**Assistance Mechanism**

**for the Atlantic Action Plan**

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**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 that are related to the implementation of the Atlantic Action Plan[[1]](#footnote-1). The Atlantic Project Awards, organised by the Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan, showcase and promote the individual winners and at the same time highlight the incorporation and scaling up of best practices at regional and national levels.

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

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

The guidelines below provide background, guidance and practical information to stakeholders interested in applying for an Atlantic Project Award, which will be handed out at the 4th Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference.

### Atlantic Project Awards – The categories

Awards will be bestowed on projects in each of the following 4 categories, which are in line with the 4 priorities of the Atlantic Action Plan and “addressing them can promote innovation, contribute to the protection and improvement of the Atlantic's marine and coastal environment, improve connectivity and create synergies for a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development”:

* Entrepreneurship & innovation (http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/themes/priority-1)
* Atlantic Marine and coastal environment (http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/themes/priority-2)
* Accessibility and connectivity (http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/themes/priority-3)
* Sustainability (http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/themes/priority-4)

A Special Award will be announced for the following category

* International Cooperation i.e. international dimension embodied in the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation and its potential support to the Blue Economy[[2]](#footnote-2).

Idea of introducing a 6th award category which would involve voting from the wider stakeholder community could also be considered.

Applicants have to submit a project **in only one category**.

### Atlantic Project Awards – Who can apply?

The Atlantic Project Awards will be granted to **5** (or 6 in case of6th award category included) **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. Furthermore, the Awards aim to further raise visibility for both Atlantic Strategy and the Action Plan.

**Applicants** may be professionals (individuals), entrepreneurs, organisations, centres of excellence/research institutions, associations and NGOs, who are residents of one of the EU Member States covered by the Atlantic Strategy (France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain and the United Kingdom). The project itself has to be implemented in the geographical area covered by the Atlantic Strategy.

A dedicated online application section (*web link*) allows interested project holders to submit their participation along with a brief introduction of their project (general information, short project description, outcomes achieved, relevance to Atlantic Strategy, etc.).

This section will also detail further information for the participants regarding the submission (procedure and criteria, jury profiles, categories, and a helpdesk section). The application process is available only in English to make the evaluation of the applications by the jury as straightforward as possible.

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](mailto:helpdesk@atlanticstrategy.eu)) and by the National Unit offices in each Member State[[3]](#footnote-3).

The Atlantic Project Awards section can be accessed through (*web link*) and completed through the online form.

The schedule of the “Atlantic Project Awards” process is the following:

* Launch of the Awards & online Application open (01/05/2017)
* Closing of online Application (16/06/2017)
* Evaluation process: Start date 17/06/2017, Completion date: 07/07/2017
* Confirm participation of award winners: 14/07/2017
* Announcement of Awards Ceremony, an integral part of the Atlantic Stakeholder Conference (web link) (08/11/2017)

### Type of Projects

Atlantic Project Awards will showcase **projects** (in progress or completed) or initiatives (and not “ideas”, or single individuals, entrepreneurs or organisations). In this context a **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 projects** (local, regional, national, or on a European scale from public and/or private sources) that has been delivered, or is being delivered inside the Atlantic Strategy geographical area is eligible to apply.

Any project initiated and/or completed during the **36 months** prior to the announcement of the call for entries will be eligible to submit 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.

### Completing the Application

Please select **one Award category** and then complete the following fields **(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 i.e. international dimension embodied in the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation and its potential support to the Blue Economy (Special Award)

General contact details about the entrant(s) and the organisation they represent:

* 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,
* NGO’s,
* 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.

The key elements of the project:

1. Title **(Mandatory field)**
2. Short summary of the project **(Mandatory field) -** (maximum length of 1500 characters (including spacing and punctuation),
3. Time frame (Start and end dates to be defined)/duration of the project **(Mandatory field)**,
4. State Funding Authority (EC, national and/or regional authorities, private entities) and total in Euro **(Mandatory field)**,
5. Number of people working on the project (including independent workers or volunteers) **(Mandatory field)**,
6. 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**):
   1. What are the project objectives?
   2. How was/is the project implemented?
   3. What is the best practice that is demonstrated by this project?
   4. What are the results achieved to date?
   5. How can the aforementioned results be transferred to other organisations or sub-regions/regions/member states?
   6. What future development activity is planned for the project?
7. Please upload one image (Max size 2MB) that best represents the project **(Optional field)**
8. Please upload up to three links to websites, social media platforms, intranet sites or online videos. Website links could also feature relevant publications, brochures, press releases or reports. **(Optional field)**

### Atlantic Project Awards – The judging process & Jury

The applicants will be judged according to the relevance of the given project to a set of criteria. The jury will review all applications and score each entry against:

* Relevance of the strategy of the project for AAA priorities;
* Level of innovation of the project in terms of targeted or achieved results and working methods.
* Degree of project completion;
* Transferable results of the project for the benefit of the AAP development/implementation.

There will be one winner per category.

The composition of the Award jury will remain the same as for the 1st Atlantic Project Awards in 2016. This suggestion will be put forward for confirmation at the ASG meeting on 06/04/2017.

The jury will comprise up to 7 judges to be identified among the following list:

* representatives from the EU Commission (DG MARE, DG RTD, DG REGIO),
* members of the Atlantic Strategy Group[[4]](#footnote-4),

The selected applicants will be informed via email and they will be invited to attend and receive their trophies at the Awards Ceremony, which will be held as part of the 4th Atlantic Stakeholder Conference (Glasgow, Scotland – 8 November 2017).

#### The Awards trophy

An award trophy will be offered to the winners, and certificates of merits awarded for short-listed projects. Additionally, short promotional videos will be produced for each awarded project and will be disseminated through the "Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan" communication channels.

The winners will also be recognised by general media coverage.

1. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0279&from=EN> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/galway_statement_atlantic_ocean_cooperation.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/contact/the-support-team> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)