



Call 2 on Priority 4 (ISO1) Launching event online

Terms of Reference

Lighthouse Atlantic Area Governance project

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Introduction

Lighthouse Atlantic Area Governance project

- **Financial allocation for this call for proposals is around 3,75 M€ in ERDF and 4,05M€ in total (Interreg funds + national co-financing).**
- **Considering the ERDF allocated, only one project will be selected.**
- **The project will be approximately programmed for a five-year duration.**

Introduction

How the AA Programme should face this new Priority/ISO1

- **Why a new type of projects linked to governance?**
 - **Funding support for “Better governance for cooperation in the Atlantic Area” under priority 4, Interreg Specific Objective 1 (ISO 1).**
 - **Objective: Enhance cooperation and efficiency in implementing Programme's strategies.**

Introduction

How the AA Programme should face this new Priority/ISO1

- Why focus on “environment”?
 - Anchored on EU policy initiatives: European Blue Growth Strategy, European Green Deal, Territorial Agenda 2030 and EU Atlantic Maritime Strategy.
 - Mission: Transition to a carbon-neutral and climate-resilient Atlantic Area Region.
 - Most of the projects financed by Atlantic Area Programme are environment based.

Key dates - Call 2

KEY STEPS	DATES
Pre-announcement	End of February / Beginning of March
Opening of the call	April 8 th <u>2024</u>
Info Sessions	April 11 th 2024
Close of the call	May 31 st <u>2024</u> (1 pm, Lisbon time)
Assessment of proposals by the JS and Working group	During June 2024
Selection and approval by the MC	During July 2024
Contracting procedures	From July onwards
Starting date	From MC decision (foreseen beginning of July 2024)

CALL's AIM

- Develop a **new type of project** (umbrella Project) able to make a step further on the **results enhancement and the diffusion** (taking on board previous AA programming periods).
- **Feed existing or potential governance networks** to inspire or influence public policies and decisions.
- Provide **more visibility to selected projects** results by enhancing the AA and its projects' impact. The aim is to capitalise on results for specific strategic issues in the AA.

CALL's AIM

- **Better coordination with existing or potential governance networks** able to influence public policies and work with policy makers such as the Atlantic Strategy and other identified relevant stakeholders. Coordination with other ETC Programmes should be included to respond to the mid-term evaluation recommendations.
- Expected to **provide inputs** contributing to the programme's ongoing and shape **future post 2027**.

Type of expected activities (all compulsory)

- Carry out a joint results dissemination: 5 activities
- Facilitate the transfer of practices and results: 5 activities
- Increase coordination and dialogue between stakeholders: 5 activities

Carry out a joint results dissemination

Identification and analysis of knowledge, experiences, and project results



Identify and analyse the project's results from past and current projects.



Develop a results database / digital library of programme results and deliverables that reinforce the visibility of the programme.



Analyse and decide if the project's **results could be used elsewhere**.



Create linkages between projects addressing similar issues to promote complementarities.



Disseminate collected knowledge to targeted actors.

Facilitate the transfer of practices and results

Encourage the transfer of results and practices to key stakeholders



Set up activities to **gather, transfer and amplify project results.**



Establish relationships with relevant decision makers with the aim of transfer results into public policies (local, regional, national, and European).



Organise joint events to share previous experiences and results transfer (including networking) to stakeholders and/or/decision-makers to amplify the projects' results.



Assess the challenges faced and the benefits of the transfer of practices to improve the process along the Lighthouse Atlantic Area Governance project lifetime.



For the "single" AA projects part of the community created by the Lighthouse Atlantic Area Governance project, facilitate their abilities to better access new contacts, networks and improve their skills in communication and/or advocacy to better promote their own project results.

Increase coordination and dialogue between stakeholders

Increase coordination and dialogue with relevant stakeholders in the AA



Strengthening coordination between existing Atlantic networks and strategies to achieve better governance.



Promote initiatives with other projects and ERDF programmes to address common challenges.



Facilitate thematic exchanges with European and international institutions.



Development of joint transnational action plans.



Develop a strategy paper with recommendations:

- on how project results might be included regional/national and European policies already in place, such as the Atlantic Maritime Strategy.
- Provide inputs contributing to improve the programme's ongoing and future development, activities, and projects programming.

Expected activities

Should be:

- ✓ Achieved approximately in **5 years** implementation and budget
- ✓ Compulsory
- ✓ Clearly understandable

What are the expected outputs of the “Lighthouse Atlantic Area Governance Project”?

Should :

- ✔ Contribute to **draft policy implementing measures and recommendations**, prepare Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), improve procedures, implement transferring and mainstreaming plans.
- ✔ Contribute to **reinforce existing networks of authorities and stakeholders**, (e.g., maximise investments through complementary and/or common interventions as well as capitalisation activities).

What are the expected Results of the “Lighthouse Atlantic Area Governance Project”?

- ✔ **A more coordinated approach to thematic issues** with local, regional, national, and European policies thanks to collectively empowered results of Interreg Atlantic Area projects.
- ✔ **Increased institutional capacity of Atlantic public authorities to transform** public policies, governance, and transnational cooperation (e.g., maximise investments through complementary and/or common interventions as well as capitalisation activities).
- ✔ **For the projects** for which the results are considered valuable and transferable, **increase their availability to enhance and spread-out.**
- ✔ **Increased coordination and cooperation** between regional, national, and supranational institutions/bodies and programmes acting in the area, as well as with strategies and initiatives.

Expected partnership structure

- ✔ **One public authority by MS** (as a full or associated partner) relevant in thematic addressed.
- ✔ The **project partnership** must be set up with **partners from the 4 different Atlantic Area countries:** France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain.
- ✔ **Profit making private partners** will **not** be **allowed** to participate in this call.
- ✔ **Full partners by project should be between 10 and 15, at least 2 by each MS.** The role of the Lead Partner can only be held by: Public organizations; Organisations governed by public law; Not-for-profit private organisations.

Partnership

Type of Organisations

- Public authorities,
- Specialised agencies: e.g., environmental agencies, structures in charge of protected areas, energy agencies
- Universities, higher education institutions and research centres
- NGOs, local communities, and associations
- Relevant thematic Networks
- Networks of decision makers
- Institutional networks

Partnership

Lead Partner Profile



Have the **technical thematic capacity** and, at the same time, appropriate institutional recognition to access decision makers networks at regional, national, or European levels.



Have experience as LP in Interreg programmes/partnerships to assure multidimensional governance approaches and linkage to existing networks and other active cooperation schemes.



Have institutional partners at different levels to assure multidimensional governance approaches and linkage to existing networks and other active cooperation schemes.



Be able to identify and mobilise key external players to support the uptake results to coordinate practices and policies and support the setting-up of new policies to amplify the outreach.



Have a deep knowledge of the Atlantic Area programme missions and projects managing procedures.

Partnership

Partner Profile



Have **high capacity to stimulate networking** related to environmental issues



Have **analytical skills** in this thematic field, connect easily with all relevant stakeholders



Have high **communication and capacity building skills**



Have **a solid institutional experience** linked to environmental issues

Partnership

Partner Profile

- ✓ Have **high capacity to stimulate networking** related to environmental issues
- ✓ Have **analytical skills** in this thematic field, connect easily with all relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Have high **communication and capacity building skills**
- ✓ Have **a solid institutional experience** linked to environmental issues

Key dates - Call 2- After approval

KEY STEPS	DATES
Contracting procedures	From July onwards
Starting date	From MC decision (foreseen beginning of July 2024)
Six months review	January 2025
1 st assessment exercise	December 2025
2 nd assessment exercise	June 2026
3 rd assessment exercise	June 2027
4 th assessment exercise	June 2028
5 th assessment exercise	January 2029

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