

## Participation GRANT for

## IKUWA 8

*The 8th International Congress for Underwater Archaeology*

**FUNDED BY THE SEA AS A GOOD CAUSE – VLIZ PHILANTHROPY**

**SPONSORED BY C-Hotels**

*Call open to **early career marine scientists active in the Global South***



## The Sea as a Good Cause

VLIZ - [Flanders Marine Institute](#) - has become, over the past 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.

## Participation grant

Within the framework of [international collaborations](#) between VLIZ and scientific institutes in the 'Global South', but also beyond, VLIZ The Sea as a Good Cause awards participation grants. With these grants, promising students and young or early career researchers in marine sciences can, during a short stay, exchange knowledge and gain practical experience in the labs of several marine research groups or attend, in Flanders, an international conference or a summer school in line with their expertise. The participation grants 'Global South' aim to enhance the so-called 'north-south' and 'south-south' cooperation, to support international mobility and exchanges.

*In the framework of 'The 8th International Congress for Underwater Archaeology', The Sea as a Good Cause awards four **participation grants** to promising early career marine scientists. We want to offer the young marine researchers the hands-on and in-depth experience of the conference.*

The early career marine scientists should be enrolled in an MSc, PhD program or junior postdoctoral trajectory in marine science and be younger than 35. With these participation grants, we wish to inspire and enable students to exchange experience and gain expertise by participating in ['The 8th International Congress for Underwater Archaeology'](#) organized by the IKUWA Steering Committee, Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Flanders Heritage Agency, Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine, Ghent University, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VisitFlanders, Province of West Flanders and the City of Ostend, from 13 – 17 October 2025 in Ostend Belgium.

## The 8th International Congress for Underwater Archaeology

An inspiring and engaging ocean is one of the key outcomes of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). In 2025 we are halfway the decade and this conference provides us amongst others with a good occasion to take stock of the achievements of the decade in the field of underwater cultural heritage. It's the ambition of the Underwater Cultural Heritage community to convince society of the significant role underwater as well as coastal cultural heritage can play in achieving the goals of the Decade of Ocean Science.

This conference offers a valuable opportunity to showcase the significant interactions between humans and ocean and to grasp their significance for the future of marine environments. Exploring underwater and coastal cultural heritage enables researchers to access the collective memory of humanity and to enrich it with compelling narratives, thereby creating a tool that can provide insights into sea level fluctuations and climate change. By incorporating underwater cultural heritage into discussions on the socio-cultural significance of the oceans, we can deepen our emotional connection with these vast bodies of water.

For the detailed outline, objectives, modules and the practical information about IKUWA 8: read [Organisation | IKUWA8](#).

<b>Launch of the call</b>	26 March 2025
<b>Submission deadline</b>	15 May 2025
<b>Selection</b>	The selection will be made before June 2025, by the VLIZ Scientific Committee and the IKUWA 8 organizing committee.
<b>Required documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- application form (download the form <a href="#">here</a>) including motivation letter and abstract submission</li> <li>- cv of the PhD student</li> <li>- letter of consent of the supervisor affiliated to the student's university or university college (free format)</li> <li>- a copy of your master's degree <u>or</u> prove of your doctoral grant</li> </ul>

## Budget

The overall budget available for one participation grant is maximum 2.500 EUR and is funded by The Sea as a Good Cause, with the support of C-Hotels. The grant of maximum 2.500 EUR is used to allow the young marine scientist to participate in the IKUWA 8 conference. The grant includes the travel cost for the flight (lowest fare, economy class), accommodation in one of the C-hotels in Ostend from Sunday 12 October till Friday 17 October and registration fee for IKUWA 8. The participation grant does not include: food cost for other meals then provided during the conference. Booking of flight, registration fee, and accommodation are taken care of by The Sea as a Good Cause. Number of grants to be awarded: 4.

## Eligibility and selection criteria

- Master, PhD student or junior postdoc with, at the time of application younger than 35 and less than 6 years of research experience at predoc level (i.e. since starting PhD research) or less than 3 years' experience at postdoc level (i.e. after obtaining the doctoral degree).
- The applicant is active as a marine scientist.
- The applicant is affiliated to a marine research institute or a university in the Global South in a developing country or a least developed country (see annex 1\*).
- The applicant works or performs his/her studies in the field of marine and maritime archaeology/anthropology.
- Consent of the university (college) supervisor.
- The supervisor/promotor who provides the letter of consent is a scientist known by the IKUWA 8 organizing committee.
- A copy of the master degree or the doctoral grant is required.
- Entering an abstract is obligatory to be awarded a participation grant.
- Selection will be made based on the motivation letter and the submitted abstract.

## Terms & Conditions

- The grant will be awarded to the successful applicant personally.
- The laureate hands in a one-page report about his/her participation at the IKUWA 8 conference, including 3 photos with the laureate pictured during the conference activities. The report mentions the added value of the conference for its own research.
- The report is sent to [filantropie@vliz.be](mailto:filantropie@vliz.be) by 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2025 the latest.
- This input will be used for communication about the participation grants awarded by The Sea as a Good Cause.

## How to submit?

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

- application form including motivation letter and abstract
- cv of the PhD student
- letter of consent of the supervisor affiliated to the student's university or university college (free format)
- a copy of your master's degree or prove of your doctoral grant.

**Subject of the e-mail:** 'Motivation letter - participation grant – IKUWA 8'

**Submission deadline:** No later than **May 15 2025**

## Sponsorship

Participation grants for the IKUWA 8 conference receive sponsorship from [C-Hotels](#). The hotel group offers the accommodation of the four participation grant laureates (from Sunday 12 October till Friday 17 October 2025). C-hotels is the preferred partner of IKUWA 8 for hotel accommodation for the participants of the IKUWA 8 conference who can benefit a corporate rate. All of their hotels are located near the beach and within walking distance of the conference venue.

## Where to turn for more information?

### Institute

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)  
InnovOcean Campus  
Jacobsenstraat 1  
8400 Oostende  
Belgium

### Contact person

Karen Rappé  
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**\* Annex 1: Countries eligible for a IKUWA8 participation grant for early career marine scientists active in the Global South**

<b>Africa</b>	<b>Middle &amp; South America</b>	<b>Asia &amp; Oceania</b>
Algeria	Antigua and Barbuda	Bangladesh
Angola	Argentina	Cambodia
Benin	Belize	China
Cameroon	Brazil	Cook Islands
Comoros	Colombia	Democratic Republic of Korea
Congo	Costa Rica	Fiji
Democratic Republic of Congo	Cuba	Philippines
Djibouti	Dominica	India
Equatorial Guinea	Dominican Republic	Indonesia
Eritrea	Ecuador	Kiribati
Gabon	El Salvador	Laos
Gambia	Grenada	Maldives
Ghana	Guatemala	Malaysia
Guinea	Guyana	Marshall Islands
Guinea Bissau	Haiti	Micronesia
Ivory Coast	Honduros	Myanmar
Kenya	Jamaica	Nauru
Liberia	Cape Verde	Niue
Libya	Mexico	Palau
Madagascar	Montserrat	Papua New Guinea
Morocco	Nicaragua	Samoa
Mauritania	Panama	Solomon Islands
Mauritius	Peru	Sri Lanka
Mozambique	Saint Helena	Thailand
Namibia	Saint Lucia	Timor-Leste
Nigeria	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	Tokelau
Sao Tome & Principe	Suriname	Tonga
Senegal	Venezuela	Tuvalu
Sierra Leone		Vanuatu
Sudan		Vietnam
Somalia		Wallis and Futuna
Tanzania		
Togo		
Tunisia		
South Africa		