



EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

**RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS**

**Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges**

Transversing European Coastlines Port Calls - Naples 6 May 2024

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Research and Innovation DG, European Commission

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionOcean



# Mission objectives and targets

## Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

### PROTECT AND RESTORE MARINE AND FRESHWATERS ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

- Protect at least 30% and strictly protect 10% EU's sea areas
- Restore 25.000 km free flowing rivers
- Marine nature restoration targets (incl. degraded seabeds, coastal ecosystems)

### PREVENT AND ELIMINATE POLLUTION OF OUR OCEANS, SEAS AND WATERS

- Reduce by at least 50% plastic litter
- Reduce by at least 30% microplastics
- Reduce by at least 50% nutrient losses, chemical pesticides

### MAKE THE BLUE ECONOMY CARBON- NEUTRAL AND CIRCULAR

- Net zero maritime emissions
- Zero carbon aquaculture,
- Low carbon multipurpose use of marine space

### ENABLERS

Digital Ocean and Waters Knowledge system

Public mobilization and engagement





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## Mission four lighthouses:

sites to pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins



Baltic & North Sea basin



Mediterranean sea basin



Danube river basin



Atlantic & Arctic sea basin



# HE Mission Ocean & Waters Calls: 500 M€ 2021-24





# WP 2024 - Mission Ocean, seas and waters

## adopted on 17 April 2024: main features

- ✓ Follows the **impact-driven logic** of Horizon Europe and European Missions
- ✓ Supports major **EU policy objectives**: EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, EU Action Plan toward Zero pollution, the Communication on a Sustainable Blue Economy, the Marine Action Plan
- ✓ Focus on «**lighthouses**»: hubs for the development and deployment of transformative innovations (technological, social, business, governance) in the Mission **4 basins**.
- ✓ **WP 2024: 2 calls; 7 topics + 4 other actions; indicative budget EUR 127 million**
  - ✓ Call 1 focuses on Blue parks; migratory fish habitats in freshwaters; impact of fisheries on sensitive species and habitats; Citizen Science and on the co-design of a vision for a restored ocean/water system
  - ✓ Call 2 provides support to a coalition of waterfront cities, regions and islands and a comprehensive package of measures for Mission communities of actors,
  - ✓ Other actions focus on: DTO; monitoring Mission policy objectives; events; studies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynWwIKdjcVI>





# HE WP 2024 - Mission Ocean and waters

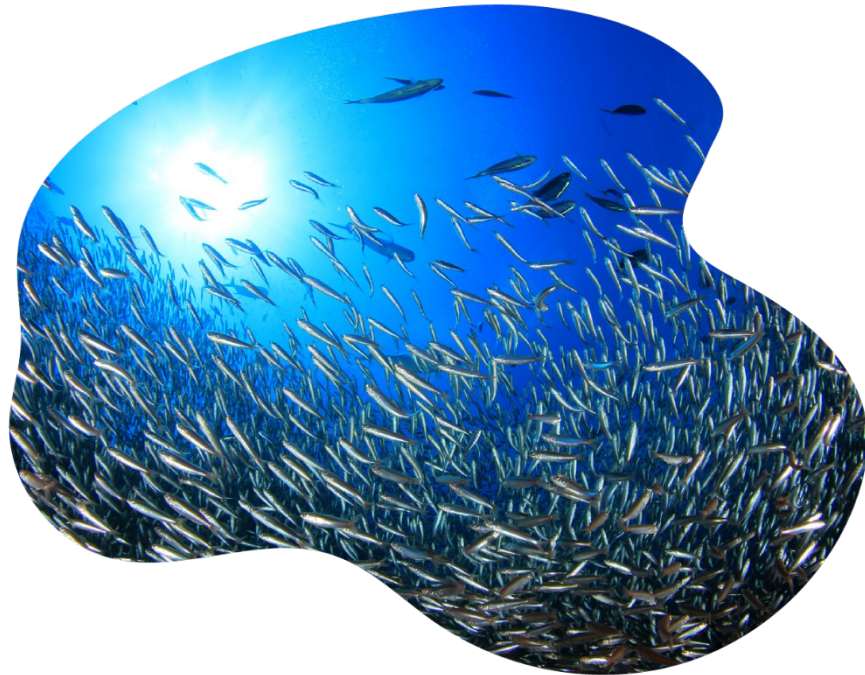
Topic	Type of Action	Budget (EUR million)
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-01: European Blue Parks – Offshore marine protected areas	IA	11.10
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-02: Danube river basin lighthouse – Protection and restoration of migratory fish habitats	IA	15.60
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-03: Atlantic and Arctic sea basin lighthouse, Mediterranean Sea basin lighthouse, Baltic and North Sea basin lighthouse – Reducing the environmental impacts of fisheries on marine species and habitats	IA	24.0
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-04: Science for Community – Building the marine Citizen Science data network of the future to valorise data coming from the ocean and increase engagement	CSA	2.00
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-05: Our Blue Future – Co-designing a future vision of a restored ocean and water system in the EU by 2030 and 2050	IA	3.00
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01: Community-led actions to restore our ocean, seas and waters	RIA	50.00
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-02: Support for the Coalition of waterfront cities, regions and islands for Mission Ocean and Waters	CSA	4.00

**HE Info Days:** Watch [recording](#) and see [slides](#)

**Brokerage event:** 21-22 May, <https://missions-horizon-europe-brokerage-2024.b2match.io/home>



# Opportunities to join ongoing projects: calls for Associated Regions





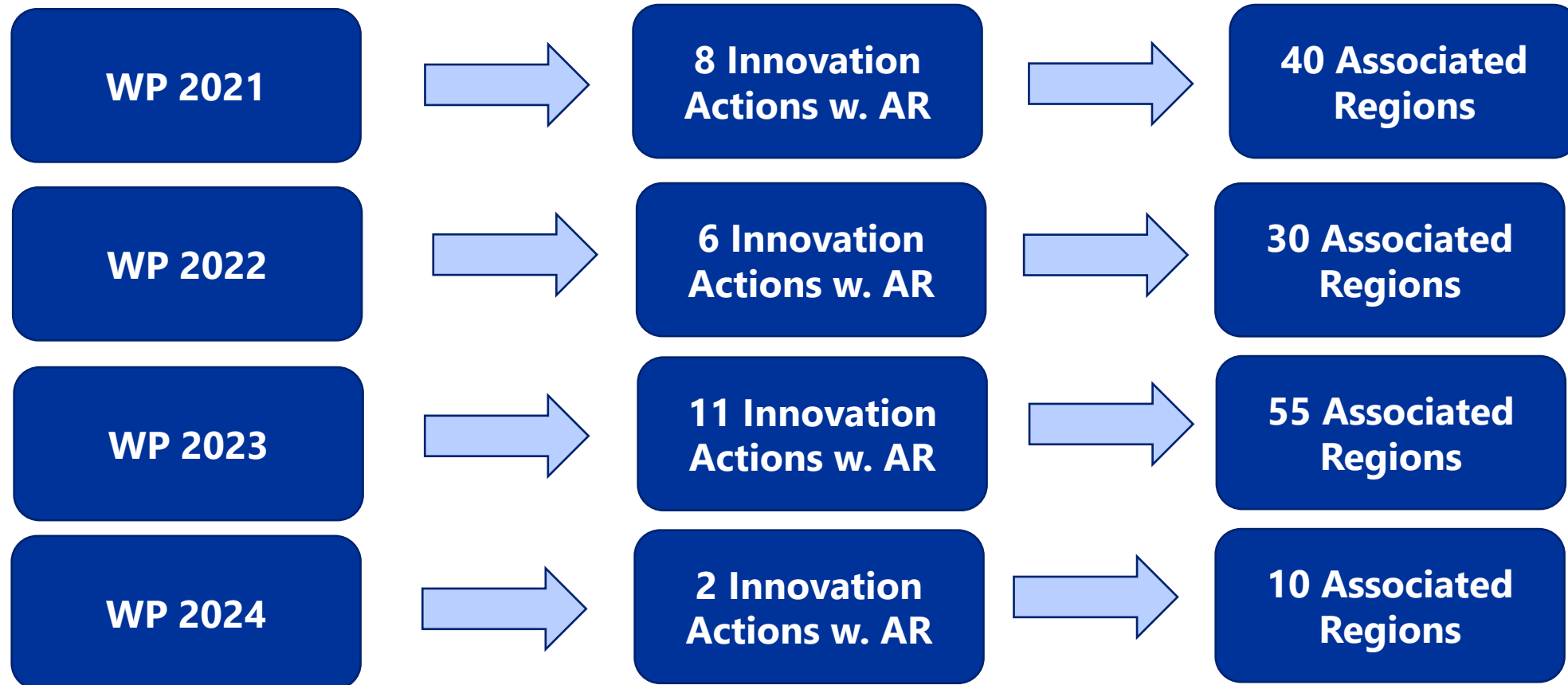
## Calls for associated regions

- ✓ Associated Region concept conceived to support wide **replication of innovative solutions** in areas with **ecosystems that can benefit from the demonstration activities**
- ✓ **Calls for Associated regions** organised by relevant projects, with an evaluation process based on transparent and fair procedures
- ✓ **Financial support to third parties:** May only be awarded to local and/or regional authorities from an associated region. The maximum amount to be granted to each associated region is **EUR 100,000**.
- ✓ Projects should continuously share their outcomes with the 'associated regions' and provide them with technical assistance to build capacity and implement solutions in their territory.
- ✓ Where to find the calls:
  - Calls published in the Horizon Europe **Funding and Tenders Portal**
  - Information also available on the **Mission Ocean and Waters Service Portal**
  - Publicity is made by **ongoing projects in their sites**
  - **NCPs and Mission Lighthouse CSAs**





# How many Associated regions do we expect?





# OPEN CALLS

STATUS: OPEN

## REMEDIES

### Deadline

5 June 2024, 17:00 CEST

STATUS: OPEN

## SeaClear2.0

### Deadline

31 May 2024, 12:00 CEST

STATUS: OPEN

## Restore4Life call for Associated Regions

### Deadline

29 May 2024, 17:00 CEST



# THE MISSION IS A JOINT EFFORT

## Synergies – Teaming up beyond EC / HE level

### Across different EU Programmes

Horizon Europe, EMFAF, Life, Inter-Reg, InvestEU, EIB, Recovery and Resilience Funds

### With Member States and Regions

National and regional programmes / initiatives, partnerships, MoC

### With International partners / initiatives

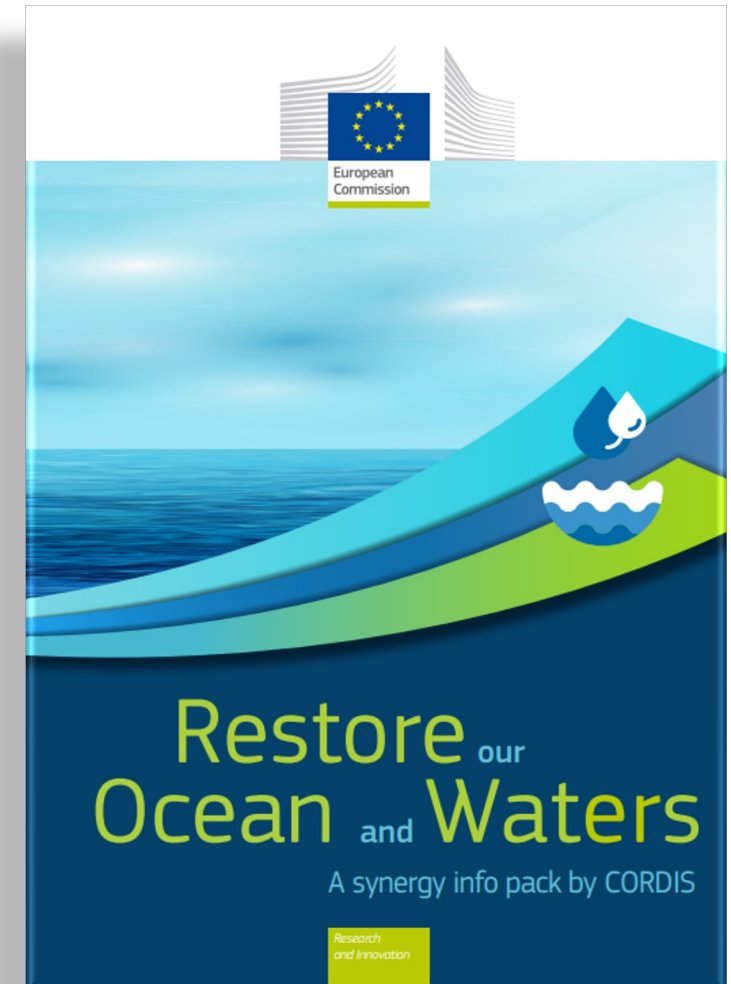
UN Decade Ocean Sciences, UfM, Alliances (e.g. AAORA)

### With public & private sectors, and investors

Universities, Joint Undertakings, EIB, EBRD, philanthropy

### With citizens and youth

Citizens initiatives, EU4Ocean, Youth ocean Ambassadors







# THE MISSION ACROSS DIFFERENT EU PROGRAMMES

## Portfolio analysis: 16 programmes, 1000 projects, 4.5 B €

European Commission

### Portfolio Analysis

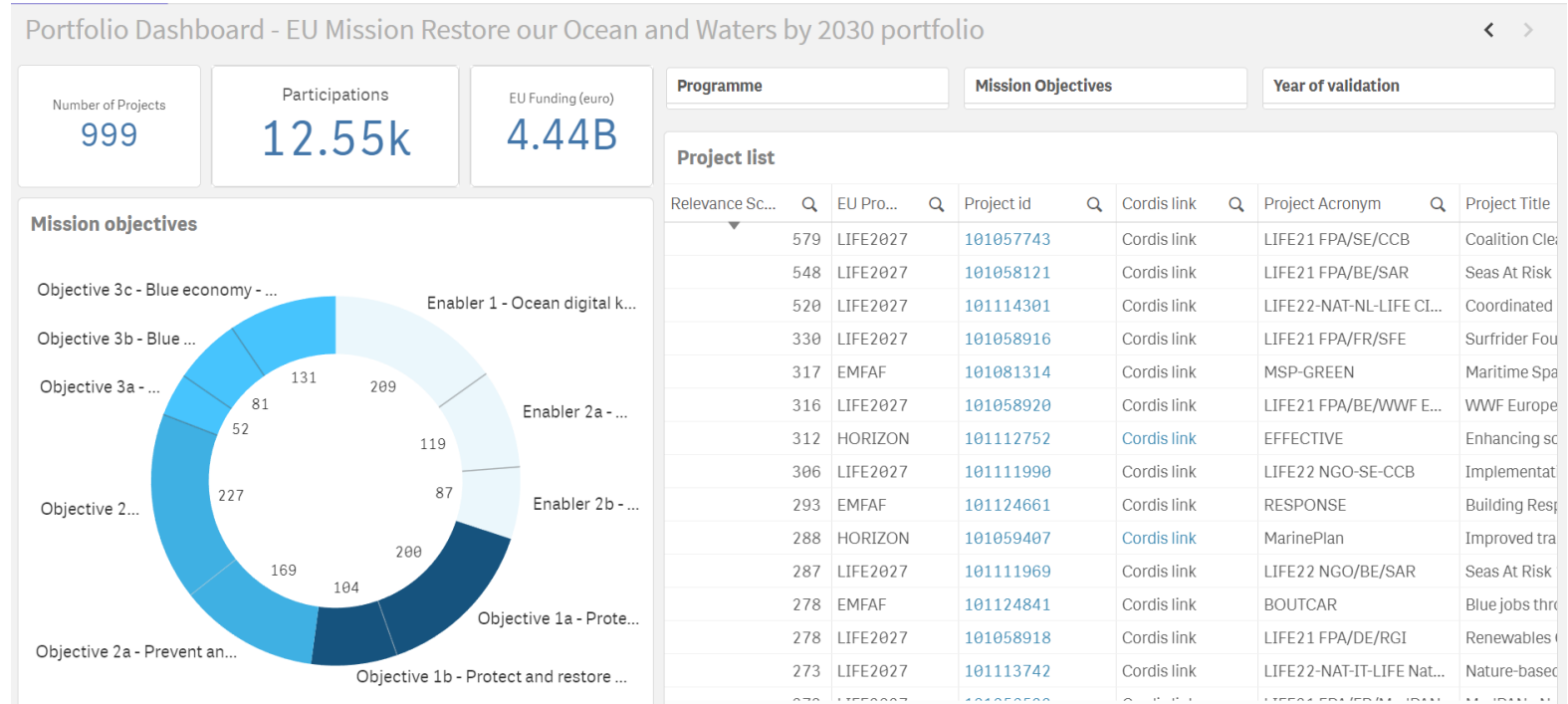
## EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030"

Analysis of a portfolio of projects financed by sixteen EU programmes contributing to the objectives of the Mission Ocean and Waters

Independent Expert Report

HORIZON EUROPE

Research and Innovation



See interactive dashboard

<https://s-tco-rdad.net1.cec.eu.int/eulp/sense/app/77245501-4400-4108-bac0-2a75e068ebe8/sheet/9758dd27-b8ac-43f3-8336-8120db0ae19a/state/analysis>



# Implementing the Mission: BRINGING THE SOLUTIONS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

## 1. Mobilisation of relevant actors

**Mission Lighthouses**

**Charter**

**Mission Forum**

**Creation of communities**

**Blue Parks community**

## 2. Supporting the transitions

**Developing and demonstrating solutions**

**Implementation platform**

**Support services**

## 3. Deployment at scale

**Financial support: synergies** with structural funds (Regions), RRF, EMFAF, philanthropies

**Blue Champions** (EIB)

**European Solidarity Corps**

**Matchmaking**

**Scaling-up and replicating**

# POLITICAL BUY-IN

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**DANUBE LIGHTHOUSE**

Danube high level event: 3-4 April, Bucharest



Sebastian-Ioan Burduja  
Romanian Minister of Research,  
Innovation and Digitalization

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**ATLANTIC & ARCTIC LIGHTHOUSE**

Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse: 23-24 Nov. 2022, Cork



Simon Coveney  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Michael D. Higgins,  
President of Ireland



Cork City Council @corkcitycouncil · 25 nov. 2022  
Cork became the 1st Atlantic city to sign the EU Mission Ocean Charter this week, committing to leading the way in restoring our oceans and waters ecosystems, reducing pollution and developing a sustainable blue economy🌊

#EUMissions #HorizonEU #MissionOcean



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**BALTIC AND NORTH SEA LIGHTHOUSE**

Hamburg, 25-26 April 2023

Mr Sebastian-Ioan Burduja,



Judith Pirscher  
State Secretary Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Judith Pirscher State Secretary Federal  
Ministry of Education and Research

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**MEDITERRANEAN SEA LIGHTHOUSE**



Marseille, 14-15 June 2022



Maria Cristina Messa  
Italian Minister for Universities and Research

Marseille, 14-15 June 2022



Palermo, 30-21 May 2023



Coalition of cities & regions



Coalition of islands



Nello Musumeci, Minister for Civil  
Protection and Sea Policies, Italy





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## 1. Mobilisation of relevant actors

# Community-building

- Mission Forum and lighthouse conferences
- Blue Parks community established
- Digital Ocean Forum and DTO community established
- Coalition of cities , regions, islands
- Regions associated to Mission projects for demo / transition plans (100 expected)

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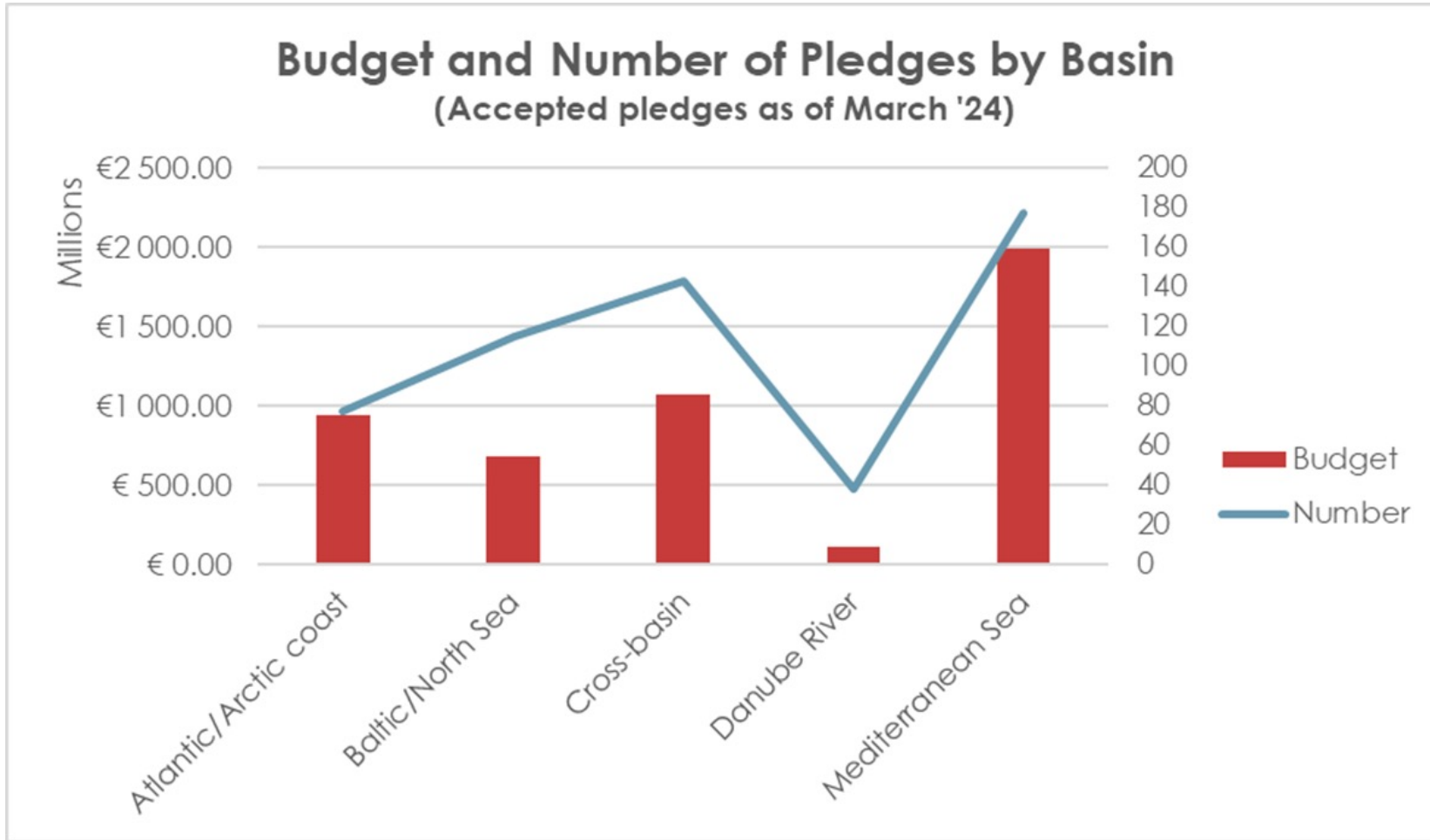


# MISSION CHARTER





# Mission Charter actions



**More than 720 actions pledged with 550 actions visible to the Mission Atlas**  
**Budget: €4,79 billion**



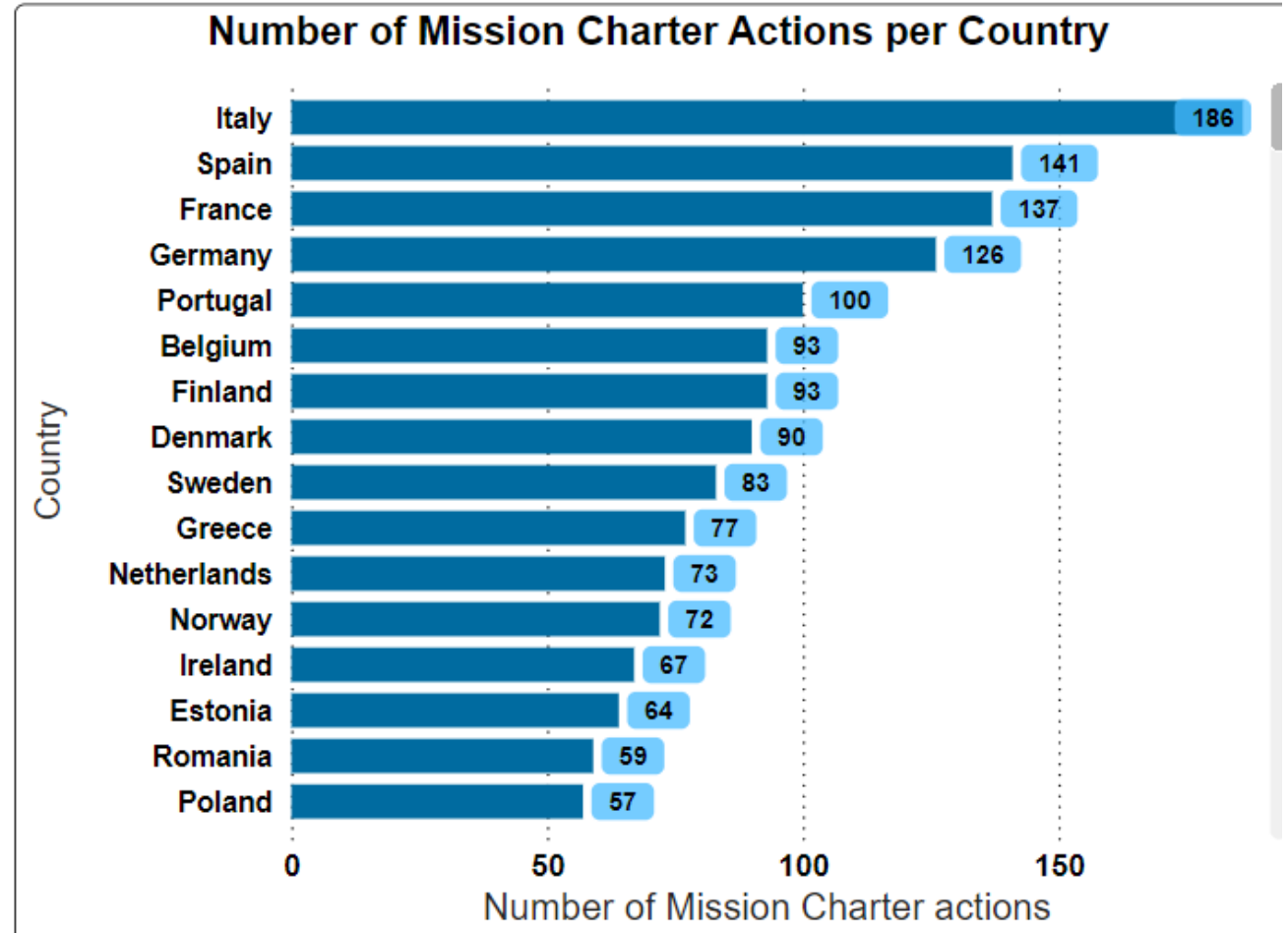


# Mission Ocean & Waters: an ever-growing interest

## 15 Member States

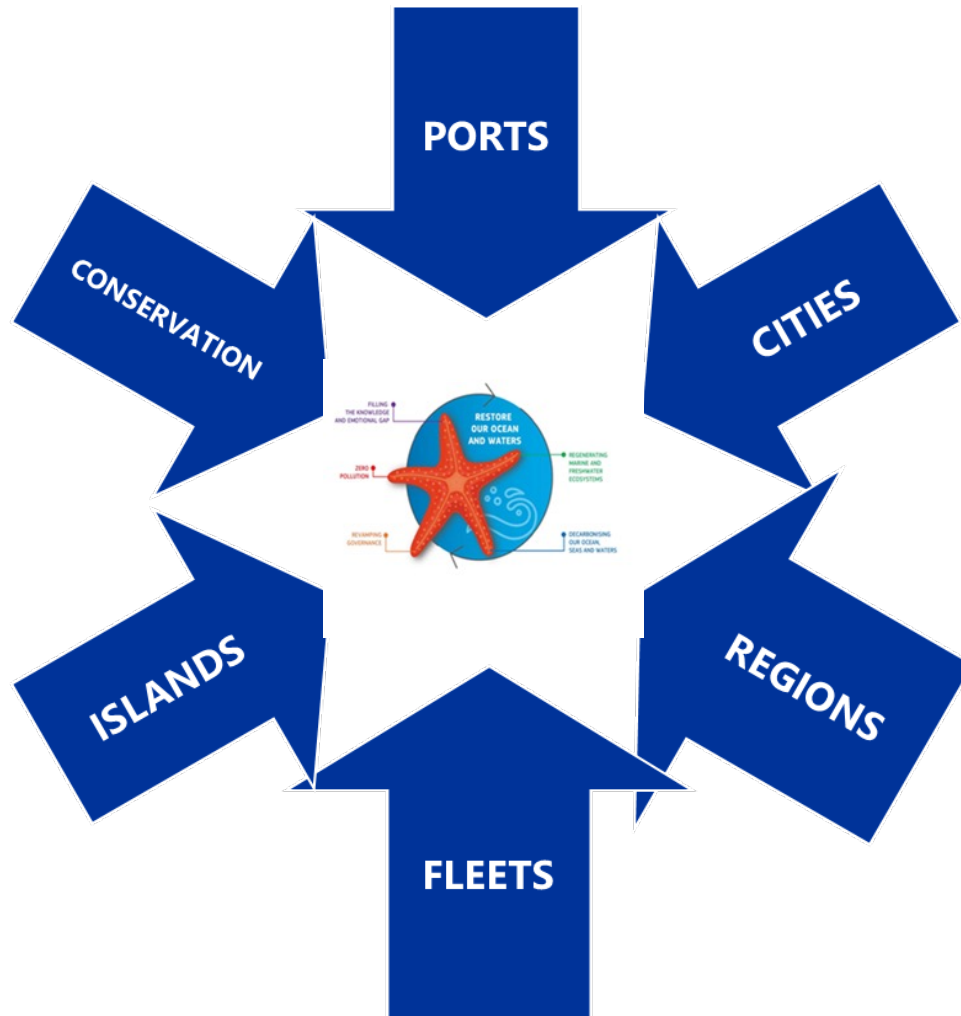
Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain

supported the Mission through **political statement and by endorsing the Mission Charter.**





# KEY ACTORS –MISSION CHARTER



- national authorities
- region
- city
- islands
- Port and fleets
- Research & academia
- Private enterprises
- MPAs
- NGOs
- ...



# EUROPEAN UNION MISSION IMPLEMENTATION PORTAL

## 2. Supporting the transitions



### Mission Ocean and Waters service portal

Home

Mission Charter

Mission Solutions



Mission funding



Collaboration space



Advisory services

EU Blue Parks

Mission Lighthouses

News & Events

About

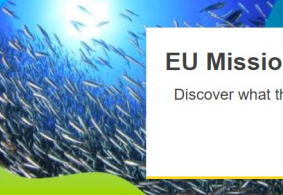


### Mission Ocean and Waters service portal

One-stop-shop for stakeholders involved and interested in the Mission Ocean implementation.

### Mission Ocean projects

These Horizon Europe Mission Ocean-funded projects are part of the drivers to fulfil the Mission goals across all Lighthouses. Discover who they are and the work they do.



#### EU Mission: Restore our Oceans and Waters

Discover what this Mission is, how it works, how it was chosen, and more.

[Visit page >](#)

### Find financing

Find a variety of financial programmes and instruments to finance projects and actions related to ocean conservation and blue economy.

### Join the Mission

We provide different opportunities for actors and citizens to support and implement ideas related to ocean and water ecosystem restoration, the prevention and elimination of pollution, and making the sustainable blue economy circular and carbon-neutral.



#### Endorse the Mission Charter

We are calling on Member States, regions and a wide range of stakeholders to endorse the Mission Charter and pledge actions that will contribute to the successful implementation of Mission Ocean and Waters and its Lighthouses.



#### Join our Forum

Mission Ocean and Waters will present its progress at a Forum hosted annually in Brussels, allowing online exchanges and networking among the Mission Forum community. Find out more about the event here.



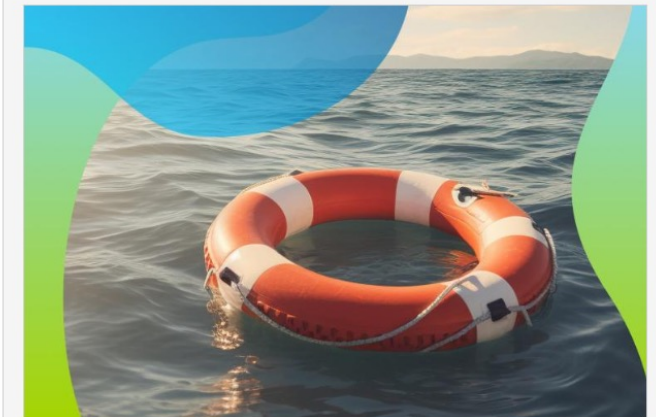
#### Join the EU Blue Parks Community

Join the EU Blue Parks Community, a collaborative platform for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to work together on marine conservation and achieve the goals of the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy.



#### Search for innovative solutions

Find shared knowledge and expertise, fostering collaboration and innovation.



#### Seek assistance in tailoring your research

Request support in customising your research and connect with solution owners. You can also submit your demand through our helpdesk webform.





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# 1.a. SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITIES

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE for feasibility studies

Applicants must be from one of the target communities:

- Ports
- Fisheries
- Islands
- Research vessels

Call for Expression of Interest OPEN

DL: 24 May 2024

<https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters/technical-assistance-support-communities-actors-achieve-eu-mission-restore-our-ocean-and-waters>





# 1.b. SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE for feasibility studies

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iz7nqCC\\_u02e0D-muhp08OEDRqylotVv/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iz7nqCC_u02e0D-muhp08OEDRqylotVv/view?usp=sharing)



# SUPPORTING the Mission Communities for local deployment

## EC support :

- **EC support to regions, local authorities, islands to prepare transition agendas + community-led pilot actions**  
: services and feasibility studies for fisheries, ports, islands
- **Facilitating investments** to implement the actions : MIP service portal, EIB Blue Champions, matchmaking with investors /philanthropies ...
- **Synergies** and ‘pacts with Regions’: negotiation with Regions to invest structural funds in Mission actions / transition agendas supported by the EC (pilot on-going)





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# THE MISSION IS YOURS



## How can YOU contribute to this Mission and what does the Mission offer to YOU

1. Adhere to the Mission Charter, with your actions
2. Promote the Mission in your activities and engage others
3. Submit a proposal to Horizon Europe/Mission calls
4. Benefit from technical assistance
5. Find support in the Mission Implementation Portal
6. Become an “associated region” in Mission projects
7. Participate in Mission events...

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RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

**Digital Ocean Forum #3**

Wednesday 12 June, 10:00-18:00  
**Scientific and Technical Workshop** Brussels, Palais des Académies

Thursday 13 June, 9:30-16:30  
**High-Level event** Brussels, Palais des Académies

in cooperation with  
EDITO MERICATOR OCEAN VLIZ EU





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# Thank you!

**#MissionOcean**

**#EUmissions**

**#HorizonEU**

**[Restore our Ocean and Waters \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)**

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