ANNEX D – PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

This template is an indicative model of pre-proposal application form. All pre-proposals have to be submitted online via the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS) https://proposals.etag.ee/sustainable-blue/2025***. The format of the pre-proposal application form will be modified to fit the EPSS***.

PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM

2025 Joint Co-funded Call for transnational research projects on **“ Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems, Businesses, and Communities to Strengthen the EU Blue Economy’s Competitiveness “**(Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership).

General guidance for all applicants:

- The Call Text and its Annexes can be downloaded from the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership https://bluepartnership.eu/;
- All Participants i.e. Consortium Partners, Self-Financed Partners, must log in onto the EPSS to confirm their participation in a pre-proposal and complete their information as required;
- The content of the pre-proposal must be written in English and follow the set guidelines. The different sections of the pre-proposal should not exceed the prescribed maximum space. Incomplete pre-proposals that do not adhere to the general eligibility criteria and to the national/regional eligibility requirements will be rejected and will not be evaluated;
- Any documents other than those requested as part of the proposal **will not be forwarded** to the International Evaluation Committee (IEC) members;
- The pre-proposal can be submitted by the Consortium coordinator multiple times before the **pre-proposal submitting deadline** on **17th of November 2025, 15H00 CEST (local time in Brussels, Copenhagen, Paris)**. Only the very last submitted copy will be used by the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS). It is not possible to edit / submit the pre-proposal after this deadline.

1.0 GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

CALL ID:	SBEP2025
Proposal ID:	Automatically from EPSS (*e.g.* SBEP2025-1)
Project title[1] (max 255 characters including spaces)	
Short name / Acronym[2] (max 20 characters including spaces)	
Project duration (project period)	**36 months**
Start Date[3]	**January 2027 to June 2027.**
Project total costs	
Total funds requested from funding organisations?	
Keywords (min 1 keyword, max 10 keywords)	

2.0 SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NB: This part will have to be uploaded as a single pdf on the EPSS.

Page limit: The short project description should not be longer than 5 pages. All tables, figures, references, and any other element pertaining to this section must

[1] Please note that the project title should be considered as definitive
[2] Please note that the acronym should be considered as definitive
[3] Enter start date in YYYY-MM-DD format, between 2027/01/01 and 2027/06/30

be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against this page limit.

The page limit will be applied automatically. After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.

The proposal is a self-contained document. **Links and hyperlinks are not allowed** and evaluators will be instructed to ignore any information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.

The following **formatting conditions** apply.

- *The reference font for the body text of proposals is Arial. The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.*
- *Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible (links and hyperlinks are not allowed).*
- *The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 1.27 cm (not including any footers or headers).*
- ***A pre-proposal can be declared as ineligible if formatting conditions are not followed.***

The project description should include the following elements to respond to the evaluation criteria Excellence and Impact, as defined in the Call Text. Note that Projects must comply with ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and applicable EU, international and national law. Applicants will have to complete the ethics self-assessment as part of their application at Stage 2. For more information, see *How to complete your ethics self-assessment*.[4] You must include the appropriate consideration of the ethical issues according to the EU "Do no significant harm" principle (DNSH) in your proposal.

[4] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf

- *Describe how the project fits the scope of one call priority area;*
- *Describe with claritiy the pertinence of the scientific objectives and main research questions*
- *Demonstrate how the proposed work* ***contributes to advancing the knowledge gaps*** *and the understanding of its field and/or across different fields;*
- *Provide a short description of the theoretical framework, research questions, and hypothesis to be tested. Explain to what extent the proposed work is in adequacy with the addressed priority area of the call;*
- *Explanation of the* ***novelty of the research*** *planned, the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, contributes to scientific excellence and goes beyond the state of the art. Explain to what extent the proposed work explores creative and original concepts and contributes to and/or increasing the advancement of its field across different fields. Explanation of the identified scientific and/or technological risk and the potential breakthrough despite this risk taking. Explanation of the management of risks;*
- *Describe the proposed methodology and research design to answer the identified knowledge gaps and/or achieve the proposed objectives;*
- *Explanation of the* ***soundness of the proposed methodology****, , including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end-users where appropriate.*
- *Explain to what extent your Impact plan is ambitious to solve the addressed problem. Does your proposed work have a strategic impact on reinforcing competitiveness and/or on solving societal or environmental problems at the European and international levels? You must demonstrate the credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.*

- *Explain the suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts (i.e. dissemination, exploitation, communication plan, ocean literacy);*

It is requested to include a plan that describes what impact the research is expected to achieve in the long run and how it contributes to the overall impacts. One way to make such a plan is to establish a Theory of Change (ToC) methodology with a related Impact Pathway (IP) to describe the research process, mentioning well-specified outputs and outcomes. Please refer to the Annex A of the call text: Theory of Change, for more information on how to set up a Theory of Change.

Please be aware that pre-proposals will be evaluated based on their submitted content and written information only and strictly following the assessment criteria «Excellence» and «Impact» as defined in the call text.

3.0 ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF APPLICANTS

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

Please note that some information will not be evaluated and is collected by the European Commission for the purpose of doing anonymous statistics. This information will be indicated in the EPSS guidelines.

You will have to provide in this section information on the consortium coordinator and the Participants of the project, as well as the requested budget per Partner.

Here Participants refers to partner and self-funded partner.

What is a Partner?

Note that depending on the Funding Organisation, a "Partner" can be:

- ***a researcher,***
- ***an institution,***
- ***a laboratory, a department of an institution.***
- ***SME***
- ***Company other than SME***

Please make sure to respect the general eligibility rules of the call.
Please also consult the Annex B about the national/regional funding eligibility rules of each Participating Funding Organisation in this call which are compulsory. **Applicants are strongly advised to contact their respective Funding Organisations (National Contact Points (NCP) list available in the Annex B of the Call Text) and to confirm their eligibility with their Funding Organisations before submitting the pre-proposal.**

ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

Please note that if you plan to use genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in your project, you will have to ascertain towards the competent authorities and focal point that these used genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources have been accessed in accordance with applicable access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements, and that benefits are fairly and equitably shared upon mutually decided terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements[5].

[5] Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Please also note that if the utilisation of genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources takes place in an EU Member State, users in those states will have to comply with the general due diligence obligation under Art. 4 of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014, as well as the obligation to file due diligence declarations under Art. 7 of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014[6].

For funding, there are 2 categories of Partners:

1. Partners from countries (and organisations) eligible for direct funding (designated Partners 1, 2… N) by a participating Funding Organisation of this call;

2. Fully self-financed Partners from any country who bring their own secured budget (designated Partner A, B).

The Table below indicates the information that will have to be fill out by the Consortium Coordinator (Partner 1) and by all others Partners (2, 3, ...N).

Example: if your consortium is composed by 6 Partners, the following Table will have to be completed for each of the 6 Partners.

Details of the Principal Investigator of Partner 1

Principal Investigator - Consortium Coordinator *– Partner 1 (example)*					
First Name		***Last name***		***Email***	
Title		***Gender***	*(Female;Male;Non-binary) – dropdown menu*		
Nationality	*Dropdown menu*		***ORCID ID***		
Principal investigator's website (including complete list of publications, if any)			***Phone***		

[6] Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation in the Union

Professional status	Choose between: - *Professor* -*Assistant Professor* -*Associate Professor* -*Senior Scientist* -*Post-doc* *PhD Student* -*Other status (speciy)*
Career Stage[7]	Choose between: *Category A: Top grade researcher* *Category B: Senior researcher* *Category C: Recognised researcher* *Category D: First stage researcher* *N: Not applicable*
Employment status information	- on a permanent position - on fixed-term position

Details of the organisation (Partner 1)

Legal full name of the research organisation / Company					
Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any					
Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the Research organisation/Company[8]					
Website					
Street name			**Number**		
PO Box (optional)		***Postal code***		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town			**Country**	*Dropdown menu*	
Participant Organisation Type	Choose between: - *HES: Higher or Secondary Education Establishments* - *REC: Research Organisations (including RTOs – Research and Technology Organisations)*				

[7] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted, *e.g.*, "director of research" or "full professor".
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates, *e.g.*, "senior researcher", "principal investigator" or "associate/assistant professor".
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited, *e.g.*, "researcher", "investigator" or "post-doctoral fellow".
Category D: Either doctoral students at the ISCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree, *e.g.*, "Ph.D. students" or "junior researchers" (without a Ph.D). These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm(page 249).
[8] A 9-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programs / procurements. A search tool for organisations and their PICs is available on https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search

	- PRC: Private for-profit entities (excluding Higher or Secondary Education Establishments) *- PUB: Public Bodies (excluding Research Organisations and Higher or Secondary Education Establishments)* *- OTH: Other (e.g. non-profit organisation)*				
Status: Private or public?			**If Private:** - Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status): Yes/No - Enterprise other than SME: YES/NO - Other (please specify)		
Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[9]*:					*Dropdown menu*
Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory					
Street name			**Number**		
PO Box (optional)		***Postal code***		*Cedex (optional)*	
Town			**Country**	*Dropdown menu*	
Expertise and partipant´s role in the project? *Describe participant’s expertise and role in the project (1000 characters max)*					
Other team members involved in the project[10]					
Team member 1: First name, Last name, gender, title, email, ORCID id., Nationality, Career Stage Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id., Nationality, Career Stage Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id., Nationality, Career Stage					

[9] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of the Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at the Eurostat website: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace

[10] Please include all other team members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your project. Do not repeat a principal investigator here. If you do not yet have all the information for a team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate that the person is not yet known.

The Table below indicates the information that will have to be fill out by the Self-financed Partner(s) (Partner A, B).

Example: if your consortium is composed by 2 Self-financed Partners, the following Table will have to be completed for each of the 2 Self-financed Partners.

Details of the Principal Investigator of Self-financed Partner A

<table>
<tr><td colspan="6">Principal Investigator: Self-financed Partner A (example)</td></tr>
<tr><td>First Name</td><td></td><td>Last name</td><td></td><td>Email</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Title</td><td></td><td>Gender</td><td colspan="3">(Female;Male;Non-binary) – dropdown menu</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nationality</td><td colspan="2">Dropdown menu</td><td>ORCID ID</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Principal investigator's website (including complete list of publications, if any)</td><td></td><td>Phone</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Professional status</td><td colspan="5">Choose between:
- Professor
-Assistant Professor
-Associate Professor
-Senior Scientist
-Post-doc
PhD Student
-Other status (specify)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Career Stage[11]</td><td colspan="5">Choose between:
Category A: Top grade researcher
Category B: Senior researcher
Category C: Recognised researcher
Category D: First stage researcher
N: Not applicable</td></tr>
<tr><td>Employment status information</td><td colspan="5">Choose between:
- on a permanent position
- on fixed-term position</td></tr>
</table>

[11] Category A: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted, *e.g.,* “director of research” or “full professor”.
Category B: Researchers working in positions not as senior as top position (a) but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates, *e.g.,* “senior researcher”, “principal investigator” or “associate/assistant professor”.
Category C: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited, *e.g.,* “researcher”, “investigator” or “post-doctoral fellow”.
Category D: Either doctoral students at the ISCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree, *e.g.,* “Ph.D. students” or “junior researchers” (without a Ph.D). These categories are defined in Frascati manual from OECD https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/frascati-manual.htm(page 249).

Details of the organisation (Self-financed Partner A)

<table>
<tr><td colspan="5">Legal full name of the research organisation / Company</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Short name (acronym) of the research organisation/Company – if any</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Participant Identification Code (PIC) number of the Research organisation/Company[12]</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Website</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Street name</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Number</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>PO Box (optional)</td><td></td><td>Postal code</td><td></td><td>Cedex (optional)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Town</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Country</td><td colspan="2">Dropdown menu</td></tr>
<tr><td>Participant Organisation Type</td><td colspan="5">Choose between:
- HES: Higher or Secondary Education Establishments
- REC: Research Organisations (including RTOs – Research and Technology Organisations)
- PRC: Private for-profit entities (excluding Higher or Secondary Education Establishments)
- PUB: Public Bodies (excluding Research Organisations and Higher or Secondary Education Establishments)
- OTH: Other (e.g. non-profit organisation)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Status: Private or public?</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="3">If Private:

- Small or Medium-sized Enterprise (SME status): Yes/No

- Enterprise other than SME: YES/NO

- Other: please specify</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE)[13]*:</td><td>Dropdown menu</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Division / Department / Unit or Laboratory</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Street name</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Number</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>PO Box (optional)</td><td></td><td>Postal code</td><td></td><td>Cedex (optional)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Town</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Country</td><td colspan="2">Dropdown menu</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Expertise and partipant´s role in the project?</td></tr>
</table>

[12] A 9-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programs / procurements. A search tool for organisations and their PICs is available on https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search

[13] The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of the Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE at the Eurostat website: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace

Describe participant's expertise and role in the project (1000 characters max)
Other team members involved in the project[14]
Team member 1: First name, Last name, gender, title, email, ORCID id., Nationality, Career Stage Team member 2: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id., Nationality, Career Stage Team member N: Family name, First name, gender, title, email, ORCID id., Nationality, Career Stage

4.0 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

4.1 Summary

(min 500 and max 3,000 characters including spaces)

4.2 Priority areas

Please choose:

- One primary priority area and identify the sub-themes addressed in your project.
- If relevant, select *secondary priority areas and identify the sub-themes addressed in your project*

PA1	**Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTO) at regional sub-basin scale**	

[14] Please include all other team members to be involved in the project, would they be funded or not by your project. Do not repeat a principal investigator here. If you do not yet have all the information for a team member (e.g. for a postdoc), you can indicate that the person is not yet known.

PA 1.1	*To transform data into knowledge, and ultimately build DTOs, real-time and historical data must be used for scenarios models.* ***A mapping and analysis of the relevant, existing, available traceable, and reliable multi-dimensional data from several sources in the targeted sub-basin is necessary. This will allow to identify data gaps and to evaluate data uncertainties.*** *In addition, the holistic DTO-approach implies an understanding of the trade-offs and risks associated to the holistic management of the sub-basing study case, that will allow identifying needs for advancing fit-for-purpose observations and models where existing models do not apply.*	
PA 1.2	*To fill critical data gaps, missing models, and alleviate the risks of uncertainties,* ***innovative methods aiming to acquire quality-controlled data through newly implemented fit-for-purpose monitoring and/or observation systems can be proposed****. In that perspective****, new sensors, digital systems and high technical developments can be envisaged in R&I proposals.***	
PA 1.3	*A step further consists in developing and combining process -driven and (new or existing) data-driven dynamic models relevant to the sub-basin.* ***For that purpose, general frameworks for exchanging information between models are expected.***	
PA 1.4	*Test and validation of model's predictions should be addressed, and the development of DTO tools for the end-users can be foreseen by the applicants.*	

PA2	**Transitioning the blue economy sectors, and the development of the marine multi-use infrastructures**	
PA 2.1	**Innovations to boost the transition of the Blue Economy**	
PA 2.1.1	***Pave the way of the new solutions towards sustainable blue economy and markets uptake in line with stakeholders and consumer's rights*** *through e.g. socio-economic studies including markets opportunities and business models e.g. marine renewable energy farms, maritime communications (ports&logistics), marine bio-based products, considering social acceptance related to e.g. improved and new uses of ocean structures, legal barriers (e.g. introduction into the EU legislation the allocation of areas devoted to renewable energy production) etc. and studies towards standardisation and procurement processes requirements to scale up the innovations to markets level (high TRL).*	
PA 2.1.2	***To Investigate Nature-based Solutions15 focusing upon compatibilities and incompatibilities of material use(s)*** *in view of enhancing natural functions using a combination of approaches, in relation to sectors like ports& logistics/platforms for energy production/stocks regeneration etc.*	

[15] See definition in https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-020-En.pdf

PA 2.1.3	***To Investigate innovative solutions for curbing greenhouse gas emissions*** *of blue economy activities in relation to carbon sequestration, e.g. Ocean-Based Carbon Dioxide Removal..*	
PA 2.2	**Innovations to improve co-existence and multi-use offshore infrastructures**	
PA2.2.1	***To develop intelligent, faster, and more reliable control systems*** *for remote intervention, including simulation of potential accidents and spills, efficient strategies for prevention/containment, and consequent environmental remediation approaches,* ***in order to cope with increased challenges for operations and platforms, especially management and monitoring of operations, and for piloting multi-use structures***	
PA2.2.2	***To study mechanisms that ensure sustainable, safe and secure coexistence of several spatial functions and activities within the Blue Economy*** *(e.g., energy production from different sources (wind-wave) / storage and habitat protection, or energy production / storage and sustainable integrated aquaculture, fisheries) considering the legal, economic, social, management, and policy context.*	

PA3	**Climate-Smart Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional scale**	
PA 3.1	**Scientific knowledge, data and innovations for effective management and conservation of complex socioecological systems**	
PA 3.1.1	***To implement integrated economical, ecological, and social ocean health indicators into marine ecosystem management tools,*** *in accordance with with MSFD Descriptors*[16].	
PA 3.1.2	***To provide essential data for enhanced understanding of marine ecosystems and effective environmental management and conservation*** *and supporting the identification of suitable areas for different uses, minimizing conflicts, and maximizing sustainable development.*	
PA 3.1.3	***To perform intelligent seafloor sampling surveys*** *to assessing seafloor ecosystem integrity and the damage/degradation of marine habitats (sensu Habitat directive)* ***to support restoration measures***	
PA 3.1.4	***To generate knowledge and tools for improving currently available risk assessment procedures and management strategies for extreme events in the coastal areas*** *as well as specific needs such as sustainable desalination*	
PA 3.1.5	***To develop*** *innovative tools for ocean health assessment and for the implementation of management strategies at highly entropized land-ocean interface ecosystems, including those affected by*	

[16] [Descriptors under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive - European Commission]()

	large inputs from intensive agriculture, highly urbanized areas or industrial activities	
PA 3.1.6	***To assess the spatial extent, carbon reservoir size and resilience and development of effective conservation and restoration strategies for coastal blue carbon ecosystems***	
PA 3.2	**Development of innovative Decision Support Tools (DSTs)**	
PA 3.2.1	***To explore EMB-MSP-based transboundary scenarios and multi-lateral solutions*** *(e.g., international protected areas; protection of highly mobile species and shared stocks and resources; restoration of marine habitats, spatially-based measures to mitigate conflicts and/or enhance synergies between uses, spatially-based measures to mitigate environmental impacts).* *As far as possible, National authorities are to be engaged in the consortium, and if "High Seas" i.e. areas beyond national jurisdiction are targeted, compliance with the terms of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)[17] is mandatory.*	
PA 3.2.2	***To develop advanced models for integrating multiple disciplines to create digital intelligent supporting tools*** *(including Artificial Intelligence based) able to consider environmental processes, climate change trends, anthropogenic activities (coastal and sea uses), socio-economic and socio-ecological aspects.* *These intelligent DSTs could be used to feed MSP-oriented DTO applications. Projects should propose specific case studies and demonstrators, including at transboundary/sea-basin level, of the concrete added value of the developed DSTs for specific area and sector planning demands. Projects are expected to focus on coastal areas and land-sea ecosystems on sectors such as offshore renewable energies, aquaculture, fisheries, maritime transport, coastal and maritime tourism, commercial ports and multi-use of marine space).*	

PA4	**Blue Bioresources; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and new bio-based products**	
PA 4.1	**Innovative technologies and practices for sustainable fisheries and harvesting**	

[17] BBNJ Agreement | Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

PA 4.1.1	***To study migratory fish stocks*** *that spend different parts of their life cycle in different jurisdictions to inform policy options and management. This is a critical issue for the EU Common Fisheries Policy and co-management of stocks between EU and third countries.*	
PA 4.1.2	***To provide evidence-based support to the application of ecosystem-based management approaches to inshore and small-scale fisheries management***	
PA 4.1.3	***To investigate the impacts of climate change and human activities*** *including pollution and industrial and agricultural runoff on commercial fisheries, fish stocks and other species with commercial potential.*	
PA 4.1.4	***To gather a better understanding of cross-compliance, alignment and trade-offs between fisheries policy and management with other policy domains*** *(Marine spatial planning, marine strategy framework directive, The Water Framework Directive) and the implications of measures associated with the EU Nature Restoration Regulations on fishing and fishers.*	
PA 4.1.5	***To advance technological innovations aimed at preserving the nutritional value, quality, and integrity of seafood****, including through the use of new catching or harvesting technologies.*	
PA 4.1.6	***To enhance understanding of species' roles in marine food webs and their growth potential*** *within an integrated perspective of sustainability and biodiversity resilience, and to translate this knowledge into practical management solutions, aligned with management needs.*	
PA 4.1.7	***To develop new digital tools for monitoring for well-informed and timely decision making and sustainable management*** *considering the impact and societal costs of stressors such as habitat degradation, pollution, and climate change.*	
PA 4.1.8	*To develop more selective and sustainable fishing gears that reduce environmental impact, particularly in the bottom-contact fisheries, and for harvesting new species including macroalgae. A focus can also be on improving fish welfare and increasing traceabiliyt*	
PA 4.2.	**Innovations and diversification for sustainable aquaculture**	
PA 4.2.1	***To develop biologically, technically, and economically feasible onshore recirculating aquaculture systems for fish, shellfish, and seaweed.***	

PA 4.2.2	***To develop innovative and eco- sustainable solutions to produce established and new species****, including integrated multitrophic aquaculture, new systems associated with other economic off-shore activities, closed or land-based systems.*	
PA 4.3	**Innovations for a circular blue bioeconomy and new sustainable and high value bio-based products**	
PA 4.3.1	***To develop new low-carbon marine bio-based products*** *i.e. feed/chemical/pharmaceutical/material or services to accelerate the ocean economy and provide solutions to the existing challenges.*	
PA 4.3.2	***To propose scientific based evidence to support policy reform with respect to regulations on use of fishery waste and bycatch or side streams for a variety of new bio-based products*** *(i.e. feed/chemical/pharmaceutical/nutraceutical/material).*	

PA 5	**Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses**	
PA 5.1	**Knowledge and Innovations to foster coastal businesses/communities resilience and sustainable coastal tourism**	
PA 5.1.1	***To identify opportunities for sustainable blue tourism products/services*** *that contribute to preventing negative environmental impact, and support the protection and restauration of degraded marine and coastal habitats or re-vitalise local, traditional culture and heritage*	
PA 5.1.2	***To assess the impacts of diverse coastal activities (including small ports and marinas), on marine and coastal environments and co-dependencies between tourism and coastal and marine ecosystem health,*** *and also their role on sustaining livelihood in coastal communities from a socio-economic perspective.*	
PA 5.1.3	***To provide inputs to strategies for strengthening resilience and preparedness of coastal businesses*** *against extreme climate events and geological and anthropogenic hazards as social and economic risk factors.*	
PA 5.1.4	***To sustain social innovation to enable diversification of coastal and marine-based enterprises*** *for delivering new economic opportunities and thriving coastal communities.*	
5.1.5	***To investigate, promote and showcase the coexistence of coastal and maritime tourism and other coastal businesses with marine protected areas.*** *In particular, applicants are encouraged to showcase best practices and available tools and instruments associated to effective management and enforcement of MPAs and best cases and examples of shared management practices*	

	considering conservation-restoration/citizens and sectors participation and active management.	
PA 5.2	**Resilient coastal infrastructures and nature-based solutions**	
PA 5.2.1	***To analyse risks posed to coastal infrastructures by climate change and extreme events and strategies to protect/re-design built structures and mitigate against risks*** *that potential damages to such structures may pose to safety and security of coastal communities and businesses.*	
PA 5.2.2	***To develop embedded technologies in coastal infrastructures*** *that can monitor environmental conditions, deliver early warning of risks/hazards and support long-term data on coastal conditions and environmental change.*	
PA 5.2.3	***To investigate effective Investment in conservation of natural assets through Nature-based Solutions*** *that benefit both costal tourism and ecosystem services (e.g. through carbon storage, protection from erosion etc*	
PA 5.2.4	***To focus upon local/regional scale, when appropriate, to consider the temporal needs (seasonal vs permanent) of infrastructures to support tourism or other economic activities.*** *Projects should/will address the diversity of the demand per region of the necessary infrastructures (stable or mobile ones) and feedback to policy makers in approaching coastal development for local economic activities.*	

4.3 Scientific Disciplines

Please indicate the scientific disciplines involved in your project.

Scientific disciplines involved *Please indicate the scientific disciplines mobilised in your project, depending on the expertise of the members of your consortium*
To be selected from a standardised list (available on the EPSS) – multiple choices

4.4 Sea-basins/ocean

Please indicate the sea-basins/ocean covered by your project.

Sea-basins/ocean covered by the project *(multiple choice option)*	
Mediterranean sea	
Black Sea	
Baltic Sea	
North Sea	
Atlantic Ocean	

4.5 Study areas/countries

Study areas/countries covered by the project (please do not indicate here the nationality of the members of the consortium but the areas and countries studied in your proposals (research scope, studied sites, etc.)) *(max 3,500 characters including spaces)*

4.6 Preliminary Data Management Information

(max 2,500 characters including spaces)

Please address the following questions:

- Who will be responsible for developing, implementing, overseeing, and updating the DMP (role, position, and institution)? For collaborative projects, explain the coordination of data management responsibilities across partners;

- What types of datasets of long-term value do you expect the project will produce or reuse?

"Long-term" means those data that will or may be of value to others within your research community and/or the wider research, innovation and stakeholder communities.

Data of long-term value should meet the FAIR principles; *i.e.* they should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

- How have you accounted for the costs required to manage the data and digital outputs to ensure long-term accessibility?

Please refer to the guidelines in Annex F «Open Access and Fair Data,» which provides further guidance on how to establish a Data Management Plan.

4.7 Contribution to Ocean Decade Challenges

Please select which of the Ocean Decade Challenges your project contributes to (max. 3):

☐ **Challenge 1**: Understand and map land and sea-based sources of pollutants and contaminants and their potential impacts on human health and ocean ecosystems, and develop solutions to remove or mitigate them.

☐ C**hallenge 2**: Understand the effects of multiple stressors on ocean ecosystems, and develop solutions to monitor, protect, manage and restore ecosystems and their biodiversity under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

☐ **Challenge 3**: Generate knowledge, support innovation, and develop solutions to optimise the role of the ocean in sustainably feeding the world's population under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

☐ **Challenge 4**: Generate knowledge, support innovation, and develop solutions for equitable and sustainable development of the ocean economy under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

☐ **Challenge5**: Enhance understanding of the ocean-climate nexus and generate knowledge and solutions to mitigate, adapt and build resilience to the effects of climate change across all geographies and at all scales, and to improve services including predictions for the ocean, climate and weather.

☐ **Challenge 6**: Enhance multi-hazard early warning services for all geophysical, ecological, biological, weather, climate and anthropogenic related ocean and coastal hazards, and mainstream community preparedness and resilience.

☐ **Challenge 7**: Ensure a sustainable ocean observing system across all ocean basins that delivers accessible, timely, and actionable data and information to all users.

☐ **Challenge 8**: Through multi-stakeholder collaboration, develop a comprehensive digital representation of the ocean, including a dynamic ocean map, which provides free and open access for exploring, discovering, and visualizing past, current, and future ocean conditions in a manner relevant to diverse stakeholders.

☐ **Challenge 9**: Ensure comprehensive capacity development and equitable access to data, information, knowledge and technology across all aspects of ocean science and for all stakeholders.

☐ **Challenge 10**: Ensure that the multiple values and services of the ocean for human wellbeing, culture, and sustainable development are widely understood, and identify and overcome barriers to behavior change required for a step change in humanity's relationship with the ocean.

5.0 COMPLIANCE WITH EU REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Do no significant harm principle[18]

Does your project comply with the "Do no significant harm principle"? YES / NO

Please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)

[18] The Do no significant harm principle was introduced in the European Green Deal to ensure that the research and innovation activities do not make significant harm to any of the six following environmental objectives (EU Taxonomy Regulation): climate change mitigation, climate change mitigation, sustainable use & protection of water & marine resources, Pollution prevention & control, Transition to a circular economy and Protection and restoration of biodiversity & ecosystems. You can find more information on what is considered as doing significant harm to the above objectives in the following note: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq/15485

Projects must comply with ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and applicable EU, international and national law. If a project does not comply to ethical principles, it will not be funded under this Call.

5.2 Compliance with EU Taxonomy[19]

- Describe how your proposal will make a substantial contribution to at least one of the six environemental objectives:

1. Climate change mitigation
2. Climate change adaptation
3. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
4. The transition to a circular economy
5. Pollution prevention and control and 6. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

- Explain how your proposal do no significant harm (DNSH) to the other five objectives

- Explain how your proposal meet minimum social safeguards such as the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

[19]The EU Taxonomy Regulation adopted in June 2020 is a tool that will help investors, industry and researchers to navigate the transition to a sustainable economy by providing a science-based classification system to determine whether an economic activity is environmentally sustainable. https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/research-and-innovation-heart-eu-taxonomy-2021-04-21_en and https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-04/ec_rtd_research-innovation-eu-taxonomy.pdf

6.0 BUDGET

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

!! Please note that you should indicate in this table an indicative repartition between the different categories of costs, the total budget / total costs of the project and the budget requested to your PFO for this 2025 Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership call. Please make sure to follow your Funding Organisations' rules. !! (see Annex B of the Call Text).

Please note that for each Partner you are requested to indicate both the total costs of the project and the requested funding budget:

- The total costs/expenses (column Total costs) comprise all the costs related to the project independently of national funding rules. You have to indicate here all the costs of the project (including personnel costs of permanent staff not eligible; etc.)
- Requested funding budget (column Funding request) comprises costs or expenses for personnel (including permanent salaries depending on Funding Organisations' rules), travelling, consumables, overheads (if fundable), subcontracts etc. that you will request to your Funding Organisation.

For requested funding budget, the cost calculation has to be based for each Partner on its Funding Organisations' rules; for questions, please contact National Contact Point of your Funding Organisation.

!! Please note that some Funding Organisations cannot provide 100% of eligible costs. Please make sure to follow your Funding Organisations' rules!!

MANDATORY COSTS:

The funded projects are considered to form part of an international research programme for which activities will be organised, namely a kick-off meeting, a mid-term meeting and a final meeting. The coordinators of funded projects should actively engage to these three joint activities. Accordingly, the cost for attendance to the physical meetings should be foreseen in their proposals´ budget. These events will be possibly organised back-to-back with other workshops/events. . The coordinators of the funded projects are expected to get involved in other relevant Partnership ‘s activities: training, communication and dissemination (symposium, conferences, portfolio etc.) and must foresee the costs in their budget.

Note about Subcontracting costs

Subcontractants are subject to the terms and conditions of each Funding Organisation and need to comply with their rules. Generally speaking, subcontracting is understood as the externalization of the execution of a (minor) project task that this Partner cannot execute. Please, refer to the Funding Organisations’ rules, as some Funding Organisations have specific restrictions about subcontracting costs and your proposal will be ineligible if you do not follow national rules. Please consult the Funding Organisations’ rules (Annex B).

Subcontractants CANNOT REQUEST FUNDING.

When applicable, Partners will request funding for the subcontracting activities according to the Funding Organisations’ rules.

The indicated requested budget per Partner should be considered definitive, unless minor adjustment is requested by the Funding Organisations. Between pre-proposal and full proposal stage, change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Organisation provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations. The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification.

Each Partner must report its own budget (including the subcontracting costs) as following:

Example: Budget Table of Partner 1 (including budget of each subcontractor 1a, 1b...1n)

Partner 1 - Budget	**Cost category**		**Total cost** *(in EURO, incl. VAT)*	**Funding request** *(in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules[20])*
Partner 1 *Name of the research organisation/company* *Country* *Funding organisation[21]*	Salaries	Permanent		
		Non-permanent		
		Total		
	Travel			
	Participation to joint activities of the SBEP Initiative			
	Consumables			
	Equipment			
	Other costs			
	Overheads			
	Subcontracting costs [22]			
	Total			

Subcontracting costs for Partner 1	**Cost Category**		**Total cost** *(in EURO, incl. VAT)*	**Funding request by Partner 1** *(in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules[23])*
Subcontractant 1a[24]	Salaries	Permanent		0 €
		Temporary		0 €

[20] Please make sure that VAT is eligible according to national/regional legal framework and Funding Organisations' rules. If not, please do not include VAT.
[21] Please indicate to which Funding Organisation you are requesting funds. If more than one Funding Organisation from your country is participating in the call, please indicate which one should fund your project. It is not possible to indicate more than one Funding organisation per country.
[22] Indicate here the total budget and requested budget for any subcontracting costs.
[23] Please make sure that VAT is eligible according to national/regional legal framework and Funding Organisations' rules. If not, please do not include VAT.
[24] Each subcontracting Parner must fill out the information for each of its Subcontractants i.e. the total budget per cost category (column 'Total costs') and the costs you will request funding from your Funding Organisation should be included in the 'Funding request' of the relevant subcontracting Partner (Partner 1, 2, 3, etc.).

Name of the research organisation/company Country (if known)		Total		0 €
	Travel			0 €
	Consumables			0 €
	Equipment			0 €
	Other costs			0 €
	Overheads			0 €
	Total			0 €

Each Self-financed Partner must report its own budget as following:

Example: Budget Table of Self-financed Partner A

Self-financed Partner A - Budget	**Cost Category**		**Total cost** *(in EURO, incl. VAT)*	Funding request *(in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules)*
Self-financed Partner A[25] *Name of the research organisation/company Country*	Salaries	Permanent		0 €
		Non-permanent		0 €
		Total		0 €
	Travel			0 €
	Consumables			0 €
	Equipment			0 €
	Other costs			0 €
	Overheads			0 €
	Total			0 €

For self-financed Partners, please indicate shortly how their participation to the project will be funded.

Self-financed Partner A *Name of the research organisation/company Country*	The Partner will be funded through … *(Use as many lines as needed)*

[25] Self-financed Partners have to indicate the total budget per cost category (column 'Total costs'). The Self-financed Partner should indicate 0€ in the column 'Funding request'.

Total budget of the project: Please note that this Table will be partly generated automatically in the EPSS, based on the information provided in the Partners budget tables.

Cost Category		**Total cost** *(in EURO, incl. VAT)*	**Funding request** *(in EURO, incl. VAT depending on rules[26])*
Salaries	Permanent		
	Non-permanent		
	Total		
Travel			
Participation to joint activities of the SBEP initiative			
Consumables			
Equipment			
Other costs			
Overheads			
Subcontracting costs			
Total[27]			

7.0 BRIEF CVS FOR THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF EACH PARTNER INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS, using the CV template below.

[26] Please make sure that VAT is eligible according to national/regional legal framework and Funding Organisations' rules. If not, please do not include VAT.

[27] The total for the column "total costs /expenses" should include the costs of Subcontractants and self-financed Partners (Partners 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.); the total for the column "Funding request" should not include the costs of self-financed Partners as they do not directly request funding. For Subcontractants, when eligible, the subcontracting costs should be included in the requested budget of the subcontracting Partner (Partner 1, 2, 3, etc.).

When relevant, please include the CVs of self-financed partners and subcontractors. When relevant, please specify in the CVs, the Partners' capacity to involve stakeholders.

Participation status: *<Project Coordinator or principal investigator of a participant>*
Name:
Nationality:
Institution, City, Country:
E-mail:
URL / website (including complete list of publications if any):
Professional status: <Professor, Assistant professor, Associate professor, Senior scientist, Post-Doc, PhD-student, Other>
Education: <Year; type of education; organisation; country > <Year; type of education; organisation; country > …
Positions: <Year; Position; organisation; country > <Year; Position; organisation; country > …
Awards received / other responsibilities *(max 1,000 characters including spaces)*
General expertise and its relevance for the project *(max 1,000 characters including spaces)*
Up to 5 most important achievements, publications, IP (e.g. patents) relevant to the proposal over 2020-2025, if any: <…> <…> <…> <…> <…>

8.0 EXCLUSION OF POTENTIAL REVIEWERS (OPTIONAL)

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

List here potential reviewers who, you think, should not be asked to evaluate the project for reasons of direct competition and partiality. Also provide the names of significant collaborators that should not be used as reviewers due to conflicts of interest.

Potential competitors

	First Name	*Last Name*	*Organisation*	*Country*	*E-mail address*	*Rationale for excluding the reviewer*
1						
2						
3						
N						

Insert as many lines as needed

Collaborators with conflict of interest

	First Name	*Last Name*	*Organisation*	*Country*	*E-mail address*	*Rationale for excluding the reviewer*
1						
2						
3						
N						

Insert as many lines as needed

9.0 SUGGESTION OF POTENTIAL REVIEWERS (OPTIONAL)

Please indicate up to 4 experts who could review your proposal, including their field expertise. The rules on conflict of interest set forth in 4.3. 'Confidentiality and conflict of interests' in the Call Text apply to these suggestions.

NB: This part will have to be filled in directly in the EPSS.

	First Name	*Last Name*	*Organisation*	*Country*	*E-mail address*	*Link to his/her website*	*Field of expertise*
1							
2							
3							
4							

Please note that these are only suggestions for consideration by the Call Steering Committee (CSC).

10.0 CONFIRMATION OF SUBMISSION & USE OF DATA

Each Participant i.e. Partners, Self-financed Partner(s) and subcontractor(s) must validate its participation to the project by logging into the EPSS.

Each Partner and Self-financed Partner must carefully read the documents. Each Partner is strongly advised to contact its respective National Contact Point(s) for any question or doubt to ensure the compliance with the Funding Organisation funding rules. Some funding organisations may also require the submission of national documents in addition to the international pre-proposal.

Further information is available on the ANNEX B: National contact points and national/regional funding rules of the Call Text.

You will NOT be funded without fully complying with the requirements of each relevant Funding Organisation.

For information: the data provided in this pre-proposal application form will be used to:

- *communicate with you about the call and application process;*

- *allow the JCS and the funding organisations to perform the eligibility check and the national eligibility checks of the applicants, respectively;*
- *evaluate your proposal by the IEC members, Ethics experts (for ethical clearance purpose)*
- *allow the call steering committee to recommend a list of projects for funding*
- *award funding if your application is successful;*
- *allow the independent observer to review the evaluation process*
- *allow the endorsement of your project as Ocean Decade projects (if successfull)*
- *analyse and describe our applicant pool (the name of applicants is anonymised in our analysis);*
- *collect your feedbacks and improve our communications with potential future applicants in future Joint Calls.*

Anonymity and confidentiality will be maintained throughout processing of these data for the production of statistics. Please note that these data will be accessible to Funding Organisations participating to the call, including the ones based in non-EU countries. Protection of personal data and compliance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) (GDPR) is however ensured.

Retention of personal data shall take an end in accordance with the EPSS General Data Protection Policy.