

Atlantic Project Awards 2024

Guidelines for applicants

Version of 17th of May
2024



Supported
by the



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Objectives and Outcomes	3
3	Eligibility Conditions	4
4	Application procedure	4
5	Selection criteria	4
6	Awards	5
7	Preparation for the Conference and Awards Ceremony	6
8	Key dates	6



Picture credit: Christophe Cozeau / Terra

11th Atlantic

Stakeholders

Platform

Conference

Bordeaux, 2024

*Call for Atlantic Project
Awards 2024*

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 EU Atlantic Action Plan member states 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 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 best in category projects and initiatives with their growth objectives by enhancing their visibility and providing them with a platform to present their initiatives and be matched with potential growth partners.

The expected outcomes of the Awards:

- 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 Conditions

Project 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 that is 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.
- The project applied for must be initiated within 36 months prior to the announcement of this Call (specifically for the 2024 call, as eligible projects are considered the ones with a start date later than 01/05/2021).

4 Application procedure

An Open Call for Applications has been launched on Atlantic Strategy social and digital 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, which can be accessed through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/AtlanticProjectAwards2024_applications

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 the application (online via EUsurvey platform)
- Any questions/clarifications on the application during the evaluation period
- Results of the selection of award winners for the ASPC 2024

The notification of selection results will be sent to all applicants by email. It is proposed that applicants include in the application form 2 contact emails, so that seamless and timely communication is facilitated in case of absences/holidays of a project's 1st point of contact.

5 Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated considering the positive impact that the proposed projects had/have on the Atlantic Blue Economy and the Atlantic Strategy, on the basis of the following criteria.

Criterion	Weight
<p>Criterion 1: Significance of the need or problem being addressed <i>This criterion refers to the relevance of the project to the needs of the pillar, temporality, or significance of the need (short-, medium-, long-term trend)</i></p>	20%
<p>Criterion 2: Clarity of the project's value proposition, its competitive advantage in relation to the need being addressed and potential synergies with other pillars <i>Project's value proposition should be clearly defined, project should effectively demonstrate how it addresses the need and how it supports the operationalization of the AAP 2.0 by emphasising coordination between various stakeholders. Any potential or existing synergies with other pillars should also be reflected</i></p>	25%
<p>Criterion 3: The project clearly demonstrates a sustainable impact <i>Project should demonstrate a tangible/high impact on sustainability for the Atlantic Blue Economy and reflect an area under the EU Green Deal and/or contribute to the greening of the Atlantic Blue Economy</i></p>	15%
<p>Criterion 4: Viability of the project model <i>Project should demonstrate its inclusiveness and viability in the long-term and whether it can be replicated in different territories or localities and/or can be scaled up. The transferability of the project in other Sea Basins (e.g. WestMED) will also be taken into account in this criterion.</i></p>	20%
<p>Criterion 5: Team <i>The project team should have 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 <i>The project encourages collaboration and has an Atlantic/international dimension. If the project is implemented in different countries of the Atlantic Strategy or internationally it should be mentioned in this criterion.</i></p>	10%
<p>Bonus Criterion: Innovation <i>The project demonstrates innovativeness in its approach and/or results.</i></p>	5%

6 Awards

The Atlantic Project Awards 2024 consist of the following five award categories, in line with the Pillars of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0. Interested applicants should include in their online application form, one main (primary) and one secondary category relative to their project's scope and results.

- **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 11th Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (ASPC 2024), to be held in 21st and 22nd November 2024 in Bordeaux, France.

The Award Winners will receive:

- A trophy and certificate
- Opportunity to present their awarded project during the ASPC 2024
- Promotion of the project through the Atlantic Community's web-based communication channels (Atlantic Strategy website, Atlantic Assistance Mechanism social media and electronic publications- e.g. Implementation Report), by DG MARE/CINEA communication channels and by general media coverage.
- An Atlantic Project Award Seal¹

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 2024.

Preparation for the participation to the ASPC 2024 includes:

- Travelling arrangements: The Assistance Mechanism will cover the travel arrangements for one (1) representative of the winner project.
- Project pitch: The winners will be given the opportunity to pitch/ showcase their project during the Award Ceremony to the ASPC 2024 participants. The Assistance Mechanism will contact the winners and provide directions for their project presentation.

¹ The Atlantic Project Award Seal may be used by the winners in their communications and marketing material.

8 Key dates



