

Atlantic Project Awards 2023

Guidelines

26 June 2023

ATLANTIC STRATEGY
Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan

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1. Introduction

The Atlantic Project Awards feature outstanding initiatives, successful collaborations and achievements relevant to the implementation of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0. These projects have taken place within the European Union Atlantic area over the past year and showcase success stories, best practices and partnership models that could be scaled up at the regional, national, European and international level, while promoting the key priorities of the Atlantic Strategy.

The Atlantic Project Awards are organised by the Atlantic Strategy Committee, supported by the Atlantic Assistance Mechanism.

2. Objectives and Outcomes

The Atlantic Project Awards aim to:

- Promote the key priorities and achievements of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 to the wider EU public;
- Showcase initiatives, successful collaborations, best practices and partnerships that could inspire, be replicated or scaled up to implement the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0; and
- Support the best projects and initiatives in each category towards their growth objectives by enhancing their visibility and providing them with an opportunity to network with potential growth partners.

The expected outcomes of the Awards are to:

- Promote Atlantic success stories and initiatives that can be further supported and scaled up;
- Provide a database of projects, initiatives and best practices that would promote the EU Green Deal and accelerate the implementation of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0;
- Engage existing and new stakeholders into the Atlantic Community.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Applications may be submitted by any individual, organisation, business, group, network, consortium or institution that:

- Is headquartered, domiciled or present in an EU Atlantic Member State – France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain.
- Has a funded project or initiative either in progress or completed. A funded project is a group of tasks, actions, activities carried out by a consortium or a group within the framework of a larger and longer collaboration. Any type of funded project (at local, regional, national, or European level from public and/or private sources) that has been delivered or is being delivered inside the Atlantic Strategy geographical area is eligible to apply.
- Has been initiated within 36 months prior to the announcement of this Call.

4. Application procedure

An Open Call for Applications has been launched on the Atlantic website and social media, and via the Atlantic stakeholder communication channels. In tandem, the Assistance Mechanism will monitor existing project pipelines, national, regional and international awards for potential candidates.

Applications are to be submitted exclusively through the [Online Application Form](#).

Any questions should be submitted via email at helpdesk@atlantic-maritime-strategy.ec.europa.eu

Applications received shall be processed by the Assistance Mechanism, and all candidates will be notified of:

- Automatic receipt of their application,
- Any questions/clarifications on the application during the assessment,
- Results of the selection of award winners for the ASPC 2023.

5. Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated considering the positive impact that the proposed projects had on the Atlantic, on the basis of the following Criteria.

Criterion	Weight
<p>Criterion 1: Significance of the need or problem being addressed</p> <p><i>Relevance of the project to the needs of the pillar, temporality, or significance of the need (short-, medium-, long-term trend)</i></p>	25%
<p>Criterion 2: Clarity of the project's value proposition, its competitive advantage in relation to the need being addressed and potential</p> <p><i>Project's value proposition is clearly defined, project effectively demonstrates how it addresses the need, and/or reflects potential or existing synergies with other pillars</i></p>	30%
<p>Criterion 3: The project clearly demonstrates a sustainable impact</p> <p><i>Project has a tangible/high impact on sustainability for the Atlantic Blue Economy, it reflects an area under the EU Green Deal and/or contributes to the greening of the Atlantic Blue Economy</i></p>	15%
<p>Criterion 4: Viability of the project model</p> <p><i>Project demonstrates its viability over the long-term, it can be replicated in different territories or localities and/or can be scaled up</i></p>	15%
<p>Criterion 5: Team</p> <p><i>The project team has the right set of skills and competences and the team/board members and/or advisors have the right networks/key relationships</i></p>	5%
<p>Criterion 6: Atlantic/International Cooperation</p> <p><i>The project encourages collaboration and has an Atlantic/international dimension</i></p>	10%
<p>Bonus Criterion: Innovation</p> <p><i>The project demonstrates innovativeness in its approach</i></p>	

6. Award Categories

The Atlantic Project Awards 2023 consist of five award categories, in line with the Pillars of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0.

- **Atlantic Ports:** Projects, initiatives and actions that feature ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy and/or catalysts for business in the Atlantic.
- **Blue Skills and Ocean Literacy:** Projects, initiatives and actions that boost blue skills and blue jobs, featuring quality education, training and lifelong learning, and that promote ocean literacy.
- **Marine Renewable Energy:** Projects, initiatives and actions that promote carbon neutrality through marine renewable energy.
- **Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts:** Projects, initiatives and actions for stronger coastal resilience and which reinforce the fight against marine pollution.
- **International Cooperation:** Projects, initiatives and actions that reflect an international dimension to the Atlantic Action Plan as embodied in the Galway (2013) and Belém (2017) Statements and the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

The Atlantic Project Awards will be granted to the five winners (1 winner in each award category) during a ceremony at the 10th Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (ASPC 2023), to be held in 18-19 October 2023 in Oporto, Portugal.

The Award Winners will receive:

- A trophy and certificate,
- An opportunity to present their awarded project during the ASPC 2023,
- Promotion of the project through the Atlantic Community's web-based communication channels (Atlantic Strategy website, social media and electronic publications), and by general media coverage,
- An Atlantic Project Award Seal. The seal may be used by the Winners in their communications and marketing material.

The projects that have been nominated for the Atlantic Project Awards will also be promoted by the Atlantic Assistance Mechanism.

7. Preparation for the Conference and Awards Ceremony

The organisation team of the Assistance Mechanism will contact the award winners for the preparation of their project presentation during the ASPC 2023.

Participation to the ASPC 2023 includes:

- Exhibition stand: All projects will be offered space to present their project and meet potential growth partners during the matchmaking/networking session.
- Project pitch: the winners will be given the opportunity to showcase their project during the Award Ceremony to the ASPC 2023 participants.

8. Key dates



