

Call for projects in the Mediterranean Islands

Open from 10th April to 10th July



BeMed

A COMMITMENT FOR A PLASTIC-FREE MEDITERRANEAN

Regulations of the call

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1. PRESENTATION OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

With its impact on human health, animal health, biodiversity and its role in global warming, plastic pollution is one of the most serious environmental problems affecting the oceans today. Once released into the environment, plastic can take up to 500 years to disappear. Every year, more than 10 million tons of plastic are discharged into the ocean. As it drifts in water, plastic can strangle or suffocate many animal species. Under the effect of sunlight, it fragments into microplastics that can be ingested by fish, enter the food chain and becoming a potential threat to human health. With over 3,000 billion particles of microplastic, the Mediterranean Sea is the most polluted sea in the world.

On the initiative of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Tara Océan Foundation, Surfrider Foundation Europe, the Mava Foundation and the IUCN, **Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed)** was created in 2015 to combat plastic pollution in the Mediterranean. In January 2019, the Monegasque association BeMed was created.

BeMed aims to reduce plastic pollution at source by supporting effective solutions for a healthy Mediterranean, in collaboration with the public and private sectors, NGOs and the scientific community.

Creating a local dynamic to respond to a regional issue is one of the major focuses of Beyond Plastic Med. To achieve this objective, BeMed launched a call for projects in 2020 to strengthen efforts to reduce plastic pollution on Mediterranean islands. As touristic hotspots, islands are heavily impacted by plastic pollution. However, their size means that actions to reduce this pollution on their territory can be expected to have a more effective impact.

The five projects supported within this framework ended in 2022 and were accompanied by the CapiMed-Islands capitalisation program, which aimed to ensure collaboration among the BeMed-Islands Community, to transfer results and impact policies at national and regional levels.

The results of the first edition and of the CapiMed-Islands program (available [on the BeMed website under Actions > Islands Community](#)) confirm the need for collaboration and sharing between initiatives.

To reinforce its impact and continue to support the efforts already made, BeMed is launching **a second call for projects on the 10th of April 2024**, aiming at reducing plastic pollution in the Mediterranean islands.

The Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) is supporting this new edition.

The CapiMed-Islands capitalisation program will continue to support the projects selected in this second call. The projects selected will fully participate with three objectives:

- Collaborating to reinforce the BeMed-Islands Community;
- Transferring results;
- Impacting policies.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

By supporting projects implemented by or in close collaboration with local stakeholders committed to combating plastic pollution on Mediterranean islands, BeMed aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce plastic pollution at source and its impact on the marine environment through field initiatives acting before plastic reaches the sea,
- Implement environmentally and economically sustainable solutions, that have a long-term impact,
- Improve understanding of the local context in relation to plastic pollution (major sources, level of information among the population, waste treatment system, regulations, main obstacles and challenges to implementing solutions, key stakeholders, etc.),
- Build partnerships and strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders, including by strengthening the BeMed-Islands Community,
- Reinforce and replicate the effective actions already underway in the Mediterranean.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1. Eligible countries / geographical areas

- ✓ The call for projects concerns all countries around the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✓ Priority will be given to applications from the following countries: Egypt, Lebanon, Albania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey and Montenegro.
- ✓ The project must target a Mediterranean island (or group of islands) of any size, whether inhabited or not.
- ✓ It is possible to submit a transnational project (involving islands belonging to different countries) as long as there is a coordinator in each location (different project holders, branches of the same association, local partners, etc.).

3.2. Eligible applicant organisations

- ✓ The call for projects concerns all types of organisations whose legal status allows them to receive grants.
- ✓ Particular attention will be paid to the financial soundness of the applicant organisation.
- ✓ Priority will be given to organisations whose activities focus on awareness-raising, nature conservation, environmental lobbying, the management of marine protected areas, societal change, the search for solutions and innovation.
- ✓ It is possible to submit a project that is jointly supported by several organisations.

3.3. Participation in the capitalisation program

- ✓ The project must include a proactive participation in the CapiMed-Islands capitalisation programme. Participation in this programme as part of the BeMed-Islands Community involves:
 - travelling to a Mediterranean country for one face-to-face meeting,
 - taking part in online meetings (around 4 meetings a year),
 - online time working together to follow up the meetings and preparing the issues that can be effectively passed on to the relevant political bodies,
 - taking part to a joint communication strategy.

3.4. Eligible application files

- ✓ Only grant applications completed in French or English and in strict accordance with [the templates](#) will be considered.
- ✓ Applications sent to BeMed members in hard copy or outside the period indicated will not be reviewed.
- ✓ Under this call for projects, each organisation may submit only one individual application and/or one joint application.

3.5. Eligible types of action

- ✓ The call **only** concerns actions that are:
 - part of **an ongoing project** and/or,
 - **complementing or extending a completed project** and/or,
 - **replicating actions/methodologies** that have proven to be effective and/or,
 - built on a **strong local base** (strong network already established, relevant local dynamic, specific leverage etc.).

It should be noted that the actions must ensure the sustainability or scaling up of previous projects, complementary to replicating actions that have proven to be effective.

- ✓ Actions must take into account, respond to and be adapted to the **specific islands' characteristics** (issues of space, population flows, availability of resources and skills, possibility of controlling incoming and outgoing flows, etc.).
- ✓ The project must have a significant impact on the **island or group of islands**. The actions planned must be on a scale consistent with the size of the island and/or the importance of the sector of activity targeted by the project.
- ✓ The actions presented must include impact indicators that can demonstrate their concrete measurable results within the duration of the project (ex: number of alternatives targeted, number of businesses engaged in implementing solutions to single-use plastic products, amount of waste properly managed, etc.). A reference situation should be established in order to measure those results.
- ✓ Projects must demonstrate good integration between public authorities, local authorities, civil society and the private sector. Their role and future involvement in the project must be clearly identified.

4. TYPES OF INTERVENTION SOUGHT

In addition to the framework of eligible actions set out in the previous section, priority actions are sought under this call for proposals, they are described in this current section.

Particular attention will be paid to compliance with the waste hierarchy : Projects based on reducing the use of plastics and preventing plastic pollution at source will be given priority.

Replication or adaptation of successful measures or effective actions in other areas or countries is encouraged.

Projects must include as many concrete actions as possible.

Projects targeting re-use systems, agriculture and fisheries, the tourism sector, the maritime transport sector and the cruise sector are encouraged.

Studies may be considered but must be limited in time. We are supportive of plastic waste diagnosis of consumption and production (such as plastic streams, deposits, etc.) that will lead to the implementation of concrete actions during the period for which BeMed is providing support.

Particular attention will be paid to the multi-stakeholder approach of the proposed actions.

Particular attention will be paid to projects that demonstrate a strong understanding and rely on the plastic-free local value chains (including identification of key stakeholders, the links and dynamics between them, the major streams, the main sources, etc.).

5. PROJECT FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

5.1. Financial contribution from BeMed

BeMed's financial contribution:

- May not exceed **70%** of the total budget of the project,
- May not exceed **100,000€**.

A complementary contribution to BeMed's financial contribution is therefore mandatory. This may take the form of self-financing by the project holder (the project holder's own funds or human resources time dedicated to the project) and/or co-financing by other partners.

The applicant organisation must demonstrate that most of the BeMed funding will have an impact on the targeted island(s).

5.2. Financing plan

The grant of the selected projects will be paid in 4 instalments:

- 1) 50% of the total grant on signature of the financing agreement,
- 2) 20% after the first few months of implementation (to be defined according to the duration of the project),
- 3) 20% halfway through the project,
- 4) 10% after the end of activities,

Payment of tranches 2, 3 and 4 of the funding is subject to validation of interim reports and a final report (see section 8).

The modification of this schedule is at BeMed's discretion.

6. DURATION OF PROJECTS

Projects will last a **maximum of 24 months**. In any cases, activities must begin no earlier than 1 February 2025 and end no later than 31 March 2027.

It is important to note that the redaction and signature process of the financial agreement can take several months after the project has been selected. It is

therefore recommended to be able to provide the necessary budget needed to start activities without BeMed support.

7. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection of projects will be carried out in three stages:

	Phase 1: Eligibility	Phase Two: Pre-selection	Phase 3: Final selection
What?	Initial evaluation of applications on the basis of the eligibility criteria	Evaluation of eligible applications on the basis of a scoring grid. Clarifications/amendments may be requested from the applicant organisations.	Re-evaluation of projects on the basis of feedback from the applicant organisations and final selection of projects.
Who?	The BeMed Team	Selection Committee appointed by the BeMed Board	BeMed Administration Board
Results	Elimination of projects that do not meet the eligibility criteria	Rating of all projects, selection of the projects with the best ratings and feedback to the applicant organisations if necessary.	Final selection of projects.

Throughout the selection process, additional information may be requested from the applicant organisations.

Final responses informing about the results of the call for projects are not expected before mid-November 2024.

Scoring system

Applications will be evaluated based on the following five criteria:

1. **Relevance of the project:** The project will effectively reduce plastic pollution at sea on a mediterranean island or group of islands (relevant targets, integration of local context).
2. **Internal coherence of the project:** Feasibility of the initiative based on the human and financial resources planned and the coherence of the institutional set-up.
3. **Effectiveness of the project:** Coherence of the organisational framework, partnerships and proposed methodology to achieve the stated objectives. Relevance of the risk reduction and impact measurement strategy.

4. **Potential sustainability of the project:** The actions aim to have a long-term impact, have a strong replication potential and are sustainable after the end of the BeMed funding.
5. **Added value of the project:** The project has real added value in relation to actions already underway in the Mediterranean. The project is innovative¹

8. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The BeMed team is responsible for implementing and monitoring the call for projects.

The beneficiaries will sign the Financing Agreement with the Beyond Plastic Med association.

All projects will be subject to two systematic interim evaluations and one final evaluation, including the monitoring of impact indicators. BeMed will provide templates for interim and final reports (technical and financial and the grid of indicators) and will conduct direct monitoring of project progress. However, when an evaluation or a visit to the sites concerned by the project is undertaken by BeMed, the Beneficiary ensure to make available to BeMed, or the person mandated by it, any document or information likely to enable this evaluation to be carried out successfully.

Reporting schedule:

- An initial interim report will be requested a few months after the project started (approximately a quarter of the way through the project, date to be specified depending on the total duration of the project). The purpose of this report is to ensure that the activities are getting off to a good start and triggers payment of 20% of the grant.
- An interim report to be submitted no later than 1 month after the mid-point of the project. Validation of this report triggers payment of 20% of the grant.
- A final report to be sent no later than 2 months after the end of the project. Validation of this report closes BeMed's support and triggers payment of the remaining 10% of the grant.

¹ Innovative is meant as a new method for scaling up solutions, assessed in the light of the local context. It may be a product innovation, a process innovation, an organisational innovation or a deployment innovation (e.g. deployment and organisation of public policy or funding). Definition inspired by the OECD (Oslo Manual 2005) and taken up by the 2023-2026 strategy of the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (January 2023).

9. PROJECT SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Schedule of the call for projects:

Opening of the call: **10th of April 2024**

Application deadline: **10th of July 2024 - 21:00 (Paris time, CET)**

Decision: **from 1 November 2024**

The grant application file can be downloaded from the BeMed website at the following address: [BeMed > Our Actions > Call for projects in Mediterranean Islands](#)

It consists of two parts available in English and French:

- A Word file: "BeMed_Application_file_2024 (all the appendices listed in this document must be provided),
- An Excel file: "BeMed_Budget_Previsioannel_2024".

Applications must be sent by e-mail to the following address: ami@beyondplasticmed.org