



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

BLUECO-TAP

Thematic Annual Programming (TAP)

February 2026 – February 2028

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Final draft – 18/06/2026

WP8 “Funding Synergies and Additional Activities”, Task 8.2 “Alignment of Thematic Annual Programming (TAP)”

Lead: TAP Secretariat, ANR (French National Research Agency)

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V0	18/06/2026	Initial draft

This document is a living document, which may be subject to changes during the BLUECO-TAP implementation. Changes made are listed in this table.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE THEMATIC ANNUAL PROGRAMMING

1. What is SBEP

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) is a Horizon co-funded partnership bringing together 74 partner institutions from 32 countries and the European Commission to pool research and innovation investments, and align national programmes at pan-European scale. More information about the Partnership can be found at: <https://bluepartnership.eu/>.

The core activity of SBEP is the launching of annual transnational joint calls co-funded by the partner institutions and the European Commission, based on the priorities outlined in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). The Intervention Areas are developed according to an annual cycle and drive future calls and activities.

The [2026 Intervention Areas](#) are:

- ▶ Transitioning Blue Economy Sectors
- ▶ Managing Sea-Uses
- ▶ Blue Bioresources
- ▶ Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses

In addition, SBEP provides the platform to develop R&I clusters aimed to promote knowledge-sharing and R&I cooperation, both around thematic areas and at regional level.

2. The Thematic Annual Programming (TAP)

BLUECO-TAP is the Thematic Annual Programming (TAP) of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, running from February 2026 to February 2028. Part of the Partnership additional activities of the Workpackage 8 (*Additional Contributions to the SBEP*), BLUECO-TAP aims to foster synergies and create connections between ongoing national R&I projects selected by the participating Partner Funding Organisations: ANR (France), FORMAS (Sweden), CNR (Italy) and GSRI (Greece).

The TAP is designed as a way to create added-value from existing national R&I projects by bringing them together in a structured network. It creates a light but effective networking framework for projects that address a common theme. The objective, by bringing national R&I projects and researchers together, is to avoid duplication, boost connections, foster the development of common outputs and new collaborations, and contribute to the visibility of the projects' scientific outputs, ensuring they are impactful at European level.

The purpose of the TAP is to create a community around a specific topic in order to:

- ▶ Provide a space for exchange, sharing of results, experiences and good practices between projects funded by national schemes,
- ▶ Support the capitalization of results and make results accessible beyond the individual projects,
- ▶ Produce relevant scientific and policy-oriented documents such as knowledge syntheses, recommendations, or joint high impact scientific publications,
- ▶ Promote mobility and capacity building,

- ▶ Identify opportunities for collaborative research projects and common responses to calls for proposals.
- ▶ Create links and network with all SBEP stakeholders, including the co-funded R&I projects and SBEP partners.

During the two years of the TAP, the activities will be organized around physical and online networking meetings. BLUECO-TAP projects will work together to:

- ▶ Share results, experiences and good practices,
- ▶ Develop joint outputs defined in this document,
- ▶ Identify research gaps and needs for future calls.

BLUECO-TAP projects address a common general theme:

“Building resilience of coastal and marine socio-ecosystems under multiple pressures to support a sustainable blue economy in a changing world”

This theme is designed to cover transnational cooperation of national projects in the five EU sea-basins (Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, North Sea, Black Sea and the Atlantic Ocean). This theme derives from the SBEP Intervention Areas described in the [Partnership Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#), especially “Managing sea-uses”, “Resilient coastal communities and businesses” and Digital Twins of the Ocean as a cross-cutting theme.

The TAP action will cover projects that aim to:

- ▶ Develop innovative tools/methods for marine and coastal socio-ecosystem health assessment and for effective implementation of management and conservation planning strategies; that include new and innovative, e.g. monitoring and observation systems and platforms, digital technologies, artificial intelligence and machine learning, modelling, climate governance,
- ▶ Gain a better understanding of the functioning, dynamics and resilience of marine and coastal socio-ecosystems to multi-scale stressors, including (local)human activities/pressures and extreme weather events attributed to climate change,
- ▶ Investigate, test and implement innovative adaptation, mitigation, protection and restoration strategies to support resilience, reverse biodiversity loss and ecosystem-based management for marine and coastal socio-ecosystems increasingly pressured by multiple stressors and climate change.

This document outlines the Implementation Plan for the BLUECO-TAP, drafted by the Secretariat based on the first TAP meetings following the kick-off. This Implementation Plan is to be used as way to frame the BLUECO-TAP activities but is not binding. Indeed, the document is subject to changes during the implementation of the TAP (for example, if a new activity is identified).

3. BLUECO-TAP Projects

BLUECO-TAP projects have been directly selected by their country’s participating Partner Funding Organization, based on the topic and R&I activities covered in the TAP. Participating projects are listed in the table below.

Project Title and Acronym	Main TAP Point of contact	Duration	Country	Funding Organisation
PROCOAST A probability-based tool for understanding and planning for coastal flooding	Beatrice Nordlöf, Research Institute of Sweden (RISE)	01/12/2025 – 31/11/2027	Sweden	FORMAS
EDIPO GEnetic Diversity and connectivity of the POsidonia oceanica along the Calabria Coast	Serena Savoca, University of Messina	01/03/2024 – 15/01/2026	Italy	CNR
EfxINNOs Establishing and Operating an Innovative Marine Technology Transfer Network for Enhancing the Transition to a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Black Sea Basin	Georgios Sylaios, Demokritus University of Thrace	01/09/2024 – 28/02/2027	Greece	GSRI
FUTURE-Obs Augmented observatory for coastal socio-ecosystems	Eric Thiébaud, Sorbonne Université	1/10/2022 – 30/09/2028	France	ANR
MEDIATION A robust and efficient digital twin of the ocean	Romarc Verney, IFREMER	01/09/2022 – 31/08/2028	France	ANR
TECNA-SAPR Application of SAPR Technology (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System) integrated with photogrammetric modeling in a GIS environment for the monitoring of the Coastal Dune habitat with Juniperus SPP	Luciana Muscogiuri	01/05/2025 – 30/11/2025	Italy	CNR

4. Governance

The TAP is designed as a light networking instrument with a dedicated governance framework, consisting of:

- The TAP Steering Committee** – decision-making body of the TAP, composed of the participating Partner Funding Organizations representatives (ANR, FORMAS, CNR, GSRI). The Steering Committee selected the national projects member of the TAP. It also oversees and supports the TAP implementation, supporting of the Secretariat. The Steering Committee meets every 6 months (online meeting).
- The TAP Secretariat (led by the ANR)** – coordinates the implementation, by organizing regular meetings, providing the platform to exchange information. The Secretariat is the primary contact point of the TAP projects. The Secretariat is tasked to deliver regular updates of

activities to the TAP Steering Committee and the Partnership Executive Committee. At the end of the TAP, the Secretariat will submit a final report outlining the outcomes of the action.

- ▶ **TAP Facilitator** – part of the Secretariat, the Facilitator provides input for brokerage events, identifying synergies among the projects. The Facilitator is **Claire Hellio (ANR)**.
- ▶ **TAP Chairpersons** – Elected during the kick-off meeting, the chairpersons support the Secretariat and Facilitator, when necessary, to prepare and moderate the discussions during the TAP implementation phase. During the kick-off, the projects decided to have two co-Chairs for the BLUECO-TAP: **Beatrice Nordlöf (PROCOAST, Sweden)** and **Serena Savoca (EDIPO, Italy)**.

5. Meeting frequency

During the two years of implementation (February 2026 – February 2028), BLUECO-TAP Members will meet for different occasions:

- ▶ **The kick-off meeting**: held on February 10th, 2026, the kick-off meeting was organized back-to-back to the SBEP Week. The kick-off was held in a hybrid format and aimed to open the TAP, enable the projects to introduce themselves to the group, and start identifying synergies.
- ▶ **Regular online update meetings**: online update meetings are to be held every 2 months and focus on the update of activities and networking.
- ▶ **TAP Mid-term meeting (end of 2026/early 2027)**: This in-person meeting will be focused on wrapping up the first year of implementation, and discuss the activities for the 2nd year of the TAP.
- ▶ **TAP final meeting (last semester of the implementation plan, back-to-back with a SBEP event)**: the final event of the BLUECO-TAP will focus on delivering the TAP outcomes to a wider audience – starting with the SBEP Community.

II. IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

This part outlines the BLUECO-TAP planned activities and results from exchanges between the projects, especially during the first quarter of the TAP. This part was designed collaboratively with the BLUECO-TAP projects to ensure the networking activities are tailored to their specific needs.

As a result of the kick-off meeting held on February 10th in Bucharest, in hybrid format (see milestones, p.10), working themes and activities were tentatively identified during several brainstorming sessions, and developed in greater detail in the first months of implementation. The table on the next page is the result of this discussion.

1. Synergies table - identification of working themes and associated networking activities

As a result of the kick-off meeting and the two first BLUECO-TAP update meetings, the projects identified together three common working areas, with associated activities listed in the table below. This table may be subject to changes during the implementation of the TAP, if projects see other relevant connections.

Working area considered	Working area 1: Data management (i.e. data collection, analysis, reuse and interoperability)	Working area 2: Modelling strategies (i.e. simulation products, sea-level probabilities)	Working area 3: Environmental/Ecological monitoring (i.e. real-time monitoring platforms, underwater technologies, robotics)
Projects involved in this working area	MEDIATION, FUTURE-OBS, EfxINNOs, TECNA-RPAS, EDIPO, PROCOAST	MEDIATION, EfxINNOs, TECNA-RPAS, PROCOAST	FUTURE-OBS, EfxINNOs, TECNA-RPAS, EDIPO
Networking activities identified	• Information sharing • Exchanging on how to improve FAIR principles (sharing expertise, improve dissemination of data developed with new technologies through a webinar) • Exchanging on the working flow for making available data produced by new technology (i.e. genomic data) • Data reuse and interoperability • Closer collaboration with EMODnet (through the informative workshop co-organised by SBEP and EMODnet in October 2026)	• Exchange on internal methods • Knowledge sharing • Open webinar	• Develop collaborations with other European projects • Compare available data (if possible, TBC)

2. Identified networking activities

BLUECO-TAP projects agreed to aim for at least one major networking activity per year. Based on the information above, the activities can be summarized as follows, with a tentative timeline:

First year of implementation (2026-2027)	Second year of implementation (2027-2028)
<i>Focus: Getting to know each other and work on the synergies</i>	<i>Focus: Joint networking activities and outcomes</i>
▶ Data and information sharing, dissemination of projects' results to the others	▶ Data and information sharing ▶ Thematic webinars and dissemination to SBEP Partners, and other quadruple-helix stakeholders.

3. Inclusion of other projects in the BLUECO-TAP

Additional projects (either projects funded by a funding organization not member of the TAP, national projects that receive another type of funding) may be included in the BLUECO-TAP, providing that the following conditions are met:

- ▶ The project is ongoing and receives national funding
- ▶ It addresses the TAP general topic: "Building resilience of coastal and marine socio-ecosystems under multiple pressures to support a sustainable Blue Economy in a changing world"
- ▶ Synergies can be drawn with the other TAP projects (for example, if the project addresses one of the areas of work identified earlier in the document)

The inclusion proposal will be discussed among BLUECO-TAP Members, and then sent to the Steering Committee its final approval.

III. IMPLEMENTATION MILESTONES AND KPIs

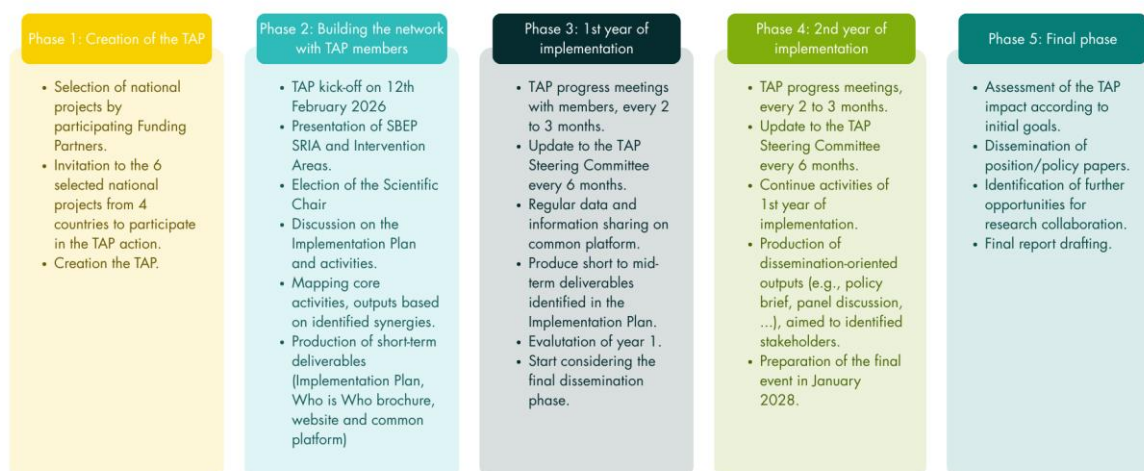
1. Implementation phases

The following implementation phases were presented during the kick-off meeting:



PHASES OF THE SBEP TAP

THE FIVE PHASES OF THE TAP ACTION



2. Milestones and KPIs

Although the TAP is a relatively light instrument and primarily focused on networking, indicative milestones and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been identified to frame the action and its objectives, and were discussed and validated with BLUECO-TAP members during the kick-off meeting.

A. Milestones

- ▶ May/June 2026: Who is who brochure
- ▶ June 2026: Implementation Plan, final draft
- ▶ By the end of 2026: At least 1 networking activity
- ▶ December 2026 – January 2027: Portfolio physical midterm meeting
- ▶ By the end of 2027: At least 1 networking activity
- ▶ Early 2028: Final TAP workshop, back-to-back with a SBEP event (to showcase the TAP outcomes)

B. KPIs

The following list of KPIs was identified by the Secretariat and discussed with the BLUECO-TAP Members. These KPIs are declarative, and their completion will therefore be assessed through short surveys in mid-term (end of 2026) and end of implementation (end of 2027/early 2028).

KPI	Description	Target in the 2 years of action
Engagement in the TAP activities (engagement rate)	% of projects who took part in at least 2 joint activities of the TAP	At least 70%
Number of identified connections between TAP projects	Number of connections between projects during the action.	At least 1 or 2 connections found per project
Shared data and resources	Number of projects that managed to share data and resources (e.g. data, tools, methodology, protocols, best practices) with other projects in the TAP.	At least 50%
Number of webinars/events (co-) organized	Number of events organized or co-organized within the framework of the action.	At least 1 each year
Common outputs and productions	Number of documents jointly produced, with at least 2 projects involved (policy brief, opinion paper, scientific articles, ...).	At least 1 joint output
Dissemination of common results, within and outside the SBEP.	Dissemination through the TAP social media and the SBEP newsletter.	At least 2 posts/articles per year
Global satisfaction	% of projects declaring that the TAP action was useful for their project.	100%
Leverage effect of the action	Follow-up project / initiative by TAP members emerging from the action	No target, only qualitative

IV. COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

This part of the document addresses the internal and external communication, and dissemination. One of the objectives of the TAP action is to provide national projects with a dedicated platform to boost networking and increase the projects' visibility. This communication and dissemination strategy targets different channels: the internal communication within the BLUECO-TAP members, the promotion of the BLUECO-TAP activities and connectivity with the SBEP community, and dissemination to external quadruple-helix stakeholders (academia, industry, governments, and civil society).

This communication and dissemination plan may be subject to modifications during the TAP implementation.

1. Internal Communication

In order to simplify information exchange and data sharing – i.e. data extracted from the BLUECO-TAP projects' deliverables, for instance – a dedicated Sharepoint was created. Among the different functionalities, the projects are given access to a dedicated chat to exchange information, as well as dedicated folders where they can share key documentation and data. On this platform, projects are also invited to share relevant information about future events.

The regular update meetings, held every 2 months, is also seen as a key communication channel. During these meetings, BLUECO-TAP projects are given the opportunity to share their results, discuss common thematics, and address future opportunities. These regular update meetings are also the occasion for the Secretariat to update the member projects about the ongoing activities in the

Partnership. During these meetings, keynotes will be scheduled to launch the discussion of the day or open new perspectives for exchange.

In addition to the regular meetings, projects are encouraged to do bilateral exchanges, which may be facilitated by the TAP Secretariat if necessary.

Projects are encouraged to regularly share key news or information to the other BLUECO-TAP projects, for example by email or through the Sharepoint.

2. Communication with the SBEP Community

As one key objective of the TAP is to provide national projects with the opportunity to expand their network and increase their visibility at the European level, one of the primary targets of the communication activities is the SBEP community.

Therefore, smooth communication between the BLUECO-TAP members and the whole SBEP community will be facilitated by the Secretariat, through different channels:

- ▶ **Regular updates through the SBEP governing meetings:** The Secretariat will regularly communicate about the key activities of the TAP during the Partnership governing meetings (ExComm, General Assembly, Steering Committee), when relevant. The objective is to bring awareness of the initiative and its outcomes through the community.
- ▶ **Regular contributions to the SBEP newsletter:** the portfolio Secretariat will include key updates about the TAP activities in this format, circulated every trimester approximately.
- ▶ **Bilateral contact with other relevant SBEP projects:** The Secretariat will create links with other SBEP co-funded projects, when relevant. Other SBEP projects, for example, will be invited to join the BLUECO-TAP open webinars and may be invited to present their results during the BLUECO-TAP update meetings.

3. External Communication

In order to support the visibility of the portfolio projects, the Secretariat will create dedicated communication platforms, using the SBEP website and social media. In addition, measures are proposed to disseminate the results of the BLUECO-TAP projects to other external stakeholders, including quadruple-helix stakeholders (academia, governments, industry and civil society).

A. TAP webpage and social media

Regular updates and major events concerning the BLUECO-TAP activities and projects will be communicated on two main channels: The Partnership website, and the BLUECO-TAP LinkedIn page. These two communication channels are seen as complementary.

The webpage on the Partnership website will include key information about the initiative and a detailed description of the scope of action. Key documentation (e.g. the Implementation Plan, the

Who-is-Who Brochure, etc.) will be uploaded. The page can be accessed via this link: [BLUECO TAP Action \[2026-2028\] | Bluepartnership](#).

The BLUECO-TAP LinkedIn ([link](#)) is seen as a complementary communication platform, where projects can also share information to the others. The projects' activities will be shared via this page for more visibility.

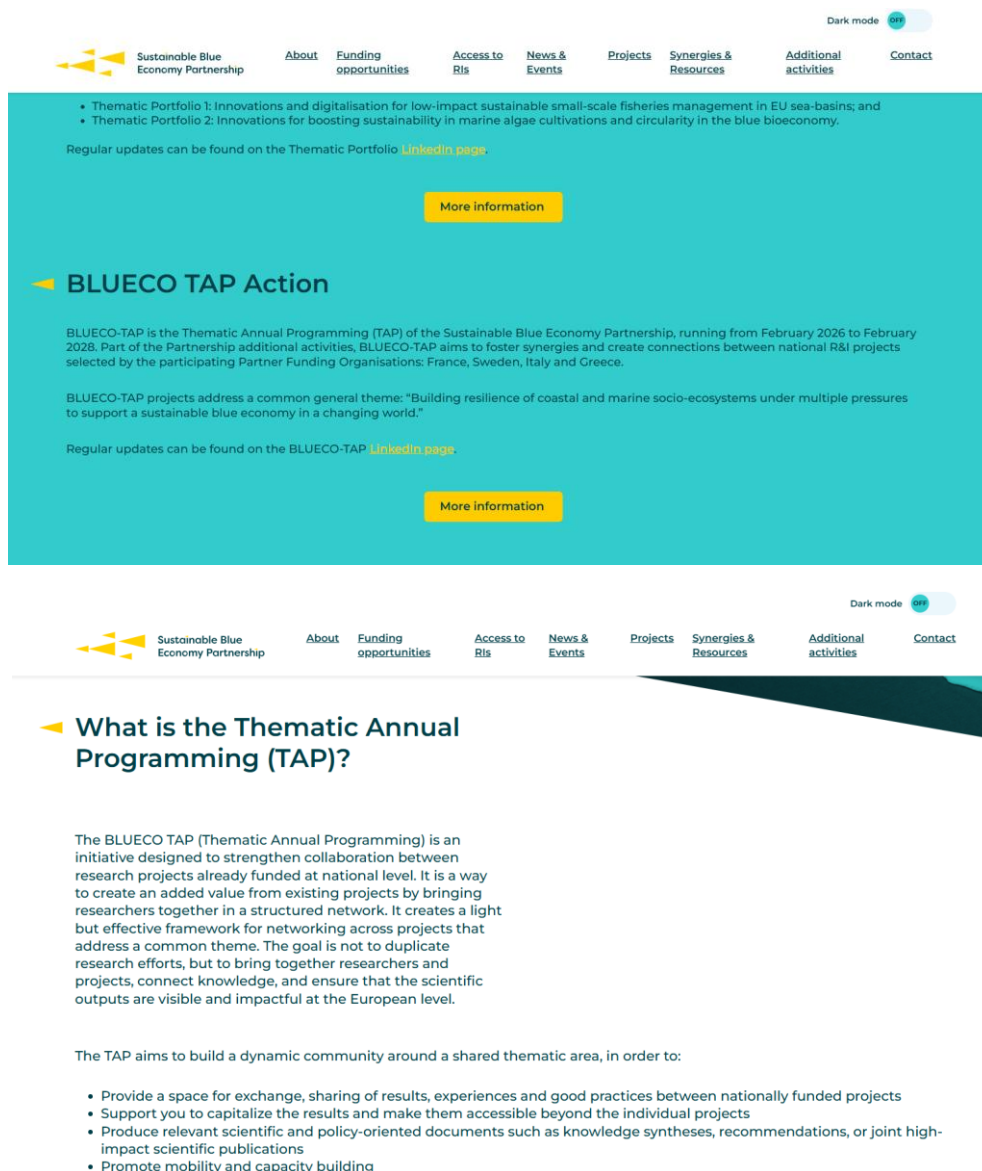


Fig. 1: Screenshots of the BLUECO-TAP webpage

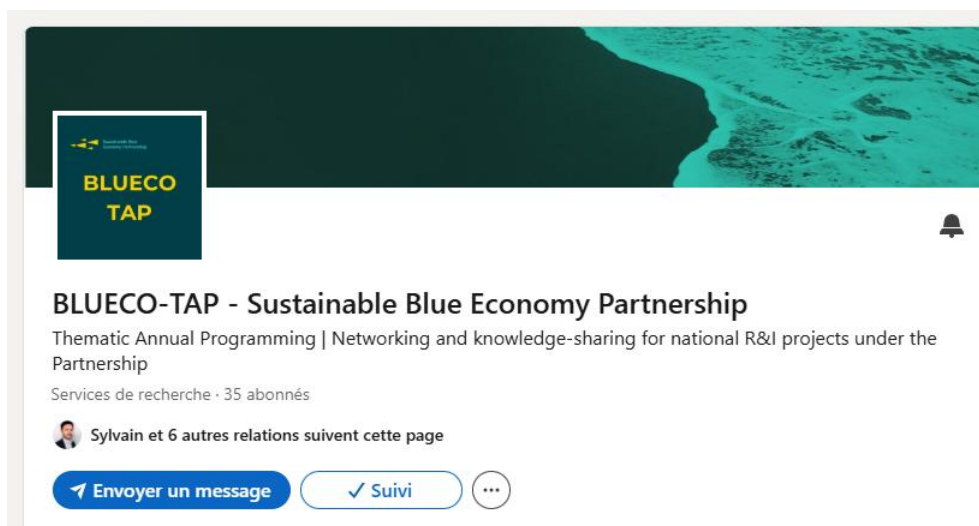


Fig. 2: Screenshot of the BLUECO-TAP LinkedIn page

B. Who-is-Who Brochure

The “Who-is-Who” brochure is the first dissemination activity of the TAP. It aims to introduce each project with a public-oriented approach. The brochure will be developed in the first months of implementation, based on detailed descriptions provided by each project.



Fig. 3: Screenshots of the “Who-is-Who” Brochure

C. Communication and dissemination to external stakeholders

Throughout its implementation, the BLUECO-TAP will seek to disseminate its activities, targeting relevant quadruple-helix stakeholders (researchers, academia, national, EU, and international institutions, industry).

To this aim, the Secretariat will support the connectivity of the portfolio with other initiatives that are relevant to the BLUECO-TAP. Connections will be made through participation to the regular meetings as keynote.

The connection with other stakeholders, from the public and private sectors, will be encouraged by the TAP Secretariat through the different networking activities organized during the portfolio. This includes inviting these stakeholders to the BLUECO-TAP open events, or drawing connections during dedicated meetings, for example.