

# Frequently Asked Questions

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# General

## What is PartArt4OW?

PartArt4OW is a project funded by the European Commission (GA 101157247). The main goals of the project are to:

- Strengthen the emotional connection between society, the ocean and the waters;
- Raise awareness of the environmental challenges affecting the oceans and waters across Europe; and,
- Develop a robust transdisciplinary network to support the protection and restoration of Europe's ocean and inland waters.

PartArt4OW seeks to achieve these goals by directly funding and supporting participatory art initiatives (PAIs).

PartArt4OW is delivered by a consortium which includes prominent research and art institutions and foundations, and communication organisations supported by a wide network of experts that will be able to train and mentor the selected PAIs for maximising their positive impacts.

PartArt4OW focuses on participatory art and creative processes, and builds on the belief that participation can bring about a deeper engagement of people with the ocean and waters. This can lead to a paradigm change for tightening the relationship between society, the ocean and inland waters, and for supporting their sustainable governance.

## What is participatory art for PartArt4OW?

PartArt4OW defines participatory art as a process that emphasises the proactive role and participation of citizens, communities and the society at large in creative, innovative and artistic projects. With this, we mean that citizens are not passive viewers but should actively contribute to the project.

Participatory art deemphasizes the role of the professional artist as the sole creator of a creative project while at the same time empowers citizens and communities through the reinforcement or building of social bonds. Engaging citizens across different stages of the creative process is critical in creating awareness and promoting societal change for the good of our ocean and water.

PartArt4OW is looking for participatory art initiatives which will enable citizens of any social, educational and economic backgrounds, and communities (including marginalised groups and groups at risk of social exclusion), to access, understand and contribute to the scientific and social knowledge produced. This knowledge is expected to be linked to the major challenges faced by the ocean and waters (e.g. unsustainable exploitation of marine resources, pollution of the water system; human-induced climate change altering the physical and biological state of the ocean, river and water basins, etc).

The PartArt4OW team believes that art and creativity can play a crucial role in increasing citizens and communities ocean literacy and in supporting them to take action for the protection of our ocean and water. At the same time, the team values interdisciplinary and intersectionality as crucial elements for the success of the participatory art initiatives.

## What is a PAI (Participatory Art Initiative)?

In the context of PartArt4OW, PAIs (Participatory Art Initiative) will be trans/inter-disciplinary, intersectoral and participatory.

With the term **trans/inter-disciplinary** we mean that the PAIs team should be composed of people from different backgrounds and expertise, who would be willing to go beyond their disciplinary boundaries and collaborate across disciplines. Considering the overall goal of PartArt4OW, it is strongly recommended to foresee the participation of researchers/experts from the arts and humanities, the social sciences and the marine/water sciences. It is important to acknowledge that within PartArt4OW art is seen as a research practice, a knowledge generation process as those of other research fields.

With the term **intersectoral** we expect people from different sectors working together and collaborating, for example (but not limited to) researchers, scientists, creatives and artists working with civil society organisations, cultural and creative institutions, public bodies (such as municipalities) and businesses. While individual organisations may apply, we give preference to consortia consisting of organisations from different sectors.

With the term **participatory** we emphasise that stakeholder and community engagement will be a central element of the PAIs. Participatory and creative processes can take many forms and can occur at one or more stages of the PAI's lifetime: from the conception phase; to data collection, elaboration and sharing; to the design and performance of the artistic and creative process. Citizens can be involved also in the communication of PAIs activities and results as well as in related advocacy actions. As said, participation can take many forms including but not limited to co-design and co-creation process, citizen science, action research, community art, etc.

The overall goals of the PAIs are to (1) increase ocean literacy; (2) increase awareness on the challenges and pressures faced by the ocean and inland waters and (3) mobilise citizens and stakeholders for the protection and restoration of oceans and inland waters.

## What is Ocean Literacy for PartArt4OW?

**Ocean literacy** is defined, at a very basic level, as the comprehension of how the ocean impacts individuals and how individuals affect the ocean. Ocean-literate people recognize the ecosystem services provided by the ocean, can effectively communicate about the ocean in a meaningful manner and make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and resources<sup>1</sup>.

For the purpose of PartArt4OW, ocean literacy encompasses the elements of knowledge

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<sup>1</sup> This definition is inspired by the [Maritime Forum of the European Commission](#).

and awareness, emotional attachment, changes in attitudes and behaviour and finally opportunities to put new knowledge into practice through actions and communication efforts (McKinley *et al.* 2023).

## What artistic and creative expressions are welcomed?

All artistic and creative expressions are welcomed; including but not limited to the following expressions: visual (painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, video, filmmaking, design, crafts, and architecture), literary (prose, fiction, drama, poetry), performing (dance, drama, music, action art, street art), new media, digital art, fashion design and gaming.

## What is the Climate Pact Pledge and how can I participate?

In the Declaration of Honour, the [Climate Pact Pledge](#) is mentioned. PAIs are expected to commit to it. The Climate Pact pledge invites citizens, communities, and organizations to commit to concrete actions to combat climate change and contribute to the EU's climate goals. You can participate by making individual or collective commitments to reduce emissions, promote sustainability, and raise environmental awareness.

## What is the purpose of the Make Europe Blue Campaign, and how can I get involved?

In the Declaration of Honour, the [Make Europe Blue Campaign](#) is mentioned. PAIs are expected to contribute to it. The [Make Europe Blue Campaign](#) aims to raise awareness and engage citizens in protecting Europe's oceans and waters through educational actions and local initiatives. You can get involved by organizing events, joining community activities, or sharing awareness messages.

## PartArt4OW first open call

### What is the call about?

The overall goal of your initiative should be the followings:

- increase citizens' ocean literacy;
- increase awareness on the challenges and pressures faced by the ocean and inland waters
- mobilise citizens and stakeholders for the protection and restoration of oceans and inland waters.

More specifically the first open call is looking for initiatives that engage local communities **for protecting and restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity.**

Please read carefully the Open Call challenge in the Guide of Applicants (Annex 1): your proposal must align with the Open Call Challenge text.

## How many calls will you have?

PartArt4OW will have three open calls. The first open call opens on **3 February 2025**. Specific dates for the second and third calls will be announced later. This FAQ document is valid for the first open call only and will be updated continuously.

## When does the first open call open?

3 February 2025, 12:00 CT (Brussels time).

## When does the first open call close?

3 April 2025, 17:00 CET (Brussels time). Please note that the submission deadline is final. No extensions will be provided. Late submissions will not be accepted.

## How much funding is available?

PartArt4OW will award a total of €950.000 across three open calls. In the first open call, €300.000 will be allocated. Each PAI will receive up to €50,000.

## How many projects will be funded?

PartArt4OW aims to fund 19 Participatory Art Initiatives (PAIs) projects overall. For this call, 6 PAIs are expected to be funded.

## How do I apply?

Follow the instructions available in the Guide for Applicants and on the [Call Page](#) of the PartArt4OW website.

## Eligibility

### Who is eligible?

Individuals, legal entities, and consortia may apply. Eligibility conditions are described in detail in the Guide for Applicants. **Applicants must be legally established in EU Member States or Associated Countries. Entities from Third Countries (including low- and middle-income countries) may participate in consortia but cannot receive direct funding from PartArt4OW and must receive funding through an EU-based project lead.** Please note that entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) are not eligible to participate in any capacity.

## Where can the PAIs be implemented?

All projects must be implemented within the territories of EU member states (including Overseas Countries and Territories) or in Associated Countries. Please see Guide for Applicants and Annex 2. Third Countries may participate in consortia but cannot be the lead entity of the project. This requirement ensures that the initiatives contribute directly to the objectives of the Horizon Europe Framework and the PartArt4OW scope and mission.

## Can individuals apply to PartArt4OW?

**Yes, individuals can apply but will be subject to additional checks before funding is released.** If funded, individuals must ensure that their project aligns with PartArt4OW implementation rules, including those on eligibility and financial management.

## Can consortia apply to PartArt4OW?

Yes. The funding is available to consortia, with one lead partner submitting the application and managing the funds. The lead entity must be established in an EU Member State or Associated Country. Third Country entities, while eligible to participate, cannot receive direct funding and must receive support through the lead partner.

## Should proposals be led by artists, creatives and related organisations?

PartArt4OW welcomes projects led by artists, creatives and related organisations but this is not mandatory. Creative expressions should be central to PAIs but this does not mean that artists and creative people must lead the project. It is up to the proponent teams to define the management structure more appropriate to their initiative. PartArt4OW is looking for interdisciplinary, intersectoral, participative initiatives and this should be reflected in the team composition and expertise.

## Can I apply if I am already receiving funds from another program?

The activities planned for PartArt4OW cannot receive double funding. Synergies with other funding sources are encouraged if the grants are used for complementary, not overlapping purposes. This should be explained clearly in the Application Form. As an example, if your organisation has received funds for organising an art festival you can still apply for the PartArt4OW for covering activities that will take place during the festival but that are not covered by the funding for the festivals.

## Can I apply if my project is already up and running?

New but also *ongoing* initiatives are welcome as long as they respond to the Open Call challenge and respect the fact that double funding is not permitted. Consequently, PartArt4OW expects the proponents to carry out new work as part of the accelerator, adding new activities and outputs to the original initiative. The fact that the initiative builds on an ongoing project and what will be added to it should be clearly described in the application.



## Is it possible to invite additional collaborators after submitting the application?

Yes. The principal consortium members must be identified at the application stage. If you wish to add collaborators later, please first consult with the PartArt4OW team. Any additions are subject to approval and may require modifications to your project plan, which must still align with the funding conditions.

## Can we apply again if our application is unsuccessful in the first call?

Yes. Applicants who were not selected in the first call may reapply in the second or third call, provided their new proposal meets the updated requirements. We strongly encourage you to address any feedback from your previous submission to improve your chances of success.

## Can independent individuals apply without forming a legal entity?

Independent individuals may join a consortium; however, at least one individual must act as the lead applicant for contractual and financial purposes. This ensures compliance with financial management requirements and appropriate fund allocation.

## Can ongoing projects apply for funding?

Yes. You must demonstrate how PartArt4OW funding will support new activities or outputs not already financed by other sources. Be sure to outline clearly the additional value this funding will bring to your existing project.

## How does citizen participation differ from community outreach activities?

Citizen participation entails actively involving individuals in the research, creative, or decision-making processes of your project, ensuring that participants make meaningful contributions. Community outreach, on the other hand, focuses primarily on raising awareness and sharing outcomes with the public without requiring their direct participation in the project's development.

## Submission

### Does PartArt4OW offer a pre-proposal check?

No, PartArt4OW does not assess applications before submission. General questions about the call can be answered via this FAQ document, the two dedicated webinars PartArt4OW will organise, and by sending an email to [opencall@partart4ow.eu](mailto:opencall@partart4ow.eu). Please refer to the [Call](#)

[Page](#) of the PartArt4OW website for webinar dates and registration as well as recordings of past webinars

### **Can I submit more than one application for the same call?**

No. You can submit and/or participate in only one application, either on your own or as part of a consortium.

### **Can I submit documents that are not in English?**

No, all documents must be in English.

### **How do I submit my application?**

PartArt4OW uses EasyChair as a platform for managing the submissions, the review process and the communication with the applicants. You can access the EasyChair platform from the [Call Page](#) of the PartArt4OW website. On the same page you will find the EasyChair user-guide which will support you step-by-step.

### **How do I know my submission has gone through?**

EasyChair will send an automated confirmation email with a reference number. If you do not receive this email within 3 hours from the time of application, contact the [EasyChair support](#) email or the PartArt4OW support email ([opencall@partart4ow.eu](mailto:opencall@partart4ow.eu)). In order to be able to activate the support, the PartArt4OW team strongly encourages you to avoid last minute submissions.

### **Can I change my application once submitted?**

Yes, you can update and resubmit your application but only up to the deadline. Only the last submission will be reviewed.

### **Do I need to submit a signed copy of the contract?**

No, you do not need to submit a signed copy of the contract at the application stage. A contract template is attached to the Guide for Applicants (Annex 7) so that you can preview it and be sure you will be able to sign it if your proposal is selected.

Please read the contract carefully, ensure you understand it and indicate your agreement in principle to the terms while making your application on the submission platform. This does not bind you to the terms of the contract. However, since we have only a limited period of time for negotiations and given that we are unable to substantially edit the terms of the contract, applicants who are unable to agree to the terms at application are unlikely to be able to enter the accelerator.

# Responsible Research and Innovation

## Who keeps the IP of the outputs you develop?

All results and outcomes of your project will remain your property, including associated objects and IP.

The EC and PartArt4OW consortium may use, for its research, communication and dissemination activities, information relating to the PAIs' action, documents notably summaries for publication and public deliverables as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material received from PAIs (including in electronic form).

The EC right to use a beneficiary's materials, documents and information includes:

- a) use for its own purposes;
- b) distribution to the public;
- c) editing or redrafting for communication and publicity activities;
- d) translation;
- e) giving access in response to individual requests under Regulation No 1049/2001, without the right to reproduce or exploit;
- f) storage in paper, electronic or other form;
- g) archiving, in line with applicable document-management rules
- h) the right to authorize third parties to act on its behalf or sub-license the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f) if needed for the communication and publicising activities of the EC.

PAIs shall ensure that all necessary authorizations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC does not infringe any rights. Every communication product and report of PAIs is to be uploaded on PartArt4OW community on Zenodo, while a CC-BY (requiring attribution) licence will be used for all project's outputs.

## Do I need to share everything openly?

PartArt4OW expects PAIs to follow an **open science/source approach**, sharing results and experiences widely with the community. Applicants will have to be clear in their applications about how they will treat the data that will be collected or generated through the project. We will give priority to those applications that have a well-articulated plan, as well as applications that are committed to making their data and results available for reuse. PartArt4OW will provide training and mentoring to successful applicants to do so.

## What do I need to know about ethics?

Applicants must ensure informed consent and data protection practices for any human participants. Ethical research guidelines must be followed. Please see contract template and related annexes (Data processing consent form - Annex 7c) in the Guide for Applicants.

## What do I need to know about data?

The acquisition, storage and management of data must always be done in accordance with the EU-GDPR. Please read carefully the Data processing consent form - Annex 7c of the Guide for Applicants. This document is to be used during the implementation of your project to request consent to process the data of your participants.

## Evaluation

### How does PartArt4OW select applications?

The selection process and related criteria are included in the Guide for applicants.

### Will the justification for the budget be evaluated at the application stage or during the interview?

Applicants must provide a budget justification in the application. Evaluators will assess it at the proposal stage, and further clarifications may be discussed during the interview.

### How are reviewers selected for the evaluation process?

Reviewers are chosen based on their expertise in relevant fields covering the three main focus areas of the Open call: art, social sciences (participatory processes), and marine sciences. Each proposal is reviewed by at least three experts covering the three focus areas mentioned above; the presence of three reviewers ensures a fair and multidisciplinary evaluation.

### When will I know if I am shortlisted?

Between the **13th and the 14th May 2025**. On those dates the PartArt4OW team will send the invitations for the interviews.

### What will the interview consist of?

A 5-minute presentation of your proposed project followed by up to 20 minutes of questions. It will focus on your proposal with the aim of getting a more precise understanding of your project.

### How many people can participate in the interview?

No limit, as long as participants add to the discussion.

## When will the interviews be?

Between the **15th and the 29th of May 2025**.

## Are there specific requirements for participation in the interview process?

The main applicant is required to participate in the interview. Additional consortium members may also join if their presence adds value to the discussion.

## Will I receive feedback?

Yes, all shortlisted applicants will receive reviewer comments.

## Can I reschedule the interview?

No, interview dates cannot be negotiated. If no team member can attend, the application will be rejected.

## When will I know if my application is approved for funding?

We plan to send the notifications on the 30th of May 2025.

## Can I apply again if my application is not successful?

Yes, you can submit a new application in the next call, but ensure it meets the new challenges and requirements.

## Costs, Payments, and Legal

### What is the amount of funding available per PAI?

Up to €50,000 per PAI. Third Country participants cannot directly receive this funding; funds must flow through an EU-based (EU Member States or Associated Countries) lead partner.

### What can I spend the funding on?

Funding must be spent on eligible activities that align with the project's implementation in EU member states or Associated Countries. **Please see the Guide for Applicants for more details as well as Annex 5 with Financial Guidelines.**

## How detailed should the budget be, given the word limit in the application form?

Fill in the budget table provided in the application form. Then include enough detail for the reviewers to confirm that all proposed activities are adequately funded within the constraints of your word limit.

## How are the payments scheduled?

Funds will be transferred as a lump sum in two stages – 50% at the beginning (first month) and 50% at the end of the 6 month accelerator period (after the final report, in the month following the end of the relevant Accelerator). Please consider that this implies that some costs must be advanced by PAIs teams.

## What do I have to do to receive the final payment?

To qualify for the funding in totality, participants must complete all the activities outlined below.

- Implement a 6-month project as agreed during the negotiation phase and better specified in the work plan that each PAI will develop in the first month of the Accelerator
- During the project implementation:
  - Participate to at least 4 out of 6 training sessions that will be delivered in the online bootcamp in **September 2025**
  - Attend monthly online sessions with the PartArt4OW mentors to review the project and adjust plans if necessary
  - Provide to the PartArt4OW dissemination manager at least 2 blog posts, 5 social media posts, or other updates about the progress of your project so to have them displayed on the [PartArt4OW website](#) and on PartArt4OW social media
  - Ensure high visibility of the funded projects by actively promoting their results, including showcasing them on the dedicated Mission website "[Restore our Ocean and Waters](#)".
  - Dissemination of project results is essential, and applicants are expected to include a dissemination campaign as part of their project. These campaigns should feature promotional actions that emphasize the role of artists and the creative sector in contributing to the achievement of the Mission objectives.
  - Develop and provide video/photographic material that shows the development of your project during the various stages, including brief video interviews to the artists/creatives and key figures. This material, to be sent to PartArt4OW, will be used as part of the SailingLab activities (e.g. videos, video interviews, artworks, etc.) and final documentation. The video material must be provided on 16/9 horizontal screen ratio, 1920x1080HD or 4k, 25p or 50p, encoded in

h.264 (quicktime or mp4 container) and delivered via web-upload to PartArt4OW. Video and photo can be taken with pro-cameras or high quality phones but must be shot and delivered following professional guidelines, rough cut /cleaning output is required. Raw-News will be available to give further instructions on this topic to all supported PAIs.

- Participate to 2 online impact interviews: one in **September 2025** and one in **February 2026**;
- Inform PartArt4OW of any potential challenges or issues affecting the project.
- Participate in the PartArt4OW Demo Days which will take place in Barcelona in **February 2026** by presenting or replicating all or part of your main artistic/creative outputs
- Participate in a mid-term report interview and prepare a final written technical report detailing all the activities performed and showing evidence of the achievement of the prospective results. You will receive further information on the modality of the interview in due time. For the preparation of the written technical report you will be provided with a dedicated Template.

## Is subcontracting allowed?

Yes, however, subcontracting of core tasks is prohibited to ensure the applicant maintains responsibility for key project outcomes. Key tasks must be carried out by the applicant. The task(s) to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in the Application Form. Once a PAI is initiated, any subcontracting arrangements must receive prior written approval from the PartArt4OW team. This approval must be obtained before entering into any contractual agreements with subcontractors. Subcontracting without such prior consent is strictly prohibited. Subcontractors must be from a Horizon Europe eligible country. Please check Annex 2 “List of eligible countries” in the Guide for Applicants. Indirect costs do not apply to subcontracting.

## How are funds distributed among consortium members?

The grant is awarded to the lead entity of the consortium, which is then responsible for distributing the funds according to the internally agreed budget structure.

## The Accelerator

### Where will the training take place?

Online via platforms like Microsoft Teams or Zoom. The bootcamp (which includes 6 training sessions) is scheduled for **September 2025**. Specific dates will be announced at a later date.

## Should I account for training in my budget?

There are no training fees or travel requirements for training sessions for supported projects. All training sessions will be held online.

## Will I need to travel?

Yes.

Please note that funded projects will participate in the PartArt4OW Demo Days which will take place in Barcelona in February 2026 by presenting or replicating all or part of their main artistic/creative outputs. Costs for participating in the Demo Days must be covered by the project. Additionally, PAIs are encouraged to include community engagement and outreach events in their plans and budgets.

## How much time will I need to spend on Accelerator activities?

You are required to participate in the training sessions and actively interact with the mentor that will be assigned to your PAI. Please expect high-intensity work periods during project negotiation, the mid-term review, and the final review. Additionally, we recommend expecting 1-2 hours of work on a weekly basis to interact with the PartArt4OW team (information sharing, interviews, communication-related activities, etc.) .

## What types of mentoring and training will be provided?

The Accelerator includes tailored mentoring sessions with experts in participatory art, marine science and community engagement. Tailored training sessions will address the specific needs of each project, fostering effective collaboration between creatives, artists, scientists, and community members. The emphasis on peer-learning and networking is another key aspect, with dedicated sessions offering opportunities for participants to engage with their peers, share experiences, and build a supportive community. Training and mentoring are designed to enhance the project's implementation and long-term sustainability. Titles and content of the training sessions will be announced later.

## What are the expectations regarding participation in the Sailing Lab activities?

Selected projects may be asked to reproduce part of their work in a Mediterranean harbour during Summer 2026, participate in video interviews, or otherwise make their project visible to the Sailing Lab team. Applicants should factor these requirements into both their project plan and budget, ensuring alignment with logistical and financial conditions.



## Can we receive additional funding from sponsors or private donors during the accelerator stage?

Yes, as long as it does not constitute double financing for the same activities supported by the PartArt4OW grant. Any external funding should cover complementary activities and must be clearly documented at the proposal stage.

## Acknowledgements

This document is based on previous work carried out by the Impetus Consortium: Thuermer, G., Passani, A., & Reco, L. (2023). IMPETUS D1.1 Open call documentation 1 (2023). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10078362>