

PROMOTING
SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND
INCLUSIVE GROWTH
FOR THE ATLANTIC AREA

 SUPPORT TEAM for the
ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN



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CONTENTS

01. What is the Atlantic Action Plan
02. What is the role of the support team for the Atlantic Action Plan?
03. Services the support team for the Atlantic Action Plan provides
04. Project environment of support team for the Atlantic Action Plan

WHAT IS THE ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN?



The European Commission adopted the Atlantic Action Plan in 2013, aiming to revitalise the marine and maritime economy of France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom after the economic crisis. Funded from existing EU programmes, the plan promotes entrepreneurship and innovation through research and technology, while protecting the marine environment. Engaging national and regional actors, it also opens up possibilities of wider transatlantic cooperation.

The plan focuses on entrepreneurship and innovation through research and technology. Other priorities are to protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment, to improve accessibility and connectivity and to create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development. Concrete actions include enhancing the tourism market (by developing coastal tourism and preserving cultural heritage), improving education and training in emerging as well as traditional maritime industries (shipbuilding, fisheries and aquaculture), promoting offshore renewable energy and building cooperation in oceanic research to address climate change.

The Atlantic Action Plan aims to revitalise the marine and maritime economy in the Atlantic area. It demonstrates how the EU's Atlantic Member States and their coastal regions can help create sustainable growth in coastal regions and drive forward the "blue economy" while preserving the environmental and ecological stability of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Action Plan considers responses to the challenges of delivering growth, reducing the carbon footprint, using the sea's natural resources sustainably, responding effectively to threats and emergencies and implementing an "ecosystem" management approach in Atlantic waters.

It sets out priorities for research and investment to drive the 'blue economy' forward in the Atlantic area.

The Action Plan has four priorities:

- To promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- To protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
- To improve accessibility and connectivity;
- To create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.

The Action Plan is an invitation to the private sector, the research community, regional and national public bodies and other actors to design and implement projects reflecting the four priority areas. The economic value of the Atlantic Ocean is enormous for the countries located on its shores. Over time, the Action Plan could create a solid foundation for cooperation with other Atlantic nations. Building on the Atlantic Action Plan on 24 May 2013 at the Irish Marine Institute in Galway, the European Union, the United States and Canada signed, the 'Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation' thus agreeing to join forces on Atlantic Ocean research to ensure it remains healthy, sustainable and productive.

You can download the Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic area from:

<http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/library/key-documents>

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The blue economy has the potential to feed our growing population, create more jobs, and further economic growth. It represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost 500 billion a year.

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WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SUPPORT TEAM FOR THE ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN?

The European Commission set up the Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan, in August 2014, to provide guidance and proactive support for public and private organisations, research institutions and investors, to find funding sources and project partners across the Atlantic.

How can we help you?

The Support Team is composed of a Brussels based, central management team which follows the progress of the project implementation and five National Units based in Ireland, France, United Kingdom, Spain, and Portugal.

In particular, the National Units keep regular contact with local, regional and national stakeholders to foster co-operation, obtain and provide timely information on funding opportunities, aiming to support interested stakeholders by providing targeted and proactive multi-purpose support to develop and implement projects in line with the priorities of the Atlantic Action Plan.

The contact details of our "National Units" established in each Member State, as well as brief bios of the assigned experts, can be found at the following address:

<http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/contact/the-support-team>

National Unit France



Address: 40 rue Jim Sévellec - 29200 Brest, France
Tel: +33 2 98 05 63 16
E-mail: nationalunitfrance@atlanticstrategy.eu
Twitter: @EUAtlantic

National Unit Ireland



Address: Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit, J.E Cairnes School of Business and Economics, National University of Ireland, Galway
Tel: +35 3 914 92 547
Email: nationalunitireland@atlanticstrategy.eu
Twitter: @EUAtlantic

National Unit Portugal



Address: Rua do Alportel, 59 8000-292 Faro, Portugal
Tel: +351 931 67 69 71
Email: nationalunitportugal@atlanticstrategy.eu
Twitter: @EUAtlantic

National Unit Spain



Address: Alameda Urquijo 4, 4º, 48008 Bilbao Bizkaia - Spain
Tel: +34 944 014 690
Email: nationalunitspain@atlanticstrategy.eu
Twitter: @EUAtlantic

National Unit UK



Address: Portsmouth Business School, University of Portsmouth, Portland Building, Portland Street, Portsmouth PO1 3AH - United Kingdom
Tel: +44 23 9284 8513
Email: nationalunituk@atlanticstrategy.eu
Twitter: @EUAtlantic

The Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan is tasked to provide the following services:

Guidance:

To disseminate information on the Atlantic Strategy, its research and investment priorities and possible funding tools through a set of online media and social platforms. The "National Unit services" provide guidance for public and private organisations and their members, research institutions and universities, institutional and private investors, and promoters wishing to put forward and/or develop projects to implement the Action Plan.

Pro-active project development:

The support Team brings potential project partners together through matchmaking activities undertaken by the "National Unit services" and also through the specific service on its web site. Support is also given by providing advice on the use of EU financial instruments for projects implementing the Action Plan, including European Investment Bank financial assistance, Horizon 2020, as well as any other relevant public or private funding. Relevant calls for proposals and calls for tenders are publicised through the established online presence or more focused advice can be received from the dedicated National Units.



Outreach:

The Support Team is continuously identifying new stakeholders and growing an existing network of contacts from the private sector, regional authorities, clusters and Member State organisations. These contacts are collected and properly disseminated through a dedicated online partners' database which is open to all stakeholders. Based on these contacts the Support Team disseminates updated information and invites stakeholders to an annually organised Atlantic Stakeholder Conference, bringing together all interested actors and facilitating networking and matchmaking activities.

Additionally, the Support Team organises in each Member State national events with specific focus on the priorities of the Atlantic Action Plan, matchmaking, project showcasing and other topics according to the needs and the specificities of each country and/or regional, local community. These events are planned in advance and are in the form of open meetings and discussions with regional and local stakeholders (Roadshows) or as mini-conferences organised with the assistance of Managing and National Authorities. More information can be found on our website which is analytically presented in the following sections of this brochure (www.atlanticstrategy.eu).

Online services

Since 2014 the Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan has developed and is managing a set of online tools which aim to support the stakeholders in the identification of funding opportunities and partners as well as for the exchange of information about their project ideas, through dedicated, publicly available searchable databases. In parallel, through the www.atlanticstrategy.eu website, news, upcoming events and interesting articles are being disseminated informing timely and accurately stakeholders and the general public. The majority of this information is also available through the social media accounts of the Support Team to ensure that the latest information reaches all major groups of audiences who are particularly interested in the Atlantic Blue Economy and in the opportunities provided by the Atlantic Action Plan.

Website

The www.atlanticstrategy.eu website is the cornerstone to disseminate up-to-date information and make online databases and tools publicly accessible. The goal is to make our online presence a major information source and a place, where the Atlantic stakeholders and everyone interested in Blue growth and the Atlantic economy, can meet, exchange ideas and collaborate with each other for the implementation of innovative and sustainable projects.

Partner Registration & Search:

<http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/partners>

Funding Opportunities:

<http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/funding/find-funding-opportunities>

Search for Projects / Investment Ideas:

<http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/funding/find-projects-investment-ideas>

Post your Projects / Investment Ideas:

<http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/funding/post-your-project-investment-ideas>

Information on Funding Instruments:

<http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/funding/find-funds>

News & Events:

<http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/news-and-events>

Social Media:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EUAtlantic>

LinkedIn: Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan

Facebook: Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan

YouTube: Atlantic Strategy channel

In collaboration with the National Unit experts in each Member State and through the analysis of surveys and interviews conducted with the stakeholders, our Team collects valuable statistical data and information to enhance the existing tools but also designs new ones to further enhance the support to all stakeholders. Therefore, all online services are being constantly reviewed and upgraded to ensure they are fully adapted to new and arising needs and expectations.

So check our website frequently because new information and tools will be out soon:

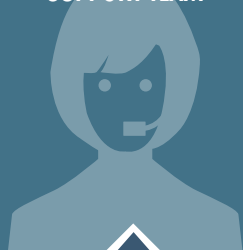
- Best Practices database
- Success Stories & Videos
- Call for the submission of projects for the Atlantic Projects Awards
- Registration for major forthcoming events
- Facebook page



PROJECT ENVIRONMENT OF SUPPORT TEAM FOR THE ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN

- Helpdesk
- Networking Platform
- Information on Policy Development
- interactive website & Social Media Tools
- Information on Events and Cooperation Opportunities
- Participation in Local Events for Investment in the Maritime Economy
- Information on Regional, National and European Financing Programmes
- Organisation of Local Events to raise Awareness & Find Partners
- Informations on Maritime Strategies Relevant for the Atlantic
- Country Experts Providing Face-To-Face Supports

SUPPORT TEAM



STAKEHOLDERS

- Universities
- Research Centres
- European Networks
- Local Authorities
- Regional Authorities
- National Authorities
- NGO
- Business



PROJECT PROMOTER



PROJECT IDEA



Contact* the Support Team to help you find answers to your questions about the Atlantic Action Plan and assistance to identify funding and partners for your project ideas.
Call us at +32 2 235 20 50 or email us helpdesk@atlanticstrategy.eu

(* The information given is free of charge and is intended for stakeholders acting in the European Atlantic Member States

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If you would like to order or download this brochure, please visit our website: <http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu>



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www.atlanticstrategy.eu