

# BlueLightS Funding Call Presentation

Overview of funding opportunities and project goals



# Introduction to BlueLightS

## Ocean and Water Literacy

BlueLightS promotes ocean and water literacy by supporting student-led projects in schools across Europe.

## EU Mission Contribution

Participating schools contribute to restoring aquatic ecosystems by 2030 through the EU Mission initiative.

## Network of European Blue Schools

BlueLightS expands collaboration by fostering a network of European schools focused on sustainability education.





# European Network of Blue Schools (ENBS)

- Part of the **EU4Ocean Coalition**, supported by the European Commission
- Aims to promote **ocean literacy** in European schools
- Schools complete the **“Find the Blue” challenge** by creating water-related projects
- Successful schools receive the **European Blue School Certificate**
- Encourages **student engagement** with marine and freshwater topics
- Offers access to a **community of educators**, resources, and events
- Supports **cross-border collaboration** and sustainability education

# Objectives of the Funding Call



## Support for Blue Projects

The funding call supports impactful blue projects in schools aligned with Mission Ocean & Waters goals.

## Community Diversity

It encourages participation from diverse schools including coastal, inland, primary, secondary, and vocational institutions.

## Collaborative Learning

The initiative promotes eTwinning to foster collaborative learning and environmental responsibility.

## Focus on Regional Themes

Projects focus on key regional themes like Mediterranean pollution, Atlantic/Arctic conservation, and Baltic aquaculture.



# Eligibility Criteria



## Eligible Schools

Primary, secondary, and vocational schools registered in EU or Horizon Europe countries are eligible to apply.

## Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted by schools as legal entities, not individuals, ensuring formal representation.

## Network Membership

Schools must belong to NEBS or commit to applying for Blue School label by project's end.

## Funding Restrictions

Applicants should not have prior funding from ProBleu or SHORE projects to remain eligible.

# Project Themes



## **Pollution and Plastics**

Focus on reducing pollution and addressing issues with plastics and microplastics in aquatic environments.

## **Ocean and Water Conservation**

Promote conservation of ocean and water ecosystems to restore aquatic biodiversity and health.

## **Carbon Neutrality Initiatives**

Support projects that drive carbon neutrality and encourage positive environmental impacts.

## **Sustainable Aquaculture**

Encourage sustainable aquaculture practices that support environmental sustainability and ecosystem balance.



# Example Projects



## Student-Led Water Research

Students engage in research on local water bodies to enhance understanding of aquatic environments and ecosystems.

## Plastic Reduction Campaigns

Awareness campaigns help reduce plastic usage and promote sustainable environmental practices among communities.

## International Collaboration

Cross-cultural exchanges through eTwinning foster global citizenship and cooperative learning among students.

## Skills Development

Hands-on activities develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills supporting sustainability goals.

# Funding and Timeline



## Grant Amounts by Country

Grants range from €3,000 to €9,000 depending on the country and membership status in Horizon Europe.

## Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted by 25 September 2025 at 17:00 CEST to be considered for funding.

## Project Timeline

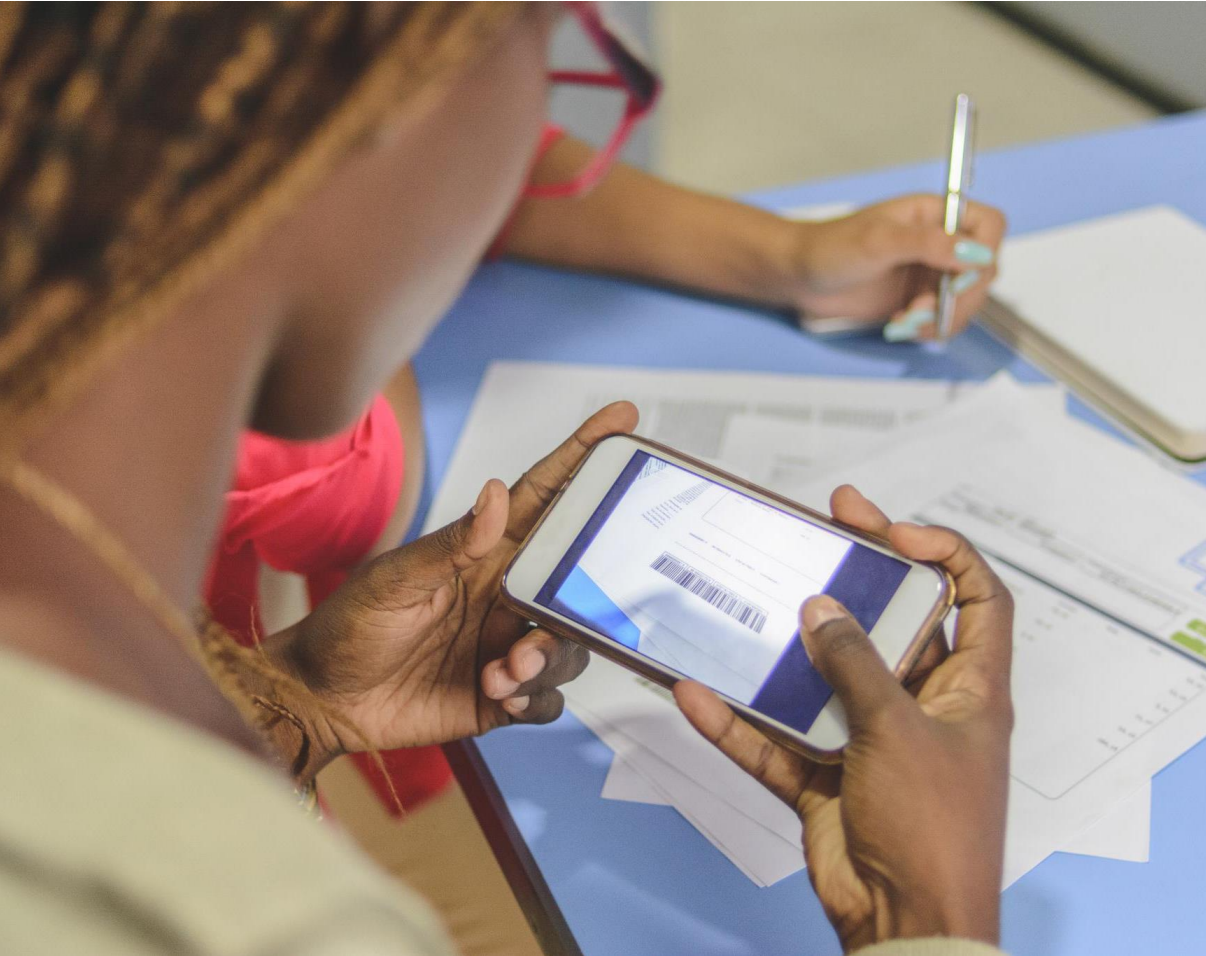
Funded projects run from January to May 2026, aligned with the academic year for maximal engagement.

## Notification Date

Successful applicants will be notified by 1 December 2025 to prepare for project start.



# Application Process



## Electronic Submission

Applications must be submitted electronically using the official BlueLightS website form.

## Eligible Applicants

Applications should be completed by school staff such as teachers, principals, or project managers.

## Application Requirements

Applications must outline project objectives, thematic focus, and expected outcomes clearly.

## Network Commitment

Schools should show commitment to joining the Blue Schools Network and promoting sustainability education.