

**PRESS RELEASE**

15 October 2025

## **EUROLakes Launches a Funding Call for Replication Projects to Restore European Natural Lakes**

EUROLakes is proud to announce the official launch of its [Replication Call for Associated Regions](#), inviting local and regional authorities across Europe to apply for funding to replicate innovative, nature-based solutions (NBS) for the restoration of natural lake ecosystems.

Supported by the **Horizon Europe Programme**, this transformative initiative builds on successful ecological restoration models implemented in Italy, Germany, and Romania. Selected applicants will receive up to **€75,000** in funding to co-develop and implement tailored lake restoration plans using the **4 Returns Framework** - a holistic methodology that delivers environmental, social, inspirational and economic benefits.

“This call is a unique opportunity for regions facing similar environmental challenges to join a growing community of practice and contribute to the revitalization of Europe’s lakes,” said the EUROLakes Project Manager Aleksandra Starcevic. “Through mentorship, technical support, and knowledge exchange, we aim to empower local actors to lead impactful restoration efforts.”

**Key Details:**

- **Who can apply?** Local and regional authorities (municipalities, conservation agencies, regional governments) from EU Member States (excluding those already represented in the EUROLakes Consortium) and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.
- **Eligibility:** Applicants must oversee or manage natural lakes and their catchment areas and must not have received funding under the same Horizon Europe topic.
- **Application Deadline: 15 January 2026 at 17:00 CET**
- **Submission:** Completed application forms must be submitted via email to [proposals@eurolakes.eu](mailto:proposals@eurolakes.eu)

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Proposals will be assessed based on:

- **Relevance** to EUROLakes objectives and EU policy goals
- **Impact** on environmental, social, and economic outcomes
- **Quality** of the restoration plan and cost-effectiveness
- **Implementation capacity** and stakeholder engagement

Only **three regions** will be selected to receive funding and join the EUROLakes network of demonstration sites.

Interested applicants are encouraged to download the **Call Guidelines** and **Application Form** from the [EUROLakes Replication Call page](#) and begin preparing their submissions.

For more information, visit EUROLakes website: <https://eurolakes.eu>.

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REPLICATION CALL IS **OPEN!**

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