Mission Ocean and Waters
Cooperation Working Arrangement tra l'Europa e il Piemonte: from pilots to place-based deployment

Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali - Torino,

10 November 2026

Fedra Francocci - EC DG RTD – Unit Ocean, Seas and Waters

European Commission

EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

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

EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS

Horizon Europe Funding

- **2021** EUR 117 million - 20 projects ongoing
- **2022** EUR 118 million - 20 projects ongoing
- **2023** EUR 130 million - 27 projects ongoing
- **2024** EUR 120 million - 13 projects ongoing
- **2025** EUR 120 million – 18 projects expected to start
- **2026 2027** EUR 244 million



EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

2026 assessment of EU Missions

- The Mission has made substantial progress and has **completed its first phase**:

The **Ocean and Waters Mission** has developed a **growing portfolio of 121 solutions** for the restoration of ocean and waters **tested in 349 demo-sites** across Europe and beyond. It also completed the core infrastructure of the **European Digital Twin Ocean**, which is expected to be fully operational by 2030. More than **1200 actions** have been pledged under its Charter.



- The **second deployment phase** will focus on consolidating and institutionalising, working along four main areas:
  1. Political **anchoring** of the Mission
  2. Supporting **deployment** and scale-up, including investments and funding
  3. Strengthening the **governance**
  4. Completing the **monitoring** system

EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

EUROPEAN UNION



Download the solutions booklet

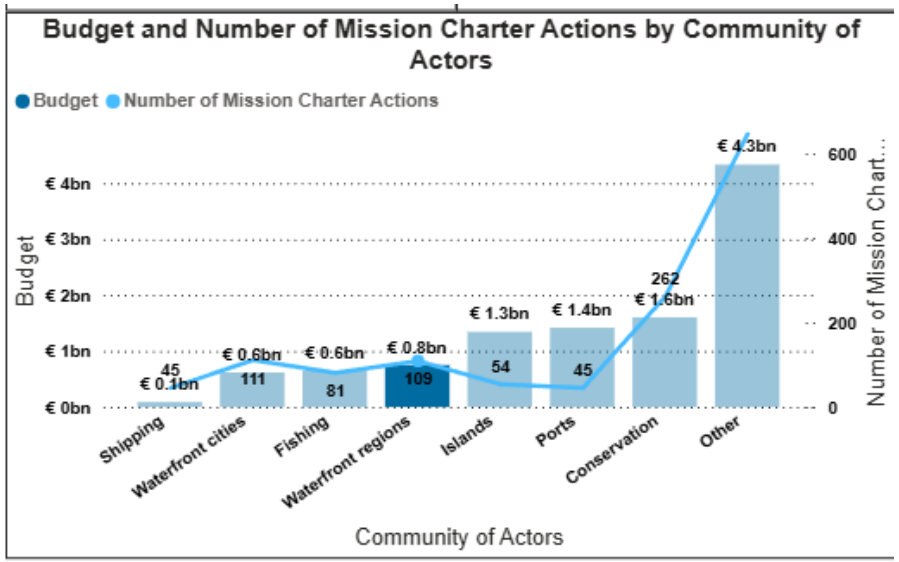
Discover Mission's solutions in their deployment phase in this booklet.

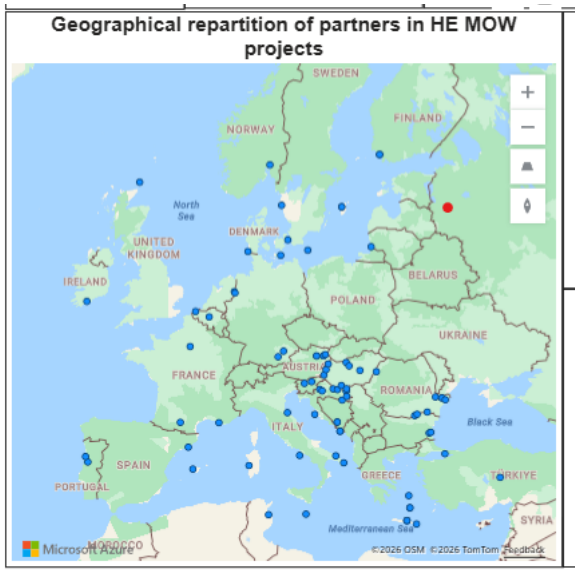
#HorizonEU #MissionOcean

EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

Regions across the Mission: Charter actions, project partners and the CO-WATERS coalition





CO-WATERS

Coalition of waterfront cities, regions and islands

- Started in 2025, €4 M, 3 regions in the consortium
- Capacity building, networking, hackathons , funding updates and more
- A path towards the Mission Ocean & Waters Label, Coalition launched in 2026

New: ROWER – Restoring Oceans and Waters in European Regions. 18 competent authorities as project partners, 13 case studies in all basins. A Digital Twin and scalability plan help authorities plan restoration, report under WFD/MSFD and access LIFE, ERDF and regional funds.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS

Mission projects Demo Sites

46 out of the 80 projects selected/running under HE Mission WP 21-24

include a total of 354 demo-sites



Supporting Communities for local regional deployment - *Associated Regions*

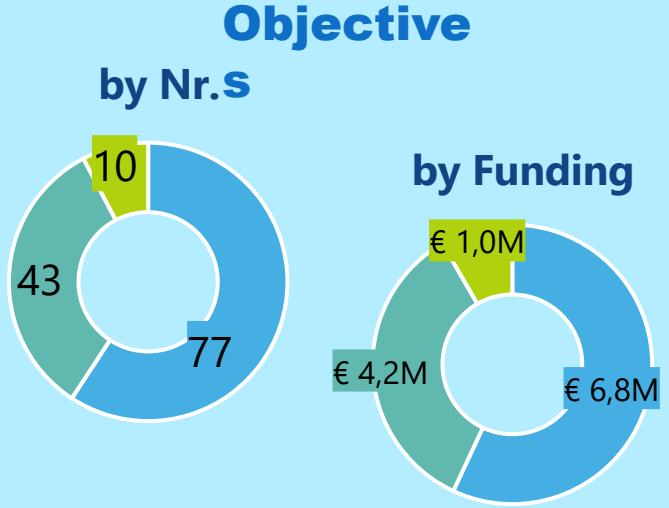
Total funding **€ 12 M**

Total Nr: **130 Associated Regions**

OBJECTIVE 1: **PROTECT AND RESTORE MARINE & FRESHWATERS ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY**

OBJECTIVE 2: **PREVENT AND ELIMINATE POLLUTION OF OUR OCEANS, SEAS AND WATERS**

OBJECTIVE 3 **MAKE THE BLUE ECONOMY CARBON- NEUTRAL AND CIRCULAR**



EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS

Cooperation Working Arrangements

A non-binding framework for strategic cooperation between the Mission and a region

Synergies with regional funds

Link the Mission work programme with regional funds such as ERDF and ESF+

Shared objectives

Restore ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce pollution, a carbon-neutral and circular blue economy

Working together

non-binding framework for strategic cooperation and monitoring

Pilots with three Italian regions

Emilia-Romagna
First arrangement, December 2024 · coastal region

Sicily
Island region

Piedmont
Focus on inland waters

2025-26 — **Pilot Phase:** 3 CWAs implemented: Emilia-Romagna, Sicily, Piedmont

Q1 2027 — **Effectiveness review:** Pilot CWAs assessed against Mission objectives and regional impact

2027+ — **Decision on expansion:** Potential roll-out to more EU regions

EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS

EU POLICY DRIVE

- ✓ Ocean Pact
- ✓ Ocean Eye
- ✓ Water Resilience Strategy
- ✓ Islands and coastal communities' strategy
- ✓ Ocean Act – *in the pipeline*
- ✓ Ocean and Waters R&I Strategy – *in the pipeline*

NEWS ARTICLE | 5 June 2025 | Directorate-General for Communication | 1 min read

Commission adopts Ocean Pact to protect marine life and strengthen blue economy



1. Protecting and restoring ocean health
2. Boosting sustainable competitiveness of the blue economy
3. Supporting coastal, island communities and outermost regions
4. Advancing ocean research, knowledge, skills and innovation
5. Enhancing maritime security and defence as a prerequisite
6. Strengthening EU ocean diplomacy and international rules-based governance.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS

What's next: the solutions booklet and the Mission Forum 2027



