



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

Regional Features and Scale of SBEP - the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, as the biggest in value public-private partnership, supported by the Horizon Europe programme

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(Burgas, 12 August 2025)



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The European University of Islands, Ports and Coastal Territories



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EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership will design, steer and support a just and inclusive transition to a regenerative and circular blue economy.

Vision



Who

60 partners, 25 countries
+ European Commission





What

- ▶ The partnership will pool research and innovation investments and align national programmes at pan-European scale
- ▶ taking into consideration the sea-basin (Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic Sea and North Sea) and Atlantic Ocean dimensions



Quick facts and figures

- ▶ **€ 450 million** planned investments over **7 years**
- ▶ **6 co-funded calls** for R&I proposals
- ▶ other structuring **activities**





The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership will deliver solutions to enable the European Green Deal and Digital Europe strategies and ultimately the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Policy context







Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)

- ▶ 1st Draft February 2021
- ▶ Built on priorities of Member States/Associated Countries + European Commission + Sea-basin initiatives, with support from JPI Oceans
- ▶ Composed of 4 pillars, 39 objectives
- ▶ + 7 cross-cutting key enablers
- ▶ To be consolidated at the beginning of 2024.



PILLARS

1

A blue economy
in harmony with
nature

2

Blue economy
solutions towards
climate neutrality

3

A thriving blue
economy for the
people

4

Integrated and responsive ocean governance

Digitalisation

FAIR data

Human capacity

Ocean literacy

Infrastructures

Social innovation

Sustainable finance

KEY ENABLERS



Intervention areas

The five Intervention areas below will be the basis for the first call



Development and validation of Ocean **Digital Twins** at sub sea-basin scale



Blue generation **marine structures**



Planning and managing sea-uses



Healthy '**Blue Food**' under a 'One Health' approach



Enabling the green transition of '**Blue Food**' production



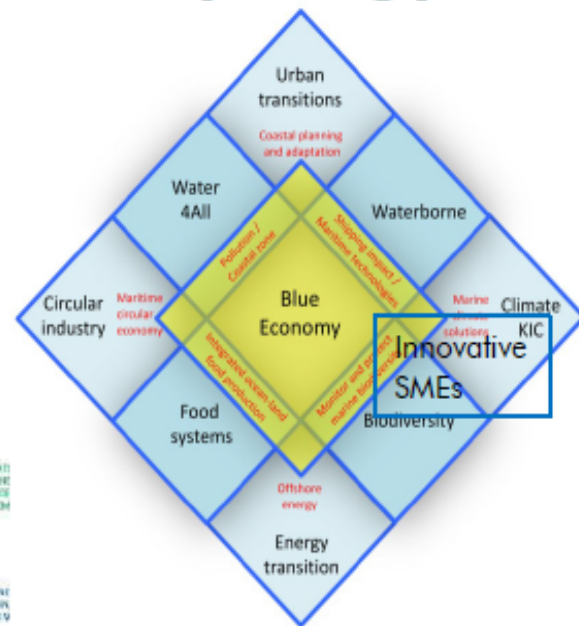
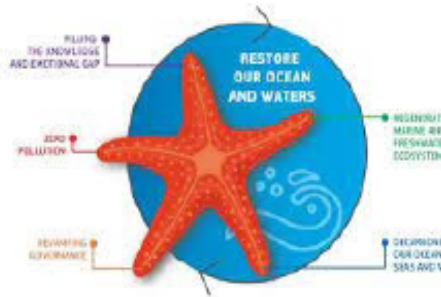
Co-funded Calls

- ▶ Five Intervention areas are the basis for the first call.
- ▶ Intervention areas for future calls and other activities will be developed (continued / discontinued / integrated) according to an annual cycle.
- ▶ The Partnership will implement additional activities (capacity building, shared use of research infrastructures, etc...)



Connectivity, a mandate to act in synergy

- ▶ Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters
- ▶ Other EU Partnerships
- ▶ Sea-basins / Atlantic Ocean
- ▶ Other funding streams
- ▶ Through sectors
- ▶ Across disciplines





Co-creation & co-design

- ▶ Engagement of stakeholders for regional-, sectoral- or theme-specific input and feedback along the knowledge chains, from producer-to-user.
- ▶ The participatory approach will generate ownership and common goals = more holistic view of ocean challenges and basis for innovative solutions and technological innovation.
- ▶ Uptake of opportunities and planned actions by the public and private sectors, decision makers, and society at large.



How to engage



Stakeholders can engage...

- ▶ with the six co-funded **calls and other opportunities** presented by the Partnership
- ▶ through sea basin-level nodes
- ▶ in a multi-stakeholder community of practice



What is a world cafe?

- ▶ Dynamic format for an interactive discussion within a larger group;
- ▶ Fosters networking, exchange of good practices and innovative ideas across sectors and borders;
- ▶ In line with co-design processes of the Partnership and with EU democratic values.





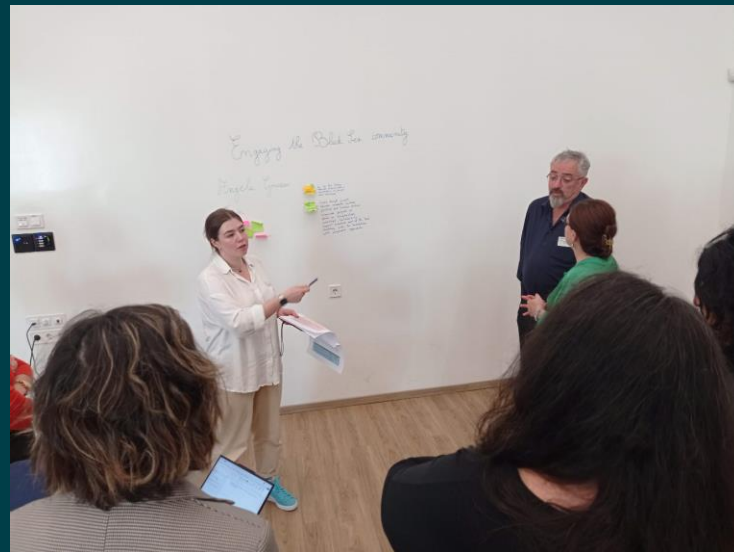
Building the community across sea-basins

Mediterranean Sea (June 2024)	Black Sea (October 2024)	North Sea (November 2024)	Baltic Sea (April 2025)	Atlantic Ocean (May 2025)
1) Marine Energy and Multi-Use Offshore Platforms; 2) Coastal and maritime tourism; 3) Spatial planning and Mediterranean Ports; 4) Synergies; 5) Business and funding opportunities;	1) Research Infrastructures; 2) Engaging the community; 3) Black Sea Opportunities	(IA Coastal Resilience) 1) Low-impact, regenerative tourism; 2) Resilient coastal businesses; 3) Resilient coastal infrastructures and Nature-based Solutions;	(IA Blue resources) 1) Sustainable aquaculture; 2) Sustainable fisheries; 3) Blue biotechnologies	Cross-cutting topics



Adaptive methodology and lessons learnt

Strategic scheduling:	Before lunch to engage broad audience
Number of tables:	Fewer than 5
Session timing:	10 min/table
Reporting:	Challenges & solutions; Graphic Design
Food for thought:	Prior expert input; Guiding questions; Audience warmup with slido interaction;
Support:	1 Facilitator + 1 Moderator/ table (ECOPs)



Engagement of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) at the Black Sea Workshop

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

FUTURE SCIENTISTS

START IN SCHOOL

INVOLVE THE KIDS

CROSS-DISCIPLINE PROJECTS

OPEN LECTURES HELP STUDENTS CHOOSE SPECIALISATION

ENGAGE OLDER GENERATIONS WITH SCIENCE

SCIENCE

INNOVATION

POLICY

SOCIETY

INDUSTRY

SCHOOLS

UNIVERSITIES

BE THE BRIDGE

FUNDS

ANGELS

INDUSTRIES

SELECT PROJECTS FROM ALL INTERVENTION AREAS

13 PARTNER EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

EUNICOast

STUDENT EXCHANGE

MARINE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

EURD ARGO EM20-ERIC

DANUBIUS-RI

LIFEWATCH

MISSING INFRASTRUCTURES:

- 1 BLUE BIOTECH
- 2 MULTI-USE PLATFORMS (OFF SHORE)
- 3 OPEN/FAIR DATA +AI
- 4 TESTBED FOR RE
- 5 TEST PILOT SITE FOR MSP
- 6 COASTAL OBSERVATIONS

PROVIDERS OF MARINE RESEARCH FACILITIES IN THE BLACK SEA



VESSELS GLIDER CROWS

SUBMARINE DRONES

COASTAL OBSERVATION

COASTAL OBSERVATION

BLUE ECONOMY FOR A SUSTAINABLE BLACK SEA

OPPORTUNITIES

DIGITAL TWINS

FRAGMENTED OBSERVATIONS

NEED FOR REGIONAL COORDINATION

DEDICATED FUNDING

EMPOWERING COASTAL COMMUNITIES

GREEN SHIPPING

COOPERATION FOR PROTECTED AREAS

aquaculture need: NEW TECHNOLOGY IN OPEN SEA

ALGAE (LOW CARBON)

ABIOTIC RESOURCES

CARBON SEQUESTRATION CAPACITY OF BLACK SEA

COMMON MARITIME AGENDA



Co-design process towards impact



Regional Workshop „North Sea“ of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (Amsterdam, November 2024)

Mediterranean

Integration of ports
→ WP2, WP3

Tourism feeding into
new IA → WP2, 3

Bottlenecks for
competitiveness → SC

Black Sea

Gap analysis of RI and
ocean observation →
WP8

Portfolios of projects,
ocean literacy, capacity
building, outreach to
academia, senior, eco-
tourism → WP4, WP5,
WP7, 8.5

Moldova and Bulgaria
→ WP1, 6.3

North Sea

Fine-tuning terminology
under IA 5 → WP2, 3

Fit-for-purpose targeting
of stakeholders
→ Scoping exercise?

Regulatory framework
for upscale of NbS
→ WP7, WP6.2



Coming Soon: Third Joint Transnational Call for R&I Funding

- ▶ Call launch (provisional): 15 September 2025, 15:00 CEST
- ▶ The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, a European partnership under the European Commission's Research & Innovation Framework Programme Horizon Europe, is pleased to pre-announce its third Joint Transnational Call. This third call is co-branded by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 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.



COMING SOON



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

3rd Joint Transnational Call

for R&I funding!



- **LAUNCH:** 15 September 2025, 15:00 CEST*
- **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PRE-PROPOSALS:** 17 November 2025
- **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS:** 17 June 2026



2021
United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
2030
for Sustainable Development



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* Provisional timeline



The Partnership (30 countries) pledges to leverage sustainable solutions

to boost the green and digital transitions of economic
activities related to the ocean, seas and coasts

To strengthen European Union (EU) Blue Economy through national, regional, and EU R&I priorities alignment.

- ▶ More information will be published on this page on 15 September 2025.
- ▶ Funding: € 44,000,000
- ▶ Contact: sbep.call-secretariat@uefiscdi.ro



The third co-funded call aims to support transnational research and innovation projects (for 36 months) addressing one of the five priority areas

subject to funded priority areas by participating funding organisations:

- 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

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Sea basin nodes

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