SHORE

Empower students as the agents of change

SHORE – Open Call #1

Open Call Overview

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction 2
1.1. Background – EU Mission Ocean 2
2. SHORE Open Call objectives and requirements 2
2.1. Ocean Literacy & Blue Curricula: Empowering students as agents of change 2
2.2. The European Network of Blue Schools 3
3. SHORE Open Call Target Areas 3
4. SHORE Open Call Topics and Activities 4
5. SHORE Open Call Funding Scheme 4
6. SHORE Programme Overview 5
7. SHORE Open Call Timeline 5
8. Relevant Links and Information 6
9. Open Calls documents 7

List of Tables

Table 1: Estimated funding scheme per each SHORE Open Call 5

List of Figures

Figure 1: SHORE - Open Call #1 Target Areas 4
Figure 2: SHORE Open Call Topics 5
Figure 3: SHORE - Open Call #1 Timeline & Process 7
Figure 4: SHORE Open Calls Timeline Overview 7

1. Introduction

The main objective of the SHORE project is to enhance the ocean and water literacy of primary and secondary students, educators, and schools, by empowering youth to become agents of change and eco-citizens.

The EU-funded SHORE project will support **100 schools' projects** via **3 Open Calls** and with a **total budget of 900,000€ (max 10,000€ grant per project) for primary and secondary schools** in the pursuit of increasing **ocean and water literacy,** sustainability, and blue economy knowledge among students to mobilise them as agents of change and ramp up the accreditation of the Network of European Blue Schools.

1.1. Background – EU Mission Ocean

Water, universally recognized as a fundamental need and a sanctuary for diverse life forms, serves as the largest carbon sink, a vital transport route, and a global resource essential for numerous functions. The absence of healthy waters would mean no life on our planet.

Yet, owing to human activities, the decline in both marine and river ecosystems poses a significant threat to the health, well-being, and overall prosperity of European citizens and societies. Urgent action is imperative to fulfil the EU Green Deal and the EU Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030. This EU initiative represents a novel approach aimed at implementing tangible solutions to revive the health of our oceans and waters. It stands as a crucial pathway toward achieving climate neutrality and preserving nature.

To support the achievement of the EU Mission Ocean objectives**,** SHORE project aims to engage youth in the European policies and lifestyle with the help of local life-changing projects integrated into the curriculum of schools to achieve both at the grassroots and international level mobilisation of teachers, schools, students, and local community.

2. SHORE Open Call objectives and requirements

2.1. Ocean Literacy & Blue Curricula: Empowering students as agents of change

The aim of the funded school projects is to **increase knowledge and awareness of ocean and water literacy among students, teachers, and the local community,** by increasing their **active engagement in the project implementation through co-creation process and authentic interlinked activities.**

To do so, schools will be supported during project implementation to **develop and utilise new and innovative teaching and learning resources based on Open Schooling methodologies and Blue Skills Curricula,** which can, in addition to formal educational curricula, successfully expose students to current challenges about water & ocean issues, and Blue Economy in a life-long run.

2.2. The European Network of Blue Schools

To expand and broaden the ocean and water literacy knowledge among children, youth and teachers, the SHORE project supports **the accreditation of schools and their projects within the**

Network of European Blue Schools established under the EU4Ocean coalition. The network's intention is to help teachers make the ocean a relevant part of the school curriculum via the *Find the Blue* challenge, the identification of ocean-based topics relevant to the schools' youth and active collaboration with students in creating a related school project.

SHORE also envisions international and regional collaboration of school beneficiaries through **twinning mechanism**, designed and implemented for exchange of best practices between schools and showcasing successful stories (Please refer to the eTwinning portal to find suitable partners for cooperation: https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en/etwinning).

Therefore, schools applying for SHORE's Open Calls should be accredited members of the European Network of Blue Schools or **aspire to be members of the European Network of Blue Schools and will demonstrate how they intend to meet the prerequisites** to become accredited members by the time of completion of the project.

3. SHORE Open Call Target Areas

SHORE's Open Calls are open for schools legally established and based in the European Union or Horizon Europe Associated Countries from one of the five target regional areas: **Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Rhine River, and Danube River Area** (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: SHORE - Open Call #1 Target Areas

4. SHORE Open Call Topics and Activities

Schools' projects funded via the SHORE Open Calls should focus on one of the following **topics & subtopics about blue economy & ocean literacy** (See Figure 2).

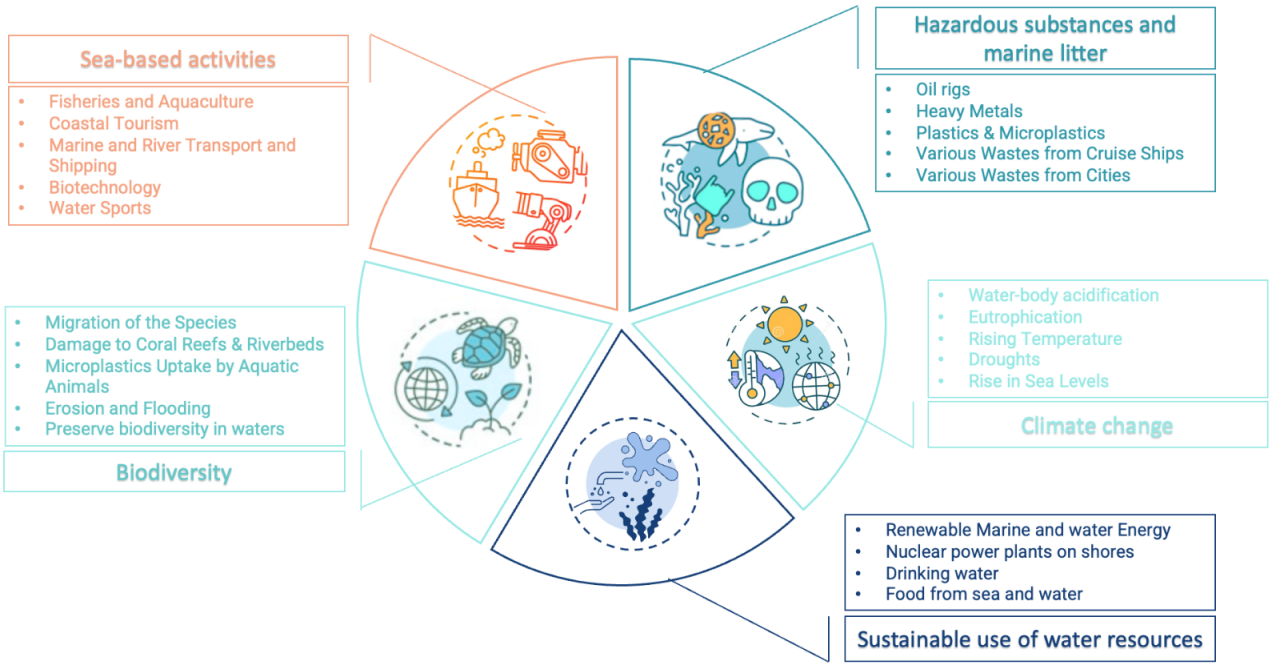

Figure 2: SHORE Open Call Topics

The SHORE Open Calls are welcoming proposals which include **different types of activities** aimed at primary and secondary schools' students, teachers and/or parents of the schools concerned. A fixed and exhaustive list of the different types of activities for which a school may receive financial support is provided in the Annex 1 – SHORE Guidelines for Applicants.

5. SHORE Open Call Funding Scheme

By managing 3 Open Calls, SHORE expects to support **100 school projects with a total budget of 900,000€ (max 10,000€ grant per project).** The estimated funding scheme is divided per each Open Call in the following table.

Table 1: Estimated funding scheme per each SHORE Open Call

Open Call #	Est. budget per Open Call
Open Call #1	405,000€
Open Call #2	315,000€
Open Call #3	180,000€

To promote the participation of minority groups from applicants' communities, SHORE's Open Calls strive to reserve **20% of the available budget for school projects involving migrants or Ukrainian citizens under temporary protection.**

The financial support for each awarded school will be up to €10,000 provided **in the form of a lump sum**, broken into phases as mentioned in Annex 1 - Guideline for Applicants.

6. SHORE awarded projects follow-up

Selected projects are **expected to last up to 6 months,** a period during which all school project activities, as described in the proposal, should be implemented with the funding support received.

SHORE Project partners acting as **SHORE Country Hubs** will mentor and guide the schools and students, about successful Blue Skills Curricula and project implementation. Selected projects will benefit through a permanent contact with their mentors, online meetings for project management and sharing of best practices from targeted regions.

SHORE Digital Platform and "Ocean Ambassador of the Year" Award

SHORE will ensure international visibility and awareness of the projects among the public by creating **its own digital platform**, an open-source virtual learning environment and education management system which will enable the follow-up of student and school projects in addition to publishing developed Blue Skills Curricula materials for school activities and teacher routes.

Schools awarded with the grant will have their own profile created at SHORE digital platform, allowing them to upload their activities & share information about their projects. After each open call period, **an online contest** will be held to select the best school projects through a global competition using the said digital platform, and the voting will be open to the public. After the selection of the global winner, the school will be awarded as **"Ocean Ambassador of The Year"** and promoted as such via the SHORE project website and social media.

7. SHORE Open Call Timeline

The SHORE Open Call 1 opens on **17 January 2024** and closes on **20 March 2024 at 17:00 CET (Brussels time).** Proposals must be submitted vis the F6S Platform at https://www.f6s.com/shore-open-call-1/apply

After submission, SHORE will begin the evaluation and selection process. Proposals not fitting the eligibility criteria (as stated in the Annex 1 – SHORE Guidelines for Applicants) will be notified. Each proposal passing the eligibility check will be evaluated by an external pool of experts and receive a notification about their final status (rejected or accepted). Selected projects will be invited to enter the contract preparation and signature phase and access the SHORE Programme.

Figure 3 showcases the full timeline and process of SHORE Open Call 1, which will be followed in a similar manner for the other two Open Calls (see Figure 4).

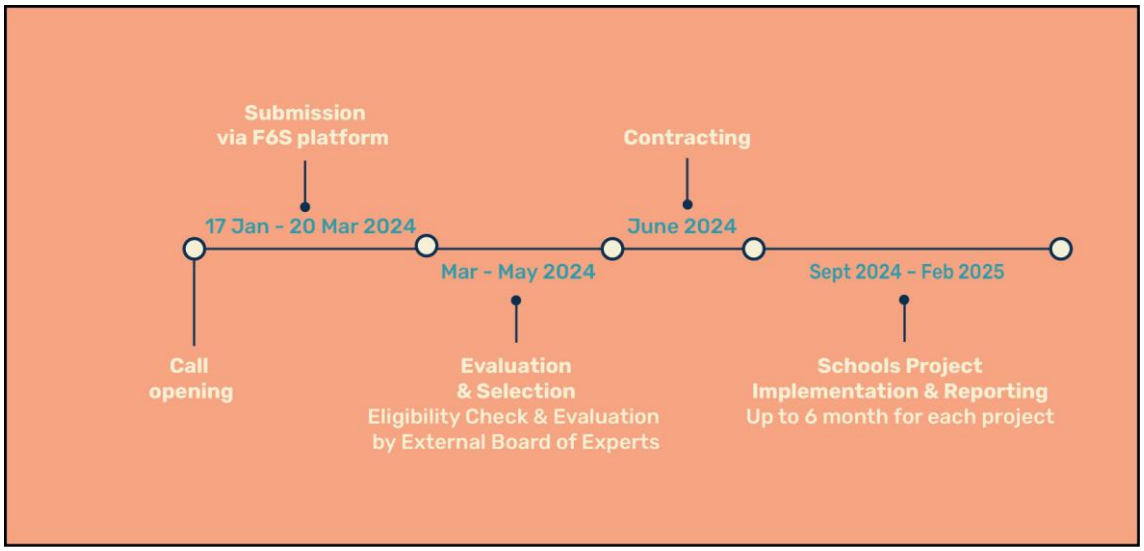

Figure 3: SHORE - Open Call #1 Timeline & Process

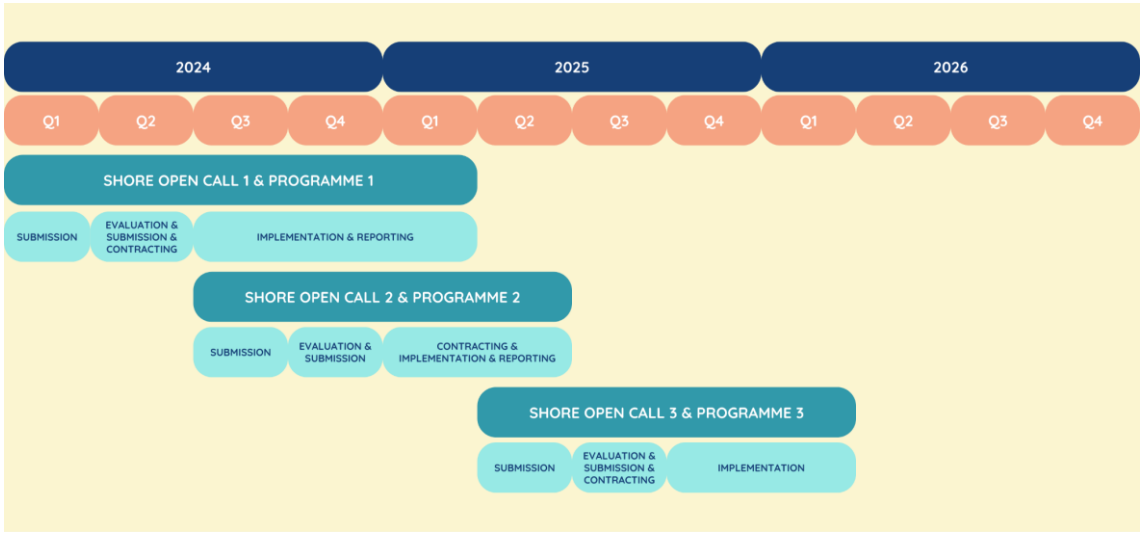

Figure 4: SHORE Open Calls Timeline Overview

8. Relevant Links and Information

- Project website, where all official documents are published: https://shoreproject.eu/
- The Guide for Applicants and documents, where the rules and procedures of the programme are described (available for download at https://shoreproject.eu/open-calls/
- Open call application form: https://www.f6s.com/shore-open-call-1/apply
- Open call support: opencalls@shoreproject.eu
- F6S helpdesk: support@f6s.com
- Network of European Blue Schools: https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/ocean-literacy-and-blue-skills/ocean-literacy/network-blue-schools/become-european-blue-school_en
- SHORE social media channels: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram

9. Open Calls documents

SHORE Open Call will be supported by the following documents, Applicants are encouraged to get acquainted with documents before submitting proposal:

- **Annex 1 - SHORE Guidelines for applicants**
- **Annex 2 - SHORE Application form**, an online application form, available at F6S platform https://www.f6s.com/shore-open-call-1/apply
- **Annex 2.1 - SHORE Proposal Template**, a template that indicates all the information that should be provided as part of the project proposal and MUST be completed and uploaded within the form available on the F6S page.
- **Annex 3 - SHORE Sub-grant agreement (template)**, which provides a template of the sub-grant agreement that the successful applicants will be requested to sign.
- **Annex 4 - SHORE Declaration of Honour**
- **Annex 5 - SHORE Bank account information**, which collects information about the bank account to which payments will be made.

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