**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

for organizing the

MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Action Day 2019 on:

**Participatory science:**

**Your chance to take part in scientific research, fill in the data gaps and contribute to effective environmental decision making**

In the framework of:



The Annual Programme of MIO-ECSDE and the Mediterranean Action Day supported by the LIFE+ Operating Grant for NGOs

23 November 2018

The Call

In the context of the Annual Programme of MIO-ECSDE (supported by the LIFE+ Operating Grant for NGOs) and the Mediterranean Action Day -an annual activity of MIO-ECSDE that gives the opportunity to environmental NGOs to take action in the field and tackle a “hot” environmental issue of the region- MIO-ECSDE is requesting expressions of interest (or applications) for the realization of up to 16 participatory science related activities in the following EU countries: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. This activity will be performed by different NGOs in each country, which will be selected under the present procedure.

Each participating NGO will have the initiative and responsibility for the type and methodology used to conduct the participatory science activity.

In this regard, MIO-ECSDE requests NGOs interested to organize participatory science activities, to submit electronically to info@mio-ecsde.org their Application Form (**see Annex 1**) in which they should describe the activity that they propose.

**SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS BY: 17 December 2018**

**BUDGET CEILING: 16.000 € divided by 16: 1.000 € per activity.** The amount includes all other costs, income taxes and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the activity.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERION:** The relevance and quality of each application (1 per country)

**THE CALL WILL PROCEED HAVING REGARD TO:**

* The general principles of EU law on procurements.
* The Internal Rules and Regulations of MIO-ECSDE.
* The present Call for Applications.

Background on Participatory Science

The activity aims to engage communities in filling in environmental data gaps in the region and thus contribute to effective environmental decision making.

Environmental agencies have nowadays massive data requirements, national research funds are drying up while emerging technologies are constantly advancing. These three factors are driving participatory science (including citizen science) to boom around the world. Among the different disciplines of participatory science, environmental science attracts the majority of initiatives and the most dedicated volunteers.

Participatory science is a method of undertaking scientific research whereby community groups and science professionals work together in a meaningful way on locally-relevant scientific research projects. Participants/volunteers gain new skills and a deeper understanding of the scientific work at hand during the activity.

Participatory science projects:

* are collaborative research projects that have scientific or technological value and pedagogical rigor;
* engage community groups with science and technology professionals;
* build on the popularity of citizen science, but re-balance the relationship between citizens and scientists within a highly collaborative approach;
* offer researchers opportunities to become involved in locally relevant lines of enquiry, where high-quality scientific or technological outputs can be created through harnessing the local knowledge and contribution of community groups;
* are a cost-effective way to gather required evidence and detect emerging issues and thus support public authorities to improve efficiency with less administrative burden.

Participatory science brings economic, social, scientific and political added value to EU policies also in the context of an Open Science Agenda (making research findings accessible and available free of charge).

The current activity will focus on the implementation of participatory science related activities in the selected countries to enhance the involvement of community groups in gathering lacking scientific evidence and demonstrate the need to address a known or emerging issue. Each activity must include an event where the results of the participatory science action will be presented. More detailed specifications and guidelines are given in the Terms of Reference below.

Terms of Reference

**Type of Activities**

A participatory science activity can take different shapes and forms, ranging from data collection in the field to data analysis and the development or innovative use of data-driven, technology-powered tools that will increase the understanding, preservation, and protection of our planet.

Applicants should design and implement an activity that promotes and supports community science work, in ways that create learning experiences for community group scientists, including citizens, students, groups of professionals (e.g. fishermen), etc. Some examples of participatory science activities are listed below. A key step in designing a participatory science activity is the identification of the environmental topic to be addressed and the selection of the engagement and data collection method.

The participatory science activities may include these activities; the list is indicative and the NGOs applying for support under this call should use these for inspiration:

* Organize marine litter monitoring activities with the involvement of different community groups: (a) setup up and carry out beach litter surveys using a harmonized protocol (https://bit.ly/2qktpsj) with the involvement of educators and schools, citizens, managers of coastal and marine protected areas, etc.; (b) setup up and carry out floating litter surveys using ships of opportunity such as ferries using a harmonized protocol (https://bit.ly/2AE2VrU) with the involvement of managers of coastal and marine protected areas, groups of professionals, etc.; (c) setup up and carry out seafloor litter surveys with the engagement of divers (http://tiny.cc/8wam0y) or fishermen (http://tiny.cc/svam0y) using a harmonized protocol.
* Organize research activities to monitor biota, such as bird surveys via the application of harmonized protocol (i.e. the point counts and transect counts related protocols, http://tiny.cc/6tbm0y).
* Organize a river watch and river pollution monitoring activity as described in the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean showcase found here: http://tiny.cc/pkem0y .
* Setup a campaign to promote the use of participatory science platforms/tools that allow the collection, recording and analysis of environmental data. Examples include: (a) the mobile app of the European Environment Agency entitled Marine Litter Watch which allows the participants to carry out a survey and share the information on an database (http://tiny.cc/cgcm0y); the IUCN mobile app and the web platform developed to track the invasive species in the Mediterranean Marine protected areas (http://tiny.cc/yhcm0y); the trashout app to detect illegal dumping sites (https://www.trashout.ngo/); the iNaturalist application used to record encounters with other organisms and maintain life lists (https://www.inaturalist.orgetc); etc.
* Setup and carry out a survey to assess the views and perceptions of stakeholders on an environmental issue. Some examples: the survey for the evaluation of stakeholder perceptions and attitudes towards issues surrounding marine litter performed with the FP7 MARLISCO project (http://www.marlisco.eu/stakeholder-survey.en.html); the survey targeting local communities to assess their views and perceptions on freshwater ecosystems performed within the ACT4DRIN project (<http://mio-ecsde.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Survey_report_final-1.pdf>)

An event, that will constitute the NGO’s Med Action Day, has to be organized to present the results and findings of the participatory science activity. Additionally, you are strongly encouraged to combine the aforementioned actions with a communication campaign, capacity building workshop, community engagement event, etc. See Annex 2 for guidance on organizing sustainable events.

**Targets group**

The involvement of as many people and sectors as possible in your participatory science activity is a must. Therefore, the more and various the invitees, the better. Gender mainstreaming considerations are key. Also, the presence of the media is strongly encouraged, as it will help not only the purpose of the event itself and disseminating the message but also the morale of the participants.

The event can be targeted to:

* The general public/citizens;
* Students from schools, colleges, universities;
* Other NGOs;
* Civil servants at all levels;
* Private sector;
* Research institutes;
* Professionals such as fishermen, farmers, local cooperatives, etc.;
* Women’s associations;
* Members of Parliament;
* etc.

**Application Submission**

Participation in this Call for Applications is open, on equal terms, to all NGOs who meet the conditions laid down in this Call where they possess adequate capacity.

Interested Parties should submit to info@mio-ecsde.org **by December 17th 2018**:

* an application form (see annex 1)
* CV(s) of the team member(s) / expert(s).
* Official registration certificate, VAT number registration and legal status form and representation where applicable.

**Qualification, Requirements and Evaluation Criteria**

1. Failure to provide/prove the following is considered grounds for disqualification.
* The successful candidate must be a registered NGO in the country that possesses adequate capacity.
* For MIO-ECSDE member organisations only: Proof of payment the 2017 and 2018 Membership fees.

b. The qualified applications will be evaluated based on the following:

* Relevance of the proposed activity based on the Application Form
* Expertise and Experience (years) of the expert(s) in charge: The scope of work requires at least one skilled professional with previous experience in implementing environmental awareness and engagement activities.

Applications submitted after the specified date shall not be considered. The successful candidates will be informed within 1 week following the submission deadline.

**Financial Support**

An amount of 1000€ per activity is available as seed funding to support the selected NGO.

Eligible costs include:

* Labour cost
* Local travel cost
* Meeting cost such us lunch-coffee and or technical support
* costs for filming and/or broadcasting of the Med Action Day in order to enhance impact;
* costs for purchasing relevant eco-promotional products with a message such as a thermos to advocate against single use plastic bottles, bags made of organic cotton to replace single use plastic bags, binoculars for bird watching, etc.

The amount includes all other costs, income taxes and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service.

**Financial monitoring and reporting will be carried according MIO-ECDSE’s financial rules and procedures (and those that apply for LIFE+)**

**Indicative timeline of actions and deliverables**

The successful applicants should follow the timeframe below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Timeframe** |
| 1. Call for interest sent by MIO-ECSDE | 23/11/2018 |
| 2. Reception of the application forms from the interested NGOs | 17/12/2018 |
| 3. Review of the application forms and selection of NGOs | 21/12/2018 |
| 4. Signing of agreements | 14/01/2019 |
| 5. Activity implementation  | By end of May 2019 |
| 6. Activity report (using the remplate provided by MIO-ECSDE) | By end of June 2019 |

The present call for applications is posted on the website of MIO-ECSDE (www.mio-ecsde.org).

ANNEX 1: APPLICATION FORM

# MIO-ECSDE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION DAY 2019

* Name of NGO:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Our NGO would like to participate in the proposed activity

Name of person in charge: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 web-site: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Function in the NGO: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Title of proposed activity:

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* Description of proposed activity (use max 1 page):

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* Estimated Budget Analysis for Proposed Activity

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Expenses Category  | Expense Description  | Total amount in Euro  |
| Labor cost |  |  |
| Local travel cost |  |  |
| Promotional material |  |  |
| Media Cost (filming-broadcasting |  |  |
| Lunch-coffees (event) |  |  |
| Technical support |  |  |
| *Please add /delete categories as relevant*  |  |  |
| *……..* |  |  |
| *……..* |  |  |
| TOTAL max (1.000 euro) |  |  |

* Period/date foreseen for the participatory science activity to be held:

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* Having read and understood the Terms of Reference, I undertake the responsibility of organizing the activity.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ANNEX 2: SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

A **sustainable event** is one that is designed, organized and implemented with a view to minimizing its ecological footprint and maximizing its positive impact on society. To reduce the general impacts of our events or their ecological footprint, we should therefore always consider the life cycle when we organize an event, in order to identify the points that will have a bigger negative impact on the environment.

Below are listed some useful tips that should be used wherever applicable in order to minimize the ecological footprint of our event to the extent possible.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sustainability target | How |
| Reduce energy use and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions  | * Select venues and accommodation that implement energy efficiency measures, comply with green building standards and/or use renewable energy sources.
* Choose locations and venues minimizing local and long-distance transportation needs for participants and products.
* Where long-distance travel is unavoidable, offset GHG emissions.
* Apply energy-saving office practices during the organisation and hosting of the event.
 |
| Reduce materials consumption and waste generation | * Minimize materials provided to participants and used by service providers (e.g. caterer, exhibitors), before, during and after the event.
* Avoid the use of disposable items, use pre-used/ recycled and reusable/recyclable products and reduce packaging needs to a minimum
* Separate and recycle waste where possible.
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| Reduce water use | * Select venues and accommodation that implement water conservation practices and use water-efficient appliances.
* Implement water-conscious measures such as avoid bottled water and re-filling glasses only upon request.
 |
| Reduce indirect environmental impacts on air, water and soil | * Minimize the need to transport food and other products and favour local organic food.
* Use products manufactured with or containing fewer harmful substances, such as chlorine-free paper and non-toxic cleaning products.
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| Increase the social benefits for all involved  | * Involve local and regional level as much as possible by, for example, recruiting local people (social integration), supporting SMEs (catering, energy, cleaning, IT supply, family-run accommodation), and showcasing successful local projects.
* Contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and the core ILO Conventions through compliance with labour standards, and requiring social integration (reducing unemployment), Fair Trade products and social criteria along the supply chain.
* Assure security and health aspects (e.g., noise level).
 |