



## **REMEDIES: Co-Creating a Plastic Litter Free Future**

### **DELIVERABLE: 5.3**

### **TITLE: Open call documents kit & third-party financing rules**

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## List of Abbreviations

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



## **Executive Summary**

This deliverable is linked with the Task 5.3 Open calls. The Open Call preparation is similar in terms of the documents to be prepared, with the differences of thematic to address. Open call I is dedicated to Collection and Valorisation and this will be the content focus on the developed documents that will be made public in order to allow interested applicants to apply.

The content of these documents includes descriptions of the activities of the project and the dedicated services to be offered by the consortium within the implementation period, that in the case of OCI is 6 months, as well as the beneficiary obligations and requirements for evaluation and criteria of selection. This deliverable comprises the information needed for the applicants to be able to submit their proposals. Hence, the D5.3 Open call documents kit & third-party financing rules include the Guidelines for Applicants, F6S application, template for the declaration of honour, template of the sub-grantee agreement and FAQ.

These documents are compiled in order to give all needed information regarding the documentation available for potential applicants for the REMEDIES OCI and they are presented in the following order:

1. **Guide for Applicants**
2. **F6S application**
3. **Template for Declaration of honour**
4. **Call for Applicants & Frequent Asked Questions (FAQ)**
5. **Template for Sub-grantee agreement**



# **1. Guide for Applicants**

for a plastic-litter free future

# LET'S RESTORE OUR SEAS AND RIVERS

[www.remedies-for-ocean.eu](http://www.remedies-for-ocean.eu)

## OPEN CALL

#RemediesForOcean #EUMissions #plasticlitterfree



**REMEDIES**

MEDITERRANEAN SEA BASIN LIGHTHOUSE



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**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**

**OPEN CALL I *Collection & Valorization***

**The REMEDIES Consortium is the following:**

**Table I: REMEDIES Consortium**

<b>Participant number</b>	<b>Participant organisation name</b>	<b>Short name</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	KEMIJSKI INSTITUT	NIC	SI
2	UNIVERZA V MARIBORU	UM	SI
3	ALCHEMIA-NOVA GREECE IDIOTIKI KEFALAIIOUXIKI 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 KEFALAIIOUXIKI ETAIREIA	CIB	EL
13	CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	CNR	IT
14	VLAAMSE INSTELLING VOOR TECHNOLOGISCH ONDERZOEK N.V.	VITO	BE

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15	SMALL ISLANDS ORGANISATION	SMILO	FR
16	INSTITUTI PER MENAXHIMIN E MJEDISITDHE TERRITORIT	ETMI	AL
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

***DISCLAIMER***

*The REMEDIES Consortium reserves the right to update, amend or modify any part, section or detail of the document at any point in time without prior information. Updates will be widely communicated using all project communication channels. Additionally, should an update and/or any change in the submission deadline be required during the open call application period, pending and completed applications will be notified through the F6S portal of the change so that they can act if required. Updates will not be detrimental to anterior decisions that were made in line with previous versions of the documents.*

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Funding scheme: Innovation action (IA) | Topic: HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-03-01

Start date of project: 15 December 2022 | Duration 48 months

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**List of acronyms**

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

## OPEN CALL I *Collection & Valorization*

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/upcoming-events/charter-mission-restore-our-ocean-and-waters-2030-2022-06-30_en)

## OPEN CALL I *Collection & Valorization*

### 2. OVERALL INFORMATION

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

- **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>), as the single-entry point for applications. The open call is advertised widely via the funding and tender portal [<link>](#) and the REMEDIES website, 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.

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### 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.

## 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 created 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.<sup>2</sup>
- **Sector:** Public organisations (local and/or regional authorities)

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<sup>2</sup> '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.

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- **Location:** located in a Member States and/or Participating Countries<sup>3</sup> 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, 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.
- **Budged:** 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

<sup>3</sup>

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](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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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.

### **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.

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### 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).

If you need any further information, please contact the REMEDIES OCI leader through the official OCI email: [opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu](mailto: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 **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024, up until 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.

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.

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### 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.

#### 5.1. Open Call principles

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

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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:

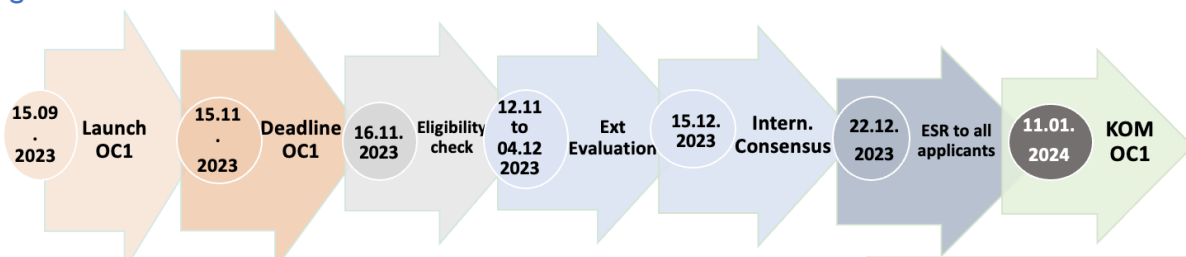
- **September 15th, 2023 (12.00 CET): launch of the open call I**
- October 3rd, 2023: OC I first public webinar
- October 31st, 2023: OC I second public webinar
- **November 15th, 2023 (17.00 CET): open call I deadline**
- November 16th - 28th, 2023: eligibility check and remote evaluation of submitted 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

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either publicly or directly depending on the need, taking in consideration the principle of transparency and equal access.

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-i-remedies>, available in the REMEDIES website, 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](mailto:support@f6s.com)), cc'ing [opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu](mailto:opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu), at least 10 days prior to the

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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](mailto:opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu).

**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

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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.

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.

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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.
- 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.

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### 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.**

#### 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.

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### 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 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).

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### 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 [<link>](#).

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](mailto: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)”.

*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.*

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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 project<sup>4</sup>, 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.

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<sup>4</sup> 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](mailto: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**

<b>QUESTIONS</b>	<b>ANSWER: YES/NO</b>
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.	

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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

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

### **OPEN CALL I *Collection & Valorization***

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 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**

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- 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 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

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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 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

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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 Commission<sup>5</sup> *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

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<sup>5</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](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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### 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
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 list<sup>6</sup>)

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[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-auratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-auratom_en.pdf)

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# ANNEX II - REMEDIES APPLICATION FORM

To be available for direct submission on the F6S Platform: [<link>](#)

The REMEDIES Open call application kit to apply under **Open Call I “Collection and Valorisation”** is available on the official REMEDIES project website, here: [<link>](#), 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) \*

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Q11: Role in the organisation \*

Q12: Email of the contact person \*

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

### **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. \**

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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

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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 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**

<b><i>Proposal Information</i></b>	
<b><i>Acronym</i></b>	
<b><i>Title</i></b>	

<b><i>Applicant name (Full legal name)</i></b>	<b><i>Country</i></b>

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***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.***

### 1. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

**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*

<i>Name of person</i>	<i>Person months (PMs<sup>7</sup>)</i>
<i>Person 1</i>	
<i>Person 2</i>	
<i>Person 3</i>	

*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*

<i>Cost category</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Description and justification</i>
<i>[A] Direct personnel costs<sup>8</sup></i>		
<i>[B] Travel costs<sup>9</sup></i>		
<i>[C] Equipment costs<sup>10</sup></i>		
<i>[D] Other direct costs</i>		

<sup>7</sup> Note that a PM is a metric for expressing the effort of a person dedicated full time in one month.

<sup>8</sup> Costs of the persons implementing the project.

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

<sup>10</sup> Only depreciation costs of equipment are accepted.

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**TOTAL<sup>11</sup>**

### 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*

<i>Activity name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Planned duration</i>	<i>Expected output</i>
<i>Activity 1</i>			
<i>Activity 2</i>			
<i>Activity 3</i>			

*Note: Add lines (for activities) if required.*

<sup>11</sup>TOTAL costs of the Project must not exceed €100.000

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Table 4. Suggested table for description of milestones

<b>Activity name</b>	<b>Milestone description</b>	<b>Delivery month</b>
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.*

## **2. Template for Declaration of Honour (DoH)**

## REMEDIES OCI APPLICANT DECLARATION OF HONOUR

**Project title:**

**Project acronym:**

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ [organisation name] established in \_\_\_\_\_, [Official address], VAT number<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, represented for the purposes of signing and submitting the proposal and present Declaration of Honour by \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of legal representative].

By signing this document, I declare that:

1. I have the power of legally binding the above-mentioned organisation upon submitting this proposal.
2. Neither the above-mentioned organisation nor any linked company/organisation or any individual member of the proposal team has submitted any other proposal under the REMEDIES Open call I. In case the above-mentioned organisation or any individual member of the team has submitted more than one proposal to this open call, all associated proposals will be automatically excluded from the evaluation process.
3. I and the above organisation that I legally represent are fully aware and duly accept all REMEDIES rules and conditions as expressed in the respective open call documents and Annexes and will respect any evaluation decision and proposal selection.
4. All provided information in this declaration is true and legally binding.
5. I give the consent and permission to the REMEDIES coordinator to use the attached information to contact me for any issue associated with the associated proposal.

**Organisation contact information:**

<b>Title (Mr., Ms., Dr.)</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Full address</b>	

<sup>1</sup> VAT is mandatory during the contract preparation.

## REMEDIES OCI APPLICANT DECLARATION OF HONOUR

<b>Country</b>	
<b>E-mail address</b>	
<b>Telephone/Mobile phone</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	

By signing this declaration of honour, I declare that all provided information below is true and legally binding both for me and for the organisation that I legally represent:

- I confirm having read the information about REMEDIES Open Call I, which is described in the official REMEDIES Open Call I Guide for Applicants.
- I agree on the terms and conditions included in the Guidelines for Applicants of the REMEDIES Open Call I.
- I Confirm having provided actual and correct information in the REMEDIES application form on the F6S platform.
- I confirm my organisation is committed to participate in REMEDIES Open Call I programme;
- My organisation has stable and sufficient resources (including the foreseen in OCI subgrant agreement REMEDIES) to maintain its activity throughout its participation in REMEDIES Open Call I programme should complete the 6 months of the OCI programme.
- I confirm I have not made false declarations in supplying the information required to participate in REMEDIES Open Call I.
- My organisation (or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it) have not been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement of a competent authority of a Member State, which has the force of *res judicata*.
- My organisation (or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it) have not been the subject of a judgement, which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the EU's financial interests.
- My organisation is not subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the REMEDIES programme.
- I agree and confirm to inform the REMEDIES consortium members, namely its designated mentor, without delay, of any situation considered a conflict of interests or which could give rise to a conflict of interests.

## **REMEDIES OCI APPLICANT DECLARATION OF HONOUR**

- I confirm to comply with the proposed actions in the proposal and will inform with utmost urgency in case there is any situation that may jeopardise the implementation of the proposed actions in OCI and its impact.
- I confirm that the organisation I represent has not granted and will not grant, has not sought, and will not seek, has not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and will not accept any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, where such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either directly or indirectly, in as much as it is an incentive or reward relating to the award of the grant.

*Date(d/m/y):*

*Location (country, city):*

*Signature (of the official representative of the participant entity) & Stamp:*

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# **3. Call for applicants & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

# CALL FOR APPLICANTS (website & EC platform information)

## Call for Proposals

REMEDIES Project is pleased to announce the launch of its first open call (OC) to financially support projects of innovative services in the Mediterranean related to the area of *Collection and Valorization* towards a plastic remediation and protection through.

We are looking for **local and/or regional authorities (public sector) from associated regions**, 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 are eligible.

To achieve this, we will implement special formats, coaching sessions, workshops, and exchange activities to continuously share REMEDIES outcomes and knowledge.

By joining us as an Associated Region, you will benefit REMEDIES's support to implement your action plan towards plastic remediation and protection through innovation services in the Mediterranean, namely at a technical, finance, business and governance level that benefit the *collection and valorization* of plastic in the Mediterranean.

This OC opens the opportunity to implement a joint initiative that supports the Mediterranean in the *collection and valorisation* projects in order to implement solutions that contribute to the restoration of its ecosystem and promotion of sustainability across Europe.

## Background

The project is built around the three main pillars: detection & monitoring, collection & valorisation, and prevention & reuse of plastic litter. REMEDIES grounds on the know-how of former projects addressing these topics and by connecting to previously identified major initiatives active in this area.

REMEDIES applies cutting-edge tech and circularity approaches, underpinned by a strong, holistic citizen engagement framework, as it aims to build a more plastic-conscious society, aligned with the European Knowledge Valorisation Strategy. The project works by empowering the local public and co-develops solutions that respond directly to communities' needs.

## Who Can Apply?

Eligible beneficiaries for this call are:

- Local and/or Regional authorities from Member States and associated regions to the Horizon Europe Programme.
- Applicants should have a good command of English
- Applicants must be eligible for participation in the EC Horizon Europe Framework Programme and must ensure the following obligations of the Grant Agreement, namely Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics and values), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out the action), 19 (general information obligations) and 20 (record-keeping)<sup>1</sup>[1].

The selected beneficiaries commit to carry out the following activities in their role as associated region to the REMEDIES project:

- Give visibility to their actions and REMEDIES Project and EC financial support in their websites, social media and participation in REMEDIES initiatives of promotion and dissemination.
- Develop a roadmap for a project proposal of 6 months, starting on 15th of January 2024 supporting the replication of REMEDIES solutions and tools in the local environment. The implementation of this action plan will be technically assisted by REMEDIES partners via mentoring, capacity building, training and guidance on structure and content.

Please note: Financial support will only be awarded to local and/or regional authorities (public sector) from associated regions. Applicants based in the countries where the REMEDIES partners are located can not participate in the call. This includes regions in the following countries: Albania, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Croatia.

### **Financed activities**

Grant provided to each selected associated region can amount up to €100 000.

For a better understanding of the goal of this call, we provide a list of types of activities that can receive financial support. These are divided in three categories:

### **Collection / Monitoring**

- collection sea beaches/stranded riverbank litter

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<sup>1</sup> For more details refer to [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

- 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 a program for green flag for plastic litter 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 general public as the target audience
- training and capacity building workshops actions on zero waste and plastic reuse, valorisation, collection importance, ethics, etc.
- organisation of seminars and workshop on how to reuse plastic and other waste

### **Valorisation**

- promote projects that reuse waste as science and art projects
- promote new synergies between stakeholders that already promote programs on pollution prevention and plastic valorization and collection for a wider/more effective and/or a 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

### **Application process**

Opening date: Friday, September 15th, 2023

Deadline model: Single-stage

Deadline: Wednesday, November 15th, 2023

- The Guide for Applicants can be downloaded here: [big visible button](#)
- The Sub-grantee Agreement for all applicants (only to be filled in by the awarded applicants): [<link>](#)
- The application can be submitted via F6S platform here: [big visible button](#)

## **Timeline**

- The REMEDIES OCI will have the following indicative timeline:
- September 15th, 2023 (12.00 CET): launch of the open call I
- October 3rd, 2023: OCI first public webinar
- October 31st, 2023: OCI 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

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Q: How long does the support program last?**

The OCI *Collection and Valorization* project proposal shall have a duration of 6 months. Therefore, the proposed plan/roadmap in the application should take this timeline into account.

### **Q: Is my country eligible to participate in the call?**

A: Local and/or regional authorities from Member States and associated countries to the Horizon Europe Programme are eligible. If in doubt, please get in touch with us at: [opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu](mailto:opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu) .

Please note: Countries that are a part of the REMEDIES consortium are not eligible to participate: Albania, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Croatia.

### **Q: When describing the budget, which cost categories should be used?**

A: The EU Horizon Europe Rules apply. For more information, please check the information given

here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

### **Q: Should the budget include indirect costs?**

A: The EU Horizon Europe Rules apply. For more information, please check the information given

here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

**Q: How will payments be received should the application be successful?**

A: The payments will be received through the lead partner of the project, the National Institute of Chemistry in Slovenia.

**Q: Are NGOs eligible to apply?**

A: No, NGOs do not count as 'local/regional authorities'. Only public sector entities are eligible.

**Q: Can an application include more than one beneficiary?**

A: No, only one entity can apply, no Consortium is eligible for OCI.

**Privacy**

In order to process and evaluate applications, REMEDIES will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data through the F6S platform. F6S Network Ireland Limited, as the Open Call Manager, will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes.

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" in the Guide for Applicants.

**CONTACT**

For tailored information on the OCI: [opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu](mailto:opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu)

## **4. Template for Sub-grantee Agreement**



**REMEDIES**  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA BASIN LIGHTHOUSE



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# **REMEDIES OPEN CALL 1 SUB-GRANTEE AGREEMENT**

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## Contracting parties

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is concluded **between** the following parties:

***On the one part,***

\_\_\_\_\_ [Organisation name] established in  
 \_\_\_\_\_, [Official address], VAT number  
 \_\_\_\_\_, registration number \_\_\_\_\_ represented by  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of legal representative],  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [Position of the Representative], acting as  
**Coordinator of the \_\_\_\_\_ REMEDIES project consortium.**

***Hereinafter referred to as the “Coordinator”,***

***And, on the other part,***

\_\_\_\_\_ [Organisation name] established in  
 \_\_\_\_\_, [Official address], VAT number  
 \_\_\_\_\_, registration number \_\_\_\_\_ represented by  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of legal representative],  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [Position of the Representative], bank account  
 number: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hereinafter referred to as the “Beneficiary”.**

***Hereinafter, both parties above are collectively referred to as the “Contracting Parties”.***

The Contracting Parties **HAVE AGREED** to the following terms and conditions including those in the following Annexes, which form an integral part of this Sub-Grant Agreement (hereinafter referred as the “Agreement”).

## General Provisions

The European Commission (hereinafter referred as the “EC”) and the Coordinator, as partner and representative of the REMEDIES consortium, have signed the Grant Agreement no. 101093964 for the implementation of the Co-creating strong uptake of REMEDIES for the future of our oceans through deploying plastic litter valorisation and prevention pathways – REMEDIES within the framework of the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.

Common purpose of Parties is cooperation in the \_\_\_\_\_ [Field]. The Beneficiary is under this agreement obliged to perform activities which include \_\_\_\_\_ and are specifically described in Annex XXX: Technical Proposal, hereinafter: “Activities”

The REMEDIES project is implemented by the Coordinator, as coordinator of the REMEDIES project, in collaboration with the other REMEDIES partners. The REMEDIES consortium partners have among themselves entered into a written agreement detailing their respective rights and obligations towards each other for carrying out the REMEDIES project and exploiting the results thereof (“the Consortium Agreement” or “CA”).

The objective of REMEDIES is to restore our seas and rivers through deploying (micro)plastic litter valorisation and prevention pathways. Project activities revolve around monitoring and detection, collection and valorisation, and prevention and reuse of plastic waste.

The Beneficiary has, been selected as a successful applicant for funding under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme based on the evaluation process presented in the Guide for Applicants for REMEDIES OCI, available in the REMEDIES website.

This Agreement aims at defining the framework of rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties with respect to the Beneficiary’s participation in the REMEDIES OCI, the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

The funding to be received by the Beneficiary is owned by the European Commission. The Coordinator is mere holder and manager of the funds.

## Article 1 - Entry into force and termination of the Agreement

### 1.1. Entry into force

This Agreement will enter into force on the day of its signature by the last Contracting Party. The Coordinator will sign this Agreement only after the Beneficiary delivers all the following documents:

- The original signed Declaration of Honour (as provided in Annex II).
- Bank Account Information form (as provided in Annex III).

The contact details of the Beneficiary for notices and communication under this Agreement are:

Name of contact person	
Address	

E-mail	
Telephone/ mobile phone	

The contact details of the Coordinator for notices and communication under this Agreement are:

Name of contact person	
Address	
E-mail	
Telephone/ mobile phone	

## 1.2. Agreement termination

This Agreement will automatically terminate at the end of the 6 months, starting from 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, which will happen when the Beneficiary has fulfilled all obligations in Article 2, except for those obligations that according to their content are intended to remain in effect, which keep their full force and effect (e.g., reporting on exploitation activities). The beneficiary will retain all information for 5 years after the project (REMEDIES) ends, as referred in section 4.2 Responsibility of beneficiaries in REMEDIES OCI Guide for Applicant.

The Coordinator shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement by written notice with immediate effect if the Beneficiary does not fulfil its obligations (see Article 3 - Breach of Contractual obligations).

Irrespective of the automatic termination of this Agreement under present Article 1.2 or any early termination under Article 4, all obligations that according to their content are intended to be in effect for longer shall remain in effect.

## Article 2 - Obligations and responsibilities of the Beneficiary

The obligations and responsibilities are defined in detail in the REMEDIES OCI Guide for Applicants.

Additionally, the Beneficiary shall take every necessary precaution to avoid any risk of conflict of interest relating to economic interests, political or national affinities or any other interests liable to influence the impartial and objective performance of the Activities. In case the Beneficiary is involved in a conflict of interest or in a risk of conflict of interest, the Beneficiary must formally notify this situation to the Coordinator without delay and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

Furthermore, the Beneficiary shall provide true and accurate documentation and declarations as defined in Paragraph I.1.

The Beneficiary shall comply with the EU Funding and visibility, as 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. The Beneficiary must provide to the Coordinator follow

up information, namely regarding implementation of its activities, especially to its REMEDIES designated mentor, as well as to the REMEDIES manager for communication and dissemination effects. All communication should comply with the 7.3 section in the Guide for applicants, regarding EU funding and visibility.

### **Article 3 - Breach of contractual obligations**

In the event of a breach of the contractual obligation's representations or warranties by the Beneficiary under this Agreement, the Coordinator, following consultation of the REMEDIES project Consortium, reserves the right to terminate the Agreement by written notice with immediate effect, even if such non-fulfilment is due to Force Majeure.

In the event of the breach of the contractual obligations by the Beneficiary, the Coordinator reserves the right of not fulfilling the respective payment to the Beneficiary.

The Coordinator also reserves the right to claim a refund of any already paid funds, both in case of breach of Agreement and/or in case the work or if costs are not approved by the EC. The Beneficiary is obliged to refund the paid funds within 15 days of receipt of such notice of the Coordinator.

In case the Beneficiary has not brought remedies from the notice, the Coordinator may decide to terminate the Agreement.

### **Article 4 – Financial contribution and financial provisions**

#### **4.1 Distribution of the financial contribution**

The funding of \_\_\_\_\_ Euro for a Beneficiary to carry out the Activities will **be granted in two (2) payments** in accordance with the provisions set in the Paragraph 4.2 below.

The financial grant to be paid will always be subject to:

- Provision of a frequent reports and a favourable review by the REMEDIES designated mentor with the consortium agreement. The follow up of the progress of the implementation is done each month through meetings and emails follow ups, throughout the duration of 6 months implementation. A non-favourable review by the assigned mentor of the work carried out may lead to further adjustments and clarifications and potential to an early termination of the Agreement and the full reimbursement of financial support provided by REMEDIES project.
- The prior notice to the Beneficiary of the date and amount to be transferred to its bank account (Annex III - Bank account information), providing the relevant references.
- Payments to the Beneficiary will be made by the Coordinator. In particular:
  - The Coordinator reserves the right to withhold the payments in case the Beneficiary does not fulfil its obligations and tasks as per Guidelines for Applicants. This delay will not extend the timeline of implementation (6 months starting at 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2024).
  - Banking and transaction costs related to the handling of any financial resources made available to the Beneficiary will be covered by the Beneficiary.

- Payments will be released no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receiving the signed Subgrantee Agreement and after receiving all required documents from the Beneficiary at the end of the six (6) months implementation, following the confirmation by the mentor that the Activities were implemented successfully. The Beneficiary must submit to the Coordinator, in the form of report, the reference of the Activities previewed in the application stage with the indication of its completions along the six (6) months, with clear indication of its impact and results, namely with numerical indications or photos or videos, that certifies its implementation and supports the actions of communication and dissemination in the REMEDIES project.

The Beneficiary is responsible for complying with any tax and legal obligations that might be attached to this Agreement.

## 4.2 Payments schedule

The requested funding per selected applicant will be granted in two (2) payments for the entire duration of the action, that lasts six (6) months, according to the Guide for Applicants. The first payment (70% of the grant) will be transferred in thirty (30) calendar days after signing the Subgrantee Agreement to allow the implementation and the second payment (30% of the grant) in thirty (30) calendar days after submitting the deliverable to the Coordinator and to the Project Officer and receiving conformation of the Coordinator that the Activities” have been performed in accordance to this agreement.

The Beneficiary should submit their deliverable no later than ten (10) calendar days after completion of the proposed project for the OC I, providing sufficient time for the REMEDIES consortium to review it. A review will be held between fifteen (15) to thirty (30) calendar days after the deliverable is received so that the Contracting Parties can present their work and provide answers to questions from the REMEDIES consortium partners.

If the Coordinator following consultation of the REMEDIES project Consortium determines that the activities have been carried out in accordance with this Agreement, the financial contribution will be made to the Beneficiary by the REMEDIES Coordinator. During the contractual procedure, the Beneficiary will be asked to provide the respective bank account information to which the payments will be made. Checking the consistency between the estimated costs and resources and the expected work of the project will also be included in the evaluation process. If requested, the Beneficiary will have to present any documentation for the costs claimed.

The payments will be made to the Beneficiary subject to a filled out Financial Identification Form (FIF).<sup>1</sup> If the Beneficiary chooses to send an invoice, the invoice must include the following information:

- Project REMEDIES – Grant no. 101093964
- Horizon Europe Framework Programme
- The month of the project to which the payment is associated
- Beneficiary information (e.g. OC I project acronym and beneficiary name)

The FIF is to be sent via e-mail: [opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu](mailto:opencall@remedies-for-ocean.eu). Payments will be made no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the FIF to the bank account of the Beneficiary as provided in

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/about\\_the\\_european\\_commission/eu\\_budget/fich\\_sign\\_ba\\_gb\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/fich_sign_ba_gb_en_0.pdf)

this Agreement. All payments will be made in Euros. The costs of the transfer should be borne by the Beneficiary

If at any point the REMEDIES Consortium considers that the quality of work demonstrated and/or reported does not correspond to what has been agreed, the Coordinator may demand a resubmission of a deliverable and respective reassessment. If significant improvements are not delivered within the timeframe specified by the Coordinator, the Beneficiary is considered to be in breach of their contractual obligations and Coordinator reserves the right to terminate this Agreement as outlined in Article 3 – Breach of contractual obligations.

## **Article 5 – Liability**

### **5.1 Liability of the Beneficiary**

The Beneficiary shall fully and exclusively bear the risks in connection with the fulfilment of its tasks and obligations under this Agreement. Except in case of force majeure (Article 8), the Beneficiary must compensate the Coordinator, and the EC for any damage they sustain because of the implementation of the obligations of the Beneficiary, which is not made in accordance to this Agreement or because the tasks and obligations of the Beneficiary were not implemented in full compliance with this Agreement. In case there is only a partial implementation the Coordinator reserves the right to assess the amount to be reimbursed by the Beneficiary.

Accordingly, neither Coordinator nor the EC can be held liable for any damage caused to the Beneficiary or to third parties because of implementing this Agreement in accordance to its provisions. At the same time, neither Coordinator nor the EC can be held liable for any damage caused by the Beneficiary or third parties, because of implementing this Agreement.

The Beneficiary shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that its acts within the framework of this Agreement do not infringe third parties' rights. There is no joint liability between the Contracting Parties. For this purpose, the Beneficiary shall indemnify and hold the Coordinator, and the EC harmless from and against all repayments, loss, liability, costs, charges, claims or damages which the Coordinator, or the EC as a result thereof would incur or suffer or must pay to the EC or any third parties. In addition, should the EC have a right of recovery against Coordinator or REMEDIES Consortium regarding any or all the financial support granted under this Agreement, the Beneficiary shall repay the sums in question in the terms and on the date specified by the Coordinator.

### **5.2 Exclusions of liability**

To the extent acceptable under applicable law, in no event shall the Coordinator or other REMEDIES consortium partners be liable to the Beneficiary for loss or damage caused by the Coordinator or the REMEDIES consortium partners, their employees, agents and subcontractors in connection with this Agreement for any of the following, however caused or arising, on any theory of liability, and even if the Coordinator and/or any other REMEDIES consortium partner were informed or aware of the possibility thereof:

- Loss of profits, revenue, income, interest, savings, shelf-space, production, and business.
- Opportunities; lost contracts, goodwill, and anticipated savings.

- Loss of or damage to reputation or to data.
- Costs of recall of products.
- Any type of indirect, incidental, punitive, special, or consequential loss or damage.

In respect of any information or materials from the REMEDIES consortium made available to the Beneficiary under this Agreement, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given, or implied as to the sufficiency, error-free performance, or fitness for purpose, nor as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties. Therefore, in particular, but without limiting the foregoing:

- The Beneficiary shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials, and the consequences of such use, and
- Neither the Coordinator, the EC nor the other REMEDIES consortium partners shall be liable vis-à-vis the Beneficiary in case of infringement of proprietary rights of a third party resulting from the Beneficiary's use of the information and material.

The exclusions and limitations stated in this Article and any other clause of this Agreement that has as its object or effect the exclusion or limitation of liability, shall not apply in respect of any: fraud; death, injury to natural persons or damage to real or immovable property caused by the negligence or wilful act, wilful misconduct, wilful breach; or otherwise in so far as mandatory applicable law overrides such exclusions and limitations.

## **Article 6 - Confidentiality**

### **6.1 Principles**

Regarding all information of whatever nature or form as is disclosed between the Contracting Parties in connection with the Activities and identified in writing as confidential, the terms of this Article shall apply.

### **6.2 Obligations**

All information, in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Contracting Party (the "Disclosing Party") to the other Contracting Party (the "Recipient") in connection with the implementation of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and which has been explicitly marked as "confidential" at the time of disclosure, or, when disclosed orally, has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within fifteen (15) calendar days from oral disclosure (at the latest) as confidential information by the Disclosing Party, is "Confidential Information".

The Recipient hereby accepts, in addition and without prejudice to any commitment on nondisclosure towards the EC, for a period of five (5) years after the end of the Agreement:

- not to use Confidential Information other than for the purpose for which it was disclosed.
- not to disclose Confidential Information without the prior written consent by the Disclosing Party.

- no ensure that internal distribution of Confidential Information by a Recipient shall take place on a strict need-to-know basis.
- to return to the Disclosing Party, or destroy, on demand, all Confidential Information that has been disclosed to the Recipient, including all copies and to delete all information stored in a machine-readable form to the extent practically possible. The Recipient may keep a copy to the extent it is required to keep, archive, or store such Confidential Information because of compliance with applicable laws and regulations or for the proof of on-going obligations provided that the Recipient complies with the confidentiality obligations herein contained with respect to such copy for as long as the copy is retained.

The Recipient shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the above obligations on the part of their employees or third parties involved in the implementation of Horizon Europe Framework Programme and shall ensure that they remain so obliged, as far as legally possible, during and after the end hereof and/or after the termination of the contractual relationship with the employee or third party. The Recipient shall apply the same degree of care regarding the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the project as with its own confidential and/or proprietary information, but in no case less than reasonable care. Each Contracting Party shall promptly advise the other Contracting Party in writing of any unauthorized disclosure, misappropriation, or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorized disclosure, misappropriation, or misuse.

### 6.3 Exceptions to the obligation of confidentiality

The information above (Article 6.2) shall not apply for disclosure or use of Confidential Information, if and in so far as the Recipient can show that:

- the Confidential Information has become or becomes publicly available by means other than a breach of the Recipient's confidentiality obligations.
- the Disclosing Party subsequently informs the Recipient that the Confidential Information is no longer confidential.
- the Confidential Information is communicated to the Recipient without any obligation of confidentiality by a third party who is to the best knowledge of the Recipient in lawful possession thereof and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Disclosing Party.
- the disclosure or communication of the Confidential Information is foreseen by provisions of the Grant Agreement.
- the Confidential Information, at any time, was developed by the Recipient completely independently of any such disclosure by the Disclosing Party.
- the Confidential Information was already known to the Recipient prior to disclosure.
- disclosure of the Confidential Information follows mandatory applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order.

### 6.4 Authorised disclosure(s)

If any Party becomes aware that it will be required, or is likely to be required, to disclose Confidential Information to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, it will,

to the extent it is lawfully able to do so under the laws and legislation applicable to said Party, prior to any such disclosure:

- notify the Disclosing Party, and
- comply with the Disclosing Party's reasonable instructions to protect the confidentiality of the information.

The Coordinator's disclosure of Confidential Information to the EC and/or the other REMEDIES consortium partners shall be governed exclusively by the terms of the Grant Agreement and/or the Consortium Agreement.

Accordingly, nothing in this Agreement shall prevent the Coordinator from complying with its obligations, including its reporting obligations, towards the EC and the other REMEDIES consortium partners, and any such disclosures shall be subject to the terms of the Grant Agreement or Consortium Agreement.

Likewise, the Beneficiary agrees and acknowledges that the EC shall be entitled to disclose Confidential Information to its staff, other EU institutions and bodies or third parties, if:

- this is necessary to implement the Grant Agreement or safeguard the EU's financial interests.
- the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

## **Article 7 - Intellectual property rights**

The Beneficiary acknowledges that all tools, modules and similar of the REMEDIES partners are proprietary and owned by the respective REMEDIES partner or applicable third party.

Nothing in this Agreement shall transfer to the Beneficiary or other partners it represents any license or other rights for the use of the tools, modules and similar that are property of a Beneficiary, unless a specific agreement is established.

The results developed under this Agreement shall be exclusively the property of the Beneficiary. This does not exclude the possibility for specific agreements to be made between the Beneficiary and one or more of the partners of REMEDIES.

## **Article 8 - Force Majeure**

"Force Majeure" means any unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the Contracting Parties control, which prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their obligations under the Agreement, which was not attributable to error or negligence on their part, and which proves to be inevitable despite the exercising of all due diligence.

Any default of a service, defect in equipment or material or delays in making them available, unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure, as well as labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties cannot be invoked as Force Majeure.

The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to limit any damage due to Force Majeure. They shall do their best to resume the implementation of the action as soon as possible.

No Contracting Party shall be in breach of its obligations and tasks if such a breach is caused by Force Majeure. A Contracting Party will notify the other Contracting Party of any Force Majeure as soon as possible. In case the Beneficiary is not able to overcome the consequences of Force Majeure within thirty calendar (30) days after such notification, the Coordinator will decide accordingly, including the termination of the Agreement.

## **Article 9 - Information and communication**

### **9.1 Information and communication towards the EC**

The Beneficiary shall, throughout the duration of the Agreement, take appropriate measures to engage with the public and the media about the Activities and **to highlight the financial support of the EC and the REMEDIES project**, as stated in the REMEDIES OCI Guide for Applicants.

Unless the EC or the Coordinator requests otherwise, 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 must:

- specify that the Beneficiary has received research funding from the EC through the REMEDIES project.
- display the European emblem along with the REMEDIES logo, according to the rules described in the Guide for Applicants, namely, when displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Beneficiary is exempt from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem.
- specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC and the REMEDIES Consortium is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. The following text should be used:

*“The [OCI project name or Acronym] has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation action programme, via the Horizon Europe Framework Programme issued and executed under the REMEDIES project (Grant Agreement no. 101093964).”*

The Coordinator, the REMEDIES consortium, and/or the EC shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the Beneficiary.
- contact address of the Beneficiary.
- the general purpose of the Activities (publishable summary, etc.)
- the amount of the financial contribution of the EC foreseen for the Activities. after the final payment, the amount and rate of the financial contribution of the EC accepted by the EC.

- the estimated amount and rate of the financial contribution of the EC foreseen for the Beneficiary in the table of the estimated breakdown of budget.
- the geographic location of the activities carried out.
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground.
- the publishable reports submitted (technical reports are excluded, since they are confidential).
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the REMEDIES project & EC in the framework of the proposed OCI project.

The Beneficiary shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the Coordinator, the REMEDIES consortium partners, or EC does not infringe any rights of third parties or disclosures internal confidential information.

Upon a duly supported request by the Coordinator on behalf of the Beneficiary, the EC may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security, academic or commercial interests.

## 9.2 Information and communication among the Contracting Parties

Any notice to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing to the addresses and recipients listed above. Any change of persons or contact details shall be notified immediately to the Coordinator. The address list shall be made accessible to all parties concerned.

### **Article 10 - Checks and reviews**

The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the Activities and up to five years after the end of the financial support granted to the OCI proposed project (counting from the implementation date on), arrange for a check and review to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves, including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC.

There will be no financial checks, reviews, or audits to check costs, since beneficiaries have no obligation to document the costs incurred for the action. Checks, reviews, and audits will focus on the technical implementation of the action.

The Beneficiary shall make available directly to the EC all information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, in view of verifying that the Grant Agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions.

The Beneficiary shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies (including electronic copies) of all documents related to the Grant Agreement for up to five years from the end of the Activities. These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any check under the Grant Agreement.

To carry out these checks, the Beneficiary shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the Beneficiary's offices, to its computer data, and to all the information needed to carry out those checks. They shall ensure that the

information is readily available on the spot during an audit and, if so requested, that data be handed over in an appropriate form.

Based on the findings made during the check, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorised representative to the Beneficiary concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The EC may decide not to take into account observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the Beneficiary concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

Based on the conclusions of the check, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

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 EC to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

## **Article 11 – Data protection**

The Contracting Parties have the obligation to abide by the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

Each Contracting Party shall be considered a separate and independent data controller, as defined in the GDPR, to every other Contracting Party. The processing of personal data shall be carried out lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, collected for specific purposes and adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed. Where it might be designated by a relevant Supervisory Authority or through agreement between Contracting Parties that the Coordinator and any other REMEDIES consortium partners are appointed as data processors, parties shall enter into appropriate data processing agreements as required by the GDPR.

The Beneficiary acknowledges that the Coordinator and any other REMEDIES consortium partners, if appointed as data processors, are not responsible for the Beneficiary's compliance with any data protection or privacy law applicable to the Beneficiary. Each of the Contracting Parties, in their respective roles as data controllers, will be responsible for their own compliance with any data protection or privacy law applicable to them as data controller.

## **Article 12 - Obligations imposed by the Grant Agreement to the Beneficiary**

The Beneficiary receives funding from the European Commission for carrying out the Activities: \_\_\_\_\_ [OCI project name or Acronym]. Under the Grant Agreement or the Consortium Agreement, some of the obligations must be imposed on the Beneficiary. Those obligations are reflected in this Agreement. The specific obligations that the Beneficiary must

ensure are described in the Multi-Beneficiary General Model Grant Agreement<sup>2</sup> (Horizon Europe General MGA – Multi), in articles 12, 13, 17, 25 and 33. These articles are included in this Agreement and are fully applicable to the Beneficiary.

The Beneficiary acknowledges and agrees that these obligations comprised in this Agreement and the above-mentioned obligations of the Multi-Beneficiary General Model are fully applicable to it.

## **Article 13 - Miscellaneous**

Should any provision of this Agreement be or become invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Agreement. In such a case, the Contracting Parties shall be entitled to request that a valid, legal, enforceable, and practicable replacement provision be negotiated which fulfils the purpose of the original provision.

The Beneficiary shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of the Coordinator or any other REMEDIES consortium partner, and nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Contracting Parties or between the Beneficiary and any REMEDIES consortium partner.

No rights or obligations of the Beneficiary arising from this Agreement may be assigned or transferred, in whole or in part, and no obligations of the Beneficiary may be sub-contracted, without the Coordinator's prior formal written approval; and such approval shall not exempt the Beneficiary from any of its obligations hereunder.

Although, with exception to the Coordinator, the REMEDIES consortium partners and their affiliated entities are not Contracting Parties to this Agreement, they are intended by the Contracting Parties to be third party beneficiaries under this Agreement and accordingly shall be entitled to enforce the terms of this Agreement against the Beneficiary and (without limitation) shall be entitled to the benefit of, and to enforce any exclusion of limitation of liability of the REMEDIES consortium partners contained in this Agreement and any indemnity in favour of the REMEDIES consortium partners contained in this Agreement.

Amendments and modifications to the text of this Agreement require a separate written agreement or annex to be signed between both Parties. Although this Agreement refers to the provisions of the Consortium Agreement and Grant Agreement, the Beneficiary is not a party to the Consortium Agreement or Grant Agreement but only bound towards the Coordinator by the Consortium Agreement and Grant Agreement provisions as referred or reproduced in this Agreement.

This Agreement is drawn up in English language which shall govern all documents, notices, meetings, reports and processes relative thereto.

## **Article 14 – Anti Corruption Clause**

The Parties agree to comply with all applicable anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws, rules and regulations and to this Agreement. In particular, if it is established that one of the Parties or somebody

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<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/fundingtenders/opportunities/docs/20212027/common/guidance/aga\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/fundingtenders/opportunities/docs/20212027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf)

on its behalf or on its account has promised, offered or given an illegal benefit to the representative or an agent of a body or organisation from the public sector so as to gain business, or concluded business under more favourable terms and conditions, or suspended due supervision over the implementation of the contractual obligations, or gained any other action or omission of such with which a body organisation from the public sector sustains damage or a representative of a body, an agent of a body or organisation in public sector, the other contracting Party or its representative, agent, intermediary is provided with an illegal benefit, the Agreement will be deemed null and void.

## **Article 15 - Applicable Law**

This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Belgium.

## **Article 16 - Settlement of disputes**

If the Contracting Parties are unable to resolve a dispute amicably, such dispute will be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by three (3) arbitrators in Brussels.

Each of the Contracting Parties to the dispute shall appoint one (1) arbitrator and the two (2) arbitrators so appointed shall elect the presiding arbitrator. Should a Party to the dispute which should appoint an arbitrator fails to do so within fourteen (14) days of the delivery of the written notice to do so from the other Party to the dispute or should the appointed arbitrators fail to reach agreement on the presiding arbitrator within fourteen (14) days after their appointment, such arbitrator shall be appointed in accordance with the Rules upon request of any of the Parties to the dispute.

The seat of arbitration shall be Brussels.

The Contracting Parties agree that the language of the arbitration, including oral hearings, written evidence, and correspondence shall be English.

A duly rendered arbitration award shall be final and binding on the Contracting Parties to the dispute. Each Contracting Party to the arbitration conducted in accordance with this section hereof shall bear its own expenses incurred in connection with such arbitration, including fees of its legal counsels. All other costs and expenses shall be apportioned between the Contracting Parties to the arbitration in accordance with the decision of the arbitrators.

Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the Contracting Parties right to seek injunctive relief or to enforce an arbitration award in any applicable competent court of law.

## **Article 17 – No double funding**

By signing this Agreement, the Beneficiary declares to be aware of the fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU that no costs for the same activity be funded twice from the EU budget, as defined in the Article 111 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation, and confirms that all the work performed under REMEDIES (Grant Agreement no. 101093964) will be done exclusively in the scope of this programme, not being supported or funded by any other European Commission programme.

**AS WITNESS:**

The Contracting Parties have caused this Agreement to be duly signed by the undersigned authorized representatives **in three (3) copies** the day and year first above written:

<p>For National Institute of Chemistry National Institute of Chemistry Prof. Dr Gregor Anderluh [POSITION_IN_ORGANISATION] Signature</p> <p>Done at _____ on DD/MM/202Y</p>	<p>For _____ [organization/ individual name] (the Beneficiary) Mr/Ms _____ [NAME SURNAME] _____ [POSITION_IN_ORGANISATION] Signature</p> <p>Done at _____ on DD/MM/202Y</p>
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## **ANNEXES**

Annex I: Technical Proposal

Annex II: Declaration of Honour

Annex III: Bank Account Information

## **5. Bibliography**

## Bibliography

1. REMEDIES Grant Agreement
2. REMEDIES Website

- REMEDIES Grant Agreement

EC grant agreement No 101093964, Funding scheme: Innovation action (IA)| Topic: HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-03-01

- REMEDIES Webpage

REMEDIES project, in the context of the WP6 lead by IHA. REMEDIES home page [Internet]. Place of publication: <https://remedies-for-ocean.eu/>