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OPEN CALL

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REMEDIES

MEDITERRANEAN SEA BASIN LIGHTHOUSE



Co-funded by
the European Union



REMEDIES GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS OCI
OPEN CALL I *Collection & Valorization*

Guide for Applicants

REMEDIES Open Call I – COLLECTION & VALORIZATION

**Closing Date for Proposals: Wednesday, 15th of November 2023, at 17:00
CET**

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The REMEDIES Consortium is the following:

Table I: REMEDIES Consortium

Participant number	Participant organisation name	Short name	Country
1	KEMIJSKI INSTITUT	NIC	SI
2	UNIVERZA V MARIBORU	UM	SI
3	ALCHEMIA-NOVA GREECE IDIOTIKI KEFALAIΟΥXIKI ETAIREIA	ANGR	EL
4	ENERG+ DOO	CLERA	SI
5	WASSER 3.0 GMBH	W30	DE
6	MOLD SRL	RC	IT
7	BIO-MI DRUSTVO S OGRANICENOM ODGOVORNOSCU ZA PROIZVODNJU, ISTRAZIVANJE I RAZVOJ	BMI	HR
8	CITTADINI SPA	CIT	IT
9	NEXT TECHNOLOGY TECNOTESSILE SOCIETÀ NAZIONALE DI RICERCA R L	NTT	IT
10	FUNDACION AITIIP	AITIIP	ES
11	VENICE LAGOON PLASTIC FREE	VLPF	IT
12	CIBOS INNOVATION IDIOTIKI KEFALAIΟΥXIKI ETAIREIA	CIB	EL
13	CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	CNR	IT
14	VLAAMSE INSTELLING VOOR TECHNOLOGISCH ONDERZOEK N.V.	VITO	BE
15	SMALL ISLANDS ORGANISATION	SMILO	FR
16	INSTITUTI PER MENAXHIMIN E MJEDISITDHE TERRITORIT	ETMI	AL

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17	FOUNDATION EXIT	EXIT	RS
18	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	NTUA	EL
19	ELEFThERIOU ANTONIOS	MCG	EL
20	IMPACT HUB LABS	IHA	EL
21	F6S NETWORK IRELAND LIMITED	F6S	IE
22	UNIVERSITE MOHAMMED PREMIER I - UMP	MOH	MA
23	INFORDATA SISTEMI SRL	INFOR	IT

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List of acronyms

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
OCI	Open Call One
OC2	Open Call Two
EC	European Commission
ESR	Evaluation Summary Report
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
NDA	Non-Disclosure Agreement
PDF	Portable Document Format
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
EV.	Evaluation
HE	Horizon Europe
KOM	Kick-Off Meeting
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
DoH	Declaration of Honour

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

REMEDIES, *Co-creating strong uptake of REMEDIES for the future of our oceans through deploying plastic litter valorisation and prevention pathways* (GA n°101093964), was launched on 1 January 2023 and it runs for 48 months. The funds of the present open call came from REMEDIES funding, under the Mission OCEAN Horizon Europe program. This open call offers support to stakeholders potentially taking action towards plastic remediation and protection through innovation services in the Mediterranean, namely at a technical, finance, business and governance level. The support is granted through two open calls that will give access to €500.000.00 in total (€200.000.00 in OC1 and €300.000.00 in OC2).

1.2. REMEDIES project

REMEDIES is a Horizon Mission Program co-funded by the European Commission aiming to co-create solutions for the future of our oceans, through deploying plastic litter valorization and prevention pathways. REMEDIES overall objective is to create a trend of plastic prevention by exploitation of traditional and modern channels. Along with the help of citizen's science fostering co-creation of participatory processes, REMEDIES aims to build a more plastic-conscious society. Monitoring and collecting plastic litter, as well as preventing the generation of litter in the first place.

The **overall objective of REMEDIES is to attract public interest for deploying remedies of our seas**. REMEDIES is aiming to create a trend on the prevention of plastic through the exploitation of traditional and modern channels and through citizens science and participatory co-creation processes building a more plastic-conscious society.¹

For more information, see: <https://remedies-for-ocean.eu/>

2. OVERALL INFORMATION

REMEDIES foresees the launch of 2 open calls (OC):

¹ Having as reference, for example The Charter for the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/upcoming-events/charter-mission-restore-our-ocean-and-waters-2030-2022-06-30_en

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- **OCI Collection & Valorization**, to boost the deployment of plastic litter collection and valorization schemes
- **OC2 Prevention & Zero Waste**, to push towards the development of zero-waste supply chains that will enhance the prevention of plastic litter.

The calls will provide financial support to third parties in the form of grants. The applicants will receive technical assistance, including the provision of technical advisory services to build capacity and to implement aquatic ecosystem restoration solutions in their territory that contribute to achieving the Mission objectives. The technical assistance should include the provision of technical advisory services necessary to prepare roadmaps, plans and projects to prevent, eliminate and remediate pollution in the associated regions addressing possible barriers and showing the feasibility of implementing innovative solutions.

This document is focused on the **OCI Collection & Valorization**, as a guide for potential applicants.

2.1. Duration of the Open Call

- The open call one (OCI) is open for submission from 15 September 2023 (12:00 AM CET) to 15 November 2023 (12:00 AM CET), through the F6S platform (<https://www.f6s.com/open-call-1-remedies/apply>), as the single-entry point for applications. The open call is advertised widely via the funding and tender portal [<link>](#) and the REMEDIES website (<https://remedies-for-ocean.eu/open-call-1>), as well as in the consortium partners websites.

2.2. Objectives

OCI "Collection & Valorization" is focused on projects / applications whose main goal is to benefit and speed up the uptake of plastic litter collection and/or finding innovative ways to repurpose or transform plastic waste into valuable products or resources.

2.3. Applicants to be selected

The OCI provides financial support **to up to 2 public bodies** in the form of grants. Entities such as municipalities, namely their waste collection and recycling or tourism sector, public schools, public universities, national parks, marinas, public hospitals, military, wastewater treatment plants and other public sectors could be eligible.

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3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All applicants will have to abide by all general requirements described in this section to be considered eligible for the REMEDIES OCI evaluation process to be considered for further evaluation.

The open call manager in REMEDIES (F6S), with the support of REMEDIES partners, will be responsible for carrying out the eligibility check of the applications according to the selected criteria, as described below. Only applications submitted in the F6S platform form submitted for the REMEDIES OCI, within the defined deadline, will be considered.

To be an eligible applicant you should comply with the following requirements:

- **Alignment:** the application must be aligned with the goal of the REMEDIES project and open calls objectives. It must demonstrate a closed set of activities that qualify for financial support. The goal is to engage 'Associated regions' in the Mediterranean, that share similar ecosystems (e.g., neighbouring regions and/or regions in a different sea basin) and/or less-developed regions, to build capacity to implement the innovative solutions to solve issues and needs tackled by REMEDIES project and OCI in particular.²
- **Sector:** Public organisations (local and/or regional authorities)
- **Location:** located in a Member States and/or Participating Countries³ associated to Horizon Europe **other than those that are located the partners of the REMEDIES project** consortium, according to the project call <https://remedies-for-ocean.eu/>

→ **Eligible: Mediterranean countries (linked directly or indirectly to the Mediterranean),** such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Cyprus, Turkey, Malta, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Portugal, Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia,

² 'Associated regions' are understood more as areas with similar ecosystems (e.g. neighboring regions and/or regions in a different sea basin) and/or less-developed regions, to build capacity to implement the innovative solutions to restore freshwater ecosystems. As the reference of "region" has nothing to do with administrative/statistical point of view.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

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Ukraine, Moldova, Israel. Please check the full list of member states and Associated countries eligible for HE support: [here](#).

→ **Non-eligible regions are all the countries, in which the REMEDIES project partners are based: Albania, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain.** Complete information in Annex I.

- **One single application:** more than one application submitted by the same entity is not accepted. The criteria of time will be applied, as only the last one submitted is going to be taken into consideration, according to the F6S platform information.
- **Language:** All documents must be filled and submitted in **English Compliance:** Doesn't fall under EU Sanctions and the respective measures.
- **Budget:** the total of the activities proposed can only go up to the maximum budget of €100.000.00.

4. TYPE OF SUPPORT

REMEDIES OCI will provide in total € 200.000.00 to a couple of applicants as they have the possibility to request up to a maximum of € 100.000.00. The total number of selected OCI applicants may vary depending on the total budget requested & the ranking resulting from the evaluation of the OCI applicants. After the external expert evaluation, the final ranking will be verified and confirmed by the REMEDIES consortium, ensuring that the selected applicants correspond to a wide geographic spread, as well as projects with a maximum overall impact and with replication potential in the context of the REMEDIES Open call goals.

Type of support provided to the applicants that are successfully selected in the OCI:

1. Access to tools and resources.
2. Tutorials, mentors, and webinars.
3. Networking & connections with key ecosystem stakeholders.
4. Access to use-cases to pilot their solutions.

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4.1. Financial Support

The requested funding will be granted in 2 payments. **The selected applicant will receive the first payment, a total of 70% of the grant, at the start of the project implementation, after the official OCI Kick off.** The implementation progress will be followed up monthly by an assigned mentor and through a final report (deliverable) submitted to REMEDIES at the end of the 6 months project, which is linked to the successful completion of specified milestones and KPIs established by the selected applicant in its project proposal.

The second payment of 30% of the grant will follow a positive evaluation of the deliverable provided by the applicant at the end of the project implementation (6 months in total). More details are available in the REMEDIES OCI Sub-grantee Agreement.

Applicants (third party) to OCI can benefit from the financial support to third parties provided by the REMEDIES project only once provided the non-existence of the same third party selected for award in the same topic call ([HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-03-01](#)). For instance, Applicants awarded in OCI are not eligible for OC2.

4.2. Responsibility of beneficiaries

Costs for providing financial support to successful applicants in OCI are eligible, if they meet the following conditions:

- Aligned with the call and tasks defined in the overall goal of the application.
- Define KPIs and Milestones in a timeline for implementation.
- Fulfill the general eligibility conditions.

The beneficiaries are responsible for the proper use of the funding by the recipients and must ensure that they comply with certain obligations:

- Avoid conflict of interest, as confidentiality and security obligations.
- Ethics.
- Give visibility to the EU funding in every communication of actions financed by the project (according to point 7 of this document).
- Information obligations to the REMEDIES Project of any changes that can impact the performance defined in the proposed project.
- Record-keeping (5 years after the ending of the program).

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If you need any further information, please contact the REMEDIES OCI leader through the official OCI email: opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu

4.3. Timeline of the OC1 Collection & Valorization

The OCI will have a 6-month duration of funding, starting on **15th January 2024, up until 15th of June 2024**. Along this period the applicants are expected to have regular, monthly, meetings with REMEDIES mentors to present the state of the art and receive support and input in the implementation, whenever needed. It's also recommended that KPIs and Milestones, with **concrete, quantitative and verifiable characteristics**, guide these meetings, in order to have a clearer notion of the evolution of the implementation and identify needs for support or decide on mitigation actions, if required.

If poor or no implementation along the implementation period, the project may stop at any time the applicant participation in the REMEDIES OCI, and produce the legal previewed effects described in the REMEDIES OCI Subgrant Agreement.

4.3.1. Mentors

Each awarded applicant will be assigned at least one mentor from a REMEDIES partner to support them during the stages of the project implementation. The mentors are partners of the REMEDIES project. This/these mentor(s) will serve as a bridge between the project and the implementation process, providing support, orientation, within the knowledge and capability of the mentor. The implementation of the project is the responsibility of the team of the successful applicant. The mentor's will be assigned upon the analyses of the profile of the selected OCI applicants, taking into consideration the technical/scientific expertise/understanding and geographical proximity. The goal is that in the OCI KOM these are presented to the successful applicants, as a first contact.

4.3.2. Mandatory activities

As mandatory activities of the program, it is expected that the successful applicant organise and run at least one meeting per month with their mentor, or whenever required, to present the development of the tasks and activities (or whenever required by the applicant).

The mentor(s) are the main communication channel to selected applicants, after the OCI KOM, as they will follow up and support them during the OCI program timeline.

All OCI successful selected applicants should attend the OCI KOM and the OCI closing event, at the end of the 6 months implementation period.

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All selected applicants are required to provide quantitative and tangible information on the implementation of their activities, providing information (interviews; photos; videos; logos; graphics) to be used by the REMEDIES communication and dissemination partner. The applicants, as financed Third parties from a Horizon Europe project, are also required to promote the REMEDIES project during the six months of the project implementation.

5. OPEN CALL METHODOLOGY

Applications will be collected, analyzed, and assessed by a pool of experts, by external and internal partners. Applications will be sorted and selected following three main steps:

1. Admissibility and Eligibility check (internal)
2. Proposal evaluation (external experts)
3. Ranking and final selection (internal)

In the first stage the applications will be assessed after the deadline – 15th of November (17.00 CET) - and the eligibility process of the application will start, as to assess which comply with the minimum defined criteria to follow through to the REMEDIES evaluation process.

The proposal evaluation stage has two substages, that include an:

- External evaluation
- Internal consensus meeting

The final decision on the successful applicants will take into consideration the quantitative and qualitative assessment of both stages. A final ranked list from the first evaluation stage will be presented to the REMEDIES partners, with the focus on the top ranked, that will confirm and decide on the final selected applicants, taking in to account regional representation and innovation, impact, and overall view of the group on the different applicants to that will integrate the OCI, as added value and complementarity.

A resumed Evaluation Summary report will be provided to all applicants, with more information about their evaluation process and outcome.

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5.1. Open Call principles

The open call is alignment with the same basic principles, which govern the European Commission calls:

1. **Excellence:** The proposal(s) selected for funding must demonstrate a high quality in the context of the topics and criteria set out in the call. The REMEDIES project has a clear European dimension as will the Open Call.
2. **Transparency:** Funding decisions are based on clearly described rules and procedures, and all applicants will receive adequate feedback on the outcome of the evaluation of their proposals. The REMEDIES project will publish the outcome of the call without delay, including a description of the third-party projects, the date of the award, the duration and the legal name and the country.
3. **Fairness and impartiality:** All proposals submitted to a call are treated equally. They are evaluated impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants.
4. **Confidentiality:** All proposals and related data, knowledge and documents are treated in confidentiality.

5.2. OC1 Timeline

The REMEDIES OC I will have the following indicative timeline:

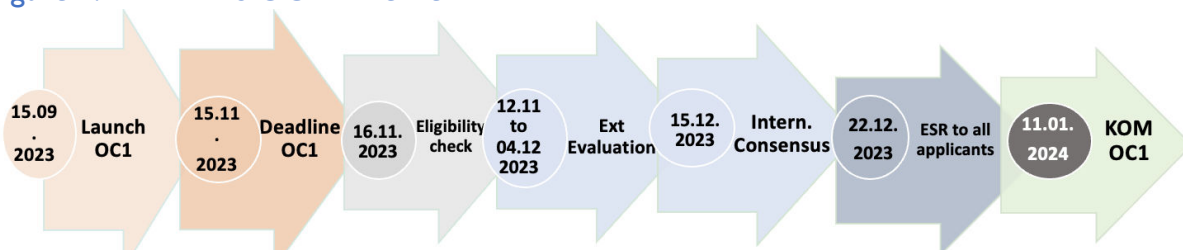
- **September 15th, 2023 (12.00 CET): launch of the open call I**
- October 3rd, 2023: OC I first public webinar
- October 31st, 2023: OC I second public webinar
- **November 15th, 2023 (17.00 CET): open call I deadline**
- November 16th - 28th, 2023: eligibility check and remote evaluation of submitted applications
- Mid-December: Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) distributed
- January 11th, 2024: KOM of successful applicant/s

These dates are indicative, and they may change according to the needs of the REMEDIES project. Any relevant changes that impact any action from the applicants will be communicated either publicly or directly depending on the need, taking in consideration the principle of transparency and equal access.

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Figure I: REMEDIES OCI Timeline



5.3. Application Process

The F6S platform is the entry point to submit the proposals for the REMEDIES OCI through <https://www.f6s.com/open-call-1-remedies/apply>, available through in the REMEDIES website (<https://remedies-for-ocean.eu/open-call-1>), along with the OCI Kit. The proposals are only accepted within the application period, between 15 of September (12.00 CEST) to 15 of November (17h CEST), no other submissions or adjustments are allowed after the set deadline (time and hour).

Only the documentation required to be submitted by the F6S platform created specifically for the REMEDIES OCI will be considered by evaluators. Proposals submitted by any other means other than the one referred to above will be automatically discarded and will not be evaluated. The application form consists of questions to be completed directly in the platform and a Declaration of Honour (DoH) (regarding the location of the organization and situation) to be attached in a printable PDF format. All information provided should be actual, true and complete in order to allow the assessment of the proposal.

The regular functioning of the F6S platform limits to one application submission per F6S user in each call. If an F6S user wishes to submit more than one application, for example on behalf of different organizations, the F6S user should request support from the F6S support technical team (support@f6s.com), cc'ing opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu, at least 10 days prior to the open call deadline. No extension will be granted in case of last-minute requests of information for the technical support for the application submission.

Documents required in subsequent phases will be requested directly by REMEDIES coordinator and/or by the call coordinator (F6S). Any communication during the process will be done mainly through the F6S Platform and the dedicated email for OCI: opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu.

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All applicants should be aware that a timely submission will prevent any last-minute delays on replies that may jeopardize a timely submission. The applicant has the ultimate responsibility for a timely submission. Be aware that the lack of submission or request to adjustment/completion of the application, due to the need of technical information or support or any other technical issues in the F6S platform, during the last 24 hours before the deadline of the OCI, will not serve as grounds for an extension of the OCI deadline.

5.3.1. External evaluation

The external evaluators will be selected through a public call for experts with the support of the expert partners in REMEDIES, through CV analyses and evaluation. The experts will be individuals in the field of innovation and with the highest level of knowledge in the areas associated with the project and the topic of OCI “Collection and Valorization”, and who are recognized authorities in the relevant specialist area.

The selected experts will sign a declaration of confidentiality concerning the contents of the proposals they read. The form to be used in the evaluation also carries a declaration of freedom from conflict of interest signed by them. The total number of experts will depend on the total number of applicants. However, each application will be assessed by at least 2 external evaluators.

5.3.2. Methodology

The remote evaluation will start after the eligibility filter, as only the eligible applications will be considered for remote evaluation, in which a final shortlist of applications will be randomly assigned to the OCI REMEDIES external evaluators. The external evaluators are bound by a confidentiality agreement. Every proposal will be evaluated by two different experts, as mentioned previously, and a final ranking will be created based on the defined criteria and described on the following point. The final ranking will be a result of the average between the scores of the two evaluators that were assigned to an application.

5.3.3. Criteria & score system

As a starting point for the evaluation overall, the proposals, if not if it's not a new project from the start, must present novelty and innovation. It may already have a working base, with running actions, however as a proposal it must present novelty that can be at a strategic level, tools or implementation level, or other, in order to justify the need for support.

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The criteria to be assessed on the applications and scored by the external evaluators are the following:

- **Concept & innovation (25% weighting)**
Application must demonstrate a clear set of objectives aligned with the definition of the goals and with the general objectives of the project. Appropriateness of the project scope addressing the open call goal as well as the overall project vision. Quality, credibility, and clarity of project description. Interoperability level of the proposed solution. Innovation level, not only in a technical perspective, but also in a strategic and implementation perspective, as well as practices.
- **Expertise and excellence of the proposed team (25% weighting)**
Applicants must provide credible evidence that the project team is committed and has the necessary skills, competence, and expertise to deliver the project.
- **Alignment & Project planning (25% weighting)**
Quality, effectiveness and clarity of project activities, structure, and timing. Alignment of the activities with the open call goals and the project vision. Appropriateness of deliverables, Milestones and means of verification. Appropriateness of expected costs and resources assigned to the project.
- **Impact & sustainability (25% weighting)**
Applicants must define their ambition and a clear set of expectations aligned with the objectives of the Call. Proposals must demonstrate the impact of the project and its contribution. The ambition underlines the potential extend and overall impact and replicability of the project actions.

All criteria have the same weighting, each 25% completing a total of 100%.

The experts will score each award criterion on a scale from 0 to 5 (decimal and centesimal point scores may be given):

- 0 = Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 = Poor: criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 = Fair: proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 = Good: proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

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- 4 = Very good: proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5 = Excellent: proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

For each section, the minimum threshold is 3 out of 5 points. The default overall threshold, applying to the sum of at least two individual scores with the corresponding weight each, is 12. That means if a proposal receives less than 3 in one criterion or less than 12 in the overall score it is automatically rejected.

By analyzing the final scores of both external evaluators on one application, if the score given differs 30% or more, by criteria, the external evaluators will be required to gather in a consensus meeting to find a common ground, lowering the difference to less than 30%, for the sake of a more homogeneous results.

5.4. Internal evaluation

The internal evaluation will be managed internally by REMEDIES partners to verify the results, assess, and confirm the result provided by the external evaluators during the remote evaluation stage, as open discussion between partners. A qualitative assessment of the quantitative evaluation made by the external evaluators will be made by a defined pool of partners, either to confirm the first stage evaluation or to adjust it, namely the number and type of projects to integrate in OCI, taking into account the required and available budget, as well as the geographical and technical/scientific representation of the awarded applicants.

5.4.1. Methodology

This stage has as its starting point the analysis of the result of the previews evaluation, done by external experts, as well as the applications. After this analysis, a consensus meeting will be organized internally, in the format of an informal discussion to assess the different views and reach a common decision by unanimity. The partners that will participate in the process will be defined internally in accordance with the REMEDIES coordinator and the Open call leader and they will have access to the proposals with the due anticipation to have the necessary information to make an informed decision. As REMEDIES partners they will be bound to confidentiality and have to indicate non-conflict of interest. **As this is the final stage for the selection the analysis will be focused mainly on the top 3 ranked from the remote evaluation performed by the external evaluators.**

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5.4.2. Criteria

The criteria will be qualitative and will go beyond the quantitative evaluation that resulted into the ranked applications. Criteria as diversity of geographical representation and technical/scientific diversity of proposal and its impact in the REMEDIES project and alignment with the actions of the project will be taken into consideration, as an internal view. Some comments may be provided to the participants regarding this stage in the ESR, in an anonymized format, in case they are relevant and have an impact on the ranking. The final decision at this stage of definition of selected applicants is made using a majority standard.

6. DATA PROTECTION

In order to process and evaluate applications, REMEDIES will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data. F6S Network Ireland Limited, as the Open Call Manager of the project, will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S generally, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner. Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S Google Drive and in the project repository on Google Drive, managed by the project coordinator National Institute of Chemistry from Slovenia.

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please note that REMEDIES requests the minimum information needed to deliver the evaluation procedures or the support programme and will retain all information for 5 years after the project (REMEDIES) ends, as referred in section **4.2 “Responsibility of beneficiaries”**.

The annexes Declaration of Honour, Bank Account Information and Model Sub-grantee Agreement are provided for reference and will only be requested if the applicant is accepted in the REMEDIES support programme. Please refer to <https://www.f6s.com/privacy-policy> to check the F6S platform data privacy policy and security.

7. COMMUNICATION

7.1. Final selection

Successful proposals will be notified within one week of the final selection and the process of

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contracting and execution will begin immediately after that or as soon as its defined by the consortium, according to the REMEDIES best interest, to be communicated in the Kick off Meeting. The consortium will communicate to all applicants the result of their application and will enclose to each an Evaluation Summary report (ESR).

7.2. Communication flow

Applicants must provide any notice in writing to the REMEDIES OCI Manager (F6S) via the official OCI email or the official submission tool of the OCI – the F6S Platform. The application can only be submitted via F6S platform (<https://www.f6s.com/open-call-1-remedies/apply>) from the 15th September on (12h00 CET) , up until the deadline 15th November 2023 (17h00 CET). Selected applicants must notify immediately of any change of persons or contact details to the REMEDIES OCI Manager (F6S) and the REMEDIES Coordinator (NIC) through the official email set for the OCI: opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu.

7.3. EU funding and visibility

The awarded applicants **must promote the REMEDIES activities**, the REMEDIES project, and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the financial support of the EC.

Unless the European Commission or the REMEDIES coordinator requests or agrees otherwise any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

- **display the EU emblem**
- **display the REMEDIES logo**
- **include the following text:**

For communication activities: “This project has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe programme under REMEDIES (GA n° 101093964)”.

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: “This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is part of a sub-granted project that has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe programme under project REMEDIES (GA n° 101093964)”.

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When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. The obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use.

The EC and the **REMEDIES Consortium shall be authorized to publish information** about the beneficiary and its funded project in any form, as follows:

- the name of the selected beneficiary
- contact address of the selected beneficiary
- information on the general purpose of the beneficiary's project selected for funding under REMEDIES.
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen and received by the beneficiary's project
- the geographic location of the activities carried out.
- the publishable reports submitted to REMEDIES in regard to the implementation of the beneficiary's project selected for funding under REMEDIES.
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and REMEDIES in the framework of the project. However, the selected beneficiary shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and REMEDIES does not infringe any rights of third parties.

7.4. Financial audits and controls

The EC may at any time during the implementation of the REMEDIES project and up to 5 (five) years after the end of the REMEDIES project⁴, arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF).

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities. If access is denied by the recipient, the costs will be rejected.

⁴ REMEDIES project deadline: 14 December 2026

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8. APPEAL PROCEDURES

If, at any stage of the evaluation process, the applicant considers that a mistake has been made or that the evaluators have acted unfairly or have failed to comply with the rules of REMEDIES OCI “Collection and Valorisation”, and that her/his interests have been prejudiced as a result, a complaint should be drawn up in English and submitted to the official REMEDIES OCI “Collection & Valorisation” email: opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu. The email should be sent with a reception note confirmation requirement. The appeals should be sent within 10 calendar days, counting from the reception of the ESR, to be taken into consideration. An answer from the REMEDIES project should be expected within 30 calendar days from the date of the reception note of the appeal email.

Any complaint made should include clear information:

- contact details
- the subject of the complaint
- information & evidence regarding the alleged breach.

Please note:

- This procedure is concerned only with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process. The REMEDIES Team will not carry out any verification regarding scientific or technical questions or judgment of appropriately qualified experts.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the final decision on whether to fund it or not. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive and it may be lower than the original score.

The applicant should be aware that the lack of submission or request to adjustment/completion of the application, due to the need of technical information or support or any other technical issues in the F6S platform, requested in less than 24 hours before the deadline of the OCI, will not serve as grounds for an extension of the OCI deadline, as referred previously in point 5.3 of this document.

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9. CHECKLIST FOR THE APPLICANTS

QUESTIONS	ANSWER: YES/NO
Does your planned work fit with the call for proposals scope and topic? Check that your proposed work addresses the objectives of REMEDIES OCI “Collection & Valorization”.	
Do you comply with the defined eligibility criteria described in Section 3?	
Do you comply with any budgetary limits as described in Section 4?	
Did you complete and submit all the required sections in the application form in the F6S platform? Please, make sure that your application is finalised.	
Does your proposal fulfill the requested information? Proposals should be precise, concise and must answer the requested information. Omitting requested information will almost certainly lead to lower scores and possible rejection.	
Did you submit your proposal within the defined deadline? It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit your proposal. The failure of the proposal to arrive on time for any reason, including network communications delays, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the message as recorded by the submission system will be definitive, with no extensions possible, for a matter of fairness and transparency of the process.	

If you have answered YES to all questions, you are most probably included in the OCI selection process and you are a possible candidate to be one of the selected applicants for REMEDIES OCI.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

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- REMEDIES submission tool – F6S platform : <https://www.f6s.com/open-call-1-remedies/apply>
- F6S Platform Support Team (in case of any technical doubt only): support@f6s.com
- OCI information on REMEDIES official webpage: <https://remedies-for-ocean.eu/open-call-1>
- **Frequent** questions and answers for OCI also available on the REMEDIES website: <https://remedies-for-ocean.eu/open-call-1>
- REMEDIES OCI official email address for any tailored information needed: opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu

11. Activities to be funded

As REMEDIES is an innovation action (IA) the financing of the applicants shall **focus on activities that aim directly to produce plans and arrangements focused on the Mediterranean, mainly in the collection and valorization, namely of litter, specifically on plastic, zero waste focus, etc. and have a European dimension.** The program shall preview **6-month activities** and **be innovative, develop new strategies, tools and actions that can be combined with current efforts of the REMEDIES project, in order to support and reinforce it.** With more examples stated in the following paragraphs.

E.g.

The project aims to establish effective systems for the collection of plastic waste. This involves implementing measures to ensure that plastic waste is properly segregated, collected, and transported to appropriate facilities. It may involve collaborating with local municipalities, waste management companies, or recycling organizations to optimize collection processes.

The project focuses on valorisation strategies for plastic waste. This means finding innovative ways to extract value or benefit from the collected plastic waste. It could involve implementing recycling initiatives to transform plastic waste into raw materials for manufacturing new products. It may also explore upcycling techniques to convert plastic waste into higher-value products or repurposing plastic waste for energy recovery or chemical recycling processes.

The project's emphasis on "Collection & Valorisation" suggests a comprehensive approach to

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plastic waste management. By prioritizing the collection of plastic waste and ensuring it is properly managed, the project aims to reduce plastic pollution. Additionally, by emphasizing valorisation, the project seeks to maximize the utilization of plastic waste, turning it into valuable resources and contributing to a more sustainable and circular economy.

It's worth noting that the project also emphasizes engaging citizens through citizen science and participatory co-creation processes. This suggests that the project aims to involve the public in the collection and valorisation efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards plastic waste reduction and recycling. By building a more plastic-conscious society, the project aims to create long-term behavioral changes and awareness regarding plastic consumption, waste management, and sustainable practices.

Application must demonstrate alignment with a clear set of **objectives** connected with the definition of the goals and with the general objectives of the project. **Applicants should define their ambition and a clear set of expected results in the form of KPIs, as milestones to be achieved**, aligned with the objectives of the Call. Proposals must demonstrate impact to the project and their region/country. Additionally, the strategy and its implementation is impactful and sustainable, as it should be replicable in other regions and localities.

Additionally, and for a better understanding of the goal of this call, we provide a list of examples of activities that qualify for financial support under the REMEDIES OCI:

Collection / Monitoring

- collection sea beaches/stranded riverbank litter
- plastic litter collection campaign for plastics litter free ocean/sea
- waste separation (bins at beach or riverbanks) for recycling and/or reusing
- collection of fishing nets
- mapping the of the current solutions applied and its stakeholders in the fields of sustainable plastic waste management
- ecosystem monitoring

Education / Awareness raising / Training

- create program for green flag for plastic free beach (based on the example of the blue flag for clean water)
- pop-up events introducing zero plastic alternatives having students/young people or/and

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general public as the target audience

- trainings and capacity building workshops actions on zero waste and plastic reuse/valorisation/ collection importance / ethics
- organization of seminars and workshop on how to reuse plastic and other waste

Valorisation

- promote projects that reuse waste, as science and art projects for example
- promote new synergies between stakeholders that already promote programs on pollution prevention and plastic valorization and collection for a wider/more effective and new type of joint intervention
- creation and implementation of prevention actions, as plastic alternatives and swap in regular usages
- water quality & water reuse, based on microplastic detection, monitoring and removal
- ecosystem restoration & Nature base solutions restoration measures

Below are available some examples of concrete actions related to the "Collection & Valorisation" aspects in the context of the REMEDIES project:

Collection:

- Implementing separate collection systems: Setting up efficient systems for separate collection of different types of plastic waste, such as bottles, packaging, or single-use items. This can involve distributing designated recycling bins or containers in public spaces, residential & recreational areas, or businesses.
- Awareness and education campaigns: Conducting public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the importance of proper plastic waste disposal and encouraging them to participate actively in the collection process. This can include providing information on recycling guidelines, organizing workshops or events, or using social media platforms to spread the message.
- Collaboration with local stakeholders: Partnering with local municipalities, waste management companies, local civil society organisations, or recycling organizations to coordinate collection efforts. This can involve joint initiatives, sharing resources and expertise, and establishing collection points or drop-off locations for plastic waste.
- Organize community-driven cleanup events to engage local residents, schools, organizations, and businesses in collecting plastic litter from beaches, shorelines, and

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nearby areas.

Valorisation:

- **Recycling infrastructure:** Investing in the development and improvement of recycling infrastructure, including recycling facilities and sorting centers. This allows for efficient sorting, processing, and recycling of plastic waste, ensuring that it is transformed into reusable raw materials for manufacturing new products.
- **Innovation in recycling technologies:** Supporting research and development of innovative recycling technologies that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of plastic recycling processes. This can include advancements in chemical recycling, mechanical recycling, or even emerging technologies like enzymatic recycling.
- **Upcycling initiatives:** Encouraging the creation of businesses or initiatives that focus on upcycling plastic waste into higher-value products. For example, supporting the establishment of enterprises that produce furniture, fashion accessories, or construction materials made from recycled plastics.
- **Energy recovery:** Exploring energy recovery options for plastic waste that cannot be efficiently recycled. This can involve utilizing plastic waste as a feedstock for waste-to-energy facilities, where it is converted into heat or electricity through processes like incineration or gasification.

These are just a few examples of actions that can be undertaken within the "Collection & Valorisation" framework. The specific actions chosen will depend on the project's goals, available resources, and local context. As these are examples they will rely on the type of applicant and overall goal of the proposal.

Moreover, European islands are of crucial importance for the preservation of Europe's diverse biodiversity, the safeguarding of local island economies reliant on tourism and coastal activities, and have a tremendous potential to showcase scalable solutions for global impact. Due to the vulnerability to plastic pollution of these unique ecosystems, the REMEDIES project encourages projects from European islands' authorities that concentrate their actions in the Mediterranean, in particular projects that seek to foster a sustainable future that benefits both the islands and the wider European community.

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ANNEX I – List of eligible applicants

A. **Non-eligible** applicants, according to geographical location

There is an extensive list provided online by the European Commission⁵ *List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe Third countries* associated with Horizon Europe Association to Horizon Europe is governed by the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021/6951. However, applicants that are from **local and/or regional authorities** in an associated region from where the REMEDIES partner is located cannot apply according to the rules set by the European Commission.

This is the list of countries that on REMEDIES OCI applicants **ARE NOT ELIGIBLE:**

1. Italy
2. Slovenia
3. Greece
4. Spain
5. Hungary
6. Denmark
7. Belgium
8. Croatia
9. France
10. Albania
11. Ireland
12. Morocco
13. Serbia

B. **Eligible** applicants, according to geographical location

REMEDIES OCI will only consider eligible applications from countries that are connected directly or indirectly with the Mediterranean and not in REMEDIES partners countries, as:

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. Montenegro
3. Cyprus

⁵https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

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4. Turkey
5. Malta
6. Egypt
7. Libya
8. Algeria
9. Tunisia
10. Lebanon
11. Israel
12. Romania
13. Bulgaria
14. North Macedonia
15. Ukraine
16. Moldova
17. Portugal
18. Other (complete list⁶)

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

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ANNEX II - REMEDIES APPLICATION FORM

To be available for direct submission on the F6S Platform:

<https://www.f6s.com/open-call-i-remedies/apply>

- The REMEDIES Open call application kit to apply under **Open Call I “Collection and Valorisation”** is available on the official REMEDIES project website, here: <https://remedies-for-ocean.eu/open-call-1> including:

1. **Guide for Applicants**
2. **Example of the Application form** (available for direct submission on the F6S platform)
3. Frequent Question & Answers
4. **Technical annex** of the proposed project (for the applicant to provide detailed description of the project proposal)
5. Sub-Grantee Agreement, for all applicants’ knowledge and to be completed ONLY after the OC process is closed, by the selected applicants

Section 1. Proposal identification

Q1: Proposal title*

Q2: Proposal acronym*

Q3: Short abstract of the proposal (to be made public in case the proposal is funded), max 2000 characters*

Section 2. Applicant information

Q4: Applicant organisation full legal name*

Q5: Type of applicant/entity/organization (Based on what we identified in the GA: municipality; local authority; university; etc)*

If the answer is “other” there will be a space to fill in the type of applicant

Q6: Applicant identification (PIC number)

Q7: Applicant country (*drop-down list*) *

Q8: Official address of the organisation (from where the team of the project will be implementing the proposal) *

Q9: Website of the applicant organisation (if you have one)

Q10: Name of the contact person (this is main contact to be reached along the OC application process by the REMEDIES OC I manager) *

Q11: Role in the organisation *

Q12: Email of the contact person *

Q13: Phone number of the contact person (please add the country code) *

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Section 3. Budget

Q14: Total request budget by the applicant* (please be aware that the maximum budget for the full 6 months period of the OCI is 100.000.00 euros)

Section 4. Requirements to join the REMEDIES programme

Q15: How have you heard about the REMEDIES Open Call? (F6S, intermediary, REMEDIES partner, event, social media, other...)*

Q16 with checkbox:

- *I ACCEPT all the conditions of the programme. **
- *I CONFIRM that all information provided in this proposal, including in the attached documents and annexes, is true and correct. **
- *I ACCEPT that the information provided and submitted in this proposal can be shared by F6S with the project consortium for the purposes of managing the programme. **

Ps: The text may suffer some adjustments to its language, despite it's content & objective is the same.

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ANNEX III - REMEDIES TECHNICAL ANNEX Open Call 1 “Collection & Valorisation”

PROPOSAL TEMPLATE INSTRUCTIONS

Read carefully before preparing your proposal:

Please delete this page when submitting the proposal. Delete the guidance/ information text in yellow in each section and any footnotes.

Please use this template to prepare your proposal. It has been organised to ensure that the important aspects of your planned work are measurable with respect to the evaluation criteria. Sections 1 to 5 of this template each correspond to an evaluation criterion (**see Guide for Applicants for details**).

The structure of this template must be followed when preparing your proposal. Applicants using another template/ document structure will be automatically disqualified. Only those proposals that successfully address all the required aspects included in the template will have the opportunity to be funded.

On the cover page, please include the following:

- Title and acronym of your proposal
- Full legal name of the applicant organisation and country
- Proposal title

The page limit for the proposal (Sections 1-5) is **10 pages (i.e., this limit excludes the cover, instructions and summary of the project pages, and Ethics and Security section)**.

Consider the limits indicated below the title of each section (in yellow) as guidance to keep within the 10-page limit. Tables are allowed and must be included within this page limit. The minimum font size allowed is 11 points (note: tables can use font size 10 points). The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should not be changed from their current setting. Paragraph spacing should be a minimum 0pt

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before/ after, and 1pt line spacing. Calibri must be used as the font style (or Arial, if Calibri is incompatible with your system) and black as the font colour to facilitate readability. **Section 6 is not covered by a page limit.**

The proposal must be uploaded in .PDF format. If you attempt to upload a proposal longer than the specified limit, excess pages will be made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the experts.

Please delete this page when submitting the proposal. Delete the guidance/ information text in yellow in each section and any footnotes.

COVER PAGE

Proposal Information	
Acronym	
Title	

Applicant name (Full legal name)	Country

NOTE: All criteria described below have the same weighting in the evaluation process, each 25% completing a total of 100% of the whole technical proposal.

I. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

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Note: Maximum 1 page

Provide a full public summary of the project that can be published if the project is funded.

2. CONCEPT AND INNOVATION

Note: Maximum 1 page

Application must demonstrate a clear set of objectives aligned with the definition of the goals and with the general objectives of the project. Appropriateness of the project scope addressing the open call goal as well as the overall project vision. Quality, credibility, and clarity of project description. Interoperability level of the proposed solution. Innovation level, not only in a technical perspective, but also in a strategic and implementation perspective, as well as practices.

3. EXPERTISE AND EXCELLENCE OF THE PROPOSED TEAM

Note: Maximum 2 pages

3.1. Expertise

Applicants must provide credible evidence that the project team is committed and has the necessary skills, competence, and expertise to deliver the project.

3.2. Project team

Please indicate the number of person-months (full-time equivalent) of the people involved in the project in the table below for the duration of the project.

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Table 1. Person-months allocated to the project

Name of person	Person months (PMs⁷)
Person 1	
Person 2	
Person 3	

Note: Add lines are required.

Provide a description and justification of the expected costs and the requested total contribution using the table.

Table 2. Estimated cost of the project proposal

Cost category	Total	Description and justification
[A] Direct personnel costs ⁸		
[B] Travel costs ⁹		
[C] Equipment costs ¹⁰		
[D] Other direct costs		
TOTAL¹¹		

⁸ Costs of the persons implementing the project.

⁹ Travel costs should foresee at least one promotion/dissemination event.

¹⁰ Only depreciation costs of equipment are accepted.

¹¹ TOTAL costs of the Project must not exceed €100.000

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4. ALIGNMENT AND PROJECT PLANNING

Note: Maximum 2 pages

Quality, effectiveness and clarity of project activities, structure, and timing. Alignment of the activities with the open call goals and the project vision. Appropriateness of deliverables, milestones and means of verification. Appropriateness of expected costs and resources assigned to the project.

4.1. Work Plan

Describe the proposed work plan to be implemented towards the achievement of the objectives/ results. Include also:

- The specific activities that will be implemented, the time required, and expected outputs.*
- Relevant milestones and KPIs to measure achievement of results.*
- External barriers/ risks that may affect the work plan and compromise the project.*

Table 3. Suggested table for description of activities

Activity name	Description	Planned duration	Expected output
Activity 1			
Activity 2			
Activity 3			

Note: Add lines (for activities) if required.

¹¹TOTAL costs of the Project must not exceed €100.000

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Table 4. Suggested table for description of milestones

Activity name	Milestone description	Delivery month
Activity 1		
Activity 2		
Activity 3		

Note: Add lines (for activities) if required.

5. IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Note: Maximum 2 pages

Applicants must define their ambition and a clear set of expectations aligned with the objectives of the Call. Proposals must demonstrate the overall impact of the project and its contribution. The ambition underlines the potential extend and overall impact and replicability of the project actions. Among others, focus on:

- Contribution of the proposal to the REMEDIES overall objectives.
- Contribution of the project to providing concrete solutions for plastic litter decreases.
- Planned activities / measures to promote the project, and to exploit and disseminate the project results.

5.1. Strong points

Name 3 characteristics that define the strong points of your project and one line justification per each. Example: Impactful: as it foresees to change the connection between services and have a more effective implementation of litter monitoring.