



Launch of the BLUE_BOOST Transnational Call for Project Proposals, to be granted with Innovation Vouchers.

The **BLUE_BOOST** project, implemented under the ADRION European Territorial Cooperation Programme, is launching a transnational **Call for Project Proposals**, in order to grant the best of them with **Innovation Vouchers**, through its **Project Partners** (1.CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY – ZADAR COUNTY CHAMBER - Croatia, 2.UNIVERSITY OF CAMERINO - Italy, 3.THESSALONIKI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY - Greece, 4.CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE – EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT - Italy, 5.ALBANIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND - Albania, 6.PATRAS SCIENCE PARK S.A. - Greece, 7.APULIA REGION - Italy) in their respective pilot areas, presented below. The Call is launched in the framework of the **BLUE_BOOST Transnational Innovation Voucher Scheme**, through which **at least 35 vouchers of max 10.000,00 euros each** will be allocated to MSMEs & Start-Ups of the 7 PPs' areas (at least 5 vouchers per partner's area).

The **beneficiaries, Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises (MSMEs) & Start-Ups**, will have the opportunity, thanks to the vouchers, to improve their position all along the value chains of Blue Economy thanks to knowledge/technological skills provided by **Knowledge Providers (KPs)** who can be: Research, Development & Innovation bodies, Skilled Enterprises and Non Institutional New Innovation Agents (such as fab labs, maker spaces, co-working spaces, creative hubs, living labs, tech shops, contamination labs, etc.). The KPs should be already registered in the international BLUE_BOOST Knowledge Providers Gallery, which is available on the **BLUE_BOOST Networking Platform** <https://blueboost.unicam.it/index.php>.

The aforementioned Transnational Innovation Voucher Scheme constitutes **the main action of the BLUE_BOOST project** <https://blueboost.adrioninterreg.eu> , **whose central objective** is to enhance the innovation capacities of Blue Sectors MSMEs/START UPs of the 7 focused Adriatic-Ionian marine/maritime clusters (pilot areas), where project partners are based: 1) Zadar County (Croatia), 2) Marche Region (Italy), 3) Region of Central Macedonia (Greece), 4) Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy), 5) Coastal areas of Durres, Vlora, Saranda and Shengjin (Albania), 6) Region of Western Greece (Greece), 7) Apulia Region (Italy).

The **goal** of the BLUE_BOOST **Transnational Innovation Voucher Scheme** is to help MSMEs & Start-

Ups to design and/or create, through small innovation projects, new products, services, processes or business models. Applications can include **all stages of the innovation cycle** -at technical, organizational and marketing level- from, conception & prototyping, transfer, patenting, commercialization, etc.

Applicants should be MSMEs and Start – ups:

- With the head of an operative registered office located in one of the BLUE_BOOST pilot regions;
- Having an independent legal status (consortiums will be excluded);
- Operating in at least one of the blue growth/blue economy sectors selected for its pilot area, which are reported in Annex 12;
- Having selected a Knowledge Provider already registered in BLUE_BOOST Knowledge Providers' Gallery ("KP Gallery").

MSMEs registered in BLUE_BOOST Gallery as Knowledge Providers are not eligible for applying for a voucher under this Call.

The **application form** (Annex 1) and other relevant **Annexes**, described analytically in the Call for Proposals, have to be sent by e-mail to the responsible BLUE_BOOST pilot partner, who represents the geographical area where the operative registered office of the Applicant is registered). **Closing day for the submission** of Applications is the **30th of June 2019** at **midnight CET**.

The submitted applications will be evaluated at regional level by Selection Boards composed by Local Innovation Committees members (specialists in blue-growth / trans-sectoral innovation and pilot project partners representatives). **Awarded MSMEs/Start-ups** and related Knowledge Providers will have **six (6) months** from the date of entering in force of the relative contract to **conclude** their **innovative projects**.

BLUE_BOOST foresees a unique type of Voucher with a maximum value of 10.000€ **funding** for the selected, after evaluation, innovative project submitted by the blue MSME/Start-up **100%** (no co-financing schemes are accepted), including the current VAT in the country of the Pilot Project Partner.

For **more information**, interested parties can address to the responsible **BLUE_BOOST pilot partners**, whose specific contact persons' information is available at the aforementioned Call for Proposals.

