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I. Introduction

The Atlantic Project Awards are designed to honour outstanding success stories, achieved by projects in the geographical area covered by the Atlantic Strategy and with relevance to the implementation of the [Atlantic Action Plan](#).

The Awards are organized by the Atlantic Strategy Group (ASG) with the help of the Assistance Mechanism for the Atlantic Action Plan, and aim to showcase and promote individual winners and highlight the incorporation and scaling up of best practices at regional, national, European and international level.

The Atlantic Project Awards seek to make the Atlantic Strategy more visible to the general public by promoting the key priorities of the Atlantic Action Plan and its achievements across the Member States covered by the Atlantic Strategy.

Follow up actions will be undertaken to increase winner project publicity i.e. dissemination actions through the Assistance Mechanism's web-based communication channels (electronic publications and social media).

The Atlantic Project Awards commenced in 2016 at which time they were organized in the Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference in Dublin (ASPC2016), while the 2nd and 3 editions of the Awards were held respectively in Glasgow during ASPC2017 and in Vigo during ASPC2018. In 2019, there was no Atlantic Project Awards.

The present document provides guidelines and practical information on the 2020 Atlantic Project Awards application process that are going to held in France during the upcoming [ASPC2020](#).

II. Atlantic Project Awards' categories

In 2020, taking into account the new Atlantic Action Plan, Awards will be given to projects that fall in each of the following five (5) categories, which are in line with the pillars of the Atlantic Action Plan:

- ❖ Atlantic ports and blue economy
- ❖ Blue skills and ocean literacy
- ❖ Marine renewable energy
- ❖ Healthy ocean and resilient coasts
- ❖ International Cooperation in the Atlantic area i.e. international dimension embodied in the [Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation with United States of America and Canada](#) and its potential support to the Blue Economy; in the Atlantic research cooperation with Brazil and South Africa; in the cooperation with adjacent sea macro-regions/basins (Baltic, Mediterranean, Black Sea), etc.

Applicants are invited to select **up to and only up to two categories** for their project: their first choice (**primary award category**) should reflect the most appropriate category as it relates to their project's objectives while their second choice (**secondary award category**) should reflect any other category that they believe their project has a direct or indirect impact to.

III. Practical Information on the application process

The Atlantic Project Awards will be granted to **5 projects** (1 winner in each of the categories listed above) that come under the umbrella of the Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan pillars, as recognition of outstanding performance in relevant areas/sectors.

The dedicated online application form allows interested project promoters/partners to put forward a submission along with a brief introduction of their project (general information, short project description, outcomes achieved, relevance to Atlantic Strategy, etc.).

Please note that:

- ❖ Applications should be submitted solely through the online application form.
- ❖ Submissions are accepted **only in English** so as to facilitate the evaluation process.

Additional information and support for the submission of projects can be provided by the AAM's Central Team through the dedicated helpdesk service (email: helpdesk@atlanticstrategy.eu).

The schedule of the "Atlantic Project Awards" process is the following:

- ❖ Launch of the Awards & online Application form → 16/03/2020
- ❖ Closing of online Application → 18/06/2020
- ❖ Evaluation process: 22/06/2020→03/07/2020
- ❖ Selection of Award winners: 06/07/2020
- ❖ Inform Award winners of results → 10/07/2020
- ❖ Atlantic Project Award Ceremony → Fall 2020

IV. Who can apply - Project eligibility

Applications may be put forward by professionals, entrepreneurs, organisations, centres of excellence/research institutions, maritime clusters, associations and NGOs, from one of the EU Member States covered by the Atlantic Strategy (France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain).

Atlantic Project Awards will showcase **funded projects** (in progress or completed) and **NOT** "ideas". A **funded project** is recognised as a group of tasks, actions, activities carried out by a consortium or a grouping 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.

Any project initiated and/or completed during the **36 months** prior to the announcement of this call will be eligible for an award.

V. Guidelines for completing the Online Application Form

[1] Please select the **primary Award category** applicable to your project choosing one of the following (**Mandatory field**):

- ❖ Atlantic ports and blue economy;
 - Justify your selection (**Mandatory field**) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation),
- ❖ Blue skills and ocean literacy;
 - Justify your selection (**Mandatory field**) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation),
- ❖ Marine renewable energy;
 - Justify your selection (**Mandatory field**) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation),
- ❖ Healthy oceans and resilient coasts;
 - Justify your selection (Mandatory field) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation),
- ❖ Develop international Cooperation e.g. international dimension embodied in the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation and its potential support to the Blue Economy , in the Atlantic research cooperation with Brazil and South Africa, in the cooperation with adjacent sea macro-regions/basins (Baltic, Mediterranean), etc.
 - Justify your selection (Mandatory field) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation).

[2] Please select the **secondary Award category** applicable to your project choosing one of the following (**Mandatory field**):

- ❖ Atlantic ports and blue economy;
 - Justify your selection (**Mandatory field**) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation),
- ❖ Blue skills and ocean literacy;
 - Justify your selection (**Mandatory field**) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation),
- ❖ Marine renewable energy;
 - Justify your selection (**Mandatory field**) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation),
- ❖ Healthy oceans and resilient coasts;
 - Justify your selection (Mandatory field) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation),

- ❖ Develop international Cooperation e.g. international dimension embodied in the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation and its potential support to the Blue Economy , in the Atlantic research cooperation with Brazil and South Africa, in the cooperation with adjacent sea macro-regions/basins (Baltic, Mediterranean), etc.
 - Justify your selection (Mandatory field) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation).

[3] General information on the applicant organisation:

- ❖ Name of your organisation (**Mandatory field**): Legal/commercial name of the organisation should be provided.
- ❖ Website of your project or organisation (**Optional field**): Link to project's / organisation's website (if available) should be provided.
- ❖ Type of organisation (**Mandatory field**): Please select the appropriate type from menu. In case the appropriate type is not listed, please fill in under "Other".
- ❖ Entrepreneurs,
- ❖ Companies,
- ❖ Public bodies,
- ❖ Universities /research institutions,
- ❖ Associations,
- ❖ NGOs,
- ❖ Individuals,
- ❖ Other

[4] Contact details of the applicant organization:

- ❖ Title, First & Last Name, E-mail, Telephone Number (**Mandatory fields**): Please provide with all the requested information of the project's responsible Contact Person.

[5] Key project elements:

- ❖ Title (**Mandatory field**);
- ❖ Short summary of the project (**Mandatory field**) - (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation);
- ❖ Ongoing / Completed (**Mandatory field**);
- ❖ Time frame (Start date: mm/yyyy – End date: mm/yyyy) (**Mandatory field**);
- ❖ State Funding Authority (EU, national and/or regional authorities, private entities) (**Mandatory field**);
- ❖ If project is funded by the EU, please specify the EU funding source (**Mandatory field**);
- ❖ Total project budget in Euro (**Mandatory field**);
- ❖ Number of people working on the project (including independent collaborators or volunteers) (**Mandatory field**);

[6] Project description including the following information (Mandatory field**):**

- ✓ What are the project objectives?
- ✓ How was/is the project implemented?

- ✓ What is the best practice that is demonstrated by this project?
- ✓ What are the results achieved to date?
- ✓ Describe how can the aforementioned results be transferred to other organisations or sub-regions/regions/member states?
- ✓ What future development activity is planned for the project?

Project images: please upload an image(s) (Max size 2MB) that best represents the project **(Optional field)**

Project links: please upload up to 3 links to websites, social media platforms, intranet sites or online videos. Website links could also feature relevant publications, brochures, press releases or reports. **(Optional field).**

VI. Assessment process and the Evaluation Committee

Eligible nominations will be assessed against the following set of criteria:

- ❖ Project relevance with award categories for which the project promoters have applied.
- ❖ Level of innovation of the project in terms of targeted or achieved results and working methods.
- ❖ Transferable project results for the benefit of the AAP development/implementation.

The assessment of nominations will be carried out by the Atlantic Project Awards jury comprising members or representatives of the Atlantic Strategy Group¹.

VII. The Awards trophy

One winner per category will be invited to receive the 2020 Atlantic Project Award at a Ceremony to take place during the 7th Atlantic Stakeholder Conference (France, Fall 2020).

An award trophy and a certificate will be offered to the winners. Additionally, the award winners will receive publicity through the Assistance mechanism's web-based communication channels (electronic publications and social media) and by general media coverage.

Lastly, the award winners' travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Assistance Mechanism for the Atlantic Action Plan.

¹ The Atlantic Strategy Group (ASG) provides high level guidance and stewardship for the implementation and monitoring of the Atlantic Strategy and the Atlantic Action Plan. It is composed of representatives of the five Atlantic Member States and of the European Institutions.