# OPEN CALL ANALYSIS

# RISTANC CALL FOR SMALL PROJECTS

## EUR 7,500 to 12,000 for projects in or for the Slovenian sea and coast (Horizon Europe, Mission Ocean and Waters)

**EUnita strategic translation**

This is a small, fast cascade grant, not a research programme. The Horizon Europe project RISTANC, coordinated by ZRS Koper, gives lump sums of EUR 7,500 to EUR 12,000 (up to 100% of the project's total costs) to about 5 to 8 projects that help the Slovenian sea and coast: seabed-friendly moorings, the planning of the coastal belt, pollution, ecosystem restoration and a sustainable blue economy. Associations, schools, companies, researchers and individuals may apply: legal entities in the EU or a Horizon Europe associated country, and adults with permanent EU residence. The activities must be in the Slovenian sea and coast or address its challenges. The money comes in three instalments on results (20%, 30%, 50%), without invoices. A five-member commission scores seven criteria out of 100; 55 points are needed. The deadline is 28 November 2026, 23:59 CET, by e-mail.

**RISTANC ANALYSIS**

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

**Deadline: 28 November 2026, 23:59 CET (00:59 on 29 November in Romania), by e-mail**

Call budget: EUR 60,000 | Grant per project: EUR 7,500 to 12,000 (up to 100%, lump sum) | About 5 to 8 projects | Opened 28 September 2026

Prepared by

**EUnita — EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy**

Analysis date: 19 November 2026

*This analysis interprets the official call documentation for applicants. It is not legal advice. The official texts are the Guidelines for applicants, the application form, the evaluation criteria, the ethical aspects and the Questions and answers (updated 5 November 2026) published on the RISTANC website, with the Portal page of the call; the revised documents are named "version 2, 28 September 2026" on the call page, and the Slovenian version of the Questions and answers prevails over its English translation. Where this analysis and an official text differ, the official text prevails. Labels used: **Confirmed** (stated in an official source), **EUnita interpretation** (a reading or recommendation by EUnita), **Derived estimate** (arithmetic by EUnita on official figures).*

# 1. Decision summary: is this call for you?

The call gives lump-sum grants of EUR 7,500 to EUR 12,000 to small projects that help the Slovenian sea and coast. Legal entities established in the EU, its overseas countries and territories or a Horizon Europe associated country, and adults with permanent residence in the EU (Romania included), may apply; the activities must be implemented in the Slovenian territorial sea and coast, or contribute to addressing challenges there. Applications go by e-mail and close on Saturday 28 November 2026 at 23:59 CET (00:59 on 29 November in Romania).

| Item | Confirmed position | Source |
|---|---|---|
| **Run by** | ZRS Koper, coordinator of the Horizon Europe project RISTANC (Grant Agreement No 101217089); the recipient's agreement is with ZRS Koper, not the EU | Guidelines p. 3; CORDIS |
| **Budget and grant** | EUR 60,000 for the call; EUR 7,500 to EUR 12,000 per project, up to 100% of total costs, as a lump sum; about 5 to 8 projects | Guidelines p. 6 |
| **Who may apply** | Public and private legal entities and adult natural persons; informal initiatives through one responsible person; in a partnership, one applicant leads. Legal entity: registered office or business address in an EU Member State, an EU overseas country or territory, or a Horizon Europe associated country. Individual: permanent residence in an EU Member State | Guidelines pp. 3-4 |
| **Where the project must be** | Slovenian territorial sea, including the coast, or contributing to addressing challenges there | Guidelines p. 4 |
| **Duration** | 6 to 12 months, from signature but not before 1 January 2027; completed by 28 February 2028 at the latest | Guidelines p. 6 |
| **Deadline, how to apply** | 28 November 2026, 23:59 CET (Portal: Brussels time); e-mail to ristanc-funding@zrs-kp.si, all documents in PDF, in Slovenian or English; no online platform | Guidelines pp. 6, 8 |
| **Evaluation, results** | Five-member commission; seven criteria, 100 points; at least 55 points needed; applicants notified by 15 December 2026 at the latest | Guidelines p. 10 |
| **Status on 19 November 2026** | Open since 28 September 2026. Next round: not published | Portal page |

### Good fit

- ✓ Associations, NGOs, schools and community groups with a concrete idea on moorings, the coastal belt, pollution or ecosystem restoration
- ✓ Divers, fishers, artists, educators and other adults with permanent EU residence, applying as natural persons
- ✓ Research teams and companies, in Slovenia or elsewhere in the EU, whose prototype, study or monitoring method serves the Slovenian sea within EUR 12,000
- ✓ Newcomers to EU funding: the call aims to encourage those who have not, or only rarely, taken part in European research and innovation projects (Guidelines p. 2)
- ✓ Applicants who can send a signed PDF application before 23:59 CET on 28 November 2026

### Not a fit

- ✗ Legal entities not established in the EU, its overseas countries and territories or a Horizon Europe associated country; natural persons without permanent EU residence
- ✗ Projects with no activity in, and no contribution to, the Slovenian sea and coast
- ✗ RISTANC consortium partners (slides p. 3), including the municipalities of Piran, Izola, Koper and Ankaran
- ✗ Projects with other European, national or local public funding for any part of them
- ✗ Projects that cannot end by 28 February 2028, or whose costs above EUR 12,000 cannot be met without European, national or local public funding

**EUnita verdict (interpretation)**

A good fit for a small, concrete project with a real link to the Slovenian sea and coast, run by a group, school, association, researcher or individual who can apply in Slovenian or English and finish the paperwork before 28 November 2026. For most readers elsewhere in the EU, including Romania, the Slovenian-sea condition is the deciding hurdle: the call does not exclude them, but the project has to be in, or serve, the Slovenian sea, and the grant is small. The facts that decide fit are the location of the activities, the ban on other public funding, the payment on results and the tight dates after the deadline. Open points: the funding agreement is not published, no figures on applications are published, and no later round is announced.

## 2. Source verification and document status

| Document | Version or date; status on 19 November 2026 |
|---|---|
| **Guidelines for applicants (English, 16 pages; Slovenian, 15 pages)** | Valid. The call page calls the revised documents "version 2, 28 September 2026" and "the only valid version"; the files say "v5" |
| **Application form; evaluation criteria (3 pages); ethical aspects (5 pages)** | Valid; the first form had no double-funding declaration |
| **Questions and answers (English, 12 pages; Slovenian, 11 pages)** | Updated on 5 November 2026; the English text was translated with an AI tool and says the Slovenian version prevails |
| **Information-seminar slides (21 pages); Portal page of the call (competitive call 15882)** | Slides of 6 October 2026; Portal "Open For Submission", total funding EUR 60,000 |
| **First version of the call documents** | 15 September 2026; replaced, not valid |

**Where the official documents differ**

- Number of projects: the Guidelines (p. 6) say "approximately 5 to 8"; CORDIS and the project page say "5-8"; the news of 14 November 2025 said "at least five". The Guidelines apply.
- Project start: the Guidelines (p. 6) give signature on 15 to 21 December 2026 and 1 January 2027 as the earliest start; the Portal says "no earlier than 1.1.2027". No document says what applies in between.
- Other funding: the Guidelines (p. 4) and the form's declaration exclude other European, national or local public funding; the Q&A (p. 9) lists other sources on the line "REVENUE (I)" without limiting them. The Guidelines and the declaration apply; no call text excludes own funds, private funds or project revenue.
- Supplements: the English Guidelines (p. 9) say five working days "from receipt of the call"; the Slovenian "od prejema poziva" means from the commission's request. EUnita interpretation: five working days from receipt of the request.
- Place: the call page says the project "takes place in the area of the Slovenian sea"; the Guidelines, the Portal page, the slides and the Q&A also accept activities that "contribute to addressing challenges in this area". The Guidelines and the Q&A apply.
- The 100% rule: the English Guidelines (p. 6) say "up to 100% of the project's total costs"; the Slovenian text says "do 100 % pavšalno določenih sredstev" (unofficial translation: "up to 100% of the lump-sum-determined funds"). The English wording applies.

# 3. What the call funds

The call funds small projects, of 6 to 12 months, that help the Slovenian sea and coast. The money comes from RISTANC, a Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action coordinated by ZRS Koper (project period 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2028, total cost EUR 1,967,266.25). The parent topic, HORIZON-MISS-2024-CROSS-02-01, allows financial support to third parties in grants only, up to EUR 60,000 per third party (Portal topic data file; Work Programme p. 358).

## Policy anchors

- The EU Mission "Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030", with three objectives: protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity; prevent and eliminate pollution; establish a carbon-neutral and circular blue economy (Guidelines p. 2).
- RISTANC applies the Mission in the Slovenian sea, part of the cross-border North Adriatic region, with an emphasis on social innovation and broad cooperation between stakeholders (Guidelines pp. 2-3); the parent topic asks for actions by research institutes or universities together with regional stakeholders (Work Programme p. 359).

## The three challenges

A project must address one or more of these (Guidelines p. 3; the slides say at least one):

1. Moorings: establishing and managing moorings in the Slovenian sea for recreational and tourist vessels that prevent damage to marine seabed habitats.
2. The coastal zone: planning and implementing interventions in the coastal zone that harmonise the needs and interests of people and the environment.
3. Other measures in the Slovenian sea area (and potentially beyond) that contribute to the Mission, such as reducing pollution (including plastic and other waste), conserving and restoring marine ecosystems, and developing a sustainable blue economy.

## Eligible activities

| Activity type | How the Guidelines describe it (pp. 4-5) |
|---|---|
| **Experimental activities** | Innovative approaches that clean, protect or restore the marine environment, or build a zero-emission, circular, sustainable blue economy |
| **Prototype development** | Prototypes for specific challenges linked to marine ecosystems |
| **Feasibility studies and scoping** | Feasibility of larger-scale measures |
| **Research and innovation** | New methods or technologies that reduce pollution and protect or restore biodiversity, including better regulation and governance |
| **Artistic, cultural and community activities** | Art and culture that engage local communities in pollution prevention, nature protection and restoration, and ocean-health awareness |
| **Education and capacity-building** | Education, training and workshops for stakeholders, children, young people and adults |
| **Monitoring and citizen science** | Assessing the effectiveness and impacts of solutions on marine ecosystems; citizen science |
| **Knowledge brokering and transfer** | Existing research turned into evidence for policy or practice: synthesis reports, recommendations, dialogues, living labs |
| **Combination** | Any mix of the above |

Projects "must contribute to the development of sustainable and inclusive solutions for challenges facing the marine environment in the North Adriatic area" (Guidelines p. 5); less common forms of

activity, new interdisciplinary partnerships and the involvement of local communities are particularly welcome (Guidelines p. 2). Every project follows the RISTANC Ethical Protocol and takes part, indirectly and with informed consent, in the RISTANC research process; publications must be freely accessible and data shared "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" (Ethical aspects p. 3). Visibility, field visit and licence: section 9.

## 4. Boundaries: avoid the wrong door

The call is wide in who may apply and narrow in where the project takes place.

| Boundary | What the documents say | Source |
|---|---|---|
| **Place** | Activities in the Slovenian territorial sea, including the coast, or contributing to addressing challenges there; the valid Slovenian Maritime Spatial Plan defines the area. Hinterland activities count if they contribute to those challenges and the application says how | Guidelines p. 4, footnote 1; Q&A p. 4 |
| **Other public funding** | None from other European, national or local public sources for the project or any part of it; a declaration is part of the form. Work already paid from a regular salary or other public funds cannot be claimed | Guidelines p. 4; form Section B; Q&A pp. 5-6 |
| **Consortium partners** | RISTANC partners cannot apply or take part as partners, including the four coastal municipalities and bodies acting on their behalf. Public companies founded by the municipalities are separate legal entities and are not excluded | Guidelines p. 4; Q&A p. 12 |
| **Outside the lump sum** | Costs or activities not directly linked to the project or not necessary for its objectives; a charity auction whose proceeds go to another organisation is not possible | Guidelines p. 8; Q&A p. 11 |
| **Natural persons** | Permanent residence in an EU Member State; temporary residence does not count, nor does permanent residence in the United Kingdom | Guidelines p. 4; Q&A p. 10 |
| **Two applications** | Any second application, whether as lead in both or as lead in one and partner in another: only the first application submitted is considered | Section 8 |

### Neighbouring calls

The call documents name no neighbouring call; for the wider Mission, the Guidelines point to missionoceanwaters.eu, which is not a call document. The call pays at most EUR 12,000 per project; a larger total value needs other sources that are not European, national or local public funding (section 9).

## 5. Budget, competition and expected number of grants

| Item | Figure | Source |
|---|---|---|
| **Total available for the call** | EUR 60,000.00 | Guidelines p. 6; Portal page |
| **Support per project** | EUR 7,500.00 to EUR 12,000.00 | Guidelines p. 6 |
| **Projects anticipated** | "approximately 5 to 8", depending on the amounts approved | Guidelines p. 6 |
| **Derived estimate** | EUR 60,000 / EUR 12,000 = 5 projects; EUR 60,000 / EUR 7,500 = 8 projects, which matches the call's 5 to 8 | EUnita arithmetic on official figures |
| **Last project in the ranking** | May get partial funding or a lower amount, even below the minimum | Guidelines p. 7 |

| Item | Figure | Source |
|---|---|---|
| **Unspent funds** | The organiser reserves the right to re-publish the call | Guidelines p. 7 |
| **Applications received** | Not published | No official figure |

The call is small: the whole scheme pays out EUR 60,000, and the call's ceiling of EUR 12,000 per project is below the EUR 60,000 per third party that the Horizon Europe topic conditions allow (Guidelines p. 6; Work Programme p. 358).

**Competition.** No official figure on the number of applications is published, and the documents give no previous round, so no estimate of the chances is made. The documents do set the shape of the competition: a priority list by score, funding in rank order until the money is used up, and a threshold of 55 out of 100. With about 5 to 8 awards, a lost point matters: ties are broken by the score under criterion 1, then criterion 4. Derived estimate: a request of EUR 12,000 takes one fifth of the whole call.

## 6. What has been funded before

Nothing is published about earlier rounds of this scheme: the call documents report no earlier round, no number of applications and no list of funded projects. The results of this call, with a description of each selected project, the award dates, the project durations and the legal names and countries of the recipients, will be published on the RISTANC website and on the Funding & Tenders Portal (Guidelines p. 10).

- The coordinator's news of 14 November 2025 described the plan as a call for at least five small-scale pilot actions worth EUR 60,000 in total; CORDIS and the project page say 5 to 8 projects with EUR 60,000 for third parties.

## 7. Who should apply, and with which ideas

The call names these target groups: innovators, researchers, artists, individuals, civil society, NGOs, local communities, informal initiatives, start-up companies, schools and research teams (Guidelines p. 3). The examples below are EUnita interpretation, built from the challenges and activity types in the Guidelines; they are not requirements or a list of what has been selected.

| Applicant | Idea in the call's terms (EUnita interpretation) | Challenge |
|---|---|---|
| **Boating, diving or sailing clubs; harbour users; a company with a mooring prototype** | A feasibility study or prototype of a mooring that spares the seabed, or a pilot of how such moorings are managed | 1 Moorings |
| **Planners, local associations, research teams** | A living lab or stakeholder dialogue on planning the coastal belt so that the needs of people and nature are balanced | 2 Coastal zone |
| **Environmental NGOs, volunteers, divers, fishers** | A citizen-science monitoring scheme, or a clean-up with measured results, on pollution including plastic and other waste | 3 Other measures |
| **Schools, kindergartens, museums, youth groups** | An education programme or workshops for children and adults on ocean health and sustainable practices | 3 Other measures |
| **Artists and cultural groups** | An art or community project that engages local people in protecting and restoring the sea | 3 Other measures |
| **Research organisations and universities** | A synthesis report, policy recommendations or a dialogue that turns existing results into advice for policy or practice | 1, 2 or 3 |

| Applicant | Idea in the call's terms (EUnita interpretation) | Challenge |
|---|---|---|
| **Start-ups and social enterprises** | A small experiment or prototype for a sustainable blue-economy activity (for example in fishing or tourism) | 3 Other measures |

### A note for applicants outside Slovenia

A Romanian organisation or individual meets the location rule for applicants, but the project still has to be in the Slovenian territorial sea and coast or contribute to addressing challenges there. The Q&A accepts a registered office away from the coast (an association in Ljubljana) and activities partly in the hinterland, provided the application explains the contribution. The documents do not describe the case of an applicant in another country or say whether a partner must be in the countries allowed for applicants. EUnita interpretation: the most credible projects from outside Slovenia add knowledge, a method or a monitoring tool for the Slovenian sea, with a local partner or site, and plan travel costs (budget line C.1) and the language of the application from the start.

## 8. Eligibility checklist

Marks: ✓ a condition to meet; ✗ a bar; ? an open point in the documents.

| | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | A legal entity with its registered office or business address in an EU Member State, an EU overseas country or territory, or a Horizon Europe associated country; or an adult natural person with permanent residence in an EU Member State (Guidelines p. 4). A sole trader or other registered business applies as a legal entity (Q&A p. 10) |
| ✓ | The activities are implemented in the Slovenian territorial sea, including the coast, or contribute to addressing challenges in this area (Guidelines p. 4) |
| ✓ | The project addresses one or more of the three challenges (Guidelines pp. 3-4) |
| ✓ | Only one application by this person or organisation, as applicant or as partner (Guidelines p. 4) |
| ✓ | No funding of the project, or any part of it, from other European, national or local public sources; the declaration in Section B is signed (Guidelines p. 4; form) |
| ✓ | Links with RISTANC consortium partners (personal, professional, economic or other) are disclosed in Section B (Q&A pp. 4-5) |
| ✓ | Duration of 6 to 12 months, starting at signature (earliest start 1 January 2027) and completed by 28 February 2028 (Guidelines p. 6) |
| ✓ | Support requested between EUR 7,500 and EUR 12,000, with the budget built on the form's lines (Guidelines pp. 6-8) |
| ✓ | Form signed by the legal representative, an authorised person or the natural person; annexes in PDF; Slovenian or English; sent by e-mail before 23:59 CET on 28 November 2026 (Guidelines p. 8) |
| ✓ | Agreement to the Ethical Protocol, the informed-consent form and participation in the RISTANC research process (Guidelines p. 5) |
| ✓ | Taxes and, where relevant, social security contributions settled before signing; checked by the organiser (Guidelines p. 4) |
| ✗ | RISTANC consortium partners, as legal entities or natural persons (Guidelines p. 4): ZRS Koper, the University of Nova Gorica, Central European University, Stockholm University, PiNA, the YouSea Institute and the municipalities of Piran, Izola, Koper and Ankaran (slides p. 3; Q&A p. 12) |
| ✗ | Natural persons without permanent residence in an EU Member State; legal entities outside the countries listed (Guidelines p. 4; Q&A pp. 7, 10) |
| ? | Whether a partner must meet the location rule of the applicant: not stated |
| ? | Whether the Slovenian Water Agency, listed as an associated partner of RISTANC, counts as a "consortium partner": not stated |

| | |
|---|---|
| ? | Where exactly the Slovenian territorial sea and coast end for a given site: defined by the Maritime Spatial Plan, which is not part of the call documents |

# 9. How the money works

## Form and size of the grant

- A lump sum: a flat-rate contribution paid on the basis of results achieved or activities carried out, not on proof of actual costs (Guidelines pp. 6, 8).
- Up to 100% of the project's total costs, not above EUR 12,000 per project (Guidelines p. 6). The documents require no co-financing. The total value of a project may exceed the funding requested, with the other sources shown on the line "INCOME (I)" of the financial plan (Q&A p. 9; form); European, national or local public funding of the project is excluded (Guidelines p. 4).

## Payments

| Instalment | Share | Trigger (Guidelines pp. 10-11) | Derived estimate for EUR 12,000 / EUR 7,500 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Advance** | 20% | On signing the agreement | EUR 2,400 / EUR 1,500 |
| **Interim** | 30% | After approval of interim results and/or milestones set in the agreement | EUR 3,600 / EUR 2,250 |
| **Final** | 50% | After approval of the final results, including the final technical report and all required supporting documents | EUR 6,000 / EUR 3,750 |

If the results or milestones linked to an instalment are only partly achieved, the instalment may be reduced accordingly (Guidelines p. 11). Payments follow Horizon Europe rules, national law and the funding agreement, whose template is not published.

## What the lump sum covers

Costs directly linked to the project and necessary for its objectives (Guidelines p. 7). The financial plan of the form has these lines:

| Line | Content |
|---|---|
| **A.1 Employees (or equivalent staff)** | People directly involved, with an estimated scope of work and a unit cost; for up to 12 months |
| **A.2 and A.3 Natural persons** | Sole traders, copyright or service contracts; the own work of SME owners and natural persons as recipients, as a total cost with all taxes and contributions |
| **B.1 Direct costs of subcontractors** | External services (diving, engineering, impact assessments); student work through a student service |
| **C.1 to C.6 Direct purchase costs** | Travel and subsistence; equipment; consumables; meetings and seminars; communication; other (postage, translations) |
| **E. Indirect costs** | 25% of (A + C) as a flat rate; not charged on B |
| **I. Income; II. Funding requested** | Other income and sources, including revenue from sales of items produced with the support, used for project activities; the lump sum asked for, at most EUR 12,000 |

**Derived estimate: how the maximum works (EUnita's own examples, not figures from the call)**

- With no subcontracting, A + C of EUR 9,600 plus 25% indirect costs (EUR 2,400) gives total costs of EUR 12,000, which the maximum support of EUR 12,000 covers in full.
- Subcontracting (B) carries no indirect costs: with B of EUR 2,000 and A + C of EUR 8,000, indirect costs are EUR 2,000 and total costs again EUR 12,000.

### Further money rules and obligations after the award

- The maximum of EUR 12,000 includes all associated taxes and contributions; payments to a natural person follow Slovenian tax legislation (Q&A p. 2), and how this applies to a person resident elsewhere is not published. Work paid from a regular public salary cannot also be claimed (Q&A pp. 5-6). Equipment bought with the funding stays the property of the recipient (Q&A p. 8).
- An interim report (activities and milestones), a final report (implementation, results, impact) and evidence such as reports, photographs, workshop documentation and prototypes, sent by e-mail on the dates in the agreement; no accounting documents. Requested amendments are due within five working days (Guidelines pp. 6, 11).
- The RISTANC logo, the "Funded by the European Union" logo and a disclaimer on all materials; a field visit with photography and filming, or audio-visual material supplied by the recipient; access for monitoring, audits and verifications (Guidelines pp. 12-13). Intellectual property stays with the applicant or author; the organiser receives a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual worldwide licence for non-commercial project purposes (pp. 13-14).

## 10. Evaluation

### Procedure

1. Formal check of timeliness and completeness. If Section A or B (not C) is formally incomplete, the commission may ask once for a supplement, due within five working days, which must not change the content, the amount or the evaluation; otherwise the application is rejected (Guidelines p. 9).
2. Expert evaluation by a five-member commission on the published criteria. Each member signs a conflict-of-interest declaration; a member with an actual or perceived conflict does not assess, discuss or rank that application (Guidelines p. 10). The members and the appointing body are not named.
3. Priority list by total score; at least 55 points are needed. Ties are broken by the score under criterion 1, then under criterion 4 (Guidelines p. 10).
4. Oral presentation of the highest-rated applicants, in person or remotely; no new content and no increase of the requested amount (Guidelines p. 10).
5. Selection: written notice and written acceptance (dates in section 11); funding follows the ranking until the money is used up (Guidelines pp. 7, 10).

### Criteria and points

| No. | Criterion | Maximum | Points by level: None / Low / Medium-low / Medium / Medium-high / High |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Consistency with the challenges in point 1.1 of the Guidelines; clarity and appropriateness of the main objective; approach for monitoring its achievement | 20 | 0 / 4 / 8 / 12 / 16 / 20 |
| 2 | Quality and feasibility of the implementation plan and timeline | 20 | 0 / 4 / 8 / 12 / 16 / 20 |

| No. | Criterion | Maximum | Points by level: None / Low / Medium-low / Medium / Medium-high / High |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Degree of innovation and originality of the project idea | 10 | 0 / 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 / 10 |
| 4 | Expected impact of the project, including the impact on target groups | 20 | 0 / 4 / 8 / 12 / 16 / 20 |
| 5 | Sustainability plan for results | 10 | 0 / 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 / 10 |
| 6 | Competencies and experience of the applicant in relation to the project and the call | 10 | 0 / 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 / 10 |
| 7 | Cost-effectiveness of the budget | 10 | 0 / 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 / 10 |

**Derived estimate: what 55 points looks like**

- Medium on all seven criteria gives 12 + 12 + 6 + 12 + 6 + 6 + 6 = 60 points, above the threshold; medium-low on all seven gives 8 + 8 + 4 + 8 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 40 points, below it.
- The threshold is on the total score; no minimum per criterion is stated. Criteria 1, 2 and 4 carry 60 of the 100 points.

### Legal protection

No appeal is possible against the commission's substantive decision, assessment or evaluation. An objection can be lodged only for suspected procedural errors, within 8 days of the notice of the outcome; the head of the procedure decides within 15 days, and if the objection is upheld the application returns to the commission (Guidelines p. 15).

## 11. Application package and timeline

### What to send

- An e-mail to ristanc-funding@zrs-kp.si with all attachments in PDF, in Slovenian or English; no limit on the number or size of attachments is stated. Subject: "RISTANC – application for the call [name of applicant]". An application is timely if the e-mail is sent by the deadline (Guidelines p. 8).
- The completed and signed application form: Section A 1 (legal entity) or A 2 (natural person) and A 3 contact person; Section B (conflict-of-interest disclosure, acknowledgement of the ethical aspects, double-funding declaration); Section C (title, duration and seven parts: relevance, objectives, implementation plan, innovation, impact, sustainability, competencies and experience); the financial plan; the statement of accuracy; the GDPR acknowledgement.
- Annexes ticked in the form: a register extract ("AJPES extract or other competent register extract") for legal entities; articles of association or a founding document where relevant; a power of attorney if someone other than the legal representative signs; other documents if needed.
- Signature by the legal representative or an authorised person, or by the natural person; handwritten or digital.

The Guidelines and the form state no page or character limit; the form says to complete the sections "concisely and clearly" and asks how many people in each target group the project will reach.

**Practical points from the call page and the Q&A**

- Use the current forms (version 2 of 28 September 2026). An earlier submission on the first form remains valid; it may be replaced before the deadline, and then only the latest version counts.
- The organiser confirms every application in writing. After the global e-mail outage of 13 November 2026, the organiser did not receive e-mails sent that day and asked applicants without a confirmation to re-send (notice of 16 November 2026 on the project site). The documents do not say what happens to an e-mail that was sent in time but did not arrive.
- The Q&A is part of the call documentation (Guidelines p. 9).

### Timeline

| Date | Step | Source |
|---|---|---|
| **31 October 2026** | Last day for questions to the organiser | Guidelines p. 9 |
| **28 November 2026, 23:59 CET** | Application deadline, by e-mail (00:59 on 29 November in Romania) | Guidelines pp. 6, 8 |
| **29 November to 14 December 2026** | Evaluation period | Guidelines p. 6 |
| **10 December 2026 (expected)** | Oral presentations of the highest-rated applicants | Guidelines p. 10 |
| **By 15 December 2026** | Applicants notified; final selection published | Guidelines pp. 6, 10 |
| **Within 10 days of the notice** | Written acceptance of the funding | Guidelines p. 10 |
| **15 to 21 December 2026** | Signature of the funding agreement | Guidelines p. 6 |
| **1 January 2027** | Earliest possible start of the project | Guidelines p. 6 |
| **28 February 2028** | Latest possible end of the project | Guidelines p. 6 |
| **30 days after the end of the project** | Final project report | Guidelines p. 6 |

The dates for evaluation, selection and signature are planned dates set by the organiser. A next round: not published.

## 12. Risks and red flags

| Risk | What the documents show | What to do (EUnita interpretation) |
|---|---|---|
| **The Slovenian-sea link** | Activities must be in the Slovenian territorial sea and coast or contribute to addressing challenges there; the Maritime Spatial Plan that defines the area is not in the call documents | State the link in Section C, in the first lines of the project relevance |
| **Little time, e-mail only** | Deadline Saturday 28 November 2026, 23:59 CET; no platform; the question window closed on 31 October; the organiser did not receive e-mails sent on 13 November 2026 | Send before the last evening; keep the written confirmation; re-send if none arrives |
| **Other public funding** | Excluded for the project and any part of it; the documents do not say how the rule applies to a public body's general funding | Do not claim work already paid from a regular salary or other public funds (Q&A pp. 5-6) |

| Risk | What the documents show | What to do (EUnita interpretation) |
|---|---|---|
| **Payment on results; a smaller award** | 20% on signing, 30% after interim results, 50% after final results; an instalment may be reduced if results are only partly achieved; the commission may cut items that are clearly excessive; the last project may receive less than the minimum; no appeal on the merits | Plan the cash flow around the three instalments; justify each budget line |
| **Obligations beyond the money** | Ethical Protocol, informed consent, participation in the RISTANC research, field visit with filming, logos, open access, licence to the organiser (sections 3 and 9) | Read the Ethical aspects before writing the plan |
| **Tax and law** | Tax and social contributions settled before signing; payments to natural persons follow Slovenian tax legislation; the agreement template and its governing law are not published | Check your own tax position early |
| **Tight dates after the deadline** | Evaluation from 29 November, oral presentations expected on 10 December, results by 15 December, signature from 15 December; start at signature but not before 1 January 2027, with no rule for the days in between | Keep early and mid-December free; ask at signature what applies before 1 January 2027 |
| **A single call** | The organiser may re-publish the call if funds are not fully used (Guidelines p. 7) and repeat and adapt it if no project reaches the threshold or is selected (p. 10); no next round is announced | Treat this as the only round |

**Red flags**

- A project wholly outside the Slovenian sea area with no stated link to it.
- A budget with co-funding from a national, regional or local public body, or from another EU programme.
- An application by a RISTANC consortium partner or a body acting on behalf of the four coastal municipalities.
- A person without permanent residence in an EU Member State applying as a natural person; the same applicant in two applications.

## 13. EUnita recommendations

1. Decide at once whether the project has a real Slovenian-sea link. If it has, write that link into the opening of Section C, name the challenge it serves (moorings, coastal zone or other measures) and say how success will be measured: criterion 1 carries 20 points and decides ties first.
2. Check the double-funding rule against your own sources of money before you sign the declaration in Section B.
3. Build the budget on the form's lines, with A + C carrying the 25% indirect costs and B none, at or below EUR 12,000 in total. Explain every line: criterion 7 and the commission's right to cut items depend on it.
4. Write Section C in the order of the criteria and give numbers: the people reached in each target group (criterion 4), the dates of each activity (criterion 2), and who uses the results afterwards (criterion 5).
5. Show your experience and that of any partner and say who does what (criterion 6); the consortium does not supply experts for the projects (Q&A p. 3).

6. Send the signed PDF package early: 28 November 2026 is a Saturday, 23:59 CET is 00:59 on 29 November in Romania, and the organiser's mailbox missed e-mails on 13 November 2026. Keep the written confirmation.
7. Keep the days around 10 December 2026 free for a possible oral presentation, and be ready to accept in writing within 10 days of the notice.
8. Plan 6 to 12 months that end by 28 February 2028, starting at signature and not before 1 January 2027.

**Unresolved points**

- No next round, dates or budget are published; no number of applications and no earlier award list.
- The funding agreement template, its governing law and the exact milestone conditions of the instalments are not published.
- The Maritime Spatial Plan that defines the Slovenian territorial sea and coast is not part of the call documents.
- Whether a partner must be located in the countries allowed for applicants, and whether the Slovenian Water Agency counts as a consortium partner, are not stated.
- Which days between signature (15 to 21 December 2026) and 1 January 2027 count for the project is not stated.
- The tax treatment of a grant paid outside Slovenia, VAT, and state aid or de minimis treatment are not stated.
- How the rule on other public funding applies to the general funding of a public body, school or research organisation is not stated.
- What happens to an e-mail that was sent in time but did not arrive is not stated.
- The members of the evaluation commission and the body that appoints them are not named; the list of Horizon Europe associated countries is not given in the call documents.

## Sources

- Guidelines for applicants (English, file "v5"): https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202610/01callguidelinesforapplicantsristancv5.pdf (16 pages)
- Navodila za prijavitelje (Guidelines, Slovenian): https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202609/01navodila-za-prijaviteljeristancv5.pdf (15 pages)
- Application form (Word, English): https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202610/02applicationformristancv5.docx
- Evaluation criteria: https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202609/03evaluationcriteriaristancv5.pdf (3 pages)
- Ethical aspects: https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202609/04ethical-aspectsristancv5.pdf (5 pages)
- Questions and answers, English translation (updated 5 Nov 2026): https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202611/qa-ristancen-gbv3.pdf (12 pages; the Slovenian version prevails)
- Pogosta vprasanja (Questions and answers, Slovenian): https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202611/qa-ristancv3.pdf (11 pages)
- Information-seminar slides, 6 October 2026: https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202610/ristancinfodaysmallprojectsen.pdf (21 pages)
- First version of the Guidelines, 15 September 2026 (replaced): https://www.ristanc.eu/storage/doc/202609/01ristanccallguidelinesforapplicantsversion-1-15-september-2026-replaced.pdf
- RISTANC call page (English): https://www.ristanc.eu/en/ristanc-call
- RISTANC call page (Slovenian): https://www.ristanc.eu/sl/poziv-ristanc
- Notice on the e-mail outage of 13 November 2026: https://www.ristanc.eu/en/news/ristanc-call-technical-issue-with-friday-s-applications
- EU Funding & Tenders Portal: call page (competitive call 15882): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls-cs/15882
- EU Funding & Tenders Portal: topic data file HORIZON-MISS-2024-CROSS-02-01: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/data/topicDetails/horizon-miss-2024-cross-02-01.json
- Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025, part 12: Missions and Cross-cutting Activities: 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: RISTANC, GA 101217089: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101217089
- ZRS Koper: RISTANC project page: https://www.zrs-kp.si/en/projects/international-projects/ristanc-2/

Checked 19 November 2026. Official updates prevail.