



EUROPEAN UNION



# 1<sup>st</sup> Blue Parks Workshop

## 6 December 2024

European Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030'

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## European Missions: a new approach to address major challenges

- European Missions are a new way to bring innovative solutions to some of our greatest challenges: **the restoration of our ocean and waters is one of them!**
- They have ambitious goals and will deliver concrete results by 2030: **Mission ocean and waters has 3 main policy objectives and 2 enablers**
- Missions will operate as a portfolio of actions – such as R&I projects, policy/legislative initiatives, citizen engagement, finance and investments: **joining forces around Mission ocean and waters objectives is crucial!**

**“There is no green without blue!”**



## Missions “Restore our ocean and waters”: Main features

- Stemming from Horizon Europe → **a new way of organising research and innovation around big themes and impact-driven actions**
  - ✓ Mission work programme , Calls for proposals, HE instruments
- Going beyond HE – **a federating initiative aiming at demonstrating the technical, economic and/or societal viability of innovative solutions** in a (near to) operational environment and supporting their upscale and replication
  - ✓ Societal buy-in
  - ✓ Bringing in funds from outside HE (e.g.: regional funds, EMFAF,...)
  - ✓ Synergies with other programmes
- **Cooperation and complementarities with the Zero Emission Waterborne Transport and the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnerships is crucial to support the transition towards healthy oceans and waters!**



# Missions “Restore our ocean and waters”: Policy objectives

## Great progress so far!

- Clear **buy-in** expressed at EU and international level, by MSs/ACs and large variety of stakeholders
- **4 lighthouses** rolled-up to test and demonstrate new solutions, for the green/blue and digital transition
- **Mission Charter** launched with > 500 actions already submitted by a large variety of stakeholders
- **100 associated regions** being mobilised to accelerate the transition and leave no one behind
- **Communities** of actors (regions, cities, islands, ports, fishing... ) being identified and supported
- **40 projects** funded in 2021 and 2022 and 85 new proposals under evaluation (WP 2023);
- **Synergies** with e.g. EMFAF, Life, Interreg, RRF, ERDF, EIB:
- Hundreds of **communication and promotional activities** all across Europe and strong citizen engagement
- **Mission Implementation Platform** in place



Protect & restore ecosystems and biodiversity



Prevent & eliminate pollution



Make Blue Economy carbon neutral and circular

**Digital ocean and water knowledge system : Digital Twin Ocean**  
**Public mobilization & engagement**

- Protect at least 30% and strictly protect 10% EU's sea areas
- Restore 25.000 km free flowing rivers
- Marine nature restoration targets (incl. degraded seabeds, coastal ecosystems)

- Reduce by at least 50% plastic litter
- Reduce by at least 30% microplastics
- Reduce by at least 50% nutrient losses, chemical pesticides

- Net zero maritime emissions
- Zero carbon aquaculture,
- Low carbon multipurpose use of marine space



## The Blue Parks Initiative under mission ocean and waters: How is it implemented?

- Blue Parks: a recurrent topic in the Mission work programmes for R&I projects to support the establishment of MPAs;
- The setting up of the **Blue Parks community**: networking and exchange of good practices, knowledge and experiences;
- The **Mission Charter**: a key means to renew your commitment to protect and restore our ocean and to showcase your initiatives and actions;
- The concept of '**associated regions**' implemented by several Mission funded projects: to support local/regional authorities to up-take and replicate suitable solutions for the protection/restoration of our seas;
- The **Blue Parks workshops**: to team up to push forward progress in marine protection and restoration in the EU sea-basins and enhance cooperation



## Mission work programme 2021-2022-2023 and 2024: a recurrent topic



- ✓ WP 2021: **European Blue Parks** – EUR 17million EUR, 2 projects funded
- ✓ WP 2022: **Solutions for the protection and restoration of degraded coastal and marine habitats** - EUR 17million EUR, 2 projects funded
- ✓ WP 2023: **Restoration and protection of marine habitats** - EUR 8.8 million EUR – Evaluation ongoing – 11 proposals received
- ✓ WP 2024: **in preparation** – Blue Parks topic confirmed (adoption expected beginning 2024)



## The concept of Associated regions in the Mission work programme: Why associated regions?

- Impact-driven approach of the Mission and the nature of Innovation Actions supporting:
  - Concrete innovative solutions
  - Localised demonstrators/demonstration activities
- Leave no region behind
- Showcase the feasibility, replicability and scale up of the solutions developed and demonstrated within the projects **in other locations**





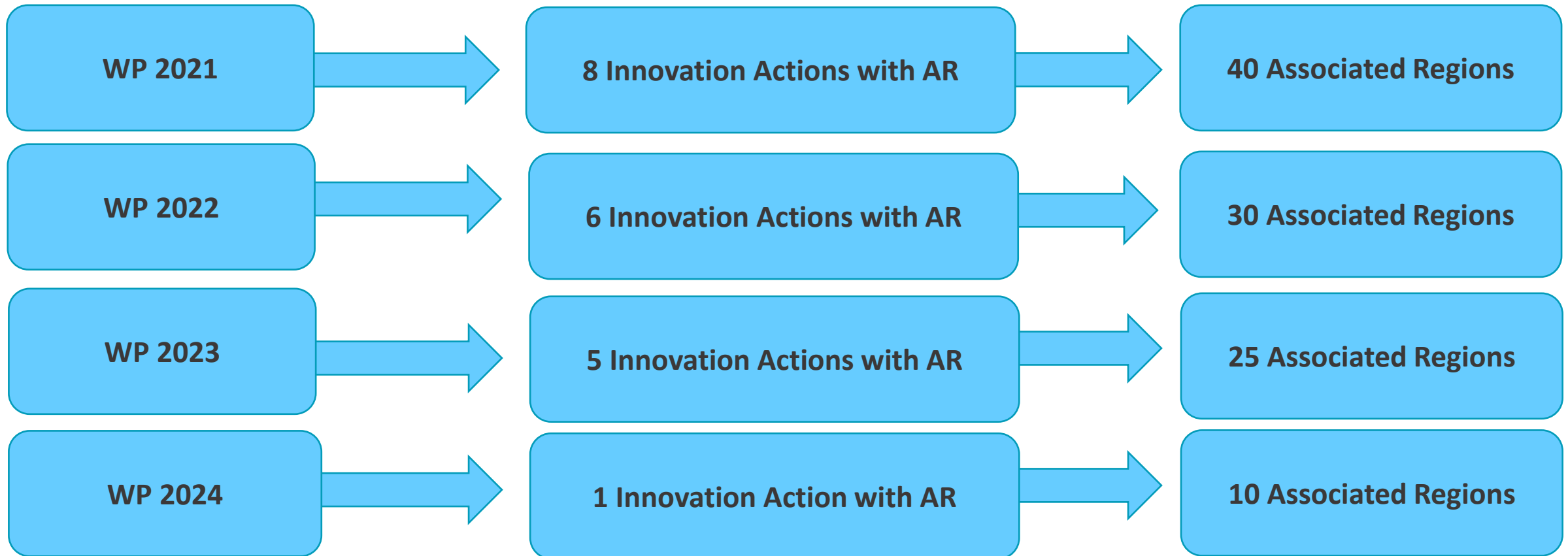
## The concept of Associated regions in the Mission work programme: How do associated regions work ?

- **Calls for Associated regions** organised by relevant projects, with an evaluation based on transparent and fair procedures (Publication in the Funding and Tenders Portal)
- **Financial support to third parties:**
  - may only be awarded to local and/or regional authorities from an associated region.
  - the maximum amount to be granted to each associated region is EUR 100,000
- Projects should continuously share their outcomes and knowledge with the ‘associated regions’ and provide them with technical assistance to build capacity and to implement solutions in their territory that contribute to achieving the Mission objectives.





# The concept of Associated regions in the Mission work programme: How many associated regions do we expect ?



So far, 3 Innovation Actions (from WP 2021) have closed their calls (evaluations ongoing), one is currently open, one is to be launched in November and the remaining 3 to be launched early next year.

Mission Projects	Call for Associated regions	Scope of the projects	Status
DANUBE4All	Closed July 2023	Danube river basin – restoration of fresh and transitional water ecosystems	Under validation
CLIMAREST	Closed 18 September 2023	A&A basin - restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems and increased climate resilience	Under validation
A-AAGORA	Closed 24 September 2023	A&A basin - restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems and increased climate resilience	Under validation
REMEDIES	Closing 15 November 2023	MED basin - actions to prevent, minimise and remediate litter and plastic pollution	
OLAMUR	To be launched in November 2023	BaNoS basins - Low impact marine aquaculture and multi-purpose use of marine space	
SEACLEAR 2.0	To be launched in February 2024	MED basin - actions to prevent, minimise and remediate litter and plastic pollution	
INSPIRE	Planned for January 2024	Prevent and eliminate litter, plastics and microplastics: waste-free European rivers	
DaWetRest	Planned for January 2024	Danube river basin – Protection and restoration of wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands and salt marshes and their biodiversity	
DALIA	To be launched in June 2024	Danube river basin – restoration of fresh and transitional water ecosystems	
Restore4Life	Planned for May 2025	Danube river basin – Protection and restoration of wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands and salt marshes and their biodiversity	
RHE-Mediation	Planned for May 2025	MED basin - actions to prevent, minimise and remediate litter and plastic pollution	
ULTFARMS	Date tbc	BaNoS basins - Low impact marine aquaculture and multi-purpose use of marine space	
iMERMAID	Date tbc	MED basin - actions to prevent, minimise and remediate litter and plastic pollution	
UPSTREAM	Date tbc	Prevent and eliminate litter, plastics and microplastics: waste-free European rivers	



# Mission Charter:

## Our joint commitment to restore our ocean and waters



Join forces for a **transformational change** for a healthy ocean and waters



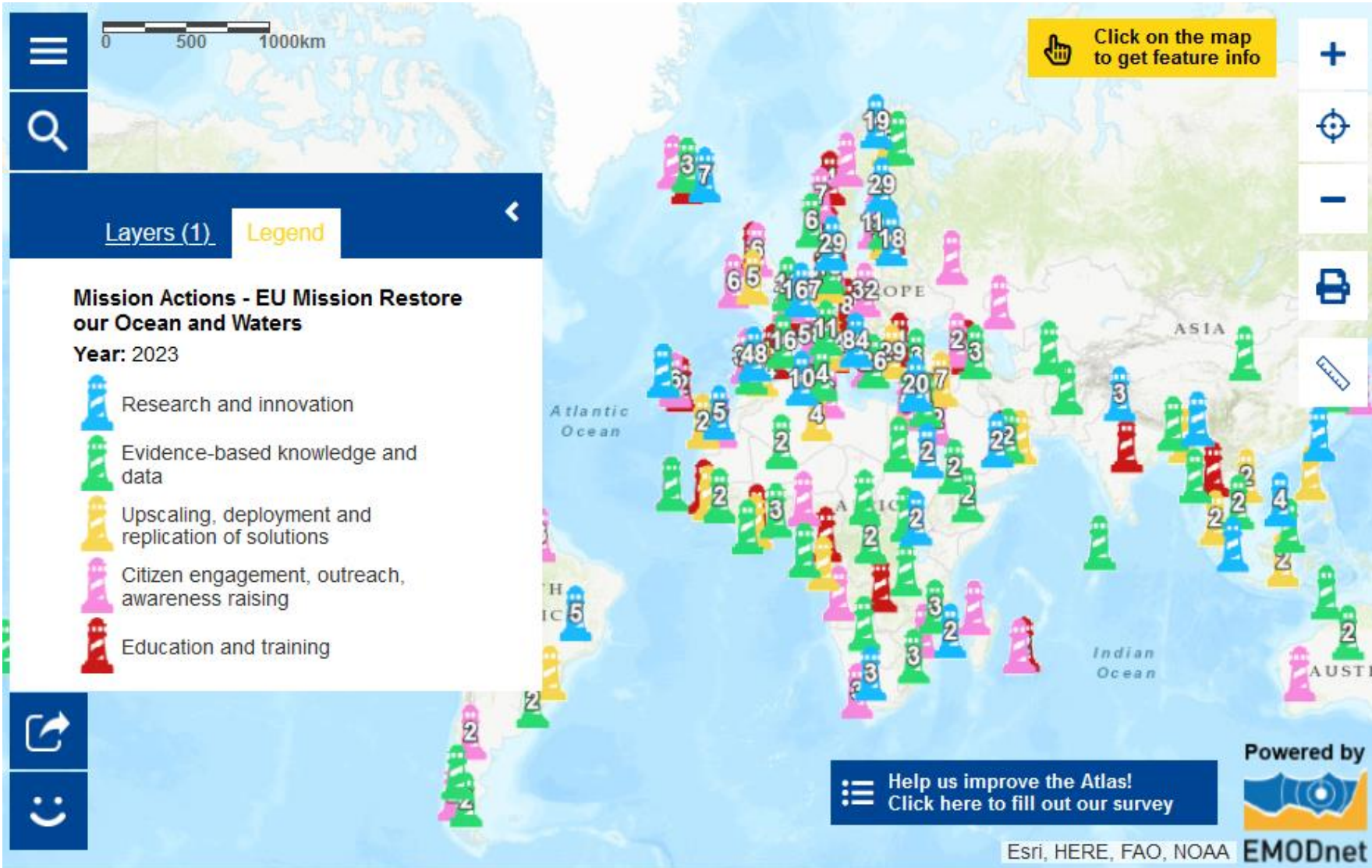
A **simple, inclusive, efficient and inspirational** framework to enhance cooperation to deliver on **Mission objectives**



**Open** to any (public or private) interested parties



**Actions** can cover R&I, Knowledge & Data, Citizen engagement, Upscaling/deployment of solutions, Education & Training



# Your action in the Mission Atlas

**Mission Actions - EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters (3 of 3)**

Title of the action: **Mission Ocean and waters work programme 2021, Horizon Europe**

Short description: **The Mission Ocean and waters work programme includes calls for R&I proposals addressing the Mission objectives and enablers.**

Name of organisation: **European Commission**

Budget: **114,3 Million Euro**

End date of action: **12/04/2022**

Website: [\[Link\]](#)



## How YOU can contribute to our Mission

1. Share your views on needs and challenges the Mission can contribute to
2. Work together to ensure complementarities and convergence of efforts to preserve our seas and freshwaters and support the blue/green transition;
3. Show political engagement by adhering to the Mission Charter and/or promote submissions to the Charter
4. Participate in Mission calls and share your results
5. Promote the involvement of ‘associated regions’ in Mission projects
6. Join our Mission events!



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# Thank you!

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