



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

General Information Webinar

2025 Third Joint Transnational Co-Funded Call

*“Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems
Businesses, and Communities to Strengthen the EU Blue Economy’s
Competitiveness”*

06/10/2025

Co-branded by



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EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



Webinar Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker	
14h-14H10	Welcome	Margherita Cappelletto (MUR) Michaela Gigli (European Commission)	
14h10-14h20	Introduction to the Third Co-funded Call	Beverley Ray (ANR)	
14h20-14H45	Presentation of the Priority Areas (scientific content)	Beverley Ray (ANR)	Q&A
14H45-15H10	General information towards applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ General recommendations▶ Theory of change; Open Access and Fair Data▶ Ocean Literacy▶ Projects monitoring	Sylvain Pasquier (ANR) Gabrielle Aubert (JPI Oceans) Abraham Trujillo (AEI)	Q&A
15H10-15H35	Call process, eligibility rules, selection procedure and evaluation criteria	Sylvain Pasquier (ANR)	Q&A
15H35-15H50	Presentation of the submission system (EPSS) and the Partner Tool	Katrin Saar (ETAG)	Q&A
15H50-15H55	Presentation of the Brokerage Event	Sylvain Pasquier (ANR)	Q&A
15H55-16H00	Closure and Next Steps	Beverley Ray (ANR)	Q&A



Webinar guidelines

- ▶ The webinar is recorded and will be available on replay
- ▶ Audio available to Speakers only
- ▶ Q&A sessions throughout the presentation
- ▶ Please ask your questions using the Webex Chat
 - ▶ Your question(s) must be related to the ongoing topic session
 - ▶ If you have question(s) related to your National/Regional Funding Organisation, please consult the ANNEX B and/or contact your national/regional contact points
 - ▶ For any other specific questions about the call, please contact the Joint Call Secretariat.



Welcome

*by Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator,
Ministry of University and Research - MUR, Italy
and*

by Michaela Gigli, European Commission



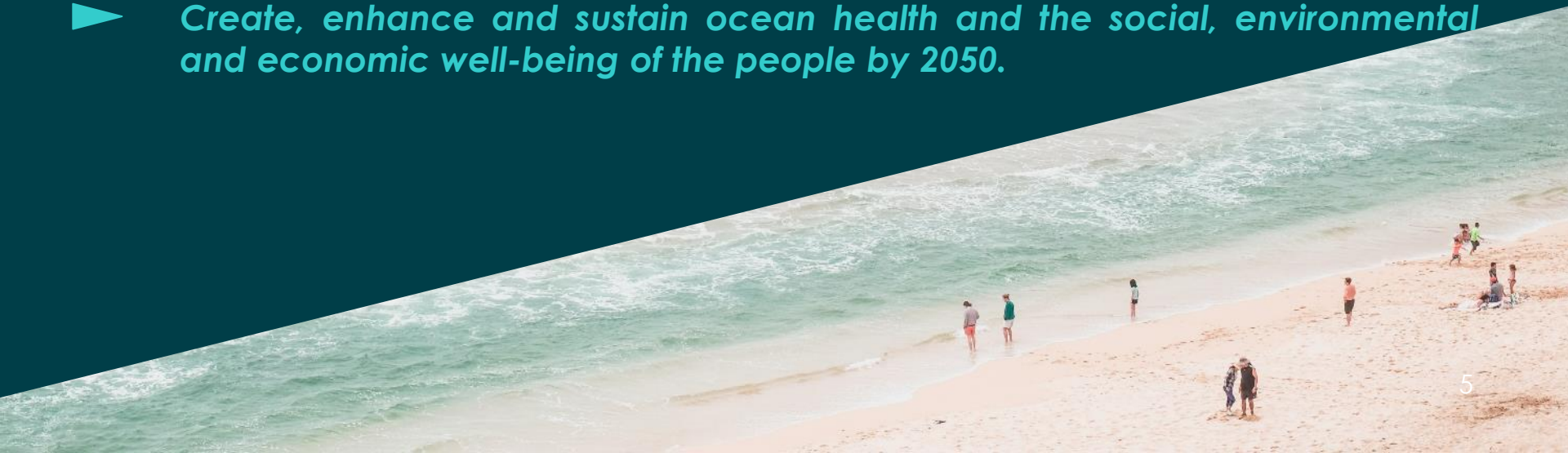
Presentation of the Second Co-funded Call

by Beverley Ray, ANR



The Partnership aims to...

- ▶ *Design, steer and support a just and inclusive transition to a regenerative, resilient and sustainable blue economy.*
- ▶ *Boost the transformation towards a climate neutral, sustainable, productive and competitive blue economy by 2030.*
- ▶ *Create, enhance and sustain ocean health and the social, environmental and economic well-being of the people by 2050.*





Background of the call

A Blue Economy to build a more competitive, sustainable, resilient and secure European Union.

- ▶ The Blue economy enables :
 - ▶ The employment of 4.82 million people (€890.6 billion turnover and 250.7 gross added value.)
 - ▶ Development of off shore wind sector and coastal tourism
- ▶ The Blue economy's growth is impacted by :
 - ▶ Geopolitical context
 - ▶ Environmental disasters and acceleration of climate change
 - ▶ COVID-19 pandemic
 - ▶ Slow innovation and lack of business dynamism
- ▶ The European Ocean Pact allows:
 - ▶ Europe to leverage vast maritime area and coastline to boost innovation through blue technologies, regenerative blue economy, clean energy production and food security.





'The Blue arm of the Green Deal'



- The European Green Deal
- Digital Europe
- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- A Healthy Planet for All
- 2030 Climate target Plan
- European Climate Law
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- Farm to Fork Strategy
- Next Generation EU
- Circular Economy Action Plan
- Eighth Environment Action Programme
- Strategy Framework Directive
- Nature Restoration Regulation
- Common Fisheries Policy



'The Blue arm of the Green Deal'

Connect, build synergies and create complementarities with other EU Partnerships:

- ▶ Animal Health and Welfare,
- ▶ Rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth (Biodiversa+),
- ▶ Clean Energy Transitions (CETP),
- ▶ Driving Urban Transitions (DUT),
- ▶ FutureFoodS,
- ▶ Water Security for the Planet (Water4All),
- ▶ Zero Emission Waterborne Transport (ZEWT).

Other initiatives and programs:

- ▶ JPI Oceans,
- ▶ Restore our Ocean and Waters → Mission 'Lighthouses'.



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 Ocean Decade co-branding of this call will ensure that funded projects are endorsed as Decade Actions and are a part of a highly visible, shared, and global effort that opens up opportunities to create new collaborations across disciplines, geographies and generations, and to establish access to new sources of support.

Priority Areas



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



Transitioning the blue economy sectors, and the development of the coexistence and the marine multi-use infrastructures



Climate-Smart Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level



Blue Bioresources; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and new bio-based products



Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses



Participating Funding Organisations

This third co-funded call aims to support transnational research and innovation projects for 36 months.

28 Countries, 37 PFOs responsible for funding R&I actions in the blue economy combined with the contribution from the European Union.


- ▶ **Member-States:** Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, and Slovakia.
- ▶ **Associated Countries:** Faroe Islands, Georgia, Norway, Montenegro, Tunisia, Türkiye, and Ukraine.
- ▶ **Third country:** Brazil.



Please refer to the [Annex B](#) of the Call Announcement



Call process

- 
- Financial resources from 37 PFOs and co-funding from the EU
 - Two-step submission procedure (pre-proposal and full-proposal)
 - One single International Evaluation Committee (IEC) + independent observer + observer from the Decade Coordination Unit.



STEP 1: pre-proposal assessment

1. Eligibility checks by the Call Steering Committee
2. Pre-proposal evaluation by the IEC and issue of one single ranking list
3. Highest ranking pre-proposals invited to submit to Step 2 base on funding availability.

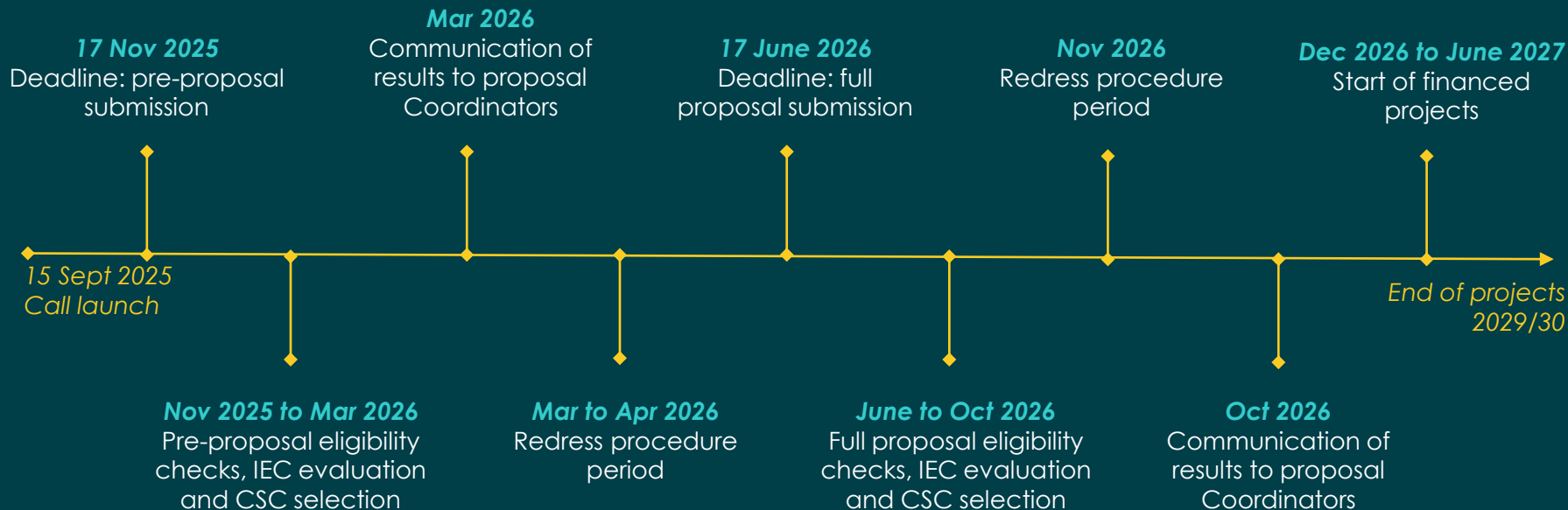


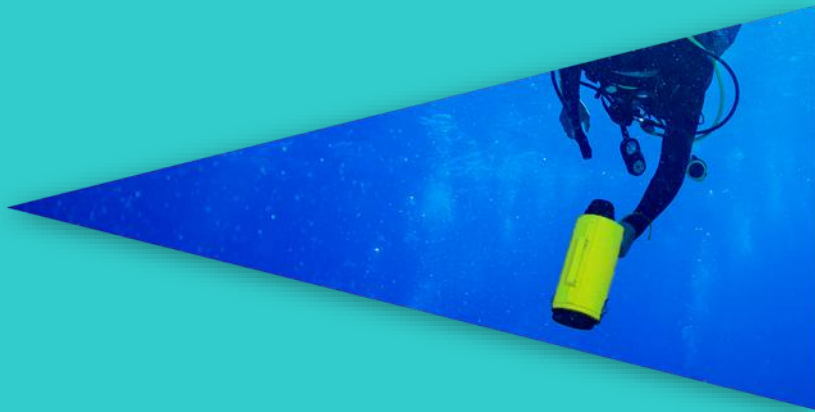
STEP 2: full proposal assessment

1. Eligibility checks by the Call Steering Committee
2. Full proposal evaluation by the IEC and issue of one single ranking list
3. Funding the highest-ranked projects based on funding availability.



Call agenda





Priority Areas (scientific content)

by Beverley Ray, ANR



Third Joint Transnational Call

“Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems Businesses, and Communities to Strengthen the EU Blue Economy’s Competitiveness”



Addressing geographical differences

Proposals are strongly encouraged to cover a broad geographic scale. The proposals are encouraged to consider **a minimum of two European sea basins** and to assess the project proposal's impact on various basins.

RECOMMENDED EU SEA BASINS

the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean

Proposals can target European regional seas such as Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea, Arctic, Barents Sea, Celtic Sea, etc.



Impact driven: addressing industry and stakeholder involvements

- ▶ Projects must be **impact-driven to** contribute to the transformation into a blue economy for a more resilient future and towards carbon neutrality targets, following an **impact pathway** approach including **private partners and relevant stakeholders**

→ **Strong recommendation to engage stakeholders from the quadruple helix (industry, government, research institutes, and the public) in consortia as partners or self-funded partners**, to enhance innovation, policy, and societal relevance and ultimately, to increase the impact of the projects. The modalities of participation of stakeholders are defined in the national/regional eligibility criteria.



5 Priorities areas in relation with the 5 Intervention Areas and the SRIA

- ▶ **Priority area 1:** Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs) at sub-basin scale
- ▶ **Priority area 2:** Transitioning the blue economy sectors, and the development of the coexistence and the marine multi-use infrastructures
- ▶ **Priority area 3:** Climate-Smart Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level
- ▶ **Priority area 4:** Blue Bioresources; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and new bio-based products
- ▶ **Priority area 5:** Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses



PA 1: DTOs at sub-basin scale (1)



"The overall objective is to develop holistic types of DTOs that offer realistic and interactive digital representations based on data-driven models and observations of all relevant processes/systems using a multidisciplinary perspective (e.g. physics, biochemistry, socio-economy environmental ecology) that will provide answers to "what-if" questions in the context of ocean development, sustainable blue economy activities and effective maritime spatial planning under climate, natural and anthropogenic-induced changes."

- ▶ 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: DTOs at sub-basin scale (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.**
- ▶ 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.**
- ▶ 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.



PA 2: Transitioning the blue economy sectors and the development of marine multi-use infrastructures (1)

"The objective of this priority area is to boost technological innovations covering the entire blue economy sector in agreement with a green and digital transition. The development of multi-use infrastructures and activities at sea is one of the solutions which is expected to minimise conflicts of interests for the demand of space, to increase sustainability"

▶ Transition of the Blue Economy:

- ▶ **Pave the way of the new solutions towards a 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 etc. and studies towards standardisation and procurement processes requirements to scale up the innovations to markets level (high TRL).
- ▶ **Investigate Nature-based Solutions 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.
- ▶ **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: Transitioning the blue economy sectors and the development of marine multi-use infrastructures (2)

- ▶ **Improve co-existence and multi-use infrastructures :**
 - ▶ **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.
 - ▶ **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.

Connection with projects from the 'Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters' and Water4All or Biodiversa+ partnerships to avoid duplication - complementary to the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP) focusing on high TRL (Technology Readiness Level) technologies.





PA 3: Climate-Smart Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level (1)



"The overarching goal of this priority area is to support science-based international decisions that consider environmental status, the legacy of human impacts, climate change trends, the development of the blue economy and future scenarios, considering multitude of pressures from the uses of marine space and marine resources. The objective is to promote a new approach by integrating the national and/or local initiatives at the EU regional sea-basins level and the Atlantic Ocean-basin between the different bordering countries. It includes the common evolution of coastal environments for the identification of suitable areas for different uses, minimising conflicts, and maximising sustainable development."

- ▶ **Scientific knowledge, data and innovations for effective management and conservation of complex socioecological systems:**
 - ▶ **To implement integrated economical, ecological, and social ocean health indicators into marine ecosystem management tools, in accordance with MSFD Descriptors .**
 - ▶ **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.
 - ▶ **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: Climate-Smart Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level (2)



Scientific knowledge, data and innovations for effective management and conservation of complex socioecological systems:

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ To develop innovative tools for ocean health assessment and for the implementation of management strategies at highly anthropized land-ocean interface ecosystems, including those affected by large inputs from intensive agriculture, highly urbanized areas or industrial activities.
- ▶ **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: Climate-Smart Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level (3)



- ▶ **Development of innovative Decision Support Tools (DSTs)**
 - ▶ **To explore EMB-MSP-based transboundary scenarios and multi-lateral solutions** (e.g., international protected areas (including connectivity aspects); 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) is mandatory.
 - ▶ **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.



PA 4: Blue Bioresources (1)



“Blue bioresources represent an important component of the broader blue economy, delivering food, feed and bio-based products for Europe and export markets. To achieve sustainability, it is important to consider all stages of the bioresources value chain, from harvesting, farming, production (fisheries, aquaculture) to seafood processing, including, biotechnology products, extracting value from waste streams and developing new types of biomasses (from algae, invasive species), and new products enabling innovative processes..”

▶ Sustainable Fisheries and Harvesting

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **To provide evidence-based support to the application of ecosystem-based management approaches to inshore and small-scale fisheries management.**
- ▶ **To investigate the impacts of climate change and human activities** including pollution and industrial and agricultural runoff on commercial fisheries, fish stocks and species with commercial potential.
- ▶ **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 Regulation on fishing and fishers.



PA 4: Blue Bioresources (2)



- ▶ **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.
 - ▶ **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.
 - ▶ **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.
 - ▶ **To develop more selective and sustainable fishing gears (including material aspects) 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 traceability
-
- ▶ **Sustainability in Aquaculture**
 - ▶ **To develop innovative and eco-sustainable alternative solutions to produce established and new species**, including integrated multitrophic aquaculture, new systems associated with other economic off-shore activities, or closed and land-based systems.



PA 4: Blue Bioresources (3)



- ▶ **Circular blue economy and bio-based products:**
 - ▶ **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.
 - ▶ **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).

Synergies and complementarity with relevant projects under HE Cluster 6, the EU missions 'Restore our Ocean and Waters', other EU partnerships (FuturFoodS, Animal Health and Welfare, Biodiversa+, Water4All), also with projects from the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE-JU) and Waterborne platform, and activities from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), regional fisheries management organisation (e.g. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM))



PA 5: Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses (1)



“the goal of this priority area is to support interdisciplinary research across natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and technology, as well as innovation to enable a just and efficient transition to low-impact, regenerative and sustainable coastal businesses, that increases also the resilience, adaptation and preparedness of the communities in which these businesses are embedded”

▶ **Business/community resilience and sustainable tourism:**

- ▶ **To identify opportunities for sustainable blue tourism products/services** that contribute to preventing negative environmental impact, and support the protection and restoration of degraded marine and coastal habitats or re-vitalise local, traditional culture and heritage.
- ▶ **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: Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses (2)



- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **To sustain social innovation to enable diversification of coastal and marine-based enterprises for delivering new economic opportunities and thriving coastal communities.**
- ▶ **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: Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses (3)



- ▶ **Resilient infrastructures and nature-based solutions:**
 - ▶ **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 poses to safety and security of coastal communities and businesses.
 - ▶ **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.
 - ▶ **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).
 - ▶ **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.

Synergies and complementarity with relevant projects under HE Cluster 6, the EU missions 'Restore our Ocean and Waters', other EU partnerships (Biodiverse+, Water4All, DUT. Connections with Partnerships from Cluster 6 can be envisaged, and the S3 SBEP platform and its partnership.



Q&A Session

***Presentation of the Priority Areas
(scientific content)***



General information towards applicants



1. General recommendations; *by Sylvain Pasquier, ANR*



General recommendations

Projects should/are encouraged to:

- ▶ **Go beyond the state of the art** by providing high-quality R&I and, when appropriate, make use of innovative technologies, approaches, and concepts to do so;
- ▶ **Be scientifically excellent and relevant to policies framed under Blue Economy and consider ongoing research activities funded by other EU Missions, instruments, programmes, or projects.** Cooperation with these activities is of high importance to avoid redundancy, favour complementarity and increase synergies;
- ▶ **Contribute to cross-cutting themes** such as the open data policy, development of capacity-building activities and ocean literacy activities
- ▶ Promote the inclusion of young people in the activities and knowledge transfer
- ▶ Integrate the **gender dimension** of R&I activities
- ▶ Promote equal opportunities for participation of women and men in the research consortia
- ▶ Follow partnership communication guidelines using a common visual identity
- ▶ **Comply with EC ethics self-assessment principles and EU taxonomy**



General recommendations

Projects should/are encouraged to:

- ▶ **Consider geographical balance** and implementation in appropriate geographic settings and according to the objectives of the proposal, including in low- and middle-income countries/regions, and less-performing countries
- ▶ **Self-funded participation** of legal entities from countries (and/or regions) participating in the call, is welcome; Project partners that are not eligible for funding may participate as self-funded if they have their separate source of funding
- ▶ **Every partner in a (pre-)proposal, including a self-funded partner, needs a Participant Identification Code (PIC) from the EC** to be included in the submission. The applicants must check their PIC or ask for the creation of a PIC well in advance of the submission. The same request applies to subcontractors.



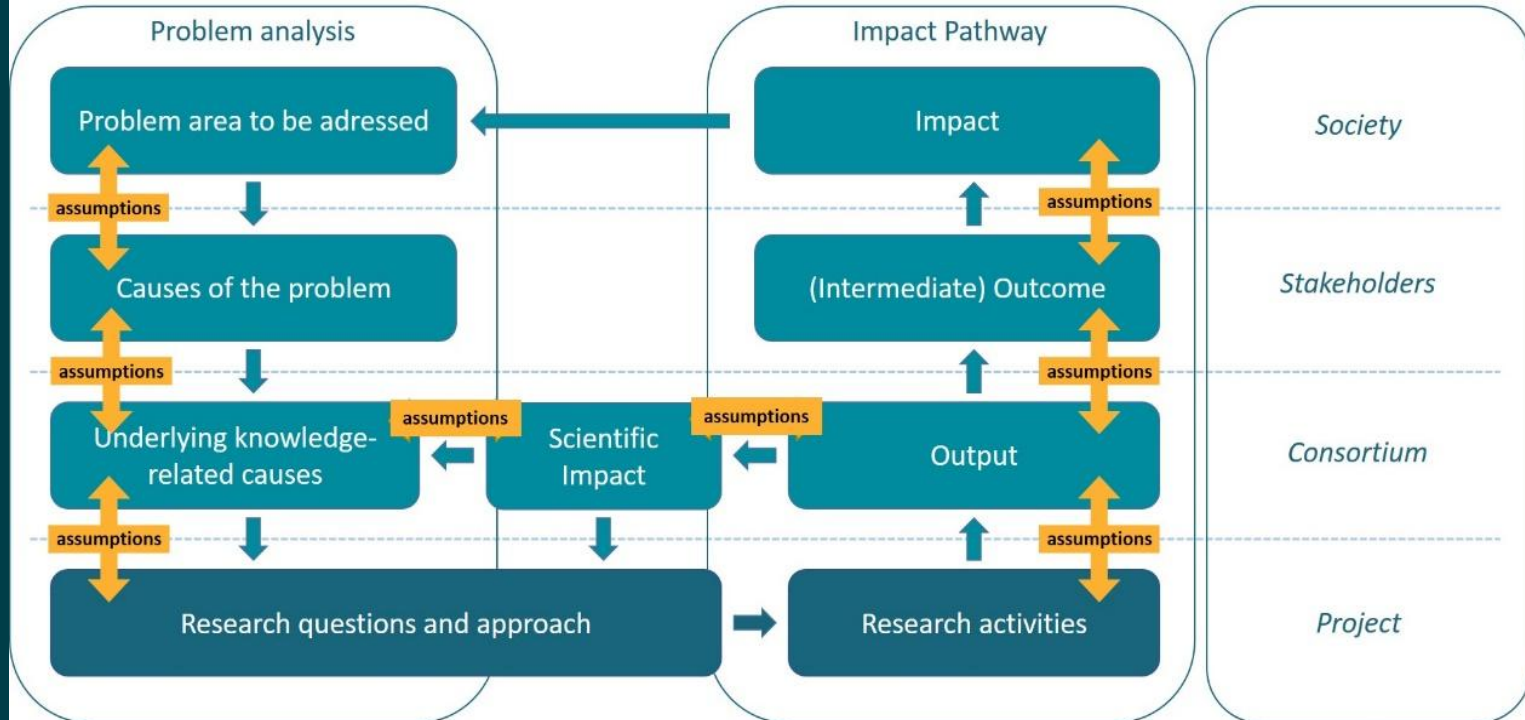
2. Theory of change and Open Access - Fair Data; *by Sylvain Pasquier, ANR*



Annex A - Development of an Impact pathway approach (1)

- ▶ Applicants are requested to include **a plan that describes what impact the research is expected to achieve in the long run** (in the project description): methodology of Theory of Change (ToC) with a related Impact Pathway
- ▶ Describe how the research and innovation process can contribute to societal/economic/environmental change:
 - ▶ The potential of the R&I project for impact: societal, technical, environmental, economic, ...
 - ▶ How relevant stakeholders can be involved in, and/or benefit from the R&I project
 - ▶ Uptake of R&I findings for decision/policy making

Theory of Change





Annex F - Open Science principles

- ▶ SBEP strongly supports Open Science principles including open sharing of research data generated by the funded R&I projects:
 - ▶ in accordance with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable): collection, reuse, analysis, validation, and data management.
 - ▶ considering balanced approach towards openness: “As open as possible, as closed as necessary” - Ex: data sharing constrained by the need to protect commercial potential
- ▶ A Data Management Plan (DMP) is requested from the proposal (in the project description) and to be updated throughout the lifecycle of the project.



Open Access

- ▶ Projects funded have to comply with full and immediate Open Access principles for scientific publications: Use of Open Access journals or publishing platforms, or Open Access Repository
- ▶ Refer to the [Annex F](#) “Open Access and FAIR data” for guidelines:
 - ▶ Set of questions and advice on the writing
 - ▶ Links to further information and documentation



Q&A Session

*Theory of change; Open Access -
Fair Data*



3. **Ocean Literacy**, *by Gabrielle Aubert,* *JPIOceans*



Ocean literacy

[the Partnership's ambitions]

- ▶ Promote **behavioural change** to enable the just and sustainable transformation of Europe's blue economy
- ▶ Generate **interest** in sustainable marine innovation, career and investment options across Europe
- ▶ Target **industry actors** to influence Corporate Social Responsibility for the just transition





Ocean literacy

[opportunities for impact]



- ▶ Integrate ocean literacy in **funded projects** through innovative tools and approaches
- ▶ Integrate **citizen science** in the Partnership's R&I activities
- ▶ Highlight the value of a '**sustainable blue economy literacy**'



Ocean literacy

[wider context]

- ▶ **Partnership:** Work Package including **Ocean literacy**; recognised as a cross-cutting enabler
- ▶ **Europe:** **EU4Ocean** coalition and **Mission** Ocean & Waters
- ▶ **Global:** **UN Ocean Decade** ocean literacy actions



Ocean literacy [in practice]



- ▶ Applicants are strongly encouraged to **integrate ocean literacy and citizen participation activities in their proposals**
- ▶ **Training on Ocean Literacy and Science communication** for co-funded projects
- ▶ **Ocean Literacy Toolkit**: compilation of resources, with increasing links to co-funded projects
- ▶ **Innovative tools**: videos and podcasts featuring projects
- ▶ **Ocean Literacy for Business**: strengthening links



Q&A Session

Ocean Literacy



4. Projects monitoring, *by Abraham Trujillo, AEI*



Monitoring of the selected projects- Call 2025

Abraham Trujillo
Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI) –
Spanish Research State Agency
oceans@aei.gob.es



Projects monitoring

[interaction and networking between projects]

- ▶ **3 occasions** to present and report during the projects' lifetime:

- ▶ Kick-off
- ▶ Mid-term
- ▶ Final-term



- ▶ At mid-term and final-term, **seminars to exchange information** and discuss with the expert reviewers will be organized (one of them could be done online)
- ▶ **Participation of the projects in these seminars is expected and should be covered by the project's budget.**
- ▶ **SBEP will foster interaction and exchange between projects** and with projects funded in other calls (and in other Partnerships!)



Projects monitoring

[written reporting procedure]

- ▶ Reports will be based on **templates with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** to get comparable information from the projects manageable and comparable
- ▶ The **monitoring system** will be very similar to the submission system presented today (**EPSS platform**)
- ▶ **Project Coordinators are responsible for reporting** and must collect information from their consortium partners.





Projects monitoring

[Follow-up Experts Group]

- ▶ A **Follow-up Experts Group** of independent reviewers will be **responsible for the assessment of the project execution** (most of them will be already involved in the proposals' evaluation)
- ▶ Members of the FG **must declare any possible Col** with the allocated projects.
- ▶ The process will compare the initial proposal with the reported information, to see the development of the project towards the objectives, deviations from the plan, etc.
- ▶ **FG members will participate in the seminars' discussions**





Projects monitoring

[important points to keep in mind]

- ▶ Reporting obligations for all partners of the funded projects at national level are **mandatory and different** for each national funding institution.
- ▶ During the project 's duration, changes, delays or unexpected circumstances **must be informed to the follow-up authority** (AEI) to find the most suitable solution for each situation.



Projects monitoring

Follow-up Secretariat: Spanish State Research Agency (AEI)

- ▶ Abraham Trujillo
- ▶ oceans@aei.gob.es



Q&A Session

Project monitoring



Call process, eligibility rules, evaluation criteria and selection procedure

by Sylvain Pasquier, ANR



Call process

Stage 1: Pre-proposal Submission

- **Mandatory Step**
- General and national/regional **eligibility checks**
- **Evaluation** by an International Evaluation Committee (IEC)
 - **3 independent evaluators**
 - **2 evaluation criteria: Excellence and Impact**

Stage 2: Full proposal Submission

- **Invited applicants only**
- General and national/regional **eligibility checks**
- **Evaluation** by an International Evaluation Committee (IEC)
 - **3 independent evaluators**
 - **3 evaluation criteria: Excellence, Impact, Quality and efficiency of implementation**



General Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ **Scope:** (Pre-)proposals must address **one main priority area**.
 - ▶ Not all sub-themes within the priority area must be addressed
- ▶ **Duration:** 36 Months
- ▶ **Requested Budget:** Partners from the same country cannot request more than 60% of the total funding requested by a proposal
- ▶ **(Pre-)proposal must:** be written in English, submitted using the EPSS, be complete, respect pages limits, number/type of attachment files
- ▶ **(Pre-)proposal must** be submitted before the deadline

Do not wait the last minute to submit!



General Eligibility Criteria

▶ Consortium composition:

- Each consortium must be composed of eligible partners from at least **three different countries** participating in the call and requesting financial support from at least three different PFO participating in this call
- The projects must involve at least two independent legal entities from two different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries for this call for (pre-)proposal



General Eligibility Criteria

▶ Consortium composition:

- **Self funded partners are allowed** but they are not counted for the minimum requirement of eligible partners and countries
 - They cannot act as a consortium coordinator
 - They must demonstrate the willingness to self-fund their own activities or show evidence that others partners are willing to fund their activities
 - A letter of intent/commitment must be submitted with the full proposal at stage 2



General Eligibility Criteria

▶ Consortium coordinator

- One entity must act as the consortium coordinator
- The consortium coordinator must be eligible for funding by a funding organisation of this call
- The consortium coordinator has the responsibility for submitting the (pre-)proposal
- The PI of an entity can act as consortium coordinator only in one proposal



National/Regional Eligibility Criteria

National/Regional regulations and National Contact Points → ANNEX B at
(be careful of updates)

Each National / regional Funding Organisation funds its own national / regional Partner

- ▶ The consortium must comply with all the relevant national/regional eligibility rules
- ▶ **Before applying, each and every partner should verify their corresponding national/regional regulations and checked their eligibility with their National contact points (NCPs).** The Consortium Coordinator should verify that all partners of the consortium verified their eligibility.



Pre-proposal - Evaluation/Selection Procedure (1st Stage)

- ▶ Evaluated by **3 independent evaluators** (International Evaluation Committee, IEC)
- ▶ **2 assessment criteria: *Excellence (Threshold: 3/5) and Impact (Threshold: 3/5)***
- ▶ **A ranking list of pre-proposals will be produced** by IEC, including only pre-proposals that meet the minimum threshold
- ▶ Selection of pre-proposal based on **1) ranking list** and **2) funding availability**



Proposal - Evaluation/Selection Procedure (2nd Stage)

- ▶ Evaluated by **3 independent evaluators** (International Evaluation Committee, IEC)
- ▶ **3 assessment criteria: Excellence (Threshold: 3/5), Impact (Threshold: 3/5) and Quality and Efficiency of implementation (Threshold: 3/5)**
- + **threshold on the final score: 10/15**
- ▶ **A ranking list of proposals will be produced** by IEC, including only proposals that meet the minimum thresholds
- ▶ Selection decision: **the CSC will strictly follow the order of the ranking list from the IEC and the funding availability**
- ▶ Official letters on evaluation and selection results will be sent to Consortium coordinators



Evaluation criteria:

Excellence (Stages 1-2)

Threshold 3/5

- ▶ **Fit to the scope:** clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives to the call priority areas
- ▶ **Novelty of research**
- ▶ **Addressing the knowledge gaps**
- ▶ **Are risks properly identified and managed?**
- ▶ **Soundness of the proposed methodology**
 - ▶ including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, **appropriate consideration of the ethical issues** according to the EU "Do no significant harm" principle (DNSH), **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.



Evaluation criteria:

Impact (Stages 1-2)

Threshold 3/5

- ▶ The credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the call text, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions to the project
- ▶ Suitability and quality of the measures to **maximise expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the **dissemination** and **exploitation** plan, including **communication** activities component of ocean literacy
- ▶ **The added value of European transnational cooperation and networking**
- ▶ **The quadruple-helix ambition** (*i.e. stakeholders engagement – societal/industrial impact – link between: industry, government, research institutes, and the public.*)
- ▶ **European Sea basins** (*i.e. at least 2 European sea-basins, impact on various EU sea-basins*)
- ▶ **EU Taxonomy compliance**



Evaluation criteria: *Threshold 3/5*

Quality and efficiency of implementation *(only at Stage 2)*

- ▶ **Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, appropriateness of the effort** assigned to work packages, and the **resources** overall
- ▶ **Capacity and role** of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium brings together the necessary expertise
- ▶ **Appropriateness of the partners and justification of the resources** to be committed (budget, staff, equipment ...)
 - ▶ Including balance of scientific and financial contributions from respective countries' partner



Reminders

- ▶ Please consult the **Call Announcement** and **Annexes** including the National/Regional Regulations and National contact Points (ANNEX B) and the Pre-proposal and full proposal forms (ANNEX D and ANNEX E)
- ▶ (Pre)proposal Submission using the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS)
- ▶ EPSS technical help desk email is epss.sbep@g.etag.ee
- ▶ For question regarding the call (except national/regional rules), contact the Joint Call Secretariat: sbep.call-secretariat@uefiscdi.ro

The JCS does not intend to answer any questions on the scientific content of (pre-) proposals.



Q&A Session

***Call process, eligibility rules and
evaluation criteria and selection process***



16H00-16H15

Presentation of the submission system (EPSS) and the Partner Tool

by Katrin Saar, ETAG

Koosolek kasutajaga Katrin Saar - ETAG

2025-09-26 12:31 UTC

Recorded by

Katrin Saar - ETAG

Organized by

Katrin Saar - ETAG



For technical help
epss.sbep@g.etag.ee



Q&A Session

***Ongoing Topic:
Presentation of the Partner Tool and
the submission system (EPSS)***

▶ SBEP EPSS technical help desk: epss.sbep@g.etag.ee



Presentation of the Brokerage Event (Matchmaking platform) *by the Sylvain Pasquier, ANR*



Brokerage Event – Partnering support



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership



Co-funded by
the European Union

15 September 2025 - 13 November 2025
Belgium

Third Joint
Transnational Co-
Funded Call - SBEP
2025

Register now



Objective: To identify and meet potential partners

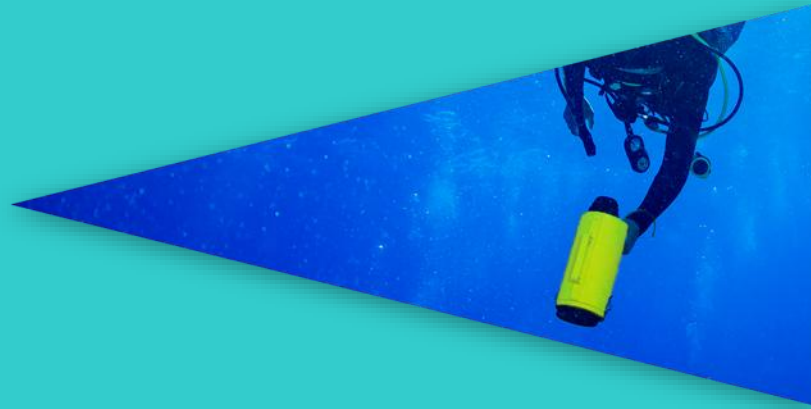
- ▶ **An online event:** use the call specific [b2Match matchmaking platform](#)



Brokerage Event – Partnering support

Objective: To identify and meet potential partners

- ▶ **An online event:** use the call specific b2Match matchmaking platform
 1. Register here: [Home | Third Joint Transnational Co-Funded Call - SBEP 2025](#)
(link also available on the partnership website)
 1. Create a profile
 2. Search for partners and start to interact: screen the online profiles and request meetings
- ▶ **You will be able to meet with potential partners on pre-defined time slots** (5 sessions of 2 hours per week, 20 min meeting)
- ▶ End of event: November 17th (submission deadline)
- ▶ Contact: Joint Call Secretariat, sbep.call-secretariat@uefiscdi.ro



16H25-16H30

Closure and Next Steps

by Beverley Ray, ANR



Closure-Next Steps

- ▶ For any information about the Partnership, please check the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership website: [Homepage | Bluepartnership](#)
- ▶ You can follow the Partnership on the Social media channels: **@BlueEconomyEU** on #Twitter, #Facebook, #Linkedin and #Instagram
- ▶ All call documents available at: [The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's third joint transnational call | Bluepartnership](#)
- ▶ **Pre-proposal submission deadline: 17 NOVEMBER 15H CET**



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

Thank you for your attention
sbep.call-secretariat@uefiscdi.ro

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