

I3-4-Seaweed Open Call | Info Webinar

Investing in Seaweed Innovation across Europe

Online Event, 27th of August 2025 - 11 am Brussels time



Session starts soon



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Recorded session

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Investing in Seaweed Innovation across Europe

Online Event, 27th of August 2025 - 11 am Brussels time

Speakers:

- Daniel Silva (F6S)
- Oriane Georges (F6S)
- Rafael Robaina (ULPGC)
- Lais Speranza (GCL)



Recorded session

Agenda

- **Welcome message**
- **I3-4-SEAWEED Project**
- **I3-4 SEAWEED Open Call**
- **Q&A session**
- **End of session**



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I3-4-SEAWEED Project



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I3-4-SEAWEED

Investing in seaweed innovation across Europe

- *Develop the value chain for seaweed, promoting the progress of coastal and maritime areas of different European regions.*
- *New seaweed cultivation techniques and algal biotechnological application in the food, biofertilizers/biostimulants and cosmetics industries.*

Project info:

Call: I3-2023-INV1

Project number: 101161142

Project name: Interregional innovation investments for the piloting, demonstration and scale-up of innovative seaweed/algae-based solutions and ecosystem building.

Total budget: 8.99 million € (6.83 million € from EU)

FSTP budget: 1.8 million €

Duration: 36 months (Sept 24 – August 27)

Consortium: 16 partners from PT, ES, BE, DE, NL, IE

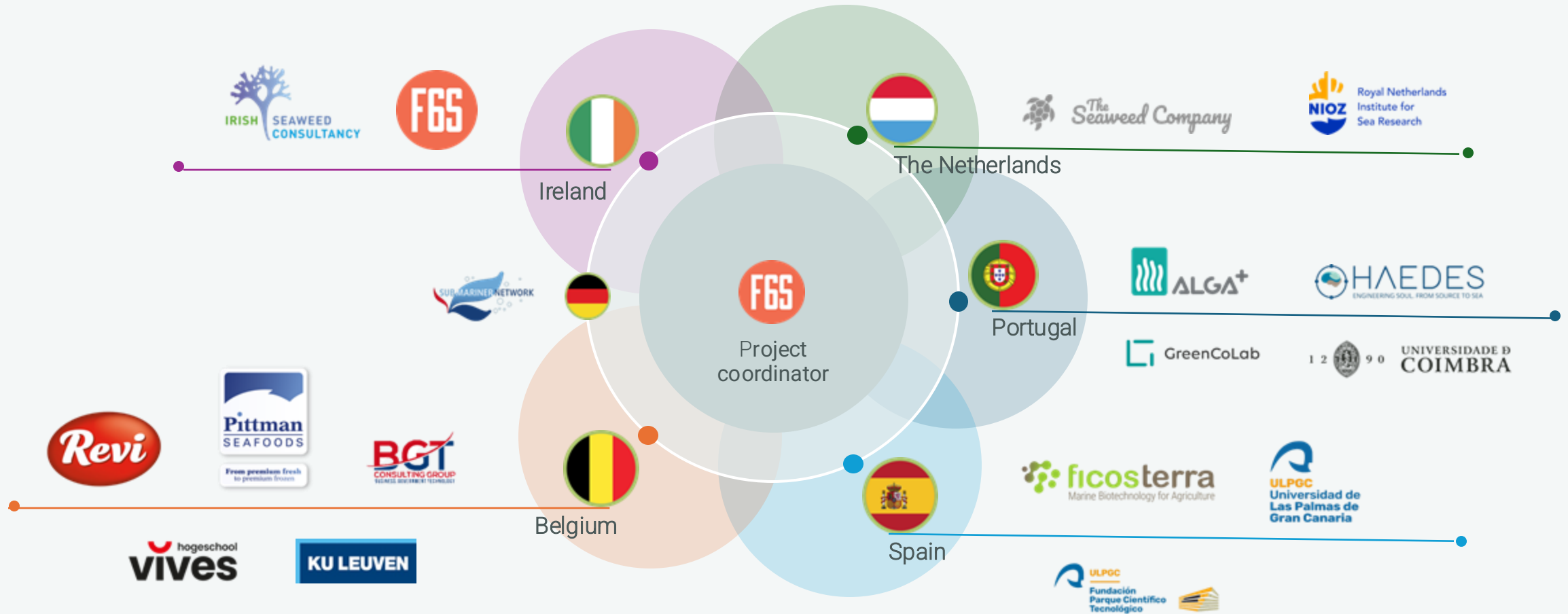
Project Coordinator: F6S



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I3-4-SEAWEED consortium



I3-4-SEAWEED vision

- New and innovative seaweed-based products and applications:
 - Seaweed cultivation techniques
 - Food (*frozen, dried and meat products*)
 - Biofertilizers/biostimulants
 - Cosmetics
- Sustainable regional growth reducing the environmental impact
- New jobs to coastal areas in different EU regions



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I3-4-SEAWEED Open Call

Funding opportunity – Strand A & Strand B



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Open Call #1 - Overview

The I3-4-SEAWEED Open Call is a competitive process where eligible applicants can apply for a spot in the 12-month program. The programme is divided into two parallel components: a Project Implementation Framework and a compulsory Capacity Building Programme.

- **Project Duration:** 12 months (February 2026 – January 2027)
- **Number of Projects to be supported:** 30
- **Budget per project:** €60,000
- **Applications are accepted from:** August 20, 2025 to October 22, 2025, at 17:00 CEST (Brussels time)



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– Important links

I3-4-SEAWEED all information is found on our website – Open Call page : <https://i3-4-seaweed.eu/open-call/>

Call documentation kit can be consulted at <https://i3-4-seaweed.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/I3-4-SEAWEED-OC1-Final-Documents.zip>

Relevant files for the Submission Stage:

- Annex 1. [Guidelines for Applicants](#)
- Annex 2. [Technical Proposal](#)
- Annex 8. Application Form (read only)

Files to be submitted during the Contracting Stage:

- Annex 3. Sub-grant agreement template
- Annex 4. Declaration of Honour
- Annex 5. Consortium Declaration of Honour (if applicable)
- Annex 6. Declaration of SME status
- Annex 7. Financial Information Form



Applications are only accepted through the F6S platform

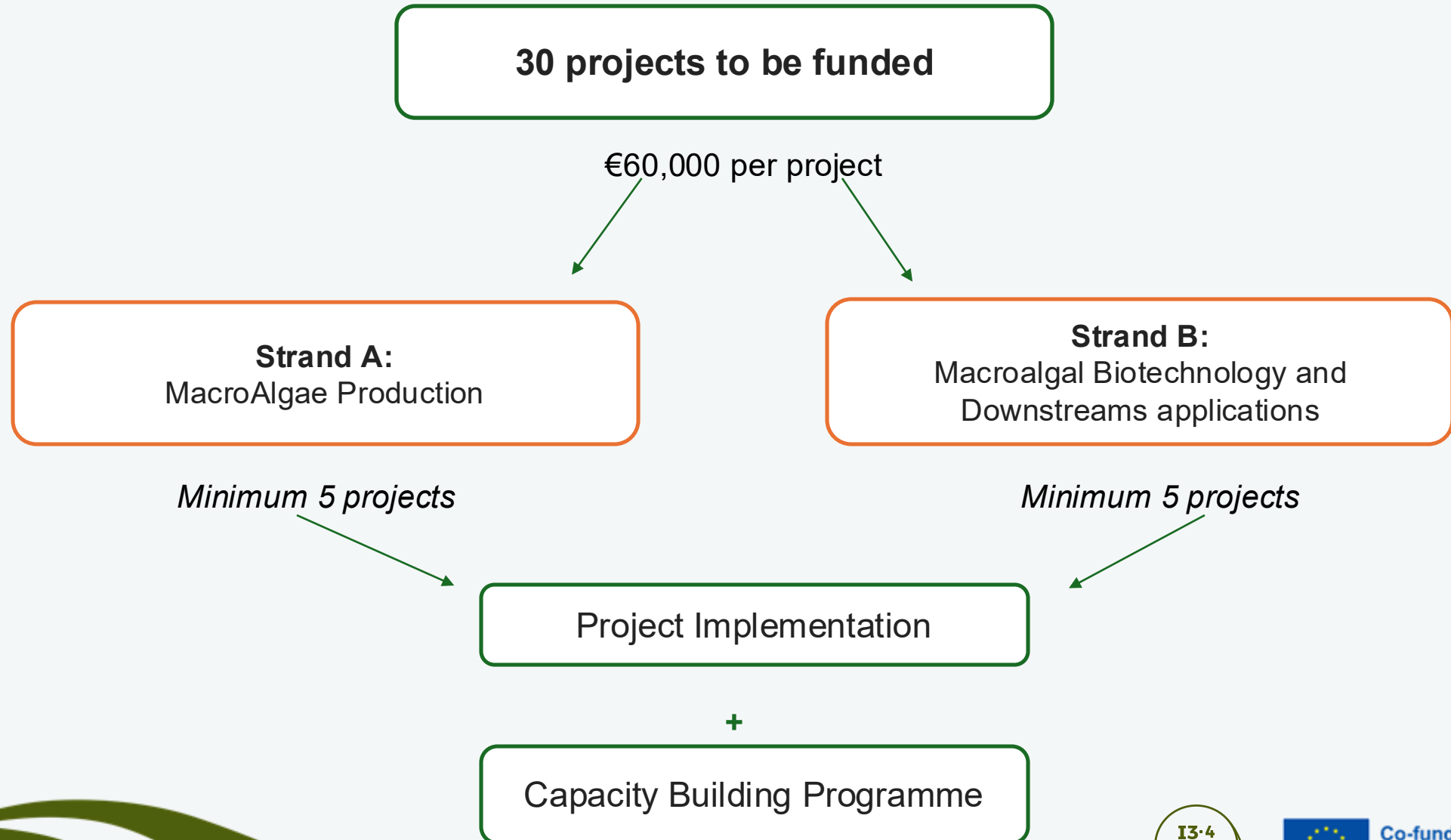
Apply to Strand A: MacroAlgae Production
<https://www.f6s.com/i3-4-seaweed-strand-a>

Apply to Strand B: Macroalgal Biotechnology and Downstreams applications
<https://www.f6s.com/i3-4-seaweed-strand-b>



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I3=4-SEAWEED Funding Programme



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Eligibility:

- **Applicant Type** : Legal SME entity or a consortium of up to two legal SME entities. Unincorporated startups are not eligible
- **VAT Number**: A valid VAT number is required
- **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)**:
 - Projects must have a minimum TRL 6. The goal is to demonstrate, scale, and commercialize solutions
- **Geographical Eligibility**: Legal entities established in any of the following regions:
 - Entities established in the regions covered by I3-4-SEAWEED consortium members.
 - Entities established in European less developed regions.
 - Entities established in European outermost regions.
 - The full list of eligible regions is available in the [Guide of Applicants](#) (Section 9)
- **Multiple submissions**: A single applicant can apply to both Strand A and Strand B, but only one application per strand will be considered. If an entity is part of multiple proposals, only the highest-ranked one will be eligible for funding



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Strand A - MacroAlgae Production

- **Algae cultivation, applications & process optimisation** – Sustainable systems for increased yield, resilience, and value chain efficiency.
- **Species selection** – Based on biological performance and legal suitability for key markets (food, cosmetics, biostimulants/biofertilizers).
- **Molecular characterisation** – Tools for ensuring genotypic purity of cultivated strains.
- **Production system development** – Innovation in onshore/offshore cultivation and hatchery techniques.
- **Post-harvest processing & quality control** – Stabilisation methods and protocols ensuring traceability and safety.
- **Hatchery & seeding innovations** – Efficient, scalable early-stage production systems.
- **Sustainability & biodiversity** – Integration of IMTA and biodiversity-enhancing approaches.
- **Digital monitoring tools** – Sensor technologies for hatchery/offshore system control
- **Site selection tools** – Frameworks for choosing optimal cultivation sites

Strand B - Macroalgal Biotechnology and Downstreams applications

- Support to analyse the (bio)-chemical properties of algal biomasses and ingredients/fractions (e.g. biochemical composition, biochemical profiling, bioactivities analyses);
- Biorefinery platform services to fractionate algal biomass into different streams and processing of extracts for biomass valorization;
- Scaling up of seaweeds product production processes;
- Development of (food, feed, cosmetics, agricultural) products with seaweed as full biomass
- Application and improvement of procedures for the use of seaweeds in the industry

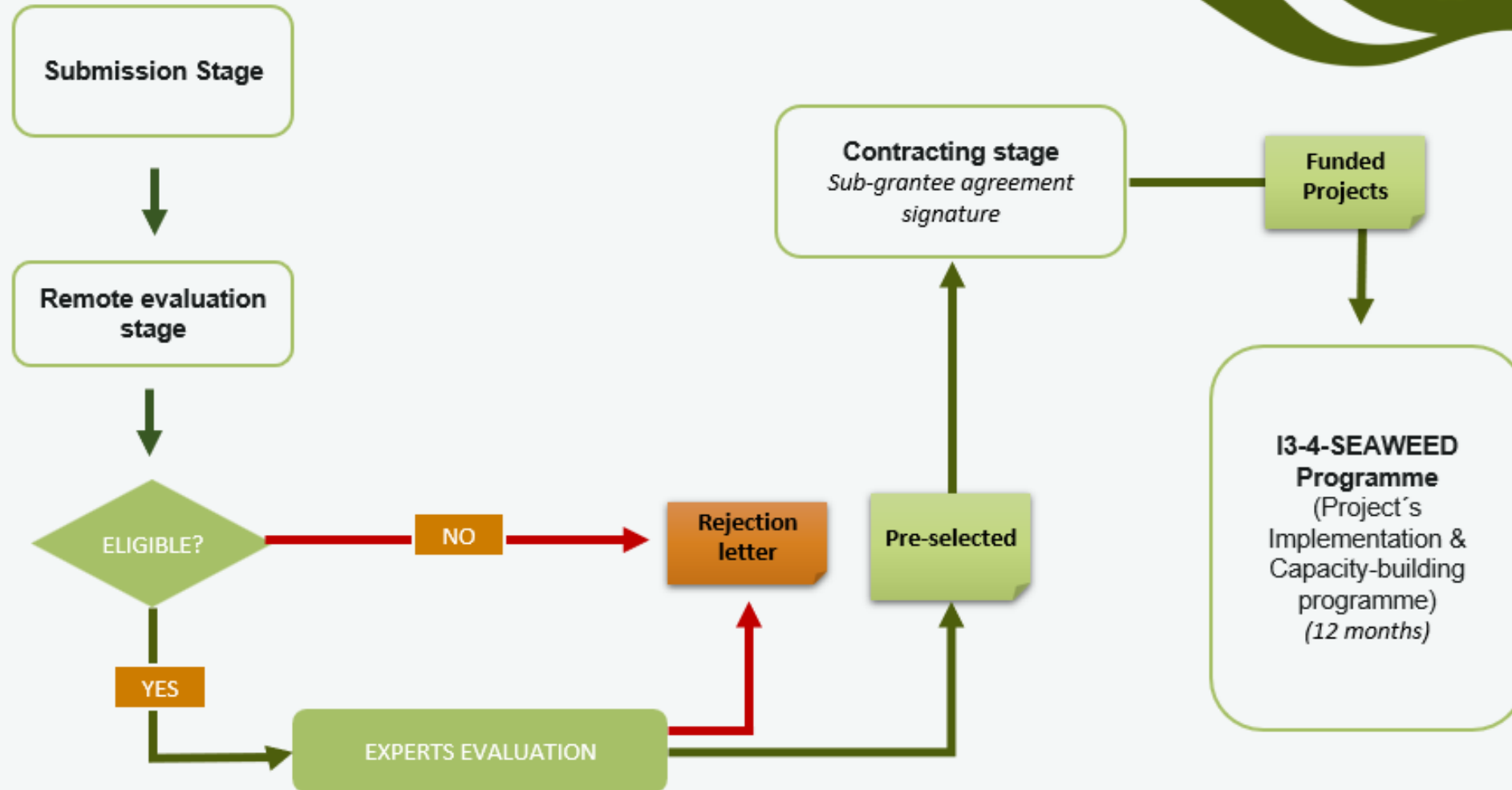
- Types of projects

The I3-4-SEAWEED Open Call aims to fund innovative projects that will contribute to the investment project by carrying out necessary and missing tasks (e.g., to complete a specific value chain and/or to offer a specific groundwork for testing and optimising products and production processes), or for the exploration of new processing technologies within the scope of the Challenges.

Note: The sub-criterion “relevance to I3-4-SEAWEED’s investment cases” will have a greater weighting.



- Evaluation & Selection Process



- Timeline

- o **Open Call Launch:** August 20, 2025
- o **Application Submission Deadline:** October 22, 2025 at 17:00 CEST (Brussels time)
- o **Admissibility and Eligibility Check:** October 23, 2025 to October 26, 2025
- o **Remote Expert Evaluation:** October 27, 2025 to November 12, 2025
- o **Announcement of Results:** November 12, 2025
- o **Program Start:** The 12-month program is anticipated to start around February 2026.



**Dates are not fixed and can be subjected to changes*



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Remote Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria:

Applications are scored on three main criteria:

- **Excellence:** Quality of the approach, objectives, and team expertise.
- **Impact & Ambition:** Potential for industry and value-chain change, and scalability.
This sub-criterion has a greater weighting: "Relevance to I3-4-SEAWEED's investment cases".
- **Implementation:** Clarity of roles, project plan, and resource allocation.

Scoring:

Each criterion is scored from 1 to 5.

Thresholds:

- A minimum score of **3/5** is required for each individual criterion.
- An overall minimum score of **9/15** is required to be considered for funding.

Tie-Breaking: In case of a tie, proposals are prioritized based on their scores for **Impact**, then **Excellence**, and finally **Implementation**. If a tie persists, gender equality in the team is a factor



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How to apply?

1/ First, you need to create a page for your startup on the F6S platform

2/ **Access the Application Form:** Go to the specific link for your chosen strand (Strand A or B).

- Strand A - Macroalgal Production: <https://www.f6s.com/i3-4-seaweed-strand-a/apply/>
- Strand B - Macroalgal Biotechnology and Downstream applications: <https://www.f6s.com/i3-4-seaweed-strand-b/apply/>

3/ **Complete the Form and Annex:** Fill out the online application form on the F6S platform. You must also upload the Technical Annex as an attached document. It's recommended to submit well before the deadline to avoid technical issues.

Application form on F6S platform



Technical Annex
(as Attached document to Application form)



Submit: Applications are only accepted through the F6S platform. Submissions by any other means will not be accepted and will be disqualified.



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I3-4-SEAWEED Programme Overview

- **Duration:** 12 months (starting ~Feb 2026).

Components (run in parallel):

- **Project Implementation Framework** (two 6-month periods, each ending with a progress report linked to payment)
- **Capacity Building Programme** (compulsory).

- **Objectives:**

- Provide technical & business support for successful project development.
- Strengthen participants' skills via training, coaching, webinars, and networking.
- Ensure continuity beyond funding through sustainability plans, collaborations, workshops, and knowledge-sharing events.

- **Support provided:**

- **Financial:** Lump sum (€60,000 per project).
- **Technical:** Specialised guidance and assistance.
- **Business:** Mentoring, coaching, networking opportunities.

- **Additional requirement:**

- A mandatory **study visit + in-person workshop** at a project partner's facility (budget must cover costs).
- Applicants should allocate ~1 PM to Capacity Building and ensure one representative participates in the study visit.



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Capacity Building Programme

- **Monthly Online Workshops**
Business case presentations by I3-4-SEAWEED partners
Includes a dedicated **Investment & Business Support** session
- **Mentoring & Guidance**
Voluntary access to **BlueBioMatch mentors network**
Tailored expert advice throughout the programme
- **Phased Learning Path**
 - Technology
 - Branding & Networking
 - Market Strategies
 - Funding & Investment
- **Final In-Person Workshop**
 - Hosted at a partner's facility
 - **Project pitching** & networking opportunity



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Funding & Payments details

- **Grant Amount:** A maximum of **€60,000** is available per project, regardless of whether it's a single entity or a consortium. The amount must cover 100% of project costs.
- **Eligible Costs:** This includes personnel costs, research and development, testing, travel, equipment, and costs for IPR or regulatory compliance.
- **Payment Schedule (Lump Sum):** Payments are made in three installments, contingent on the approval of progress reports:
 - **Initial Payment:** 40% of the maximum grant amount after signing the sub-grant agreement.
 - **Period 1:** Payment ceiling of 70% of the grant after the submission and approval of Progress Report #1 (M1-M6).
 - **Period 2:** Payment of the remaining balance after the submission and approval of Progress Report #2 (M7-M12).

Please note that reports must be submitted **7 working days after the end of each reporting period**. During the reporting period, representatives of the beneficiary should be ready to present their work and answer questions.

- **Subcontracting:** Subcontracting is allowed for up to 20% of the total project budget



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– F6S Platform & Website Live tour

<https://i3-4-seaweed.eu/open-call/>



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Q&A Session



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Frequently Asked Questions



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Frequently Asked Questions

How is "being established" in an eligible region defined?

- To be considered "established" in an eligible region, an applicant must be a legal entity with a verifiable VAT number that is legally based in one of the eligible regions. This means the company's official registration and legal address must be within a region covered by the I3-4-SEAWEED consortium members, a European less-developed region, or a European outermost region. The full list of eligible regions is available in Section 9 of the Guidelines for Applicants



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) requirement for proposals?

- Innovative solutions proposed by eligible applicants must have a minimum TRL of 6. The aim is to facilitate demonstration and accelerate market uptake and commercialization by the end of the I3-4-SEAWEED programme.

Can I submit multiple proposals?

- Applicants may apply to both strands (Macroalgal Production and Algal Biotechnology and Downstream Applications) in this Open Call. However, only the highest-ranked proposal, in which the entities participate, will be eligible for funding. Any other applications involving these entities, regardless of their scores, will be disqualified.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Are consortium eligible?

- Applicants can submit their applications as either an individual organisation/ entity or as a consortium comprising a maximum of two SMEs.
- Consortia submissions must include SMEs with a demonstrable participation in the seaweed value chain who present specific needs and solutions, spanning from production to downstream applications.
- Applicants may apply to both strands in this Open Call. However, only the highest-ranked proposal, in which the entities participate, will be eligible for funding. Any other applications involving these entities, regardless of their scores, will be disqualified.



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Thank you for your attention!

F6S EU Tech Innovation Network DAC



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