



Concept Note and agenda

Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" - 3rd Annual Forum

Side event: - Connecting Mission Projects for Ocean, Seas, and Inland Waters

Format & location: In-person event Room GASP, MANS and JENK in Charlemagne

Date: **Monday, 3 March 2025, 10:00 – 13:00**

Language: EN

At the occasion of the Mission Ocean and Waters Forum 2025, the European Commission is organising a project clustering and networking event to bring together projects funded under the Horizon Europe (HE) - Mission Ocean and Waters as well as other projects of the EU R&I programmes contributing to the Mission objectives, including from relevant Partnerships.

This event is targeted to EU projects co-ordinators and partners, to meet with the European Commission staff. It will allow to highlight achievements and monitor progress, foster networking and synergies among related projects contributing to the Mission, steer direction and speed up the pace of achieving the Mission's objectives.

The event will be followed by a matchmaking event in the afternoon of the 3rd of March. This will allow further networking among different projects, as well as with Charter actions, and various stakeholders including investors, enterprises and local authorities, for further implementation of the technologies and solutions developed by the Mission projects.

Objectives / Goals:

- Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among projects funded under the Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" and other related EU R&I projects portfolios (e.g. European Green Deal Call, Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, Water4All Partnership, Partnership for R&I in the Mediterranean Area).
- Highlight progress and showcase impactful examples from EU funded projects contributing to the Mission objectives.
- Identify synergies, bottlenecks, and enablers to advance towards the Mission's goals.
- Take stock of identified and tested solutions to achieve the Mission objectives.
- Steer direction and collective intelligence towards planning future actions, capitalising on R&I outcomes and impacts.
- Enable networking opportunities and foster synergies among project teams contributing to the Mission objectives.



Targeted participants:

- EU-funded project coordinators, beneficiaries and partnerships (Horizon Europe Mission, Horizon Green Deal Call, Water4All, SBEP, PRIMA).
- Experts elaborating the ongoing Mission's assessment of the expected outcomes of projects (aka "portfolio analysis").

Scope / What is going to be discussed?

- **Project Achievements:** Sharing success stories, solutions, barriers, and lessons learned from ongoing Mission projects.
- **Looking Ahead:** Exploring ways to accelerate uptake, upscale successful practices, address cross-cutting challenges (e.g., water quality, restoration, financial needs, awareness) and design future policy actions.
- **Collaboration Opportunities:** Strengthening synergies between Mission-funded and other relevant R&I projects.
- **Cluster topics:** By Mission Objective and enablers
- **Come up with:** Collective intelligence on concrete projects' outcomes and impacts, shared in order to elaborate a common basket of solutions for future policy actions.

Format:

This dynamic and interactive meeting will include a plenary opening with keynote presentation by the Commission, followed by three breakout parallel sessions organised as thematic cluster meetings, followed by a plenary session where rapporteurs from the cluster groups will share the outcomes of the bilateral sessions:

- **Plenary opening and Keynote Speaker:** The Commission sets the scene, presenting the EU policy context, as well as high-level insights into Mission progress, goals and needs for further delivery and deployment.
- **Breakout sessions by Thematic Clusters:** In rooms GASP, MANS, JENKINS, these sessions will be organised according to the three Mission objectives, integrating also the two enablers, facilitating knowledge-sharing, focused on actual outcomes of the projects. A set of projects, selected on the basis of the relevance of their results, will very briefly present their outcomes and the key lessons learnt (max. 3 minutes each, no slides, including barriers encountered). After these short presentations, participants will discuss along three main questions (to what extent projects have contributed to the Mission objectives, what have been the factors of success or barriers, and what is now needed to deliver) and jointly extract conclusions. Each session will be moderated by Member of the Commission staff and possibly one of the experts in charge of the ongoing portfolio analysis.
- **Plenary discussion and conclusions (GASP):** at the plenary, rapporteurs will present the outcomes of the cluster meetings, before a general discussion amongst the participants.



Expected outcomes:

- Showcase impactful Mission projects and encourage the replication of identified solutions.
- Build bridges between projects from different portfolios to foster new synergies and collaborations.
- Present and discuss solutions developed through the Mission, responding to policy priorities and needs and facilitating the development of further policy actions.
- Identify concrete policy actions to be implemented as a follow-up of the event.

PROGRAMME

10:00 - 10:20 Welcome and introduction (GASP)

John Bell, Director "Healthy Planet", DG RTD, European Commission

Paloma Aba Garrote, Director Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)

10:25 – 12:00 Cluster meetings (GASP, JENS, MANS)

GASP: Objective 1 – Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity

Moderators: Dominique Darmendrail (*Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières*, BRGM) and Patrizio Mariani (*Danmarks Tekniske Universitet*, DTU)

- Short presentations (3 minutes maximum each) from the following projects:
 - **AA-AGORA**, Ana Lillebø, *Universidad de Aveiro*, Portugal
 - **OCEAN CITIZEN**, Sergio Rossi, *Università del Salento*
 - **INSPIRE**, Gert Everaert, *Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee* (VLIZ)

Support : Loïc Blanchard (European Commission, DG RTD)

JENS: Objectives 2 and 3 – Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters; Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular

Moderators: Luisa Galgani (*Università degli studi di Siena*, rapporteur) and Figen Ayan (*Ayan Consulting*)

Support : Chara Sifaki (CINEA)

- Short presentations (3 minutes maximum each from the following projects):
 - **LOCALITY**, Margarida Costa, *Norwegian Institute for Water Research* (NIVA).
 - **REMEDIES**, Uroš Novak, *Kemijski inštitut*
 - **ULTF FARMS**, Alex Ziembra, *Deltares*



MANS: Enablers: Digital Knowledge, Public mobilisation

Moderator: Magdalena Matczak (*Institute of Gdynia Maritime University*)

- Short presentations (3 minutes maximum each from the following projects):
 - o **DTO-BioFlow**, Klaas Deneudt, *Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee* (VLIZ)
 - o **ProBleu**, Eli Bonfill, *Institut de Ciències del Mar – CSIC*
 - o **SURIMI**, Sheila Heymans, *European Marine Board*
 - o **PartArt4OW**, Chiara Certoma, *Università di Roma Sapienza* (video)

Support : Jesús Alquézar (European Commission, DG RTD)

(One rapporteur per Cluster – potentially, rapporteurs can be the moderators).

12:00 – 12:25 Coffee break

12:25 – 12:50 Plenary session to discuss the Cluster meetings' outcomes (GASP)

Short report by the rapporteurs (3 min each)

Discussion around the following questions:

- *Are we collectively achieving the objectives of the Mission?*
- *Are we properly monitoring our impact on the ground to reach those objectives?*
- *What else must be done to increase and accelerate the impact of the Mission and uptake solutions? Could we define an action plan for the years to come?*

12:50 – 13:00 Conclusions

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