

Q&A Document from the “EU Blue Schools Webinar - Navigating Funding for Blue Schools”

This document offers a brief summary of the questions asked during the EU webinar and the corresponding answers provided by the coordinators of the funding calls. Those interested in applying should refer to the call documentation for each project and the frequently asked questions (FAQs) published on the project's websites. The information in the call document takes precedence over any other information published elsewhere.

1. Is 18 years a hard maximum age? Secondary education in Germany goes all the way to 19 yo.
No, 18-year-old is not a “hard” age limit. The calls are open to registered schools, so if secondary education in your country goes up to 19 years old, it’s okay to apply.
2. If we apply for any of these projects, do we have to apply for the Network of EU Blueschools or is automatic?
Yes, you have to apply. Only if you get funded by one of the three projects, will you be automatically certified as an EU Blue School.
3. Since the submission deadline is similar for all the grants, can we apply for the 3 of them even if we can only receive funding from one?
Yes, we recommend you submit the 3 applications to have more opportunities
4. Some projects ask for CARBON NEUTRALITY can you explain precisely what is requested and compulsory?
We simply expect you to lower the carbon footprint of your project as much as possible – limit travel (especially by plane), use sustainable materials, etc.
5. Can’t high school students apply for shore?
The calls are dedicated to registered schools, not students. This means that a teacher or another eligible person needs to apply on behalf of the school with a project that students will be involved in.
6. Hello, How far does the Baltic Sea region expand: does a school in Berlin still meet this criteria?
Yes.
7. Can’t we receive funds for more than one project?
No.
8. Our school is located in the north of Spain (which is an eligible country because it is connected to the Mediterranean Sea), however, due to our location in the country, activities will take place in the Atlantic Sea. Can we apply for SHORE funding?
SHORE Open Call is open to schools registered and implementing the project in the Mediterranean Sea Area as the project should support the ocean literacy of students in one of the target areas.

9. Questions about shore budget: Financial report: The funds will be disbursed in the form of a lump sum. What about justification of costs? Will schools have to submit a detailed financial report including receipts, bank transfers etc. or just a detailed report presenting project implementation, impact, lessons learned and result?
Personnel costs: Does this also apply to teachers running the project activities? If yes, shall we include estimated work days in our budget summary?
Equipment costs: Besides technical equipment does this cost category also apply to equipment used for the purchase of audio-visual equipment (e.g. camera, drone) which students may use in order to produce dissemination and educational videos and other audio-visual deliverables created during implementation.
You will not have to submit any invoices or receipts to the funding organization or project. However, you should keep all proof of payments and make purchases in accordance with the legal requirements for public entities, such as schools, in your country. In general, all your costs need to be justified. For example, if part of your project involves making a documentary, then buying a camera is justified.
10. Main topic and subtopics: Can schools choose more than one topic and subtopics? Can activities applying to two thematic areas, e.g. sea based activities and biodiversity be included in one project?
Yes, you can. However, make sure to double-check the specific regulations of each call to see the maximum number of topics allowed.
11. So no more projects for Portugal? (ProBleu)
You are eligible to apply, but your chances will be smaller than for other countries such as the Czech Republic or Armenia.
12. Should I become member of Network European Blue school, if I apply only for ProBlue?
If you get funded by ProBleu you will be automatically certified as an EU Blue School.
13. Do we have to collaborate with other schools to apply for SHORE? or just one school can apply?
One school can apply.
14. Can we apply separately with the same project to work and have mutual mobilities together with the partners from other countries?
Yes, you can. Such applications will be evaluated.
15. I am planning to apply for ProBleu and is it possible to collaborate with an other school in an other country? for example, it can be our neighboring country to see the best practices.
Yes, you can include collaboration with a school in another country in your application.
16. What percentage of projects are approximately approved?
ProBleu 50/50. SHORE 30/70 BlueLightS – the first call just opened no statistic yet.

17. Can Ireland apply? And sorry do we need a partner from Europe?

Yes, Ireland can apply for ProBleu and BlueLightS. You don't need a partner.