If applicable, indicate how the proposed project complements or builds on other national, European, or international research initiatives and how synergies will be ensured.

Describe how team members with limited access to marine infrastructures will be integrated, and explain how the project will engage relevant stakeholders, including industry or public authorities when appropriate. Outline the

potential to create or strengthen long-term collaborations at national and international level, demonstrating European added value.

Data management

Explain briefly which datasets, samples and results will be produced, when and by whom they will be analysed, where they will be stored and how they will be made accessible in line with Open Access and FAIR principles. Indicate who is responsible for data management and justify any restriction to data sharing (e.g. confidentiality, IPR, embargo). No funding is available within the project for post-access data analysis.

A formal Data Management Plan (DMP) will be required from all selected projects within three (3) months from the signature of the User–Provider Agreement. An updated version may be requested during project implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION (B3) = MAX SCORE 5

(Indicative length: up to 3 pages, including the work plan table and the Gantt chart.)

B3a Work Plan

Provide a concise description of the work plan, specifying the activities and tasks to be carried out using the selected Research Infrastructure(s). Use the table below; information already provided in Part A (RI, typology of access, geographical area) should be repeated only as far as needed to link each activity to the access.

Outline a realistic timetable for the full duration of the project (up to 18 months, and in any case ending by October 2029), using a Gantt chart or equivalent. The plan should demonstrate consistency between the proposed activities, the requested RI(s), and the available resources.

Identify potential risks (e.g. technical, logistical, environmental, or organisational) and provide corresponding mitigation measures to ensure feasibility.

Please note that the **quality and realism of the work plan** will be central to the evaluation of your proposal.

Activity / task and methods	**RI (full name and acronym) and typology of access**	**Location and working days per access**	**Timing (months) and milestone or deliverable**
1.			
2.			
…			

B3b Quality of the Team: Principal Investigators and team members

Provide concise information on the **composition of the project team**, indicating the **number of members**, their **institutional affiliations**, and their **specific roles** within the project. Describe how the **expertise and background** of the team align with the project's objectives, methodology, and planned use of the selected Research Infrastructure(s). Where relevant, mention any **previous experience in accessing or operating similar infrastructures**.

Ensure that the team composition and affiliations comply with the **General Eligibility Criteria** outlined in **Section 4.6 of the Call text**.

Please note that detailed information on the **Principal Investigator (PI)** of **Partner 1 (Project Leader)** must be provided through the **online CV template** in the **EPSS**. Brief information on other team members, including PIs and key personnel from all Partners, will also be collected directly through the platform.

B3c Technical and financial capability to carry out the project, including direct costs

If applicable, provide information on the technical equipment and facilities (including any own equipment) necessary to perform the proposed work, indicating their availability and operational readiness.

Provide a realistic estimate of the expected direct costs associated with the planned activities, such as personnel effort (FTE), travel and subsistence of the Project Leader and team members, and, where relevant, shipment or transport costs for personnel or equipment to and from the access location. The estimate must be consistent with the project total costs indicated in Part A.

Confirmation of actual costs incurred will be requested during the reporting phase.

Please note that the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership does not cover these expenses. Therefore, the Project Leader and all Partners must demonstrate the availability of sufficient own funding (financial and/or in-kind) to implement the proposed work.

A declaration confirming the availability of necessary resources must be validated directly on the submission platform (Part C3) by ticking the corresponding box. No separate document upload is required at this stage.

PROPOSAL PART C - ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS, CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE PROJECT LEADER'S PI AND DECLARATION OF RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Section C1 (details of the Principal Investigator and of the organisation) is filled in directly on the EPSS by the PI of each Partner, after creating the account. Sections C2 (CV) and C3 (declaration on resource availability) are filled in by the PI of the Project Leader.

C1. Principal Investigator and organisation details

The Table below indicates the information that will have to be filled out by the Principal Investigator (PI) of Partner 1 (i.e. Project Leader) and PIs of all other Partners (2, 3, ...N).

Example: if your team is composed of 6 Partners, the following Tables will have to be completed for each of the 6 Partners by the Principal Investigator. A "Partner" can be:

- an institution,
- a laboratory,
- a department of an institution,
- a company (including SMEs),
- another typology of organisation, e.g. not-for-profit

Field	Description / Input
First Name	Enter the given name of the Principal Investigator.
Last Name	Enter the family name of the Principal Investigator.
Email	Provide a valid institutional email address (will be used for all official communications).
Title	Select or type (e.g. Dr, Prof, Mr, Ms).
Gender	Dropdown: *Female / Male / Non-binary / Prefer not to say.*
ORCID ID	Provide the ORCID identifier, if available.
Website	Provide a link to the PI's professional webpage (include list of publications if available).
Phone	Provide an active phone number (with country code).
Professional status	Select one: Professor; Assistant Professor; Associate Professor; Senior Scientist; Junior Scientist; Post-doc; PhD Student; Technician; Engineer; Blue Economy Professional; Communication/Outreach Specialist; Other (specify).
Time dedicated to the project (person-months)	Enter the number of person-months (PMs) that the PI will dedicate to the project.

Details of the organisation (Partner 1 – Project Leader/Partner X – Project Participant)

Field	Description / Input
Legal full name of the organisation	Enter the full legal name of the institution, company, or organisation, as officially registered.
Short name / Acronym	Enter the short name or acronym (if applicable).
Website	Provide the organisation's main website.
Street name	Enter the street name of the official address.
Number	Enter the street number.

Field	Description / Input
PO Box (optional)	If applicable, indicate the PO Box number.
Postal code	Enter the postal code.
Cedex (optional)	Complete if applicable (mainly for French institutions).
Town / City	Enter the town or city.
Country	Select from the dropdown menu (ISO country list).

C2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the Principal Investigator (Partner 1)

This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS using the CV template below only by the PI of Partner 1 (Project Leader). When relevant, please specify in the CVs, the PI capacity to involve stakeholders.

Participation status: *Principal Investigator*

Name:

Nationality:

Institution, City, Country:

E-mail:

URL / Website (including complete list of publications – if any):

Professional status:

<Professor, Assistant professor, Associate professor, Senior scientist, Post-Doc, PhD-student, other>

Education

<Year; type of education; organisation; country >
<Year; type of education; organisation; country >
<Year; type of education; organisation; country >
<Year; type of education; organisation; country >
<Year; type of education; organisation; country >

Positions:

<Year; Position; Organisation; Country>
<Year; Position; Organisation; Country>
<Year; Position; Organisation; Country>
<Year; Position; Organisation; Country>
<Year; Position; Organisation; Country>

General expertise and its relevance for the project, including in relation to the requested RI (max 1,000 characters including spaces)

[…]

Up to 5 most important publications (incl. patents) relevant to the proposal over the last five years

<…>
<…>
<…>
<…>
<…>

Other relevant achievements (e.g., awards) (max 5 references)

<...>
<...>
<...>
<...>
<...>

C3. Declaration on Resource Availability

(to be completed by the Project Leader / Principal Investigator on behalf of the organisation)

☐ **Declaration of resource availability**

I hereby declare, on behalf of my organisation, that the necessary financial and/or in-kind resources are available to implement the proposed project activities, including all direct costs not covered by the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership. The organisation commits to ensuring the timely allocation of these resources throughout the project implementation period. I also confirm that each Partner has committed the resources indicated in Part A.

PROPOSAL PART D – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Part D, corresponding to a menu, has to be completed by the Principal Investigator of Partner 1 (Project Leader) on the EPSS, including possible exclusion of potential reviewers, ethics self-assessment and do not significant harm principle, disclaimer on the use of data, consensus by the RI Provider and final declarations.

If you consider that a specific subsection does not apply to your proposal, you may skip it and proceed to the next item.

D1. Exclusion of potential reviewers (optional)

List here potential reviewers who you think, should not be asked to evaluate the project for reasons of direct competition and partiality. Also, provide the names of significant collaborators that should not be used as reviewers due to conflicts of interest. The rules on conflict of interest set forth in 4.3 'Confidentiality and conflict of interests' in the Call Text apply to these suggestions.

Potential competitors

	First Name	*Last Name*	*Organisation*	*Country*	*E-mail address*	*Rationale for excluding the reviewer*
1						
2						
3						

Insert as many lines as needed

Collaborators with conflict of interest

	First Name	*Last Name*	*Organisation*	*Country*	*E-mail address*	*Rationale for excluding the reviewer*
1						
2						
3						

Insert as many lines as needed

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

D2. Ethics self-assessment and do no significant harm principle

Please complete the table below by indicating 'Yes' or 'No' for each item.

If you answer 'Yes' to any question, briefly explain how you will address the related ethical issue (max 1,000 characters per category).

All research activities carried out under the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) TA Call to RIs must comply with the ethical standards and guidelines of Horizon Europe, regardless of where the activities take place.

For projects involving physical access to a Research Infrastructure, all investigations must follow the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Marine Research in the Deep Seas and High Seas of the OSPAR Maritime Area, irrespective of the geographical location.

If your project uses genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, you must ensure compliance with the relevant Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) legislation and confirm that:

- resources have been accessed according to applicable laws or regulatory requirements; and

- benefits are shared fairly and equitably under mutually agreed terms.

If utilisation occurs within an EU Member State, users must also comply with Regulation (EU) No 511/2014, including the obligations of due diligence (Art. 4) and the declaration requirements (Art. 7).

For further details on ethical issues and how to complete your assessment, please refer to the Horizon Europe Programme Guidelines: "How to complete your ethics self-assessment.[1]"

1. HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS AND HUMAN EMBRYOS		**If yes, please detail and indicate how you plan to deal with this ethic issue.**
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	Y/N	
If yes, will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?	Y/N	
If yes, are they previously established cells lines?	Y/N	
If yes, are the cell lines registered in the European registry for human embryonic stem cell lines?	Y/N	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	Y/N	
If yes, will the activity lead to their destruction?	Y/N	
2. HUMANS		
Does your research involve human participants?	Y/N	
If yes, are they volunteers for nonmedical studies (e.g. social or human sciences research)?	Y/N	
If yes, are they healthy volunteers or medical studies?	Y/N	
If yes, are they patients for medical studies?	Y/N	
If yes, are they potentially vulnerable individuals or groups?	Y/N	
If yes, are they children / minors?	Y/N	
If yes, are the other persons unable to give informed consent?	Y/N	
Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	Y/N	
If yes, does it involve invasive techniques?	Y/N	
If yes, does it involve collection of biological samples?	Y/N	
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products).	Y/N	
If yes, is it a clinical trial?	Y/N	
If yes, is it a low-intervention clinical trial?	Y/N	
3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES		
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	Y/N	
If yes, are they human embryonic or foetal cells or tissues?	Y/N	
If yes, are they available commercially?	Y/N	
If yes, are they obtained within this project?	Y/N	
If yes, are they obtained from another project, laboratory or institution?	Y/N	
If yes, are they obtained from biobank?	Y/N	

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf

4. PERSONAL DATA		
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data?	Y/N	
If yes, does it involve the processing of special categories of personal data (e.g.: sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, genetic, biometric and health data, political opinion, religious or philosophical)	Y/N	
If yes, does it involve profiling, systematic monitoring of individuals, or processing of large scale of special categories of data or intrusive methods of data processing (such as surveillance, geolocation tracking etc.)?	Y/N	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including the use of pre-existing data sets or sources, and merging existing data sets)?	Y/N	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?	Y/N	
If yes, specify the type of personal data and countries involved:		
Is it planned to import personal data from non- EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country?	Y/N	
If yes, specify the type of personal data and countries involved:		
5. ANIMALS		
Does your research involve animals?	Y/N	
If yes, are they vertebrates?	Y/N	
If yes, are they non-human primates (NHP)?	Y/N	
If yes, are they genetically modified?	Y/N	
If yes, are they cloned farm animals?	Y/N	
If yes, are they endangered species?	Y/N	
6. NON-EU COUNTRIES		
Will some of the activities be carried out in non- EU countries?	Y/N	
If yes, specify the countries		
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethical issues?	Y/N	
If yes, specify the countries		
Is it planned to use local resources (e.g., animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?[2]	Y/N	
Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see the Horizon Europe Programme Guidelines on 'How to complete your Ethics Self-assessment'.	Y/N	
If yes, specify material and countries involved:		
Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see the Horizon Europe Programme Guidelines on 'How to complete your Ethics Self-assessment'.	Y/N	
If yes, specify material and countries involved:		

[2] Please note that for access to genetic resources, you must also comply with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and EU Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 which implements this Protocol. You will also have to ascertain towards the competent authorities and focal point that these used genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources have been accessed in accordance with applicable access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements, and that benefits are fairly and equitably shared upon mutually agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements.

Does this activity involve low and/or lower- middle income countries? (if yes, detail the benefit- sharing actions planned in the self- assessment)	Y/N	
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the activity at risk?	Y/N	
7. ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH and SAFETY		
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to the environment, animals or plants (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	Y/N	
Does this activity deal with endangered fauna and/or flora / protected areas?	Y/N	
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to humans, including those performing the activity (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	Y/N	
8. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE		
Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence? (if yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed).	Y/N	
9. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES		
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?	Y/N	
Please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1,000)		
10. DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM PRINCIPLE		
Does your project comply with the "Do no significant harm principle"?	Y/N	
If no, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1,000)		

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

D3. Use of personal data

For information, the data provided in this proposal application form will be used to:

Anonymity and confidentiality will be maintained throughout processing of these data for the production of statistics. Protection of personal data and compliance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) (GDPR) is ensured. The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership TA Management Working Group may make any enquiries it considers necessary, including upon request of RI providers, to verify the information provided herein.

Retention of personal data shall take an end in accordance with the EPSS General Data Protection Policy.

- communicate with you about the call and application process;
- allow the TA Management Working Group and the RI providers to perform the eligibility;
- assess the competencies and complementarities of your proposal and teams by the IEP members;
- award access to RIs if your application is successful;
- support your project with potential uptake, including by mobilising relevant partners of the Partnership
- analyse and describe our applicants' pool (the name of applicants is anonymised in our analysis);
- collect your feedbacks and improve our communications with potential future applicants in next TA Calls.

D4. Consensus by the RI Provider

☐ **Consensus declaration**

I confirm that RI Providers concerned have been informed and have agreed on the feasibility of access for the requested infrastructure(s), including main, alternative, and auxiliary options. Please note that this information will be verified with the concerned RI Provider(s); in case of non-confirmation, the proposal will be automatically considered not eligible.

Tick this box to confirm that all requested RI Providers have acknowledged the proposal and confirmed the feasibility of access.

Note

No upload is required. Providers will be contacted directly by the Partnership to verify their confirmation. In the case of Research Vessels, feasibility and scheduling will be reconfirmed during the fine-tuning phase.

D5. Final declarations, check list and confirmation of submission

I declare that:

☐ In case of physical access to a RI, if applicable, any investigation will be observed and carried out in accordance with the general principles of the 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Marine Research in the Deep Seas and High Seas of the OSPAR Maritime Area', regardless of the area of operation.

☐ If the proposal is successful, I understand and accept to be bound by the user-provider agreement.

☐ The information provided is accurate and correct.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL!