



OFFERED BY VLIZ PHILANTHROPY **The Sea as a Good Cause**  
SPONSORED BY **HYDRO vzw**

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant 2026**

*to stimulate scientific research in the broader field of **ocean and human health***

Call open to early career **(marine) scientists, doctors, physiotherapists, psychologists, etc.**  
affiliated to a Belgian university, university college, university hospital, or research institute

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*VLIZ philanthropy, named The Sea as a Good Cause, is a program set up by the Flanders Marine Institute vzw (VLIZ) in order to raise additional funds to support scientists, engineers and students to come up with creative solutions for current problems, to develop innovative techniques and to support sustainable use of our seas and ocean. Any form of support means a step forward for our scientific knowledge.*

*The Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant exists in honor of Dr Edouard Delcroix (1891-1973), Belgian orthopaedic surgeon and pioneer in hydrotherapy and is sponsored by HYDRO vzw. HYDRO vzw and VLIZ vzw have a history of cooperation. VLIZ vzw uses its charity structure, The Sea as a Good Cause, for the practical support of this grant. The Dr Edouard Delcroix research grant is awarded jointly by HYDRO vzw and VLIZ vzw.*

*For more information regarding VLIZ philanthropy, check [vliz.be/sea-good-cause](https://vliz.be/sea-good-cause) and [vliz.be/dr-edouard-delcroix-research-grant](https://vliz.be/dr-edouard-delcroix-research-grant)*

## Summary

<b>Budget 2026</b>	10.000 EUR sponsored by Hydro vzw
<b>Implementation period</b>	The proposed idea has to be executed within one year after the grant is awarded  Start date: 1 March 2026. End date: 28 February 2027
<b>Eligibility</b>	Early career scientists affiliated to a Belgian university, university hospital, university college or research institute as a (marine) scientist, doctor, physiotherapist, psychologist, etc.
<b>Launch of the call</b>	24 October 2025
<b>Submission deadline</b>	No later than 19 January 2026
<b>Selection</b>	The selection will be made in February 2026, by the VLIZ Scientific Committee and Hydro vzw
<b>Topics</b>	Research in the broader field of ocean and human health
<b>Required documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- application form (download form <a href="#">here</a>)</li> <li>- cv of the candidate</li> <li>- when relevant: a letter of consent of the supervisor affiliated to the candidate's university or university college (free format)</li> <li>- A research proposal submitted in English, is supplemented by a summary in Dutch or French</li> </ul>

## What is the Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant?

The Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant encourages and helps to inspire original-thinking, (marine) researchers to explore and develop a brilliant **research idea in the broader field of ocean and human health**. It seeks to fund an original - not yet started/published - marine research idea that can contribute to solving a hypothesis-based marine research question. The grant is distinguished from other funding grants by its focus on out-of-the-box thinking, developing an additional research topic but always framed within the scientist's current personal marine research field.

The Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant is awarded annually to an early career researcher affiliated to a Belgian university, university hospital, university college or research institute as a (marine) scientist, doctor, physiotherapist, psychologist, etc. who can compete for the grant via an original research proposal/idea.

The fund of maximum **10.000 EUR** helps with lab and/or field work, data acquisition and analysis, visits to other institutes for the use of specialised facilities, purchase of necessary equipment or software, personnel costs, attendance at conferences, etc. The grant amount cannot be used as reimbursement for the use of existing infrastructure within one's own research group, nor to pay for travel expenses that exceed 25% of the grant. The laureate will substantiate the expenses with invoices.

## Who funds the 'Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant'?

The Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant is sponsored by **Hydro vzw** in honour of Dr. Edouard Delcroix (1891-1973), Belgian orthopaedic surgeon and pioneer in hydrotherapy. VLIZ vzw uses its charity structure, The Sea as a Good Cause, for the practical support of the Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant.

VLIZ - [Flanders Marine Institute](#) - has become over the last 25 years, a knowledge institution indispensable to the marine research landscape. What started as an institute focusing on science support, has evolved into a national and international point of contact for marine research. VLIZ initiates and carries out multidisciplinary research and supports marine experts by providing research infrastructure, data, information and knowledge. VLIZ supports the blue economy and reaches out to a broad public. VLIZ further broadens its marine horizons and aims at becoming a world player in the field of marine and coastal research.

VLIZ is, alongside its core activities, recognized as a charitable organization and therefore developed a financial separate philanthropy program named [The Sea as a Good Cause](#). Through this program, VLIZ is able to raise additional funds through membership fees, donations, sponsorships, bequests, etc. to provide financial support to promote marine research worldwide.

## Budget and implementation period

The Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant has a maximum fund of 10.000 EUR. The grant will be awarded to the successful applicant personally and the terms and conditions (including a short contract) of the award will be discussed and negotiated prior to the implementation of the idea.

The proposed idea has to be executed within one year. The selection of the ideas will take place before end February 2026. The successful applicants can start their activities from 1 March 2026 and complete them by 28 February 2027.

## Eligibility and selection criteria

### Eligibility of applicant

- Under the age of 35
- Obtained a master's degree no more than 10 years ago
- Affiliated to a Belgian university, university hospital, university college or research institute as a (marine) scientist, doctor, physiotherapist, psychologist, etc.

### Eligibility of budget and implementation period

- Maximum request for 10.000 EUR
- Maximum duration of 1 year
- Implementation between 1 March 2026 and 28 February 2027

### Eligibility of activities and related costs

The grant (budget allocated by The Sea as a Good Cause) includes all possible university/institute 'overhead' or other costs, i.e. no additional costs will be accepted:

- No reimbursement of the use of existing lab infrastructure within your research group or department
- Travel costs cannot amount to more than 25% of the grant
- If required by your university or university college, overhead should be included in the budget (check with the financial or legal department or university trust fund for the required overhead percentage)
- The research topic should concern an out of the box idea, an original - not yet started/published - marine research idea.

### Eligibility of research domain for the Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant

**The Sea as a Good Cause & Hydro vzw** seek to fund basic or applied scientific research that makes a significant contribution to:

- **Hydrotherapy** and **functional rehabilitation** in seawater or by the sea
- The positive effects of **marine nutrition**
- The exploration of **bioactive molecules** from sea water, sea air, sea food, or from the marine environment
- The importance of the sea's influence on our **mental and physical health** (cfr. Blue gym effect as well as the biogenic hypothesis or the immunoregulatory hypothesis)
- Solutions to **human diseases** resulting from negative influences of the marine environment, such as harmful algal blooms and other biogenic toxins, eutrophication, transmission of pathogens and chemicals and the impact of human activities at sea such as aquaculture.

### Eligibility of submission modalities

Timely and complete submission.

### Selection procedure

The evaluation of the submitted applications is done by a jury consisting of seven members: three members appointed by HYDRO vzw and three members appointed by the Scientific Committee of VLIZ,

including the chairman of this Commission who also acts as chairman of the jury, supplemented by the contact person of VLIZ-The Sea as a Good Cause. The jury may -if necessary- call upon external experts. The selection of the best entries is made by simple majority vote. The jury has the right to withhold the grants, if it decides that none of the proposals can be taken into consideration.

All applicants will be personally informed about the success of their proposal.

The grant is awarded during the VLIZ Marine Science Day on 4 March 2026. The successful applicant will be invited to present his/her work at the VLIZ Marine Science Day 2027, complemented with a private lecture for Hydro vzw.

## How to apply?

Candidates can apply for the grant by sending **following documents** to [filantropie@vliz.be](mailto:filantropie@vliz.be):

- [Application form](#), submitted in English, Dutch or French
- CV of the researcher
- If relevant: letter of consent of the supervisor affiliated to the researcher's university or university college (free format)
- A research proposal submitted in English is supplemented by a summary translation into Dutch or French

**Subject of the e-mail:** Proposal for the Dr. Edouard Delcroix research grant 2026

**Submission deadline:** 19 January 2026

## Where to turn for more information?

### Institute

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)  
*The Sea as a Good Cause*  
InnovOcean Campus  
Jacobsenstraat 1  
8400 Oostende  
Belgium

### Contact person

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