



EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

**RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS**

**Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges**



#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionOcean



# Policy context

- The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- From Aichi to the Kunming-Montreal **GBF**
- The **European Green Deal**:
  - EU **Biodiversity** strategy 2030,
  - **Climate adaptation** Strategy
  - **Zero Pollution** action plan
  - European **Climate Law**
  - **Farm to fork** strategy
  - **Blue Economy** strategy
  - Renewed **sustainable finance** strategy
  - ... and more!





**Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030**

**Well beyond research  
Engaging with citizens  
Strong regional dimension**

**EU Sea/River basins  
3 calls launched 20 projects on-going  
EU funding so far: 340M€**



**IA 4 Seas and Ocean**

**Research and innovation from long to short term  
Broad scope on protect, restore and sustainably use marine biological resources**

**EU funding so far: 347M€**



**Sustainable blue economy partnership**

**Structuring and co-funding R&I with MS  
60 Partner institutions from 25 countries  
First call published 13 Feb**

**EU funding so far: 83M€  
Total expected EU funding: 150 M€**





# Mission objectives and targets

## Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ENABLERS

Digital Ocean and Waters Knowledge system

Public mobilization and engagement



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**Mission lighthouses:**  
spaces of transformation to pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy the Mission activities across the EU

Baltic & North sea basin



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

Mediterranean sea basin



**PREVENT AND ELIMINATE POLLUTION OF OUR OCEAN, SEAS AND WATERS**

Danube river basin



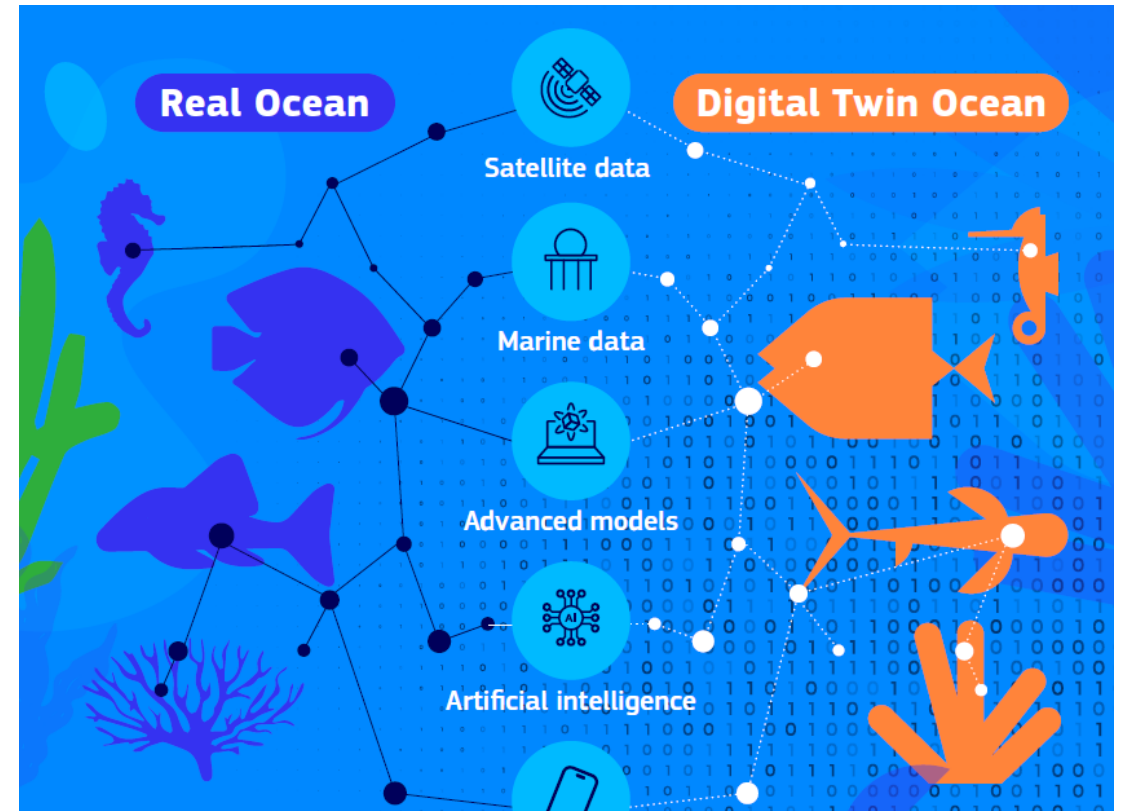
**PROTECT AND RESTORE MARINE AND FRESHWATERS ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY**

Atlantic & Arctic coast





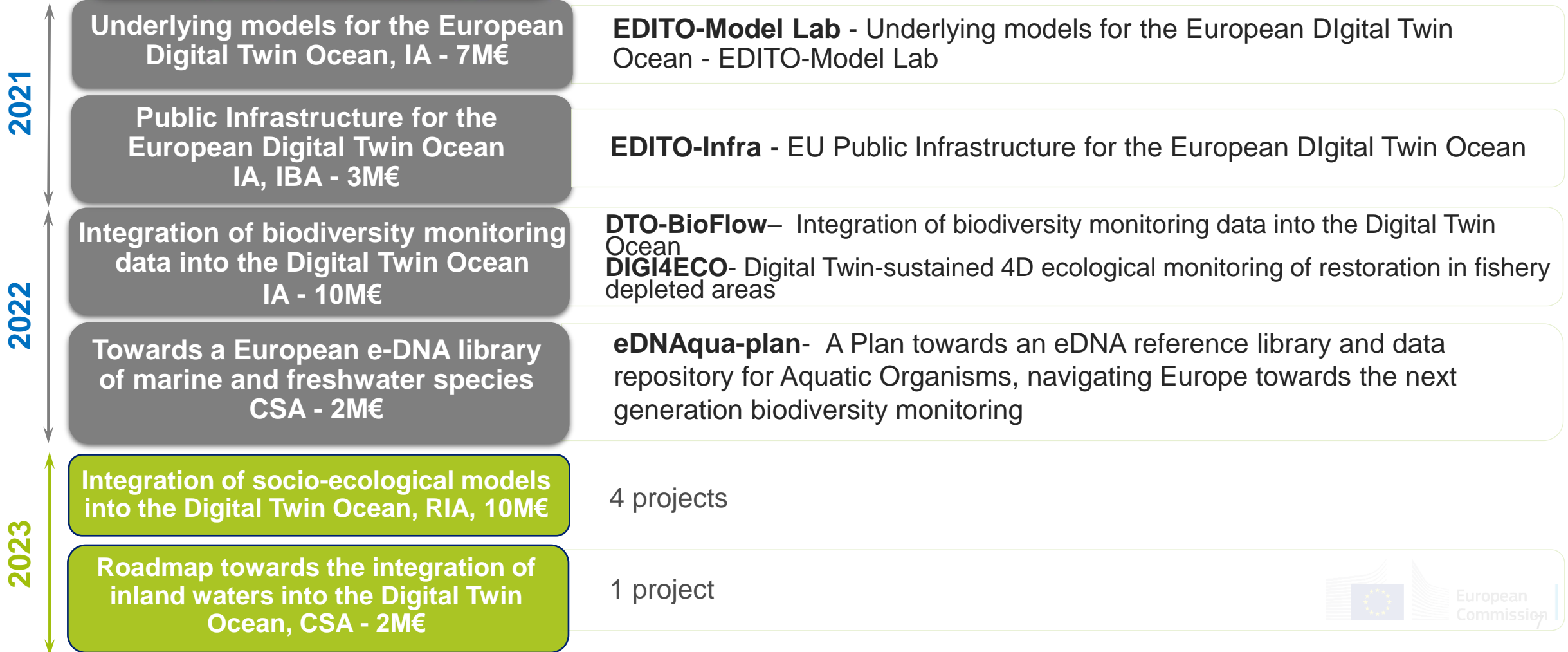
# Enabler 1: Digital Ocean and Waters Knowledge System

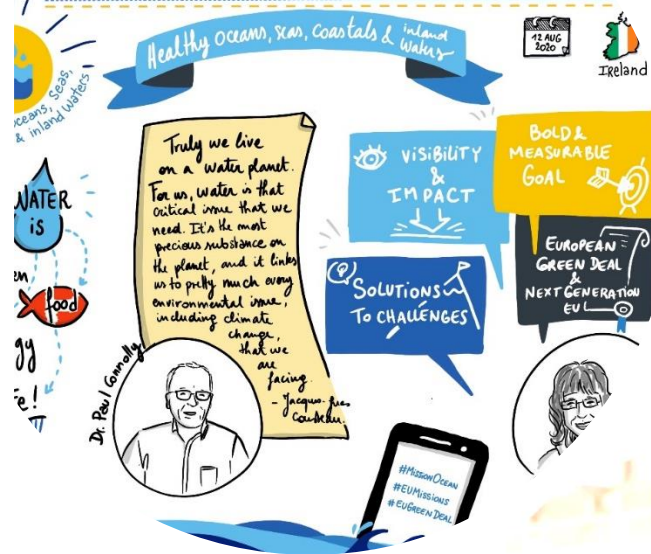






# Enabler 1 - Digital Ocean and Waters Knowledge system





# Enabler 2: Public Mobilisation

## Co-creation and co-design

- Co-design of Mission
- Citizen Assemblies

## Citizen Science

- ERA Plastic Pirates
- CSA Citizen Science

## Education, Literacy & Awareness

- EU4Ocean coalition
- Youth engagement
- Student and school initiatives (Blue Schools)
- Choose your fish campaign

## Stewardship and volunteering

- Community-driven business models







### Mission Ocean and Waters service portal

- Home
- Mission Charter
- Mission Solutions
- Mission funding
- Collaboration space
- Advisory services
- EU Blue Parks
- Mission Lighthouses
- News & Events
- About

### Mission Ocean and Waters service portal

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

## Mission Ocean and Waters service portal | Research and Innovation (europa.eu)

### Find financing

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

### Join the Mission

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



#### Endorse the Mission Charter

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



#### Join our Forum

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



#### Join the EU Blue Parks Community

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



#### Search for innovative solutions

Find shared knowledge and expertise, fostering collaboration and innovation.



#### Seek assistance in tailoring your research

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



# Horizon Europe: Mission Ocean Calls and projects

2021

CALL - EUR 114 million for calls for proposals

**20 projects on-going**

EUR 116 million EU funding (EUR 123 M€ total project cost)

2022

CALL - EUR 116 million for calls for proposals

**20 projects ongoing**

EUR 118,4 million funding (EUR 130,6 M€ total project cost)

2023

CALL – EUR 110 million for calls for proposals

**26 projects under grant preparation**

EUR 119 million funding



## European Blue Parks

### Portfolio of projects

2021

European Blue Parks  
IA - 17M€

**CITIZENOCEAN** - Marine forest coastal restoration: an underwater gardening socio-ecological plan

**BLUE4ALL** - Blueprint demonstration for co-created effective, efficient and resilient networks of MPAs

2022

European blue parks:  
Protection and restoration  
solutions for degraded  
coastal and marine habitats  
IA - 17M€

**PROTECT BALTIC**- Enabling comprehensive effective and efficient protection and restoration measures for a resilient Baltic Sea ecosystem

**EFFECTIVE**- Enhancing social well-being and economic prosperity by reinforcing the eFFECTIVENess of protection and restoration management in Mediterranean MPAs

2023

European blue parks:  
Protection and restoration of  
marine habitats  
IA - 8.8 M€

Strict protection, restoration and co-management of Marine Protected Areas to ensure effective ecosystem conservation and improved connectivity of Blue Corridors





Mission Ocean and Waters service portal

- Home
- Mission Charter
- Mission Solutions ▾
- Mission funding ▾
- Collaboration space ▾
- Advisory services
- EU Blue Parks**
- Mission Lighthouses
- News & Events
- About ▾

Home > The EU Blue Parks Community

## The EU Blue Parks Community

The EU Blue Parks is an initiative under the Mission Ocean and Waters dedicated to science-based solutions for setting and managing marine protected areas in the EU.

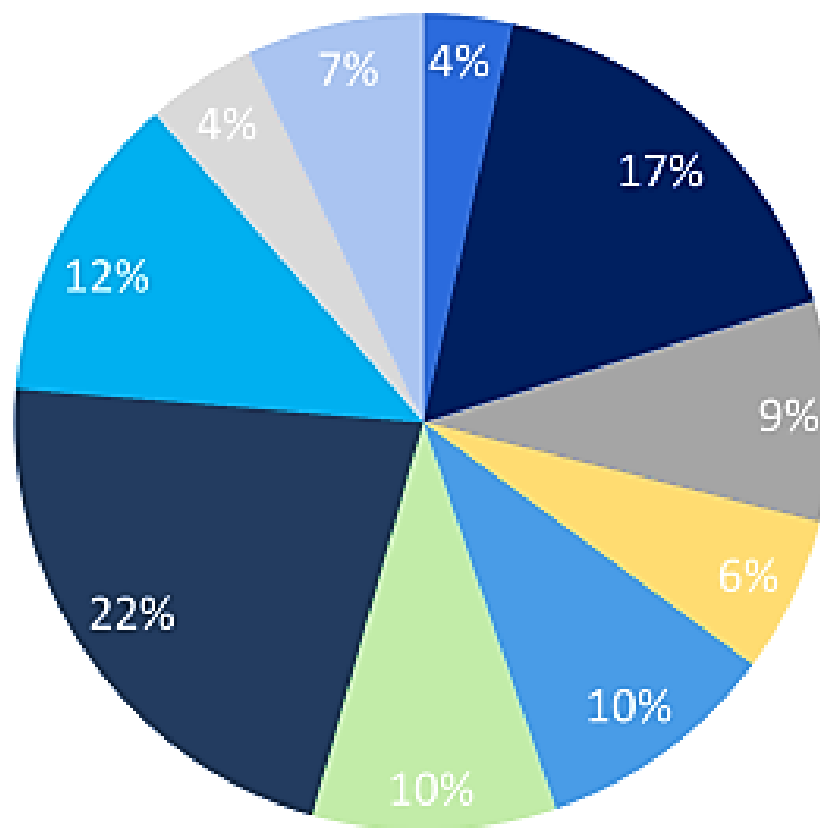
[Apply to become a member >](#)

[The EU Blue Parks Community | Research and Innovation \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)



# EU Blue Parks Community Membership

EU BPC Membership  
Total Members: 50  
(As of 23 February 2023)



- Arctic Ocean
- Atlantic Ocean
- Baltic Sea
- Black Sea
- Cross Basin
- Global
- Mediterranean Sea
- North Sea
- Other
- Outermost Regions (EU)



# From MOBILISATION to SUPPORT and DELIVERY by the Mission COMMUNITIES



PORTS



CITIES



FLEETS



ISLANDS



REGIONS



MARINE CONSERVATION

## MOBILISING

- Lighthouses, CSAs (structuring, hubs, etc.)
- Charter (500+ actions)
- Fora, awards ('22-23)
- Mission projects ('21-23)
- Mission label ('24)

## SUPPORTING

- Services**, feasibility studies, (PP 4MEUR, WP 22)
- Cascading grants**, Coalitions (50m, Calls 24)
- Mission Implementation Platform (MIP)** –service portal
  - Association of 100 Regions to Mission projects
- Blue Parks community

## DEPLOYING

- Financing the transition:
  - Blue Champions (EIB)
- Synergies** with structural funds (Regions), RRF, EMFAF, philanthropies
- European Solidarity Corps
- Matchmaking (Mission Forum 24, MIP)
- Scaling-up and replicating (2024-25 WP)





# Mission Ocean & Waters: an ever-growing interest

## 15 Member States

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

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





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DANUBE LIGHTHOUSE

Danube high level event: 3-4 April, Bucharest



Sebastian-Ioan Burduja  
Minister for Research,  
Innovation and Digitalization



Mr Sebastian-Ioan Burduja,  
Minister for Research, Innovation  
and Digitization

10

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ATLANTIC & ARCTIC LIGHTHOUSE

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



Simon Coveney  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Michael D. Higgins,  
President of Ireland



10

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BALTIC AND NORTH SEA LIGHTHOUSE

Hamburg, 25-26 April 2023



Judith Pirscher  
State Secretary Federal  
Ministry of Education and Research

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MEDITERRANEAN SEA LIGHTHOUSE

Marseille, 14-15 June 2022



Marseille, 14-15 June 2022



Palermo, 30-21 May 2023



12



Coalition of cities & regions



Coalition of islands



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

13



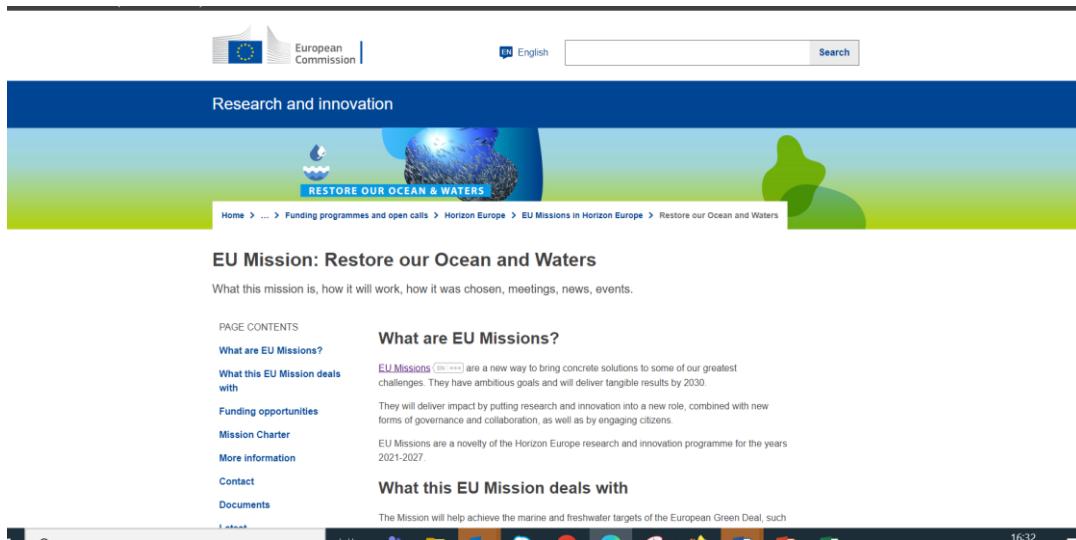
*Mission  
Charter*

The Mission Charter is meant to **mobilize** all stakeholders to achieve the goals of the Mission, strengthening **cooperation**, aligning **efforts** and achieving **critical mass** for the transformational **change** needed to restore our oceans and waters. by 2030.





# Be part of the Mission: adhere to the Charter



## Mission Charter

We are calling on Member States, regions and a wide range of stakeholders to endorse the [Charter](#) EN | ... and pledge actions that will contribute to the successful implementation of the Mission and its lighthouses.

Please click below to endorse the Charter and pledge actions

[Endorse the Charter](#)



Action pledges submitted so far: [interactive map](#) EN | ...

## More information

- [mission-oriented policy for Horizon Europe](#) EN | ...
- [Horizon Europe](#) EN | ...
- [co-design session on oceans mission at Research and Innovation Days \(video\)](#) [↗](#)
- [EU Missions info days 2022](#) EN | ...

## Contact

[RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-OCEANS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-OCEANS@ec.europa.eu)

[Restore our Ocean and Waters \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

Adhere to the Charter by filling-in the form on [EUSurvey - Survey](#)

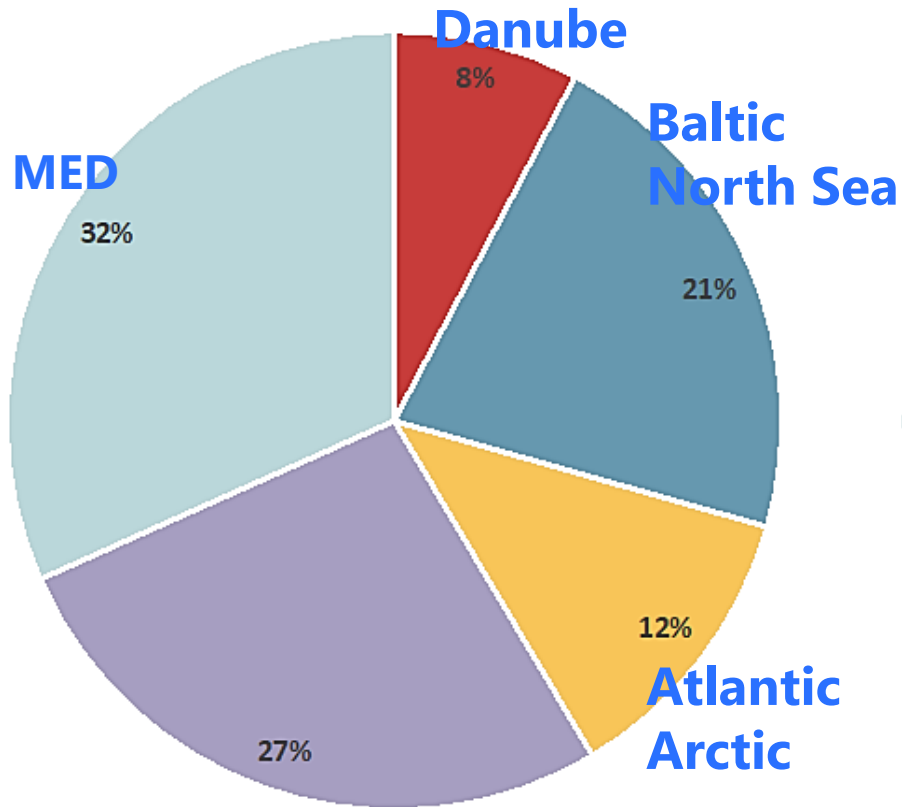
[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters_en)



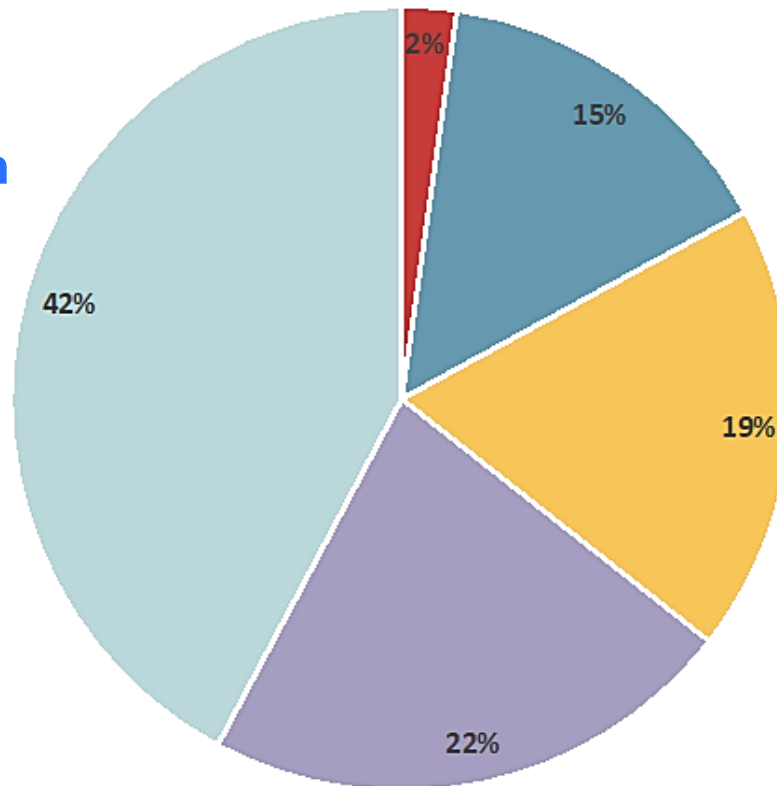
# Mission Charter actions

Percentage of Pledges by Basin  
(Accepted pledges as of September '23)

In terms of number



In terms of budget



■ Danube River  
 ■ Baltic/North Sea  
 ■ Atlantic/Arctic coast  
 ■ Cross-basin  
 ■ Mediterranean Sea

**Over 550 actions submitted with 457 actions accepted and visible to the Mission Atlas**  
**Budget mobilised: €4,28 billion**



# Pledges by basin

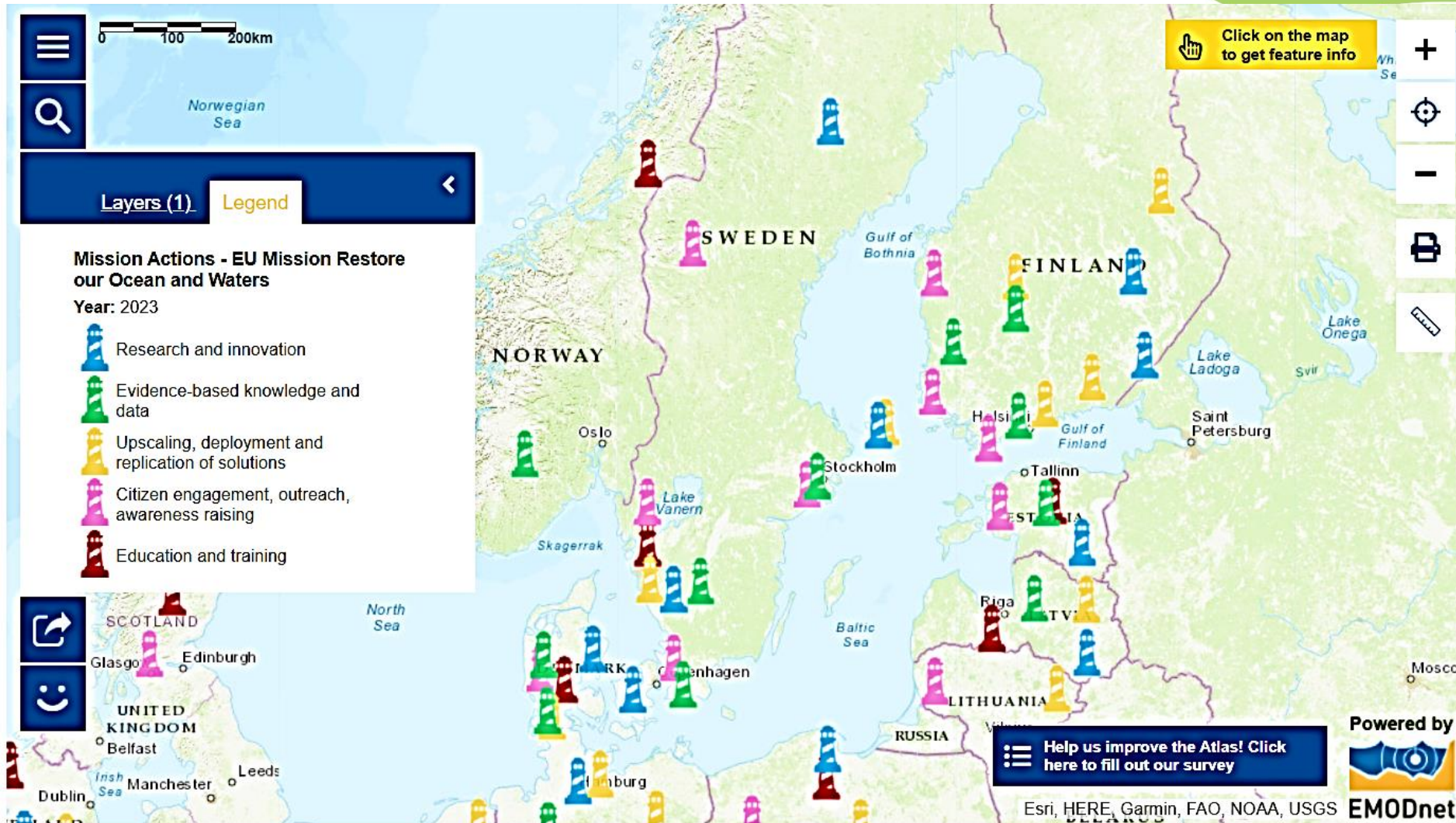
*Table 3: Budget and number of pledges by basin (accepted pledges as of December 2023)*

	Budget	Number
<b>Atlantic/Arctic coast</b>	€814 937 088,80	59
<b>Baltic/North Sea</b>	€648 681 471,00	102
<b>Cross-basin</b>	€953 382 834,20	126
<b>Danube River</b>	€96 601 130,25	36
<b>Mediterranean Sea</b>	€1 915 888 384,25	152
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>€4 429 490 908,50</b>	<b>475</b>









[https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/research/mission-ocean-and-waters\\_en](https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/research/mission-ocean-and-waters_en)



# Upcoming EVENTS

- **Mission Ocean and Waters Forum and matchmaking:** Brussels, 4-5 March 2024

[Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030” Annual Forum: towards 2030 - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

*within the European Ocean Days*

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Parks Community Workshop:** Brussels 7 March 2024

*Back2back to the Mission Forum*

- UN Ocean Decade Conference, Barcelona, 10-12 April 2024

[2024 Ocean Decade Conference | UNESCO](#)

- Our Ocean – An Ocean of potential, Athens, 15-17 April 2024

[Our Ocean - An Ocean of Potential \(ourocean2024.gov.gr\)](#)

- Digital Twin Ocean Forum , Brussels 13 June 2024





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EU MISSIONS  
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



BRUSSELS

# EUROPEAN OCEAN DAYS



EU MISSION RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS  
WHERE NEXT FOR EUROPE'S SEAS?  
BLUEINVEST DAY  
OCEAN LITERACY IN ACTION



4-8 MARCH 2024

EUROPEAN OCEAN DAYS  
4 MARCH 2024

MATCHMAKING EVENT  
EU MISSION RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS

EUROPEAN OCEAN DAYS  
5 MARCH 2024

FORUM  
EU MISSION RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS

EUROPEAN OCEAN DAYS  
6 MARCH 2024

WHERE NEXT FOR EUROPE'S SEAS?

EUROPEAN OCEAN DAYS  
7 MARCH 2024

BLUEINVEST DAY

EUROPEAN OCEAN DAYS  
8 MARCH 2024

OCEAN LITERACY IN ACTION





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INVITATION



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# Digital Ocean Forum #3



Wednesday 12 June, 10:00-18:00

**Scientific and Technical Workshop**

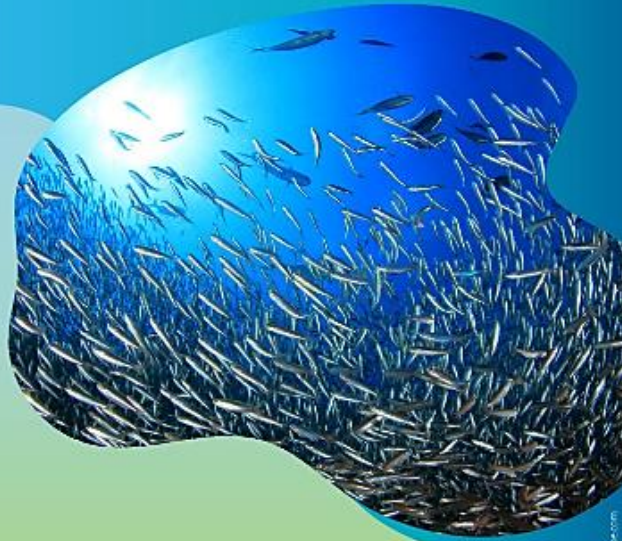
*Brussels, Palais des Académies*



Thursday 13 June, 9:30-16:30

**High-Level event**

*Brussels, Palais des Académies*



in cooperation with



European Digital Twin Ocean - Launch of the 1st EDITO-Infra Demonstration Call - EDITO-Infra



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# Thank you!

**#MissionOcean**

**#EUmissions**

**#HorizonEU**

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