Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Online Informative Session
23 February 2023

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR YOUTH, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

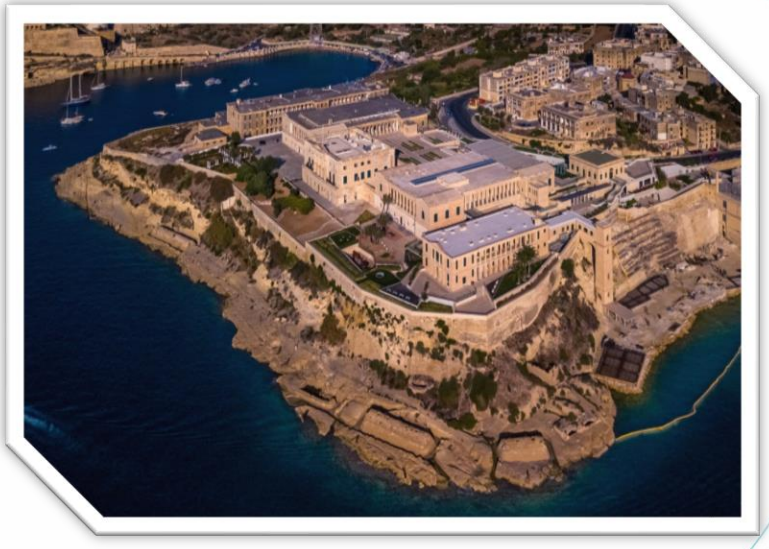
Xjenza The Malta Council for Science & Technology

Co-funded by the European Union
European Partnership

A few housekeeping notes

- ✓ This session will be recorded.
- ✓ Q&A time will follow the presentation
- ✓ During the presentation, use the chat box to ask questions. We will get to them following the presentation.
- ✓ Please remain muted unless you need to speak. This minimises background noises.
- ✓ Presentation and recording will be uploaded on MCST website following the session.

The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)



The governmental body responsible for Research and Innovation (R&I), space, science, and technology in Malta.

MCST was established by central government in 1988 with the mandate of advising government on science and technology policy. Today its remit has developed and expanded to include responsibilities associated with R&I policy and strategy, internationalisation, public engagement in STEM, as well as the implementation of various R&I programmes, at the national and transnational levels.

MCST also houses the NCP Network for the EU's Framework Programme, currently Horizon Europe.

Internationalisation Unit

Aims and Objectives

- The main aim of the internationalisation unit is to **strengthen international R&I collaboration amongst local and foreign researchers and stakeholders**

- The Unit implements regional and international funding programmes, using national funds, aimed at the local R&I stakeholder community

Internationalisation Programmes

PRIMA
PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

BlueBio COFUND

Multilateral Programmes:

- PRIMA
- BlueBio ERA-NET COFUND

SINO MALTA
BILATERAL FUND

MCST TÜBİTAK 2022
JOINT CALL FOR R&I PROPOSALS

Bilateral Programmes:

- SINO-MALTA Fund
- MCST-TÜBİTAK

Horizon Europe Partnerships:

- Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP)
- Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)
- Transforming Health and Care Systems Partnership (THCS)

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

INTRODUCING THE SBEP PARTNERSHIP

MARTINA VELLA

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
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SBEP: A co-funded partnership

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership is a Horizon Europe co-funded partnership.

The new generation of EU Partnerships **brings together the European Commission and public and/or private partners** to address Europe's most pressing challenges.

CO-FUNDED

Commitments by national partners for financial and in-kind contributions and co-funded up to 30% by the European Union

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership will design, steer and support a just and inclusive transition to a regenerative and circular blue economy.

Vision

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership aims to boost the transformation needed towards a climate-neutral, sustainable, productive and competitive blue economy by 2030, while creating and supporting the conditions for healthy oceans for the people by 2050.

Aim

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership will deliver solutions to enable the European Green Deal and Digital Europe strategies and ultimately the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Policy Context

Quick facts and figures

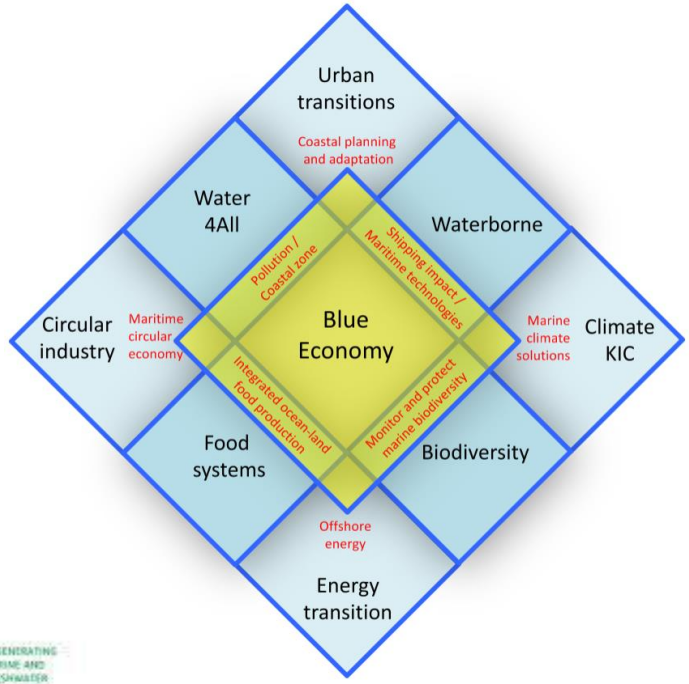
60 partners from 25 countries & European Commission

€450 million planned investments over 7 years

6 co-funded calls for R&I proposals

Connectivity and Synergy

- Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters
- Other EU Partnerships
- Sea-basins / Atlantic Ocean
- Other funding streams
- Through different sectors and across disciplines



Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholders can engage at regional-, sectoral- or theme-specific input and feedback along the knowledge chains.
- Through participation stakeholders can obtain ownership of the common goals i.e. **A more holistic view of ocean challenges and basis for innovative solutions and technological innovation.**
- Engagement can be done through:
  - **Participation within the co-funded calls**
  - **Sea-basin level nodes**
  - **Multi-stakeholder community of practice**

Contact nodes

Atlantic:

- Ireland
- Portugal

Mediterranean Sea:

- Greece
- Malta

Baltic Sea:

- Estonia
- Poland

North Sea:

- Belgium
- Netherlands

Black Sea:

- Bulgaria
- Turkey

Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

SRIA

PILLARS

1 A blue economy in harmony with nature

2 Blue economy solutions towards climate neutrality

3 A thriving blue economy for the people

4 Integrated and responsive ocean governance

KEY ENABLERS

- Digitalisation
- FAIR data
- Human capacity
- Ocean literacy
- Infrastructures
- Social innovation
- Sustainable finance

Co-Funded Calls

- Cash and in-kind contribution by 25 Partnership countries + European Commission top-up
- Annual calls over 6 years + implementation of other type of calls
- Focus of priority areas defined annually and the priorities of the 25 Partnership Countries.
- First joint call for proposals launched in February 2023.

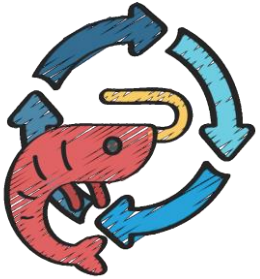
Priority Areas

The five Priority Areas below will be the basis for the first call

Development and validation of Ocean **Digital Twins** at sub sea-basin scale

Blue generation **marine structures**

Planning and managing sea-uses



Healthy **'Blue Food'** under a 'One Health' approach

Enabling the green transition of **'Blue Food' production**

Co-funded by the European Union

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

The First Co-funded Joint Transnational Call

"The way forward: a thriving sustainable blue economy for a brighter future"

General Call Considerations

What is the Call about?

- The Call aims **to reinforce the European blue economy sector through innovative solutions and improved resilience of marine ecosystems**
- Global Call budget is of ca. **EUR 50M** (incl. EU top up)
- Local budget available for Malta-based applicants is of **EUR 500k**
- 5 Priority Areas drawn from the SRIA.

- Marine Spatial Planning
- Resolve conflicting uses
- Minimise impact on marine ecosystems
- Co-design with competent authorities
- Space-based remote sensing tools

Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level

Development of offshore marine multi-use infrastructures to support the blue economy

- High demand for space
- Promote shared uses e.g.; through combining renewables with aquaculture or renewables with desalination platforms
- Innovative platforms

- Blue Bioeconomy
- Waste valorisation
- Promote consumption of under-utilised fish, mesopelagic and low-trophic species

Climate-neutral, environmentally sustainable, and resource-efficient blue food and feed

Green transition of Blue Food production

- Incorporation of digital technologies within the blue food production such as AI, robotics and automation.
- Clean transition of Blue Food production
- Minimise the impact

- Assessment of ocean state and health under different scenarios
- Simulation of different phenomena and different scenarios and forecast eventualities

Ocean Digital Twin (ODT) test use cases at EU sea-basins and the Atlantic Ocean

Provisional timeline

Project Consortia

- Consortium composition: **partners from a minimum of three independent legal entities from three different countries participating in the call**

LOOKING FOR A PARTNER OR A PROJECT TO JOIN?

USE THE SBEP PARTNER SEARCH TOOL AVAILABLE HERE:

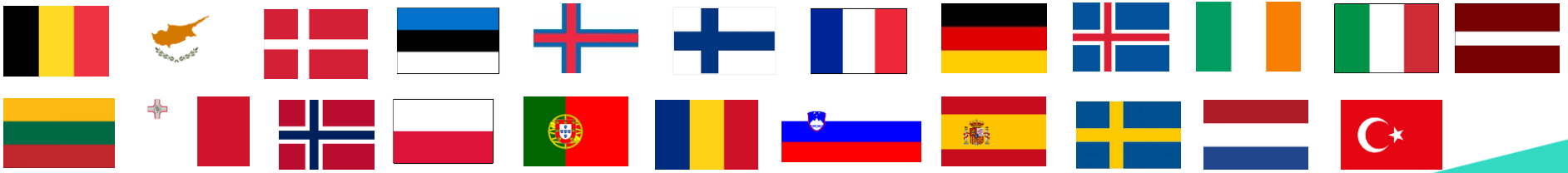
https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue/2023/partner-search

Participating Countries

23 Countries, 36 RFOs + EC

19 Member States: *Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, **Malta**, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands*

4 Associated Countries: *Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, Türkiye*



Forming a Consortium

- One partner must assume role of **Coordinator**:
  - Ensure eligibility of own entity and of partner entities within the consortium according to national/regional regulations
  - Submits (pre-)proposal on behalf of consortium on the EPSS by the stipulated deadlines
- All consortium partners must have a **Participant Identification Code (PIC)**

Call Requirements

- Projects must address **one priority area**
- Projects must be developed at **Pan-European level**
- Maximum project duration: **36 months**
- The requested funding by partners in any one country **cannot exceed 60% of the total requested funding** of a proposal.
- Proposals are to be complete, written in English, submitted to the EPSS and respect page limits.

Call Requirements

- **Submit Impact Pathway approach** - Projects should give **impact-driven contributions** to facilitate the transformation of the blue economy
  - A plan that describes what impact the research is expected to achieve in the long run and how it contributed to the overall impacts.
  - To help: guidelines on *Theory of Change (Annex A)*
- **Submit Data Management Plan** at proposal development phase and throughout the lifecycle of the project (Annex F)
- **Submit CVs** of PIs of each Partner
- Proposals should support Open Science (Open Access) principles in accordance with the FAIR principles for data management (Annex F)

Recommendations

- Proposals should go **beyond the state-of-the-art**
- **Relevance to policies framed under Blue Economy** and consider synergies with research activities funded by other EU missions, instruments, programmes or projects.
- Cover **broad geographic scale** or **considers impact on other EU sea basins**
- Contribute to **cross-cutting themes** (SRIA enablers) including, gender dimension in research, ocean literacy, development of capacity building activities, open data policy, knowledge transfer, young people etc.

Recommendations

- Participation of legal entities from countries that are not participating in the Call as **self-funded partners**
- Adhere to to principles of **good scientific practice** and follow European Code of Conduct for Research integrity by ALLEA (All European academies) and Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-poor settings. DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM PRINCIPLE

Preparation for Submission

- **Annex D and Annex E** – (Pre-)proposal forms on SBEP Website
- Coordinator **creates account on EPSS** (Online Submission Tool).
- Coordinator **adds partners** to consortium. Partners can input own data and need to **validate** their participation.
- Coordinator **uploads project description** (pre-proposal: 5 pages; Full proposal: 16 pages), **required budget for each partner and other details.**

This information may be subject to minimal changes in due course. Always check the National Rules on MCST website for the latest version.

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

NATIONAL CALL CONSIDERATIONS

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
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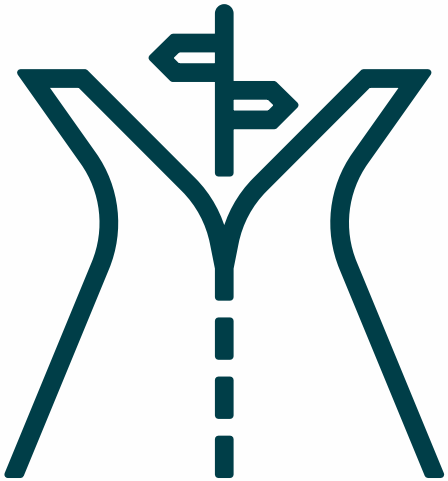
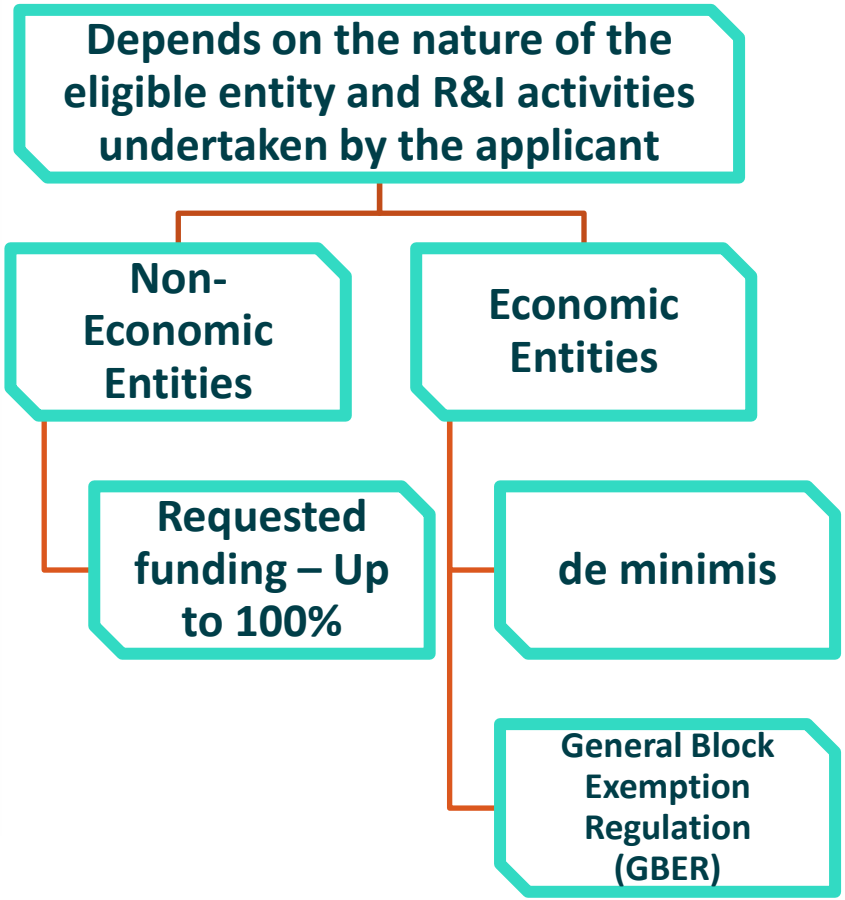
Eligible for National Funding

Eligible Entities must be registered in Malta or must have an operating base in Malta

- Limited Liability Company
- Partnerships
- Non-profit making Organisations
- Voluntary Organisations
- Professional Bodies
- Cooperatives
- Public entities
- Research & Knowledge-Dissemination Organisations

Funding Modalities





Aid Intensity

Economic entity	*de minimis*	GBER
Requested funding	**Up to 75%**	**Up to 100%**
Own contribution	**Remainder %**	**Remainder %**

Type of Research	Small Undertaking	Medium Undertaking	Large Undertaking
Fundamental Research	100%	100%	100%
Industrial Research	70%	60%	50%
Industrial Research with an effective Collaboration and/or results are widely disseminated	80%	75%	65%
Experimental Development	45%	35%	25%
Experimental Development with an effective collaboration and/or results are widely disseminated	60%	50%	40%

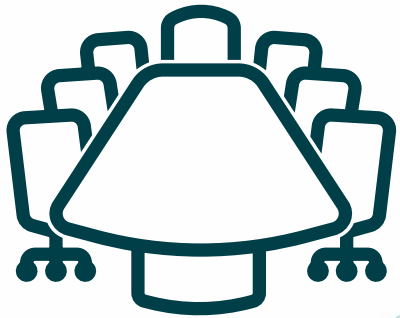
Eligible Costs

- Personnel
- Specialised Equipment & Consumables
- Subcontracting
- Costs of IP and Knowledge Transfer activities
- Travel & Subsistence
- Other Operating Expenses

Personnel Costs

Non-economic */de minimis* / GBER

- Project Management – up to 10% of the project value
- Students – EUR 6,000-8,000 p.a.
- Maximum of 1720 hours p.a.
- Hourly rates specified in national rules.



€z = (basic salary + allowances) / yearly workable hours of the employee.

Role in Project	Hourly rates in 2023	Hourly rates in 2024	Hourly rates in 2025	Limits per project
Management or equivalent	Up to €45.74/hour	Up to €48.02/hour	Up to €50.42/hour	Max 2 per project
Senior Researcher[1] or equivalent	Up to €37.14/hour	Up to €39.00/hour	Up to €40.95/hour	Max 2 per project
Researcher[2] or equivalent	Up to €26.41/hour	Up to €27.73/hour	Up to €29.11/hour	No limits
Operational, technician, research support assistant or equivalent	Up to €14.65/hour	Up to €15.38/hour	Up to €16.15/hour	No limits

Table 1 Eligible Hourly Rates

The rates stated in the table above are for the years 2023-2025. For subsequent years a 5% increase per year is allowed.

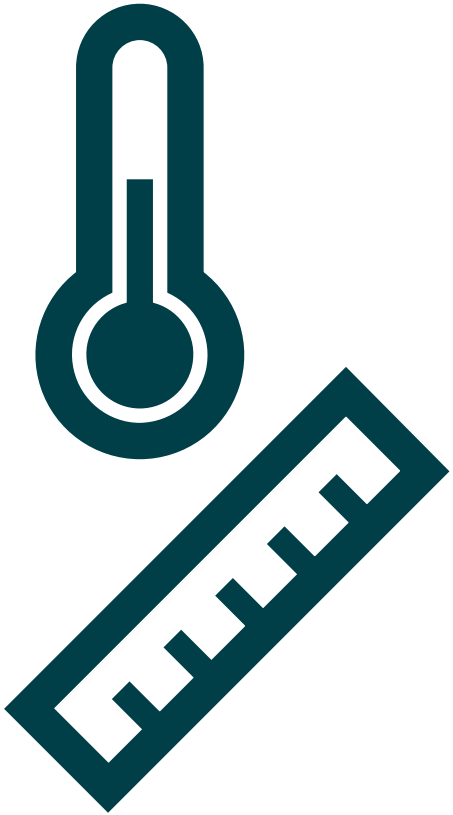
Instruments, Specialised Equipment and Consumables

Non-economic */de minimis*

- Cost to purchase/lease specialised equipment
- Cost of research consumables should not exceed 30% of the project value

GBER

- Depreciation costs of specialised equipment for the extent and period used for the project. *To be verified by a certified public accountant*.
- The costs and/or leasing of specialised equipment, are eligible only to the extent and for the period used for the project. The depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project are eligible.
- Cost of research consumables should not exceed 30% of the project value



Travel and Subsistence

Non-economic/*de minimis*

- Economy flights, and public transport (most economic solutions) and per diems for up to 14 days in a row
- For the attendance of consortium meetings, up to two persons will be eligible to attend the meeting.
- For the attendance of international conferences, up to two persons will be eligible to attend per six months.

GBER

- Travel costs are not eligible

Subcontracted Activities

Non-economic/*de minimis* / GBER

- **Allowed up to 25% of the project value**
- **Must follow fair procurement procedures**
- *To be discussed with the Call Manager at application stage*

IP and Knowledge Transfer Activities

Non-economic/*de minimis* / GBER

- **Costs of knowledge transfer activities and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions.**
- *To be discussed with the Call Manager at application stage*

Other Operating Expenses

Non-economic/*de minimis* / GBER

- **Other operating expenses incurred directly as a result of the project**
- *To be discussed with the Call Manager at application stage*

Overheads

Non-economic/*de minimis* / GBER

- **Overheads covered at 10% of direct eligible costs claimed**

Ineligible Costs

1. Expenses related to loans, interest etc.
2. Expenses which are recoverable through other funding mechanisms
3. Re-purchase of the same equipment originally procured through other funding mechanisms
4. Purchase and/or leasing of equipment and services from partners or their subsidiaries
5. Standard office equipment
6. Personnel hours for travelling
7. Any other costs that are not listed as eligible costs in the National Rules.

Submission Process

Important Links and Documents

SBEP Website:

https://www.bluepartnership.eu/

National Documentation:

http://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-call-2023/

Social Media Channels:

follow @BlueEconomyEU on #Twitter, #Facebook, #Linkedin and #Instagram

Social Media Channels:

MCST

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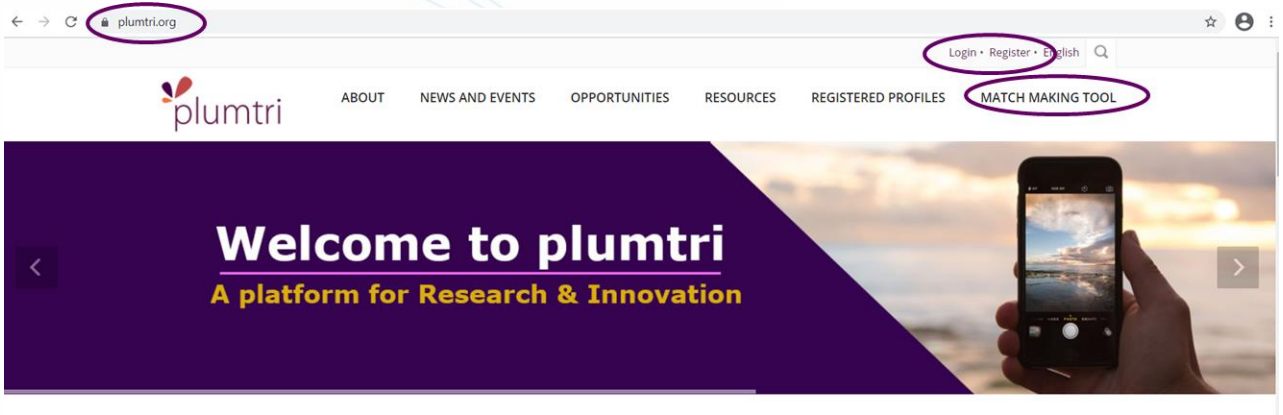
Pre-Proposal Deadline:

14th April 2023; 23:59CET



plumtri

One-stop shop for National and Mediterranean researchers, to keep abreast with:

- ✓ Latest News and Events
- ✓ Funding and Work Opportunities in R&I
- ✓ Facilitate networking amongst Mediterranean R&I community
- ✓ Partner Search Facility
- ✓ **Matchmaking Tool**

Looking for a partner or a project to join?
Use the SBEP Partner Search Tool available here

Informative Webinar - 2 March, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM CET On 2 March the Joint Call Secretariat will host an online webinar to inform potential applicants. The webinar will introduce the priority areas of the call and outline the process, evaluation criteria and selection process. Interested applicants are welcome to register online.

Thank you for your attention

- Organise Information Sessions
- Organise One-to-One sessions for tailor-made advice
- Facilitate search for partners - plumtri
- Networking opportunities – brokerage events

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