



EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



CASCADE FINANCING

Cascade financing is a form of grants that facilitates their delivery (or parts of it) from large funders to smaller organisations which are innovating in fields of strategic importance.

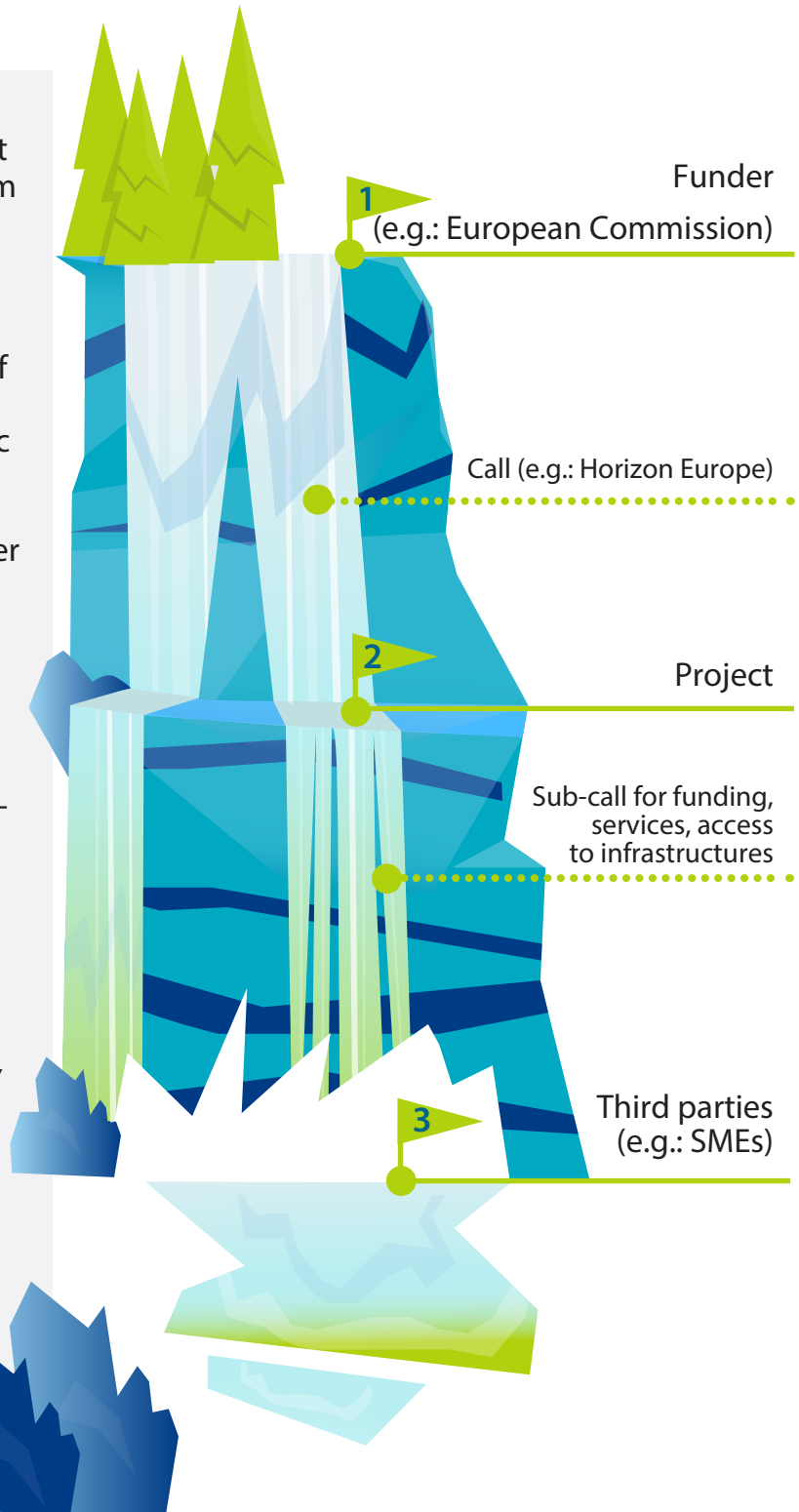
This mechanism eases the funder's part of the administration and enables working through intermediaries with more specific thematic or geographic knowledge. This way, funders can reach target groups which would not normally approach larger funders or are unable to absorb larger grants.

Intermediaries with technical expertise may also include capacity building measures for the target group by supporting the application process or providing technical support during implementation.



To restore our ocean and waters, civil society is crucial both in finding the solutions needed and ensuring the legitimacy of the green transition. By allocating our funds for civil society through national Fund Operators, independent of government, we can rely on strong sectorial and national expertise while local NGOs seeking funds get guidance in their own language.

Ragna, EEA and Norway Grants





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CONCESSIONAL FINANCE

To support priority areas or activities, funders may offer financial assistance on more generous terms than what is otherwise available. One could say that the funder makes a concession by giving favourable terms. This is referred to as **concessional finance**. There are several types of concessional finance, including financial guarantees or loans with lower interest rates, longer repayment periods, or lower requirements for security than what is available on the market.

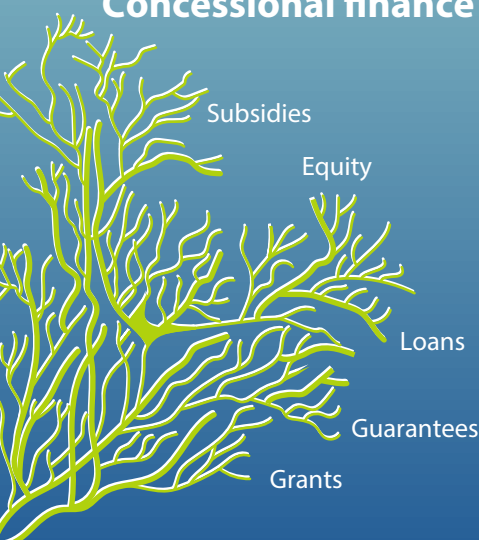
BLENDED FINANCE

Blended finance refers to a model where concessional finance, typically provided by public institutions, aims to leverage private capital by mitigating risks with public guarantees. It therefore combines public and private funding to catalyse additional investments, using instruments such as equity, debt, grants and guarantees.

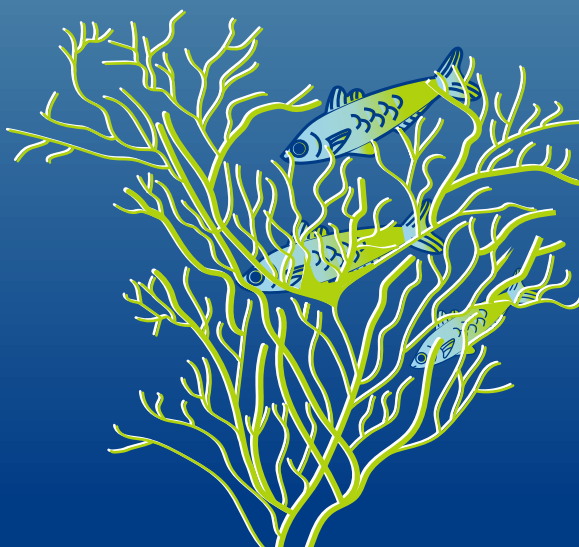
Sustainable ocean businesses, which are often perceived as high-risk benefit most from blended finance because they achieve commercial viability and demonstrate successful investments and exits.

Blue Invest investor report

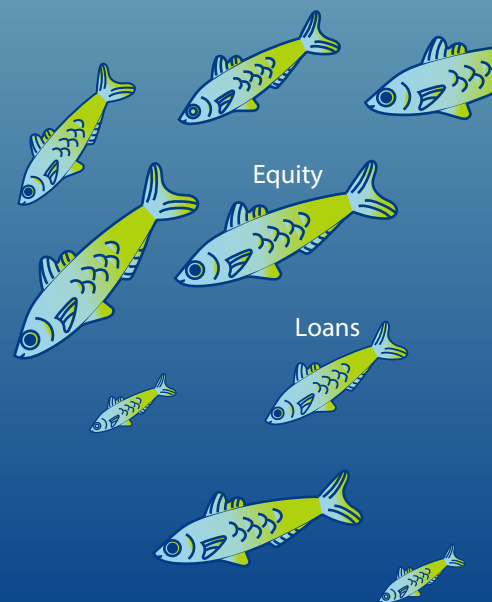
Concessional finance



Blended finance



Private capital





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CROWDFUNDING

Crowdfunding is an approach allowing fundraisers to raise capital from a large number of people who contribute relatively small amounts via online platforms. This can be in the form of donations, loans, or equity financing, among others.

CASE STUDY 1: THE OCEAN CLEANUP

// With the support of over **38,000 funders** from 160 countries, over **2 million USD** was raised in 100 days. The money raised helped The Ocean Cleanup initiate the engineering process as well as a series of expeditions. The collected oceanographic data is used by our engineers when designing the cleanup system. Thank you to all crowdfunders, professional in-kind contributors, as well as the many volunteers and ambassadors who enthusiastically invested their time when The Ocean Cleanup was merely in the concept phase. //

The Ocean Cleanup

TYPES OF CROWDFUNDING

Peer-to-peer lending
loans repaid with interests



Profit-/revenue-sharing
future profits or revenues are shared with the crowd in return for funding



Equity crowdfunding
sale of a stake in return for investment

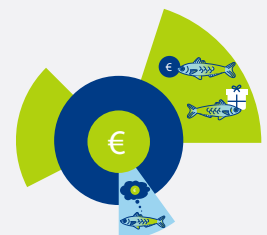


Debt-securities crowdfunding
investments in a debt security, such as a bond

Rewards-based crowdfunding
donations with expectations of receiving a non-financial reward



Hybrid models
combinations of elements of more than one crowdfunding type



Donation-based crowdfunding
donations with no financial or material return



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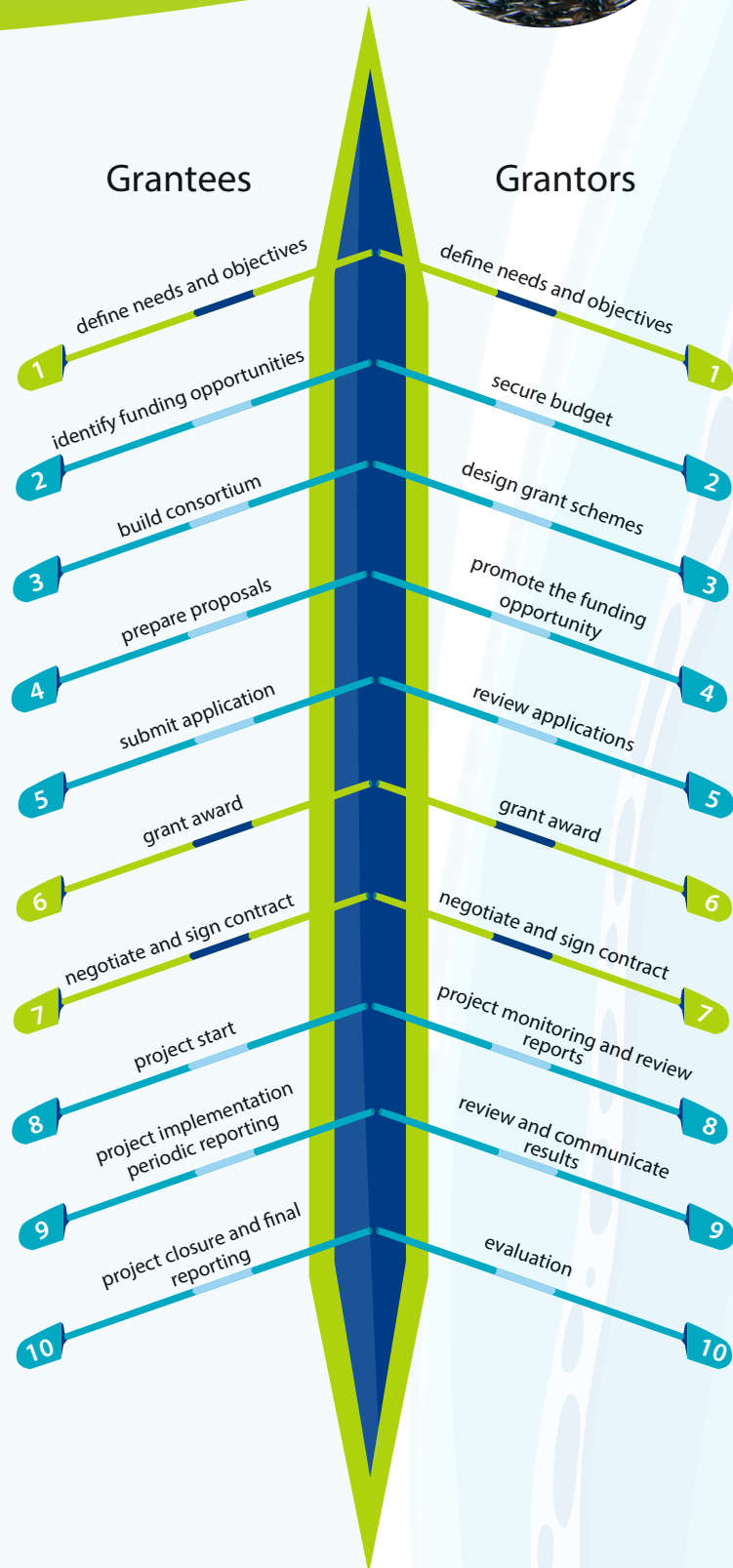


GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Grants and donations come in a variety of forms, sizes and conditions. A common characteristic is that the funder has no expectation of profit or financial repayment.

Grantmakers, whether governments, businesses, philanthropic organisations, or private individuals, aim to achieve social, environmental, or economic objectives, or to demonstrate commitment to a greater cause. The return on investment is measured in terms of impact on the public good rather than in financial gains.

Successfully navigating the grant lifecycle demands coordinated efforts from both grantors and grantees. Grants are generally awarded through competitive processes requiring diligent preparation of all involved. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on awarded grants can also entail a significant workload for both funders and recipients.





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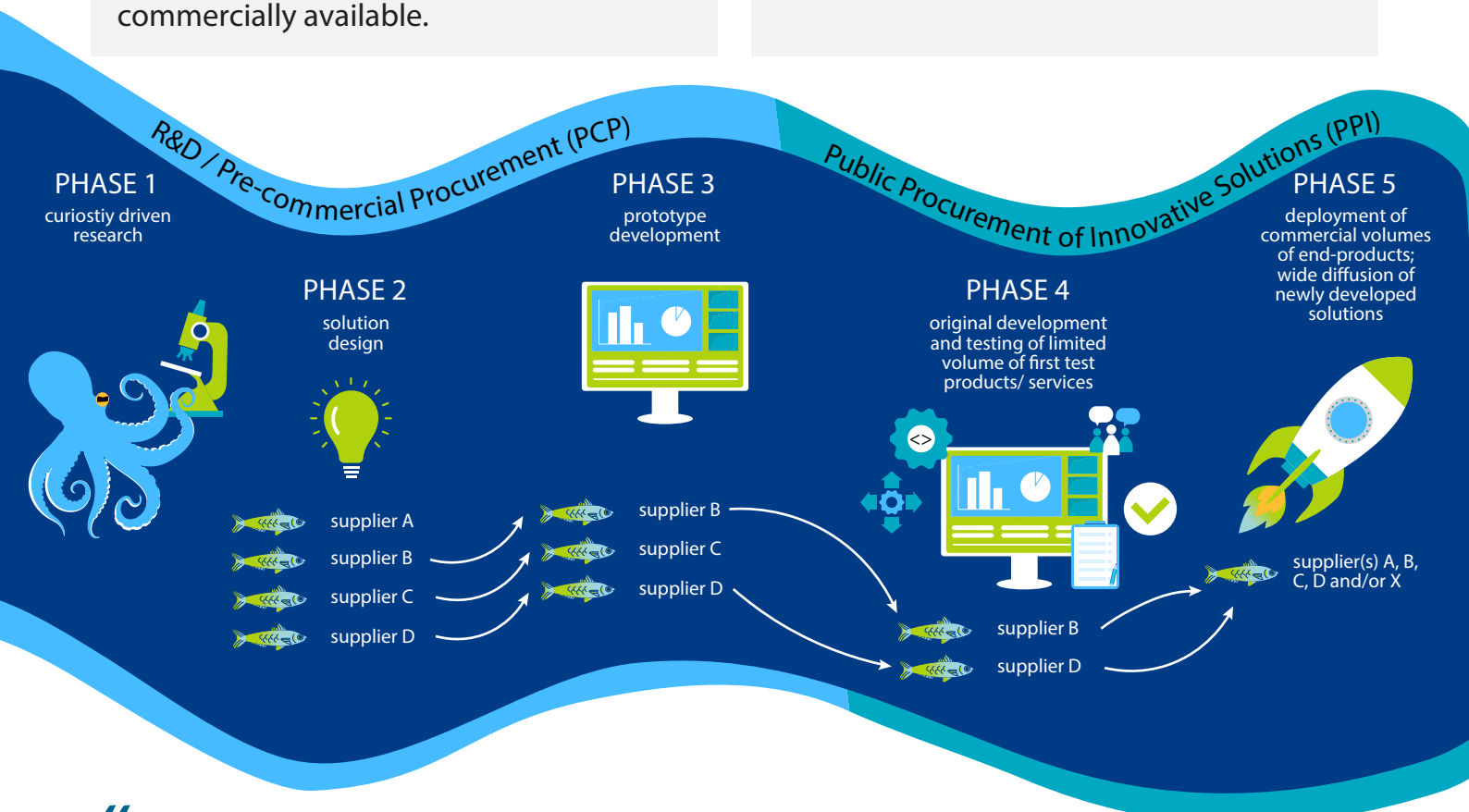


PRE-COMMERCIAL PROCUREMENT

Pre-commercial procurement (PCP) involves a series of competitive procurement phases from solution exploration and design to validation/testing of a limited set of first products. It is used by public authorities to address societal challenges and meet public needs through the acquisition of innovative solutions that are not yet commercially available.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Public procurement of innovative solutions (PPI) concerns the phase when a product, service or process has been developed, but is not yet available on a large-scale commercial basis. It is thus complementary as a possible next step to PCP. PPI therefore facilitates wide diffusion of innovative solutions on the market.



EuropeWave is an R&D programme for wave energy technology, supported by nearly €20 million in national, regional, and EU funding. It uses a Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) model, originally developed by Wave Energy Scotland, to promote collaboration and risk-sharing between the public sector and technology developers. The focus is on designing and demonstrating cost-effective wave energy converter systems for reliable power generation in challenging ocean conditions.

EuropeWave (<https://www.europewave.eu/>)



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EQUITY FINANCING

Equity financing allows companies to raise capital by selling ownership stakes to investors, who in return benefit from capital gains (increase in the value of shares over time) and dividend payments (periodic profit distribution to shareholders). Unlike debt, there is no repayment obligation, but the investors carry the risk of failure. However, issuing shares can dilute founders' control, as shareholders often gain voting rights.

DEBT FINANCING

Debt financing raises capital through loans that must be repaid with interest, without diluting ownership. It must be repaid regardless of the company's financial performance, with a potential risk of default in case of failure to meet repayment obligations. **Bonds**, a type of debt financing instrument issued by governments, development banks or corporations, can be used to finance sustainability projects. **Blue bonds** specifically can raise finance for marine and ocean-based projects.

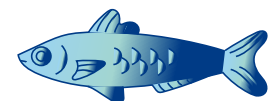
EQUITY FINANCING

- ✓ Dividends or returns expected
- ✓ Access to investor knowledge



DEBT FINANCING

- ✓ Keep full business ownership
- ✓ Capital repayments with interest
- ✓ Security required



InvestEU, Growth Blue Fund I

The Growth Blue Fund I is an equity financing initiative supporting SMEs in the blue economy in Portugal. Backed by funding from the EU and the European Investment Bank, it aims to invest in 8 to 12 companies with equity and quasi-equity investments above €1.5m.

European Investment Bank (EIB)

Between 2019 and 2023, the European Investment Bank provided €7.3 billion in loans to the sustainable blue economy, including coastal resilience to climate change, conservation and restoration of ocean natural capital, and innovation, leveraging €30.8 billion of investments.