



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



July 2025

EU MISSION: RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS

WHAT ARE THE EU MISSIONS?

EU Missions are large-scale initiatives under Horizon Europe designed to tackle major global challenges, such as climate change, cancer, soil health, ocean restoration, and the development of climate-neutral and smart cities. They set clear, time-bound goals and bring together research, policy, and stakeholders to drive innovation and deliver concrete solutions for societal benefit.

MISSION RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS BY 2030

The Mission provides a systemic approach to the protection and restoration of the ocean and Europe's seas and waters by 2030, fostering a sustainable marine and freshwater environment.

Driven by research and innovation and aligning with the European Green Deal targets, the Mission is addressing three specific objectives with clear 2030 targets for:

- **Protecting** and **restoring** marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity.
- **Preventing** and **eliminating** ocean, sea and water pollution.
- Ensuring a **sustainable, carbon-neutral** and **circular blue economy**.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- To accelerate progress toward achieving the Mission's objectives, four **Mission Lighthouses** have been launched as regional hubs. These hubs structure **cooperation** and drive the development and deployment of **transformative, innovative solutions** across the Atlantic and Arctic basins, the Mediterranean Sea basin, the Baltic and North Sea basins, and the Danube River basin, including the Black Sea.
- The Mission is actively **engaging, supporting, and mobilising** a diverse range of stakeholders. More than **1,000 actions** have already been endorsed under the **Mission Charter** for Ocean restoration, supported by a budget exceeding **EUR 7.7 billion**. This includes commitments from 179 countries, over 50 regions, and 90 municipalities, and the number continues to grow. The Mission is also mobilising through **public participation initiatives**, including the Blue Parks Community, the Coalition of Island Regions and Waterfront Cities, the Blue School Network and the EU4Ocean Coalition.

- The Mission is funding **projects** that test and demonstrate innovative approaches and solutions to address its objectives with a cross-basin perspective. Over 200 **demonstration sites** are already operational under these projects, with more to come.
- The Mission is providing direct **support** to key communities through tailored technical assessments and feasibility studies for ports, fisheries, and island communities, as well as financial advisory services for innovative Blue Champions.

SUCCESS STORY

The [European Digital Twin of the Ocean](#) (EU DTO) is the bedrock of the Mission that builds on existing infrastructures like [Copernicus](#) and [EMODnet](#), highlighting Europe's commitment to developing innovative scientific tools to address the challenges facing our ocean and waters.

Launched in 2022 with EUR 15 million in annual funding, the DTO aims to provide **accessible, science-based ocean knowledge** to a broad range of users, from policymakers and researchers to businesses, activists, and citizens, through a **unified digital framework** that transforms data into actionable knowledge. It integrates marine observations, advanced ocean modelling, artificial intelligence, and high-performance computing, offering unprecedented capabilities for **marine data exploration**, policy-making, and environmental adaptation and mitigation. The platform is expected to achieve full operational status by 2030.



ALIGNED AMBITIONS AND SYNERGIES



The Mission supports the implementation of **key EU policies and regulatory initiatives** for the ocean, seas, and waters, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy and Nature Restoration Regulation, the EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water, and Soil, the European Climate Law, the European Water Resilience Strategy, and the European Ocean Pact. Additionally, it contributes to **Europe's sustainable prosperity** by driving both green and digital transitions across these vital ecosystems.

The Mission supports SDG 14 by regenerating our oceans and waters and SDG 6 by ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, in addition to contributing to achieving most other SDGs, including climate action (SDG13) and the sustainability of cities and communities (SDG11).

MORE INFO AND CONTACT

Learn more: [Restore our Ocean and Waters - European Commission](#)

Get in touch: EU-MISSION-OCEAN-AND-WATERS@ec.europa.eu

Sign up to the Mission's [newsletter](#)

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2025

© European Union, 2025



Unless otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

The EU does not own the copyright in relation to the following elements:

Page 1: © Richard Carey, stock.adobe.com. Page 2: © EDITO INFRA EU Project / Mercator Ocean International.

PDF ISBN 978-92-68-27003-5 doi:10.2777/6811958 KI-01-25-105-EN-N



Publications Office
of the European Union