



SHORE

Empower students as the agents of change

SHORE - Open Call #3

SHORE Guidelines for Applicants



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1. Introduction

This document provides the relevant information regarding Open Call #3 of the SHORE project aimed to support student and schools-led projects that can:

- contribute to the achievement of the objectives under the [**EU Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030**](#), among others, through development and implementation of innovative solutions and products contributing to those objectives;
- reinforce and contribute to the [**EU4Ocean coalition**](#) and its [**European Network of Blue Schools**](#).

In doing so, SHORE aims to engage students, teachers and other actors from the school ecosystem and the wider community to co-design, co-develop and co-implement projects that can contribute to expand and broaden ocean & water literacy.

An overview of the SHORE - Open Call #3 can be found in Figure 1.

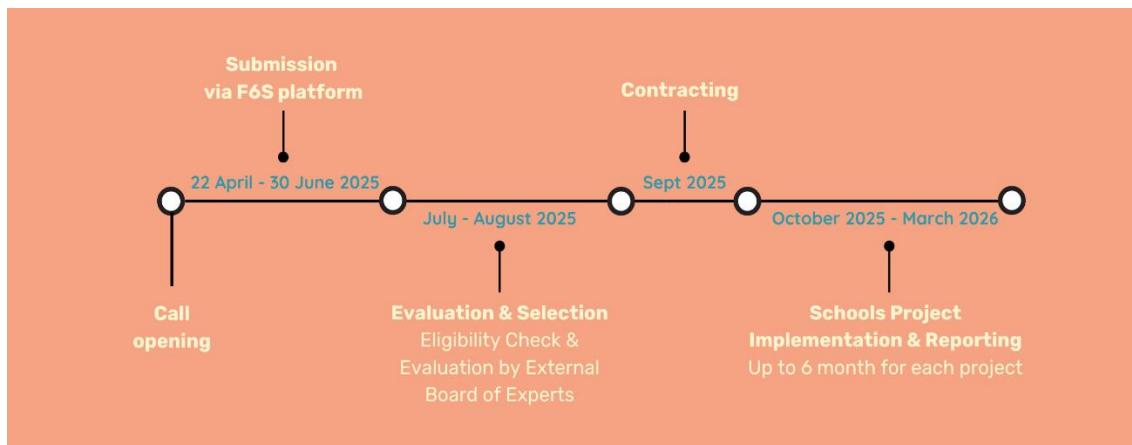


Figure 1: SHORE - Open Call #3 and follow-up overview

Applications for the SHORE - Open Call #3 will be accepted from **22 April 2025, 12h CET** until **30 June 2025, 17h CET**.

After Open Call closure, there will be a period of evaluation, selection and onboarding which is expected to last for a period of approximately 3 months.

The selected school projects will have an expected duration of up to 6 months.

NOTE: The SHORE project has planned the Open Call #3 and projects follow up in a way to ensure that enough time has been allocated to each school project for successful completion. The SHORE recognizes that unforeseen events might occur. To keep transparency and fairness among applicants of the Open Call, closing dates are fixed dates and will only be updated in case of unforeseen events. All other dates mentioned in this document are tentative and may be updated to accommodate specific needs of the applicant and the consortium.

2. Eligibility criteria

The section describes in detail who can apply and what condition should be met by application. All applicants must meet the requirements described in this section to be eligible for the SHORE – Open Call #3.

2.1. WHO can apply?

The call is dedicated to **primary or secondary schools¹ legally registered and established in EU and/or HEU Associated countries.**

Any school applying to Open Call #3 shall not be:

- excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law or by a decision of both national and EU authority.
- subjected to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) or Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

2.2. Eligible countries and regions

To be eligible to participate in the SHORE – Open Call #3 make sure that applying school is established in any of the following country:

- The Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions.
- Horizon Europe associated countries (those that have signed an agreement with the EU as identified in the HE Programme Guide) according to the updated list published by the EC.

Additionally, schools must be located in one out of five targeted regions of the SHORE. Thus, each school should choose **one out of five targeted regions** of the SHORE – Open Call #3:

- Baltic Sea Area²: Germany, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark, Sweden, Finland;
- Black Sea Area³: Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Georgia, Türkiye;
- Mediterranean Sea Area⁴: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia), Balkan

¹ Schools providing up to ISCED level 3, commonly designated as upper secondary education. See a more detailed explanation here: https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/Table_III_Qualifications.pdf.

² Eligible Countries from Baltic Sea Area involve Contracting Parties according to the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention)

³ Eligible Countries from Black Sea Area involve Contracting Parties according to the Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

⁴ Eligible Countries from Mediterranean Sea Area involve Contracting Parties according to UNEP-MAP (Barcelona Convention)

countries (Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye;

- **Danube River Area**⁵: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine;
- **Rhine River Area**⁶: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands.



Figure 2: SHORE - Open Call #3 Target Areas

2.3. The European Network of Blue Schools

SHORE – Open Call #3 is open to schools which:

- are accredited members of the European Network of Blue Schools at the time of application and provide certificate; or
- aspire to be members of the European Network of Blue Schools and will demonstrate how they intend to meet the prerequisites to become accredited members by the time of completion of the project.

2.4. Proposal eligibility

- **Each school can submit one application.** At the stage of application, the criteria of time will be applied, as only the last one submitted is going to be taken into consideration, according to the F6S platform information.

⁵ Eligible Countries from Danube River Area involve Contracting Parties according to the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC)

⁶ Eligible Countries from Rhine River Area involve Contracting Parties according to the Convention on the Protection of the Rhine

- If the school has applied and has been rejected in the previous Open Call, it can apply in the subsequent call, but it is mandatory to submit a different or corrected school project proposal and signal it as a resubmission.
- If a school received funding from [ProBleu](#) or [BlueLights](#) project, it is not eligible to receive funding from SHORE Open Calls.
- **English is the official language for the SHORE – Open Call #3.** Applicants should complete all documents in English; however proposals will not be judged on writing quality.
- **Each school can benefit from the Financial Support to Third Parties provided under the SHORE project only once.** Schools who received funding are not eligible to apply in later calls.
- The total budget per school project may not exceed **€10,000 (ten thousand euro).** The total amount requested must represent 100% of the total project costs.

3. Proposal preparation and submission

3.1. Proposal preparation

This section describes the relevant requirements for proposals and proposal submission steps.

3.1.1. Which topic should be addressed by the proposal?

The scope of SHORE – Open Call #3 is to fund and support schools' project addressing at least one topic and subtopic listed below:

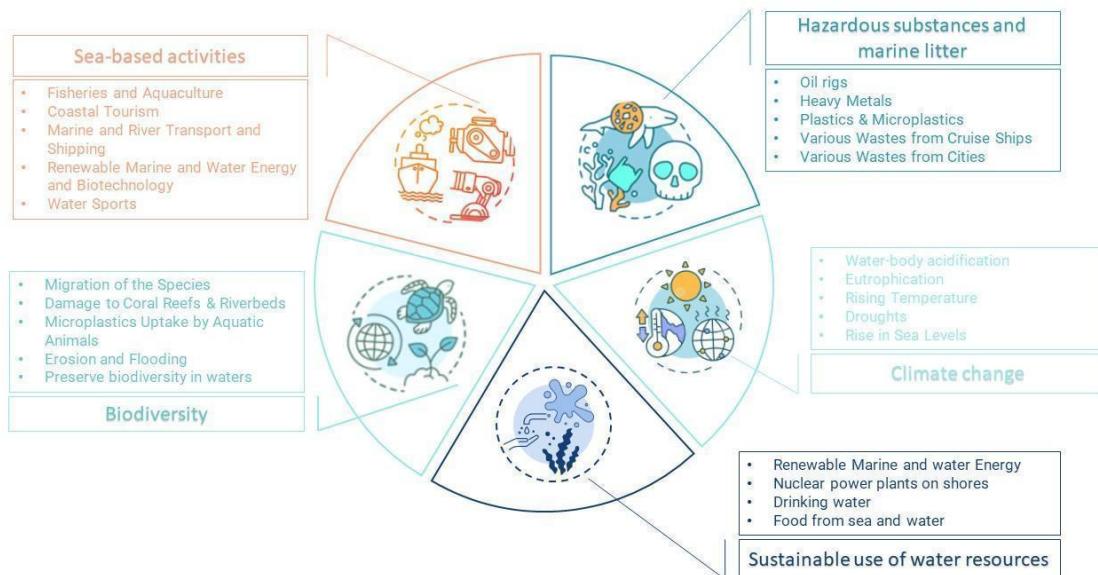


Figure 3: SHORE – Open Call #3: Topics and subtopics of

We advise schools to select the most relevant topic and subtopic in line with their proposed activities, the regional context and local environmental challenges. In case more than one topic is relevant, we encourage schools to choose the one most suitable for proposed activities.

3.1.2. What kind of activities can be performed during the project?

The SHORE – Open Call #3 is open to proposals which include different types of activities aimed to mobilise primary and secondary schools' students. The project and all activities should be implemented for up to 6 months. Applicants are advised to choose **at least 3 activities** from a fixed list:

Table 1: A list of the different types of activities

Activity	Description and examples
workshops	<p>Interactive meetings in which a group of students can meet to discuss questions, brainstorm ideas, identify problems, and develop solutions.</p> <p>Examples of workshops to be led: sustainability action, impacts of climate change, exploring biodiversity, endangered species, sustainable transport, reducing carbon footprint, renewable energy, water conservation, etc.</p>
meetings	<p>gatherings of students that share a common purpose.</p> <p>Examples: presentation the outcomes of the project, etc</p>
trainings	<p>Training can be used to develop and embed skills to students, teachers and parents on different issues related to the ocean and water literacy projects. These shall include interactive sessions to help learners practise and be effective in their role, supporting lifelong learning.</p> <p>Examples: training on waste management, energy use, pollution, biodiversity, etc.</p>
exhibitions	<p>The aim of an exhibition is to showcase innovative solutions to environmental issues tackled by the blue project and is designed to empower students and visitors to develop their own creative solutions and become advocates for ocean and water literacy.</p> <p>Examples: humorous original drawings, contemporary photographs, artworks made from recycled materials, from litter, fashion shows, etc.</p>
conferences	<p>The purpose of a conference is to provide a platform for students to present their work, talents, and ideas to a wider audience which can include students and teachers from other schools, representatives of local communities, parents, etc.</p> <p>Examples: conferences covering topics related to oceans and rivers, marine science, conservation, education, etc.</p>
meetNtalks	<p>These kinds of meetings aim to provide quality information, advice, and guidance. Students can organise inspiring meetNtalks for presenting the hot topic of their project, create</p>

	interactive discussions and make use of networking opportunities.
competitions	Competitions are available to students of all ages and come in a slew of different structures and styles. Examples: Students create their own work of art, prose, poetry, or film/photography that interprets a topic as climate heroes, in the wild, recycling, food chain, etc.
virtual educational activities	Virtual educational activities are learning experiences that take place in online or digital environments. They leverage technology to facilitate teaching and engagement, allowing students to access educational content, interact with instructors, and collaborate with peers remotely. Examples: online courses, webinars, virtual field trips, video lectures, interactive simulations, and virtual labs, etc.
field trips	A field trip is one of the tools that can be used to provide every student with real-world experiences. When students leave the classroom, they see the connections between what is happening at school and in the 'real-world'. Examples of field trips: to a recycling centre, alternative energy plant, science labs, watch a show with a specific theme related to ocean and water literacy, etc.
local expeditions	These expeditions might be focused on regional and local issues: national parks in the region, botanical gardens, maritime museums, planetarium, zoos or conservation centres, farms, aquariums, fish hatchery, etc.
technical trips	The technical trips are the ones that can be taken to a recycling centre, garbage processing facility, ecological cleanup site, manufacturing plants, science labs, research institutes, etc.
boat activities	These kinds of activities introduce participants to the natural environment of the sea/river, through an educational, on-the-water experience. Examples of activities that can be organised on a boat: observe marine life, bird watching, observe the beach landslides and erosion, etc.
virtual laboratories	Adopting virtual labs represents a step forward in engaging students through active participation. They can be in touch with the latest innovative lab technologies, lab experiments and simulations.
laboratory trips	Laboratory trips to a science laboratory from a research institute/university can substantiate the information received during classes where students can gain hands-on experience and observe scientific experiments or research processes in a real-world condition. Examples: visits to university research labs, government research facilities, industrial research and development centres, and science museums.
museum trips	Museums are great resources and these trips to museums must be truly impactful and lead to a deeper learning. Students should not be just information consumers, but they can play a role in improving the experience and get actively involved by thinking

	critically. They can look for specific objects, find their story, take photos, create their own exhibition, worksheets, etc.
technical field trips	Technical trips will give real life context to the skills students are learning, build connections between the classroom and the community. Examples: visits to science museums, different environments such as a beach/forest, farms, or just to collect different samples for a project, marine litter monitoring or observation of pollution sources.
laboratory testing and analysis of results	A science lab offers conducting controlled experiments to collect data or samples for analysis. Analysis of results includes the interpretation and evaluation of the data to draw conclusions, make inferences, or generate scientific findings. Examples: testing the composition of a water sample for pollutants, microplastic analysis, etc.

3.2. How to submit a proposal?

The proposals can be submitted only through the F6S platform:

<https://www.f6s.com/shore-open-call-3/apply> within the deadline: 30 June 2025, 5 PM CET.

Proposals sent through other methods will not be taken into account. The applicants are required to **register a profile at www.f6s.com** to submit a proposal.

The proposal template - **SHORE Proposal template** - to the Open Call #3 is available on the SHORE website: <https://shoreproject.eu/open-calls/>. The template is extracted as a document for reference purposes only. The application form should be directly filled at the F6S platform.

We recommend becoming familiar with **SHORE Sub-grant agreement and SHORE Declaration of Honour**. These documents must be provided if the school is selected and are mandatory to finalise the contract and enter to the project implementation phase.

We strongly recommend not waiting until the last moment of submission. **Failure of the Proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including communications delays, or network issues is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance and will automatically lead to rejection of the submission.** The time of receipt of the proposal as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.

Please note that after application submission, editing is not possible. If the applicant discovers an substantial error in the proposal which may lead to the proposal rejection and provided the call deadline has not passed, the applicant may request the SHORE - Open Call #3 team to re-submit the proposal (for this purpose please contact us at support@f6s.com with a message titled: RESUBMISSION REQUEST). However, SHORE is not committed that resubmission in time will be feasible in case the request for resubmission is not received by the SHORE team at least 48 hours before the call deadline.

3.3. Data protection during submission

To process and evaluate applications, the SHORE consortium will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data. F6S Network Ireland Limited, will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. Please see the privacy policy [here](#).

A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S generally, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner.

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer [here](#) to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S Google Drive, and in the project repository on Group-Office managed by the project coordinator YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY.

Please note that the SHORE consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the SHORE project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until they end.

4. How proposals will be evaluated and selected?

The evaluation of proposals is carried out by the SHORE consortium with the support of independent external experts. The SHORE consortium ensures that the process is fair and in line with the principles outlined in the European Commission's rules on proposal submission and evaluation.

SHORE – Open Call #3 evaluation process will look like as presented on the diagram:

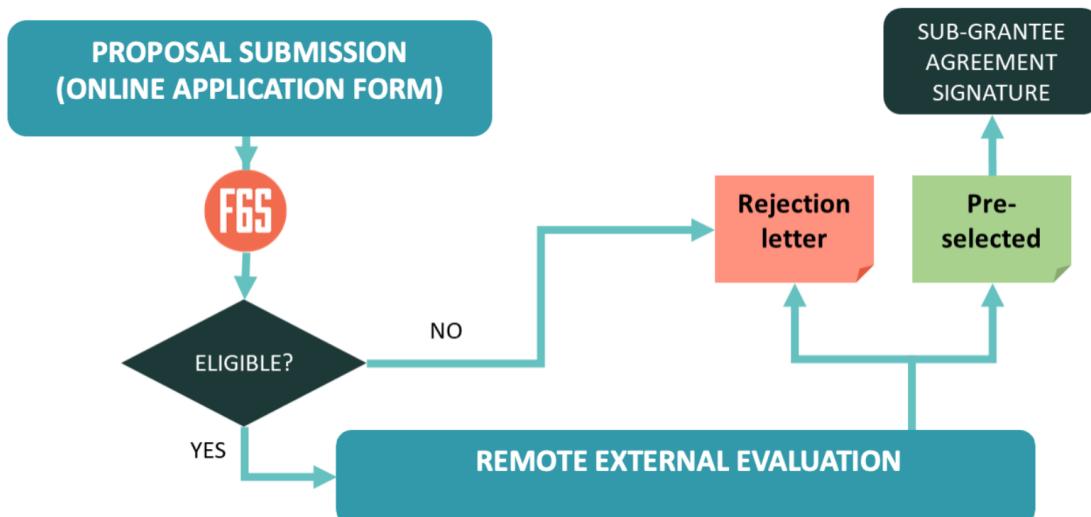


Figure 4: SHORE – Open Call #3 evaluation process

The submitted applications will be checked according to eligibility and those applications which do not comply with the requirements mentioned in section 2 will be excluded.

If your proposal is eligible, it will be evaluated by two external evaluators.

Each evaluator will rank the application assigning scores for each criterion. The final score will be calculated as the average of the individual assessments provided by the Evaluators. Details regarding the evaluation process can be found in Annex 1.1 to this document.

At the end of the evaluation process ranking list will be prepared.

4.1. What will be evaluated?

The proposals will be evaluated by evaluators according to the criteria shown below.

Table 2: Evaluation criteria

Criteria		Description
C1	Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal demonstrates relevance to the implementation of the Mission Ocean objectives, as stated in the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters Implementation Plan (section 1.2), and contribution to increasing ocean and water literacy. The proposal demonstrates a strategy for bringing in a European dimension and cooperation and/or twinning with other schools, in particular with the Network of European Blue Schools. The proposal entails a commitment to Climate Pact Pledge⁷ leading to decarbonisation or at least carbon neutrality of the project and of the proposed school activities.
C2	Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal demonstrates the innovative character and the clear output of funded activities. The proposal demonstrates an open schooling methodology. The proposal demonstrates a strategy for stakeholders and local community engagement in the proposed activities. The proposal demonstrates how the activities, and the funded project will be promoted locally, nationally or at the European scale.
C3	Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal demonstrates a strategy for actively involving students in all phases of project development

⁷ SHORE – Open Call #3 is open to schools which participate in climate actions and support values of the [European Climate Pact](#). The school's proposal should entail a commitment to the Climate Pact Pledge leading to decarbonisation or at least to carbon neutrality of the project and school activities. Info on the pledge is here: [European Climate Pact](#) - go to take climate friendly action and make a pledge: Take individual action.

		<p>fostering leadership and co-creation process providing authentic interlinked learning activities through a real-life applicable approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal demonstrates a strategy for mobilising more than one classroom of students in the funded activities, including other members of school staff and management. • The proposal demonstrates the existence of a team dedicated to project implementation with educational and management experience related to ocean literacy. The proposal also demonstrates rational project costs.
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4.2. How much funding is available for SHORE – Open Call #3?

The budget dedicated for SHORE – Open Call #3 is **365 251,89 EUR**

SHORE – Open Call #3 will fund highest scored proposals.

20% of the budget of SHORE – Open Call #3 will be reserved for proposals involving migrants or Ukrainian citizens under temporary protection in funded activities.

4.3. What is next? Sub-grant agreement signature

After the final project selection, the SHORE consortium will start the contract preparation phase in collaboration with the representatives of the projects that have been awarded. We will ask you to provide necessary documents which are mentioned in the table below. All documentation requires a signature and must be signed with a valid electronic digital signature.

Table 3: Required documents

Document	Description
Sub-grant agreement	The contract signed between SHORE Consortium represented by its coordinator (YTU) and the beneficiary. Contract as provided to the sub-grantee is final and may not be changed.
Declaration of Honour	The Document which covers all conditions related to SHORE - Open Call #3 signed by the legal representative of the applying entity.
Bank Account information	The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated via a specific form signed by the entity,

Please make sure you will provide documents within the deadlines that will be communicated to you. If you fail to deliver the requested documents on time, without clear and reasonable justification, we will exclude you from the further

formal assessment and you will be replaced with the applicant from the Reserve List. In general, the negotiation should be concluded **within 1 month**.

4.4. Do you find any shortcomings in the evaluation process?

Within **3 working days** of receiving the email (1) informing you that the proposal is non-eligible or (2) informing you that the proposal has not been accepted for funding, you may submit a request for redress if you believe the results of the eligibility checks have not been correctly applied, or if you feel that there has been a shortcoming in the way the proposal has been evaluated.

In such a case, your request will be examined by an internal review committee. The committee will review the complaint and will recommend an appropriate course of action.

Requests for redress must:

- be related to the eligibility check or evaluation process;
- clearly describe the complaint in English;
- sent by the entity's legal representative that has also submitted the proposal;
- include contact details and name of school applied to the Open Call;
- be sent to by email to: opencalls@shoreproject.eu

If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the eventual funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be re-evaluated. Please note:

- This procedure is concerned only with the general evaluation and/or eligibility checking process. The committee will not question the scientific or technical judgement of the evaluators.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the final decision on whether to fund the proposal or not. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.

5. SHORE awarded projects follow-up.

If your project is selected for funding, you will enter the next phase. We will provide you support to ensure the successful implementation of your blue project. Additionally, we will support you in applying to the **Network of European Blue Schools**. At the end of implementation of selected projects each school should start their application to **NEBS**.

5.1. Implementation, payments and reporting

Selected school projects will last up to **6 months. The projects will start on 1 October 2025 and will last until 31 March 2026**.

The funds will be disbursed in a form of lump sum in two stages:

- **80% of the grant** will be transferred upon sub-grantee agreement signature,
- **20% of the grant** will be paid upon completion of the project and submission of the final school project report and verification of successful completion of the project.

Reporting

At the end of the project, the selected schools will be required to submit a final report that outlines the activities undertaken in the project, the results achieved, and the lessons learned.

The school project planning and reports will be submitted electronically. Reports will be verified before the final payment.

5.2. Mentoring

Each project will have a dedicated mentor. Mentors will be responsible for supporting the schools locally in targeted regions, including supporting schools in implementation of their projects. Mentors will also review the Schools Projects Reports. Mentors will organise and run at least one meeting per month during project implementation to monitor the development of the school projects.

5.3. Country hubs

Projects will be implemented in the region chosen during the application process. Each region will have country hub as listed below:

- **Baltic Sea region:** Akademia WSB; Global Skills Network
- **Black Sea region:** MARE NOSTRUM; Yildiz Technical University; Turk Deniz Arastirmalari Vakfi (TÜDAV);
- **Mediterranean Sea region:** University of Padua; Museo Dei Bambini Societa' Cooperativa Sociale Onlus, Yildiz Technical University;
- **Rhine River region:** Kinderbüro Universität Wien GmbH; Budapest University of Technology and Economics;
- **Danube River region:** Kinderbüro Universität Wien GmbH; Budapest University of Technology and Economics, MARE NOSTRUM.

Contact details to each country hub can be found on SHORE website: <https://shoreproject.eu/country-hubs/>.

5.4. Platform

We will provide the selected schools access to the SHORE digital platform <https://shoreedu.com/> which will be a space for schools to enable the follow-up of

student and school projects in addition to publishing developed Blue Skills materials for school activities and teacher routes. Each school will create a profile on the platform and provide information about selected projects including its goals, objectives, and performed activities.

5.5. Become the Ocean Ambassador of the year!

After each open call period, an online contest will be held to select the best school projects through a global competition using the SHORE digital platform, and the voting will be open to the public. After the selection of the global winner, the school will be awarded as "**Ocean Ambassador of The Year**" and promoted as such. The label of " Ocean Ambassador of The Year" will be a recognition of the school's commitment to ocean literacy education.

6. Additional considerations

6.1. Data protection and confidentiality during implementation and after

During the implementation of the activities under the SHORE open call, and for five years after their end, the parties must keep confidential any data, documents, invoices or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential information in the Sub-Grant Agreement signed between the selected applicants and SHORE (SHORE coordinator signs on behalf of the SHORE consortium).

If a selected applicant requests, the Commission and SHORE may agree to keep such information confidential for an additional period beyond the initial five years. This needs to be explicitly stated in the Sub-Grant Agreement.

If the information has been identified as confidential during the implementation of the SHORE programme or only orally, it will be considered to be confidential only if this is accepted by the SHORE coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of the oral disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the Sub-Grant Agreement.

The selected applicants may disclose confidential information to SHORE consortium and to the selected reviewers.

6.2. Origins of the funds

Selected applicants will sign a dedicated sub-grant funding agreement with the SHORE consortium. The sub-granted funds come directly from the funds of the SHORE project (GA no. 101112815), funded by the European Union within the Horizon Europe Programme.

6.3. Promoting the action and giving visibility to the EU funding

Selected applicants must promote the sub-project by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the financial support of the EU. Detailed requirements are listed in SHORE Sub-grant Agreement (template).

6.4. Conflict of Interest

All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case. Applicants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective evaluation and implementation of the project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). If a conflict of interest is discovered and confirmed at the time of the evaluation process, the proposal will be considered as non-eligible and will not be evaluated.

7. Checklist

- **Does your planned activities fit with the SHORE – Open Call #3?** Check that your proposed activities address one of the objectives of OC # 3.
- **Is your school and proposal eligible?** The eligibility criteria are given in section 2. Make sure that you satisfy the school and project requirements.
- **Budgetary limits.** Check that you comply with any budgetary limits as expressed in section 2.
- **Does your proposal fulfil requested information?** Proposal should be precise, concise, and answer the requested questions designed to correspond to the applied evaluation criteria. Omitting requested information will almost certainly lead to lower scores and possible rejection.
- **Have you submitted your proposal before the deadline?** It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the proposal. Failure of opencalls@shoreproject.eu
- the proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including network communication delays, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the message as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.

8. Do you need more information?

The SHORE consortium will provide information to the applicants primarily via <https://www.f6s.com/shore-open-call-3/apply> so that all information (questions and answers) will be accessible to all potential applicants.

- More info about SHORE at: <https://shoreproject.eu/>
- More information about SHORE – Open Call #3: <https://shoreproject.eu/open-calls/>
- Apply via: <https://www.f6s.com/shore-open-call-3/apply>
- F6S support team (for platform issues during the application): support@f6s.com



SHORE

Empower students as the agents of change



Funded by the
European Union