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Open Call for Professionals and SMEs for the Participation in BlueDiversity Interregional and Trans-National Training in the field of Blue Economy and Biodiversity

BlueDiversity Information

Project name	Shared BLUE knowledge and skills to sustain BIODIVERSITY in mariculture
Project ID	ITHR0200404
Acronym	BlueDiversity
Programme	Interreg Italy-Croatia
Priority 2	2 Green and resilient shared environment
Specific Objective	2.2 Protection of nature and biodiversity
Duration	01/03/2024 - 31/08/2026
Total Budget	2,022,051.66 EUR
Partnership	Coordinator: University of Salento (IT). Partners: Sea and Karst (HR), Eduforma (IT), Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (HR), Public Institution Dubrovnik-Neretva County Nature (HR), Blu Marine Service (IT), University of Padua (IT).

Open Call Overview

Opening Date	18/12/2025
Closing Date - Deadline Postponed	18/01/2026 04/02/2026 <i>BlueDiversity reserves the right to extend the deadline to reach the required number of participants.</i>



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<p>Open Call Objective</p>	<p>Selection of 20 eligible participants to take part in BlueDiversity training. The courses promote territorial cooperation between the two countries; thus, participants will represent Italy and Croatia.</p> <p>The educational path is composed of several units spanning from European Cooperation to Biodiversity and Alien Species monitoring; lectures foresee a mix of frontal training and field experience, followed by an online interregional session.</p> <p>The training takes place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Italy: Venice Pilot Area, hosted by University of Padova and Eduforma: 10 participants representing Italy. ▪Croatia: Dubrovnik hosted by Institute of Public Institution Dubrovnik-Neretva County Nature: 10 participants representing Croatia. <p>BlueDiversity covers all costs.</p> <p>Estimated value per participant: 760 EUR (330 EUR for the mobility and logistics, 430 EUR for the training, the venue and the materials). The State Aid corresponding to the cost of the services that the selected applicants SMEs will receive will be granted pursuant to art. 20 a of the EU Regulation GBER 651/2014; this benefit is an indirect aid and is NOT cumulated with minimis aid or other forms of aid or tax credit under other European or national regulations currently in force.</p>
<p>Application Procedure</p>	<p>Online application form duly filled and submitted before the deadline https://forms.gle/3JizH2VQxQHV9mmVZ</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Professionals (of legal age: 18 years by the 4th of February 2026); ▪Employees, of legal age, representing a company or a small, medium or micro enterprise; ▪Be resident, or domiciled, and employed in a company active or based in one of the following Croatian territories: Karlovačka županija, Zadarska županija, Šibensko-kninska županija, Splitsko-dalmatinska županija, Istarska županija, Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Be resident, or domiciled, and employed in a company active or based in one of the following Italian Provinces: Trieste, Gorizia, Udine, Pordenone, Venezia, Padova, Rovigo, Ferrara, Ravenna, Forlì-Cesena, Rimini, Pesaro e Urbino, Ancona, Macerata, Fermo, Ascoli Piceno, Teramo, Pescara, Chieti, Campobasso, Foggia, Barletta-Andria-Trani, Bari, Brindisi, Lecce; ▪Absence of convictions for violent crimes (i.e. human trafficking); ▪The company represented is not bankrupt or being wound up, is not having its affairs administered by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors or suspended business activities, and is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
<p>Evaluation Criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Good level of English; ▪Being active in one of the following sectors: fish and fishing, aquaculture, hospitality and tourism, food services; ▪Applicants being resident, or domiciled, employed or company based in one of the following Italian Provinces: Trieste, Gorizia, Udine, Pordenone, Venezia, Padova, Rovigo, Ferrara, Ravenna, Forlì-Cesena, Rimini, Pesaro e Urbino, Ancona, Macerata, Fermo, Ascoli Piceno, Teramo, Pescara, Chieti, Campobasso, Foggia, Barletta-Andria-Trani, Bari, Brindisi, Lecce; ▪Applicants being resident, or domiciled, and employed or company based in one of the following Croatian territories: Karlovačka županija, Jadranska Hrvatska, Primorsko-goranska županija, Ličko-senjska županija, Zadarska županija, Šibensko-kninska županija, Splitsko-dalmatinska županija, Istarska županija, Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija.
<p>Granting Procedure</p>	<p>Selected applicants will be contacted by email.</p>



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Context

The Open call is launched by Interreg Italy-Croatia project BlueDiversity, in the context of WorkPackage 3 “Blue Education, Training and Culture”.

BlueDiversity is a territorial cooperation project funded by Interreg Italy-Croatia programme: the partnership is composed of 4 Italian and 3 Croatian partners, under the leadership of University of Salento: Sea and Karst (HR), Eduforma (IT), Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (HR), Public Institution Dubrovnik-Neretva County Nature (HR), Blu Marine Service (IT), University of Padua (IT).

BlueDiversity aims at improving the understanding and the exploitation of the ecosystem services to balance the need for preservation of ecosystems and the economic necessities of the local population. BlueDiversity targets ecosystem services and their use, biodiversity, marine litter, Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) and the blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*).

Moreover, BlueDiversity has the goal of involving young students and professionals in interregional training schemes to transmit the knowledge developed within the project and to promote a sustainable exploitation of the ecosystem services, leading to an effective preservation of biodiversity.

BlueDiversity WorkPackage 3 includes the design, development, creation and delivery of two educational paths specifically tailored to young students and professionals active in the maritime field, especially those having a close relationship with the ecosystem, namely ecosystem services Users.

Expected Outcome: 20 participants in the interregional training scheme “BlueDiversity training for professionals and SMEs”.

The educational path aims at generating awareness regarding BlueDiversity and European cooperation, transferring crucial knowledge and essential capabilities to ESU, such as biodiversity protection, ecosystem, ecosystem services, ecosystem services users, exploitation, alien species, blue crab and blue economy.

Duration of the training: 1 day.

Venue of the training:

- Italy: Venice Pilot Area hosted by University of Padova and Eduforma;
- Croatia: Dubrovnik hosted by the Institute of Public Institution Dubrovnik-Neretva County Nature.

Modality: frontal lectures and field activity.



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BlueDiversity for Professionals and SMEs

BlueDiversity for SMEs and Professionals is a comprehensive introduction to the sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems within the framework of the **Blue Economy**. The course is divided into four interconnected units that guide learners from European policy foundations to hands-on ecosystem monitoring approaches. BlueDiversity for professionals training allows participants to gain knowledge, skills and capabilities regarding:

- **European Union's policy framework:** institutions and funding mechanisms that support cross-border cooperation;
- **BlueDiversity:** discover what the **Blue Economy** truly means — not just as a set of maritime industries, but as a **sustainable model** for using ocean resources responsibly;
- **Environmental Aspects:** explore how to **balance environmental preservation and economic development**;
- **Monitoring Ecosystems:** gain skills in **data literacy** and learn how to monitor marine ecosystems effectively. Understand the value of **Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK)** — insights from communities and users who play a vital role in maintaining healthy, resilient marine environments.

Open Call for professionals, micro and Small Enterprises for participation in transnational training

Open Call Opening Date: 18/12/2025

Open Call Deadline - **Deadline Postponed:** ~~18/01/2026~~ **04/02/2026**

Open Call Application Process: applications must be submitted electronically using the form available at the following **link:** <https://forms.gle/3JizH2VQxQHV9mmV7>

Applications must be submitted electronically before the deadline.

All mandatory information must be duly filled.

Eligibility

The application form must be submitted electronically before the deadline, all mandatory fields in the application form must be duly completed.

Applicants must be of legal age by the **4th of February 2026**; be citizens, or residents in Croatia or Italy.

Applicants must declare to be employed, to work, be resident or domiciliate in Italy (provinces: Trieste, Gorizia, Udine, Pordenone, Venezia, Padova, Rovigo, Ferrara, Ravenna, Forlì-Cesena, Rimini, Pesaro e Urbino, Ancona, Macerata, Fermo, Ascoli Piceno, Teramo, Pescara, Chieti, Campobasso, Foggia, Barletta-Andria-Trani, Bari, Brindisi, Lecce) or Croatia (croatian territories: Karlovačka županija, Jadranska Hrvatska, Primorsko-goranska, županija, Ličko-senjska županija, Zadarska



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županija, Šibensko-kninska županija, Splitsko-dalmatinska županija, Istarska županija, Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija).

Applicants declare absence of conviction for human trafficking and violent crimes.

Applicants declare that the Company represented is not bankrupt or being wound up, is not having its affairs administered by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors or suspended business activities, and is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.

Evaluation Criteria

Applicants respecting the eligibility requirements will be assessed. The evaluation will give priority to applicants presenting:

- Good level of English;
- Sector or work in direct contact with the marine ecosystem and users of the local ecosystem services such as: fish and fishing, hospitality and tourism, food services;
- Only for Italian applicants: residency, domiciliate or workplace located in one of the following Italian provinces:
 - Trieste
 - Gorizia
 - Udine
 - Pordenone
 - Venezia
 - Padova
 - Rovigo
 - Ferrara
 - Ravenna
 - Forlì-Cesena
 - Rimini
 - Pesaro e Urbino
 - Ancona
 - Macerata
 - Fermo
 - Ascoli Piceno
 - Teramo
 - Pescara
 - Chieti
 - Campobasso
 - Foggia
 - Barletta-Andria-Trani



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- o Bari
- o Brindisi
- o Lecce
- Only for Croatian applicants: residency, domiciliate or workplace located in one of the following Croatian territories (having one of the requirements, namely residency, domiciliate or workplace accounts for eligibility, having two or three is considered as additionality):
 - o Karlovačka županija
 - o Jadranska Hrvatska
 - o Primorsko-goranska županija
 - o Ličko-senjska županija
 - o Zadarska županija
 - o Šibensko-kninska županija
 - o Splitsko-dalmatinska županija
 - o Istarska županija
 - o Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija

Selection process

Selected candidates will be contacted by email to verify declared requirements and to arrange the details of the participation in the training.

DATA PRIVACY

Pursuant to and for Legislative Decree 196/2003, the personal data acquired will be processed, also with the aid of electronic means, guaranteeing absolute confidentiality and exclusively for the purposes related to this notice.



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PRIVACY POLICY - ART. 13 EUROPEAN REGULATION NR. 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation)

Data controller

The data controllers are the project partners of the BlueDiversity project.

Methods of processing personal data

Personal data (personal data, telephone number, e-mail, etc.) are processed on computer media or in any case with the aid of computerized or automated tools in compliance with the minimum security measures and, in any case, in order to guarantee the integrity, security and confidentiality of the data.

Purpose of the processing

The Data Controllers will process your personal data for the following purposes:

1. performance of contractual and pre-contractual activities;
2. compliance with tax or legal obligations.

As regards the fulfillment of the formalities foreseen in the program and registration of State aid – Art. 20 a GBER, IT-HR Managing Authority , Veneto Region will be entitled to process the personal data provided.

Personal data will be processed exclusively for purposes strictly connected and instrumental to the fulfillment of the obligations inherent to the aforementioned points.

Nature of the contribution

The provision of data for the purposes referred to in paragraphs 1) and 2) of Article 3 does not require any formal consent as a preliminary and essential to any contractual or pre-contractual relationship.

Recipients or category of recipients of personal data

The personal data provided, for the purposes described above, may be brought to the attention of employees and/or collaborators of the Data Controller and communicated to the following subjects:

- a) third-party companies possibly appointed by the Owner to provide for the execution of the obligations assumed by the latter for the implementation of the treatments provided for by the purposes set out in points 1) and 2) of Article 3;
- c) all subjects (including Public Authorities) who have the right to access data under regulatory or administrative provisions;



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d) third-party companies that provide essential support services for processing and have direct or indirect access to your data.

All the collaborators or suppliers used by the Data Controller for the processing of your personal data have been appropriately and legally authorized and empowered on the methods and purposes of the treatments attributed to them and will act in compliance with and in accordance with this information.

Data retention times

Personal data will be kept for the times defined by the relevant legislation, which are specified below pursuant to art. 13, paragraph 2, letter a) GDPR:

for the purposes indicated in points 1), 2) of article 3 for the times prescribed by the laws in force and in any case for a period not less than 10 (ten) years.

Exercise of rights by the interested party

Pursuant to article 13, paragraph 2, letters b) and d), 15, 18, 19 and 21 GDPR, the interested party is informed that he/she has the right to:

- a. Access to personal data: obtain confirmation of whether data concerning the interested party are being processed and, in this case, access to the following information: the purposes, the categories of data, the recipients, the retention period, the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the right to request rectification or cancellation or limitation of processing or opposition to the processing itself and the existence of an automated decision-making process;
- b. Request for rectification or cancellation of the same or limitation of the processing that concerns the interested party; "limitation" means the marking of data stored with the aim of limiting its processing in the future;
- c. Opposition to processing: to oppose for reasons connected with the particular situation of the interested party to the processing of data for the performance of a task of public interest or for the pursuit of a legitimate interest of the Controller;
- d. Data portability: in the case of automated processing carried out on the basis of consent or in execution of a contract, to receive data concerning the interested party in a structured format, commonly used and readable by automatic device; in particular, the data will be provided by the Data Controller in .xml format;
- e. Revocation of consent to processing for marketing purposes, both direct and indirect, market research and profiling; the exercise of this right does not prejudice in any way the lawfulness of the processing carried out before the revocation;
- f. Propose a claim pursuant to art. 77 RGPD to the competent supervisory authority based on interested party's habitual residence, workplace or place of violation of their rights; for Italy, the Guarantor for the protection of personal data is competent, which can be contacted via the contact details on the website <http://www.garanteprivacy.it>.





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The aforementioned rights may be exercised by sending a specific request to the Data Controller.

