

## **FAQ**

### **1. Where do I find more information about the Application for the Open Call?**

You can download all relevant documents and access the Application form at [www.futurelakes.eu/calls](http://www.futurelakes.eu/calls)

### **2. Is it possible for a local authority to apply as a consortium together with NGOs or research institutes that support the authority?**

No, the application must be submitted by a local authority. You can apply as single entity or as a consortium of two or three entities, but in case of a consortium, all applying beneficiaries should be local/regional authorities. It is, however, possible that a local or regional authority decide to subcontract some of the work (e.g. to an NGO, university, research institute).

### **3. How can subcontracting work in practice?**

It is possible for applying local/regional authorities to subcontract limited parts of the work, that they can't execute by themselves, to other institutions (e.g. universities or NGOs). The topics of subcontracting can be e.g. monitoring, evaluating suitable restoration measures for the region for their action plan and contributing to developing a roadmap for upscaling measures in the region. The Authority/authorities representing the Associated Region will receive the grant. The invoices for any subcontracted tasks must be included in their Financial Report.

### **4. Should the contact person representing the applicant be from an authority or could e.g. a NGO submit the application for the authority?**

The contact details you are providing in the application form need to be from the applying authority. Of course, it is possible that universities or NGOs support the authority with the application form. But if the contact details contain information from an (supporting) entity, who is not eligible, the application will be rejected. In addition, the contract preparation and signature phase cannot be supported by external members apart from the applying authority (or authorities).

### **5. Can you give an example of a local or regional authority?**

The meaning of local authorities is an organisation that is in charge of the public services for a community and is governed by public law. So normally those are governmental institutions. However, each country has different regulations and definitions of regional and local authorities. For example, a river-basin or a regional park authority. In such cases we would need proof from the legislation that your entity is defined as an authority within your country. Otherwise, the institution is not eligible.

### **6. Can a National Park be considered as local authority?**

This is depending on your country's rules. In Germany for example National Parks are defined as regional authorities and would therefore be eligible. In other countries it may be handled as a national authority and would not be eligible. To be eligible, you need to find out how the legislation

is for your country and if necessary, send us an official proof that, the national park is defined as a local or regional authority.

**7. Is there any restriction regarding the size/magnitude of influence of authorities?**

No, any kind of regional and/or local governmental authority is eligible (including small public administrations).

**8. Where do I find out if my country is eligible?**

You can find the map of eligible countries here on our webpage at [www.futurelakes.eu/calls](http://www.futurelakes.eu/calls). All countries listed there are eligible to apply. For France and Portugal this also includes the Outermost regions, like the Azores. A list of all eligible Associated countries in Horizon Europe can be found here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

**9. Is Morocco also eligible for this call as it has transitional arrangements for Horizon Europe or already signed a contract? What about ‘other third countries’ (like e.g. Azerbaijan) mentioned in the document of Associated countries to Horizon Europe?**

Unfortunately, the FutureLakes Open Call is restricted to EU member states and countries (already) associated to Horizon Europe. Third countries and OCTs are not eligible. For more information about the Associated countries in Horizon Europe (apart from the EU member states) look here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

**10. What about Associated countries with a high security risk?**

As long as there are no restrictions in the document of Associating countries in Horizon Europe ([https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)), all Associated countries can apply.

**11. What is the percentage of co-financing of the project needed from other sources? How high is the support rate of the call?**

Co-financing is not an obligation, but the beneficiaries may decide on using additional funds (own or from another entity). This is up to you.

**12. How should the personnel costs be calculated within the application? Should this include only the applying authority personnel or the subcontractors as well?**

The personnel costs are just for the official staff within the applying authority (in case of consortium all applying entities). The subcontracting costs need to be calculated within the section “Purchase costs – Services”.

**13. Would it have a negative impact on the rating in the selection process if the subcontracting costs calculated in the application form exceed 50% of the total budget?**

There are no rules in how you want to split up the fund (just the indirect costs can be up to 25 % of the direct costs). Cofinancing, in addition, is also possible and it is up to you if you want to use it. How you split up the fund along the cost categories will not be a criterion of the selection process.

**14. What can indirect costs be spent on?**

Indirect costs are costs for the applying authority/authorities that are not directly attributable to the project, but necessary for its realisation (e.g. electricity, office rent, general equipment). You can treat them as lump-sums. They need to be justified with your work plan and fit to it.

**15. Can the flat-rate of indirect costs be less than 25%?**

Yes, the indirect costs can be up to 25% and you can decide individually which amount you want to use in your cost calculations.

**16. Are there any details on budget allocation within the years or can this be decided individually?**

There are no timely restrictions for allocating the fund as long as you spend the money during the project duration (until 09/2027).

**17. Concerning the Implementation, do you prefer a) projects that have already been implemented (and are monitored post-hoc) or b) ongoing or c) planned projects?**

Ongoing or planned projects. Our goal is for three Associated Regions to engage and work alongside the FutureLakes consortium to showcase the feasibility, replicability and scalability of the solutions developed within the project in other areas of the EU or eligible associated countries. We will provide the three regions with technical assistance to use the outcomes and knowledge of FutureLakes to prepare lake basin management plans, and support upscaling of measures to restore lakes in their region. The expected outcomes from providing FSTP will include lake restoration plans to support improvements in ecological and chemical status, greater protection and restoration of biodiversity and innovation-based growth and job creation associated with implementing restoration solutions

**18. Do we need to implement the plan within the duration of the FutureLakes project?**

No, the plan we will co-develop together need not be implemented during the lifetime of the project (by 09/2027). It is possible to use funds towards implementation of agreed plans, but the money of the grant needs to be spent within this period as well. The implementation of the plan is expected to be pursued after the project.

**20. Are there any requirements regarding the size of the Lake Basin?**

No, there are no requirements of the size of the lake or the catchment, just the country it is situated in, and that there should be a defined benefit from implementing restoration measures and the feasibility for implementation. For this reason, it is expected that it will be a lake of at least 50 ha (0.5 km<sup>2</sup>) in surface area for which the country wishes to achieve good ecological or chemical status, but a smaller lake with high interest for restoring freshwater biodiversity could also be relevant.

## **21. What size of the lake is eligible?**

Ideally we are focused on natural lakes >1 km<sup>2</sup>. We recognise, however, that this excludes 90% of European lakes and so we will consider any lake >0.5 km<sup>2</sup> (>50 ha) as eligible. This is the minimum size of lake that needs to achieve the Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives of good ecological and chemical status (a key objective of the Horizon Europe call that we were funded on). We would consider lakes smaller than this if they are considered under national basin management plans (i.e. WFD applies) if they were of high conservation value and require measures to protect and restore European priority species and habitats (under the Habitats Directive). This fits with our primary Mission objective to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity. In the case of any region that wants to focus on a natural lake <0.5 km<sup>2</sup> based on its biodiversity value, we would recommend you contact us first, before submitting an application, for us to consider its eligibility with our European Commission Project Officer.

## **22. Can a lake with a trans-boundary catchment be considered eligible?**

It is eligible if a significant part of the lake area is within the eligible country's region and a significant part of the catchment is within the region's country. If the lake itself is in another country from the region applying, then the lake would not be considered eligible. In the case of any region that wants to focus on a trans-boundary natural lake with a surface shared with another Member State, we would recommend you contact us before submitting an application for us to confirm its eligibility.

## **23. Can National Authorities lead an application?**

Only if the national authority has a separate regional branch that is itself an independent legal entity. E.g. a national park authority may legally be comprised of several regional parks that are themselves legally separate legal entities. A national river basin management authority is not eligible unless it has separate regional legal entities.

## **24. Can National Authorities receive funding?**

No. Only local and regional authorities can receive funding. Other organisations (e.g. universities, research centres, NGOs) can be subcontracted by the lead local or regional authority. National basin management authorities or other national public authorities cannot be sub-contracted but can certainly be included as an un-funded, advisory stakeholder.

## **25. Is a regional authority who is a partner in a sister project financed through the Horizon Europe call HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-04 eligible to apply for funding to FutureLakes?**

No. If a regional authority is already funded under the call it is not eligible to receive further funding.

**Privacy notice:** Personal data that will be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, also known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).