

OPEN CALL FOR SMALL PROJECT PROPOSALS

SEAS – Sustainable Enterprises Advancing blue Solutions

Opening conference – Venice - 7 October 2026.

Mate Kovač - Director of Sector - HAMAG-BICRO

OPEN CALL FOR SMALL PROJECT PROPOSALS

Objective – to support SMEs in improving their business, fostering growth, creating new jobs and increasing competitiveness

The Call supports SMEs in:

- Developing innovative technologies, products or services
- Bringing developed innovative technologies, products or services to the market
- Accessing foreign markets

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The total amount of the Grant funding under this Call available to SMEs:

2.050.000,00 EUR

of which **1.640.000,00 EUR** is co-financed by the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** and the rest by HAMAG-BICRO in Croatia and Fondo di Rotazione (FdR) in Italy

PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- **Partnership** must consist at least two partners, **one from Croatia and one from Italy**
- Maximum **3 partners** per Small Project
- Partners must be **SMEs** or **Start-ups**
- Partners **must operate** in Programme area **at least 1 year** prior to date of Small Project application submission
- Each partner must have **20%** of the total project budget

PROGRAMME AREA

- 25 Italian provinces
- 8 Croatian counties



ELIGIBILITY OF PARTNERS

- Partners must be **micro, small or medium-sized enterprises** according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 or **start-up** company
- Must be **legally established and registered in Programme area** or have a branch office registered as autonomous legal entity in the Programme area
- Must have **at least one closed business year** for seat and/or branch in the Programme area
- Must employ **at least one full-time employee** based on working hours (1FTE) in its last closed business year in the Programme area
- **Positive equity for the last closed business year** for seat and/or branch in the Programme area

SECTORAL CRITERIA

Partners must operate within the blue economy sector and carry out activities related to one or more of the following sectors

Marine living resources:
Processing and
distribution of fish and
aquaculture products

Marine non-living
resources: desalination

Marine renewable
energy

Marine mineral
resources

Blue biotechnology

Maritime infrastructure
and robotics

Port activities: Cargo
and warehousing and
port and water projects

Sustainable maritime
transport

Costal tourism

SMALL PROJECT SIZE

	Grant contribution (80%)	Private co-financing (20%)	Total budget
Minimum per Small Project	80.000,00 EUR	20.000,00 EUR	100.000,00 EUR
Maximum per Small Project	125.000,00 EUR	31.250,00 EUR	156.250,00 EUR

- Grant contribution up to **80% of the total Small Project budget**
- The maximum Grant contribution to each partner is **62.500,00 EUR**

GRANT CONTRIBUTION

- Up to 80% of the total eligible expenditure and is awarded as a grant under **Article 20 of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)**
- Final Recipient's co-financing (20%) can be composed of any kind of financial resources except from grants from European Union or National co-financing resources
- **Double financing** of the same eligible costs from different sources **is not allowed**

SMALL PROJECT DURATION AND DURABILITY OF OPERATIONS

- **6 – 12 months**
- Must be completed by the end of the **March 2028**
- **Activities must not start before the submission of the Small Project Application**
- During the post-implementation period, for three years after the final payment, partners must provide any requested documents and information upon request

COOPERATION CRITERIA

- Cross-border cooperation on the **development of innovative technologies, services and products** (from TRL 5 onward) or **bringing already developed innovative solutions to the market**



COOPERATION CRITERIA – ANSOFF MATRIX

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

- An existing product, technology or service will be placed on a new market
- One FR provides the product, the other provides access to a new market
- **ELIGIBLE IF** entering the new market should result in an increase in total sales, without reducing the FR's existing market presence

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

- FRs jointly develop a new product, technology or service to a market where one of them is already present
- Both FRs are co-developers

DIVERSIFICATION

- Development of a new product, technology or service together with access to a new market
- One or more FRs develop the product, and the other provide access to the new market
- The most advanced level of cooperation

Placing an existing product to an existing market – NOT ELIGIBLE

EUSAIR

- EU strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region – macroregional strategy adopted by EC
- Small Projects should contribute to the EUSAIR Flagship Pillar 1 – Blue growth – Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue bio-technologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy
- In Application form **Small Projects must demonstrate clear contribution to EUSAIR flagships – blue economy sectors**

PROJECT INDICATOR

RCR 03 – Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation

- Market introduction of a new or significantly improved good, service or process
- Product or process innovations must be **new to the enterprise** supported but they do not need to be new to the market
- Innovations could have been originally developed by supported enterprises or by other enterprises or organisations
- At the Small project closure evaluation activities will be carried out
- **FRs need to participate in evaluation activities** in order to **demonstrate the achievement** of the project result

COST CATEGORY AND REIMBURSEMENT METHOD

Cost category	Form of reimbursement
Preparation costs	Lump sum Up to 1.200,00 EUR per project
Staff costs	20% flat rate of direct costs (real costs)
Office and administrative costs	15% flat rate of staff costs
Travel and accommodation costs	15% flat rate of staff costs
External expertise and services costs	Real costs
Equipment costs	Real costs

VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

- VAT is not eligible if it is recoverable under the national legislation
- When VAT is not recoverable it is eligible if:
 - I. It is established that is borne by the Final Recipient
 - II. It is clearly identified in the invoice
- When is eligible expenditures, **it must be planned in the Small Project budget**

PROCUREMENT RULES

Contracts with value:

- **less than 10.000,00 EUR (excluding VAT)** - the adequacy of costs must always be ensured and documented as well as sound financial management. FRs must obtain at least 1 quotation/market price offer.
- **equal or over 10.000,00 EUR (excluding VAT)** - FRs are required to apply the “**Bid at three**” procedure, meaning that at least 3 quotations/market price offers must be obtained or requested

OPEN CALL – CUT OFF DATES

Call opening	8 October 2026
Cut-off dates	• 1st cut-off 9 November 2026 (23:59 CEST) • 2nd cut-off 8 January 2027 (23:59 CEST)* • 3rd cut-off 8 March 2027 (23:59 CEST)* <i>*Cut-off dates/deadlines (except for the 1st one) may be subject to adjustments that will be timely communicated</i>

DOCUMENTATION FOR APPLICATION

Guidelines for SMEs as Final Recipients (GfA)

- **Small Project Application form** (SPA)
- **Joint Statement** – for each FR
- **State-aid declaration** – for each FR
- **Tax Administration Certificate** – for each FR (Croatian – not older than 30 days, Italian – DURC not older than 120 days)
- **Quotation/Market price offer** – for external expertise and services and equipment costs (not older than 30 days) – for each FR
- **Annual financial report** – for each FR

APPLICATION SUBMISSION THROUGH THE PLATFORM

INTERREG – Cultivating connections and partnerships in border regions.

Interreg Home CBC CRO-BIH-MNE CBC HU-CRO CBC IT-CRO EUREKA **Application** Reporting

Interreg CBC Programmes EUREKA

Application

Interreg CBC Programmes

Text and links on documentation such as:

Submit your application.

The Project Proposal has to be submitted electronically through this Platform operated by the Lead Beneficiary HAMAG-BICRO.

Submission takes place through uploading of the following documents that you may find here:

1. EmBRACE
2. B Light 2
3. SEAS

Submission deadline of Project Proposals:
Date/Year/Time

Rules of submission:
There cannot be a concurrent submission with another project proposal.
If an applicant submits more than one proposal, only the first proposal will be considered for evaluation.

Programme CBC area *
CBC IT-CRO

Project Proposal Title *

Partner 1 *

Partner 2 *

Partner 3

Contact person Name and Surname *

Contact person Phone Number *

Contact person Email (Verification required) *

Upload Application form (MS Excel) *

Click to upload by file manager
Choose File No file chosen

Upload Application form (PDF) *

Click to upload by file manager
Choose File No file chosen

<https://cbchb.eu/application/>

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- **Only one Partner submits the application**
- After the submission, it needs to be **confirmed via the verification link** sent to the applicant's e-mail address
- The application is considered **validly submitted only after e-mail confirmation**
- Mandatory application documents and declarations must be submitted in English, while supporting documents may be submitted in English or in the national language
- **Each applicant can apply for one Small Project**
- Applicants may submit questions to request clarifications on the Call provisions to the seas@hamagbicro.hr and the answers will be published on the SEAS platform – Project documentation

DOCUMENTATION FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SMALL PROJECTS

- ANNEX I - Checklist for Administrative Criteria
- ANNEX II – Checklist for Eligibility Criteria
- ANNEX III – Content evaluation grid

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Carried out jointly by the SEAS Lead Partner and Project Partner

Three steps/phases:

1. Administrative check
2. Eligibility check
3. Content evaluation

After every positive check, each Small Project Application will proceed to the next step/phase

- The assessment has a maximum of **100 points**, SPA are ineligible for approval if the total score of Small Project is **less than 60 points**
- The deadline for assessment process is **60 days after respective cut-off date**

SELECTION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

- Based on the assessor's scores and available budget, decision-making proposal will be submitted to the **Steering and Selection Committee (SC)**
- Through its meetings, the **SC makes the final decision**
- Following the SC decision, LP and PP will inform the Small Project Partners and, for approved projects, proceeds with contracting
- **Croatian partners sign a contract with LP – HAMAG-BICRO while Italian partners sign a contract with PP – T2i**

FINANCIAL GUARANTEES

- **Each Final Recipients have to provide a financial guarantee** while contracting their Small Project on the **full amount of the requested grant**
- **For Croatian FR:** 1 blank promissory note (zadužnica) of the FR and 1 personal blank promissory note (zadužnica) of the founder
- **For Italian FR:** 1 bank or insurance guarantee (fideiussione)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SMALL PROJECTS

Contracted FRs will receive:

- Implementation and reporting manual and its annexes
- Procurement Guidelines
- Visibility and communication guidelines and communication pack

During implementation:

- Reporting
- On-the spot checks
- Support and guidance from the SEAS project team

REPORTING

- **Reporting period – 4 months**
- **The deadline** for reporting is **10 days** after reporting period; **30 days** for the final report
- Final Recipients report on **project progress, activities and eligible expenditures**
- **Reimbursement method – no advance payments**
- Approved reports and certificates are the basis for payment to the Final Recipients



PARTNER SEARCH

<https://cbchb.eu/cbc-it-cro/seas/partners/> - Registration on the project platform

INTERREG – Cultivating connections and partnerships in border regions.

interreg Home CBC CRO-BIH-MNE CBC HU-CRO **CBC IT-CRO** EUREKA Application Reporting

SEAS Project Documentation **Partners** Small Projects Contact

Partner Search Announcements

Search by keyword...

Company Name: Hello BIM j.d.o.o. Short Description: Hello BIM j.d.o.o. company from Rijeka provides professional BIM (Building Information Modeling) services for the construction and architectural sector. Its main activities include: 3D modeling of construction and architectural projects. Coordination of projects within the BIM environment. Cost optimization in the design and construction process. Country: Croatia Email: hello.bim@gmail.hr	Type of request: Request
Company Name: Geoside Geofisica srl Short Description: Geoside Geofisica S.r.l. is an Italian SME specialized in marine and terrestrial geophysical surveys, remote sensing and geospatial data processing. Expertise includes multibeam, side scan sonar, sub-bottom profiling, magnetometry, GPS, UAS-based surveys and UXO risk assessment. Geoside integrates survey data into GIS, BIM and 3D environments for marine infrastructure, coastal monitoring, underwater mapping and environmental applications. Country: Italy Email: info@geoside.it	Type of request: Offer
Company Name: MI Masteri d.o.o. Short Description: MI MASTERI d.o.o. Tvrtka je specijalizirana za inženjering, građevinarstvo te distribuciju naprednih materijala za antioksidativnu zaštitu. Zastupstvo i premaži. Ističe	

Register HERE

SEAS project team contact

seas@hamagbicro.hr

SEAS platform

<https://cbchb.eu/cbc-it-cro/seas/>

SEAS Interreg Italy-Croatia web page

<https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/seas>

