OPEN CALL ANALYSIS

EDITO 2 – CALL #2

Grants for ocean applications, models and datasets on EDITO

EUnita strategic translation

This is a grant, not a procurement contract, although it runs on a procurement platform. EDITO 2, the Horizon Europe project that builds the European Digital Twin Ocean platform, passes EUR 700,000 to outside organisations through Mercator Ocean. It pays for ocean applications, models or datasets built or adapted to run on EDITO within 12 months, in one of seven themes. Payment is in three lump sums of 20%, 40% and 40% (an indicative plan, set when the grant agreement is signed). The Guidelines set no minimum or maximum grant; the parent Work Programme caps each third-party grant at EUR 500,000. Price is worth 20 of 100 points. What the criteria reward is a credible plan to put a non-duplicative solution into EDITO and keep it running until at least the end of EDITO 2 (currently 31 August 2028).

EDITO 2 ANALYSIS

Fit assessment | Sources | What it funds | Boundaries | Budget & competition | Eligibility | Money | Evaluation | Risks

Deadline: 29 January 2027, 12:00 CET (Paris time; 13:00 in Romania)

Call budget: EUR 700,000 | Indicative EUR 100,000 per lot | Seven lots | 12-month projects | Launched 9 November 2026

Prepared by

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Analysis date: 18 November 2026

*This analysis interprets the official call documentation for applicants. It is not legal advice. The official texts are the Guidelines for grant applicants, call #2 (version 1.0, 9 November 2026) and the application documents of the call (technical proposal template version 1.0, application form, budget breakdown, proposal summary, declarations, contact list and accession form), the Mercator Ocean call page and application platform page, and the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025, Part 12; where this analysis and an official text differ, the official text prevails. Labels used: **Confirmed** (stated in an official source), **EUnita interpretation** (our reading or recommendation), **Derived estimate** (our arithmetic on official figures).*

1. Decision summary: is this call for you?

EDITO 2 Call #2, "Integration of Innovative Ocean Solutions into EDITO", is a cascade grant (financial support to third parties) run by Mercator Ocean International for the EDITO 2 project, which builds the European Digital Twin Ocean platform. It pays EUR 700,000 in total, across seven thematic lots, to organisations that build or adapt ocean applications, models or datasets so that they run on EDITO within a 12-month project. It is a grant, not a procurement contract, although applications are submitted on a procurement-style platform. The deadline is 29 January 2027, 12:00 Paris time.

Item	Confirmed position	Source
Call	"Integration of Innovative Ocean Solutions into EDITO", call for proposals #2; reference 26550-GRANT-EDITO2 APPLICATION 2	Guidelines cover; platform page
Type of action	Financial support to third parties (FSTP): a grant, paid as lump sums. The platform procedure type is "Appel à projets" (call for projects)	Guidelines pp. 6, 9, 16; platform page
Run by	Mercator Ocean International, the Granting Authority for this call. The Guidelines name Mercator Ocean International, VLIZ and Seascape Belgium as lead partners. Parent project: grant agreement 101227771, coordinated by Mercator Ocean in Toulouse	Guidelines pp. 2, 5; CORDIS
Status	Open. Call launch 9 November 2026; the platform room opened on 10 November 2026 at 18:22 Paris time	Guidelines pp. 17, 19; platform page
Deadline	29 January 2027, 12:00 Paris time (13:00 in Romania). The Guidelines print the year 2026 in two places; this analysis follows the platform	Platform page; Guidelines pp. 17, 20
Call budget	EUR 700,000 excl. VAT; an indicative EUR 100,000 per lot across seven lots	Guidelines p. 16
Grant per project	No minimum or maximum is stated in the Guidelines. The Work Programme text for the parent action sets a maximum of EUR 500,000 for each third party (p. 177); the Guidelines do not repeat it. Applicants request an amount proportionate to scope; EUR 100,000 is not a standard or target	Guidelines p. 16; Work Programme p. 177
Form of grant	Three lump sums: 20% at T0+1 month, 40% at T0+6 months, 40% at T0+12 months, on acceptance of work and of progress and financial reports. The plan is indicative. Up to 20% pre-financing at the Granting Authority's discretion	Guidelines p. 16
Duration	12 months; planned start June 2027, planned completion June 2028	Guidelines pp. 16, 20
Who can apply	Legal entities established in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country, alone or in a consortium; good command of English	Guidelines p. 14
Romania	Eligible, as an EU Member State. The application platform is in French and the package is in English	Guidelines pp. 14, 19; platform page
Evaluation	100 points: excellence 15, impact 15, implementation 15, usability 10, stakeholder engagement 10, added value to EDITO 15, price 20. No minimum score is published	Guidelines p. 20
How to apply	Online, on Mercator Ocean's grant platform (achatpublic.com); a company account is needed to submit	Guidelines pp. 17-19; platform page

Good fit

- ✓ Research organisations and universities with validated ocean models, data products or methods that can be packaged as a workflow, API, dashboard or dataset on EDITO
- ✓ SMEs and start-ups with decision-support, early-warning or what-if tools built on Copernicus Marine, EMODnet or EDITO data
- ✓ Public bodies and NGOs that hold unique, hard-to-access or underused ocean datasets they can legally share, document and make interoperable
- ✓ Teams that can containerise a solution, work within the EDITO resource quotas and keep it running until at least the end of EDITO 2 (currently 31 August 2028)
- ✓ Applicants with named end users and a policy need in one of the seven lots
- ✓ Applicants who can release their data into the public domain under an open licence, or justify a restriction

Not a fit

- ✗ Solutions already accessible in EDITO or on another platform, with no added value from integration
- ✗ Projects that need a restricted licence and have no justification for it
- ✗ Entities established outside the EU and the Horizon Europe associated countries
- ✗ Entities under EU restrictive measures, and Mercator Ocean, VLIZ or other beneficiaries or affiliated parties of grant agreement 101227771
- ✗ Projects that include activities already funded by Horizon Europe projects obliged to contribute to EDITO
- ✗ Teams whose aim is research without a solution to integrate into EDITO

EUnita verdict (interpretation)

A good fit for a team with proven ocean data, models or methods that can be turned into a reusable, documented solution on EDITO in 12 months, for a stated user group and one of the seven lots. The money is limited and flexible: EUR 700,000 for the whole call, an indicative EUR 100,000 per lot, no stated minimum or maximum grant and no stated number of projects. Price is 20% of the score and the requested amount can affect the final list, so a proportionate, well-justified budget matters. What decides fit is added value to EDITO (the solution must not duplicate an accessible service), technical onboarding to EDITO, and the open licence for data. Open points: no minimum score, scoring scale or tie-break is published, no result of the first call was found on the EDITO or Mercator Ocean websites on 18 November 2026, and the Guidelines print the deadline year as 2026.

2. Source verification and document status

The rules below come from the call's official document pack, downloaded from the application platform on 18 November 2026, and from the funder's own pages. Where the Work Programme or CORDIS describes the parent project, it is used for identifiers only. The platform's question-and-answer tab sits behind a sign-in.

Material	Status	Use in this analysis
Guidelines for grant applicants, call #2 (29 pages)	Version 1.0, 09.11.2026	Main source for every rule, cited as Guidelines p. N
Technical proposal template	Version 1.0, 09/11/2026	Sections and word limits of the proposal
Application form; sworn statement; double-funding declaration; proposal summary; contact list	No date or version printed	Content of the administrative package
Budget breakdown (Excel)	No date printed; the file is dated February 2026 inside the pack	Budget lines; one formula issue (section 9)

Material	Status	Use in this analysis
IP / open-source declaration	Version V.1, date blank	Licence and pre-existing rights
Accession form	Generic Commission annex, Ares(2023)6940351 of 12 October 2023	Joining a grant agreement as a beneficiary
Application platform page (achatpublic.com)	Snapshot of 18 November 2026; room opened 10 November 2026, 18:22 Paris time	Deadline, procedure, account and question rules
Mercator Ocean call page and grants page	Snapshots of 18 November 2026	Reference, 12 months, "Maximum amount 700000" (the call total); non-profit, non-retroactivity and one-grant rules
Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025, Part 12	Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024; the parent action is on pp. 173-178	Parent action and the rules for third-party grants
EDITO Newsletter VII and VIII; press-kit project description (v1.1)	Newsletter VII (March 2026) and VIII (April 2026); the description prints no date	Context for call #1 and for the EUR 2 million figure
CORDIS project page, EDITO 2	Last update 7 November 2026	Grant agreement number, coordinator, dates
List of participating countries, Horizon Europe	Version V4.2, 7 October 2026	Associated countries
Horizon Europe Unit Model Grant Agreement	Version V1.3, 15 December 2025	Article numbers the Guidelines cite; the agreement recipients will sign is not published
EDITO help articles on onboarding and resources	Living pages, read on 18 November 2026	Technical requirements and default quotas

Where the official documents differ

- **Deadline year.** The Guidelines print "Thursday, 29 January 2026" (p. 17) and "29 January 2026 12.00 CET" (p. 20). The platform shows 29 January 2027, 12:00 Paris time, and the Mercator pages show 29 Jan 2027. 29 January 2026 was a Thursday and is before the launch on 9 November 2026; 29 January 2027 is a Friday. No document says which prevails. This analysis follows the platform. The Mercator pages print "12:00 am", which read literally is midnight; the platform and the Guidelines say 12:00.
- **Question cut-off.** The Guidelines say questions close "15 days (i.e. 15 January) before the deadline" (p. 18); 15 calendar days before 29 January is 14 January. Answers come by 19 January. Treat 14 January as the safe date.
- **Parent topic.** The Guidelines (p. 2) and the template call the parent topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-IBA "Community-led actions to restore our ocean, seas and waters" and the action an RIA. The Work Programme (p. 173) and CORDIS call it "EU Public Infrastructure for the European Digital Twin Ocean, phase 2", a grant awarded without a call; CORDIS gives the scheme as HORIZON-IA. The first title belongs to another topic. This does not change the call's rules.
- **Double funding.** The Guidelines (p. 14) bar activities already funded by Horizon Europe projects obliged to contribute to EDITO. The sworn statement (item 9) says the applicant has received no other EU grant for the action and will report any later EU grant; the double-funding declaration also asks whether the project is or will be submitted to any other EU grant. The declarations are wider than the Guidelines. No document says which prevails; the applicant signs the declarations.
- **Pre-financing.** The Guidelines (p. 16) offer up to 20% pre-financing at the Granting Authority's discretion and a lump-sum plan whose first payment is 20% at T0+1 month; p. 22 speaks of "the first instalment of pre-financing". They do not say whether the two combine. The plan "will be finalised at the signature of the grant agreement".
- **Cross-references.** The Technical Requirements are in section 7 (p. 16), but p. 15 refers to "Section 6" and p. 19 to "section 2".
- **Titles, codes and dates.** The template is titled "Integration of innovative data, models, and applications". Proposal categories are DATA, MODEL, APP in the Guidelines (p. 18) but Application, Process, Dataset in the template. The launch is 9 November 2026 in the Guidelines and 10 November 2026 on the platform; the EDITO news page that announces the call ("The Call is now open for applications!") is dated 2 November 2026 in the EDITO news list. The Mercator pages write the reference as "26550-GRANT-EDITO 2-APPLICATIONS 2".
- **Application scope.** The application form offers "for all lots" or "for lot n°". The Guidelines give the file name one lot number, the lot under which the proposal is submitted (p. 18), and assess each proposal under the criteria and procedures of its lot (p. 12); they do not explain "for all lots".
- **Grant total of EDITO.** EDITO communications give EUR 2 million for grants to third parties as "2025-2026" and "between 2026-2028", and Newsletter VII (March 2026) gives it under the heading of call #1 as what EDITO "will offer", while no document gives the budget of call #1; the Guidelines (p. 9) speak of three calls "between 2026 and 2027".

3. What the call funds

Confirmed: the call funds "the integration of innovative digital ocean solutions into the EDITO ecosystem". Eligible solutions "may include digital ocean applications, reusable models, workflows, APIs, dashboards, decision-support tools or high-value datasets addressing key ocean and coastal challenges" (Guidelines p. 10). EDITO is described as the core infrastructure of the European Digital Twin Ocean, a free, public platform (p. 9). The call targets "Services, Processes and Datasets that directly support ocean knowledge, monitoring, forecasting or scenario analysis" (p. 14).

The first call, launched in March 2026, took the onboarding of existing mature solutions. This one "invites applicants to go one step further by proposing ambitious, policy-relevant and user-oriented

developments that can be deployed, tested and integrated into EDITO within a 12-month project period" (p. 10).

What counts as innovative (Guidelines p. 10)

- A new application, or a unique or previously inaccessible dataset.
- Reuse or adaptation of existing models in a new EDITO-ready workflow, or a combination of several data sources or models.
- New user capabilities such as what-if scenarios, early-warning services, operational indicators, policy-support tools or decision-ready outputs.

What applicants are "particularly encouraged" to propose (p. 10)

- What-if scenario applications to test management options, climate impacts, adaptation measures, pollution events or ecosystem responses.
- Reusable models and workflows, especially building on Copernicus Marine, EMODnet, EDITO, Destination Earth, Horizon Europe projects or other European data and model infrastructures.
- Unique or high-value datasets, including exclusive, hard-to-access or underused ones, if legally shareable, well documented, interoperable and reusable within EDITO.
- Decision-support applications that turn ocean data and models into indicators, maps, risk layers, alerts, scenarios or downloadable products.

The proposed solution "must not simply duplicate an existing accessible service" (p. 10), and the applicant should state that it is not a replica already accessible outside EDITO (p. 15).

The seven lots (Guidelines pp. 10-12; the example topics are non-exhaustive)

Lot	Title	Example topics named in the Guidelines
1	High seas and deep-ocean sustainability	Deep-sea ecosystems and biodiversity, environmental impact and cumulative pressure assessment, ocean connectivity and transboundary processes, deep-ocean climate impacts and biogeochemistry, marine genetic resources, BBNJ-related decision-support tools
2	Coastal, island and outermost regions resilience	Coastal adaptation, erosion, flooding, storm surge, coastal vulnerability, islands, outermost regions, local decision support
3	Ocean extremes and early-warning services	Marine heatwaves, hypoxia, deoxygenation, harmful events, compound extremes, early-warning indicators, transboundary connectivity
4	Marine pollution and pressure assessment	Oil spills, plastics, marine litter, contaminants, eutrophication pressures, underwater noise, source-to-sea pressures
5	Climate impacts and biogeochemical indicators	Ocean carbon, primary production, acidification, sea ice, deoxygenation, long-term climate indicators
6	Marine biodiversity, habitats and restoration	Species, habitats, eDNA and meta-omics, plankton, MPAs, restoration monitoring, biodiversity data, nature-based solutions
7	Sustainable blue economy and maritime services	Fisheries, aquaculture, ports, shipping, offshore energy, coastal tourism, maritime operations, environmental impact assessment, ocean-based economic planning

What a funded project commits to (Guidelines pp. 12-13)

- Integrate applications, models or datasets into EDITO (several components may sit in one proposal), keeping them compatible and interoperable with the platform's architecture, standards and services.
- Adapt and test data pipelines, modelling tools, visualisation components or services so that they run in EDITO, and follow the FAIR principles.

- Provide open, reusable technical components such as APIs, connectors and metadata services.
- Address identified needs of scientific, institutional or technical communities and support key EU policies.
- Deliver a work plan, progress reports, monitoring meetings and a final report.
- Run co-design workshops and trainings and collect feedback.
- Write user-oriented documentation, hosted and maintained in the EDITO Datalab, with step-by-step instructions to reproduce and operate the solution.
- Promote the project at EDITO events.

Policy anchors

Confirmed: the call supports the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" and its Lighthouses (Atlantic-Arctic, Mediterranean, Baltic-North Sea, Danube-Black Sea), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, the EU Ocean Pact, the EU Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Guidelines pp. 9-10). The Work Programme asks the parent action to organise support to third parties "through transparent and competitive calls" that "include financial support to the selected third parties" (Work Programme p. 176). Applications, models or datasets developed by eligible European entities may address non-European areas if they add clear value to EDITO (Guidelines p. 14).

4. Boundaries: avoid the wrong door

The call has a narrow door: the solution must end up working inside EDITO. These are the cases the documents rule out or make hard.

If your project is…	Position in the documents	Source
A solution already available in EDITO or on another platform, with no new capability	Not funded as such: the solution "must not simply duplicate an existing accessible service"; the applicant must show added value of the integration and state it is not a replica	Guidelines pp. 10, 15
Research or data work with no solution to integrate	Not the aim: the call funds integration of applications, models or datasets, and "All applications are required to build upon and utilise the resources and capabilities made available through EDITO"	Guidelines pp. 9, 21
A mature, existing solution to onboard	That was the focus of call #1 (launched March 2026, closed). Call #2 asks for developments that can be deployed, tested and integrated in 12 months	Guidelines p. 10
Work already paid by another EU grant, or by a Horizon Europe project that must contribute to EDITO	Not eligible: double funding; "Any proposal presenting a risk of double funding will be automatically rejected"	Guidelines pp. 14, 17
A project that needs closed data or a closed licence	Data must be brought into the public domain under an open licence; restricted access is accepted only if justified and described in the proposal	Guidelines p. 15
An applicant from outside the EU and the associated countries	Not eligible	Guidelines p. 14
A project run by an EDITO 2 beneficiary or affiliated party	Not eligible	Guidelines p. 14

If your project is…	Position in the documents	Source
Costs such as in-kind contributions, debt interest, provisions or currency losses	Ineligible costs	Guidelines p. 17

Neighbouring routes (interpretation)

The call documents name no other call as an alternative. The Work Programme's Mission Ocean topics fund other kinds of work: for example HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01 is the topic titled "Community-led actions to restore our ocean, seas and waters", a different action from this one although the Guidelines print its title for this call (Guidelines p. 2; Work Programme contents). A project that has no EDITO integration, or that cannot meet the open-licence and non-duplication tests, is better placed in a research or demonstration call than here.

5. Budget, competition and expected number of grants

Item	Position	Source
Total budget	Confirmed: EUR 700,000 excl. VAT. The Mercator call page shows "Maximum amount 700000", which is this call total, not a limit per project	Guidelines p. 16; Mercator call page
Per lot	Confirmed: "An indicative budget of EUR 100,000 is available per lot across the seven lots." Multiple proposals may be selected in a lot, and EUR 100,000 is not "a standard or target amount"	Guidelines p. 16
Derived estimate	7 lots x EUR 100,000 = EUR 700,000	Arithmetic on Guidelines p. 16
Number of projects	Not set: "The number of funded projects and the funding amount per project will depend on the quality of the applications received"	Guidelines p. 16
Per-project limits	None stated in the Guidelines. The Work Programme caps a grant to each third party in the parent action at EUR 500,000; the Guidelines do not repeat it	Guidelines p. 16; Work Programme p. 177
Number of applications	Not published	Not found in the sources read
Total EDITO grants to third parties	EDITO communications give EUR 2 million, described as "2025-2026" (press release), "between 2026-2028" (Newsletter VIII) and, in Newsletter VII (March 2026), under the heading of call #1 as what EDITO "will offer" ("EUR 2 million in cascading grants to third parties"); no document gives the budget of call #1. The split across the three calls is not published. Derived estimate: EUR 700,000 is 35% of EUR 2 million	EDITO newsletters VII and VIII and press release; Guidelines p. 9

Derived estimate: if every funded project took EUR 100,000, the call would fund seven projects. At EUR 50,000 each it would fund fourteen. The Guidelines fix no number, allow several winners in one lot, and say the ranking can be affected by "the amount of requested budget" (p. 21). Competition cannot be estimated: no number of applications was found, and no result of call #1 was found on the EDITO or Mercator Ocean websites on 18 November 2026.

EUnita interpretation

A lot is not ring-fenced: the EUR 100,000 per lot is "indicative", and the final list depends on score, requested amount and similarity between proposals. A project in a theme that attracts many proposals competes with more of them for the same pool. The Guidelines give no basis for judging which lots are likely to be crowded.

6. What has been funded before

Confirmed: this is the second of three calls for proposals that EDITO 2 launches "between 2026 and 2027" (Guidelines p. 9). Call #1 was launched in March 2026 and "focused on the onboarding of existing mature solutions into EDITO" (p. 10). Its page says "Deadline for applications: 11 May 2026 - Call #1 is now closed" and "The winners will be announced later this summer". Newsletter VIII, headed "Deadline extended!", gives 11 May 2026 at 12:00 CET; Newsletter VII gave 6 May 2026.

No result of call #1 was found on the EDITO or Mercator Ocean websites on 18 November 2026: neither the list of funded projects nor the number of applications, the budget of call #1 or a success rate. Mercator Ocean's grants page says that results "will be published on the project website". EDITO communications state EUR 2 million for grants to third parties in total (section 5). No funded project of this scheme was found on those websites.

What this means for applicants (interpretation)

No evidence is available on what a winning proposal looks like. The Guidelines' own text is the only guide: the criteria in section 10, the template questions in section 11, and the call's stress on non-duplication and on what EDITO users can do after the integration.

7. Who should apply, and with which ideas

Confirmed: applicants are "legal entities (universities, research institutes, SMEs, NGOs, start-ups, private-sector companies, public authorities, etc.)" established in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country, alone or in a consortium (Guidelines p. 14). Roles in a proposal are Lead Beneficiary, Other Beneficiary or Subcontractor (p. 12). The proposal must hold "substantial scientific and technical content: qualified data, proven models, analytical products, validated methods" and show robustness with peer-reviewed methods (p. 15).

Good fit

- ✓ A university or research institute that already has a validated model or data product and a named user group
- ✓ An SME or start-up that can turn open ocean data into a decision-support, early-warning or what-if tool
- ✓ A public body, agency or NGO with a unique dataset, rights to share it and a plan to document it
- ✓ A consortium of a data holder, a modeller and a user organisation, with a signed consortium agreement
- ✓ A team with a Horizon Europe or other European project behind it, whose outputs can be reused in EDITO without double funding
- ✓ An applicant with the staff to run a 12-month plan, monitoring meetings and an in-person event

Not a fit

- ✗ An applicant that cannot give EDITO users a new capability they lack today
- ✗ A team without the rights to open its data or to share its code or models
- ✗ A project that depends on large or GPU resources it cannot justify, given the default quotas
- ✗ A partner that is an EDITO 2 beneficiary or affiliated party
- ✗ An applicant that expects the grant to cover maintenance after the project and has no plan for it
- ✗ A proposal in which subcontractors would do the core work

Ideas that match the Guidelines' own topic lists (interpretation)

EUnita interpretation: the lot topics in the Guidelines are examples ("non-exhaustive"). The ideas below only combine what the Guidelines name; they are not a list of preferred projects.

Lot	An idea that fits the named topics	What the proposal should show
1 High seas	A decision-support tool for impact and cumulative-pressure assessment on deep-sea ecosystems, or a BBNJ-related tool	Validated method, named users, a clear difference from existing services
2 Coastal and islands	A local tool for flooding, erosion or storm surge on an island or in an outermost region	A local user, local data rights, and a way to run it on EDITO
3 Extremes	An early-warning indicator for marine heatwaves or hypoxia built as an EDITO workflow	Validation against observations, uncertainty and limitations, alert logic
4 Pollution	A what-if scenario application for oil spills, plastics or marine litter	Source data, scenario design and a policy use (for example under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive)
5 Climate	An operational indicator set for ocean carbon, acidification or sea ice	Reproducible workflow, long-term data, open outputs
6 Biodiversity	A dataset or tool for eDNA, plankton or habitat monitoring, or restoration monitoring	Data rights, metadata, FAIR compliance, any ethics safeguards for biodiversity data
7 Blue economy	A service for maritime operations, fisheries, aquaculture, ports or offshore energy, with environmental impact assessment	End users in the sector, added value over existing services

Notes for Romanian applicants

- Confirmed: Romanian legal entities are eligible as established in an EU Member State (Guidelines p. 14). The documents mention no national annex, national funder or national budget (EUnita interpretation: this is not a partnership call).
- Confirmed: the deadline is 12:00 Paris time, which is 13:00 in Romania. The application package is in English. The submission platform is in French.
- Confirmed: tax and social-security certificates must be less than 6 months old and in French or English; bank details and the bank statement are in French or English; an equivalent document is accepted if a listed one cannot be provided (Guidelines pp. 21-22). The documents do not say whether a translation of a Romanian certificate must be certified.
- Confirmed: the Danube-Black Sea Lighthouse of the EU Mission is named in the Guidelines (p. 9). No lot is named after the Black Sea; Lot 2 covers coastal, island and outermost regions, and Lot 7 covers ports, shipping and coastal tourism.

8. Eligibility checklist

Marks: ✓ a rule you must meet, ✗ a hard bar, ? a point the documents leave open. The Granting Authority "cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action, or specific activities" (Guidelines p. 18), so the checks below are yours to make.

✓	**Legal entity.** Universities, research institutes, SMEs, NGOs, start-ups, private-sector companies, public authorities and similar bodies (Guidelines p. 14). *Practical check:* have the registration number, country of incorporation and a copy of the trade registration ready; the application form asks for them.
✓	**Establishment.** In an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country (p. 14). *Practical check:* Romania is eligible as an EU Member State.
?	**Associated countries with limits.** The list of participating countries (V4.2, 7 October 2026) ties Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea to Pillar II and gives budget-year conditions for Canada, Egypt, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Guidelines do not say how these apply to a third-party grant. EUnita interpretation: CORDIS lists the parent project under HORIZON.2.5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility, Pillar II) and the Work Programme gives its budget as EUR 14.00 million "from the 2024 budget" (p. 178); if the 2024 budget year applies, entities from Egypt, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea and Japan, whose association in the list starts with a later budget year, may not count as associated for this grant. The documents do not say so.
✓	**Composition.** One applicant or a consortium; a consortium agreement signed by all members is provided (p. 14; application form). The Guidelines set no minimum or maximum number of members.
?	**Natural persons.** The Guidelines say "individual applicants" are eligible but also that applicants must be legal entities; the form uses "individual candidate" for one applicant standing alone. Whether a natural person without legal personality may apply is not stated.
✓	**Sanctions.** Entities under EU restrictive measures (Article 29 TEU, Article 215 TFEU) are not eligible (p. 14). *Practical check:* screen the entity against the EU sanctions map.
✗	**EDITO 2 links.** Applicants may not be beneficiaries or affiliated parties to grant agreement 101227771 (p. 14).
✓	**Horizon Europe eligibility and obligations.** Applicants must follow Articles 12, 13, 14, 16, 17.2, 18, 19 and 20 of the Grant Agreement and allow the checks of Article 25 (p. 14).
✓	**Language.** Good command of English; the application package must be in English (pp. 14, 19).
?	**Lot.** The file name carries one lot number, the lot under which the proposal is submitted (p. 18), and each proposal is assessed under the criteria and procedures of its lot (p. 12). The application form also offers "for all lots", which the Guidelines do not explain.
✓	**Added value and non-duplication.** A clear case, and a statement that the solution is not a replica already accessible outside EDITO (p. 15).

✓	**Technical fit.** Interoperable with EDITO standards; containerised; resource needs above the default quotas identified and justified (pp. 15-16; EDITO help articles).
✓	**Maintenance.** The integration must keep running on EDITO at least until the end of EDITO 2, currently 31 August 2028 (p. 15).
✓	**Rights and licence.** The applicant holds the rights to put the data in the public domain under an open licence; restricted access is accepted only if justified and described (p. 15). A declaration that samples and materials were collected lawfully is required (p. 15).
✓	**Ethics.** Ethical issues identified and addressed in the proposal, with approvals obtained before the activities concerned (pp. 15-16).
✗	**Double funding.** No activity already funded by a Horizon Europe project obliged to contribute to EDITO; a signed declaration is required and a proposal presenting a risk of double funding is rejected automatically (p. 14).
✓	**Subcontracting.** Exceptional, not for core activities, at most 30% of total costs (p. 17).
?	**Financial capacity.** The sworn statement says the applicant has "stable and sufficient sources of funding" to maintain the activities and to provide "any counterpart funding necessary" (item 3); the Guidelines state no funding rate. Pre-financing may depend on a financial security mechanism (pp. 16, 22).
?	**Supporting documents.** Tax and social-security certificates, bank details and statement, three years of accounts: due at the awarding stage, allowed at the application stage (pp. 21-22).

9. How the money works

Item	Position	Source
Form of grant	Lump sums "based on the work carried out and acceptance of work and progress and financial reports"	Guidelines p. 16
Payment plan	Three payments "at the end of each milestone": 20% at T0+1 month, 40% at T0+6 months, 40% at T0+12 months. "This payment plan is indicative and will be finalised at the signature of the grant agreement." T0 is not defined; it is read here as the project start	Guidelines p. 16
Pre-financing	"Upon request and subject to the Granting Authority's discretion", up to 20% of the total subsidy. Mercator Ocean may withhold it after a financial risk assessment and may require any appropriate financial security mechanism (the examples the Guidelines name include a mortgage and a security interest). Successful applicants are told if the first instalment of pre-financing depends on a financial security	Guidelines pp. 16, 22
Cost report	"To justify the lumpsum payments, applicants will have to provide a detailed report explaining the costs incurred"	Guidelines p. 17
Eligible costs	Personnel costs (national legislation and in-house rules); travel needed for the project; equipment (depreciation only); consumables; other costs; subcontracting	Guidelines p. 17
Subcontracting	Justified in the proposal, exceptional, not for core activities, at most 30% of total costs; follow Commission subcontracting standards	Guidelines p. 17
Ineligible costs	Debts and interest; provisions for losses or liabilities; costs financed by another EU grant; purchase of land or buildings (with a narrow exception); currency exchange losses; in-kind contributions except volunteers' work; bonuses in staff costs; negative interest	Guidelines p. 17
Indirect costs	Defined as costs that "may be declared as a flat-rate percentage, in accordance with these Guidelines", but no rate is stated and the budget template has no indirect-cost line	Guidelines p. 6; budget file

Item	Position	Source
Funding rate	Not stated in the Guidelines. Mercator Ocean's grant rules say that grants are "neither intended nor designed to generate profit" and must be "limited to the amount necessary to balance the project's budget"; that its funding "cannot be used to finance projects that have already been completed"; and that "Each beneficiary may receive only one grant per project". The Guidelines of this call do not cite these rules	Mercator Ocean grants page
VAT	The call budget is stated excl. VAT	Guidelines p. 16
Changes before signature	The budget is corrected for arithmetical errors and ineligible costs; changes cannot raise the grant above the amount set in the call	Guidelines p. 22
Consortium payments	Paid at consortium level through the coordinator and lowered if a member has outstanding debts to the EU	Sworn statement

Derived estimate (illustration only)

On a grant of EUR 100,000, the three lump sums would be EUR 20,000, EUR 40,000 and EUR 40,000. With a project start in June 2027, T0+1 month, T0+6 months and T0+12 months fall in July 2027, December 2027 and June 2028; the Guidelines date the progress report (M2) in December 2027 and the final report (M3) in June 2028. The Guidelines do not say whether pre-financing replaces or adds to the first lump sum.

Budget template issue

Confirmed: in the Excel budget breakdown, the total cell ("TOTAL ESTIMATED ELIGIBLE COSTS", B16) adds the personnel, consumables, travel, other and subcontracting lines but not the equipment line (B13), although equipment depreciation is an eligible cost (Guidelines p. 17). The technical proposal template allows a different budget file "provided the same categories are shown, albeit with more detail" (section 8). Check the total by hand and keep the figures identical to those in the technical proposal.

10. Evaluation

Confirmed: the evaluation is run by "a committee established by the Granting Authority to which it will directly report" (Guidelines p. 20). A Selection Committee decides the awards (p. 21). Only eligible proposals are evaluated.

Criterion	What the Guidelines say it covers	Weight
1 Excellence	Scientific and technical quality, innovation, relevance in addressing key ocean and coastal challenges	15%
2 Impact	Contribution to EU and national policies and strategies; societal and environmental value	15%
3 Implementation	Quality and feasibility of the work plan, risk management, resources; a clear plan for guiding users of the solution	15%
4 Usability	Contribution to the enhancement of EDITO development; how EDITO users will use the solution	10%
5 Stakeholder engagement	A co-design approach, integration of stakeholder needs, alignment with EU initiatives	10%
6 Added value to EDITO	Added value of integrating the solution compared with existing, already accessible work; novel and non-duplicative	15%

Criterion	What the Guidelines say it covers	Weight
7 Price	Not described further	20%

The weights add to 100 points. The Guidelines publish no minimum score, no scoring scale, no tie-break rule, no method for scoring price and no number of evaluators.

Procedure (Guidelines pp. 20-22)

Step	What happens
1 Opening and administrative checks	Deadline met, otherwise "automatically rejected". If requested information is missing or incorrect, "the application may be rejected on that sole basis" and is not evaluated further
2 Evaluation of the full application	Technical and financial proposals are scored out of 100. The committee builds a ranking list. "Additional factors might impact the final list": the amount of requested budget, similarity to a higher-ranked proposal, ethical concerns and potential conflicts of interest. The final list is communicated to the European Commission
3 Final verification	Eligibility and supporting documents are checked, by default only for provisionally selected proposals within the available budget. A missing document or an inconsistency with the declarations "may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis". A rejected proposal is replaced by the next best placed one within the budget
4 Award decision	The evaluation committee recommends; the Selection Committee decides. It may decide not to award any grants and cancel the call without compensation

Notification: the Lead Applicant is informed in writing, with reasons if rejected. "An applicant believing that it has been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may lodge a complaint"; no complaint procedure or deadline is described (Guidelines p. 22).

EUnita interpretation

Added value to EDITO (15%), usability (10%) and stakeholder engagement (10%) together carry 35 points and speak to the same thing: what EDITO users will be able to do afterwards, and who helped design it. Price carries 20 points, and the requested amount can also change the final list, so the requested amount can matter twice. The documents do not say how price is scored; a proposal that asks for a figure out of line with its scope risks both.

11. Application package and timeline

Confirmed: applications are submitted on Mercator Ocean's grant platform on achatpublic.com (Guidelines p. 17). The platform pages are in French. Documents can be downloaded without an account; submitting needs a company account, a response cannot be made from a mobile phone, and the question-and-answer tab needs a sign-in (platform page). The package "must be in English" (p. 19).

Documents

Document	What it holds	Source
Technical proposal (template v1.0)	Objectives, methodology, expected results, ethics self-assessment table, content to be onboarded (with TRL), dependencies, comparable solutions, milestones, risks, cybersecurity, licensing, sustainability, Gantt chart for 12 months. No page limit is stated; each field has a word limit (below)	Guidelines p. 19; template

Document	What it holds	Source
Resource plan and budget breakdown (Excel)	Amounts must match the technical proposal; tasks and amounts if subcontracting	Guidelines p. 19; budget file
Proposal summary	Authorised representative, members, proposal name, lot, category (data, model, application), abstract up to 200 words, total cost, person-months	Guidelines p. 19; summary form
Signed sworn statement	Declaration of honour on exclusion situations, conflicts of interest, funding sources and checks	Guidelines p. 19; sworn statement
Signed declaration on double funding	Whether the project or part of it has benefited from, or is submitted to, any other EU grant	Guidelines p. 19; declaration
Application form	Legal name, registration details, contact details, company profile, trade registration and business licences, financial information, bank details, turnover and headcount for the last three years, signatory	Guidelines p. 19; application form
Subcontracting details (if any)	Names and roles, evidence of experience, amounts	Guidelines p. 19
Contact list (Excel)	Contract referents; administrative, financial and technical contacts	Guidelines p. 19; contact list
Accession form	The Commission's generic form to join a grant agreement	Guidelines p. 19
IP / open-source declaration	Licence proposed, pre-existing rights and materials, indirect dependencies, open-source compliance	Guidelines p. 19; declaration
Consortium agreement	Signed by all members of a grouping	Application form
Supporting documents	Tax and social-security certificates (under 6 months old, French or English); bank details and bank statement; certified accounts for three years; auditor reports or trial balance. Due at the awarding stage; may be sent with the application. An equivalent document is accepted	Guidelines pp. 21-22

Word limits in the technical proposal template

Field	Limit	Field	Limit
Project title	15 words	Added value of integration into EDITO	500 words
Short summary	200 words	Integration and deployment steps	400 words
Expected state at completion	300 words	Project organisation and resources	150 words
Current deployment and use	200 words	Cybersecurity measures	200 words
Scientific and technical approach	400 words	Corporate social responsibility	200 words
Validation, quality and limitations	400 words	Licensing	100 words
Expected impact	300 words	Sustainability beyond the project	200 words
Target users and usability	200 words	Budget summary	250 words
Stakeholder engagement and co-design	300 words	Gantt chart	12 months

File names follow "[Lot Number]_[Proposal Number]_[Proposal Category]_[Proposal Title]_[Lead Beneficiary]_[Version]", with the categories DATA, MODEL or APP, for example 1_1_APP_BBNJ-EDITO _MOI_1 (Guidelines p. 18). The lot and proposal numbers stay the same

across versions.

Timeline

Date	Event	Status
9 November 2026	Call launch	Confirmed (Guidelines pp. 17, 19)
10 November 2026, 18:22 Paris time	Platform room opened; documents dated 10/11/26	Confirmed (platform page)
15 January 2027	Last day for questions through the platform (14 January by the Guidelines' own interval)	Confirmed (Guidelines p. 18)
19 January 2027	Answers published by this date, on the call's webpage	Confirmed (Guidelines p. 18)
29 January 2027, 12:00 Paris time	Deadline for applications (13:00 in Romania)	Confirmed (platform page); the Guidelines print 2026
February to March 2027	Evaluation and selection	Planned (Guidelines p. 20)
April 2027	Notification of results	Planned (Guidelines p. 20)
June 2027	Kick-off meeting and project start	Planned (Guidelines p. 20)
December 2027	Progress report and meeting (M2)	Planned (Guidelines p. 20)
June 2028	Final report and project completion (M3)	Planned (Guidelines p. 20)
31 August 2028	Current planned end of EDITO 2; the solution must keep running on EDITO at least until the end of EDITO 2	Confirmed as the current date (Guidelines pp. 2, 15)

No information session for call #2 is listed on the EDITO events page, and the Guidelines mention none.

12. Risks and red flags

Risk	Why it matters	How to reduce it
Deadline year	The Guidelines print 29 January 2026; the platform and the Mercator pages give 2027. No document says which prevails	Follow the platform, submit well before 12:00 Paris time on 29 January 2027, and keep the platform's receipt
Small pool, open number of winners	EUR 700,000 over seven lots; no number of projects, no minimum score, no tie-break, no price method; the Selection Committee may cancel the call	Request an amount that fits the scope and justify each line; do not treat EUR 100,000 as a target
Rejection on form	Missing or incorrect information "may" lead to rejection on that sole basis; at verification, a missing document or an inconsistency with the declarations may too	Check every field and document twice; keep the budget file and the technical proposal consistent; have the supporting documents ready
Payment terms not final	The 20 / 40 / 40 plan is indicative; pre-financing is discretionary and may depend on a financial security mechanism; the Guidelines do not say how it combines with the first lump sum; a cost report is still required	Plan cash flow without pre-financing; ask for it only if needed; keep cost records

Risk	Why it matters	How to reduce it
Technical onboarding	A containerised component and default My Workspace quotas of 32 GB memory, 8 cores, 50 GB temporary and 20 GB permanent storage, with no GPU (EDITO help articles); the EDITO resources article also lists larger project quotas. Needs beyond the recommended limits should be identified and justified in the proposal (Guidelines p. 16). The solution must keep running on EDITO until at least the end of EDITO 2 (currently 31 August 2028), after the planned June 2028 end of the project. No funding is stated for that period	Read the EDITO help articles before writing; budget for the maintenance obligation
Open licence and rights	Data is expected under an open licence and the applicant must hold the rights to share it (Guidelines p. 15); the granting authority and EU bodies get royalty-free access to results for policy use, limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use (p. 27)	Settle rights and licence with data owners and partners before submission
Double funding	Automatic rejection on risk; the signed declarations are wider than the Guidelines' rule and ask about other EU grants and parallel submissions	List every other EU grant and submission for the same work and describe them honestly
Few ways to ask	No email or helpdesk is published; questions go through a platform that needs a sign-in; the Granting Authority gives no prior opinion on eligibility	Send questions early, and before 14 January 2027
Document inconsistencies	Cross-references to the wrong section; a template with another title; a budget total that skips equipment; "for all lots" on the form	Follow the Guidelines where they are clear and say which version you followed
No track record	No result of call #1 was found on the EDITO or Mercator Ocean websites on 18 November 2026, and its budget and number of applications were not found either	Build the case from the criteria and the template questions

13. EUnita recommendations

1. Choose one lot and write for it. Name the lot in the file name and in the proposal summary, and frame the user need, policy use and EDITO value in that lot's terms.
2. Start with the non-duplication case. List what exists in EDITO and elsewhere, state the difference, and write the statement the Guidelines ask for. Added value to EDITO carries 15 points and usability 10.
3. Read the EDITO help articles on onboarding and resources before drafting the work plan, and write the integration steps (400 words) around them.
4. Build the budget bottom-up from the deliverables (D1 at month 1, D2 at month 6, D3 at month 12), and recompute the template total by hand. Keep subcontracting small and out of the core work.
5. Settle the licence and data rights now, and complete the IP and open-source declaration with the technical proposal's licensing section.
6. Prepare the administrative package in parallel: sworn statement, double-funding declaration, application form with registration and financial information, contact list, accession form and, if applicable, the signed consortium agreement.
7. Gather the supporting documents early (certificates under 6 months old, bank details, bank statement, three years of accounts); sending them at application stage is allowed.
8. Create the company account on the platform in good time, and send any question by 14 January 2027.

9. Treat 29 January 2027, 12:00 Paris time, as the deadline, and submit well before it.
10. Plan maintenance until at least the end of EDITO 2 (currently 31 August 2028) inside the proposal, and say in the sustainability section how the solution continues after the project.

Unresolved points

- The deadline year: the Guidelines print 2026; the platform and the Mercator pages print 2027. No document says which prevails.
- Whether pre-financing replaces or adds to the first 20% lump sum, and the final payment schedule, which is set at the signature of the grant agreement.
- The recipient's grant agreement: a model for third-party recipients is not among the call documents.
- Any minimum score, scoring scale, tie-break rule or price-scoring method, and the number of evaluators.
- Whether Mercator Ocean's grant rules on non-retroactivity and one grant per project apply to this call; the Guidelines do not cite them.
- The number of projects to be funded, the number of applications expected, and the results and budget of call #1.
- Whether a natural person without legal personality may apply, and whether certificates in a language other than French or English need a certified translation.
- How the Pillar II and budget-year limits in the list of participating countries apply to a third-party grant.
- The list of mandatory documents that the platform's submission route shows, and the published questions and answers, which sit behind a sign-in.

Sources

- Application platform page and document pack (Mercator Ocean, achatpublic.com): https://grants-mercator-ocean.achatpublic.com/sdm/ent2/gen/ficheCsl.action?PCSLID=CSL_2026_Wf-yqGJJLx (Guidelines v1.0 of 9 November 2026 and the application documents; checked 18 November 2026)
- Mercator Ocean call page: https://www.mercator-ocean.eu/tender/152/ (checked 18 November 2026)
- Mercator Ocean grants page: https://www.mercator-ocean.eu/about-us/work-with-us/grants/ (checked 18 November 2026)
- EDITO news: call for funding #2: https://www.edito.eu/news/edito-announces-call-for-funding-2-apply-now/ (checked 18 November 2026)
- EDITO news: call #1: https://www.edito.eu/news/edito-announces-call-1/ (checked 18 November 2026)
- EDITO Newsletter VII (March 2026): https://www.edito.eu/newsletter/newsletter-vii-march-2026/ (checked 18 November 2026)
- EDITO Newsletter VIII (April 2026): https://www.edito.eu/newsletter/newsletter-viii-april-2026/ (checked 18 November 2026)
- EDITO press kit: project description (press release), version 1.1: https://www.edito.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Project-description-for-EDITO-Press-Kit_1.1.pdf (checked 18 November 2026)
- EDITO news list (date of the call #2 announcement): https://www.edito.eu/news/ (checked 18 November 2026)
- Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025, Part 12 Missions (parent action on pp. 173-178): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-12-missions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf (Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024)
- CORDIS: EDITO 2, grant agreement 101227771: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101227771 (last update 7 November 2026)
- CORDIS: topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-IBA: https://cordis.europa.eu/programme/id/HORIZON_HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-IBA (last update 14 October 2024)
- List of participating countries in Horizon Europe, V4.2: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf (7 October 2026)
- Horizon Europe Unit Model Grant Agreement V1.3: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/agr-contr/unit-mga_he_en.pdf (15 December 2025; article references only)
- EDITO help: onboard your application: https://help.edito.eu/en/articles/14702796-onboard-your-application-on-edito (living page, read 18 November 2026)
- EDITO help: how to understand EDITO resources: https://help.edito.eu/en/articles/13052927-how-to-understand-edito-resources (living page, read 18 November 2026)
- EDITO help: onboard your data: https://help.edito.eu/en/articles/15339950-onboard-your-data-on-edito (living page, read 18 November 2026)

Checked 18 November 2026. Official updates prevail.