



WeMed
Mediterranean
Sustainability
Award 2026

Call for Applications Guidelines

Guidelines

1. Applicable legislation

These rules govern the fifth edition of the “Mediterranean Sustainability Award”, also known as the WeMed Award, organised by Medwaves since 2021, as set out in the annex to this Resolution.

The legislation governing grants awarded by the Administration of the Government of Catalonia, its autonomous bodies and the entities forming the majority public sector of the Government of Catalonia is enacted as a consequence of the exercise of administrative powers.

The provisions contained in the following legislation are applicable:

- Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies.
- Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July, approving the Regulations implementing Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies.
- Royal Decree-Law 36/2020, of 30 December, adopting urgent measures for the modernisation of the Public Administration and for the implementation of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.
- Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, adopting the Revised Text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia.
- Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the legal framework and procedure of the public administrations of Catalonia.
- Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the common administrative procedure of the public administrations.
- Decree 76/2020, of 4 August, on Digital Administration.
- Royal Decree 203/2021, of 30 March 2021, adopting the Regulation on the action and functioning of the public sector by electronic means.
- Law 19/2013, of 9 December, on Transparency, Access to Public Information and Good Governance.
- Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on Transparency, Access to Public Information and Good Governance.
- Decree 271/2019, of 23 December, adopting the Regulation of the Register of Subsidies and Grants of Catalonia.
- Order ECO/175/2015 of 3 June on the forms of justification of grants.

As well as the provisions of the Budget Act of the Government of Catalonia that are applicable to the corresponding financial year, and the remaining applicable legislation.

These Guidelines were approved by Resolution TER/1921/2026, of 12 June, adopting the regulatory bases governing the fifth edition of the “Mediterranean Sustainability Award”

This document is an English translation of the original text published in the Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya (DOGC) and is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy, inconsistency, or difference in interpretation between this translation and the original Catalan version, the Catalan text published in the DOGC shall prevail.

2. Award-granting procedure

2.1 The award-granting procedure will be conducted under a system of competitive tendering, in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of Law 38/2003, on General Subsidies.

2.2 The instructing body is MedWaves which, as an area of the ARC, acts as the Technical Secretariat.

2.3 The body competent to issue the decision on the granting the Award is the Director of the Catalan Waste Agency.

3. Object and purpose

The purpose of this process is to launch the fifth edition of the “Mediterranean Sustainability Award”, also called the WeMed Award, organised by Medwaves since 2021.

Its purpose is to give visibility to sustainable business models and to award the operators in the entrepreneurial ecosystem that directly support the creation and development of sustainable businesses in the Mediterranean (public entities, business support organisations, financial operators, educational entities, and civil society organisations or individuals).

The award is conceived as an awareness-raising tool for political decision-makers within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, with a view to giving visibility to sustainable business models and rewarding the operators within the entrepreneurial ecosystem that directly support the creation and development of sustainable businesses in the Mediterranean.

The Award has the following objectives:

- (i) to recognise the outstanding achievements of green, blue and circular economy enterprises with sustainable business models;
- (ii) to inspire other entrepreneurs to integrate environmental and social innovations into their business models, thereby extending these approaches to the region; and
- (iii) to promote an entrepreneurial ecosystem that enables the growth of green, blue and circular economy enterprises and to recognise successful initiatives by the operators in that ecosystem.

The award will also provide visibility for the contributions of companies in the green, blue and circular economy to the sustainable development goals of the Mediterranean region and, in particular, to Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production). In particular, the company’s circular business model will be assessed, and not any specific activity or product.

Green, sustainable and circular economies are based on a diverse business ecosystem, in which companies are at different stages of development but share a single objective: to generate a positive impact on society and the environment, while building viable and scalable business models. Within the framework of this call, the focus is placed exclusively on two specific stages of business development: early stage and growth stage. This delimitation makes it possible to focus recognition and support efforts on those private initiatives that are at key moments in their growth and that can decisively accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable and circular economy.

In order to focus efforts on initiatives with potential for growth and impact, the Award is divided into two main categories, according to the company's stage of development:

Category A – Early Stage – €20,000

This category recognises sustainable business models in the initial stage. Entities that meet the following requirements may participate:

- Product or service on the market for less than 3 years.
- Integration of environmental and social values into the business model.
- Economically viable model.
- Business plan with potential environmental, social and/or ecosystem regeneration benefits and practices (not necessarily implemented) including the use of nature-based solutions.
- Entities, whether for-profit or non-profit (SMEs, self-employed groups, cooperatives, foundations, etc.) with a maximum of 25 employees.
- Legally established in one of the beneficiary territories

Category B – Growth Stage – €20,000

This category recognises sustainable business models in the growth stage, including:

- Operating companies with businesses started between a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years ago, with quantifiable environmental and social benefits.
- Companies with more than 10 years of activity that have transformed their traditional model into sustainable and/or regenerative practices, including the use of nature-based solutions, with a marked social impact and an economically viable model.
- Entities, whether for-profit or non-profit, with a maximum of 250 employees.
- Companies legally incorporated in one of the beneficiary countries.
- Business plan with potential or actual environmental and social benefits.

MedWaves will use these categories to establish the legal framework for the award within its institutional framework, that is, the rules.

4. Call for Nominations

4.1 The award will be held periodically, subject to budget availability, by means of a resolution of the Director of the Catalan Waste Agency.

The call will be published in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia.

4.2 The deadline for the submission of nominations will be as indicated in the call for nominations for the corresponding Award.

5. Type and amount of the award

5.1 The Award provides each category with an accrediting certificate. In addition, for categories A and B, each call for nominations will establish a monetary award.

In the fifth edition, the winners of the open categories will receive the following prizes:

- For category A (Early Stage), a monetary award in the amount of €20,000 will be awarded.
- For Category B (Growth Stage), a monetary award in the amount of €20,000 will be awarded.

Honorary mentions may be awarded to projects and initiatives which, although they have not received the Award, merit special consideration.

6. Beneficiaries

6.1 The following may be beneficiaries of this Award:

- Legal persons, public or private,
- Other types of economic units or separate assets, such as cooperatives, foundations.

All entities must develop sustainable business models or innovative strategies in environmental and social matters and comply with the specificities of each category.

Sustainable business:

Based on the interdependency between the environment, society and the economy, a sustainable business provides innovative, viable products and services that create environmental value (addressing ecological challenges and reducing environmental impacts) and social value (addressing social needs) through the application of eco-innovation, life cycle thinking and eco-design approaches. (UNEP-MAP SCP/RAC (2019) Circular Economy Business Strategies, Conceptual framework to guide the development of sustainable business models).

Sustainable business:

In view of the interdependence between the environment, society and the economy, a sustainable business provides viable and innovative products and services that create both environmental value (in response to environmental challenges and by reducing environmental impacts) and social value (in response to social needs), through the deployment of eco-innovation solutions, life cycle assessment of the product or service, and eco-design.

General rules:

The account into which the amount of the Award included in the application form is to be paid must belong to the legal person that is the beneficiary of the Award.

The same legal person may not submit more than one nomination. Each nomination must expressly state which category it is being submitted to and will be limited to one only.

The nomination will be submitted on an individual basis by each natural or legal person, in accordance with the subcategory of the award for which they are applying.

Each nomination will have a single representative, who will be the natural or legal person who submitted it. The representative is the person who receives all notifications relating to the Award, as well as the certificate and the financial endowment or the honorary award in the event that the nomination is awarded a prize. The representative, where applicable, may mention in the nomination submission form other persons or entities that have participated.

The award will be presented solely to the representative of the nomination. In the event of joint participation, it is the responsibility of the persons comprising the nomination to reach an agreement on the distribution of the award and its tax implications.

With regard to its geographical scope, in accordance with the provisions of the strategy of the Switchers Support Programme and The Switchers Fund Impact Investment Fund, the award is open to stakeholders with their registered office or domicile in any of the following territories:

Southern Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

EU candidate countries benefiting from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, with a Mediterranean coastline: Turkey, Albania, Montenegro and the Republic of North Macedonia.

Less developed regions of EU countries (where GDP per capita is below 75% of the EU average), with a Mediterranean coastline:

- Croatia: the entire country
 - Greece: Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki, Dytiki Ellada, Ipeiros, Kentriki Makedonia, Thessaly
 - Italy: Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Apulia
 - Spain: Andalusia and Murcia
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7. Requirements for beneficiary persons

7.1. Participation requirements for CATEGORIES A and B

Active sustainable businesses may apply for the award provided that they:

- Candidate entities or projects must be active and meet the following criteria according to the category:

Category A (Early Stage):

- Be operational and have started the business no more than 3 years ago.
- Be legal persons, with a maximum of 25 employees, as applicable.
- Bring to market, in exchange for a financial consideration, a product or service.
- Have a profitable business model that addresses ecological challenges and social needs.

Category B (Growth Stage):

- Be fully operational and have started the business no less than 3 years ago and no more than 10 years ago.
- Companies that have been in existence for more than 10 years and have transformed their model to a sustainable model are also accepted.
- Be legal entities, with up to 250 employees or members,
- Place on the market a product or service, with a profitable business model that addresses ecological and social challenges.

Compliance with these requirements is indispensable; any nomination that does not meet them will be excluded.

Nominations that are in any of the following situations may not be eligible for the Award:

- That they are submitted simultaneously in more than one of the categories called for, under the same approach or a different one.
- That the application has involved the active participation of a member of the panel.

8. Publication and notifications

8.1. Articles 17.3.b and 18 of the General Subsidies Act must be applied in relation to Agreement GOV/192/2015, of 29 December, which supplements Agreement GOV/77/2015, of 2 June, on the publication of notification announcements in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia. The full text of the grant calls is published in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia.

8.2. The procedures, the requirements and the decisions related to the granting of these awards are notified on the electronic Noticeboard of the Government of Catalonia, accessible from the Electronic Headquarters. This publication replaces individual notification and has the same legal effects.

8.3. Publication of the call for nominations becomes effective upon submission of the information required by the Register of Aid and Subsidies of Catalonia, in accordance with Article 96 bis of the revised text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia, and by means of the National Subsidies Database.

9. Obligations of the beneficiary persons

The beneficiaries must comply with the following obligations:

- a) Comply with the purpose of the Award.
 - b) Provide at all times the information that may be requested of them in relation to the award granted and submit to the verification and control actions of the instructing body, the Government's General Intervention, the Audit Office and other competent bodies in accordance with the applicable regulations.
 - c) Retain the supporting documents evidencing the application of the funds received, including electronic documents, for as long as they may be subject to verification and control measures.
 - d) Comply with the other obligations provided for in the legislation in force on grants and subsidies and in these regulatory bases.
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10. Procedure for the submission of nominations

10.1 Applications or submissions must be processed exclusively in electronic format through a standardized application form for the different categories. This form is available on the website <https://www.wemedaward.org/>. Once the application has been submitted via <https://www.wemedaward.org/>, it shall be deemed submitted to the Waste Agency of Catalonia and will be automatically registered on the Tràmits Gencat platform (<http://tramits.gencat.cat>), in accordance with the terms set out in the call for applications.

If the online application has not been able to be signed electronically, the entity must provide documentary evidence that it has sent the signed documentation by post, and that this dispatch has been made within a period of 10 working days from the virtual submission of the application. The Technical Secretariat of the award may replace this dispatch with a video call with the representative of the applicant entity.

10.2 The signing and submission of the application entails full acceptance of these rules and implicitly authorises the body responsible for managing the Award to verify, ex officio, all the data this contains.

11. Documentation to be submitted with the application

The application form shall include a link to download a technical annex that will contain a declaration on honour that must be signed by the legal representative of the applicant entity, stating that:

- the requirements to participate in the award are met.
- the person who signs the application has the authority to act on behalf of the entity submitting, and to receive the financial endowment or the honorary award in the event that the application is awarded a prize.
- all the information provided is accurate.
- a virtual session of the entity concerned is accepted, should the candidate obtain the highest score within their category. The purpose of the session will be to validate the data provided in the application form. It will be necessary for the jury to validate the final designation of the winner in each category.
- This technical annex will be attached to the form available on the website <https://www.wemedaward.org/>, together with the following mandatory documentation:
- Tax Identification Number document of the applicant entity.
- Identity document of the representative.
- Supporting documentation evidencing the powers under which the representative of the applicant entity acts (where it exceeds the established size, only the pages evidencing such representation must be attached) where applicable.
- Bank account ownership certificate.

Participants may also include additional documentation to support the information provided in the application form (articles, a folder of photographs, links to view videos). This additional information shall be submitted in a single compressed file and shall be limited to a maximum of five documents (a folder of photographs being considered as one document). In the event that a report is submitted, it shall not exceed 30 pages. This documentation shall be considered in the second stage of the evaluation, once the applications to be assessed directly by the jury have been selected.

The candidate understands and acknowledges that any falsehood in the data or information provided and/or refusal to undergo verification will exclude their candidacy from the process.

In all cases, the Technical Secretariat of the awards reserves the right to request, at any time, the original copies of the documentation submitted in electronic format, in order to authenticate its content.

No changes will be accepted after the deadline for the submission of nominations.

If additional information is required, MedWaves will request it from the candidate at the email address specified in the application.

Submission of the application form authorises the competent body to verify that the data it contains and that are declared are accurate.

Any inaccuracy, falsification or omission of an essential nature in any data in the application form or in any document accompanying it will render this procedure without effect from the moment it becomes known, and following prior hearing of the person concerned, and, consequently, will entail the inadmissibility of the nomination. If the act or omission becomes known once the award has already been awarded, it will constitute grounds for revocation and/or the imposition of a penalty.

With regard to the declaration on honour, this entail that the interested party has the relevant supporting documentation evidencing the declared data. If the Administration verifies the inaccuracy or falsity of the data declared, this will entail, following prior hearing of the interested party, rendering the corresponding procedure void. If this conduct is classified as an infringement under the applicable legislation, it gives rise to the initiation of the corresponding sanctioning proceedings.

12. Jury

12.1 The applications for the Award will be assessed by a jury constituted for that purpose.

12.2 The decision will indicate which categories are called for each edition and the following aspects:

- a) The participation requirements.
- b) The evaluation criteria.
- c) The deadline for the submission of applications and the documentation that must be attached.
- d) The composition of the jury that will evaluate the applications.
- e) The amount of the financial endowment of the Award for each category, where applicable, and the budget appropriation to which it will be allocated.

12.3 Each call for the Award will have a single jury that will assess all the categories of that edition.

MedWaves will appoint an independent jury balanced by gender and nationality to serve on a voluntary basis to evaluate a set of pre-selected award applications.

The jury will be composed of an odd number (maximum of 7 members):

- (i) two professionals with experience in eco-design, eco-innovation and other green, blue and circular economy solutions for businesses;
- (ii) a professional with experience in policy frameworks for green and circular economy enterprises;
- (iii) one representative of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD);
- (iv) a representative of a business support organisation, business association or similar entity from one of the beneficiary countries;
- (v) a person representing the entities that form part of the governance of MedWaves; and
- (vi) a representative of MedWaves.

12.4 The jury will assess the 10 nominations with the highest score in each category. Given that the jury is composed of an odd number of members (maximum of 7 members), the possibility of a tie in the selection of the winners is not envisaged. The members of the jury must sign a confidentiality agreement in order to ensure the protection of the candidates' personal data.

MedWaves, acting as the technical secretariat of the award, will carry out an initial assessment of the nominations in order to eliminate those that are incomplete for a detailed assessment. Subsequently, MedWaves will assess the complete nominations and submit to the jury the list of the 10 highest-scoring nominations for each category. Once the jury's assessment has been completed, MedWaves will organise a virtual session for the highest-scoring candidates in each category, as awarded by the jury, in order to validate the data submitted in the application form. If the outcome of each session is positive, the winners will be confirmed, and the award resolution will be prepared. Otherwise, a virtual session will be organised with the 2nd candidate on the list, and so on.

For the granting of the award, MedWaves, acting as the secretariat thereof, will prepare a technical report in order to initiate the preparation of the prize-awarding decision by the Director of the Catalan Waste Agency.

The winning application must obtain, at a minimum, a simple majority of the votes in favour of the members of the jury.

13. Technical Secretariat and Organisation

13.1 The Technical Secretariat is the managing body of the Award and is responsible for administrative and logistical management.

13.2 The Technical Secretariat corresponds to MedWaves, as an area of the ARC.

13.3 The functions of the Technical Secretariat are:

- a) Ensure the proper dissemination of the call for the Award and of its granting.
 - b) Manage the application files.
 - c) Convene the meetings of the panel.
 - d) Provide logistical support to the jury meetings and draft the minutes thereof.
 - e) Manage the granting of the Award and communications with the awardees.
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14. Assessment criteria

The assessment criteria are divided into 2 groups:

Basic criteria that will carry greater weight in the final assessment and whose compliance is indispensable, and additional criteria, on the other hand, which, although important and to be assessed in order to capture the nature of the sustainable business, will carry a lesser relative weight, and non-compliance with any of them will not preclude winning the award.

The actions submitted to the call for nominations will be prioritised in accordance with the criteria set out below. Projects that do not obtain a minimum of 50 points overall may not be awarded.

The assessment criteria for applications will be as follows:

Criterion category	No. of criterion and description	Maximum score for the assessment
Basic (indispensable)	Criterion a.1 The business model is profitable, in accordance with its economic results and its own viability.	25
	Criterion a.2. The business model addresses ecological challenges and reduces the environmental impacts. It is a good example of the efficient use of resources, energy efficiency and productivity. Eco-innovation, the assessment of the life cycle of the product or service and eco-design, among others, contribute to the prevention of pollution, the saving of resources and a sustainable lifestyle for consumers. The business model incorporates nature-based solutions that use natural processes and systems to address environmental, social and climate challenges. Initiatives that contribute, inter alia, to the restoration of ecosystems, biodiversity, the sustainable management of water and soil, climate resilience, the bioeconomy or the provision of ecosystem services, while generating economic and social value, will be particularly valued.	40
	Criterion a.3. The sustainable business model addresses social needs, empowers communities and operates in a network.	15

Additional (convenient)	Criterion a.4. The business model has an equitable and inclusive working system in terms of gender and governance, offers decent working conditions or applies a cooperative business model or provides fair self-employed services. The business model addresses contextual socio-economic difficulties through successful strategies.	10
	Criterion a.5. The business model is potentially replicable and scalable.	10

Evaluation method for the evaluation criteria CATEGORIES A and B

The assessment of the nomination will be carried out by means of a review of the candidates' responses to two types of questions:

- Open guiding questions which will help the applicant to explain, in the nomination submission form, how their business model meets the proposed criterion.
- Checklist of determining elements, quantifiable by means of a score.

Criteria	Method of assessment	Description
a.1	Guiding questions	The questions will request information on the nature and value of the sustainable business model (product or service). Likewise, it will be necessary for the candidate to provide economic data attesting to the profitability thereof.
a.2	Checklist	<p>The list of questions will be based on the indicators used to assess the potential of a Switcher to reverse the environmental and social impacts of economic activity, in accordance with the sector to which it belongs.</p> <p>The assessment will focus on the efforts undertaken rather than on specific indicators, in order to ensure fair competition between services and products from different sectors, and with uneven impacts on the environment.</p> <p>In order to assess the environmental impact, information will be requested on the measures adopted in relation to greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, the discharge and management of wastewater, waste generation, the efficient and circular use of resources, etc.</p> <p>Questions will also be asked to determine the degree of environmental innovation offered by the product or service.</p>
a.3	Guiding questions	<p>Does your product or service integrate nature-based solutions? If so, describe them.</p> <p>Which ecosystems or natural processes benefit directly (water, soil, biodiversity, landscape, etc.)?</p> <p>How does your project contribute to climate resilience and/or environmental restoration?</p> <p>Are these benefits measured or do they have monitoring indicators?</p>

a.4	Guiding questions	<p>The questions will help the candidate to explain how they contribute to social challenges such as the inclusion of people at risk of social exclusion, better education, and the preservation of culture. It will be necessary to ascertain whether part of its profits are reinvested in society or, in general, how it improves the quality of life of its community.</p> <p>They will also be questioned about their participation in communication and business collaboration networks, among other things.</p>
a.5	Guiding questions	<p>The questions will focus on staff recruitment models and their remuneration, in order to assess whether they include the principles of equity, gender equality, inclusion, and participation and horizontality in decision-making.</p> <p>As regards gender equality, aspects such as equal pay and parity in management and/or governing bodies, flexibility and working arrangements to promote shared responsibility among workers will be assessed.</p> <p>Businesses that implement non-discrimination policies, gender equality plans, plans for the prevention of violence in the workplace and gender-based violence, and inclusion policies for persons with disabilities and/or at risk of social exclusion will also be assessed positively.</p>
a.6	Guiding questions	<p>A single open question will be posed regarding the potential to export the business idea to other Mediterranean contexts with an equal level of benefit for the environment and society.</p>

As regards the open guiding questions, the jury will assign a rating depending on the extent to which the candidate's business manages to align with the objective of the assessed criterion, by assigning a level: High - Medium - Low - Unsuitable.

The checklist will be accompanied by a numerical calculation allowing the degree of fulfilment of the criterion to be quantified and compared among the candidates.

15. Inadmissibility and discontinuance

15.1 Failure to comply with the non-remediable requirements or with the deadline for submitting applications established by the regulatory bases and the call for the Award will entail the inadmissibility of the application.

15.2 Failure to submit any of the documents provided for in these rules, or the failure to remedy remediable requirements, within a period of 10 working days and following prior notice, will result in the withdrawal of the application.

15.3 Prior to the granting of the Award, the instructing body must rule on the inadmissibility or withdrawal of applications and must notify the decision on inadmissibility or withdrawal to the persons concerned by means of publication on the Electronic Noticeboard of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia (<https://tauler.seu.cat/inici.do?idens=1>). This publication replaces individual notification and has the same legal effects.

16. Resolution and notification

16.1 The Director of the Catalan Waste Agency will issue the decision granting the Award in the categories convened. The decision will be notified to the interested parties in accordance with the regulations in force, by means of publication on the e-noticeboard.

16.2 In accordance with the documentation submitted, the checks carried out and the jury's assessment, the instructing body will submit the corresponding proposed decision to the competent body for decision.

16.3 The award decision will include, at a minimum, the purpose and subject matter of the Award, the winning nominations and, where applicable, the honorary mentions, the amounts of the Award, the origin of the funds used to finance the Award and the applicable appeal procedure. Likewise, it must be stated that the final nature of the decision awarding the Award entails that the beneficiary tacitly declares that they are up to date with their obligations towards the tax administration, the social security administration and the Government of Catalonia.

16.4 The decision will be made by means of publication on the Electronic Noticeboard of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia (<https://tauler.seu.cat/inici.do?idens=1>). This publication replaces individual notification and has the same effects and will indicate the appeals available, the body before which they must be lodged and the time limit for lodging them.

16.5 In accordance with Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the common administrative procedure of public administrations, and Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the legal regime and procedure of the public administrations of Catalonia, against the decision to grant or refuse the subsidies, the beneficiary may lodge an administrative appeal or, where appropriate, a contentious-administrative appeal, under the terms indicated in the grant decision.

17. Payment

17.1 The proposed payment of the award will be made subject to prior certification that the requirements for eligibility for the Award are met, in accordance with the documentation submitted with the application and the information available in the databases and registers. The power to carry out the aforementioned certification is delegated to the instructing body.

17.2 Payment of the Award to the beneficiary persons will be made by bank transfer to the account indicated on the application form.
The monetary award for Category A and Category B will be paid by bank transfer solely into the bank account indicated by the representative of the nomination. In the event of joint participation, it is the responsibility of the persons comprising the nomination to reach an agreement on the distribution of the award and its tax implications.

17.3 The beneficiaries are obliged to provide all the information required of them by the General Audit Office of the Government of Catalonia, the Audit Office or other competent bodies, in accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, adopting the consolidated text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia.

18. Nullity and voidability

In accordance with the provisions of Article 36 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, where the granting act falls within any ground for nullity or voidability, the granting body must proceed with an ex officio review or, where applicable, with the declaration of detriment and the subsequent challenge, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 106 and 107 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, and Articles 71 et seq. of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the legal regime and procedure of the public administrations of Catalonia.

19. Publication of awards granted

19.1. The Register of Subsidies and Aid of Catalonia must provide the National Subsidies Database with information on calls for aid and subsidies and the corresponding awards, under the terms provided for in Articles 18 and 20.8 of the General Subsidies Act.

19.2. In accordance with Article 15.1(c) of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance, information relating to the grants and public aid awarded, indicating the amount, the purpose and the beneficiaries, must be published at the electronic headquarters and on the website of the calling body, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 45.2 of Decree 8/2021, of 9 February, on transparency and the right of access to public information, pursuant to which the information relating to grants and aid awarded must be published by submitting that information to the Register of Grants and Aid of Catalonia, which must be accessible from the Transparency Portal of Catalonia.

19.3. In accordance with Article 15.2 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance, where the beneficiary of the award is a legal person, information relating to the remuneration of the governing or administrative bodies will be published on the website of the calling body where the amount of the award exceeds €10,000.

19.4. The awards are also subject to the regime on publicity and transparency in accordance with the specific applicable regulations.

20. Industrial property rights and right to image

The representative of the application will be fully responsible for this. The nomination submitted must not, in any way, infringe the intellectual and/or industrial property rights of any third party. Liability in the event of infringement of third-party rights will rest with the participant.

Participants may give their consent to appear in photographs, videos and similar promotional activities related to this competition.

21. Data protection and its processing

21.1 The beneficiaries and collaborating entities must comply with the applicable regulations, adopting and implementing the security measures provided for in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), and Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December, on the Protection of Personal Data and guarantee of digital rights.

21.2 ARC-MedWaves will ensure adequate protection of personal data in accordance with its applicable rules and regulations and on the basis of the principles laid down in the Organic Law on Data Protection and the European General Data Protection Regulation.

22. Ethical principles and rules of conduct to which the award beneficiaries must adjust their activity, and the effects of any failure to comply with these principles

In accordance with Article 55.2 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance, the ethical principles and rules of conduct to which the beneficiaries of the award must align their activity are hereby made public, as well as the effects of any breach thereof, without prejudice to the call for nominations incorporating, where appropriate, codes of ethics by reason of the specific nature of the subject matter or compliance with certain ethical principles or rules of conduct that are deemed appropriate to ensure the public or social interest of the awarded activity and to comply with the object and purpose of the award granted.

Ethical principles and rules of conduct:

1. The beneficiaries must adopt ethically exemplary conduct, refrain from carrying out, encouraging, proposing or promoting any kind of corrupt practice, and bring to the attention of the competent authorities any manifestation of such practices which, in their view, is present or may affect the procedure. In particular, they will refrain from carrying out any action that may infringe the principles of equal opportunities and free competition.
2. As a general rule, beneficiaries of public aid, in the exercise of their activity, assume the following obligations:
 - a. Observe the principles, rules and ethical standards inherent to the activities, trades and/or professions corresponding to the activity that is the subject of the subsidy or public aid.
 - b. Not to take any action that puts the public interest at risk.
 - c. Report any irregular situations that may arise in calls for grants or aid, or in the processes arising from those calls.

3. In particular, beneficiaries of grants or public aid assume the following obligations:

- a. Immediately notify the competent authority of any potential conflicts of interest.
- b. Not to request, directly or indirectly, that a public office holder or public employee influence the award of the grant or aid.
- c. Not to offer or provide public office holders or public employees with personal or material advantages, whether for themselves or for third parties, with the intention of influencing a procedure for the awarding of a subsidy or aid.
- d. Cooperate with the competent body in the actions it carries out for the monitoring and/or evaluation of compliance with the obligations established in the rules governing the call, in particular by providing the information requested from them for these purposes related to the receipt of public funds.
- e. Comply with the obligations to provide information that transparency legislation imposes on awardees in relation to the relevant Administration or Administrations, without prejudice to compliance with the transparency obligations that may apply to them directly by virtue of a legal provision, in the cases set out in the fourth paragraph of Article 3 of the Transparency Act.
- f. Incorporate the gender and intersectional perspectives into the planning of activities, projects and services. The gender methodologies and indicators used in the project must be specified, in the technical annex to the application as appropriate, providing a description of the specific imbalances and inequalities identified between women and men within the field of action that the project seeks to address, setting out initiatives (the adoption of positive actions to correct the inequalities identified) and including gender indicators (to enable monitoring in itinere and ex post of the project's impact).

Effects of any non-compliance with the ethical principles and rules of conduct:

In the event of non-compliance with the ethical principles and rules of conduct, the sanctions regime provided for in Law 19/2014, of 29 December, and the sanctions provided for in Article 84 with regard to beneficiaries of public aid, will apply, without prejudice to any other possible consequences provided for in the legislation in force on subsidies.

23. Conflicts of interest

The instructing body must ensure that no situation arises that entails a conflict of interest.

24. Infringements and penalties

24.1. The infringements and penalties are those provided for in the Consolidated Text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, and in Law 38/2003, of 17 November, without prejudice to any specific provisions that may arise from the applicable sectoral legislation.

24.2. Natural or legal persons, whether public or private, as well as entities without legal personality, are liable for administrative infringements in the field of subsidies where, by act or omission, they incur any of the cases classified as infringements under these regulatory bases.

24.3. In the event of non-compliance with the obligations provided for in these regulatory bases, the penalty regime provided for in Title IV of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies, and in Article 101 et seq. of the consolidated text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, will apply, if such non-compliance constitutes an infringement in accordance with the aforementioned legislation, irrespective of the total or partial reimbursement of the award.

24.4. Likewise, if – during the controls carried out by the General Intervention – it encounters conduct on the part of the audited entity that tends to hinder, delay or prevent its action, it must propose to the competent body that it initiate sanctioning proceedings in accordance with the provisions of Article 67 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies.

25. Verification and control functions of the activities awarded

25.1. The competent bodies of the awarding entity are empowered to carry out such verifications as may be necessary to check the actions and data justifying the granting of the award and to verify that the amounts paid have been used to cover the expenses entailed by fulfilling the purpose of the award.

25.2. The awarding body carries out specific verification actions following complaints or the existence of indications of fraud or irregularities in the implementation of the activity financed by these awards.

25.3. The beneficiaries must submit to the verification actions that the granting body considers necessary and to those carried out by the competent bodies of the regional, state and EU Administration. Likewise, the Agency may inspect the development of the projects and the subsidised actions in order to verify compliance with the purpose of the award, in accordance with the legislation in force.

25.4. Verification and inspection actions may also include verifying the accuracy of the information provided by the beneficiary on the basis of data or commercial documentation held by third parties.

25.5. In accordance with Article 46.2 of Law 38/2003, refusal to comply with the obligation of beneficiaries or third parties to cooperate by providing cooperation and furnishing the documentation required of them in the exercise of these verification and inspection functions will be deemed resistance, excuse, obstruction or refusal and, therefore, grounds for revocation and, where applicable, repayment of the aid, without prejudice to any sanctions that may be applicable.

25.6. The beneficiaries are obliged to provide all the information required of them by the General Intervention of the Catalan Government, the Audit Office or other competent bodies, in accordance with Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, adopting the consolidated text of the Public Finance Law of Catalonia.

