



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**MedArtSal**

Data < 23/02/2021 >

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**Q.1.** OUR SALINE IS COMPOSED OF TWO PARTS, ONE WHICH IS PROCESSED EXACTLY AS IT WAS ONCE, USING HAND-BUILT EQUIPMENT BY THE SALT WORKERS, AND A BIGGER ONE WHERE THE SALT IS COLLECTED BY USING MODERN AUTOMATED MACHINERY. IS THE PURCHASE OF "MODERN" MACHINERY, TO OPTIMIZE SALT PRODUCTION, ELIGIBLE?

Yes. With reference to art. 1.4.2 LOT [1] of the Guidelines for participants, "purchase of new tools/equipment to increase the salt production or the salt quality, or innovate the processes (e.g. production, packaging)" is eligible.

**Q.2.** ARE THE PROJECTS 100% OR 90% GRANTED (10% CO-FINANCING)?

A co-financing of 10% of the cost of the proposed action will be positively assessed in the evaluation process, but is not mandatory. In case of co-financing, the final amount disbursed will correspond to the total minus the amount relating to co-financing.

**Q.3.** IS THE PURCHASE OF PACKAGING MACHINES ELIGIBLE?

Yes, if the acquisition of packaging machines contributes to the improvement of the production process. The improvement obtained must be clearly described in the proposal. In general terms, with reference to art. 1.4.2 of the guidelines for applicants, "Actions that contribute to the improvement, innovation or reactivation of salt production, processes and services, including overall management" (Lot 1) are eligible. In particular, activities for purchasing new tools or equipment to increase salt production or salt quality, or to innovate processes (such as packaging) are eligible. It should be noted that all activities must take into account the environmental and biodiversity characteristics of the Salina. In this sense, activities that foresee an improvement and / or improvement of the environmental components and biodiversity will be positively evaluated.

**Q.4.** IS THE PROJECT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SALT FACILITIES (CLEANING OF THE NEARBY MARSH AND IMPROVEMENT OF DEPOSITS, CANALS AND INTERNAL ROADS) ELIGIBLE ?

With reference to art. 1.4.2 of the Applicant's Guidelines, works for the restoration of damaged areas (e.g. embankment, channels, salt tanks, water level and substrates management) are eligible.

**Q.5.** WE REPRESENT A MARINE AQUACULTURE COMPANY. WE ARE CONSIDERING THE PRODUCTION OF MACRO-ALGAE AND *FLEUR DE SEL* IN OUR PLANTS. COULD WE PARTICIPATE IN THE CALL FOR GRANTS?

If your business is located inside a saltpan, even if the salt production is not currently active, you can participate. Note that in order to be eligible to participate in the grant notice, the lead applicant must be directly or indirectly responsible for at least one salina's operation (Refer to art. 1.4.1 for full details of the eligibility criteria for applicants). This requirement is not necessary if you are participating as co-applicants, provided that your participation clearly contributes and represent an added value to the implementation of the proposed actions / activities and / or future salinas' operations proposed by the lead applicant (e.g. creation of co-operatives, creation of new services / networks, creation of new markets / commercial chains).



**Q.6. ANNEX 2-1. FINANCIAL CAPACITY. ANNUAL TURNOVER [3], CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS [4]. WHAT DATA DO WE HAVE TO INSERT?**

The annual turnover relating to the official financial statement of the company or activity for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 must be presented. For 2020, if the financial statements are not yet available, please enter the presumed data. For 2021, a forecast is requested, based on the trends of previous years and taking into account the current market.

Available cash and cash equivalents refer to cash on hand or short term investments that may be available. As above, reference should be made to the company's financial statements where available.

**Q.7. ANNEX 4 – DO WE HAVE TO COMPLETE THE EVALUATION GRID? IF YES, HOW?**

No, Annex 4 does not have to be filled in. The "Annex 4 - Evaluation grid" is a reference document that describes the evaluation criteria, but must not be attached to the application. It can only be used as a self-assessment, to self-evaluate the score of your proposal, and then, if necessary, make improvements. And to check if all the points that will be analyzed in the evaluation phase are well described.

Only Annex 2-1, 2-2, 3 and 6 must be completed, signed and submitted, together with the results of the MedArtSal SSI toolkit test. (Annex B)

Please use and fill in the checklist in the last page of Annex 2-1 to verify the documents to be submitted.

**Q.8. DO WE HAVE TO FILL IN THE ANNEX 5 – “STANDARD GRANT AGREEMENT”? IF YES, COULD YOU GIVE US AN EDITABLE VERSION OF IT AS AN EXAMPLE?**

The Annex 5 is a reference document and must not be attached to the application. It is been published to inform the candidate in advance about the contractual conditions in the case of awarding.

**Q.9. ANNEX 9-1 - ACTIVITY REPORT - DOES THIS ANNEX HAVE TO BE DELIVERED ONCE THE PROJECT HAS FINISHED?**

The Annex 9-1 is a reference document and must not be attached to the application. The Annex 9-1 and the Annex 9-2 have to be submitted in order to obtain the intermediate and balance payment. As established by art. 4 of "Annex 5 – Standard sub-grant contract", there are two reporting phases: one for the intermediate payment, and one for the balance payment at the end of the project.

**Q.10. ANNEX 9.2 FINANCIAL REPORT. DOES THIS FILE HAVE TO BE FILLED IN AT THE END OF THE PROJECT? DO WE HAVE TO LOG IN ONCE THE PROJECT IS FINISHED?**

Please refer to the answer of the question Q9.

**Q.11. A COMPANY THAT WORKS ON A SALINA LOCATED IN ONE OF THE ELIGIBLE REGIONS AND WITH HEADQUARTER IN THE SAME REGION, BUT WITH LEGAL OFFICE IN A NOT ELIGIBLE REGION, IS ELIGIBLE OR NOT?**

Having the operational headquarters in one of the eligible Regions is sufficient to be able to participate in the call, as long as it is justifiable through official documents.

**Q.12. IS THE COST OF AN ACTION (A SALT PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT) THAT EXCEEDS 10% CO-FUNDING ELIGIBLE?**

Yes, it is. The call does not define a MAXIMUM percentage of co-financing, only a MINIMUM co-financing of 10% (in accordance with the provisions of the ENI CBC MED program) to which a score of 5 will be assigned (See Annex 4). Note that co-financing is not mandatory.

**Q.13. WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS INFRASTRUCTURE?**

Infrastructures (e.g. solar plants, organic waste treatment plants etc.) are defined as basic facilities, and installations providing services needed for project implementation. Small-scale infrastructure and / or integration / innovation of existing infrastructures are eligible, as long as the permit / authorization processes required (if any) have not to affect the effective implementation of activities within the sub-grant duration.

**NEW FAQ**

Please What defines the "artisanal" criteria? If any, what type of salinas would then be excluded from the project for eventually not being "artisanal"?

An Artisanal Salina is characterized by its small size (normally no more than 50 ha) and by the fact that management and maintenance tasks are carried out without heavy machinery. Traditional harvesting methods are employed, using the 'salt stick' and harvesting by hand or in more recent times, using small machinery. This usually results in clean salt, collected without impurities, and a high commercial value with different types of gourmet salt, such as fleur de sel, being prominent in all markets.

For Tunisia the participation to the call for proposal is not limited to artisanal salinas.

**Q.14. FOR THE PRODUCTIVE SALINAS, THE PRODUCTION STARTS IN JUNE, SO IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DO MAINTENANCE TO AUGMENT AND DEVELOP THE SALINAS IN A SHORT INTERVAL TIME DURING THE END OF MAY FOR RECEIVING THE MONEY FOR THE RECUPERATION. THIS ONLY CONCERNS THE MAINTENANCE, HOWEVER, FOR OTHER ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES CAN BE PROCEEDED. CAN THE PROJECT START LATER?**

Sub-grant duration can be from a minimum of 12 months to a maximum of 16 months, but in all cases proposed activities shall be concluded in August 2022 (apart the 1-day of presentation to stakeholders that has to be implemented in September 2022). This means that activities can start by the end of August 2021 / beginning of September 2021, provided that the minimum duration of the sub-grant shall be 12 months August 2021.

In any case, please plan your activities by considering (if the case) also timing for procurement and delivery of equipment and services (especially in this Covid-19 situation).

**Q.15. IF THE PROPOSAL IS COMPOSED OF A SET OF ACTIVITIES OF WHICH IS NOT ELIGIBLE, THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL WILL BE REJECTED?**

It is not possible to give a prior assessment to the set of activities. However, the suggestion is to not include in the proposal ineligible activities. They can be described in the proposal as “side activities”, if part of a unique project and they are fundamental for the achievement of the results of the proposed eligible activities, but they cannot be considered in any case for the sub-grant.

**Q.16. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE TUTORIAL VIDEOS SHOWN DURING THE WEBINAR HELD ON FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>?**

You can ask for more information to Esperanza Macarena Castro Casas by e-mail at the following e-mail address: [macarena.castro@gm.uca.es](mailto:macarena.castro@gm.uca.es).

**Q.17. A CO-FINANCING IN KIND CAN BE ELIGIBLE? È POSSIBILE CO-FINANZIARE IN KIND?**

No. Contribution in kind are ineligible costs. So far contribution in kind cannot be considered for co-financing.

**Q.18. THE RESULT OF THE TOOLKIT IS DOWNLOADABLE? DOES IT HAVE TO BE DELIVERED WITH THE APPLICATION? | RISULTATO DEL TOOLKIT È SCARICABILE? DEVE ESSERE CONSEGNATO CONGIUNTAMENTE ALLA DOMANDA?**

Yes, at the end of the page you have to activate the option “send me a copy of my responses” to receive a copy of it.

Please note that for the participation to the sub-grant call for proposal, you have to do the test 2 times: [1] time for the current situation/status of the salina and [1] time for the expected situation/status after the implementation of envisaged/planned activities.

For each test done you have to print the test, including its final SSI score obtained.

**Q.19. WE ARE A PUBLIC BODY, WHAT SHOULD WE INCLUDE IN CHAPTER 7 OF THE APPLICATION FORM (PERSONNEL STATISTICS), ONLY THE PERSONNEL WHO ARE DEDICATED TO MAINTENANCE IN THE SALINA? OUR INSTITUTION DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN STAFF, BUT THE STAFF DERIVES FROM PROJECT CONTRACTS OR THROUGH AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER PUBLIC BODIES, IS IT NECESSARY TO INDICATE THIS? SIAMO UN ENTE PUBBLICO, COSA DOBBIAMO INSERIRE NEL CAPITOLO 7 DEL MODULO DI DOMANDA (STATISTICHE DEL PERSONALE), SOLO IL PERSONALE CHE È DEDICATO ALLE MANUTENZIONI NELLA SALINA? IL NOSTRO ENTE NON HA PERSONALE PROPRIO, MA IL PERSONALE DERIVA DA CONTRATTI A PROGETTO O TRAMITE CONVENZIONI CON ALTRI ENTI PUBBLICI, È NECESSARIO INDICARLO??**

Chapter 7 “Personnel statistics” of Annex 2-1 Application form serve to assess potential manpower of the applicants and so far, applicant capacity in implementing proposed set of activities. To this purpose, any type of engagement/contract type can be considered. At column “**Total for fields related to this proposal**” please indicate only those staff that has a direct or indirect involvement in activities related to the salina operations.



**Q.20.** WE ARE A PUBLIC BODY AND HAVE NO TURNOVER, WHAT SHOULD WE INCLUDE IN CHAPTER 6 OF THE APPLICATION FORM (FINANCIAL CAPACITY)? [SIAMO UN ENTE PUBBLICO E NON ABBIAMO FATTURATO, COSA DOBBIAMO INSERIRE NEL CAPITOLO 6 DEL MODULO DI DOMANDA \(CAPACITÀ FINANZIARIA\)?](#)

Those data are not required for public body, but information on annual balance could be provided as additional information.

**Q.21.** DOES ANNEX 6 "DECLARATION DE MINIMIS FOR THE APPLICANT" HAVE TO BE COMPLETED IN THE CASE OF A PUBLIC BODY? [L'ALLEGATO 6 "DICHIARAZIONE DE MINIMIS PER IL RICHIEDENTE" DEVE ESSERE COMPILATO NEL CASO DI UN ENTE PUBBLICO?](#)

Public bodies are not required to fill in and send Annex 6 "De\_minimis\_declaration for sub-grantee".

**Q.22.** REGIONAL FINANCING RECEIVED IN THE PREVIOUS 3 YEARS HAVE TO BE DECLARED? [I FINANZIAMENTI REGIONALI RICEVUTI NEGLI ULTIMI 3 ANNI DEVONO ESSERE DICHIARATI?](#)

If the question refers to the Annex 6 "De\_minimis\_declaration for sub-grantee", the applicant must respect the Roles of EU 18.12.2013 n.1407. In case the question is not referred to the Annex 6, the regional financing do not have to be declared.

**Q.23.** ARE THE IMPROVEMENT OF DIVERSIFIED ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXTENSIVE FISHING PROJECTS ELIGIBLE? [IL MIGLIORAMENTO DI ATTIVITÀ DIVERSIFICATE, COME AD ESEMPIO L'IMPLEMENTAZIONE DI PROGETTI DI ITTICOLTURA ESTENSIVA SONO AMMISSIBILI?](#)

We cannot give a prior assessment of specific activities. However, any secondary activity besides salt production is considered as potentially contributing to diversify salinas' activities.

**Q.24.** I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PAYMENT OF THE GRANT WOULD BE AFTER THE COMPLETE JUSTIFICATION OF THE EXPENSES. IS THAT CORRECT? [ENTIENDO QUE EL PAGO DE LA SUBVENCIÓN SERÍA TRAS LA JUSTIFICACIÓN COMPLETA DE LOS GASTOS ¿ES CORRECTO ESO?](#)

It is not completely correct. 3 steps of payment are foreseen (refers to Art. 4 of Annex 5 Standard sub-grant contract). The Initial pre-financing payment (30% of the total eligible costs of the action) is calculated on the total amount approved and stated in the sub-grant contract. This will correspond to the budget of the sub-grant proposal, unless some revisions are required during the evaluation phase. This first payment is expected within one month from contract signature (no justification of expenses is requested).

The (second) Intermediate payment (40% of the total eligible costs of the action) is calculated as the first initial payment (i.e. on the total amount approved and stated in the sub-grant contract), but will be paid after acceptance of the intermediate report and related output(s). The report is both technical (according to Annex 9-1) and financial (according to Annex 9-2).

The Final payment is de fact the unique payment that will be done as a balance of the amount effectively incurred of the grant. The amount of the balance payment will be determined by applying the deduction of unspent amounts and of not-accepted expenditures by the auditor of the Partner.

**Q.25.** IN WHAT PERIOD, AFTER JUSTIFICATION OF THE EXPENSES, WOULD THE PAYMENT OF THE GRANT BE EFFECTIVE?  
¿EN QUÉ PLAZO, TRAS LA JUSTIFICACIÓN DE LOS GASTOS, SE HARÍA EFECTIVO EL PAGO DE LA SUBVENCIÓN?

The final report (Technical and financial) shall be sent within the end of September 2022) and the payment will be done before the end of the MedArtSal project (at the moment, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022).

**Q.26.** THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT REQUESTED (€ 30,000) IN THE EVENT THAT THERE IS A CO-APPLICANT, COULD IT BE EXTENDED OR WILL IT BE SPREAD BETWEEN APPLICANT AND CO-APPLICANT? EL IMPORTE MÁXIMO SOLICITADO (30.000 €) EN EL CASO QUE HUBIERA CO-SOLICITANTE ¿PODRÍA SER AMPLIADO O SE REPARTIRÍA ENTRE SOLICITANTE Y CO-SOLICITANTE?

No. The maximum amount has to be considered per sub-grant and cannot be extended in case of the participation in partnerships with co-applicants.

**Q.27.** I HAVE SEEN SOME EXPERIENCES OF CULTIVATION OF MICROALGAE / ALGAE IN SALINAS, BUT WOULD MARINE INVERTEBRATE CULTURE BE ELIGIBLE? HE VISTO ALGUNAS EXPERIENCIAS DE CULTIVO DE MICROALGAS/ALGAS EN SALINAS, PERO, ¿EL CULTIVO INVERTEBRADOS MARINOS SERÍA SUBVENCIONABLE?

It is not possible to give a prior assessment to the specific activity. However, any type of diversified activity inside the salina is considered eligible.

**Q.28.** MARINE AQUACULTURE FACILITIES (ESTUARIES), WITH THE PERTINENT AUTHORIZATIONS FOR MARINE CROPS, COULD PARTIALLY REVERT TO THE PRODUCTION OF FLOWER OF SALT? (DOES NOT HAVE MINING PERMITS) INSTALACIONES DE ACUICULTURA MARINA (ESTEROS), CON LAS AUTORIZACIONES PERTINENTES PARA CULTIVOS MARINOS, ¿PODRÍAN PARCIALMENTE REVERTIRSE A LA PRODUCCIÓN DE FLOR DE SAL? (NO TIENE PERMISOS DE MINERÍA)

To may be able to partially revert the facility for the production of salt you need to obtain due permits. It depends by your specific national regulations, but in general the mining permission is required.

**Q.29.** HOW CAN WEI BECOME A MEDARTSAL'S PARTNER? COME SI PUÒ DIVENTARE PARTNER DI MEDARTSAL?

We thanks for your interested, but the partnership of the MedArtSal project is already defined. However you can have the opportunity to join to the MedArtSal Network. Please refer for more information to Annex A of the sub-grant call for proposal set of documents, and to the presentation shown during the Webinar on February 26<sup>th</sup>, you can find at the following [link](#).

**Q.30.** CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE LAST DELIVERY DATE IS 23/03/2021 AND NOT 16 AS PREVIOUSLY SPECIFIED? PODEIS CONFIRMAR QUE LA FECHA DE ENTREGA ULTIMA ES EL 23/03/2021 Y NO EL 16 COMO PRECEDENTEMENTE ESPECIFICADO?

Yes confirmed.



**Q.31.** IN THE EVENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SALT EXPLOITATION PREVIOUSLY, WHAT TYPE OF ACCREDITATION IS REQUIRED ? BUT OBTAINING PERMITS TAKES A LONG TIME. **EN EL CASO DE QUE NO HAYA EXISTIDO EXPLOTACIÓN DE SAL CON ANTERIORIDAD, QUE TIPO DE ACREDITACIÓN SE NREQUIERE? PERO LA OBTENCIÓN DE PERMISOS SE DEMORA MUCO EN EL TIEMPO..**

Please refer to Q.28. Specific type of required permissions and timing for their release, has to be verified with relevant national authorities, depending on your specific case and activities you would like to implement. Please consider this issue when defining the overall duration of proposed activities (and so of the sub-grant proposal).

**ONLY FOR SPAIN**

**Q.32.** ¿TODAS LAS PÁGINAS TIENEN QUE ESTAR FIRMADAS ELECTRÓNICAMENTE?

La firma es electrónica (pero no necesariamente digital certificada)