Call for Expressions of Interest and Application Form: Access2Sea pilot project

Access2Sea <http://www.access2sea.eu> is a European project funded by Interreg. A key objective of Access2Sea is to facilitate the sustainable development of small and medium sized companies in the aquaculture sector in the Atlantic Area.

The project is administered through Údarás na Gaeltachta and WestBIC in Ireland along with international partners on the west coast of Europe, the Atlantic Area: France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, UK.

Aquaculture, the farming of shellfish, such as mussels and oysters, seaweeds and fish such as salmon, is one of the most important sectors of the Blue Economy of the Atlantic Area dependent on important traditions in many EU countries and is relevant to virtually every coastal area.

A pilot scheme with a budget of up to € 40,000 (equipment or equivalent) lasting up to a period of six months to be completed in the Gaeltacht is an important part of the implementation of this project. The aim of this pilot scheme is to support producers in the aquaculture sector to add value to their products with the help of innovation, especially those that contribute to sustainability.

Expressions of interest containing elements of cold storage, algae drying and ice facilities as well as other innovative technologies will be welcomed.

To this end, Údarás na Gaeltachta is seeking expressions of interest from companies, community groups / co-operatives or groups of producers in the Gaeltacht who are interested in implementing a pilot project to add value to their seafood products. Údarás na Gaeltachta will support the planning and establishment of the project and the successful applicant will be responsible for the administration of the project.

**Completion Guidance Notes:**

* Please complete this form in full and submit before the **7th July, 2021, 4pm**.

The completed form should be returned to:

***Clár Access2Sea***

***Údarás na Gaeltachta***

***Na Forbacha***

***Co. na Gaillimhe H91 TY22***

or can be submitted by e-mail to: [marcus@udaras.ie](mailto:marcus@udaras.ie)

* If you require assistance in completing this form please contact Marcus Ó Conaire, Project Officer Access2Sea, Údarás na Gaeltachta at 087-2547792

The Expressions of Interest will be evaluated based on the criteria set out in Appendix 1 below.

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| **GENERAL INFORMATION**  **All Fields are mandatory and must be completed.** | |
| **Title of Project:** |  |
| **Promoter Name:** |  |
| **Postal Address:** |  |
| **Main Contact Person:** |  |
| **Telephone No:** |  |
| **E-mail Address:** |  |
| Promoter Type: | | **Classification of Promoter:** *Tick appropriate box*  Sole Trader  Community/Voluntary group  Companies Limited by Guarantee  Designated Activity Company Limited  by Shares  Registered Charity  Cooperative society registered under the Industrial & Provident  Societies Act  Trust  Partnership  Limited Company  Private Individual  Other [Please specify] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \* Upon successful awarding of the pilot project the following criteria will apply: If promoter is a Limited Company, please forward a copy of its Memorandum & Articles of Association. If a Community / Voluntary group / Community Council please forward a copy of the Group’s Constitution. If a Partnership, please forward a copy of the Partnership Agreement. If a Registered Charity or a Trust, please forward documentary evidence of registration from the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA). If a Cooperative Society please forward documentary evidence of registration from The Registrar of Friendly Societies.  We are in posession of an aquaculture license, number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Species included in the license: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  A representative will be available for training sessions as part of the Access2Sea pilot project |

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| **Briefly describe the proposed project, including the methodolgy, demonstrating the ways in which the project is contributing to Access2Sea’s stated goals** [**http://access2sea.eu**](http://access2sea.eu)**, e.g. increasing business opportunities in the blue economy, innovation helping sustainability / value, renewable energy, community support**  Use extra sheet if necessary & attach it to the form |
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| Briefly describe the activities of your business or group that are relevant to this proposal |  |
| Describe the proposed project site and explain why this site is suitable for the proposal |  |
| Describe how the project involves elements of renewable energy or smart technology? |  |
| How will this proposal support commercial development opportunities in your area? |  |
| How will this proposal support sustainable aquaculture activities? |  |
| What is innovative about the proposal? |  |

**Signed for and on behalf of the Promoter:**

I/We confirm that the details supplied are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (Block Capitals)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(Block Capitals)

*Note: Application forms from community groups and companies should be signed by the Chairperson and one other director/ member. Joint applications should be signed by both parties*.

Part or all of the information you provide will be held on computer and hard copy format. This information will be used for the administration of Expression of Interest and producing monitoring returns. It may also be subject to meeting obligations under the Freedom of Information Act as amended. This policy does not affect your rights and your information will be held as prescribed under the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003.

**Evaluation Process**

The Expressions of Interest will be evaluated againts the criteria set out below.

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| **Evaluation Criteria** | **Weighting** |
| Objective of the Pilot Project  Overall standard of the application, including innovation, renewable energy/smart technology and overall objectives of the pilot project.  Promoting Access2Sea’s objectives  The extent to which the proposal furthers the objectives of Access2Sea, with specific emphasis on transferability and scalability of the project.  Methodology  This will include an implementation strategy along with a timescale and risk analysis. | 45%  35%  20%  **100%** |
| **Total** |  |
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**DATA PROTECTION ACT CONSENT FORM**

Údarás na Gaeltachta are required to collect information on individuals and community groups whom we assist. Data collected will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003.

As soon as you contact Údarás na Gaeltachta a record is created in your name for the information you provide. The information will be stored by An tÚdarás where relevant in paper/electronic form. Information that we then collect including information that you give us is added to the record.

You have the right, given by the Data Protection Act of 1988 and 2003 to a copy of your information at any time. We charge a fee of €6.35 for each request. You should address your request to: Údarás na Gaeltachta, Na Forbarcha, Co. na Gaillimhe H94 TY22. The information we record is used only for the following purposes:

• Processing of applications

• Auditing of applications (Article 48 check)

• Compiling statistical information to help us plan and improve our services

• Analysing information about applicants for other bodies such as various Government Departments

• Producing our own statistics for publication

• Publication of promoter and project details (including photography) for publicity and promotional purposes.

Personal information about you will be disclosed only in accordance with LAG registration under the Data Protection Act. The purpose for which we hold information and the people to whom we may disclose it are listed in the Register of Data Controllers. This is a public register kept by the Office of the Data Commissioner at the Irish Life Building, Talbot Street, Dublin 1. (Phone 01- 874 8544), and you may inspect it free of charge. Other information supplied and collected may also be disclosed to people and bodies from time to time. On request you can receive a list of disclosures.

**DECLARATION**

I have read and understand the above statement and give consent to Údarás na Gaeltachta for the use and disclosure of data and information as outlined above.

Promoter Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **De Minimis support** | **De Minimis Declaration - State support already received (if applicable)**  Has the business already received any support or any of its promoters from the State or the European Union through any other agency?   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Yes | No |   If the answer is "Yes" above, then you must provide details here, including the date, amount, and purpose of the supports: If the answer you gave above is “Yes”, then you must provide details here, including the date, amount, and purpose of the supports.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | De Minimis Aid for the last three years | Agency | Amount € | Date | | Type of assistance approved (for example, training / innovation voucher / seed capital / feasibility / capital / employment / Online Trading Voucher / Best Young Entrepreneur in Ireland / investment or other grants) |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | | **Total amount €** |  |  |  |   Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_    Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  De Minimis Aid is a limited amount of State aid to a certain body, which may not exceed a limit of €30,000 within three fiscal years in the Aquaculture sector, regardless of the volume or location of the body. De Minimis Aid may come from any institution or agency or Department of State. If the company is part of a group, the € 30,000 limit applies to the group. It must be noted that if a figure below € 30,000 is inaccurately shown, you may be liable to repay the grant with interest on top of it. |

**Not in Financial Difficulty declaration**

I, the undersigned, who is duly authorised by the above mentioned company, declare a)That the above company is not an ”undertaking in difficulty” as defined in ‘undertaking in difficulty’ in article 2, no. 18 i COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014[[1]](#footnote-2)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. 18) undertaking in difficulty means an undertaking in respect of which at least one of the following circumstances occurs, <https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/>:

   1. In the case of a [limited liability company](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#18-a) (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years or, for the purposes of eligibility for risk finance [aid](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#1), an SME within 7 years from its [first commercial sale](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#75) that qualifies for [risk finance investments](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#71) following due diligence by the selected [financial intermediary](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#34)), where more than half of its subscribed [share capital](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#18-a) has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. This is the case when deduction of accumulated losses from reserves (and all other elements generally considered as part of the own funds of the company) leads to a negative cumulative amount that exceeds half of the subscribed [share capital](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#18-a). For the purposes of this provision, limited liability company refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex [I](https://lexparency.org/eu/32013L0034/ANX_I/) of Directive [2013/34/EU](https://lexparency.org/eu/32013L0034/)[(2)](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#note_2) and share capital includes, where relevant, any share premium.[¶](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#18-a)
   2. In the case of [a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#18-b) (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years or, for the purposes of eligibility for risk finance [aid](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#1), an SME within 7 years from its [first commercial sale](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#75) that qualifies for [risk finance investments](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#71) following due diligence by the selected [financial intermediary](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#34)), where more than half of its capital as shown in the company accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. For the purposes of this provision, a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex [II](https://lexparency.org/eu/32013L0034/ANX_II/) of Directive [2013/34/EU](https://lexparency.org/eu/32013L0034/).
   3. Where the undertaking is subject to collective insolvency proceedings or fulfils the criteria under its domestic law for being placed in collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors.
   4. Where the undertaking has received rescue [aid](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#1) and has not yet reimbursed the [loan](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#82) or terminated the [guarantee](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#67), or has received restructuring [aid](https://lexparency.org/eu/32014R0651/ART_2/#1) and is still subject to a restructuring plan.
   5. In the case of an undertaking that is not an SME, where, for the past two years:
      1. the undertaking's book debt to equity ratio has been greater than 7,5 and
      2. the undertaking's EBITDA interest coverage ratio has been below 1,0.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-2)