

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

## **is seeking suitable experts to participate in the scientific evaluation within the new Horizon Europe transnational initiative: the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP). Candidates must have expertise in at least one of the following Priority Areas (PAs):**

* PA 1: Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level
* PA 2: Development of offshore marine multi-use infrastructures to support the blue economy
* PA 3: Climate-neutral, environmentally sustainable, and resource-efficient blue food and feed
* PA 4: Green transition of Blue Food production
* PA 5: Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs) test use cases at EU sea-basin scale and the Atlantic Ocean

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

## **1.0 General**

This call is to seek suitable experts to participate as evaluators in the scientific evaluation process of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership pre- and full project proposals.

MCST is one of the 36 research funding organisations from 23 countries that are part of this transnational initiative. Each partner involved in SBEP’s First Joint Transnational Call entitled *The way forward: A thriving sustainable blue economy for a brighter future* has been asked to nominate a minimum of four experts for Priority Area (listed above) to form a pool of 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 scientifically evaluate a number of project proposals, in accordance with their area of expertise. **The selection of evaluators from the pool of experts is at SBEP’s Joint Call Secratariat’s sole discretion.**

This call is open to experts who will not participate in any of the SBEP’s pre- and full project proposals and having expertise in at least **one of the listed priority areas** as listed above.

## **2.0 About the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership**

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) is a European partnership under Horizon Europe.

The first joint transnational call of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership entitled “The way forward: a thriving sustainable blue economy for a brighter future” was launched on the 13th of February 2023. This co-funded call aims to support transnational research and innovation projects (36 months) addressing one of the five priority areas below:

1. Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level
2. Development of offshore marine multi-use infrastructures to support the blue economy
3. Climate-neutral, environmentally sustainable, and resource-efficient blue food and feed
4. Green transition of Blue Food production
5. Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs) test use cases at EU sea-basins and the Atlantic Ocean

The first Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) Co-funded call pools national and regional financial resources through the participation of 37 funding organisations from 24 countries. Together with the European Commission, an overall budget of approximately 50M€ has been provisionally reserved.

For more information on the first call of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, please consult the Call Documents available on the partnership website: https://bluepartnership.eu/#call. The call timeline can be found in Annex 1.

Briefly, applicants must submit online their pre-proposals by the 14th of April 2023 (15h CET). Then, applicants invited to stage 2 will have to submit their full proposals by the 13th of September 2023 (15H CET).

## **3.0 Service Requirements**

The SBEP’s First Joint Transnational Call is being implemented as a two-step procedure (a pre-proposal stage and a full-proposal stage).

Each eligible pre-proposal will be evaluated by at least 3 members of the International Evaluation Committee i.e., 1 rapporteur and 2 evaluators. The evaluation of pre-proposals must be carried out solely based upon the two criteria: Excellence and Impact. The evaluation of full proposals will be performed based upon the three criteria: Excellence, Impact, Quality, and Efficiency of implementation.

IEC member’s role will be as a scientific expert in his/her field of experience rather than as a representative of any organisation or nation. Please note that people included in a proposal submitted to this call may not serve as an IEC member.

Members of the IEC will have to:

1. read, accept the terms and sign online (on the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS)) the Code of Conduct about Conflict of interest, confidentiality, and non-disclosure policy. IEC members must respect the terms of this Code of Conduct;
2. read the pre-proposal assigned to them by the Joint Call Secretariat and provide a written assessment using exclusively the set evaluation criteria. The assessments must be entered in the EPSS before the IEC meeting. The deadline to submit the assessments on the EPSS is fixed to one to two week(s) before the IEC meeting, as far as possible; The number of (pre)proposals to review per IEC member will depend on the number of submitted (pre)proposals and the addressed topics;
3. Present the pre-proposals and summarize the evaluation made of the pre-proposals to the IEC during the evaluation meetings;
4. Agree with the Chair and Vice-Chair and all IEC members on generic feedback to be sent to all applicants invited to stage 2 (if deemed relevant).

All along the evaluation process, we foresee two IEC meetings for this ambitious call:

* A 2-day meeting on 29-30 June 2023 to evaluate the pre-proposals (online);
* A 2-day final meeting on 29-30 November 2023 to establish the final ranked list of full proposals (in Paris - or online at the same dates under exceptional circumstances).

## **4.0 Remuneration**

Financial remuneration will be provided to the evaluators by the SBEP Joint Call Secretariat and **NOT** by the Malta Council for Science and Technology. Travel and accommodation for participating to the final IEC meeting will be covered by the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership. Besides, each IEC member will receive a fee for his/her participation to the evaluation process. The amount of this fee is fixed to a standard rate of €50 per pre-proposal and €100 per full proposal.

## **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 Priority Area chosen. 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 SBEP Joint Call Secretariat. 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 SBEP in any way. All evaluators are required to declare their independence to the projects and the SBEP to avoid any conflict of interest.

A COI exists if a candidate:

* is involved in the preparation of any of the SBEP project pre-proposals or proposals
* stands to benefit directly / indirectly if the proposal is positively evaluated
* has a family / personal relationship with any person that is part of a consortium that has submitted a research project pre-proposal

## **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, with “SBEP 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 for the SBEP, Ms. Martina Vella, on +356 2360 2113 or 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 SBEP 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. |
| Expertise in Ethics/ Ethical Reviews | Choose an item. |
| Priority Area most relevant to your expertise (Primary)  | Choose an item. |
| Priority Area most relevant to your expertise (Secondary) *if applicable* | Choose an item. |
| **Tick the relevant defined keywords below in relation to the Priority Areas selected above:** |
| PA 1: Planning and Managing Sea Uses at the Regional Level |

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| --- | --- |
| [ ]  | Sociologist  |
| [ ]  | Economist |
| [ ]  | Geographer |
| [ ]  | Mapping GIS |
| [ ]  | Modeler |
| [ ]  | Coastal Zone Management |
| [ ]  | Marine Biodiversity |
| [ ]  | MPA Management |
| [ ]  | Fishery Management  |
| [ ]  | Aquaculture Development |
| [ ]  | Mineral Extraction |
| [ ]  | Wind Farms |
| [ ]  | Environmental Impacts  |

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| PA 2: Development of Offshore Marine Multi-use infrastructures to support the blue economy  |

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| [ ]  | Shellfish Aquaculture |
| [ ]  | Aigalculture |
| [ ]  | Fish Aquaculture |
| [ ]  | Coastal Fisheries |
| [ ]  | Technologist of Fisheries |
| [ ]  | Marine Green Energy Technologist |
| [ ]  | Environmental Impacts |
| [ ]  | Artificial Reefs |
| [ ]  | Biodiversity Conservation |
| [ ]  | Marine Hydrogen |
| [ ]  | Desalination Processes |
| [ ]  | Economist |
| [ ]  | Sociologist |

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| PA 3: Climate-Neutral, Environmentally Sustainable, and resource-efficient blue food and feed  |

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| [ ]  | Fisheries Management |
| [ ]  | Fisheries Biologist |
| [ ]  | Fisheries Technologist |
| [ ]  | Vessel Carbon Footprint |
| [ ]  | Energy Consumption |
| [ ]  | Soft Technologies |
| [ ]  | Culture of Microalgae |
| [ ]  | Culture of Phytoplankton |
| [ ]  | Bivalve Culture |
| [ ]  | Mesopelagic Ecosystem |
| [ ]  | Trophic Web Modelers |
| [ ]  | Economist  |
| [ ]  | Sociologist |

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| PA 4: Green Transition of Blue Food Production  |

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| [ ]  | Small Scale Fisheries |
| [ ]  | Energetic Engineer |
| [ ]  | Green Aquaculture Development |
| [ ]  | Fishery System Analysis |
| [ ]  | Carbon Footprint of Aquaculture |
| [ ]  | Carbon Footprint of Fisheries |
| [ ]  | Carbon Sequestration in Sediment |
| [ ]  | Benthic Biodiversity Conservation |
| [ ]  | Digital Development in Fisheries |
| [ ]  | Digital Development in Aquaculture |
| [ ]  | Economist  |
| [ ]  | Sociologist |

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| PA 5: Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs) test use cases at EU sea-basin scale and the Atlantic Ocean  |

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| [ ]  | Data Manager |
| [ ]  | Marine System Modellers |
| [ ]  | Hydrodynamic Models |
| [ ]  | Trophic Web Analysis |
| [ ]  | Ecosystem Models |
| [ ]  | Statistician |
| [ ]  | Innovative Sensors |
| [ ]  | Geographer |
| [ ]  | Economist |
| [ ]  | Sociologist |
| [ ]  | Futurist Analyst |

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[ ]  I consent that the above documents provided are shared with SBEP Joint Call Secretariat for the selection of evaluators for the SBEP First Joint Transnational Call.

[ ]  I consent that the SBEP Joint Call Secretariat 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 a detailed CV has been attached to the form.

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