

OPEN CALL



MICRO-INITIATIVES

Reduce plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea

BeMed

A COMMITMENT FOR A PLASTIC-FREE MEDITERRANEAN

Call for micro-initiatives (AMI)

GUIDELINES 2025

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1 PRESENTATION OF THE CALL FOR MICRO-INITIATIVES

Beyond Plastic Med was launched on 10 March 2015 in Monaco, during the international conference "*Plastic in the Mediterranean: beyond the facts, what solutions?*".

To provide the means to reduce plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation joined forces with the Tara Ocean Foundation, Surfrider Foundation Europe, the IUCN and the Mava Foundation to launch the *Beyond Plastic Med* (BeMed) initiative, which became an association under Monegasque law in 2019.

BeMed aims to support effective citizen-led solutions for a healthy Mediterranean, in collaboration with the public and private sectors, NGOs and the scientific community.

To achieve this goal, BeMed launches every year a call for small projects. On 13th October 2025, the tenth call for micro-initiatives (AMI) will open to countries around the Mediterranean.

Creating local momentum to address regional issues is one of *Beyond Plastic Med's* main priorities. The initiatives supported will be selected for their exemplary nature, their action on the ground against plastic pollution, and their consistency with local socio-economic conditions.

The organisations selected in this call will join the BeMed Community of Practice, a network aiming at supporting local Mediterranean stakeholders beyond funding, uniting their forces and enabling them to learn from each other on the topic of plastic pollution.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR MICRO-INITIATIVES

Through its support to micro-initiatives, BeMed aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Changing societal behaviour towards the unreasonable use of plastics,
- Strengthening the capacities of local stakeholders and the impact of their actions,
- Disseminating best practices on reducing plastic use, implementing sustainable alternatives and managing plastic waste,
- Strengthening a Mediterranean network of local stakeholders committed to the fight against plastic pollution.

3 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 Eligible countries

- ☐ The following countries are eligible for this call for micro-initiatives: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey.
- ☐ However, priority will be given to the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Montenegro, Egypt and Lebanon.

Applicants are invited to inform BeMed of any administrative and/or financial barriers encountered in their country when applying for the call.

The list of eligible countries is subject to the absence of international restrictions towards eligible countries. These restrictions may evolve depending on geopolitical events.

3.2 Eligible project holders

Project holders must meet all of the following criteria:

- ☐ Belong to one of the following **categories**: NGO, association, local authority, municipality, company with fewer than 20 employees, scientific institution.
- ☐ Have legal status allowing them to receive grants.
- ☐ Have their registered office in the country where the project is being implemented.
- ☐ Primarily conduct activities related to awareness-raising, nature conservation, environmental lobbying, societal change, research and innovation.
- ☐ Organisations that have already received support from a BeMed call and whose project **has not been completed** are not eligible.
- ☐ The same organisation may only receive support from BeMed twice in the context of calls for micro-initiatives.

3.3 Eligible applications

- ☐ Projects that were not selected in previous editions of the AMI and whose applications have not been adjusted to take into account feedback from BeMed will not be eligible.
- ☐ Each organisation may submit only one application for this call.

3.4 Eligible themes

The actions presented must comply with one or more of the themes listed below. Any action that cannot be linked to one of the following themes will not be eligible.

Eliminating, reducing, reusing and finding sustainable alternatives to plastic

Eliminate single-use, allow the reduction of plastic consumption, give plastic a second life and develop sustainable alternatives* to limit the production and/or use of plastic.

**alternatives with less environmental impact than the product they replace.*

Functional alternatives (e.g. suppress useless products, reuse systems) will be given priority over material alternatives (especially if the material alternatives are single use).

Activities implementing or promoting bioplastics (bio-based and/or biodegradable plastics) will not be eligible. Bioplastics pose significant risks of environmental impact transfer and disruption to waste management and recycling systems, and their often poorly understood composition does not suggest an improvement in toxicity compared to standard plastics (more information [here](#)).

Raising awareness and communicating

Raise awareness among the general public, businesses and institutions about the sources and consequences of plastic pollution.

Advocacy

Advise and assist in the implementation of new regulations on plastic (at local, regional, national or Mediterranean level) or support the implementation and enforcement of existing regulations.

Research and data collection

Collect data and conduct studies on the source of plastics and their impact and/or socio-economic studies on plastic dependency.

Funding for data collection will only be granted if the data is shared on common and open databases. Priority for this type of funding will be given to countries and regions with less data available.

Results of the studies must meet a need and their use must be planned and explained in the application file.

Bringing together and mobilising stakeholders

Activities that create synergies between different stakeholders (particularly with the private sector), enabling the implementation of concrete solutions to combat plastic pollution.

Improving plastic waste collection and treatment systems*

Only support for collection and recycling solutions that are part of the official waste management systems of the country concerned will be eligible.

If the implementation of new plastic collection and recycling solutions is envisaged, they must be approved by and/or supported by the relevant public authorities at the time of application to be eligible.

**For a proposal relating to this theme, all aspects of the end-of-life of waste must be clearly detailed in the application file (what type of waste is targeted, who is responsible for collection, where is the waste processed, what is the outcome of the waste treatment).*

4 TYPES OF INITIATIVES SOUGHT

Projects must demonstrate coherence (a common thread) between the proposed activities and budgetary consistency.

Projects that are targeted and focused on a specific type of waste, sector or type of stakeholder will be given preference over projects with multiple and scattered targets.

Support for the project by the municipalities involved in implementing the activities is encouraged.

The replication or adaptation of successful experiences in other areas or countries is encouraged.

For information, BeMed has published a turnkey method to support the hotel sector in its efforts to reduce single-use plastics: [available on the website](#). If this method is relevant to your project, please feel free to use it and/or contact us.

High value-added actions for BeMed:

- Actions involving the private sector (particularly the hotel and restaurant industry, cosmetics, mass retail, and healthcare),
- Actions carried out by or in partnership with local authorities,
- Actions related to sports (support for stakeholders, reducing plastic use in sports events, sport as a way for raising awareness, etc.),
- Actions supporting the implementation of a reuse system.

5 FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR INITIATIVES

Each initiative must have a **maximum** overall budget of **€45,000**.

BeMed's contribution:

- **may not exceed €15,000**, and
- **may not exceed 70%** of the total amount of the initiative.

Additional funding to BeMed's financial contribution is therefore mandatory. This may take the form of in-kind or financial funding from the project leader or co-funding from local or international financial partners.

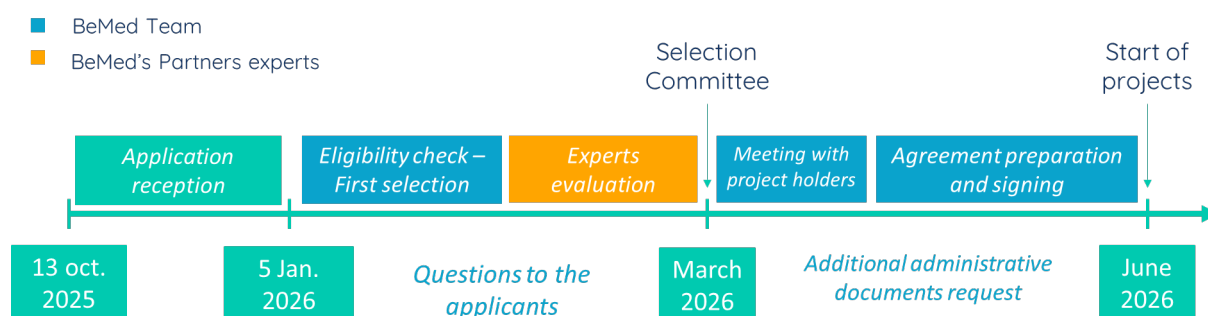
All amounts must be expressed in euros all taxes included.

The duration of the initiatives will be between **12 and 24 months maximum**. In all cases, the initiatives must relate to activities implemented from **1st of June 2026** and must be completed by **31st of August 2028** at the latest.

It is important to note that the process of preparing and signing the financial partnership agreement may take several months after the project has been selected. It is therefore recommended that you plan the necessary budget for the start of the project without the support of BeMed or plan the project start date accordingly.

6 SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection of initiatives will be carried out as below :



A pre-selection will be made by the BeMed team (upon eligible criteria and a first evaluation).

Pre-selected applications will each be evaluated by two rapporteurs.

During the selection process, additional information may be requested from applicants.

The Selection Committee is composed of experts from the BeMed network.

Responses informing applicants of the results of the call for micro-initiatives will be sent out end of **April 2026**.

7 SCORING SYSTEM

Applications will be **selected** according to a set of the following four criteria :

1. Project content :

Actions contributing to Mediterranean plastic pollution reduction, relevant and priority actions regarding the local context, relevant targeted stakeholders, appropriate project ambition for the size of the grant requested, actions with low environmental impact transfer.

2. Internal consistency of the initiative :

Coherent methodology to meet the objectives, Risk identification and risk reduction measures, Identified partners, Sufficient and secured human resources and financial resources to implement the activities, team experienced and legitimate project holder, Consistent timetable with the proposed actions, strong connection with the activities implementation area.

3. Sustainability potential :

Proposed actions with a long-term impact, continuation of the project addressed in the application, continuation of activities possible after BeMed's funding.

4. Added value for the network and BeMed :

Proposed actions enriching the network of the Community of practice (interesting experiences, different/complementary points of view), Project with high added-value for BeMed (see section 4).

8 IMPLEMENTATION OF MICRO-INITIATIVES

The BeMed team is responsible for monitoring micro-initiatives.

Beneficiaries will sign a Funding Agreement with the Beyond Plastic Med association.

BeMed may cancel the Financing Agreement for an initiative if the project activities have not started quickly (within a maximum of three months) after the start date specified in the agreement. The project leader will then be required to repay the entire first instalment to BeMed.

All initiatives will be subject **to a systematic interim and final evaluation**. BeMed will provide a template for an interim and final technical and financial report to be completed by project leaders. Field visits may be conducted.

All expenses must be justified. Supporting documents for expenses will be requested in the interim and final reports, and the beneficiary organisation undertakes to keep them for a period of 10 years.

The grant per initiative will be paid in **two instalments**: 70% of the funding upon signing the agreement and 30% of the balance after BeMed has received and validated the final completion report.

9 INITIATIVE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The grant application form can be downloaded from the BeMed website at the following address:

<https://www.beyondplasticmed.org/appel-a-micro-initiatives/>

It consists of two parts, available in English and French:

- A Word file: "BeMed 2025 Application Form"
- An Excel file: "BeMed Application_Provisional Budget.xls"

Only grant application forms completed in English or French and in strict accordance with the templates will be considered.

All the appendices listed in the "BeMed Application Form" must be provided.

The application must be **sent by email to the following address:**
ami@beyondplasticmed.org

Grant applications sent in paper format or outside the specified period will not be considered.

Micro-initiatives call schedule:

Opening date for applications: 13th of October 2025

Any questions regarding the application form should be sent before 17th of December 2025 to
ami@beyondplasticmed.org

Application deadline: **5th of January 2026 at 11 p.m. (CET)**