

- INNOVATE UK
- Horizon
- Europe Opportunities

Mission - Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030
Marine to Fresh water opportunities
26/27



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[Click here to watch the below video](#)

What is Horizon Europe?

Horizon Europe is the world's largest research and innovation programme running from 2021 until 2027, providing over £90 billion in funding to address some of the greatest global challenges.

The **UK is associated** to Horizon Europe, so UK participants can fully participate*, act as Coordinator and be funded directly by the EC.

* Exceptions apply



For more info please see our [Business connect website](#)



Horizon Europe structure

Three Pillars for Implementation



Marine to Fresh water opportunities 2026

Deadline: 17th September 2026

Already involved in a call or need some help with an application please let us know!

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-03	Pushing the frontier of knowledge and conservation action for deep sea ecosystems	RIA	18	~9	2
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-04	Ensuring continuous effectiveness of protected areas in conserving habitats and species while facing intensifying drivers of biodiversity loss	RIA	13	~6.5	2
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-01	Toward a comprehensive assessment of the disturbance of marine ecosystems by anthropogenic underwater noise	RIA	10	~10	1
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-11	Harnessing the unique properties of marine organisms to deliver sustainable blue bio-based products	RIA	10	~5	2

The current [work programme 26/27](#)



Marine to Fresh water opportunities 2027

Open: 20th April 2027

Deadline: 22-23rd September 2027

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CLIMATE-01	Governance, sustainable development and international politics of a future ice-free Arctic	RIA	16	~8	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CLIMATE-04	Unlocking a safe operating space for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean	RIA	22	~11	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-06	Unleashing the potential of sustainable small-scale aquatic food production and recreational fisheries for prosperous local communities	IA	10	~5	2
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-01	Integrating Remote Sensing and in-situ observations of Biodiversity, towards a fully interoperable observation and data framework	RIA	10	~5	2

The current [work programme 26/27](#)



HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CLIMATE-01: Governance, sustainable development and international politics of a future ice-free Arctic

Scope:

- better understand, project and reduce uncertainties linked to the impacts, timing and consequences of an ice-free Arctic. This includes the underlying systems and processes, strengthening research on key or main drivers of internal variability and their interconnectedness to the climate system.
- enhance regional models representing integrated key physical, biogeochemical, and biological processes, especially to capture processes in the changing sea-ice regimes and the impacts of extremes, building on existing IPCC class climate models.
- identify transformative Arctic pathways and leverage points for mitigation and adaptation, strengthening resilience, sustainable economies, risk management, conservation, and international cooperation. With a particular focus on indigenous populations.



HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CLIMATE-04: Unlocking a safe operating space for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

Scope:

- resolve uncertainties, improve projections and quantifications of the future of the region.
- advance understanding of the complex interactions and feedbacks between the ocean, atmosphere, sea ice, ice shelves, and land ice dynamics.
- advance the knowledge of Southern Ocean dynamics and sea ice dynamics in the near-, mid- and long-term.
- explore the vulnerability of Southern Ocean ecosystems, including the impacts of climate change, pollution and other anthropogenic activities on marine biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics.
- develop mechanisms to distinguish human-induced environmental changes from natural ones and develop strategies to protect the fragile environment.
- further improve key ocean, cryosphere, climate and biodiversity monitoring indicators that support international, regional and global assessments.
- advance capabilities to provide evidence, tractable proposals and recommendations for commensurate policy and protection, restoration and long-term sustainable management.



HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-06: Unleashing the potential of sustainable small-scale aquatic food production and recreational fisheries for prosperous local communities

Scope:

- advance knowledge and develop tools, including Nature-based Solutions, for managing and further developing small-scale aquatic food production. They should include, where relevant, both aspects of natural science and technical know-how to improve small-scale aquatic food production as well as issues related to social sciences and humanities (SSH) disciplines.
- develop innovative methodologies to assess environmental and socio-economic contributions of relevant small-scale actors to the prosperity of local communities within the broader aquatic food system.
- The effects of climate change on small-scale aquatic food production should be addressed as well as the potential contribution of small-scale aquatic food production to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- include relevant stakeholders and end-users throughout and produce outputs that can be readily applicable by them.



HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-01: Integrating Remote Sensing and in-situ observations of Biodiversity, towards a fully interoperable observation and data framework

Scope:

- Helping to achieving the goals of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and assessing progress towards their defined targets.
- develop and validate fit-for-purpose multisensory biodiversity data integration systems, to enable omics-based and in-situ data harmonization and integration with remote sensing data from space or sub-orbital platforms, as well as socio-ecological and climatic data.
- develop concrete technical capabilities able to answer to diverse use cases, across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- develop demonstration and verification cases focusing on specific ecosystems under the EU ecosystem typology and habitats, including ecotones, identified as those under pressure or as restoration priorities.
- deliver FAIR data, harmonisation workflows and processing protocols supporting data integration from genome to space and verify the use of generated datasets on identified analysis needs.
- contribute to consensus and implementation of joint definitions of data collection, metadata and processing protocols, data quality and harmonization of standards.



What are EU Missions?

Missions are highly targeted, ambitious initiatives designed to deliver concrete results by 2030 on some of the biggest challenges facing Europe.

There are 5 EU Missions:

Restore our Ocean and Waters



Adaptation to
climate change,
including societal
transformation



Cancer



Healthy oceans,
seas, coastal &
inland waters



Climate-neutral
& smart cities



Soil health &
food

Key Features:

- Mission-specific work programmes
- Strong focus on demonstration, deployment, and citizen engagement
- Use of Living Labs and Lighthouses
- Cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary
- Designed to complement and amplify cluster activities

Aim To mobilize public and private actors, including citizens, around clear, measurable goals.



Innovate
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EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters - Main Features

Supports major EU policy objectives: EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, EU Action Plan toward Zero pollution, the Communication on a Sustainable Blue Economy, The Nature restoration Law

Uses lighthouses: hubs for the development and deployment of transformative innovations:

- Atlantic and Arctic sea basin
- Baltic and North Sea basin
- Mediterranean sea basin
- Danube river basin

Cross-cutting enabling actions will support this objective.



Further information can be found [here](#), including event recordings.
The current [work programme 26/27](#)

Ocean Mission Opportunities 2026

Deadline: 23rd September 2026

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-01	Large-scale demonstration for mapping the distribution and condition of marine habitats to implement the Nature Restoration Regulation (balanced portfolio; FSTP 100,00 euro; open science obligations)	IA	31	7.00 to 7.75	4
MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-02	Addressing aquatic pollution and biodiversity loss through nature positive solutions from source to sea (balanced portfolio; FSTP 100,00 euro; open science obligations)	IA	31	7.00 to 7.75	4
MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-03	By fishers, for fishers: co-management of marine and freshwaters ecosystems and resources (balanced portfolio; eligibility conditions)	IA	31	7.00 to 7.75	4
MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-04	Towards a European network of ocean technology testing sites	CSA	2.9	2.5-2.9	1
MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-05	Regional (sea-basins) components of the EU Digital Twin Ocean (additional eligibility for international organisations; balanced portfolio, open science conditions)	IA	19.4	4.00-4.85	4

Already involved in a call or need some help with an application please let us know!

Ocean Mission Opportunities 2027

Open: 09th Feb 2027

Deadline: 21st September 2027

Topic Ref Number HORIZON-	Topic Title	Type of Action	Budget €m	Budget per project €m	No of projects
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-01	Increasing riparian and coastal areas resilience to climate change, including in waterfront cities and islands.	IA	35.70	8.00 to 8.925	4
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-02	Circularity of seafood supply chain	IA	30.90	7.20 to 7.725	4
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-03	Green, circular and resilient harbours	IA	11.90	5.50 to 5.95	2
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-04	Towards community-driven business models: coastal and freshwaters sustainable tourism	IA	6.0	1.00 to 1.50	4
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-05	Large-scale demonstration of protection, restoration and management of blue forest ecosystems in European sea basins	IA	15.90	3.50 to 3.975	4



HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-01: Increasing riparian and coastal areas resilience to climate change, including in waterfront cities and islands.

Scope:

- The proposal should build (when relevant) on previously developed or existing solutions.
- Each proposal should address only one basin/Mission 'lighthouse'.
- Test and demonstrate (at least 6 demonstration in different types of areas, in at least 3 countries of the chosen basin) effective solutions to achieve the Mission's objectives and targets.
- Show a significant replication potential by identifying areas and locations where the proposed solutions could be replicable.
- Monitor the impacts and effectiveness of demonstration activities at a local scale. Link with the Digital Twin Ocean.
- Work closely with and empower public authorities and facilitate synergies with other R&I-relevant EU, national or regional programmes.



HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-02: Circularity of seafood supply chain

Scope:

- The goal is to improve the competitiveness of the European seafood (marine or freshwater edible organisms, including seaweeds and algae) industry along the value chain while ensuring optimal resource use and minimising environmental impacts.
- Contribute to the achievement of Mission Objective 2 and 3.
- Each proposal should address only one basin/Mission 'lighthouse' and establish links and cooperate with the relevant Lighthouse CSAs and the Mission Implementation Platform.
- should test and demonstrate the technical feasibility, the economic viability and the effectiveness of innovative solutions that improve the circularity and the sustainability of the seafood chain of aquaculture and/or fisheries sectors, also providing socio-economic benefits and foster cross-sectoral cooperation. In real conditions, through, at least, 3 use cases per project.
- Innovative and efficient methods and techniques for extracting high-value compounds and valorising seafood by-products from discards of unavoidable unwanted catches or waste products.
- Innovative organic feed ingredients, as alternatives to fish meal and fish oil, with the potential to support good growth and Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) taking into account single species nutritional needs, enabling sustainable future organic aquaculture development in Europe.



HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-03: Green, circular and resilient harbours

Scope:

- Support the testing, deployment, and upscaling of innovative solutions to restore harbour/ports ecosystems, mitigate pollution by addressing one or several of the specific Mission objectives and targets.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the proposed solutions, in at least 4 ports, 1 in each basin.
- Bring together harbours, local stakeholders, relevant authorities, scientific and industry partners to drive collaborative action. Engage at least 4 ‘associated regions’ (represented by local/regional port authorities/public bodies)
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing initiatives and partnerships within and between ports to leverage best practices and lessons learned.
- Provide targeted assistance and capacity-building programmes to help smaller size ports to overcome barriers and adopt sustainable practices.
- Facilitate synergies with other R&I-relevant EU, national or regional programmes and leverage of funds through interactions with regional/local authorities.



HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-04: Towards community-driven business models: coastal and freshwaters sustainable tourism

Scope:

- contribute to the achievement of the Mission “Public mobilisation and engagement” actions.
- focus will be on testing the feasibility and socio-economic viability of site-specific initiatives providing opportunities to couple business-based activities with the protection and restoration of marine and freshwaters ecosystems.
- Each proposal should address only one basin/Mission 'lighthouse' and establish links and cooperate with the relevant Lighthouse CSAs and the Mission Implementation Platform.
- Demonstration of community-driven tourism business models in at least 3 European coastal and freshwater areas in different Member States/Associated Countries.
- Promotion of sustainable practices to minimise negative pressures of tourism on marine and freshwater environments.
- Inclusive and accessible capacity building, training and skill development.
- Governance structure to ensure the effective involvement of all stakeholders and long-term financial sustainability.
- Exploration of possible financial instruments for the upscale of the initiatives.



HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-05: Large-scale demonstration of protection, restoration and management of blue forest ecosystems in European sea basins

Scope:

- required to develop collaborations with EU Member States and Associated Countries national and regional agencies and authorities and policy makers and engage with local communities, researchers and NGOs.
- should target the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies that integrate blue carbon ecosystems into marine biodiversity frameworks.
- each proposal should address only one basin/Mission 'lighthouse' and establish links and cooperate with the relevant Lighthouse CSAs and the Mission Implementation Platform.
- show how their activities and results will help achieve the Mission's objectives and targets.
- Address the following:
 - Protection and restoration activities
 - Innovative Financing Mechanisms
 - Research and Monitoring
 - Community Engagement and Education



Other opportunities

Topics in other clusters for example:

- Cluster 4 - Digital Industry Space,
- Cluster 5 - Climate Energy and Mobility

Ocean Observation Technologies for Scalable, High-Resolution Ocean Monitoring.

- EIC Accelerator programme 2027
- Focus on start ups and SMEs (TBC)

Extra Euros for Biodiversity – work programme being finalised – One Eur 50 million ocean related call, opening October, closing February.



The proposal is **NOT** just about the science!

- **Ambition** at a European or international scale
- Clear **policy context**
- Importance of **impact** – think about the change you want as you develop your proposal
- **Multi-actor approach** to development and delivery
- **Interdisciplinary approach**
- **Financial Support to Third Parties** – easier to involve smaller players
- **Convincing delivery**
- Evidence a **winning consortium**



National Contact Points



UK NCP network - support for each area of Horizon Europe

International NCP network – support in Member States, Associated Countries and Third Countries

NCP services vary in each country, but typically include:



Informing, awareness raising – on Horizon Europe and other EU programmes



Assisting, advising and training – to improve the quality of Horizon Europe proposals



Signposting and cooperation – direct to relevant support and work with each other to support consortium development

Cluster 6 UK NCP contact details

Agrifood and Natural Resources (D1, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7)
Oceans Mission
Soil Mission

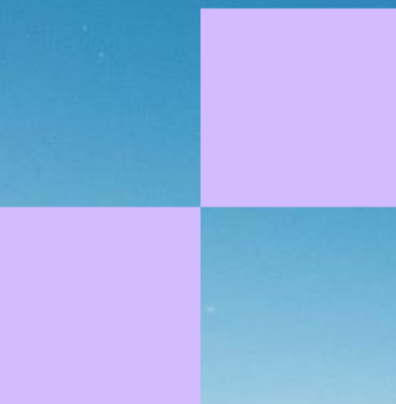
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■ Thank you

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