

2nd Atlantic Project Awards 2017

Application Procedure
GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT PROMOTERS

Introduction

The Atlantic Project Awards are designed to honour outstanding success stories, achieved by projects in the geographical area covered by the Atlantic Strategy and with relevance to the implementation of the [Atlantic Action Plan](#). The Atlantic Project Awards, organised by the Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan, showcase and promote individual winners and highlight the incorporation and scaling up of best practices at regional, national European and international level.

The Atlantic Project Awards aim to make the Atlantic Strategy more visible to the general public by promoting the key priorities of the Atlantic Action Plan and its achievements across the Member States covered by the Atlantic Strategy.

Follow up actions will be undertaken to increase the award winners publicity i.e. dissemination actions through the Support Team's web based communication channels (electronic publications and social media).

The [first Atlantic Project Awards](#) were organised in 2016 and the five (5) winning applicants received their prizes by Mr Karmenu Vella, the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries during the [ASPC2016](#) held in September 2016 in Dublin, Ireland. The 2017 Atlantic Project Awards will be given at a prestigious ceremony to be organised during the [ASPC2017](#) to be held on 08 November 2017 at the University of Strathclyde Technology and Innovation Centre in Scotland, United Kingdom.

The present document provides guidelines and practical information on the 2017 Atlantic Project Awards application process.

Atlantic Project Awards' categories

Awards will be given to projects in each of the following four (4) categories, which are in line with the priorities of the Atlantic Action Plan, and which through their activities excel in promoting innovation, contributing to the protection and improvement of the Atlantic's marine and coastal environment, improving connectivity and creating synergies for a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development:

- [Entrepreneurship & innovation](#)
- [Atlantic Marine and coastal environment](#)
- [Accessibility and connectivity](#)
- [Sustainability](#)

A Special Award will be given to a project in the following category:

- International Cooperation in the Atlantic area i.e. international dimension embodied in the [Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation with United States of America and Canada](#) and its potential support to the Blue Economy; in the Atlantic research cooperation with Brazil and South Africa; in the cooperation with adjacent sea macro-regions/basins (Baltic, Mediterranean), etc.

Applicants are invited to select **up to two categories** for their project: their first choice (primary award category) should reflect the most appropriate category as it relates to their project's objectives while their second choice (secondary award category) should reflect any other category that they believe their project has a direct or indirect impact to.

Application Process Practical Information

The Atlantic Project Awards will be granted to **5 projects** (1 winner in each of the categories listed above) that come under the umbrella of the Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan Priorities, as recognition of outstanding performance in relevant areas/sectors.

The dedicated [online application form](#) allows interested project promoters / partners to put forward a submission along with a brief introduction of their project (general information, short project description, outcomes achieved, relevance to Atlantic Strategy, etc.).

Please note that:

- Applications should be submitted solely through the [online application form](#).
- Submissions are accepted only in English to facilitate the evaluation process.

Additional information and support for the submission of projects can be provided by the Central Support Team through the dedicated helpdesk service (email: helpdesk@atlanticstrategy.eu) and by the National Unit offices in each Member State¹.

The schedule of the "Atlantic Project Awards" process is the following:

- Launch of the Awards & online Application form → 03/05/2017
- Closing of online Application → 16/06/2017
- Evaluation process: Start date → 17/06/2017, Completion date → 07/07/2017
- Confirm participation of award winners to ASPC2017 → 14/07/2017
- Announcement of the Atlantic Project Award winners at the Awards Ceremony, an integral part of the [ASPC2017](#), on 8 November 2017.

¹ <http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/contact/the-support-team>

Who can apply & project eligibility

Applications may be put forward by professionals (individuals), entrepreneurs, organisations, centres of excellence/research institutions, associations and NGOs, from one of the EU Member States covered by the Atlantic Strategy (France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain and the United Kingdom).

Atlantic Project Awards will showcase **funded projects** (in progress or completed) or initiatives (and **NOT** “ideas”, single individuals, entrepreneurs or organisations). In this context, a **funded project** is recognised as a group of tasks, actions, activities carried out by a consortium or a grouping within the framework of a larger and longer collaboration. Any type of **funded project** (at local, regional, national, or European level from public and/or private sources) that has been delivered, or is being delivered inside the Atlantic Strategy’s geographical area is eligible to apply.

Any project initiated and/or completed during the **36 months** prior to the announcement of this call will be eligible for an award. Regarding submitted projects that are in progress, significant project activity must have been delivered during that time frame; it should be noted that it is not required for the whole project to have been fully implemented during the abovementioned period of time.

Guidelines for completing the Online Application Form

Please select the **primary Award category** applicable to your project choosing one of the following **(Mandatory field)**:

- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity;
- Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development;
- Develop international Cooperation e.g. international dimension embodied in the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation and its potential support to the Blue Economy, in the Atlantic research cooperation with Brazil and South Africa, in the cooperation with adjacent sea macro-regions/basins (Baltic, Mediterranean), etc.
 - Justify your selection **(Mandatory field)** (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation).

Please select the **secondary Award category** applicable to your project choosing one of the following **(Mandatory field)**:

- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity;
- Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development;

- Develop international Cooperation e.g. international dimension embodied in the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation and its potential support to the Blue Economy, in the Atlantic research cooperation with Brazil and South Africa, in the cooperation with adjacent sea macro-regions/basins (Baltic, Mediterranean), etc.
 - Justify your selection (**Mandatory field**) (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation).

General information on the applicant organisation and contact details:

- Name of your organisation (**Mandatory field**): Legal/commercial name of the organisation should be provided.
- Website of your project or organisation (**Optional field**): Link to project's / organisation's website (if available) should be provided.
- Type of organisation (**Mandatory field**): Please select appropriate type from menu. In case appropriate type is not listed, please fill in under "Other".
 - Entrepreneurs,
 - Companies,
 - Public bodies,
 - Universities /research institutions,
 - Associations,
 - NGOs,
 - Individuals,
 - Other
- Title, First & Last Name, E-mail, Telephone Number (**Mandatory fields**): Please provide with all the requested information of the project's responsible Contact Person.

Key project elements:

1. Title (**Mandatory field**);
2. Short summary of the project (**Mandatory field**) - (maximum length of 1500 characters, including spacing and punctuation);
3. Ongoing / Finished (**Mandatory field**);
4. Time frame (Start date: mm/yyyy – End date: mm/yyyy (**Mandatory fields**));
5. State Funding Authority (EC, national and/or regional authorities, private entities) and total in Euro (**Mandatory field**);
6. Number of people working on the project (including independent collaborators or volunteers) (**Mandatory field**);

7. A project description must be provided (maximum length of 400 characters - including spacing and punctuation - for each of the following fields), including the following information (**Mandatory fields**):
 - a. What are the project objectives?
 - b. How was/is the project implemented?
 - c. What is the best practice that is demonstrated by this project?
 - d. What are the results achieved to date?
 - e. How can the aforementioned results be transferred to other organisations or sub-regions/regions/member states?
 - f. What future development activity is planned for the project?
8. Please upload one image (Max size 2MB) that best represents the project (**Optional field**)
9. Please list up to three links to websites, social media platforms, or online videos. Website links could also feature relevant publications, brochures, press releases or reports (**Optional field**).

The assessment process & the jury

Eligible nominations will be assessed against the following set of criteria:

- Project relevance with the Atlantic Action Plan priorities;
- Level of innovation of the project in terms of targeted or achieved results and working methods;
- Degree of project completion;
- Transferable project results for the benefit of the AAP development/implementation.

The assessment of nominations will be carried out by the Atlantic Project Awards jury comprising:

- Representatives from the EU Commission (DG MARE, DG RTD, DG REGIO), and
- Members of the Atlantic Strategy Group².

² The Atlantic Strategy Group (ASG) provides high level guidance and stewardship for the implementation and monitoring of the Atlantic Strategy and the Atlantic Action Plan. It is composed of representatives of the five Atlantic Member States and of the European Institutions.

The Awards Ceremony

One winner per category will be invited to receive the 2017 Atlantic Project Award at a Ceremony to take place during the 4th Atlantic Stakeholder Conference (Glasgow, Scotland – 8 November 2017).

An award trophy will be offered to the winners while certificates of merits will be awarded for short-listed projects. Additionally, the award winners will receive publicity through the Support Team's web based communication channels (electronic publications and social media) and by general media coverage. Lastly, the award winners' travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Support Team.