



**Interreg**  
Euro-MED



Co-funded by  
the European Union

---

**TREASURE**



# Call for Interest **TREASURE**

Testing novel environmental quality measures in ports

## About TREASURE

TREASURE is a project co-financed by the Interreg EURO-MED Programme. Its goal is to improve environmental quality in and around Mediterranean port areas by reducing sediment and water pollution. The project addresses the fragile environmental quality of Mediterranean ports by creating a transnational collaborative environment where port stakeholders can work together.

It is based on three multidisciplinary pillars:

- Creating an ecosystem of port stakeholders to set up pilot laboratories.
- Adopting an integrated approach to assess the environmental quality of ports.
- Experimenting with new techniques to restore degraded and polluted port areas.

Treasure's consortium brings together 9 diverse partners from 8 countries, including research institutions, maritime clusters, port authorities, and development agencies.

<p><u>Agency for the Development of the Empoese Valdelsa (Italy)</u></p> 	<p><u>Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Italy)</u></p>  	<p><u>Durres Port Authority (Albania)</u></p> 
<p><u>Port of Bar (Montenegro)</u></p> 	<p><u>Valenciaport Foundation for research, promotion and commercial studies of the Valencian Region (Spain)</u></p> 	<p><u>TRANSPORT MALTA (Malta)</u></p>  <p>Transport Malta</p>
<p><u>Central European Initiative - Executive Secretariat (Italy)</u></p> 	<p><u>Pôle Mer Méditerranée – TVT (France)</u></p> 	<p><u>PIRAEUS PORT AUTHORITY (Greece)</u></p> 

More information on the TREASURE project on <https://treasure.interreg-euro-med.eu/>

## Objective of this call of interest

The TREASURE project is seeking solution providers to address six specific environmental challenges Mediterranean port authorities are facing, identified by the TREASURE consortium. Applications presenting novel solutions will be reviewed and selected by a transnational committee comprising TREASURE project partners. This committee will compile the selected solutions in a catalogue of technological solutions aimed at enhancing the environmental quality of ports.

In the subsequent phase, workshops and study visits will be organized for some selected solutions. These events will take place in various ports, where applicants will have the opportunity to pitch their solutions.

## Benefits for the solution provider

Solution providers selected under this call will benefit with the following advantages:

- **Catalogue inclusion:** solutions will be featured in a dedicated catalogue, boosting visibility within the maritime and environmental sectors.
- **Communication support:** Gain exposure at the European level through the Interreg Euro-Med programme's promotional efforts.
- **Workshops and study visits:** Participate in events hold in port areas represented within the TREASURE project consortium, presenting and pitching your solution and network with key stakeholders.
- **Direct access to potential clients:** Reach potential clients, including port authorities and environmental agencies.
- **Testing phase:** Some of the selected solutions could be tested and implemented in ports areas, during the implementation of TREASURE activities.

## Target Groups

This call is addressed to all entities providing a solution to one identified challenge or more including private companies (SMEs mid cap companies or large companies), public institutions, research organizations, associations etc.

## Identified Challenges

To help TREASURE partners in selecting technological solutions for addressing environmental challenges in Mediterranean ports, the TREASURE consortium created a questionnaire for port authorities to better understand their needs. Based on the responses, six environmental topics with specific challenges have been identified as focal areas for this call.

Topics	Identified challenges
 <p><b>Water management:</b> Water management in ports involves sewages surveillance, regulation and treatment to ensure sustainable port operations yet minimize the marine ecosystem impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater collection.</li> <li>• Wastewater treatment.</li> <li>• Reuse of wastewater within the port.</li> <li>• Data acquisition and processing for water environment.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Protection and restoration of biodiversity:</b> Protection and restoration of biodiversity in ports concern the implementation of measures aiming to preserve coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as animals and plant species who depend on it. The objective is to minimise the negative impacts of ports activities on those fragile environments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of ballast waters.</li> <li>• Monitoring of marine biodiversity.</li> <li>• Ecoconception of ports infrastructures</li> <li>• Noise pollution.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Energy management:</b> Energy management in port involves the planification and implementation of strategies aiming to optimise the use of energy resources, such as electricity, fuel and renewable energy, to reduce the global energy consumption and Greenhouse gas emissions related to port operations. It includes also the production of renewable energies and alternative fuels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy production, storage and distribution onshore or offshore.</li> <li>• Redesign or optimisation of port energy studies.</li> <li>• Installation of charging station for ships.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Sediment management:</b> Natural or induced accumulation of sediments in maritime and inland ports causes management issues of which it is necessary to remedy to ensure a proper functioning. This sedimentation modifies the existing waters heights and disturb the free circulation of ships. Ports managers use then sediments dredging operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nanoremediation and bioremediation of sedimentary contaminants.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Improvement of air quality:</b> The improvement of air quality in ports involves the reduction of polluted emissions from ports activities, such as goods cargo handling, maritime traffic and port operations, to protect public health and the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of polluted emissions.</li> <li>• Emissions monitoring tools (real time and predictive).</li> <li>• Dust pollution.</li> </ul>



**Waste management:** Waste management in ports involves collecting, sorting, treating and disposal of wastes generated through port activities, in order to minimise the environmental impacts and to comply with environmental protection regulations.

- Waste collection, and recycling (households and organic, including toxic wastes).
- Remediation means.

## Submission of applications

Applicants can submit their proposals, before 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, by filling in an application form on this link: [TREASURE Application form](#)

Applicants will receive an e-mail confirming receipt.

Applicants may submit several solutions. If so, they should submit one application per solution.

## Evaluation and selection criteria

The evaluation process has been designed to guarantee an unbiased selection and to support the most promising solutions for port needs and the completion of the TREASURE project. All evaluators use a standardized assessment grid, and the evaluation committee then meets to harmonize their assessments.

The evaluation of received applications will be based on a set of criteria with a rating system (High/Medium/Low)

### **Innovation / Maturity**

Description of the solution's novelty and current stage of development.

### **Relevance**

Addressing the specified challenge and demonstration of adaptability across different port contexts.

### **Impact**

Evaluation of the environmental impact and other potential impacts of implementing the solution in ports.

## Calendar

- Call Launch Date: 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2024
- Deadline for Submission: 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2024
- Notification of Selected solutions: February 2025

## Confidentiality and Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679/EU) guarantees that the processing of personal data is carried out in compliance with the fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the dignity of the data subject, with particular reference to confidentiality, personal identity, and the right to data protection.

By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to the collection, storage, and use of their personal data solely for purposes directly related to the TREASURE project's objectives and work plan. The TREASURE consortium is fully committed to maintaining the confidentiality of both personal data and project-related information provided by applicants, ensuring that this information is not disclosed to unauthorized parties, except where required for the publication of call results.

In addition to personal data protection, the consortium guarantees the confidentiality of all proprietary solutions, project ideas, and technical information submitted by applicants.

The TREASURE consortium will not use or disclose any proprietary information or solutions without the applicant's explicit prior consent, except as needed for the evaluation process and where otherwise required by applicable regulations.

All application reviews, selections, and evaluations will be conducted under strict ethical guidelines, with full respect for the confidentiality of the information provided. Reviewers and evaluators will be bound by confidentiality agreements, ensuring that sensitive or proprietary details are protected at all stages of the selection process.

## Disclaimer

This text is explaining the TREASURE call of interest for information purposes only. No rights can be claimed based on this document. This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission.

The TREASURE consortium is not responsible for any mistakes or misinterpretations that this text may cause.

## Contact

For any inquiries about the application or TREASURE please contact: [europa@polemermediterranee.com](mailto:europa@polemermediterranee.com)