

# **The Malta Council for Science and Technology**

## **is seeking suitable experts to participate in the mid-term and end-term project evaluations within the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund.**

**DEADLINE: Wednesday, 12th April 2023, 17:00 CET**

## **1.0 General**

This call is to seek suitable experts to participate as evaluators in the process of reporting at the end of the 19 co-funded projects and the mid-term of the 10 projects from BlueBio’s 1st additional call.

MCST is one of the 27 partners from 16 countries that are part of this ERA-NET Cofund. Each partner involved in this initiative has been asked to nominate experts. Applications are broadly welcome regardless of nationality and/or country of residence, however experts based in Malta will be given priority in the list of nominations.

The chosen evaluators will then be assigned to evaluate three to four projects in accordance with their area of expertise. **The selection of evaluators from the pool of experts is at BlueBio’s sole discretion.**

This call is open to experts who will are not affiliated with the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund or any awarded BlueBio projects in any way.

## **2.0 About the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund**

The ERA-NET Cofund on Blue Bioeconomy - Unlocking the Potential of Aquatic Bioresources (BlueBio) successfully continues the work of the ERA-NET Marine Biotechnology1 (ERA-MBT, 2012 - 2017) and COFASP2 (2012-2017) and has been developed under the umbrella of JPI Oceans in accordance with the JPI Oceans Operational Plan.

The ERA-NET Cofund instrument under Horizon 2020 is designed to support public-public partnerships between Member States and associated countries for the implementation and coordination of networking activities. The ERA-NET Cofund BlueBio launches calls for proposals and related activities as described by the ERA-NET to unlock the potential of aquatic bioresources.

The BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund has issued a co-funded call in 2018 and its First Additional Call in 2020. Consequently, in June 2023, it shall have the end-term review of the projects awarded through the co-funded call (2018) and the mid-term review of the projects awarded through its first additional call (2020).

The priority areas of the first co-funded call issued in 2018 were:

* Priority Area 1: Exploring new bio-resources
* Priority Area 2: Exploring improvements in fisheries and aquaculture
* Priority Area 3: Exploring synergies across sectors
* Priority Area 4: Exploring biotechnology and ICT

The aim of the first additional call issued in 2020 was to address needs as gaps along the blue bioeconomy value chain(s), from biomass to products and markets and consumers as visualised in the below figure. The figure also demonstrates crosscutting R&I areas:

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## **3.0 Service Requirements**

BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund are in the process of reporting at the end of 19 co-funded projects (from the 2018 co-funded call) and the mid-term of 10 projects awarded from the first additional call. Thus, BlueBio has designed a reporting process which includes 2 evaluators per project (1 shadow + 1 rapporteur who will have to write the final consensus report).

Each evaluator may be allocated three to four projects. The project reports are expected to be sent to evaluators in the first week of May and will have until the end of May to revert. Furthermore, rapporteurs may be expected to attend the mid-term and end-term meeting to be held in Lisbon on 6th and 7th June 2023.

## **4.0 Remuneration**

Financial remuneration will be provided to the evaluators by the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund and **NOT** by the Malta Council for Science and Technology. The renumeration fee is fixed to a standard rate €100 per project.

## **5.0 Evaluator Requirements**

Experts must, at minimum, hold a first degree and a post graduate qualification in a specific area of expertise, which is in line with the aim and priority areas of the respective calls as described in Section 2.0. They must show proof of at least five years of professional experience (or at least 2 years if in possession of a Ph.D) in the area of expertise.

Expert nominations will be compiled by the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund. The nomination shall include the full name of the nominated expert, title, contact details, current employment, nationality, field of expertise keywords and CV.

## **6.0 Conflicts of Interest (COI)**

It is imperative that the nominated experts are by no means affiliated with any active project proposal and/or the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund in any way. All evaluators are required to declare their independence to the projects and the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund to avoid any conflict of interest.

## **7.0 Instructions and Application**

Interested candidates are to submit the following documentation:

* Filled in Annex 1: Submission Form
* A detailed Curriculum Vitae

The requested documentation shall be sent electronically to [eusubmissions.mcst@gov.mt](mailto:eusubmissions.mcst@gov.mt), with “BlueBio Call for Experts 2023” as a subject heading. Applications should be received by not later than Wednesday, 12th April 2023, 17:00 CET. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the experts to ensure that they are provided with a written confirmation of receipt of their application.

Interested parties may also contact one of the national contact points Ms. Martina Vella, on +356 2360 2113 or [martina.vella.5@gov.mt](mailto:martina.vella.5@gov.mt), for additional information.

*Data Protection Clause: The information collected through this Call shall be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, Chapter 586 of the Laws of Malta* *and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). The contents remain confidential and solely intended for the use of this Call’s purpose and will not be disclosed or copied without your consent. Submitted information will be retained for a period of ten (10) years from the date that the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund ends.*

## **Annex 1: Submission Form**

*Kindly fill in the following form with the requested information, sign and submit together with a detailed CV.*

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| --- | --- |
| Full Name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Gender | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Nationality | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Email Address | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Phone (incl. Country Code) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Position | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Organisation Name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Highest level of Education | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Main Field of Expertise | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Describe your expertise in 3-5 keywords | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Previous Evaluation Experience / Rapporteur Experience | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Link to online CV / Research Gate (if applicable) | Click or tap here to enter text. |

I consent that the above documents provided are shared with BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund to select the project evaluators.

I consent that the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund discloses information in the public domain in relation to the evaluators throughout the review process including name, surname and area of specialization.

I confirm that I am available to carry out the required evaluations throughout May.

I confirm that I am available to attend the mid-term and end-term meeting in Lisbon (6-7th June)

I confirm that a detailed CV has been attached to the form.

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| --- | --- |
| Signature |  |
| Date | Click or tap to enter a date. |