

# Applications for schools from non-EU countries to the Network of European Blue Schools (NEBS)

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This document describes the requirements of taking part in the NEBS for schools that are not located in the EU. It provides additional information to schools that apply for grants from the partner projects of the NEBS: ProBlue, SHORE and BlueLightS.

## 1. Introduction

The NEBS contributes to one of the Missions of the European Union to "[Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030](#)". The aim of this EU Mission is to reverse the degradation of oceanic, coastal, and inland waters caused by human activities. The Mission aims to protect and restore ecosystems, prevent and eliminate pollution, and increase the circulation of the blue economy.

The Mission's success is influenced by **ocean and water literacy**. In this regard, the NEBS is supported by three Mission projects that provide grants and tools for blue schools' projects that are addressing education for blue sustainability and the protection of marine and freshwater ecosystems:

- [ProBleu project](#)
- [SHORE project](#)
- BlueLightS project

## 2. EU Blue School certification: geographical location

Based on geographical location, there are two types of blue school certificates that are granted by the NEBS. Both certifications have the same evaluation criteria and provide access to all networking events, professional development opportunities, resources and tools provided by the NEBS.

- **European Blue School Certificate**

Issued for schools that meet the criteria and are located in an EU country: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Certified European Blue Schools are eligible to receive grants from the EU4Ocean Coalition for Ocean Literacy's call '[Challenge of the Year](#)' and from Mission projects ProBlue, SHORE and BlueLightS.

- **Associated Blue School Certificate**

Issued for schools that meet the criteria and are located in [a third country associated with Horizon Europe](#):

Certified Associated Blue Schools are only eligible to receive grants from Mission projects ProBlue, SHORE and BlueLightS. The application for grants is done directly via the three partner project websites – not through the NEBS.

## 3. Application process for Associated Blue Schools

All applicants for the Associated Blue School Certificate are required to:

- apply in English on the [official website of the NEBS](#) to receive the certificate;
- meet all the minimum evaluation criteria, as described in the [guidelines of NEBS](#); and
- where applicable, indicate if the project is related to ProBLUE, SHORE or BlueLightS on the application form.
- Only ongoing or completed projects are eligible for application.

The assessment of the applications for the Associated Blue School Certificate is done in close collaboration with Mission project partners from SHORE, ProBlue and BlueLightS.