



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

Update on SBEP - the European co-funded Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Developments in 2024
towards activities in 2025



Co-funded by
the European Union

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European Partnerships

- Contribute to the **twin digital** and **green transitions**, and **Europe's resilience**.
- Contribute to UN's **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs)
- Are drivers for deepening the **European Research Area**
- **Openness and inclusiveness:**
 - European Partnerships demonstrate a strong awareness for openness, setting up dedicated measures for newcomers and an interest in reaching out to widening countries in Europe
 - Partnerships are open for collaboration beyond the EU





Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

The SBEP aims to deliver solutions to strengthen European Union (EU) and international science-policy interfaces in marine- and maritime-related domains of the EU Green Deal and Digital Europe strategies through aligning national, regional, and EU R&I priorities and bringing together science, industry, policy, and civil society.

Vision





Who we are

- Network of 60 (soon 74) **Partner institutions** from 25 (soon 29) **countries** and the **European Commission** to pool research and innovation investments of over **EUR 450 Million over 7 years**.
- It covers all **European sea basins**, and the **Atlantic-Arctic**.
- Tunisia and Brazil joined beginning 2024, Georgia and Ukraine are currently joining





Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Priority areas transnational call 2023



Digital Twins of the
Ocean at sea-basin
scale



Blue economy
sectors



Planning and
Managing
sea uses



Healthy '**Blue**
Food'



+ Green transition
of '**Blue Food**'
production



SBEP joint transnational call 1

19 funded projects

General information

- ▶ 19 selected proposals for a total requested budget of 27,314,215 €
- ▶ On average, the requested budget per proposal was 1,437,590 €
- ▶ Project partners come from 21 different countries, including EU Member States, Associated Countries, and third countries.
- ▶ 89 participating organisations have declared a public status (55,6%) and 71 have declared a private status (44.4%), among them 41 SMEs



«The Way forward:

A thriving sustainable Blue Economy for a Brighter future»

12 R&I projects for the Mediterranean in Five Priority Areas

- ▶ The first joint call of 2023 resulted in 19 R&I projects addressing the following priority areas, of which 12 include the Mediterranean Sea basin:
 - ▶ **(1) Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level**
 - ▶ **MEDSEAPLAN** - Data and Scenarios for a Sustainable Mediterranean Blue Economy
 - ▶ **BlueEcho** - to improve **the shipping and wind-farm industries sustainability** and conserve species biodiversity by **assessing noise impacts on marine fauna** and **evaluating the efficiency** of various **mitigation acoustic measures to reduce noise levels**
 - ▶ **(2) Development of offshore marine multi-use infrastructures to support the blue economy**
 - ▶ **FAMOS** - Sustainable, Reliable and Socially Acceptable **Modular Floating IslAnds for Multi-use Offshore Spaces**



- ▶ **(3) Climate neutral, environmentally sustainable, and resource-efficient blue food and feed**
 - ▶ **Blue Boost** - co-culture of a wide range of low trophic species with established species
 - ▶ **SEAFOODTURE** - integral valorisation of seaweeds for the production of sustainable, high nutritional quality food products
 - ▶ **SHELLFISHBOOST** - to mitigate the effects of climate change on the bivalve production to protect and develop a vital blue bioeconomic sector in Europe, through genetic selection and selective breeding best practices for target species
 - ▶ **BLUEWAYSE** - significant cut in the CO² emissions of the food and feed sectors
 - ▶ **CliN-BlueFeed** - develop and use a low-CO² smart autonomous multiplatform system to monitor and forecast *Calanus finmarchicus* stock which is a new sustainable climate neutral blue fish feed for the growing aquaculture industry
 - ▶ **SEAREFINERY** - improved valorization of marine sources and processing waste for resource efficient blue food/ feed and environmentally sustainable materials development
 - ▶ **FOODIMAR** - to develop new industry-relevant solutions from fisheries and aquaculture side-streams for climate-friendly, cost-effective, sustainable, and high-quality food market applications



▶ (4) Green transition of Blue Food production

- ▶ **AQUABALANCE** - Balancing economic, environmental, and social sustainability in the European aquaculture industry

▶ (5) Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs) test use cases at EU sea-basins and the Atlantic Ocean

- ▶ **DTO-Track** - Digital Twin of the Ocean: Animal Tracking

▶ *More information about each project:*

- ▶ Priority Area, consortium members, Coordination, Partners Institutions/countries, keywords and abstract, **available on the SBEP website / news**

<https://bluepartnership.eu/news/partnership-decides-first-batch-co-funded-projects>

with the [leaflet presenting each project](#)

- ▶ [digital poster gallery](#)





Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Priority areas transnational call 2024



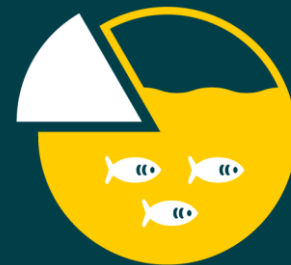
Planning and managing
sea-uses at the
regional level



Blue economy sectors,
development of
marine multi-use
infrastructures



Blue Bioresources



Digital Twins of the
Ocean (DTOs) at
regional sub-basins
scale



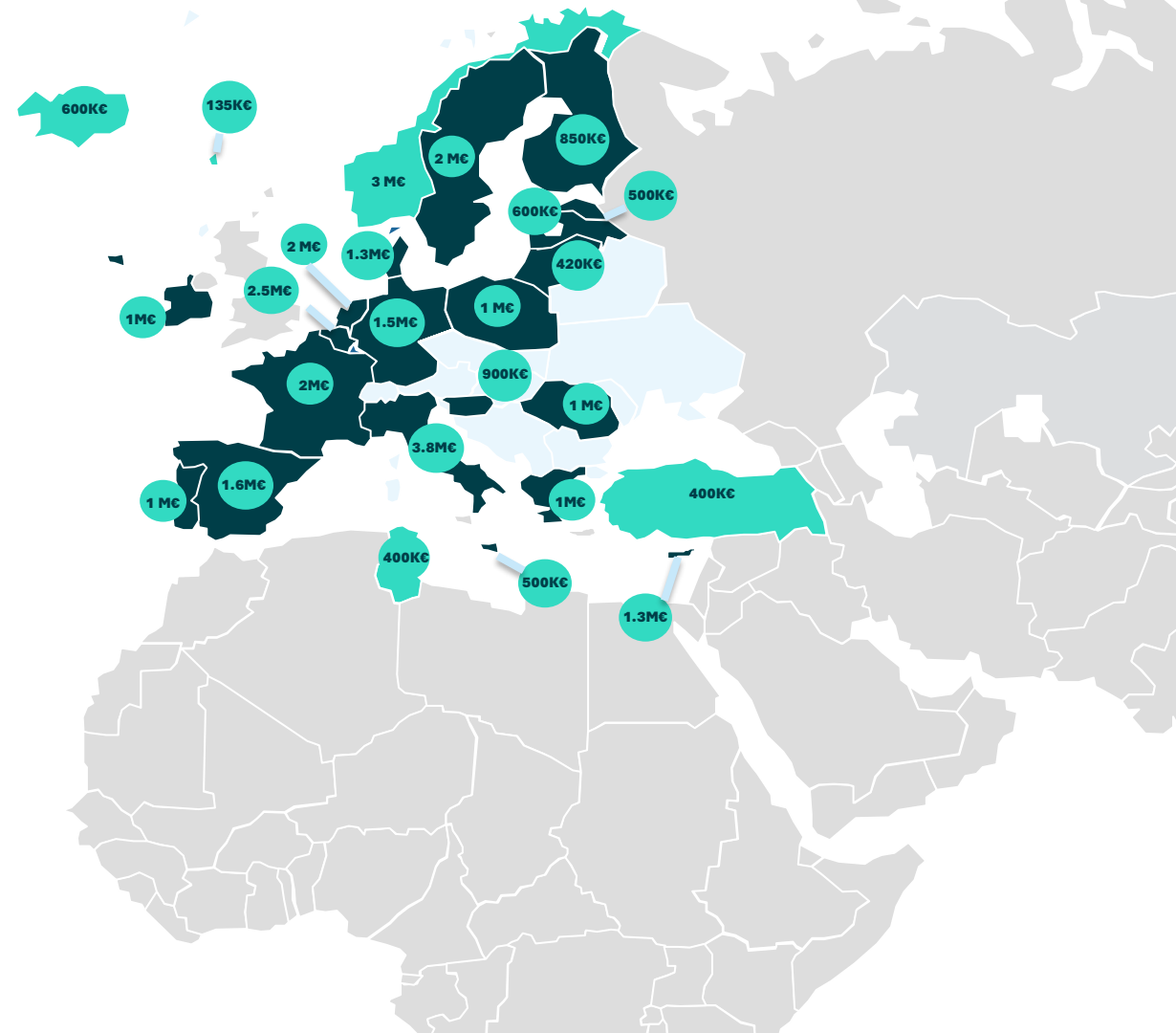
This Call is Co-branded by:

Co-Branding



- ▶ This call is co-branded as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which is coordinated by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (**IOC/UNESCO**) on behalf of the UN system, with the aim that the selected funded research and innovation projects are endorsed as **Ocean Decade projects**.
- ▶ The co-branding of this call with the Ocean Decade will ensure that funded projects that are **endorsed as Decade Actions form** part of a highly visible, shared, global effort that opens up opportunities to create new collaborations across disciplines, geographies and generations, and to establish access to new sources of support.

**Total Budget including
EU contribution:
about 43 M€**





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Blue Economy - The key towards Mediterranean Regional Sustainability

at Posidonia 2024, 07 June, Athens
Metropolitan Expo

Agenda

Report available soon



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Panels + World-Café in Athens

18 high level speakers

from Research, Governments (3), EU (DG RTD, DG MARE), UfM, EIB, UNEP/MAP

3 thematic panels

Synergies Marine energy and multiuse offshore platforms

Coastal and maritime tourism

Spatial planning and MED ports

+ 2 panel discussions:

Synergies between actors (BlueMissionMed, PRIMA, WestMed, EUSAIR, Interreg, UNEP/MAP and UfM).

Business & funding opportunities





Strategic developments - SRIA

- ▶ The SBEP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda will be updated by September 2024, as a strategic basis for activities in 2025, such as the next joint transnational call in 2025.
- ▶ A new Intervention Area has been agreed among the members to add for this joint call and additional activities: **Resilient coastal communities and businesses**, with a strong focus on coastal tourism.



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Opportunities for third countries

- The SBEP Steering Committee meeting is open to observer countries (MS, AC or third countries) to learn more on the **strategic perspectives** and discussions.
- Third countries can participate with their own funding to joint calls, such as Brazil already does, without access to EU contribution, or when a country is not a member yet.
- **All Mediterranean countries are eligible for EU contribution** either as EU Member State, Associated Country or low-to-medium income country, provided they become member.
- The next opportunity to join SBEP partners' consortium is for the upcoming amendment of the co-fund grant agreement this year, or subsequent amendments (in 2026).
- Joint calls will be included and additional in-kind activities that SBEP is developing, such as thematic annual programming of national calls with joint feedback to policy activities.



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Some additional activities of SBEP

- Open transnational calls are a very strong means to deepen the European Research Area through the achievement of collaborative transnational projects.
- Additional activities are developed to enhance connectivity within and beyond the European research community.
- Portfolio of projects for specific thematic areas: they consist of European funded projects from different funding streams (SBEP + others), including some national projects. A list of projects' leaders of ongoing projects will be established according to their willingness to participate to these portfolio actions.
- Thematic annual programming (TAP) where national projects from synchronised calls among countries are being grouped. Common research and innovation calls will be organised with selection of projects at national level, complementary to the transnational calls
- Practically, this will be further scoped in autumn 2024, activities will start beginning 2025.



Contact nodes

Atlantic:

- ◀ Ireland
- ◀ Portugal

Mediterranean Sea:

- ◀ Greece
- ◀ Malta
- ◀ Tunisia

Baltic Sea:

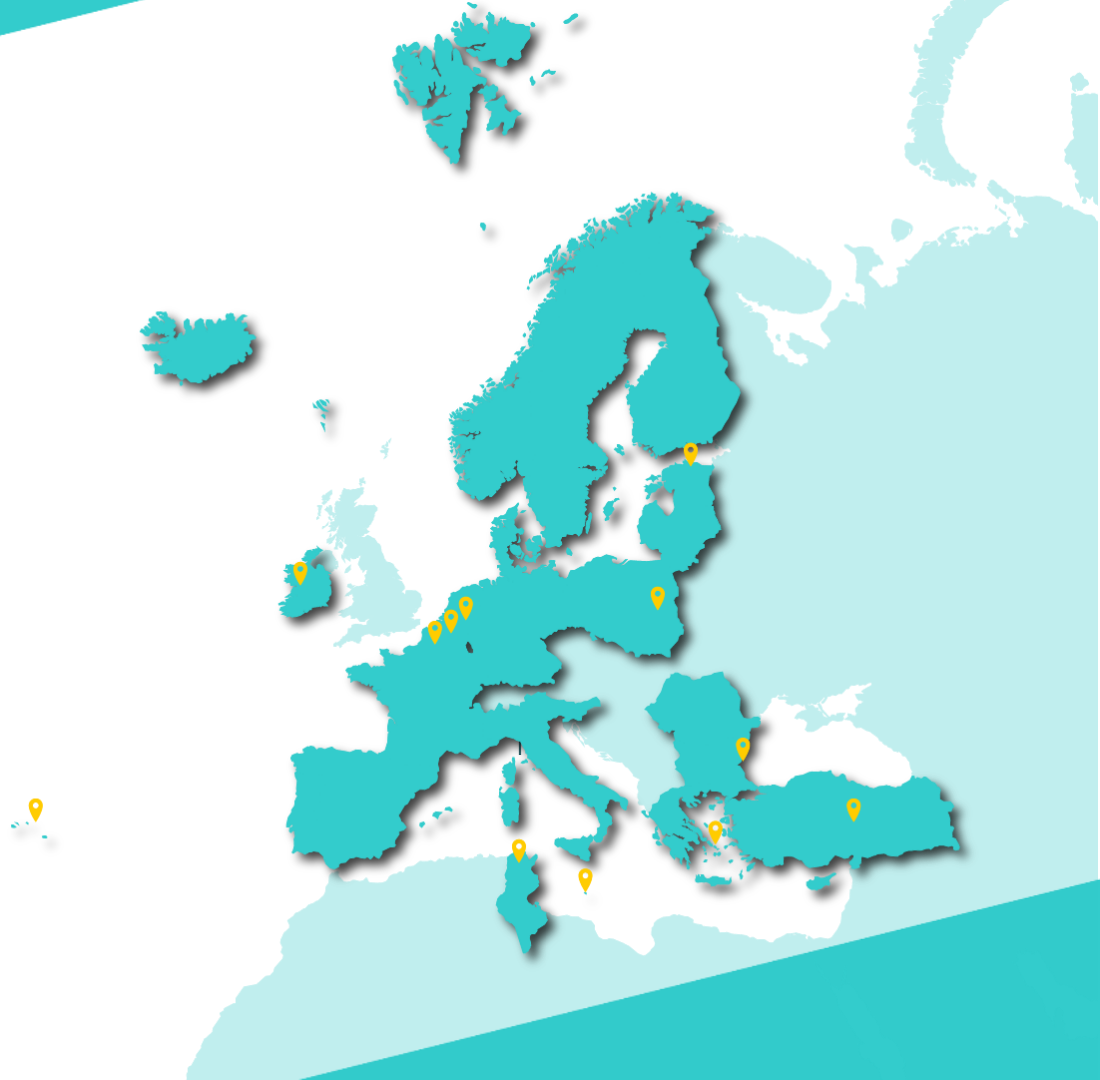
- ◀ Estonia
- ◀ Poland

North Sea:

- ◀ Belgium
- ◀ Netherlands

Black Sea:

- ◀ Bulgaria
- ◀ Turkey



<https://www.bluepartnership.eu/about>
with sea basin nodes contacts



Coordinator:
Ministry of University
and Research (Italy)
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Co-coordinator:
Research Council of
Norway

- E-mail: sbep@mur.gov.it
- <https://bluepartnership.eu>
- SBEP's following social media channels :
 - [Twitter](#) - @BlueEconomyEU
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Linkedin](#)
 - [Instagram](#)



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Thank you for your attention

Contact info: sbep@mur.gov.it



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