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Horizon Europe
Work Programme 2023-2025

12. Missions and Cross-cutting Activities

DISCLAIMER

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Table of contents

Introduction	3
Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030	5
Call - Actions for the implementation of the Mission Restore our ocean and waters by 2030	7
Conditions for the Call	7
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-01: European Blue Parks – Offshore marine protected areas	8
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-02: Danube river basin lighthouse – Protection and restoration of migratory fish habitats	11
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	15
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	19
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	22
Call - Support to communities of actors for the Mission Restore our ocean and waters by 2030	25
Conditions for the Call	25
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01: Community-led actions to restore our ocean, seas and waters	26
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-02: Support for the Coalition of waterfront cities, regions and islands for Mission Ocean and Waters	33

Introduction

EU Missions

EU Missions aim to address some of the greatest challenges facing our society. They are bold and inspirational with clear objectives that are time-bound, realistic, measurable and targeted.

Rooted in research and innovation, missions aim to tackle societal challenges with systemic solutions, leading to societal transformations and social impact.

Five mission areas have been included in the Horizon Europe Regulation (Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation; Cancer; Healthy Ocean, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters; Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities; Soil Health and Food). In 2021, Missions went through an initial preparatory phase, during which implementations plans were developed. These included detailed objectives, specific interventions, investment strategy and performance indicators for each mission. In summer 2021, the implementation plans have been assessed against objective criteria¹ and all five proposed EU Missions have now entered their full implementation²:

- Adaptation to Climate Change: support at least 150 European regions, local authorities and communities to become climate resilient by 2030;
- Cancer: improving the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better;
- 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart cities by 2030;
- Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030;
- A Soil Deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

Missions will continue to help deliver key EU policy priorities such as the European Green Deal, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, NextGenerationEU, the EU Industrial Strategy and A Europe fit for the Digital Age, amongst others.

To achieve their goals and promote societal change, missions will implement the reuse and reproducibility of research results such as FAIR research data and open access to scientific publications. Also, the missions will closely involve citizens in their implementation and monitoring throughout their duration, also showcasing the added value of the EU.

The five EU Missions work programme parts for 2023-2024 contain actions to support the full implementation of missions according to their implementation plans. The work programme will contain actions in synergy and coordination with other missions, parts of Horizon Europe, in particular with European Partnerships and Clusters, and including also bottom-up parts such as

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/assessment-criteria_en

² [COM\(2021\) 609 final](#)

*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025
Missions and Cross-cutting Activities*

the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology or the European Research Council, as well as with other EU funding instruments and policies.

Furthermore, they will need to be implemented in close synergy with funding, programmes and strategies both at Member State / Associated Country and regional levels, as well as with civil society and the private sector.

Critical to the success of the missions will be the extent of wide engagement across the EU and Associated Countries and beyond, including citizens, in particular young people. To this end, Missions will contribute to the European Solidarity Corps scheme with the aim of engaging with the younger generation to deliver on the five EU Missions goals.

Please note that legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in Innovation Actions in any capacity. More details are found in the Annex B of the General Annexes of this Work Programme.

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Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

The Mission ‘Restore our ocean and waters by 2030’ will provide a systemic approach for the restoration, protection and preservation of our ocean, seas and waters. The objective of this Mission is to restore, protect and preserve the health of our ocean, seas and waters by 2030. The Mission is designed to deliver on the European Union’s 2030 quantified and measurable targets for protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, for zero pollution, and for decarbonisation and net greenhouse gas emissions reduction towards climate-neutrality, within the EU’s ocean, seas and waters. The Mission will support many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): in particular restoring our ocean and waters related actions will directly contribute to SDG 14 - Life below water and SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation, as well as to SDG13 - Climate action.

The Mission will also contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development³ by fostering research and cooperation across European sea basins, including the EU Outermost Regions and beyond, and mobilise scientists, as well as citizens for a sustainable and healthy ocean, seas and waters.

The implementation plan specifies the goal and objectives as well as implementation details of the Mission “Restore our Ocean, seas and waters by 2030”⁴.

The Mission Work Programme, under Horizon Europe, will contribute to the recovery of our ocean and waters by 2030 and more specifically to the following objectives:

1. Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030⁵;
2. Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters, in line with the EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil⁶;
3. Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular, in line with the proposed European Climate Law⁷ and the holistic vision enshrined in the Communication on a new approach for a Sustainable Blue Economy⁸.

The Mission will be implemented in two phases:

- In the first ‘development and piloting’ phase (2022-2025), research and innovation will lay the foundations for implementing the three Mission objectives and enabling actions, paving the way to further citizens participation and engagement. Research and innovation activities will support transformative and innovative solutions to be tested, piloted and

³ <https://www.oceandecade.org/>

⁴

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/funding/documents/ocean_and_waters_implementation_plan_for_publication.pdf

⁵ COM/2020/380 final

⁶ COM/2021/400 final

⁷ COM/2020/563 final

⁸ COM/2021/240 final

validated. Enabling activities will generate new knowledge, observation and monitoring data.

- In the second ‘deployment and upscaling’ phase (2026-2030), the solutions will be further deployed, replicated and scaled up.

The Mission ocean and waters supports research and innovation in a system of European and national funding programmes sharing policy objectives. To foster synergies between R&I funding instruments (European and national), align R&I investments, ensure access to excellence and translate research results for the benefit of the society and the economy, applicants should consider and actively seek complementarities with, and where appropriate possibilities for further funding from other R&I-relevant EU, national or regional programmes for a sustainable blue economy, notably EMFF/EMFAF, LIFE, ERDF, ESF+, JTF, CEF Inland Waterways or Maritime and InvestEU, as well as private funds or financial instruments. All actions of the Mission are expected to disseminate their results according to FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles compatible with ongoing EU initiatives such as the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). In line with this approach, specific actions within the Mission will be devoted to widening access to data and knowledge of oceans, seas and freshwater through the Digital Twin Ocean (Mission ocean and waters digital knowledge system).

All proposals submitted to the calls listed below are required to show how their proposed activities and results will achieve the Mission’s objectives, in line with the timeframe of the Mission phases, i.e.: by 2025 for the ‘development and piloting’ phase and 2030 for the ‘deployment and upscaling phase’.

The 2024 work programme is structured around two groups of activities:

- The first one will complement previous topics on Blue Parks by addressing off-shore marine protection, will support activities to restore and protect migratory fish habitats in freshwaters and will enhance Blue Economy sustainability by demonstrating innovative tools and methods to mitigate the impact of fisheries on sensitive species. One topic addresses the Danube River basin lighthouse whilst a second topic targets the three Mission sea basins lighthouses, i.e.: the Atlantic and Arctic sea basin, the Baltic and North Sea basin and the Mediterranean Sea basin.
- The second group of activities will provide a comprehensive package of support for Mission communities of actors under all four Mission lighthouses in order to accelerate progress towards achieving the Mission objectives and targets. It will also support a coalition of waterfront cities, regions and islands, and a topic on future vision of a restored ocean and water system in the EU.

Activities to further enhance the development of the European Digital Twin of the Ocean and to further engage with citizens are also covered.

Call - Actions for the implementation of the Mission Restore our ocean and waters by 2030

HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)⁹

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ¹⁰	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2024		
Opening: 02 Apr 2024 Deadline(s): 18 Sep 2024				
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-01	IA	11.10 ¹¹	Around 11.10	1
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-02	IA	15.60 ¹²	Around 7.80	2
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-03	IA	24.00 ¹³	Around 8.00	3
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-04	CSA	2.00 ¹⁴	Around 2.00	1

⁹ The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

¹⁰ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

¹¹ Of which EUR 1.89 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 1.79 million from the 'Digital, Industry and Space' budget and EUR 0.23 million from the 'Civil Security for Society' budget and EUR 6.91 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget and EUR 0.27 million from the 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' budget.

¹² Of which EUR 2.65 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 2.52 million from the 'Digital, Industry and Space' budget and EUR 0.33 million from the 'Civil Security for Society' budget and EUR 9.72 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget and EUR 0.38 million from the 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' budget.

¹³ Of which EUR 4.08 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 3.88 million from the 'Digital, Industry and Space' budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 'Civil Security for Society' budget and EUR 14.95 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget and EUR 0.59 million from the 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' budget.

¹⁴ Of which EUR 0.34 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 0.32 million from the 'Digital, Industry and Space' budget and EUR 0.04 million from the 'Civil Security for Society' budget and EUR 1.25 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget and EUR 0.05 million from the 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' budget.

Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025
Missions and Cross-cutting Activities

HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-05	IA	3.00 ¹⁵	Around 3.00	1
Overall indicative budget		55.70		

General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-01: European Blue Parks – Offshore marine protected areas

Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 11.10 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 11.10 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

¹⁵ Of which EUR 0.51 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 0.48 million from the 'Digital, Industry and Space' budget and EUR 0.06 million from the 'Civil Security for Society' budget and EUR 1.87 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget and EUR 0.07 million from the 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' budget.

*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025
Missions and Cross-cutting Activities*

<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 5-7 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: If projects collect in-situ data and marine observations, beneficiaries must make them openly available through the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet), based on FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles.

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- Definition of clear science-based conservation objectives and conservation measures that contribute to the restoration and protection of marine ecosystems and to effective management of protected areas;
- Evidence for effective decision-making process at Member States and Associated Countries level to ensure sustainable management of offshore marine protected areas;
- Contribution to policy development and implementation linked to protecting and restoring marine biodiversity and ecosystems;
- New offshore marine protected areas proposed and/or established;
- Improved knowledge about offshore marine ecosystems (including deep sea ecosystems) and biodiversity in view of protection and conservation demo activities;
- Enhancement of the provision of ecosystem services compatible with the protection and restoration of the offshore ecosystems, leading to sustainable and scalable business models;
- Active support to the Mission’s Digital Ocean and Water Knowledge system through advances in biological, ecosystem and socio-economic knowledge applied to restoration and conservation;
- Active support to the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework;

- Reinforced EU leadership in international efforts for marine protection, in line with the EU key priorities and international commitments.

Scope:

Only 8% of offshore marine waters in the EU are covered by marine protected areas (MPAs), compared to 48% of nearshore (0-1 nautical mile) and 27% of territorial (1-12 miles) zone (EEA, 2020). This means that large areas of important habitats offshore remain unprotected (such as soft sediment bottoms or habitats of highly mobile species such as marine mammals), which hinders the achievement of EU and global marine conservation targets to achieve a coherent MPA network. One of the main challenges for the establishment of offshore MPAs is the lack of knowledge about the distribution and condition of marine habitats, as well as pressures affecting them, due to high cost and effort needed for their surveillance and research. This has also been raised by Member States as one of the main issues with the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and of the future Nature Restoration Law.

Proposals under this topic are expected to show how their activities and results will contribute to achieving the Mission objective 1 – Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity.

Proposals are expected to contribute to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, including the Marine Action Plan, the Birds, Habitats and Marine Strategy Framework directives and the future Nature Restoration Law as well as relevant international agreements (e.g.: the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction - BBNJ).

The proposed activities should cover all following objectives:

- mapping the distribution and condition of marine (benthic and pelagic) habitats in offshore¹⁶ areas (beyond 12 nautical miles from the coast);
- providing the scientific basis for establishing new marine protected areas (or enlarging existing ones) in offshore areas, including strictly protected ones;
- assessing pressures (including cumulative ones) in offshore areas and establishing the necessary conservation measures for MPAs, including through elaboration of their management plans and monitoring schemes.

Projects are encouraged to actively involve Member States/Associated Countries' authorities and concerned stakeholders.

Proposals should be site-specific, and the number of sites, their size, objectives and management measures of the protected area(s) for demonstration activities have to be ecologically relevant and impactful and contribute to enhance ecosystem services.

¹⁶ *offshore* means the area beyond 12 nautical miles from the coast where a Member State has or exercises jurisdiction, including exclusive economic zone or similar zones and the continental shelf.

Projects should build and capitalise on the knowledge base developed and lessons learnt from other projects, initiatives and programmes linked to the field of biodiversity, marine environment and conservation, as well as on the work carried out in relation to Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, as required under the REGULATION (EU) 2016/2336 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 14 December 2016 establishing specific conditions for fishing for deep-sea stocks in the north-east Atlantic and provisions for fishing in international waters of the north-east Atlantic and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2347/2002.

Projects funded under this topic are expected to show a significant replication potential by identifying areas and locations where the proposed measures could be replicable. An action plan and roadmap needed for the replication and scale up of the proposed measures for offshore marine protected areas are expected to be drawn up by the end of the project, taking into account Marine Spatial Planning plans.

For improved coordination and networking, the applicants should set aside resources for activities to engage with other relevant actions funded under Horizon Europe, in particular projects funded under Horizon Europe Cluster 6 topics, Mission Ocean and Waters topics, EMFAF/EMFF and LIFE activities. Additionally, projects should collaborate with projects funded under the topic HORIZON-INFRA-2022-EOSC-01-03 to adopt best practices regarding FAIR and open data sharing as well as with other relevant activities under the Research Infrastructures programme¹⁷.

Proposals addressing the EU Outermost Regions¹⁸ are encouraged, given these regions' natural assets.

HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-02: Danube river basin lighthouse – Protection and restoration of migratory fish habitats

Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.80 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 15.60 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:

¹⁷ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/european-research-infrastructures_en

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/themes/outermost-regions_en

*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025
Missions and Cross-cutting Activities*

	<p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply: in addition to the standard eligibility conditions, the consortium must include as beneficiaries legal entities established in at least three Member States and/or Associated Countries of the Danube River basin (including its delta) in which demonstration activities will be taking place.</p> <p>If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).</p>
<p><i>Technology Readiness Level</i></p>	<p>Activities are expected to achieve TRL 5-7 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.</p>
<p><i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i></p>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: if projects collect in-situ data and marine observations, beneficiaries must make them openly available through the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet), based on FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles.</p> <p>Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The concept of ‘Associated regions’ is implemented through Financial Support to Third Parties, according to the following conditions. The support to Third Parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The Financial Support to Third Parties may only be awarded to local and/or regional authorities located in Member States/Associated Countries. The maximum amount to be granted to each Third Party is EUR 100,000, to showcase the feasibility, replicability and scalability of the solutions developed within the project in the ‘associated region’. The Financial Support to a Third Party is provided only once for the entire duration of the project. Only one grant to a Third Party is awarded per ‘Associated Region’.</p>

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

The implementation of the European Green Deal, the Biodiversity Strategy, the Water Framework and Habitat Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and policies that concern freshwater ecosystem protection, in particular to the implementation of the Updated River Basin Management Plan for Danube 2021¹⁹;

¹⁹ <https://www.icpdr.org/main/publications/danube-river-basin-management-plan-drbmp-update-2021>

- Demonstrated sustainable and effective solutions ;
- Improved protection and management of migratory fish species in the Danube River Basin and its delta, with a focus on endangered species of high significance for the ecosystem or for local communities;
- Measurable improvements in protecting and restoring critical fish habitats, their availability, accessibility and connectivity within the Danube River basin and its delta;
- Improved transnational and trans-sectoral cooperation between national/local authorities and other actors involved in fish habitat protection and restoration;
- Evidence to support the implementation of River Basin Management Plans addressing the needs of migratory fishes;
- Active support to the Mission's Digital Ocean and Water Knowledge system through advances in knowledge related to freshwater dimension.

Scope: Migratory fish species represent an economic and natural heritage of the Danube River Basin and are indicators of the ecological status of aquatic ecosystems, especially of the functionality of ecological corridors. The need for their conservation is recognised by the scientific community as well as at a high political and management level (EUSDR Action Plan²⁰ - Priority Area 04 and 06).

This topic will support the European Green Deal and the European Biodiversity Strategy, in particular its target of 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers, the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and contribute to the Mission's objectives.

Proposals should build on and enhance the outcomes of the Interreg project MEASURES²¹ and the WE PASS²² Initiative set up by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)²³, which provide knowledge and guidance for the design of effective measures and their subsequent demonstration at a river basin scale. Activities should contribute to river and habitat continuity, as well as the effect on water quality as addressed within the framework of the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

The proposals should also build on research and innovation developed in the current and previous EU framework programmes, such as but not limited to Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2024 Missions (notably with projects selected under topics HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02-02 and HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02-04; HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-02; HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01-02) and relevant LIFE projects, EMFAF/EMFF, EU monitoring programmes and national and regional

²⁰ <https://danube-region.eu/>

²¹ [MEASURES - Interreg Danube \(interreg-danube.eu\)](https://interreg-danube.eu/)

²² [WE PASS - Facilitating Fish Migration and Conservation at the Iron Gates | ICPDR - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River](#)

²³ [ICPDR - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River](#)

programmes in the Danube river basin and its delta (e.g. Interreg, ERDF, EU Macroregional Strategies).

Proposals under this topic are expected to show how their activities and results will achieve the Mission objective 1 - Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity. Proposals should focus on the demonstration of sustainable and effective solutions for the enhancement of a protected network of critical habitats, involving relevant actors at a transnational/national scale and across relevant sectors, relevant national and regional authorities, riparian communities, landscape planners, ecologists as well as concerned economic actors, including fishers.

These demonstration activities should appropriately combine measures focused on habitat availability, accessibility and connectivity with measures for the protection and restoration of critical habitats, such as spawning, nursery, feeding and wintering grounds. Activities could also aim at removing pressures to enable natural recovery of fish habitats. The scale and range of the area for demonstration activities should be ecologically relevant and impactful and based on the recommendations and results of the previously mentioned projects.

The measures should be tailored to the specific river section(s) and related habitats and should contribute to improving the good ecological status and ecosystem services provided by key river ecosystems and habitats. Nature-based solutions and building with nature should be prioritised.

Training and communication activities addressing stakeholders, including regional and local authorities, as well as the ‘associated regions’, should be described in each proposal. Local actors, including where appropriate, the European Solidarity Corps and Mission Citizen Assemblies, should be involved in the demonstration activities.

Projects funded under this topic should:

- Show a significant replication potential by identifying areas and locations where the proposed solutions could be replicable. An action plan and roadmap needed for the replication and scale up of the solutions for fish habitat protection and restoration are expected to be drawn up by the end of the project;
- Include impact monitoring of the activities addressing fish habitats in the Danube River basin, including its delta, in cooperation with the Information System²⁴ set up through previous projects such as MEASURES and relevant European Research Infrastructures. In addition, the project is expected to monitor the impacts and effectiveness of demonstration activities at a local scale. The project should link with the activities carried out under the Digital Twin Ocean, in particular those addressing freshwaters, and support data and knowledge sharing through the Ocean and Water Knowledge System, as well as benefiting from it to foster cross-region, pan-European approaches;

²⁴ <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/measures/section/measures-information-system-mis>

- Provide recommendations and guidance to align protection of migratory fish with regard to new policy measures and infrastructure projects and to strengthen cooperation across relevant sectors (water, navigation, fisheries, hydropower and energy, etc.).

Projects are also expected to integrate actions to support the social and economic transitions towards sustainable, inclusive and long-term management of the restored and protected ecosystems, including natural, social, economic and cultural elements and business models for generating revenue from the restored and protected ecosystems and involve for that purpose local business communities, in particular SMEs, investors and other business stakeholders.

The project funded under this topic should build links with:

- other Mission activities and other relevant activities within the lighthouse and its area to maximize synergies as well as with other Mission lighthouses and their activities;
- the Mission implementation monitoring system that will be part of the Mission Implementation Platform and with the Danube River basin lighthouse support facility and platform, for reporting, monitoring and coordination of all relevant implementation activities in the lighthouse area as well as with the Blue Parks technical support platform;
- the activities of the ICPDR as well as with the national and regional authorities with competence in the area of fish habitat conservation and protection.

To address the impact-driven approach of the Mission and the nature of Innovation Actions, projects are expected to work with and engage at least 5 ‘associated regions’ to showcase the feasibility, replicability and scalability of the solutions developed within the projects in other areas. The concept of ‘associated regions’ is implemented through Financial Support to Third Parties (see the Specific Conditions table for this topic). ‘Associated regions’ are understood as regions with ecosystems that can benefit from the demonstration activities and/or less-developed regions, with the need to build capacity to implement the innovative solutions to improve fish habitats. The projects should ensure that the ‘associated regions’ are not already involved in the demonstration sites covered by the projects. The partners should proactively reach out to the ‘associated regions’ to enable them to follow closely the project and its demonstration activities. The projects should continuously share their outcomes and knowledge with those ‘associated regions’ and provide them with technical assistance to build capacity and to implement sustainable, balanced and effective fish habitat protection and connectivity at a river basin scale in their territory that contribute to achieving the Mission objectives. Proposals must outline the selection process of the third parties to which financial support would be granted based on principles of transparency, objectivity and fairness, in accordance with part B of the general annexes to this work programme.

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

Specific conditions

*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025
Missions and Cross-cutting Activities*

<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 8.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 24.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	<p>The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>The following additional eligibility criteria apply: in addition to the standard eligibility conditions, the consortium must carry out demonstration activities in 3 different countries of the basin addressed by the proposal (i.e.: 1. Atlantic and Arctic basin or 2. Mediterranean Sea basin or 3. Baltic and North Sea basin), and include, as beneficiaries, legal entities established in these respective countries.</p> <p>If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).</p>
<i>Technology Readiness Level</i>	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
<i>Procedure</i>	<p>The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>To ensure a balanced portfolio covering the 3 different sea basins (1. Atlantic and Arctic sea basin, 2. Mediterranean Sea basin, 3. Baltic and North Sea basin), grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to one proposal that is the highest ranked within each sea basin, provided that the applications attain all thresholds.</p>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: If projects collect in-situ data and marine observations, beneficiaries must make them openly available through the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet), based on FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles.</p>

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- Reduced, and where possible elimination of incidental catches of sensitive species and juvenile fish as well as reduced discard and damage to catch, for an accelerated transition towards more sustainable and economically viable fishing practices;
- Improved effective mitigation measures to protect either or both sensitive species and juvenile fish as well as their habitats;
- Enhanced knowledge related to incidental catches of both sensitive species, juvenile fish, including spawning grounds, locations of nursery areas as well as recruitment processes;
- Increased value of seafood-products from sustainable fisheries, e.g. through ecolabelling schemes sustainable certification schemes, etc.

Scope: One of the main goals of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is to ensure that EU fishing activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term. Along the same lines, the Technical Measures Regulation includes the objective of contributing to ensure that incidental catches of sensitive marine species are minimised and where possible eliminated so that they do not represent a threat to the conservation status of these species and to provide protection for juvenile and spawning aggregations of fish species.

In this context, the Marine Action Plan: 'Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries' stemming from the EU Biodiversity Strategy seeks to accelerate the transition to more sustainable professional and recreational fishing practices. It puts forward several actions to protect vulnerable and sensitive species and juvenile fish, notably through improving gear selectivity and practices to reduce their by-catch, using technological innovations and practices to prevent incidental catches and reducing the impact of fisheries on marine biodiversity and habitats, including sensitive marine ecosystems.

This topic will support the Common Fisheries Policy, the Technical Measures Regulation, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, including the future Nature Restoration Law and the Marine Action Plan, the Habitats, Birds and MSFD directives as well as the EU sea basin strategies.

Proposals under this topic are expected to show how their activities and results will contribute to achieve the Mission objectives 'Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity' and 'Make the blue economy carbon- neutral and circular'. Projects should build and capitalise on the knowledge base developed and lessons learnt from other projects, initiatives and programmes linked to the field of biodiversity, marine environment and conservation, including projects and studies funded under Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe; EMFF, EMFAF and LIFE programmes, as well as relevant work done by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)²⁵, by the General Fisheries commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)²⁶ and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries

²⁵ <https://www.ices.dk/Pages/default.aspx>

²⁶ <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/en/>

(STECF)²⁷ as well as relevant work done at basin level²⁸, in the Member States and Associated Countries.

In particular, the projects funded under this topic could benefit from cooperation and sharing of information and data through collaboration with Horizon Europe projects selected under the topic on 'Understanding and reducing bycatch of protected species' (HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01-5).

Proposals under this topic are expected to identify, test, validate and demonstrate in real conditions, a set of suitable innovative and economically viable solutions, technologies, practices and processes to minimise the impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems, specifically aiming at protecting sensitive species and juvenile fish as identified in the Marine Action Plan²⁹ as well as respecting animal health and welfare.

Each proposal should address one sea basin (i.e.: 1. Atlantic and Arctic basin or 2. Mediterranean Sea basin or 3. Baltic and North Sea basin), where identified solutions will be demonstrated in several relevant fisheries. Proposals should take a holistic approach aiming at protecting marine biodiversity while also avoiding potential negative environmental impacts, including on the seabed.

Proposals should also consider the energy efficiency and climate neutrality of the proposed solutions, thus contributing to the energy transition of the EU fisheries sector.

Projects should actively involve end-users and fisheries communities in their activities. Activities should be tailored to address regional/sea basin specificities and when relevant, local/regional authorities should be engaged, e.g.: Fisheries Management authorities.

Project activities should cover all following issues:

- demonstrating mitigation measures and sustainable fishing tools, e.g.: innovative gears and techniques improving selectivity and addressing incidental bycatch, such as exclusion devices, use of frangible gear, acoustic deterrent devices, escape panels, and other solutions;
- demonstrating mitigation measures and sustainable fishing operations, such as restricting fishing activities in targeted areas, temporal and/or spatial closures, safe handling of bycaught species and reducing mortality of discarded species, experimental restocking programmes and other solutions;

²⁷ <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

²⁸ such as by the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations like the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission and other relevant international bodies

²⁹ Harbour porpoise in the Baltic Proper and the Black Sea, the Iberian Atlantic and the common dolphin in the Bay of Biscay; angel sharks, common skate, guitarfish, Maltese skate, great white shark, sand tiger shark, smalltooth sand tiger shark, spiny butterfly ray, sturgeons, marine turtles, Balearic shearwater and Mediterranean monk seal, European eel, and sensitive marine species at risk of incidental catch and in “unfavourable conservation status” or threatened by extinction.

- carrying out specific activities to assess operational feasibility in commercial fishery situations and to support fishers in taking-up the solutions as well as to promote sea-food products from sustainable fisheries.

In addition, projects are expected to show a significant replication potential by identifying a range of relevant stakeholders who could replicate the proposed solutions. Action plans and roadmaps needed for the replication and scale up of the solutions for sustainable fishing operation and tools should be drawn up by the end of the project.

Proposals addressing the EU Outermost Regions³⁰ are encouraged, given these regions' natural assets.

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

Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 2.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 2.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Beneficiaries will be subject to the following additional obligations regarding open science practices: If projects collect in-situ data and marine observations, beneficiaries must make them openly available through the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet), based on FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles. Grants awarded under this topic will be linked to the following action(s): HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-05-03 Piloting citizen

³⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/themes/outermost-regions_en

	science in marine and freshwater domains - Grant Agreement n. N° 101006482
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Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all the following expected outcomes:

- Establishment of a pan-European Marine Citizen Science data network, bringing together actors of marine citizen science around Europe and in neighbouring countries.
- Adaptation of data and metadata standards and methodological approaches appropriate for use in marine citizen science based on the existing European frameworks, as developed by SeaDataNet, EMODnet and other marine data infrastructures;
- Increased visibility and impact of Marine Citizen Science activities in Europe.
- Sharing of good practices on marine citizen science information and data consumption

Scope: Marine Citizen Science activities, the public's participation and collaboration in marine research in order to increase the available scientific knowledge, is gaining more and more momentum in the European Union. Among the various marine citizen science activities, very prominent are the ones that engage actors from different parts of society to contribute to the observation of the coastal zone and the ocean and produce relevant data, related to physical, chemical, geological properties of the marine environment, marine biodiversity and/or human impact (e.g.: marine litter). It is important to capitalise on this interest, both by sustaining and increasing the sense of community and motivation of these actors and by providing them with validated methodological protocols and processes, to ensure that the information and data they collect becomes available and useful for wider use.

The objective of this topic is to establish a Marine Citizen Science data network, which will aim to bring together the very important, but scattered and un-coordinated actors of marine citizen science, active in data collection. Such a network will provide a sense of community to these different in nature parties, will increase visibility of marine citizen science data collection activities in Europe and will invest in coordinating these activities by providing a harmonisation framework, which will increase the added value coming from marine citizen science. Such an activity will ensure dual effects towards the Mission's Ocean cross-cutting enabling actions: it will support targeted engagement of different categories of social actors in the production of credible Marine Knowledge and it will thus directly support the development of the Digital Ocean and Water Knowledge System.

Proposals are expected to address all following activities:

- **Establishment of a Marine Citizen Science network**

The pan-European Marine Citizen Science data network is expected to bring together actors in marine citizen science data collection domains in the European Union and in neighbouring countries and to build a sense of community between these actors, engaging and coordinating different type of organisations. The core aim of the network will be to support its participants

to contact the various marine citizen science data collection communities efficiently and in a manner that will increase the added value of their contribution towards Marine Knowledge. The network should aim to include actors from all different data fields on marine citizen science.

A key activity for the establishment of the network consists in the identification, mapping and involvement of the different actors that provide observation and data input to marine citizen science, extending from volunteer or scientific groups (schools, NGOs or universities, tourists) to more structured community contributions that can come from professionals (for instance fishermen) or companies (sailing companies, port authorities, etc.) that are willing to contribute in these initiatives.

The network should act as a multiplier of work contacted on marine citizen science data collection from different organisations around Europe and operate as a connection hub for their activities. Through the described actions the network will ensure the higher visibility of marine citizen science data collection activities in Europe and will contribute both to motivate the already engaged actors and to bring in the network more interested parties, by connecting them with the appropriate organisations, providing them with community advice on how to set up their own activities, in line with common standards and sharing the collective knowledge created through the network.

The long-term sustainability of the proposed network should be considered.

- **Citizen science activities: information and data collection**

To increase the added value of the marine citizen science activities, the proposals should ensure that information and data collected are widely usable and integrated in existing knowledge management platforms (e.g.: EMODnet, Blue Economy Observatory, etc.) and in the end be available for use in the European Digital Twin of the Ocean (EU DTO).

Specific activities are expected to adapt and make available data and metadata standards appropriate for use in marine citizen science, building on the work developed by SeaDataNet, EMODnet and other marine data infrastructures. These standards should be tailored to the needs of citizen science and ensure that the data collected can be harmonised and used in an effective manner.

The proposals should also consider the development of easy-to-use tutorials and easy-to-understand training modules, targeted to different categories of marine citizens science actors collecting data. This material should focus on methodologies to ensure that the data collected is FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable), will explain how data is made available and will provide recommendations and guidelines for effective citizen science observing activities. The training materials should also ensure that citizen science activities do not conflict with nature protection objectives.

Finally, the proposals are expected to address the development of good practices regarding data and information consumption coming from marine citizen science activities and make these good practices visible at local, national and European level, as well as at the international level, particularly through the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

- **Deployment of cost-efficient, citizen science appropriate observing equipment**

The proposals should ensure the link between marine citizen science actors and the developers of cost-efficient ocean observing sensors and to facilitate the procurement of appropriate and easy to use citizen science devices and equipment that will enhance and harmonise the outputs of marine citizen science in Europe.

Proposals are expected to define and implement two use-cases to demonstrate in real conditions the use of affordable, durable, high-efficiency and low-carbon footprint marine observing devices/equipment, relevant and applicable to marine citizen science. Observing devices/sensors that are easy to use, automated, standardised and with direct uploading of data in verified databases should be prioritised.

These use-cases will act as pilots, to show, on one side the benefits of using standardised, simple to deploy and use equipment for wide citizen science campaigns and on the other, the benefits and the economies of scale of large procurements of observing devices/equipment for citizen science.

These use-cases should also provide insights for the mobilisation of public and private funding to maximise future deployment and use of observation devices/sensors, thus supporting the scaling up of marine citizen science activities in Europe.

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

Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 3.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: To support the implementation of the European Green Deal, the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters and the related EU climate, biodiversity and pollution targets, project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Increased confidence in and support for the transitions required by the European Green Deal, by co-designing possible science-based transition scenarios for reaching the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters objectives and related EU climate, biodiversity and pollution targets, including environmental, social, economic and political considerations.

- Support progress in restoring our ocean and waters, in adapting to climate change, reversing biodiversity loss and pollution, by co-designing inspiring narratives that stimulate effective action by policy-makers, citizens and stakeholders, and by identifying the pathways that are necessary to realise them.
- Increased awareness of decision-makers, stakeholders and citizens, including students, through structured science-policy interfaces, in relation to the urgency of the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises and the central role of restoring the entire water system to address these crises.
- National, regional and local decision-makers in planning decisions are taking measures to protect and restore their ocean, coastal and water spaces and ecosystems.

Scope: This action will develop and co-design transitional alternative futures of the EU, in which the Ocean, seas and waters are conserved or restored to good health. The action will support the co-creation of narratives, and innovative visualisation tools such as maps, related to different scenarios of what the EU and its ocean, seas and water spaces could look like by 2030 and 2050 if innovative solutions to restore our ocean and waters would be applied, so that the targets of the Mission Ocean and Waters and consequently those of the European Green Deal are fully reached. These narratives must be supported by the co-design of different science-based transition pathways together with citizens including students and key stakeholders such as scientists, experts and decision-makers responsible for planning ocean and water spaces. The co-design process should be inclusive, participatory following transdisciplinary and structured science-policy-society interface methodologies and taking into consideration environmental, social, economic and political considerations.

Following on from a pan-European vision, proposals should also develop specific regional visions, scenarios and narratives for each of the four Mission lighthouse areas in the Atlantic-Arctic, Danube, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic and North Sea, supported by innovative visualisation tools and co-created by multi-actors such as local stakeholders and citizens. By choosing a minimum of four large scale case-studies, the action should enable the participatory co-design of alternative futures where the Mission objectives have been achieved in the lighthouse area, and develop together with the relevant stakeholders the action pathways and necessary narratives to achieve these alternative futures.

Proposals should develop and visualise different scenarios for each of the case-studies, with both 2030- and 2050-time horizons in line with the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters and EU Green Deal targets. They should at least encompass a business-as-usual scenario, in which current trends are extrapolated, as well as a scenario where European Green Deal and relevant

environmental legislation (e.g. Marine Strategy Framework Directive³¹, Birds³² and Habitats³³ Directives, Water Framework Directive³⁴) targets for climate, biodiversity and pollution are fully reached through the large-scale deployment of innovative solutions. The change scenario(s) should build on deliverables of relevant Mission related projects³⁵, best practices on citizen participation and deliberative democracy, national initiatives as well as state-of-the-art models and draw on data and projections from the IPCC, IPBES, European Environment Agency and JRC. Finally, they should rely on and be compatible with the EU Digital Twin Ocean developments and eventually become one of its use-cases.

Scenarios of the future should in particular include the deployment at scale of innovative solutions with a special emphasis on nature-based solutions³⁶, which are proven to be environmentally, economically and socially effective and which address in particular the climate change, biodiversity and pollution driven challenges to the ocean and water system³⁷, including biodiversity loss and its impacts on marine ecosystems and sectors relying on it, sea level rise, extreme weather, as well as pollution of the seas, coasts and rivers. The scenarios should take the objectives of current EU policies and legislation into consideration for their design.

Proposals are expected to develop a map and visualisations as an interactive, dynamic and digital tool and application to be co-created and used by citizens, including schools and planners at EU, national, regional and where applicable local level, using whenever possible the Digital Twin of the Ocean core public infrastructure and its services. This could take the form of an interactive 2D and 3D visual experience of the future envisioned EU and regional landscapes (NUTS 2 and NUTS 3) and ocean and water space incl. the seabed.

Proposals are expected to work closely with other Horizon Europe projects, particularly Prep4Blue, the 4 Mission lighthouse CSA projects (EcoDaLLi³⁸, BlueMissionAA³⁹, BlueMissionMed⁴⁰, BlueMissionBANOS⁴¹)

³¹ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy

³² Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

³³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

³⁴ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

³⁵ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/new-report-analysing-contribution-over-800-eu-funded-projects-mission-restore-our-ocean-and-waters-2023-06-01_en

³⁶ Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions

³⁷ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan/zero-pollution-targets_en

³⁸ <https://ecodalli.eu/>

³⁹ <http://bluemissionaa.eu/>

⁴⁰ <https://bluemissionmed.eu/>

⁴¹ <https://bluemissionbanos.eu/>

) and other relevant projects, as well as the Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Support Platform to connect to citizens and stakeholders in the region (incl. the lighthouse citizen assemblies), build on existing activities and strategies at basin-level and to take into account innovative solutions that have already been developed and deployed.

This topic should take into consideration contributions of social sciences and humanities (SSH) disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities.

Proposals may draw on experiences of past projects such as ‘A nature-based vision for The Netherlands in 2120’.

Call - Support to communities of actors for the Mission Restore our ocean and waters by 2030

HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)⁴²

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) ⁴³	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2024		
Opening: 29 Feb 2024 Deadline(s): 07 May 2024				
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01	RIA	50.00 ⁴⁴	Around 12.50	4
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-02	CSA	4.00 ⁴⁵	Around 4.00	1

⁴² The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2023, 2024 and 2025.
⁴³ Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁴⁴ Of which EUR 8.50 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 8.08 million from the 'Digital, Industry and Space' budget and EUR 1.05 million from the 'Civil Security for Society' budget and EUR 31.14 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget and EUR 1.23 million from the 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' budget.

⁴⁵ Of which EUR 0.68 million from the 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' budget and EUR 0.65 million from the 'Digital, Industry and Space' budget and EUR 0.08

Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025
Missions and Cross-cutting Activities

Overall indicative budget		54.00		
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General conditions relating to this call	
<i>Admissibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
<i>Financial and operational capacity and exclusion</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
<i>Award criteria</i>	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
<i>Documents</i>	The documents are described in General Annex E.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01: Community-led actions to restore our ocean, seas and waters

Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 12.50 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 50.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Research and Innovation Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:

million from the 'Civil Security for Society' budget and EUR 2.49 million from the 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' budget and EUR 0.10 million from the 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' budget.

*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025
Missions and Cross-cutting Activities*

	<p>In addition to the standard eligibility conditions, the consortium must include beneficiaries from at least two regions⁴⁶ or associations thereof from the respective lighthouse area (also referred to as basin) covered by the proposal.</p>
<i>Procedure</i>	<p>The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Evaluation carried out by EU staff</p> <p>To ensure a balanced portfolio covering all four basins covered by the Mission 'Restore our ocean and waters by 2030' (1. Danube river basin, 2. Atlantic and Arctic sea basin, 3. Mediterranean Sea basin, 4. Baltic and North Sea basin), grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but also to at least one proposal that is the highest ranked within each basin, provided that the applications attain all necessary thresholds.</p>
<i>Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements</i>	<p>The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:</p> <p>Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The financial support to third parties may only be awarded to Mission community⁴⁷ actors, located in Member States and Associated Countries, for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. community-led⁴⁸ actions. 2. transition agendas⁴⁹. <p>Due to the nature of the work to be supported under the calls for community-led actions piloting innovative solutions, and transition</p>

⁴⁶ Represented by the relevant public authorities.

⁴⁷ For this call, a Mission community refers to a group of individuals, public or private sector entities or other actors who are actively involved in activities relevant for the achievement of Mission objectives. Examples of such communities include waterfront cities or regions, islands, ports, fishing communities, etc. and other groups that are engaged in addressing Mission objectives. We consider that such communities can consist of various types of actors specific to each particular type of community. Some examples of such actors include, among others, public authorities, NGOs, associations, companies, research organisations, etc.

⁴⁸ For this call, community-led actions refer to initiatives, projects, or activities that are defined by meaningful engagement, contribution and shared decision-making by individuals, groups, or organisations within a specific community or geographical area. To foster a sustainable Blue Economy, applicants can also take inspiration from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027, where coastal areas have the opportunity to support Community-Led Local Development (CLLD, https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/local-partnerships_en) through Local Action Groups (LAGs) in fisheries and aquaculture areas (European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Community-led local development and the blue economy, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2771/392>).

⁴⁹ For this call, we define a transition agenda as a strategic roadmap towards reaching all objectives and targets of the Mission 'Restore our ocean and waters by 2030'.

	<p>agendas requiring high quality expertise, and because the financial support to third parties is one of the primary activities of this action enabling it to achieve its objectives, the contribution to a third party may go beyond EUR 60 000. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 500,000⁵⁰ but may be higher if duly justified in the proposal.</p> <p>A recipient may only benefit from the financial support to third parties once within the duration of the project.</p>
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Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Demonstration of measurable, verifiable and ambitious progress towards reaching one or several interlinked objectives and targets of the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”, as set out in the Mission Implementation Plan⁵¹ through implementation of effective and well-managed community-led pilot actions and other types of support to Mission communities of actors.
- A concrete contribution to support Member States/Associated countries, their national, regional and/or local authorities, as well as all concerned stakeholders, to implement EU legislation related to marine and freshwater ecosystems⁵² and reach the biodiversity, pollution and climate targets of the European Green Deal.
- Mobilised and engaged Mission communities of actors (regions, ports, cities, islands, etc.) through effective support designed to accelerate the progress to achieve the Mission objectives and targets;
- Leveraging of resources and investments from communities of actors to restore our ocean, seas and waters.
- Increased readiness at local level to deploy at scale innovative solutions to restore the ocean, seas and waters.

Scope: As stated in the Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Plan, the deployment and upscaling phase (phase 2 of the Mission starting in 2026) aims to “enable broad participation in the Mission across the EU” with “a strong citizen, stakeholder and community governance element”. In the second phase of the Mission implementation, the solutions developed and piloted in the first phase (development and piloting phase) to deliver on the Mission and Green

⁵⁰ In the case of a community-led action resulting from a cascading grant call, this applies to each beneficiary in the consortium of the community-led action, rather than the consortium as a whole.

⁵¹ See pages 12-13 of the Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Plan: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/ocean_and_waters_implementation_plan_for_publication.pdf

⁵² The Birds, Habitats, Marine Strategy Framework and Water Framework Directives

Deal objectives will be further deployed, replicated, and scaled up. Therefore, in the last years of phase 1, a transition to the deployment and upscaling phase needs to be well prepared.

Reaching the ambitious Mission objectives and targets is dependent on mobilising a broad set of actors to take meaningful action to restore our ocean, seas and waters. Practical, easily accessible support is needed for established or emerging communities of actors to facilitate the deployment at scale of innovative actions, measures and initiatives contributing to the EU Mission's objectives, and the transformations required at national, regional, and local level.

Each proposed action under this topic should address one of the four basins covered by the Mission 'Restore our ocean and waters by 2030'⁵³ and should foresee all of the following types of support to Mission communities of actors of the respective basin: financial support to third parties (also referred to as cascading grants) to community-led pilot actions; cascading grants for transition agendas; and technical assistance, to be provided by the consortium.

Cascading grants to community-led pilot actions

Each proposal under this topic should foresee awarding at least 5 cascading grants of EUR 200 000 - EUR 2 million⁵⁴ per grant to community-led pilot actions that are implementing innovative solutions towards achieving one or several interlinked Mission objectives in the respective basin addressed by the proposal. The Commission estimates that the total budget for the cascading call to support community-led actions could be in the order of EUR 7 million. These third-party community-led actions may be implemented by a consortium of several participants. The size of the consortium and the budget requested should reflect the specific local needs addressed by the third-party action.

The proposals must ensure that the selection process of the third parties to which financial support would be granted is based on principles of transparency, objectivity and fairness, in accordance with Annex B of the general annexes to this work programme.

The proposals are expected to provide a detailed plan for the cascading grant call for the community-led pilot actions, in particular planning the launch of the call no later than the end of month 3 of the project. The proposals should describe appropriate means to promote the cascading grant call at lighthouse, national and regional levels that would allow them to reach as many of the potential applicants as possible.

The third-party actions supported through the cascading call should demonstrate measurable, verifiable, and ambitious progress towards reaching at least one or, whenever possible and applicable, several interlinked objectives and targets set out in the Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Plan. The chosen focus of the third-party actions should depend on which

⁵³ The four basins covered by the Mission 'Restore our ocean and waters by 2030': 1. Danube river basin, 2. Atlantic and Arctic sea basin, 3. Mediterranean Sea basin, 4. Baltic and North Sea basin

⁵⁴ This range of funding refers to the amount awarded as a cascading grant to a community-led action (third-party action) which we envision to be implemented by a consortium of several participants (third parties). Please note that this is different from the specific condition concerning *Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements*, where the stipulated maximum amount applies to each individual third party (please see the relevant footnote under the specific conditions).

objective(s) are most urgent for the communities dealing with specific conditions and realities in a particular area. However, addressing several objectives, in the case that this is feasible, may provide an added value and should thus be seen as advantage for the applications in the cascading calls.

The third-party actions should focus on implementing innovative solutions that go beyond the state of the art and that combine, as appropriate, technological, nature-based, social, cultural, regulatory, and financial innovation, and new governance models. The actions should foster a participatory approach that empowers local stakeholders, builds on their local know-how and application of sustainable practices, and encourages their long-term commitment to the protection, restoration and de-pollution of our ocean, seas and waters and to making the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular. With the help from the project consortia selected under this topic, the community-led third-party actions should promote the deployment and upscaling of innovative solutions to restore the ocean and waters, including through the preparation of deployment plans.

The community-led third-party actions should be encouraged to cooperate with scientific institutions to stimulate transdisciplinary innovation activities, which are based on best available science practices. Transdisciplinary activities denote cooperation of diverse societal stakeholder groups (administration, civil society, business & industry, finance, etc.), not only across academic disciplines ('interdisciplinary').

These community-led actions should also consider an effective contribution of SSH (Social Sciences and Humanities) disciplines as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related innovation activities. Social innovation should also be considered in order to match innovative ideas with social needs.

The proposals should encourage the third-party actions to build on research and innovation developed by projects financed under the current and/or previous EU framework programmes and other relevant EU and national programmes, linking also to the Mission Implementation Platform⁵⁵, and where applicable, make use of Copernicus/Galileo/EGNOS and Emodnet.

Attracting additional financing from Structural Funds or any national, regional, local programmes or private funding at any stage of the community-led pilot actions is strongly encouraged.

The types of Mission communities relevant to the cascading grants may include at least the following:

- ports (including inland ports);
- islands;
- fishing communities, aquaculture producers and other representatives of blue economy;

⁵⁵ [Mission Ocean and Waters service portal | Research and Innovation \(europa.eu\)](#)

- operators of various vessels;
- Local Action Groups described by the Community-Led Local Development strategies⁵⁶
- waterfront cities or regions / communities (avoiding overlaps with Cities' Mission);
- conservation communities;
- representatives of the tourism sector;
- maritime infrastructure operators (incl. offshore platforms and their operators).

Various types of actors in the communities listed above could apply for the support. These could include for example:

- regional and local authorities;
- NGOs, foundations, professional associations, and other entities engaged in local development and nature conservation activities;
- educational establishments;
- locally based companies (provided this is not in conflict with the State Aid rules);
- research performing organisations, etc.

Cascading grants for transition agendas

Each proposed action should also foresee awarding at least 20 cascading grants for transition agendas of up to EUR 100 000 each, addressing the types of Mission communities described above. The proposed actions should ensure that the selection process of the third parties to which financial support for transition agendas would be granted is based on principles of transparency, objectivity, and fairness, in accordance with Annex B of the general annexes to this work programme.

A transition agenda for this call is understood as a strategic roadmap towards reaching all objectives and targets of the Mission 'Restore our ocean and waters by 2030' in the applicant communities, with a particular focus on the objectives that are most relevant to the specific community. The roadmaps could cover processes needed to ensure the protection and restoration of marine/coastal/inland waters, biodiversity and ecosystems, the reduction/elimination of pollution and the achievement of decarbonisation and circularity targets, as well as include a plan for a defined number of years concerning the objectives set, covering, for example, expected outcomes, results, impact, ways to achieve them and ways to bring in financing to support the achievement of these objectives.

⁵⁶ [The ESF and community-led local development: Lessons for the future | European Social Fund Plus \(europea.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

The transition agenda should indicate how specific results and ideally also their impacts are expected to materialise in order to ensure the actual achievements of the objectives. These agendas would serve as a basis for further planning of follow-up activities by the actors involved, particularly actions to meet the Mission Ocean and Waters objectives/targets, to be subsequently implemented with the financial support of various funds (e.g., EU structural funds/national/regional funds).

All entities establishing transition agendas should commit to report to the project that had issued the third-party financing within 6 months after finalisation of the agendas on the progress of implementing its results in practice.

Technical assistance to Mission Communities of actors

The proposals should also foresee technical assistance to Mission Communities of actors in the basin addressed by the respective action. Such assistance should address the needs of the Mission communities of actors in the particular basin and may include support and advice needed for the preparation of business plans, feasibility studies, impact assessments, and needs assessment, as well as long-term sustainability planning to help the communities of actors develop sustainable financing strategies to ensure longevity of the efforts to achieve healthy oceans, seas and waters; capacity building to empower communities of actors with the knowledge and skills needed to undertake effective pollution prevention and elimination, conservation and restoration initiatives, as well as making the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular; and other Mission-related actions that would require direct counselling, written guidance, online materials, webinars, in-depths sessions, deep dives, peer-to-peer support, twinning etc.).

It is essential to tailor the support provided to the specific needs and context of each community of actors, including through the use of local languages, as well as fostering a participatory approach that empowers local stakeholders and encourages their long-term commitment to the protection and restoration of our ocean, seas and waters.

The proposals under this topic should also work on clustering of and support to the third-party community-led actions. The proposals should help create a network of these community-led actions to enhance communication, collaboration and sharing of knowledge and best practices to maximise their combined impact, and create links to the networks similarly created by the other three projects selected under this topic in other Mission lighthouse areas.

Furthermore, the proposals should assist each community-led action in using its experiences and solutions to establish new networks and collaborations in their respective areas. The proposals should provide guidance and support to the third-party actions in forming partnerships with local communities, NGOs, government agencies, or relevant stakeholders to expand the impact of the actions and create a collaborative ecosystem for knowledge sharing, resource optimisation, and wider adoption of successful solutions.

The proposals should provide help and guidance to the selected community-led actions regarding access to additional funding. The proposals should also identify, evaluate, and

showcase feasible and scalable solutions demonstrated by the community-led actions, and provide guidance on deployment of these solutions.

Furthermore, the proposals should set aside funds for clustering and collaboration among four projects selected under this topic, including for a joint monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of each third-party community-led action project and assess their collective impact.

In order to ensure complementarities and avoid overlaps concerning the provision of all three types of support described above, the proposals should work closely with other Horizon Europe projects, particularly Prep4Blue, the relevant Mission lighthouse CSA projects (EcoDaLLi⁵⁷, BlueMissionAA⁵⁸, BlueMissionMed⁵⁹, BlueMissionBANOS⁶⁰), the project selected under HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-02, the public procurement prepared under Other Actions of WP 2022 “Studies to support communities of actors to achieve the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters objectives”, and the Mission Implementation Platform (MIP), notably with the work MIP does on deployment and upscaling of solutions. The proposals may also collaborate with and build on the experience of relevant existing networks, partnerships and initiatives⁶¹, as well as take into account relevant strategic research and innovation agendas and regional strategies.

The projects resulting from this call should be implemented in close collaboration with the relevant EC service(s) and the Mission Ocean and Waters Secretariat⁶² to ensure a coherent and timely implementation of the Mission.

Proposals should be flexible enough to accommodate for some adjustments that may be requested by the Commission before the grant agreement signature to ensure complementarity of activities between the lighthouse CSA projects, Prep4Blue, the Mission Implementation Platform, and the project selected under topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-02.

HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-02: Support for the Coalition of waterfront cities, regions and islands for Mission Ocean and Waters

Specific conditions	
<i>Expected EU contribution per project</i>	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 4.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

⁵⁷ <https://ecodalli.eu/>

⁵⁸ <http://bluemissionaa.eu/>

⁵⁹ <https://bluemissionmed.eu/>

⁶⁰ <https://bluemissionbanos.eu/>

⁶¹ These could include networks and initiatives such as BIOEAST (<https://bioeast.eu/>), AAORIA (<https://allatlanticocean.org/>), BlueMed Initiative (<http://www.bluedmed-initiative.eu/>), etc

⁶² Mission secretariat consisting of European Commission staff, is located within the European Commission services and is managed by the Mission Manager, for details on Mission governance see Commission Decision C(2021) 4472 final of 24.06.2021.

*Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025
Missions and Cross-cutting Activities*

<i>Indicative budget</i>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 4.00 million.
<i>Type of Action</i>	Coordination and Support Actions
<i>Eligibility conditions</i>	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: In addition to the standard eligibility conditions, the consortium must include beneficiaries from at least one region ⁶³ , one waterfront city ⁶⁴ and one island ⁶⁵ , or associations thereof.
<i>Procedure</i>	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: Evaluation carried out by EU staff

Expected Outcome: This action will co-ordinate and support the Coalition of islands, regions and waterfront cities committed to achieving the Mission Ocean and Waters objectives and targets in their local contexts.

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- A broad, highly impactful Coalition of waterfront cities (including their ports), regions and islands, that protects and restores marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity; prevents and eliminates pollution of our ocean, seas and waters; makes the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular; and strengthens resilience against extreme climate events, sea-level rise and floods;
- Actions and initiatives aiming to achieve the Mission objectives across waterfront cities, regions and islands designed and implemented by the Coalition;
- Further structuring and consolidation of the Mission communities of actors addressing the three interconnected Mission objectives and targets;
- Wide citizen and stakeholder engagement at regional and local levels, as well as political and social acceptance of actions addressing restoration of the health of the ocean, seas and waters;
- Strong cooperation with various institutions, organisations and initiatives relevant for the protection of the ocean, seas, and waters, and better access to EU and Member State, and private funds.

⁶³ Represented by the relevant public authority

⁶⁴ Represented by the relevant public authority representing a coastal or other waterfront (rivers, lakes, etc) municipality

⁶⁵ Represented by the relevant public authority

Scope: During the first phase of the implementation of the Mission ‘Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030’, a number of waterfront cities, regions and islands started to become engaged⁶⁶ in the Mission with adhesions to the Mission Charter⁶⁷.

The proposal should coordinate, support and strengthen this growing movement to create a broad Coalition supporting the Mission Ocean and Waters, which will focus on waterfront cities with their ports (coastal and inland), as well as regions and islands committed to implementing this Mission. Importantly, it should aim to build a broad coalition, which also includes, in addition to the regions/cities/islands who already adhered to the Mission Charter, new and so far less active members with equal representation from all Mission lighthouse areas.

Proposals should:

- establish and strengthen a Coalition of coastal and inland waterfront cities (including their maritime or inland water ports), regions and islands across the EU and Associated countries;
- support the governance, implementation and reporting of the Coalition;
- co-ordinating, networking, twinning, and mentoring of the Coalition members, as well as sharing best practices and deploying solutions together with the projects resulting from the topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01 and in collaboration with the Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Platform;
- develop participatory processes for cities, regions and islands to be able to better plan and implement actions aiming to reach the Missions objectives; establish robust mechanisms for regional and local dialogues and facilitate coordination and collaboration between the Coalition and relevant national, regional and local authorities, communities, as well as relevant networks and initiatives in order to engage a large number of stakeholders, including private actors and citizens, in the protection and restoration of the ocean, seas and waters.
- enhance the visibility of the Coalition activities through targeted communication actions and educational campaigns engaging local communities, schools, and the general public;
- leverage funds to support the actions of the Coalition, in interaction with managing authorities and the private sector, where relevant.

The proposals should support the public authorities that become members of the Coalition by enabling them to engage with various other local stakeholders, including the private sector, NGOs, citizens, investors, other local and regional authorities, in co-design, co-development and co-implementation strategies and actions for the health of oceans, seas, and inland waters. The proposals should help to ensure that the Coalition has a balanced representation of diverse

⁶⁶ See for instance: [Mediterranean lighthouse gains momentum at ‘Mission Ocean and waters’ event in Palermo \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/press-room/en/infographic-1650)

⁶⁷ See interactive map and list of Mission Charter actions: <https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/en/frontpage/1650>

communities across Member States and Associated Countries, including participation of smaller cities and municipalities.

The proposals should help the Coalition to forge links and coordinate with other important EU initiatives and key players (while at the same time avoiding overlaps), such as the EU Cities Mission, the Horizon Europe Partnership for a Sustainable Blue Economy, the European Environment Agency and organisations in charge of protection of the marine and coastal environment in Europe; as well as relevant international activities. The proposals may also collaborate with and build on the experience of other relevant existing networks, partnerships and initiatives⁶⁸ as well as take into account relevant strategic research and innovation agendas and regional strategies.

The proposals should enable the Coalition to leverage funds for implementing the actions to achieve the Mission objectives, including through facilitated synergies and access to EU, national, regional and private funds and strategies, in interaction with managing authorities if applicable (e.g. ERDF, EMFAF, LIFE, Interreg, RRF, RIS3/RIS4 etc), the financial sector (e.g. EIB), investors and philanthropies.

The proposals should also support the Commission in developing, launching and implementing a Mission Ocean and Waters Label, under guidance of and in a close collaboration with the EC Mission Ocean and Waters Secretariat⁶⁹. The Label should be awarded to entities that have already adhered to the Charter or are planning to do so, and whose activities or transition plans are being assessed as stand-out in terms of excellence and impact towards reaching Mission objectives. The Label will recognise the commitment to achieving the Mission objectives and facilitate access to possible funding and investment. In particular, the proposals should work with the EC Mission Ocean and Waters Secretariat to define detailed objectives and criteria for awarding the Label, taking into account and building on existing certification or label⁷⁰; develop measurable certification standards in line with the Mission's targets and a transparent verification process, as well as help conduct a pilot exercise awarding the Label to the first group of actors that qualify for it. In order to accelerate and facilitate broad adoption of the Label, the proposals should develop a strategy for the promotion of the Label, including defining the benefits for the entities that would undergo the labelling, and choosing the most appropriate tools and methods for raising awareness of the Label, including the design of a compelling brand identity for the Label in line with the visual identity of the Mission and establishing partnerships with key stakeholders. The proposals should also foresee provision of guidance and support to the communities of actors wishing to apply for the Label. The labelled entities will also be integrated in the existing Mission community networks, and receive support from the Mission Implementation Platform and other initiatives and projects linked to the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters. The proposals should put in place a system to monitor and evaluate the labelled entities, as well as promote collaboration among them. The proposals

⁶⁸ Examples of such networks include BIOEAST, the Atlantic Cities Network, BlueMed Initiative, etc

⁶⁹ Mission secretariat consisting of European Commission staff, is located within the European Commission services and is managed by the Mission Manager, for details on Mission governance see Commission Decision C(2021) 4472 final of 24.06.2021.

⁷⁰ Such as the sustainable islands label (<https://smilo-program.org/sustainable-island-label/>) and the European Clean Harbours certification (<https://www.ports-propres.org/en/5-phases-process/>)

should also establish necessary support structures to ensure longevity of the Label. The labelling process will be designed and implemented in close collaboration with the EC Mission Ocean and Waters Secretariat⁷¹

The proposals should work closely with other Horizon Europe projects, particularly Prep4Blue, the 4 Mission lighthouse CSA projects (EcoDaLLi⁷², BlueMissionAA⁷³, BlueMissionMed⁷⁴, BlueMissionBANOS⁷⁵), the projects selected under HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01 and the Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Platform⁷⁶ in order to ensure complementarities and avoid overlaps. The project resulting from this topic will be implemented in close collaboration with the relevant EC service(s) and Mission Ocean and Waters Secretariat⁷⁷ to ensure a coherent and timely implementation of the Mission.

Applicants should be flexible enough to accommodate for some adjustments that may be requested by the Commission before the grant agreement signature to ensure complementarity of activities between the projects CSA projects selected in past Mission calls (Prep4Blue, EcoDaLLi, BlueMissionAA, BlueMissionMed, BlueMissionBANOS), the Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Platform, and the projects selected under topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01.

⁷¹ Mission secretariat consisting of European Commission staff, is located within the European Commission services and is managed by the Mission Manager, for details on Mission governance see Commission Decision C(2021) 4472 final of 24.06.2021.

⁷² <https://ecodalli.eu/>

⁷³ <http://bluemotionaa.eu/>

⁷⁴ <https://bluemotionmed.eu/>

⁷⁵ <https://bluemotionbanos.eu/>

⁷⁶ [Mission Ocean and Waters service portal | Research and Innovation \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁷⁷ Mission secretariat consisting of European Commission staff, is located within the European Commission services and is managed by the Mission Manager, for details on Mission governance see Commission Decision C(2021) 4472 final of 24.06.2021.