

ANNEX G – CO-BRANDING UN OCEAN DECADE

Aligning with the previous calls, this fourth SBEP R&I call is co-branded as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (also called the Ocean Decade), under the coordination of the UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO), with the aim that the selected funded projects are endorsed as “Ocean Decade projects”. The Ocean Decade is calling for a transformation in the generation and use of ocean research. To reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health, the Ocean Decade strives for an increased understanding and sustainable management of the ocean, seas, and coasts. To that effect, it provides a convening framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to co-design and co-deliver the scientific knowledge and the partnerships needed to accelerate advances in ocean science. The Ocean Decade has a focus on inclusive and transformative science and aims to ensure that no one is left behind.

The development of the knowledge and solutions needed to underpin a transition to a sustainable ocean economy is one of ten Ocean Decade Challenges that the Decade aims to achieve by 2030. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is co-branding this call as a means of stimulating new initiatives in co-designed and co-delivered knowledge and solutions for a sustainable ocean economy as part of the Ocean Decade Action Framework.

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

Evaluation of applications to this call will involve, as observer(s), representative(s) of the Decade Coordination Unit that is housed within IOC/UNESCO, the UN agency leading implementation of the Decade. The involvement of the DCU representative(s) will allow to estimate if the selected research projects align with the endorsement criteria for Decade Actions.

Proponents of endorsed Decade Actions will be able to use the Ocean Decade branding in their communications and awareness-raising activities in accordance with Decade Brand Guidelines keeping in mind that the beneficiaries must respect the obligation to put the EU emblem and the other logos of the national funding agencies which are funding the project. Furthermore, proponents of the successful proposals will be invited to become members of the Ocean Decade Network. DCU will take care during the evaluation process to evaluate and attribute the endorsement as UN Ocean Decade Actions. Projects proposed for funding should contribute to the following endorsement criteria of the UN Ocean Decade which are shared with the objectives of the EU SBEP Initiative:

- *Contribute to one or more Decade Challenges and one or more Decade objectives;*
- *Accelerate the generation or use of knowledge and understanding of the ocean, with a specific focus on knowledge that will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and complementary policy frameworks and initiatives;*
- *Are co-designed and/or co-delivered by knowledge generators and users, and thus facilitating the uptake of science and ocean knowledge for policy, decision-making, management and/or innovation;*
- *Ensure that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner;*
- *Strengthen existing or creates new partnerships across nations and/or between diverse ocean actors, including users of ocean science;*
- *Overcome barriers to diversity and equity, including gender, generational and geographic diversity;*
- *Collaborate with and engage local and indigenous knowledge holders.*

Further information on the Ocean Decade and the endorsement process can be found here: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377082.locale=en>

All endorsed projects under the Ocean Decade are asked to report on their progress to demonstrate impact, foster accountability, and drive adaptive management. By systematically tracking progress the reporting helps identify gaps, inform strategic priorities, and mobilize resources ensuring that the Decade remains responsive to emerging needs and continues to drive transformative change in ocean science and sustainability. The reporting is done once a year from January to April/May and is responsibility of the focal points of Decade Actions.