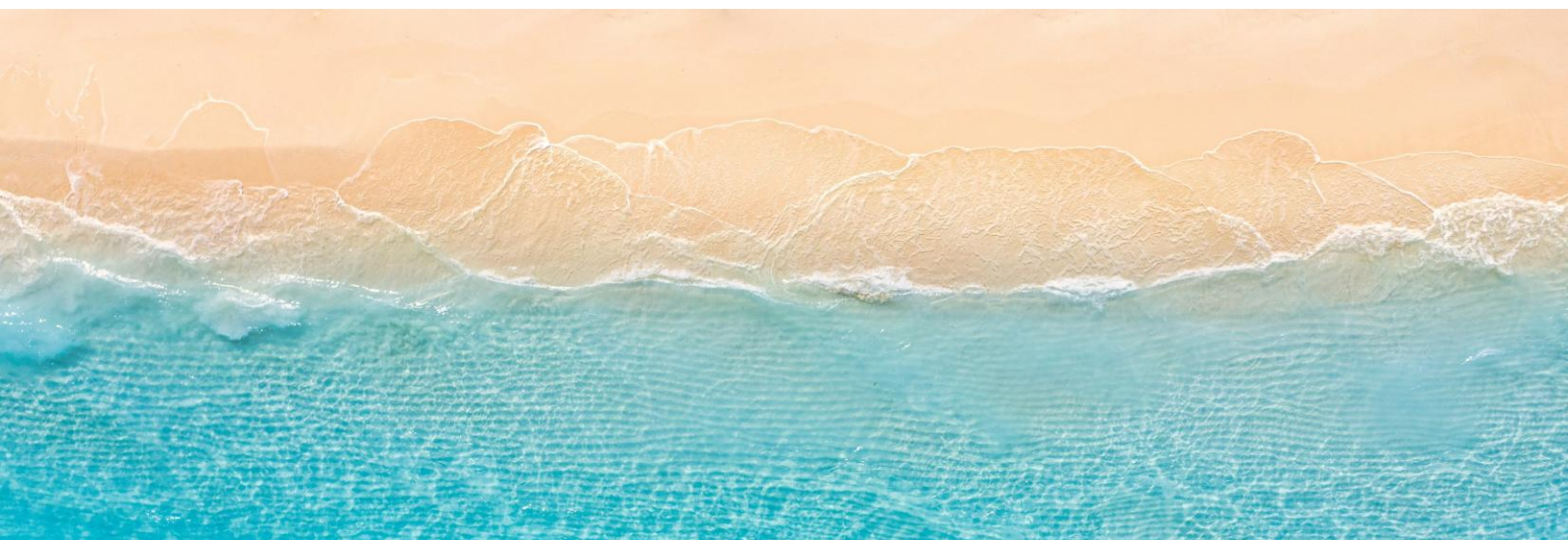




*Open Call for “Associated Regions”  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*



**Q. Are Local Authorities from Morocco eligible to apply to the open call?**

A. Yes, they are eligible to apply, unless otherwise communicated by the EC. The list of eligible countries can be found [here](#).

**Q. Are NGOs eligible to participate?**

A. No, NGOs are not considered 'local or regional authorities' and are therefore not eligible. Additionally, each Third Party must verify the relevant legislation in their country and provide official documentation confirming its status as a local or regional authority to meet the eligibility criteria.

**Q. Are partners coming from the countries of origin the RHE-MEDIation Project partners eligible?**

A. No, they aren't. Local and/or regional authorities from Member States and associated countries to the Horizon Europe Programme are eligible. If in doubt, please get in touch with your local contact point or check the list provided by the European Commission: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

**Please note:** Authorities from countries that are part of the RHE-MEDIation Consortium - namely Belgium, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Turkey - are not eligible to apply.

**Q. Are public research institutes considered as eligible subjects?**

A. Applicants must be local/regional authorities from associated regions located in EU Member States/Associated countries other than those that are part of the project consortium. Given that consortia are not deemed eligible, a local or regional authority can mention in its project proposal that it will need to engage a different entity (e.g. research centres, universities, etc.) for carrying out specific activities within the project, whether the proposal should be funded: for instance, this involvement can be framed through subcontracting.

**Q. Being that we are located in a country where a subject has already been funded under the "EU Mission to restore our oceans and waters program", can we be financed within this open call?**

Yes, but with limitations. An "Associated Region" can receive Financial Support to Third Parties under this topic (HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-03) only once. As a result, the local/regional authorities that have already been funded through the iMERMAID project (ID: 101112824) - the Sister Project of RHE-MEDIation - are not eligible.

**Q. Could you clarify the concept of “Associated Regions”?**

A. “Associated Regions” are understood as areas with similar ecosystems (e.g., neighbouring regions and/or regions in a different river basin) and/or less -developed regions, with the view to build capacity to implement the innovative solutions to restore freshwater ecosystems.

“Associated Regions”, rather than being a countries, are considered as a local authorities in a given country, meaning that the same country can be financed more than once, provided that two different local authorities from that country will apply and propose two different replication sites.

**Q. Can a private firm dealing with wastewater treatment apply to the OC4ARs along with a municipality?**

A. No, it can't. Only single local authorities are eligible to apply, consortia are not deemed eligible. However, a selected local authority will be free to engage any other subject, both public and private, for the implementation of the replication site, e.g. as a sub-contractor or as a consultant.

**Q. Can a proposal focus on a model (both technical and business-oriented) based on waste valorization?**

A. Proposals should basically focus on feasibility studies/actions aimed at replicating RHE-MEDIation-inspired technological solutions within their hot spots. The development and promotion of such a model is only admissible to the extent that it is part of a larger replication project.

**Q. Can an applicant other than a local authority apply, provided that it partners with an eligible subject?**

A. No, neither applications from subjects different from local authorities, nor applications by consortia, will be accepted.

**Q. Can Higher Education and Research institutions apply?**

A. Applicants must be local/regional authorities from associated regions located in EU Member States/Associated countries other than those that are part of the project consortium. The Third Parties will have to investigate the legislation in their country and provide the necessary official evidence showing that it is defined as a local or regional authority to be eligible.

**Q. Can more than one entity apply within the same project proposal?**

A. No, consortia are not accepted. Only one applicant per proposal is eligible.

**Q. Can RHE-MEDIation partners apply to the OC4ARs?**

A. No, RHE-MEDIation OC4ARs is open to EUMS and Associated Regions not represented by the partners of the consortium.

**Q. Can scientists from the academia (universities, research institutes, etc.) contribute to the implementation of proposals?**

A. Their cost - as staff cost - is eligible as far as they are employed by a local authority. However, a selected local authority will be free to engage members from the academia for the implementation of the replication site, e.g. as individual consultants, sub-contractors, etc.

**Q. Does an applicant need to submit support letters from stakeholders along with the proposal?**

A. No, support letters are not necessary. The applicant should clearly demonstrate how they will involve the community and stakeholders and to what extent they will secure their commitment.

**Q. How are the applicants funded in order to carry out their project?**

A. Fully completed applications must include a budget plan. Then, granting will be released through a “lump sum model” (i.e. predefined payment arrangements that encompass the entire budget for a research project). After the agreements are signed, participants will receive a 17% advance payment at the start of the project. As the project progresses, we will hold regular meetings to review its implementation. If we agree that satisfactory progress is being made, an additional 58% of the total budget will be released. The final 25% will be paid upon project completion.

**Q. How long is the financial support program?**

A. The financial support program has a duration of 9 months. Within this period, the envisaged project must be fully implemented and completed.

**Q. Is it possible to outsource (e.g. subcontracting) some project tasks?**

A. Yes, subcontracting is admissible when it addresses tasks that are not comprised in the core activities of the applicant. Please, note that the tasks to be outsourced must be duly described and cannot be prevalent in terms of budget and time.

**Q. Is my country eligible to apply to the call?**

A. Local and/or regional authorities from Member States and associated countries to the Horizon Europe Programme are eligible. If in doubt, please get in touch with your local contact point or check the list provided by the European Commission: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-auratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-auratom_en.pdf)

**Please note:** Authorities from countries that are part of the RHE-MEDIation Consortium—namely Belgium, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Turkey—are not eligible to apply.

**Q. Is the private sector considered as eligible?**

A. Third Parties that are considered private entities cannot be part of the consortium. Once awarded, the winning local/regional authority may explore other ways of collaborating with these entities, such as subcontracting

**Q. Should the budget consider indirect costs?**

A. Yes, indirect costs are calculated as the 25% of the total direct costs, excluding subcontracting expenses. Basically, the EU Horizon Europe Rules apply. For more information, please refer to the official guidelines: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga\\_horizon-auratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-auratom_en.pdf)

**Q. What are the dissemination events foreseen in the ANNEX 1 - Guidelines for applicants? What should the applicants do?**

A. Dissemination, sharing and communicating activities and outcomes are among the activities the selected applicants are expected to organize, especially within the Stage 3 (M34-36) - Remediation site up-scale. The aim is either to actively engage citizens and civil society on the relevance of the proposed remediation technologies, or to help scaling-up the remediation model from local to national.

**Q. Which cost categories should be foreseen during the budget preparation?**

A. The EU Horizon Europe Rules apply. For more information, please check: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

**Q. Who will provide the instalments, should the application be selected.**

A. The payments will be provided by the project partner which is responsible for the RHE-MEDIation Project WP5 “Development of replication activities and solution implementation roadmap” (National Research Council of Italy - CNR).

*Funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe program, RHE-MEDiation is a 5.8 million euro, three-year project that will be a responsive hub for deploying long-term governance centred on the mission to destress the Mediterranean Sea from chemical pollution, including peak concentrations in known HOT SPOTS.*

*In particular, the project will test and validate a chemical pollution remediation technology based on micro-algae solutions that will be integrated within existing water/wastewater treatment systems that will enhance the removal of heavy metals, pesticides, and PFAS and forever chemicals. Moreover, it will be complemented with mobile and fixed sensing systems to identify and measure the presence of chemical substances in both land and marine waters, being measured data delivered to the EC EMODnet platform to contribute to the Digital Twin of the Ocean.*

*Three sites (Italy, Greece and Turkey) have been chosen for demonstration and once realized, five replication sites will be added to the list for further investigation. To this end, local stakeholders will be empowered to manage this transformation.*



**Funded by  
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