



Open Call for Associated Regions

Press Release II _ January 2025

European Commission-funded project **ProCleanLakes** - Integrated emerging approaches for joint protection and restoration of Natural Lakes in the spirit of European life heritage support- **launched** on the 1st of January 2025 **Open Call for Associated Regions.**

The **ProCleanLakes Open Call aims** to select three to five associated regions that will receive **financial support up to €100.000 each** in the form of a grant to **develop roadmaps for the implementation of nature-based solutions for remediation and protection of natural lakes**. Associated regions are expected to have access to a natural lake with similar problems (e.g. pollution, decreasing biodiversity etc.) with the ProCleanLakes Demonstration sites to be able to adopt and replicate solutions developed in ProCleanLakes.

The goal of the ProCleanLakes Call for Associated Regions is to **showcase** the feasibility, replicability and scalability of the solutions developed within the ProCleanLakes project, in other areas (Associated regions ProCleanLakes will **provide scientific and technical advisory support to 3-5 Associated regions** conducting training and field workshops for the direct transfer/ exchange and experience between ProCleanLakes demonstration sites and replication sites.



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Associated regions are expected to team-up with the ProCleanLakes partners to adopt the project's outcomes and knowledge and integrate them in a Roadmap for restoration and protection of ENL located in the replication sites, which will be integrated in the pan-European Action Plan for remediation and protection of ENL.

Who can apply?

Local and regional authorities responsible for managing, regulation or overseeing water resources, including lakes and lake catchments from EU member states and Horizon Europe associated countries except Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Greece, Germany, France, Italy, Norway, Romania and Spain.

Local and regional authorities can apply as a single entity or build up a partnership of more partners. Other entities, such as academia, business etc., could be eventually a subcontractor under the leadership of a local or regional authority. Please note, that max. 60% of the grant can be subcontracted.

Full call text and the Application and Budget forms can be downloaded from the ProCleanLakes website: <https://procleanlakes.eu/procleanlakes-open-call/> Proposals must be sent **before the deadline of March 31, 2025 (5 PM CET)** per e-mail to rodiefros@aua.gr and anca.stoica@boku.ac.at .

ProCleanLakes is organizing an **informative webinar** on applying for the Open Call **on January 30, 2025, at 11 AM CET**. This session is designed to offer key insights, address your questions, and guide you in preparing a strong application. We are confident that this webinar will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the application process and significantly enhance your chances of success.

Please **subscribe here** (<https://procleanlakes.eu/newsletter-sign-up/>) to be the first to receive the updated information.



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About us:

ProCleanLakes puts together a unique consortium with 18 partners, including 12 academic and research institutions, 1 public authority, 1 NGO, and 4 service providers companies from 11 countries. The project will design and demonstrate in 3 demonstration sites and 3 monitoring sites the feasibility of integrated nature-based emerging approaches for joint protection and restoration of European Natural Lakes (ENL) and their biodiversity, considering scenarios which imply the presence of various pressures that affect the aquatic ecosystems' status.

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