



EUROPEAN UNION

2026 synergies on Research & Innovation

19th meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on SBE, 21 April 2026

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Update since last meeting (16/10/2025) Horizon Europe Mission Ocean and Waters Work Programme

- WP25 projects under Grant Agreement procedure, launch foreseen between June and September 2026.
- MED-specific projects in 3 topics:
 - HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN-03: Digital technologies and energy transition in fisheries and/or aquaculture
 - HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN-07: Mission Lighthouses coordination and support activities
 - HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN-02: A toolbox for public authorities to address marine plastics and litter from river-to-ocean
- 3 transversal community-led projects
 - HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN-04: Restoring Ocean and Waters in Regions
 - HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN-05: Restoring Ocean and Waters in waterfront Cities and their Ports
 - HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN-06: Restoring Ocean and Waters on Islands
 - **Specific activities in each Mission basin**
- WP26: ongoing call (deadline Sept 2026)
 - HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-01: Large-scale demonstration for **mapping the distribution and condition of marine habitats** to implement the Nature Restoration Regulation
 - HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-02: **Addressing aquatic pollution and biodiversity loss** through nature positive solutions from source to sea
 - HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-03: By fishers, for fishers: **co-management of marine and freshwaters ecosystems and resources**
 - *HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-04: Towards a **European network of ocean technology testing sites***
 - HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-05: **Regional (sea-basins) components of the EU Digital Twin Ocean**
 - *One project per Mission Basin except topic #04)*
- Amendment on WP27 to be published end-2026.

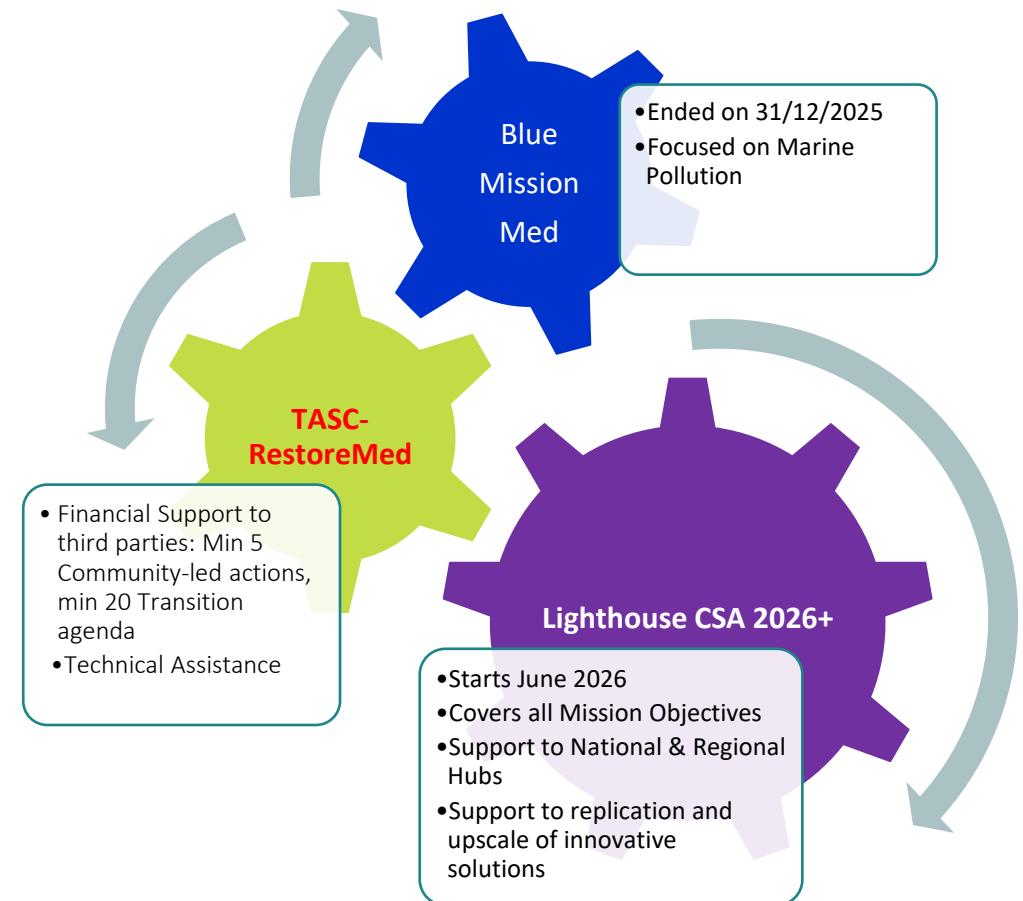


Update since last meeting (16/10/2025)

- Additional demonstration sites, associated regions, third-party funded actions (e.g. schools), Technical Assistance, etc.
 - See [Mission Monitoring Dashboard](#) on the Mission Service Portal
- Ocean Days / Mission Forum 2-6 March 2026
- Forthcoming:
 - EU Missions 2026 Assessment
 - Ocean Observation Initiative (OceanEye)
 - Ocean R&I Strategy, building on the Mission



Mediterranean Basin-wide co-ordination and support activities:





TASC-RestoreMed

- Launched in September 2025 and running for **four years**, TASC-RestoreMed acts as a **catalyst for a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean**, combining science, innovation, and community action to restore marine and freshwater ecosystems.
- The programme provides **financial support, capacity building, and a dynamic collaboration network** that enables communities, innovators, and policymakers to work together toward a regenerative and resilient Mediterranean.
- Through its **Open Call**, TASC-RestoreMed will identify and support high-potential projects that receive comprehensive technical, business, and policy assistance from design to implementation, accelerating tangible change across the region.



TASC-RestoreMed Open Call

€8 Million in Funding, Technical Assistance, and Dynamic Networking for Community-Led Actions and Transition Agendas in the Mediterranean basin.

Are you a solution provider, organisation, community, or local authority making a difference in the Mediterranean basin and ready to drive the transition toward healthier, more resilient marine and coastal ecosystems?

Through its Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP), the **TASC-RestoreMed** project invites visionary stakeholders to co-develop, demonstrate, and replicate innovative solutions that restore and sustainably manage our seas and waters, in alignment with the **EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters."**

A total of **EUR 9,000,000** in grants will be made available across two distinct Open Calls to support impactful initiatives:

<https://tascrestoremед.eu/open-call/>



Mediterranean Sea Basin Lighthouse 2nd Phase

- Objectives:
 - Address the pressures the Mediterranean faces from climate change, pollution, biodiversity degradation and overexploitation.
 - Enhances the 1st phase of Mission Ocean and waters in the Mediterranean basin, focusing on all Mission's objectives -restoring marine & freshwater ecosystems & biodiversity, eliminating pollution, making blue economy climate-neutral & circular.
- Consortium of Partners from 15 Mediterranean countries, organized in 3 regional (Western, Central, Eastern) and 15 National Hubs.
 - Focuses on mobilizing investments in the 3 regional systems to accelerate deployment of solutions relevant to Mission's objectives.
 - Tailored Capacity Building providing local stakeholders with the necessary technical skills and capacities to operate & upscale the innovative solutions.
 - Investment mobilization activities, for solutions to get financed and deployed in real socio-economic systems, thus contributing to Mission's Impact realization.
 - 3 Regional Living Labs, each focusing on a Mission objective, where stakeholders and citizens jointly refine selected solutions under real coastal conditions, accelerating adoption.
- Start date: 01/09/2026, Duration: 3 years



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Thank you!