Concept Note

Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" Annual Forum

Title: Waves of Collaboration: Matchmaking for the Mission to Restore Oceans and Waters by 2030

Format and location:	In-person event in GASP, JENK, and MANS in Charlemagne
Date:	Monday, 3 March 2024: 14:00 – 17:00
Language:	English

Targeted stakeholders: Mission Charter signatories; Horizon Europe Mission funded project co-ordinators and beneficiaries; representatives of regions, municipalities, cities, ports, and islands; Partnerships (Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, Water4All Partnership, Partnership for R&I in the Mediterranean Area); investors; philanthropy.

Scope / What is going to be discussed:

The matchmaking event will focus on facilitating the uptake and replication of solutions to achieve the objectives of the Mission "Restore our Oceans and Waters", with particular focus on supporting Charter signatories in line with the second phase of the Mission towards deployment and scaling-up.

The main part of the event will comprise bilateral meetings between participants from Europe and beyond interested in the same topics, aiming to deploy solutions find collaboration partners, invest into innovations, share new project ideas, and overall supporting the implementation and scaling-up of the Mission.

Participants can pre-arrange bilateral meetings through a user-friendly matchmaking tool, based on participant profiles. In addition to bilateral meetings with potential project partners, attendees can also meet representatives from municipalities, cities, regions, ports, islands. This represents an opportunity to gain personalised support and information.

Format:

Networking is the main objective of the event. Therefore, throughout the session there will be networking opportunities in several forms:

- Matchmaking activities between participants (one-to-one meetings scheduled in advance via a dedicated app), with a dedicated networking space in the GASP and MANS rooms, when no plenary session is taking place;
- An "Opportunities Stage" will be set up for one hour in room MANS. Selected participants will be able to pitch their project ideas, in a small stage with a microphone;

These networking activities will be combined with two **Workshops organised by Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) funded by the Mission**, in the JENK room, on the following topics:

- *"Harmonizing KPIs and approaches to support development of joint Mission Ocean and Waters monitoring framework"*

- *"Support an enabling environment: Business models, Regulation and Financial Ecosystem"*

Expected outcomes:

- Building new partnerships,
- Sharing of knowledge and best practices,
- Find deployment and investment opportunities,
- Discuss the implementation and deployment phase of the Mission.

PROGRAMME

13:45 – 14:00   **Registration**

14:00 – 14:10   **Welcome & Opening remarks (GASP)**

                    Elisabetta Balzi, European Commission, DG RTD, Head of Unit "Oceans, Seas and Waters"

14:10 – 15:40   **Bilateral Meetings (5 minutes each), GASP and MANS**

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16:00 – 17:00   **Opportunities Stage - MANS**

16:00 – 17:00   **Bilateral meetings continue in GASP**

Continuous coffee to prolong the discussions informally (Foyer)

In parallel (JENK room):

14.15-15.30   **Workshop: *"Harmonizing KPIs and approaches to support development of joint Mission Ocean and Waters monitoring framework"***

Organised by the Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs): **Prep4Blue**, **BlueMissionBANOS**, **BlueMissionMed**, **EcoDaLLi** and **BlueMissionAA**.

15.30-17:00   **Workshop: *"Support an enabling environment: Business models, Regulation and Financial Ecosystem"***

Organised by the CSAs **Prep4Blue**, **BlueMissionAA**, **BlueMissionBANOS**, **EcoDalli**, **BlueMissionMed**, and **MIP Ocean.**