

# FAQs relevant to all Calls

## Question:

I find it difficult to work on a project alone. I would like to cooperate with other schools, both in my country and abroad. In that case who is applying? All of the schools or Just one? What about budget? If the fund is granted, who is responsible?

## Answer:

You can collaborate with other schools, both domestically and internationally, if your wish. In this scenario, there will be one applicant school, while the other participating schools will be registered as consortium members in the application form.

Only the applicant school will receive the funding. The consortium members can then decide how to share the budget based on the specific activities they undertake.

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## Question:

I am writing on behalf of the class of my 10 yo child. I am trying to help the class to submit a Blue Challenge proposal. The class is the last year of a primary school from Italy.

The project we are thinking of is also about a fieldtrip with biologists.

I have a very specific question from the teachers of the class: if the project is funded, are the teachers obliged to attend to the fieldtrip activity or can the children attend the fieldtrip just with the biologists? I am afraid teachers will feel overwhelmed about committing to too many activities...that's why they would like to have a precise answer to this question.

## Answer:

I can confirm that the activities associated with the project are solely the responsibility of the school, and there are no specific requirements regarding teacher participation in the field trip. This means that if the project is funded, the teachers can choose whether or not to accompany the students on the field trip with the biologists.

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## Question:

Must the project be presented by a single school? In case of a network of schools (3-4) can the amount be shared by more participants?

## Answer:

The project can be implemented by a consortium of more than one school. In this scenario, there will be one applicant school, while the other participating schools will be registered as consortium members in the application form.

Only the applicant school will receive the funding. The consortium members can then decide how to share the budget based on the specific activities they undertake.

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**Question:**

We are a non-profit association that promotes consumer protection. Within our association there is an organization, which develops several environmental awareness and literacy actions with partner schools, and 5916 schools in Portugal are associated with it.

Would it be possible, as an association, and partners of these schools to apply for this funding to develop activities within the scope of this call?

**Answer:**

The applicant must be a registered school of primary or secondary education, including vocational schools.

You are welcome to invite your associated schools to apply either as individual units or as a consortium. In this case, there will be one designated applicant school, while the other participating schools will be listed as consortium members in the application form. Only the applicant school will receive the funding, and the consortium members, along with your association, can determine how to allocate the budget based on the specific activities undertaken.

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**Question:**

I would like to know how I need to do it to get a financial provision. I've read the information in section 5 but I didn't understand at all.

**Answer:**

The applicant must be a registered school of primary or secondary education, including vocational schools.

You are welcome to invite your associated schools to apply either as individual units or as a consortium. In this case, there will be one designated applicant school, while the other participating schools will be listed as consortium members in the application form. Only the applicant school will receive the funding, and the consortium members, along with your association, can determine how to allocate the budget based on the specific activities undertaken.

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**Question:**

We are interested in applying for BlueLightS grant. However, we have a question regarding whether our Centre which conducts its business activities as an educational institution for regulated education (support classes for primary and secondary education) and non-regulated education (development of workshops and extracurricular activities), would be eligible to apply for them.

**Answer:**

The applicant must be a registered school of primary or secondary education, including vocational schools.

You are welcome to invite your associated schools to apply either as individual units or as a consortium. In this case, there will be one designated applicant school, while the other participating schools will be listed as consortium members in the application form. Only the applicant school will receive the funding, and the consortium members, along with your institution, can determine how to allocate the budget based on the specific activities undertaken.

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**Question:**

We are a STEAM education center in Spain. First, we would like to know if organizations applying for the grant can be for-profit, as our center is privately owned.

Additionally, given that the maximum grant amount is €3,000, we assume that the project may not be 100% funded but rather up to €3,000. In the case that the total cost of the project exceeds this amount, would it be sufficient to justify only the expenses for which the grant is requested, or is it necessary to justify in advance the costs for the entire project?

**Answer:**

To clarify, the applicant must be a registered school of primary or secondary education, including vocational schools. While you are welcome to collaborate with associated schools, the application must designate one school as the applicant, with the others listed as consortium members. Only the applicant school will receive the funding, and the consortium members, along with your institution, can decide how to allocate the budget based on the specific activities planned.

Regarding your project's funding, the maximum grant amount is €3,000; however, your total project cost may exceed this amount. The grant is provided as a lump sum, and you will not be required to justify the expenditure. In your application, you should only detail the activities for which you are requesting funding and specify the corresponding amounts.

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**Question:**

Our school has started a project on posidonia meadows. However, we have not been granted the blue schools etiquette since the project has just started. We are going to apply in the spring call for the etiquette. Should we apply for a grant now or after we get the etiquette?

**Answer:**

Being a member of the Network of European Blue Schools is not a prerequisite for applying for a grant. Therefore, you are welcome to apply for funding now, even if your school has not yet received the Blue Schools etiquette.

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**Question:**

Question:

I am working as a kindergarten teacher in a preschool organisation in Serbia. I think our school is a good fit for this program, because we have a big lake nearby. We are also an E-Twinning school, accustomed to collaborating on international projects. Can we apply for this initiative?

Answer:

According to BlueLightS' eligibility criteria, participating institutions must offer primary or secondary education, including vocational education and training, up to ISCED level 3.

If the institution is a kindergarten or provides education beyond this level, it would not be eligible.

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Question:

My project received a score of 86, but the accepted projects had lower scores than mine. I don't understand the reason for this. Why am I reserve list?

Answer:

Following the completion of the evaluation process, we would like to clarify that your proposal received a positive evaluation and a strong score. However, in line with the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) rules of the project, the available budget is allocated per country, and proposals are therefore ranked within each country, not across all participating countries.

As a result, it is possible for a proposal with a high score to be placed on the reserve list if the budget available for that specific country has already been allocated to higher-ranked proposals from the same country, even if proposals from other countries have lower scores.

For this reason, your proposal has been placed on the reserve list for your country. This means that, should any higher-ranked proposal from your country withdraw, you may be invited to proceed to the grant preparation phase. In such a case, we will contact you directly with further instructions.

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## FAQs relevant to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call

Question:

We are preparing applications for the 2nd Call for Blue Challenges/Blue Schools. Could you please clarify whether one school (as a legal entity) can submit more than one project proposal under this call, or is each school limited to only one application?

Answer:

Each school can submit only one application. If your proposal is not approved this time, there will be a third Call next year, and you will have the opportunity to submit a new project proposal then.

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**Question:**

Our school applied for the Probleu call but the results will only come in August. Can we apply for BlueLights and if we didn't get the Probleu grant, can it be evaluated by BlueLights?

**Answer:**

Yes, of course your school can also apply for BlueLights. If you don't receive funding from ProBleu, your application will still be evaluated under BlueLights.

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**Question:**

My project involves working with a wildlife documentary filmmaker on marine ecosystems, making videos with the children, etc. I am going to buy cameras, etc., but I am also going to pay the documentary filmmaker to come to the classroom and co-facilitate workshops with me, then, at the end, compile the videos to create a film.

I am wondering whether paying for the documentary filmmaker's workshops and his work on the video constituted subcontracting and was therefore limited to 30%, as it is written that the money can be used to invite professionals/experts and to design videos.

**Answer:**

According to the rules of the call, the work of the filmmaker does not fall under "invited expert/professional" (since he is not an expert in oceanography or environmental sciences) but is considered a technical service. Therefore, his fee for filming and editing videos is treated as subcontracting, which is limited to 30% of the total budget.

If cameras or other equipment are purchased under the project, they must remain the property of the school and not of the individual.

The costs can cover eligible categories such as the involvement of an expert in the scientific content and design of the documentary, students' travel for filming activities and the organisation of workshops.

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**Question:**

Can one school have more than 1 applications?

**Answer:**

One school cannot be funded twice, so only one application should be considered eligible and pass the eligibility check.

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**Question:**

Schools that apply to the 2nd BLS call for funding don't have to be already in the NEBS, neither in the process of application to NEBS, right? But if they get the funding they will need to apply to the NEBS as soon as it will be possible?

Answer:

You are absolutely right!

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Question:

Our college provides VET education programs in the maritime field.

As a project coordinator, I would like our VET students to develop the proposal, but it will not be possible by the 2nd Call deadline.

Do you think you're planning to announce the 3rd Call? If so, what is the approximate deadline?

As I would like to develop it together with VET students, can you please send me the full application form? Not as a Google link, but as an Excel or Word document file, students can work on it.

Answer:

Yes, there will be a 3rd Call announced in April 2026. We can provide the application form in word format so you can work on it but you need to fill in the online application form and submit it only online. We do not accept applications via email, they will not be eligible.

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## FAQs relevant to the 1<sup>st</sup> Call

Question:

I would like to ask what is the funding for EU countries, 3000 or 6000?

Answer:

The total budget allocated per country is €6,000, with a maximum grant of €3,000 available for each proposal.

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Question:

I would like to know how I need to do it to get a financial provision. I've read the information in section 5 but I didn't understand at all.

Answer:

To apply and receive funding, please complete the application form available at the following link: [Application Form](#).

For additional details about the Call for Proposals, you can refer to the document here: [Call for Blue Challenges](#).

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**Question:**

I am working with a school in the west coast of Ireland and I think our school is a good fit for this program. We are also collaborating with Erasmus on Ocean programs. Are we still able to apply for this initiative please?

**Answer:**

The key eligibility requirement is that applicants must not have received prior funding from the sister projects ProBlue and Shore. Participation in other Erasmus projects related to Ocean programs does not disqualify your school from applying. However, it is essential that you do not seek funding for activities that are already covered by other projects.

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**Question:**

The 1st Call for Blue Challenges in European Schools was brought to my attention last week. Unfortunately the deadline for applying is so soon to write and develop a good application. I was hoping to find more information about the following calls. Could you tell me when to expect the next calls, the timeline and if I can expect the budget and objectives to be the same? I did not find a way to sign up for the newsletter or to be updated otherwise, but please inform me how to do this. I look forward to apply, since the call fits our school and ocean related educational aims perfectly.

**Answer:**

The 2nd Call for Blue Challenges is expected to be announced in June 2025, with the submission deadline in September 2025. The objectives for this call will remain the same, but we anticipate a higher budget compared to the 1st Call. Further details will be finalized soon and will be published on the [Blue LightS](#) website, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#), and on our [LinkedIn](#) profile.

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**Question:**

I forgot to send the application for funding bluelights schools yesterday. Is there any possibility that you could still take our school in to account? I have the answers to the questions and I can send that to you?

**Answer:**

Unfortunately, we are unable to make exceptions for proposals submitted after the final deadline. However, there will be a 2nd Call for Blue Challenges, expected to be announced in June 2025, with the submission deadline in September 2025. The objectives for this call will remain the same, but we anticipate a higher budget compared to the 1st Call. Further details will be finalized soon and

will be published on the [Blue LightS](#) website, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#), and on our [LinkedIn](#) profile.

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**Question:**

In the section of the final report: Please justify how the funding was used to carry out the project activities - do we need to specify in detail the budget, show each cost, or just write descriptively what they spent the money on (which is also visible from the specified activities delivered)?

**Answer:**

You don't need to provide detailed breakdowns of the expenses, but you should briefly describe the types of costs related to the activities carried out (e.g. if you organised an event you can specify that you used the grant for printing handouts, catering, or covering speaker fees etc.).

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**Question:**

What should teachers do once they have set up the project? For example, will they need to send proof of purchase, etc., or simply submit a written report?

**Answer:**

The approved budget is a lump sum. This means the school is not required to provide invoices for their expenses. They simply need to carry out the planned activities and describe them on their final report which was Annex to the Grant Agreement they signed.

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