EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

between

The Financial Mechanism Committee
established by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

and

The National Management Unit,
hereinafter referred to as the "National Focal Point",
representing Portugal,
hereinafter referred to as the "Beneficiary State"

together hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"

for the financing of the Programme "Blue Growth Innovation and SMEs"

hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"

Chapter 1
Scope, Legal Framework, and Definitions

Article 1.1
Scope

This programme agreement between the Financial Mechanism Committee (hereinafter referred to as the FMC) and the National Focal Point lays down the rights and obligations of the Parties regarding the implementation of the Programme and the financial contribution from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 to the Programme.

Article 1.2
Legal Framework

1. This programme agreement shall be read in conjunction with the following documents which, together with this programme agreement, constitute the legal framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021:

(a) Protocol 38c to the EEA Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021;

(b) the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation") issued by the Donor States in accordance with Article 10(5) of Protocol 38c;

(c) the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU"), entered into between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State; and

(d) any guidelines adopted by the FMC in accordance with the Regulation.

2. In case of an inconsistency between this programme agreement and the Regulation, the Regulation shall prevail.

3. The legal framework is binding for the Parties. An act or omission by a Party to this programme agreement that is incompatible with the legal framework constitutes a breach of this programme agreement by that Party.

Article 1.3
Definitions

Terms used and institutions and documents referred to in this programme agreement shall be understood in accordance with the Regulation, in particular Article 1.6 thereof, and the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this programme agreement.

Article 1.4
Annexes and hierarchy of documents

1. Annexes attached hereto form an integral part of this programme agreement. Any reference to this programme agreement includes a reference to its annexes unless otherwise stated or clear from the context.

2. The provisions of the annexes shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with this programme agreement. Should the meaning of any provision of the said annexes, so interpreted, remain inconsistent with this programme agreement, the provisions of the annexes shall prevail, provided that these provisions are compatible with the Regulation.

3. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the preparation of the programme are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in the annexes to this programme agreement.

Chapter 2
The Programme

Article 2.1
Co-operation

1. The Parties shall take all appropriate and necessary measures to ensure fulfilment of the obligations and objectives arising out of this programme agreement.

2. The Parties agree to provide all information necessary for the good functioning of this programme agreement and to apply the principles of implementation as set out in the Regulation.

3. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any circumstances that interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of the Programme.

4. In executing this programme agreement the Parties declare to counteract corrupt practices. Further, they declare not to accept, either directly or indirectly, any kind of offer, gift, payments or benefits which would or could be construed as illegal or corrupt practice. The Parties shall immediately inform each other of any indication of corruption or misuse of resources related to this programme agreement.

Article 2.2
Main responsibilities of the Parties

1. The National Focal Point is responsible and accountable for the overall management of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 in the Beneficiary State and for the full and correct implementation of

this programme agreement. In particular, the National Focal Point undertakes to:

(a) comply with its obligations stipulated in the Regulation and this programme agreement;

(b) ensure that the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority, the Irregularities Authority and the Programme Operator properly perform the tasks assigned to them in the Regulation, this programme agreement and the programme implementation agreement;

(c) take all necessary steps to ensure that the Programme Operator is fully committed and able to implement and manage the Programme;

(d) take the necessary measures to remedy irregularities in the implementation of the Programme and ensure that the Programme Operator takes appropriate measures to remedy irregularities in Projects within the Programme, including measures to recover misspent funds;

(e) make all the necessary and appropriate arrangements in order to strengthen or change the way the Programme is managed.

2. The FMC shall, subject to the rules stipulated in the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this programme agreement, make available to the Beneficiary State a financial contribution (hereinafter referred to as "the programme grant") to be used exclusively to finance the eligible cost of the Programme.

Article 2.3
Objective and outcomes of the Programme

1. This programme agreement sets out the objective, outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets for the Programme.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator implements and completes the Programme in accordance with the objective, outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets set for the Programme.

Article 2.4
Programme grant

1. The maximum amount of the programme grant, the programme grant rate, and the estimated eligible cost of the Programme shall be as specified in this programme agreement.

2. In case the Programme is also supported by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, this programme agreement shall be interpreted in conjunction with the agreement regulating that support.

3. The financial plan annexed to this programme agreement shall:

(a) contain a breakdown between the Programme's budget headings;

(b) indicate the agreed advance payment, if any.

4. The management cost of the Programme Operator shall not exceed the amount specified in this programme agreement.

Article 2.5
Special conditions and programme specific rules

1. This programme agreement shall list any conditions set by the FMC with reference to paragraph 2 of Article 6.3 of the Regulation. The National Focal Point shall ensure compliance with these conditions and take the necessary steps to ensure their fulfilment.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure compliance with any other programme specific rules laid down in this programme agreement.

Article 2.6
Programme implementation agreement

With reference to Article 6.8 of the Regulation and without prejudice to paragraph 2 thereof, the National Focal Point shall, before any payment is made to the Programme, sign a programme implementation agreement with the Programme Operator. The National Focal Point shall notify the FMC of such signing.

Article 2.7
Reporting

The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator provides financial reports, annual programme reports and a final programme report in accordance with Chapter 9 and Articles 6.11 and 6.12 of the Regulation as well as statistical reporting in accordance with guidelines adopted by the FMC.

Article 2.8
External monitoring

The external monitoring and audit referred to in Articles 11.1, 11.2, 11.3 and 11.4 of the Regulation shall not in any way relieve the National Focal Point or the Programme Operator of their obligations under the legal framework regarding monitoring of the Programme and/or its projects, financial control and audit.

Article 2.9
Modification of the Programme

1. Unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in this programme agreement, any modification of the Programme is subject to prior approval by the FMC.

2. Programme specific exceptions from paragraph 1, if any, are set in the annexes to this programme agreement.

3. Expenditures incurred in breach of this article are not eligible.

4. Should there be a doubt as to whether the proposed modifications require approval by the FMC, the National Focal Point shall consult the FMC before such modifications take effect.

5. Requests for modifications shall be submitted and assessed in accordance with Article 6.9 of the Regulation.

Article 2.10
Communication

1. All communication to the FMC regarding this programme agreement shall take place in English and be directed to the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as the FMO), which represents the FMC towards the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator in relation to the implementation of the Programme.

2. To the extent that original documents are not available in the English language, the documents shall be accompanied by full and accurate translations into English. The National Focal Point shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy of the translation that it provides and the possible consequences that might arise from any inaccurate translations.

Article 2.11
Contact information

1. The contact information of the Programme Operator is as specified in this programme agreement.

2. The contact information for the FMC and the Financial Mechanism Office are:

Financial Mechanism Office
Att: Director
EFTA Secretariat
Rue Joseph II, 12-16
1000 Brussels
Telephone: +32 (0)2 286 1701
Telefax (general): +32 (0)2 211 1889
E-mail: fmo@efta.int

3. Changes of or corrections to the contact information referred to in this article shall be given in writing without undue delay by the Parties to this programme agreement.

Article 2.12
Representations and Warranties

1. This programme agreement and the awarding of the programme grant is based on information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point to the FMC prior to the signing of this programme agreement.

2. The National Focal Point represents and warrants that the information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point, in connection with the implementation or conclusion of this programme agreement are authentic, accurate and complete.

Chapter 3
Projects

Article 3.1
Selection of projects and award of grants

1. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator selects projects in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Regulation and this programme agreement.

2. Eligibility of project promoters and project partners is stipulated in Article 7.2 of the Regulation and, in accordance with paragraph 4 thereof, subject only to the limitations stipulated in this programme agreement.

3. Pre-defined projects shall be outlined in this programme agreement.

4. The National Focal Point shall take proactive steps to ensure that the Programme Operator complies fully with Article 7.5 of the Regulation.

Article 3.2
Project contract

1. For each approved project a project contract shall be concluded between the Programme Operator and the Project Promoter.

2. In cases where a project contract cannot, due to provisions in the national legislation, be made between the Programme Operator and the Project Promoter, the Beneficiary State may instead issue a legislative or administrative act of similar effect and content.

3. The content and form or the project contract shall comply with Article 7.6 of the Regulation.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the obligations of the Project Promoter under the project

contract are valid and enforceable under the applicable law of the Beneficiary State.

Article 3.3
Project partners and partnership agreements

1. A project may be implemented in a partnership between the Project Promoter and project partners as defined in paragraph 1(w) of Article 1.6 of the Regulation. If a project is implemented in such a partnership, the Project Promoter shall sign a partnership agreement with the project partners with the content and in the form stipulated in Article 7.7 of the Regulation.

2. The partnership agreement shall be in English if one of the parties to the agreement is an entity from the Donor States.

3. The eligibility of expenditures incurred by a project partner is subject to the same limitations as would apply if the expenditures were incurred by the Project Promoter.

4. The creation and implementation of the relationship between the Project Promoter and the project partner shall comply with the applicable national and European Union law on public procurement as well as Article 8.15 of the Regulation.

5. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator verifies that the partnership agreement complies with this article. A draft partnership agreement or letter of intent shall be submitted to the Programme Operator before the signing of the project contract.

Chapter 4
Finance

Article 4.1
Eligible expenditures

1. Subject to Article 8.7 of the Regulation, eligible expenditures of this Programme are:

(a) management costs of the Programme Operator in accordance with the detailed budget in the financial plan;

(b) payments to projects within this Programme in accordance with the Regulation, this programme agreement and the project contract.

2. Eligible expenditures of projects are those actually incurred by the Project Promoter or project partners, meet the criteria set in Article 8.2 of the Regulation and fall within the categories and fulfil the conditions of direct eligible expenditure set in Article 8.3 of the Regulation, the conditions regarding the use of standard scales of unit costs set in Article 8.4 of the Regulation as well as indirect costs in accordance with Article 8.5 of the Regulation.

4. The first date of eligibility of expenditures in projects shall be set in the project contract in accordance with Article 8.13 of the Regulation. The first date of eligibility of any pre-defined projects shall be no earlier than the date on which the National Focal Point notifies the FMC of a positive appraisal of the pre-defined projects by the Programme Operator in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 6.5 of the Regulation.

5. The maximum eligible costs of the categories referred to in paragraph 1 are set in this programme agreement. Programme specific rules on the eligibility of expenditure set in this programme agreement shall be complied with.

Article 4.2
Proof of expenditure

Costs incurred by Programme Operators, Project Promoters and project partners shall be supported by documentary evidence as required in Article 8.12 of the Regulation.

Article 4.3
Payments

1. Payments to the Programme shall be made when all relevant conditions for payments stipulated in this programme agreement and the Regulation have been fulfilled.

2. Payments to the Programme shall take the form of an advance payment, interim payments and payment of the final balance and shall be made in accordance with Articles 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 of the Regulation.

3. Payments of the project grant to the Project Promoters may take the form of advance payments, interim payments and payments of the final balance. The level of advance payments and their off-set mechanism is set in this programme agreement.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that payments are transferred in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 9.1 of the Regulation.

5. Chapter 9 of the Regulation shall apply to all aspects related to payments, including currency exchange rules and handling of interests on bank accounts.

Article 4.4
Transparency and availability of documents

The National Focal Point shall ensure an audit trail for financial contributions from the EEA Financial

Mechanism 2014-2021 to the Programme in accordance with Article 9.8 of the Regulation.

Article 4.5
Irregularities, suspension and reimbursements

The FMC has the right to make use of the remedies provided in the Regulation, in particular Chapter 13 thereof. The National Focal Point has a duty to take all necessary measures to ensure that the provisions in Chapter 12 and 13 of the Regulation regarding irregularities, suspension of payments, financial corrections and reimbursement are complied with.

Chapter 5
Final provisions

Article 5.1
Dispute settlement

1. The Parties waive their rights to bring any dispute related to the programme agreement before any national or international court, and agree to settle such a dispute in an amicable manner.

2. If a demand for reimbursement to the FMC is not complied with by the Beneficiary State, or a dispute related to a demand for reimbursement arises that cannot be solved in accordance with paragraph 1, the Parties may bring the dispute before Oslo Tingrett.

Article 5.2
Termination

1. The FMC may, after consultation with the National Focal Point, terminate this programme agreement if:

(a) a general suspension decision according to Article 13.6 of the Regulation or a decision to suspend payments according to paragraph 1(h) of Article 13.1 of the Regulation has not been lifted within 6 months of such a decision;

(b) a suspension of payments according to Article 13.1 of the Regulation, other than under paragraph 1(h), has not been lifted within one year of such a decision;

(c) a request for reimbursement according to Article 13.2 of the Regulation has not been complied with within one year from such a decision;

(d) the Programme Operator becomes bankrupt, is deemed to be insolvent, or declares that it does not have the financial capacity to continue with the implementation of the Programme; or

(e) the Programme Operator has, in the opinion of the FMC, been engaged in corruption, fraud or similar activities or has not taken the appropriate measures to detect or prevent such activities or, if they have occurred, nullify their effects.

2. This programme agreement can be terminated by mutual agreement between the Parties.

3. Termination does not affect the right of the Parties to make use of the dispute settlement mechanism referred to in Article 5.1 or the right of the FMC to make use of the remedies provided in Chapter 13 of the Regulation.

Article 5.3
Waiver of responsibility

1. Any appraisal of the Programme undertaken before or after its approval by the FMC, does not in any way diminish the responsibility of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator to verify and confirm the correctness of the documents and information forming the basis of the programme agreement.

2. Nothing contained in the programme agreement shall be construed as imposing upon the FMC or the FMO any responsibility of any kind for the supervision, execution, completion, or operation of the Programme or its projects.

3. The FMC does not assume any risk or responsibility whatsoever for any damages, injuries, or other possible adverse effects caused by the Programme or its projects including, but not limited to inconsistencies in the planning of the Programme or its projects, other project(s) that might affect it or that it might affect, or public discontent. It is the full and sole responsibility of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator to satisfactorily address such issues.

4. Neither the National Focal Point, the Programme Operator, entities involved in the implementation of projects, nor any other party shall have recourse to the FMC for further financial support or assistance to the Programme in whatsoever form over and above what has been provided for in the programme agreement.

5. Neither the European Free Trade Association, its Secretariat, including the FMO, its officials or employees, nor the FMC, its members or alternate members, nor the EFTA States, can be held liable for any damages or injuries of whatever nature sustained by the National Focal Point or the Beneficiary State, the Programme Operator, Project Promoters or any other third person, in connection, be it direct or indirect, with this programme agreement.

6. Nothing in this programme agreement shall be construed as a waiver of diplomatic immunities and privileges awarded to the European Free Trade Association, its assets, officials or employees.

1. This programme agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature of the Parties.

2. This programme agreement shall remain in force until five years have elapsed after the date of the acceptance of the final programme report.

Article 5.4
Entry into force and duration

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This programme agreement is drawn up in two originals in the English language.

For the Donors	For the National Focal Point
Signed in Oslo on 24/04/2019	Signed in Lisbon on 15/05/2019
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Niels Engelschiøn Chairman EEA Financial Mechanism Committee	Susana Ramos Head National Focal Point Unidade Nacional de Gestão, UNG

Annex I to the Programme Agreement

Programme Operators and Partners	
Programme Operator:	Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)
Donor Programme Partner:	Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-DIR) Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS) Innovation Norway (IN) Research Council of Norway (RCN)
IPO:	-
Other Programme Partner(s):	-

Programme Objective	Increased value creation and sustainable growth

PA	Outcome/Output	Expected programme results	Indicator	Disaggregation	Unit of measurement	Source of verification	Frequency of reporting	Baseline values	Baseline year	Target value
PA01	Outcome 1	Increased competitiveness for Portuguese enterprises within the focus area of Blue Growth	Estimated annual growth in net operational profit	N/A	Percentage	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	5 %
			Number of jobs created	Gender, Age	Cumulative number	Payroll records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	45
			Number of new products/ technologies developed	Sector	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	25
			Number of innovative technologies/ processes/ solutions applied (new-to-the-enterprise)	Sector	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	15
			Number of new Intellectual Property Rights (Copyright, Trademarks, Patents) applications submitted.	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of filed application(s), registration acknowledgement from relevant Patent Office	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	10

			Number of new products/ technologies commercialized (new-to-the-market)	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	10
			Share of enterprises' staff who declare better skills/ competencies in their field	N/A	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	60 %
			Survival rate of start-ups, measured 1 year from the last day of the eligibility period of projects	N/A	Percentage	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	50 %
	Output 1.1	Enterprises supported to develop innovative products/ technologies/ processes for the Blue Growth sector	Number of large enterprises supported to develop innovative products/ technologies/ processes for the Blue Growth sector	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	5
			Number of SMEs supported to develop innovative products/ technologies/ processes for the Blue Growth sector	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	15
	Output 1.2	Enterprises supported to commercialized innovative products/ technologies/ processes for the Blue Growth sector	Number of large enterprises supported to commercialize innovative products/ technologies/ processes for the Blue Growth sector	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	3
			Number of SMEs supported to commercialize innovative products/ technologies/ processes for the Blue Growth sector	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	15
	Output 1.3	Enterprises supported to apply innovative blue technologies/ processes/ solutions (new-to-the enterprise)	Number of large enterprises supported to apply innovative blue technologies/processes/solutions (new-to-the enterprise)	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	3
			Number of SMEs supported to apply innovative blue technologies/ processes/ solutions (new-to-the enterprise)	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and	0	N/A	12

							September IFR)			
	Output 1.4	Increased cooperation between enterprises and research institutions	Number of large enterprises supported to cooperate with national research institutions	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	3
			Number of SMEs supported to cooperate with national research institutions	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	15
			Number of large enterprises supported to cooperate with Donor State research institutions	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	2
			Number of SMEs supported to cooperate with Donor State research institutions	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	7
	Output 1.5	Start-ups supported for business growth in the Blue growth sector (SGS)	Number of start-ups supported with investments in new technologies, processes or services	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	12
	Output 1.6	Enterprises supported to improve	Number of large enterprises that have received business and management skills support	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project	Semi-annually (APR and	0	N/A	1

		capacity for business development (SGS)	(training, coaching, mentoring etc.)			Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	September IFR)			
			Number of SME that have received business and management skills support (training, coaching, mentoring etc.)	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	9
			Number of professional staff trained	Gender	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records, attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	50
PA01	Outcome 2	Resource efficiency of enterprises in Marine Sector increased	Estimated annual collection of marine litter for re-use or recycling (in tons)[1]	N/A	Annual number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	40
			Estimated annual re-use of processed marine litter (in tons)	N/A	Annual number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	20
			Carbon sequestration-based solution developed[2]	N/A	Binary	TRL assessment result (assessment conducted by the PO)	2022, 2024	No	N/A	Yes[3]
	Output 2.1	Enterprises supported to green their business operations through circular economy	Number of large enterprises supported to apply solutions for material efficiency	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	1
			Number of SMEs supported to apply solutions for material efficiency	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed	Semi-annually (APR and	0	N/A	4

[1] The funding of this outcome will support greening the blue economy, i.e. application of solutions by enterprises for collecting, reusing and recycling of what is considered 'waste'. This is in line with the 'Circular economy' and 'life cycle of products' approaches whereby 'waste' is redefined as a resource and/or the life-span of products increased. It will be financed the carbon sequestration-based businesses throughout algae reforestation that will promote more resources per unit of sea area, i. e. more resource efficiency.

[2] Developed means scoring 8 on the TRL scale (Technology Readiness Level definition)

[3] 'Yes' means that the developed solution scores 8 on the TRL scale (Technology Readiness Level definition)

						with Project Promoters	September IFR)			
PA02	Outcome 3	Enhanced performance of Portuguese research organizations	Number of articles submitted to peer-reviewed publications	N/A	Cumulative number	Proof of submission	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	20
			Number of joint articles submitted to peer-reviewed publications (Donor State)	Donor State	Cumulative number	Proof of submission	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	10
			Number of new products/ technologies or services developed	Sector	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	7
			Share of donor partnerships with the Atlantic Observatory which continue after the end of the project	Donor State	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	50 %
			Number of deployments of observation equipment (Atlantic Observatory)	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	6
			Number of marine sampling sites actively monitored (Atlantic Observatory)	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	10
	Output 3.1	Facilitated learning mobility between BS and DS researchers	Number of researchers supported	Gender	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	50
	Output 3.2	Links between research institutions and enterprises developed	Number of signed collaborative links between research organizations and enterprises	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	3
	Output 3.3	Improved coordination between existing infrastructures	Number of researchers from beneficiary states in exchanges	Donor State, Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	4

		and research groups (Atlantic Observatory) (PDP 2)	Number of researchers from donor states in exchanges	Donor State, Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	2
			Number of technicians from beneficiary states in exchanges	Donor State, Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	10
			Number of users of the Atlantic Observatory portal	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	10,000
			Number of students enrolled in the “Atlantic Summer School”	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	60
	Output 3.4	Development of new marine or maritime technologies, processes or services	Number of research institutions supported to develop new marine/maritime technologies, processes or services	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	3
	Output 3.5	Increased data gathering capacity of “Mar Portugal” research vessel (PDP 3)	Number of specialised marine monitoring equipment installed and functional	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	4
PA03	Outcome 4	Education, training and cooperation in marine and maritime issues enhanced	Number of participants who self-declare improved skills and competencies after the courses	N/A	Cumulative number	Survey results	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	210
			Number of joint intellectual outputs created in cooperation projects (studies, curricula,	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	21

			teaching materials, conference papers, etc.)							
			Number of ECTS credits received by the students in the Mobility projects[4]	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	70
			Number of people with improved ocean literacy skills	N/A	Cumulative number	Survey results	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	350
	Output 4.1	Education and training on marine and maritime subjects provided in schools	Number of schools, including professional schools/training centres (VETs), supported to provide education and training on marine and maritime subjects	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	10
			Number of apprentices supported	Gender, Roma	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	40
			Number of students from beneficiary states in exchanges	Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	11
			Number of students from donor states in exchanges	Donor State, Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	3
			Number of teachers/ professors/ administrative/ technical staff from beneficiary states in exchanges	Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	11

[4] Considering that 1 ECTS is equivalent to 25 hours of training. We estimate to support at least 50 trainees

			Number of teachers/ professors/ administrative/ technical staff from donor states in exchanges	Donor State, Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	3
	Output 4.2	Cooperation activities on marine and maritime topics implemented.	Number of joint events organized (Summer schools, Intensive programmes, seminars, workshops, conferences, training courses, etc.)	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	35
			Number of participants (students and staff) at joint events	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	875
	Output 4.3	Awareness-raising activities on ocean literacy carried out (SGS) – non-formal education	Number of ocean literacy awareness raising campaigns carried out	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	28
	Output 4.4	Provision of nautical sports activities to young people (SGS)	Number of students included in nautical school sports activities	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	175
	Output 4.5	Training on maritime issues in Escola Superior Náutica Infante Dom Henrique ENIDH (PDP 1)	Number of simulators updated in the ENIDH facilities	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	7
			Number of trainees receiving training on board the vessel	N/A	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records, attendance sheets	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	18

			Number of students from beneficiary states in exchanges	Donor State, Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	8
			Number of teachers/ professors/ administrative/ technical staff from beneficiary states in exchanges	Donor State, Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	Project promoters' records	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	2
PA01	Bilateral Outcome	Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme	Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	N/A	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	50 %
			Level of satisfaction with the partnership	N/A	Scale 1-7	Survey results	Annually (APR)	6.23[5]	N/A	4.5[6]
			Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	N/A	Scale 1-7	Survey results	Annually (APR)	6.33[7]	N/A	4.5[8]
			Share of donor business partnerships which continue after project implementation period	N/A	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	50 %[9]
	Bilateral Output 1	Increase the actions of cooperation under the Programme Blue Growth	Number of joint training courses co-organized by donor state and beneficiary state entities	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts signed with Project Promoters, project promoters reports, Partnership agreements	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	4

[5] Survey administered by the FMO
[6] Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value
[7] Survey administered by the FMO
[8] Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value
[9] Target is minimum 50 %

			Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts concluded with Project Promoters; Partnership agreements between Project Promoters and Project Partners	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	22

Conditions

General

1. During the implementation of the programme, the Programme Operator shall seek to ensure synergies with the programme "Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy" implemented in Portugal under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters:

- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period;
- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and
- Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract.

3. For the indicators "Estimated annual collection of marine litter for re-use or recycling (in tons)" and "Estimated annual re-use of processed marine litter (in tons)" under outcome 2, where the baseline value is "to be determined" (TBD), the Programme Operator shall submit to the FMO the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection used, no later than 6 months from the date of project selection. Updated baseline values shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme implementation agreement.

Pre-eligibility

No costs shall be eligible under pre-defined project no. 2 (number under Section 5.1 of Annex Il to the Programme Agreement) before a detailed description and budget for the pre-defined project, including the role and contribution of any project partner(s), has been submitted by the Programme Operator and the FMC has confirmed the grant to the project as described in Annex Il to this Programme Agreement.

Pre-payment

Not applicable

Pre-completion

Not applicable

Post-completion

Not applicable

Eligibility of costs - period	**First date**	**Final date**
Eligibility of costs	23/05/2017	30/04/2025
Grant rate and co-financing		
Programme eligible expenditure (€)		€ 44,882,353
Programme grant rate (%)		85.00 %
Maximum amount of Programme grant - EEA Financial Mechanism (€)		€ 38,150,000
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Norwegian Financial Mechanism (€)		-
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Total (€)		€ 38,150,000

PA	Budget Heading	EEA Grants	Total grant	Programme grant rate	Programme co-financing	Programme eligible expenditure	Advance payment
PA01	Programme management	€ 2,065,000	€ 2,065,000	85.00 %	€ 364,412	€ 2,429,412	€ 359,375
PA01	Outcome 1 (EEA Grants)	€ 21,926,717	€ 21,926,717	85.00 %	€ 3,869,421	€ 25,796,138	€ 3,000,000
PA01	Outcome 2 (EEA Grants)	€ 1,526,042	€ 1,526,042	85.00 %	€ 269,302	€ 1,795,344	€ 0
PA02	Outcome 3 (EEA Grants)	€ 8,010,000	€ 8,010,000	85.00 %	€ 1,413,529	€ 9,423,529	€ 0
PA03	Outcome 4 (EEA Grants)	€ 4,622,241	€ 4,622,241	85.00 %	€ 815,690	€ 5,437,931	€ 0
Total		**€ 38,150,000**	**€ 38,150,000**	**85.00 %**	**€ 6,732,353**	**€ 44,882,353**	**€ 3,359,375**

Retention of management costs	
Retention of management costs - Percentage of the management costs	10.00 %
Retention of management costs - Planned Euro value	€ 242,941

Blue Growth Innovation and SMEs

Operational rules (Annex II)

1. **Programme summary**

This Annex sets out the operational rules for the program. The programme agreement is based on the MOU, the concept note and comments made by the FMC. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the concept note, are binding for the Programme Operator (PO) unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in the annexes to this programme implementation agreement.

The Programme Operator is the Portuguese Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM). The Donor Programme Partners are Innovation Norway, the Icelandic Centre for Research, the Research Council of Norway and the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills. The programme objective "Increased value creation and sustainable growth" will be attained through four outcomes: Outcome 1 "increased competitiveness of Portuguese enterprises within the focus area of Blue Growth", Outcome 2 "Resource Efficiency of enterprises in Marine Sector supported", Outcome 3 "Enhanced performance of Portuguese research organizations", and Outcome 4 "Education, training and cooperation in marine and maritime issues enhanced".

The outcomes shall be supported in way of at least five open calls for project proposals and three small grant schemes (SGS) as well as three pre-defined projects (PDPs).

Two calls for project proposals (Outcome l) and the first small grant scheme (SGS I) will support a wide range of project initiatives aimed at improving the economic performance of Portuguese enterprises in order to contribute to increased value creation and sustainable growth. Call 1 and call 2 for project proposals and SGS 1 (dedicated only to start-ups) shall provide support to enterprises that develop, apply or commercialize blue products, services
or innovative technologies/processes/solutions. The first small grant scheme (SGS 1) will provide support for business growth in ' start-ups'. And the second small grant scheme (SGS 2) will support initiatives for the development of business and management skills.

The third call for project proposals (Outcome 2) will support project initiatives aimed at supporting the resource efficiency of enterprises in the Marine Sector.

The fourth call for project proposal (Outcome 3) will support research projects initiatives.

The fifth call for project proposals (Outcome 4) will support training and education projects, to improve skills and competences of students and staff. The third small grant scheme (SGS 3) will support initiatives aimed at ocean literacy (including awareness of marine litter thematic and nautical sports not included in curriculum).

The first pre-defined project (PDP 1) will address marine training for seagoing courses (Outcome 4). The second pre-defined project (PDP 2) will support the Atlantic Observatory (Outcome 3). The third pre-defined project (PDP 3) will support the research vessel Mar Portugal with hull mounted scientific equipment (Outcome 3).

2. Eligibility

2.1 Eligible applicants:

The rules on eligibility of applicants and project partners are set in Article 7.2 of the Regulation. The following limitations shall be placed:

	Eligible applicants	**Eligible partners**

2 calls for PA1 Business, Development, Innovation and SMEs (Outcome 1) (two general calls with the same scope but in different moments, as described in the programme description)	SMEs[1] and large enterprises with no more than 25% public ownership, established as legal persons in Portugal.	In accordance with article 7.2.2 of the Regulation.
	SMEs and large enterprises with no more than 25% public ownership, established as legal persons in Portugal.	In accordance with article 7.2.2 of the Regulation.
SGS 1 call for PA1 Business, Development, Innovation and SMEs (Outcome 1) (dedicated to SME that are start-ups)	SMEs established as a legal person in Portugal. Eligible applicants must have been established for at least six months prior to the deadline of application and they must have been in operation for no more than 5 years at the deadline of the call for proposal, which have not yet distributed profits and have not been formed through a merger (start-ups).[2]	In accordance with article 7.2.2 of the Regulation.
SGS 1 call for PA1 Business, Development, Innovation and SMEs (Outcome 1)	SMEs and non- profit organisations, established as a legal person in Portugal	In accordance with article 7.2.2 of the Regulation
1 call for PA1 Business, Development, Innovation and SMEs (Outcome 2)	SMEs and large enterprises with no more than 25% public ownership, established as legal persons in Portugal.	In accordance with article 7.2.2 of the Regulation.
1 call for PA2 Research (Outcome 3)	Research Organisations, as defined in the community framework for state aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01) established in Portugal.	In accordance with article 7.2.2 of the Regulation. It is mandatory to have at least one Research Organisation, as defined in the community framework for state aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2006/C 323/01) established in Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, as partner.
1 call for PA3 Education (Outcome 4)	In accordance with article 7.2.1 of the Regulation.	Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organizations established as a legal person either in the donor states or in Portugal, as well as VET-institutions in Switzerland, with a specific cooperation agreement with Liechtenstein, and Swiss universities with respect to students of Liechtenstein nationality.

SGS 1 call for PA 3 Education – Ocean Literacy (including awareness of marine litter thematic and nautical sports not included in curriculum) (Outcome 4)	In accordance with Article 7.2.1 and 7.2.3 of the Regulation.	In accordance with article 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 of the Regulation

[1] Definition according to COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 6 May 2003, C (2003) 1422 of 6 May 2003.

[2] Definition according to n.º 2 of the article 22º of the COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014

of 17 June 2014.

2.2 Special rules on eligibility of costs:

Costs are eligible in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Regulation. The following exceptions are made:

In accordance with Article 8.4 of the Regulation, the project grant may take the form of the standard scales of unit costs contained in the Guideline for Educational Programmes, as amended from time to time.

3. Bilateral relations

3.1 Bilateral relations

The Programme shall contribute to strengthening bilateral relations between Portugal and the Donor States.

The Programme shall, as appropriate, facilitate donor partnership projects by carrying out, inter alia, match-making events and activities in conjunction with launching calls for proposals, as well as by encouraging donor partnership projects in call texts.

The Directorate General for Maritime Policy shall organise a bi-annual Cooperation Committee meeting, to advise on the preparation, implementation and progress of the programme, as well as on the use of the bilateral fund. The Innovation Norway, the Icelandic Centre for Research, the Research Council ofNorway and the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education shall constitute the Cooperation Committee. The NFP, the Norwegian Embassy, Consulate of Iceland in Lisbon, Portugal, the Donor States and the FMO shall be invited to be observers in the Cooperation Committee.

4. Selection of projects and financial parameters

4.1 Open calls and availability of funds (including number of calls, duration of calls, and estimated size):

Call	Outcome	Estimated timing of the call	Total available amount	Planned minimum grant applied for	Planned maximum grant applied for
Call no. 1	Outcome 1	June 2019	€ 9 435 984	€ 200 000	€ 500 000
Call no. 2	Outcome 1	December 2020	€ 14 027 755	€ 200 000	€ 1 000 000
Call no. 3	Outcome 2	October 2019	€ 410 057	€ 200 000	€ 294 118
2nd Call nº 3	Outcome 2	December 2020	€ 1 385 287	€ 200 000	€ 750 000
Call no. 4	Outcome 3	July 2020	€ 5 423 529	€ 500 000	€ 1 000 000

Call no. 5	Outcome 4	July 2020	€ 2 726 471	€ 200 000	€ 250 000
SGS no. 1	Outcome 1	October 2019	€ 836 316	€ 50 000	€ 150 000
2nd SGS no. 1	Outcome 1	December 2020	€ 939 503	€ 50 000	€ 150 000
SGS no. 2	Outcome 1	May 2021	€ 556 579	€ 25 000	€ 75 000
SGS no. 3	Outcome 4	October 2019	€ 711 460	€ 10 000	€ 25 000

Any amounts uncommitted under SGS no. 2 may be transferred to Call no. 2.

4.2 Selection procedures:
The project evaluation and awards of grants shall be in accordance with the Article 7.4 of the Regulation. The Programme Operator shall be responsible for project evaluation and awards of grants.

The Programme Operator shall be responsible for reviewing the applications for compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. Applicants whose application is rejected at this stage shall be informed of the reasons of rejection in writing and given 10 working days to appeal that decision to the Programme Operator.

Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by two impartial experts appointed by the Programme Operator, at least one ofwhich shall be independent of and external to the Programme Operator. The two independent and impartial experts are chosen regarding their skills and knowledge appropriate to the areas of the call. The experts shall separately score the project according to the selection criteria published with the call for proposals on a scale of 0 to 100 points. For the purposes of ranking the projects, the average of the scores awarded by the experts shall be used. If the difference between the scores given by the two experts is more than 30% of the higher score, a third expert, who shall be impartial and independent of the Programme Operator and of the Selection Committee, shall be commissioned by the Programme Operator. In such cases, the average score of the two closest scores shall be used for the ranking of the projects. Applications scoring lower than 50 points will not be selected for award granting. The Programme Operator shall prepare a ranking list of projects proposed for ftmding based on the scoring in the consolidated assessment forms. Should any thresholds/weightings be a part of expert assessment, such information shall also be mentioned in the ranking list.

The Programme Operator shall establish the Selection Committees. The Selection Committee composition can be different according to the specificity and scope of each call. Each Selection Committee must be composed of three members, and one of the members must be external and independent of the Programme Operator. Representatives of the Donor Programme Partners shall be invited to participate in the meetings in an advisory capacity. Representatives of the Donor States and the National Focal Point shall be invited to participate as observers. Any expert and Selection Committee member shall sign a 'no conflicts of interest' declaration.

The Programme Operator will verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Based on the decision of the Selection Committee, the Programme Operator will make a proposal for a final decision on which projects shall be supported within 10 working days after the verification has been completed. All applicants will be notified thereof and have the right to react in accordance with articles 121 et seq. of the Portuguese Code of Administrative Procedure.

After the selection procedure is complete, the final decision on awarding the grants shall be made public on the website of the Programme Operator. The Programme Operator shall inform all

applicants about the final outcome of the selection process. This notification shall be done in writing in the form of a letter or by e-mail and in the case of unsuccessful applicants, shall contain a brief description of the reasons for the proposal's rejection.

For projects under the Education Programme Area and small grant schemes, the same selection process will be applied.

The selection process for projects under the Research Programme Area will be carried out in line with section 8. I. et seq. of the Guideline for Research Programmes. The Programme Operator shall establish the Programme Committee and a pool of international experts. Representatives of the Donor Programme Partners will be invited to take part in the Programme Committee meetings as observers.

4.3 Project grant rate:
Grants to projects from the programme may be up to 100% of total eligible expenditure of the project.

The project grant rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects. The remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the project promoter.

Pursuant to Article 6.4.2 of the Regulation when deciding on the grant rate of the project, the Programme Operator shall take into account the economic benefits that are expected to be generated in the course of the project as a result of receiving a financial contribution.

5. Additional mechanisms within the Programme
5.1 Pre-defined projects
There will be three pre-defined projects implemented under the programme.

1) "Marine training for seagoing courses"

Project Promoter:	Escola Náutica Infante D. Henrique (ENIDH)
Donor project partner(s):	Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU) University of South-Eastern Norway (USN)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 2,000,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 2,000,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: "Education, training and cooperation in marine and maritime issues enhanced"

The project will provide training on simulators and rescue equipment training for students of maritime courses and other maritime professionals that need requalification/additional training for work onboard.

The project comprises the acquisition of the following simulators:

- Radar Anti-collision navigation simulator and Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (ARPA);
- Full mission engine room propulsion plant simulator with the following software packages:
    - Visual simulator for manoeuvring and steering of ships;
    - Coastal navigation simulator and electronic chart training (ECDIS);
    - Simulator of loading and unloading liquid cargo of tankers.

Cooperation activities between ENIDH and the Norwegian institutions will cover different topics, including but not limited to the following:

- Exchange of teachers including support in simulator-based training according to STCW convention;
- Explore new methodologies of training and future trends in the shipping industry and corresponding training needs for maritime courses;
- Develop e-learning /b-learning courses with STCW certification;
- Learn from Norwegian institutions regarding the experience on the use of simulators for modern ships operation;
- Support on the definition of the new simulators' specifications for the international bid to be carried out by ENIDH;
- Development of common research projects in maritime and port management, involving topics such as digitization, sustainable development, autonomous vessels and smart port cities;
- Joint organization of thematic workshops and/or summer courses on up-to-date maritime subjects;
- Organization of international conferences accompanied by workshops on specific topics of the Blue Economy;
- Development of teacher's mobility programs in a common sharing and learning logic, strengthening the most developed areas of knowledge on each institution (Assimilation of best practices through the sharing of experiences and knowledge between the different involved institutions).

2) "Atlantic Observatory"

Project Promoter:	Portuguese Institute of the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA)
Donor project partner(s):	Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU) Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR) Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research (BCCR) The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI)
Other project partner(s):	Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FRCT) Regional Agency for the Development of Research, Technology and Innovation of Madeira (ARDITI) Oceanic Observatory of Madeira (OOM)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 2,000,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 2,000,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: "Enhanced performance of Portuguese research organizations"

The project "Atlantic Observatory – Data and Monitoring Infrastructure" aims to create an infrastructure for the acquisition, aggregation and dissemination of oceanographic data contributing to the improvement in the research and monitoring of the Atlantic Ocean, whilst supporting the sustainable management of marine resources.

The Pre-defined Project (PDP) 2 will focus on:

1. Strengthening a digital infrastructure for data collection,

2. Aggregation and brokerage of entities operating in the Portuguese, continental and autonomous regions (including the integration of information made available by relevant datasets produced by international or regional initiatives relevant to the Atlantic environment), and
3. Strengthening of existing means for ocean monitoring in the Portuguese marine research community.

The Project is organized into five work packages (WP) with the following goals:

- WP1 Development of a Digital Infrastructure: To create and operate an integrated and scalable system which will provide a user-driven portal for accessing data, information and services associated with the Atlantic Basin.
- WP2 Collection, integration and dissemination of high-quality data on the Atlantic: The digital platform will link with international or regional data aggregation initiatives that are relevant to the Atlantic environment, including marine data services developed under previous EU and EEA programmes.
- WP3 Strengthening existing marine observation systems in the Portuguese area: The project will include the acquisition of state-of-the-art instrumentation which will strengthen the operational monitoring capacity, specifically: one glider, three ARGO floats and a high-frequency coastal radar system.
- WP4 Stimulating International Networking and Cooperation: The project will be developed and implemented in close cooperation with partners from Norway and Iceland, benefiting from experience sharing and mutual learning, and ensuring sustainable and long-term partnerships. A Summer School will be held in Faial, Azores, and will provide training in relevant marine research areas, with the focus on stakeholders from the economic sector.
- WP5 Project management, communication and outreach: A Steering Committee, including delegates from all partner institutions will ensure the implementation of the project and its dissemination and outreach plans.

3) "Research Vessel Mar Portugal Hull Mounted Scientific Equipment"

Project Promoter:	Portuguese Institute of the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA)
Donor project partner(s):	Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR)
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 2,000,000
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 2,000,000

Programme outcome the project contributes to: "Enhanced performance of Portuguese research organizations"

The project will support acquisition to the Mar Portugal research vessel in order to make this a fully-fledged multidisciplinary scientific platform equipped with modern hull mounted survey equipment for seabed mapping, environmental, ecology and fisheries research to support marine knowledge and insure sustainability of Blue Growth economic activities.

The project will fund investment on acquisitions, such as:

1. full oceanic range multibeam for seabed, habitat mapping, water column studies and to retrieve baseline data for economic uses and activities at sea;
2. acoustic probes to increase the quality of fisheries monitoring and assessment;
3. a sub-bottom profiler for subsurface studies and supporting I&T infrastructure.

5.2 Financial Instruments
Not applicable

6. Programme Management
6.1 Payment flows
The Programme Operator shall ensure that payments to projects are made in a timely manner. Interim and final payments to the projects shall be based on approved project reports.

Payments of the project grant shall take the form of advance payments, interim payments and a final payment. The level of advance payrnent to projects shall be set out in the project contract. The maximum level of advance payment shall be linked to the project implementation duration and the programme areas as follows:

Programme Area	Project Implementation Duration	First Advance payment	Interim payments	Final Payment (reimbursement)
Business Development, Innovation and SMEs and Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship Programme Areas	≤12 Months	50%	40%	10%
	12-18 Months	40%	50%	10%
	≥18 Months	15%	75%	10%
Research Programme Areas	≤12 Months	50%	40%	10%
	12-24 Months	50%	40%	10%
	≥24 Months	35%	55%	10%

The first advance instalment shall be paid following the signature of the project contract. Subsequent payments shall be paid after the approval of project interim reports. The final payment, if applicable, will be paid after approval of the final report.

An advance payment of a percentage of the total grant amount shall be paid within I month from the submission of a request after signature ofthe project contract. The interim payments shall be paid within I month after the approval of project interim reports.

Upon approval of the final project report a final balance payment, if applicable, shall be made within 1 month.

The approval of project interim and final reports shall take place within 2 months from the submission of the required information.

The periodicity of reporting periods, and deadlines for reporting will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator's management and control systems.

6.2 Verification of payment claims
Project promoters shall submit interim and final project reports containing information on project progress and incurred expenditure.

In line with point i) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation incurred expenditure reported shall be subject to administrative verifications before the report is approved. Verifications to be carried out shall cover administrative, financial, technical and physical aspects ofprojects, as appropriate and be in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

Additionally, in line with point ii) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation on—the-spot verifications of projects, which may be carried out on a sample basis, shall be carried out.

The detailed procedure for verification will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator' s management and control systems.

6.3 Monitoring and reporting

The Programme Operator shall monitor, record and report on progress towards the programme's outcomes in accordance with the provisions contained in the legal framework. The Programme Operator shall ensure that suitable and sufficient monitoring and reporting arrangements are made with the project promoters in order to enable the Programme Operator and the National Focal Point to meet its obligations to the Donor States.

When reporting on progress achieved in Annual and Final Programme Reports, the Programme Operator shall disaggregate results achieved as appropriate and in accordance with instructions received from the FMO.

6.4 Programme administrative structures

Not applicable.

7. Communication

The Programme Operator shall comply with Chapter 3 of the main text of this Agreement, the Information and Communication Requirements in Annex 3 of the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and the Communication plan for the programme.

8. Miscellaneous

Not applicable.