



# briefing

number 25

SEPTEMBER 2015

## BONUS call 2015: Blue Baltic

- Call opens: **9 November 2015**
- Preregistration deadline: **9 February 2016, 17.00 CET**
- Proposal submission deadline: **10 March 2016, 17.00 CET**
- Budget: **Minimum EUR 30 million**. A minimum of EUR 16 million is distributed for themes opened in the call under 'Themes 1' and a minimum of EUR 12 million is distributed for themes opened in the call under 'Themes 2'. For detailed subdivision of themes into two funding groups, see the table on the next two pages.
- Funding schemes: Collaborative projects
- Maximum funding available per project: Up to EUR 3 million
- Project implementation: Projects start in January 2017 at the earliest with each project running for a maximum of three years.
- Themes addressed: Each proposal must address one key theme from those opened for this call and two to four supplementary themes from any other included in the BONUS strategic research agenda 2011–2017, update 2014.
- In case the budget of either Themes 1 or Themes 2 group would not be fully used, the remaining budget would be transferred to the other group of themes according to a decision to be made by the BONUS Steering Committee.

### Eligibility conditions

- Proposal is preregistered by the deadline **9 February 2016, 17.00 CET**
- Proposal is submitted to the BONUS Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) by the deadline **10 March 2016, 17.00 CET**
- At least three legal entities participate in the proposal, each of which is established in a different EU member state or associated country; at least two of these countries must be BONUS participating states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland or Sweden)
- Proposal is complete with all required parts including the description of work, all administrative forms and declarations of the applicants
- Proposal addresses one key theme from those opened for this call as well as two to four supplementary themes from those included in the BONUS strategic research agenda 2011–2017, update 2014
- Total requested BONUS contribution including contributions from both the BONUS EEIG and the BONUS participating states does not exceed the maximum of EUR 3 million
- The share of total requested BONUS contribution to enterprises, including contributions from both the BONUS EEIG and the BONUS participating states, correspond to the minimum percentage indicated in the additional eligibility conditions of a particular key theme opened for this call
- Applicants requesting funding less than 100% of the total costs have included a funding commitment statement confirming that the necessary resources to cover their part of the costs exist.
- The legal entity acting as the project coordinator is established in one of the BONUS participating states.

# Themes called for BONUS call 2015: Blue Baltic

BONUS strategic objective	Themes called*	Additional eligibility conditions
<b>Themes 1</b>		
<b>1: Understanding the Baltic Sea ecosystem structure and functioning</b>	<b>Theme 1.3: Food web structure and dynamics</b>	None
	<b>Theme 1.4: Multilevel impacts of hazardous substances</b>	None
<b>2: Meeting the multifaceted challenges in linking the Baltic Sea with its coast and catchment</b>	<b>Theme 2.4: Eco-technological approaches to achieve good ecological status in the Baltic Sea</b> Foci on (i) economic models supporting elaboration of regulations and incentives facilitating eco-technological development and on (ii) an evidence-based review of the feasibility of new technological solutions and/or biomanipulation methods.	None
<b>3: Enhancing sustainable use of coastal and marine goods and services of the Baltic Sea</b>	<b>Theme 3.5: Sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea</b> Focus on scientifically justified criteria enabling environmentally balanced and socially accepted aquaculture production across the Baltic Sea region.	None
<b>4: Improving the capabilities of the society to respond to the current and future challenges directed to the Baltic Sea region</b>	<b>Theme 4.2: Linking ecosystem goods and services to human lifestyles and well-being</b> Focus on quantification of the socioeconomic value of the ecosystem services and developing models for comparative and consequential analyses of cumulative benefits and trade-offs among different marine ecosystem services.	None
	<b>Theme 4.3: Maritime spatial planning from local to Baltic Sea region scale</b> Foci on (i) applying the ecosystem approach in maritime spatial planning (MSP), particularly, developing an ecologically and socio-economically sound network of protected marine areas covering the whole Baltic Sea and (ii) exploring the needs and establishing a region-wide data exchange network in support of MSP in the Baltic Sea.	None
<b>5: Developing improved and innovative observation and data management systems, tools and methodologies for marine information needs in the Baltic Sea region</b>	<b>Theme 5.1: Developing and improving scientific basis for integrated monitoring programmes for continuous assessment of ecological status and human pressures</b>	None



BONUS strategic objective	Themes called*	Additional eligibility conditions
<b>Themes 2</b>		
<b>2: Meeting the multifaceted challenges in linking the Baltic Sea with its coast and catchment</b>	<b>Theme 2.4: Eco-technological approaches to achieve good ecological status in the Baltic Sea</b> Foci on (i) improvement of retention and recirculation of nutrients and other chemical substances, (ii) new methods for improved wastewater treatment efficiency for xenobiotics and persistent micro- and nanoparticles, (iii) new methods for recovery of substances from waste and sediments, (iv) new methods for retention and reduction of air pollution from energy production and transportation, (v) new testing methods for sewage, leachate from landfills, wastewater and storm water and (vi) new methods for restoration of marine and coastal habitats.	Projects will be selected for funding only on a condition that at least 25% of the requested BONUS funding goes to enterprises
<b>3: Enhancing sustainable use of coastal and marine goods and services of the Baltic Sea</b>	<b>Theme 3.5: Sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea</b> Foci on (i) new regionally based fish feed ingredients and on (ii) recirculation and other technologies allowing efficient removal or retrieval of nutrients and pathogens and minimised risk of escapees.	Projects will be selected for funding only on a condition that at least 25% of the requested BONUS funding goes to enterprises
<b>5: Developing improved and innovative observation and data management systems, tools and methodologies for marine information needs in the Baltic Sea region</b>	<b>Theme 5.2: Developing and testing innovative in situ, remote sensing and laboratory techniques</b> Focus on remote sensing, particularly, on full usage of capabilities of the new instruments and developing dedicated and locally calibrated algorithms that could enable usage of remote sensing in the Baltic Sea monitoring.	Projects will be selected for funding only on a condition that at least 25% of the requested BONUS funding goes to enterprises
	<b>Theme 5.3: User-driven new information and communication services for marine environment, safety and security in the Baltic Sea</b>	Projects will be selected for funding only on a condition that at least 25% of the requested BONUS funding goes to enterprises

\* The expected outcomes of each theme are presented in complete format in the BONUS strategic research agenda 2011–2017, update 2014, [www.bonusportal.org/sra](http://www.bonusportal.org/sra)



## Evaluation procedure

- Proposals on all themes opened for this call are evaluated in accordance with the evaluation guidelines by independent expert evaluators and ranked within two separate ranked lists corresponding with the Themes 1 and Themes 2. These ranked lists are the basis for the funding decision
- The evaluation follows a single stage procedure. Proposals are evaluated on the basis of three core criteria (threshold score/highest score):
  - scientific and/or technological excellence (4/5)
  - quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management (3/5)
  - potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results (4/5).
- The total score threshold is 12, below of which no project can be funded. Scores may be awarded with 0.5 point step
- The evaluation review panel will determine a priority order for proposals which have been awarded the same total score within the same ranked list. The following approach will be applied successively for every group of proposals requiring such prioritisation:
  - Proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion of scientific and/or technological excellence
  - If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on other appropriate characteristics, to be decided by the panel (e.g. presence of enterprises, international cooperation, public engagement)

## Indicative timetable

- Evaluation and panel meeting: May 2016
- Announcement of the evaluation outcome: June 2016
- Earliest start of the projects (after grant agreements have been concluded): January 2017

## Download guidance to applicants from [www.bonusportal.org/calls](http://www.bonusportal.org/calls)

- BONUS strategic research agenda 2011–2017, update 2014
- Guide for applicants specific to the BONUS call 2015: Blue Baltic
- Guide for proposal evaluators specific to the BONUS call 2015: Blue Baltic (describing how the proposals of this call are evaluated)
- Model BONUS grant agreement (legally binding basis for BONUS funding)

## Contact

[helpdesk@bonusportal.org](mailto:helpdesk@bonusportal.org) for call related advice

[eps@bonusportal.org](mailto:eps@bonusportal.org) for technical advice on proposal submissions

BONUS is supported by national research funding institutions in the eight EU member states around the Baltic Sea and the EU Research Framework Programme. Scientists from Russia participate in BONUS through bilateral agreements.



For more information email [bonus@bonuseeig.fi](mailto:bonus@bonuseeig.fi)  
[www.bonusportal.org](http://www.bonusportal.org) | [www.bonusprojects.org](http://www.bonusprojects.org)

## Funders of the BONUS call 2015: Blue Baltic



The complete funders' list of the BONUS call 2015: Blue Baltic will be made available at the time of the launch of the call on 9 November 2015.