



The value of social engagement in Mission Ocean and Waters



EUROPEAN UNION

**EU
MISSIONS**



Mission Overview

Mission Ocean & Waters aims at restoring European ocean and waters by 2030.

The Mission is designed to **contribute to the European Union's 2030 targets**, especially those concerning the protection and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity, zero pollution, decarbonisation and reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions from the EU's oceans, seas and waters.

Specific objectives

To contribute to the achievement of the main objective, the mission is structured into **three** mutually interconnected **specific objectives** :

- Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity
- Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters
- Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular

Cross-cutting enabling actions will support this objective, in particular broad public mobilisation & engagement, as well as a digital ocean and water knowledge system, known as the Digital Twin Ocean.

How to get involved

- **Mission Charter:** non-legally binding document open to all interested parties, public or private. This serves as a reference document aimed at establishing a simple framework to improve cooperation between the various stakeholders (civil society, governments, research institutes, etc.), mobilize resources and develop activities to achieve the objectives of the Mission. More information [here](#).
- **Lighthouses:** hubs and platforms that support the development and dissemination of innovative solutions that can contribute to mission objectives and a major impact on society in river and sea basins. The lighthouses provide access to the solutions, services and advice developed not only in their basin, but also to all interested actors from other basins and areas. At present four lighthouses have been established, addressing different European sea and river basins (i.e.: Danube River, Baltic & North Sea, Mediterranean, Arctic & Atlantic). Find out more [here](#).
- **Mission Ocean and Forum:** annual event that fosters Mission community, promotes matchmaking and showcases best practices. More details [here](#).

Useful LINKS

Mission NCPs ([link](#))

Mission Ocean and Waters Service Portal ([link](#))



Funding opportunities

The mission also pursues its objectives by **funding research and innovation projects** through calls for proposals. Here are the open calls under the Horizon Europe EU Mission Soil work programme 2023-2025:

- [HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-01](#): European Blue Parks – Offshore marine protected areas
- [HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-02](#): Danube river basin lighthouse – Protection and restoration of migratory fish habitats
- [HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-03](#): Atlantic and Arctic sea basin lighthouse, Mediterranean Sea basin lighthouse, Baltic and North Sea basin lighthouse - Reducing the environmental impacts of fisheries on marine species and habitats
- [HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-04](#): Science for Community – Building the marine Citizen Science data network of the future to valorise data coming from the ocean and increase engagement
- [HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-05](#): Our Blue Future – Co-designing a future vision of a restored ocean and water system in the EU by 2030 and 2050
- [HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01](#): Community-led actions to restore our ocean, seas and waters
- [HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-02](#): Support for the Coalition of waterfront cities, regions and islands for Mission Ocean and Waters

Other funding opportunities

[Link](#)



The role of social engagement

Social engagement is one of main means to pursue the mission's objectives.

This engagement can take on different connotations ranging from **citizen science actions** to **ocean and water literacy** and involvement of solidarity bodies and volunteers (more details and information [here](#)).

Furthermore, social engagement is an important aspect that cuts across many of the themes covered in the Horizon Europe Ocean and Water Mission work programme calls. Indeed, there are topics that explicitly refer **to community-driven initiatives, co-designing activities** and the design of **Citizen Science data networks**.

Some social engagement insights

Here are some insights on social engagement activities carried out by **NETTAG+ project** (fundend under HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01) which aims at developing solutions to prevent, avoid and mitigate the harmful impacts of fishing gear.

Social engagement strategies used in the project:

Online and Onsite Community Building Events such as workshops, seminars etc.

Target groups involved

players in the business sector

A particular successful example of Social Engagement activity within the project

participatory workshops with professional fishers.

What made this initiative so successful

The thing that made these workshops so successful and useful was that they were delivered by fishers for fishers.

For more information about the project and its activities check the [NETTAG+ website](#).



