



EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



BACKGROUND

The upcoming **Knowledge and Innovation Community for Water, Marine, and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems (KIC WMM)**, launching in 2026 under Horizon Europe and the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#), focuses on addressing the challenges of water scarcity, ecosystem degradation, and sustainable blue economy development. Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) are cross-sectoral partnerships integrating research, education, and business stakeholders. The KIC WMM will unite 50 partners and will receive an annual subsidy of €30 million to support services, open calls, and projects aimed at ecosystem restoration, pollution prevention, and circular blue economy practices.



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

MOTIVATION

The KIC WMM responds to Europe's urgent environmental crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource scarcity. By leveraging Europe's rich research, innovation, and business expertise, the KIC aims to turn knowledge into actionable solutions for global challenges. This builds on the proven success of existing KICs, such as [EIT Food](#) and [EIT InnoEnergy](#), which have driven innovation across diverse sectors through cross-disciplinary collaboration.



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KEY ACTIVITIES

The KIC WMM will tackle water and marine challenges through an interdisciplinary approach. It will focus on ecosystem restoration, addressing pollution, and developing circular economy solutions in sectors like aquaculture, sensor technologies, and biotechnologies. By promoting the economic value of ecosystem services, the KIC will integrate environmental goals into sustainable business models. The KIC will also support startups and SMEs through direct funding, open calls, and innovation programmes.



EIT website



KIC website

OUTCOMES

The KIC WMM is expected to accelerate innovation, scale impactful solutions, and strengthen Europe's leadership in sustainable water and marine practices. By fostering collaboration and offering tailored support to businesses and researchers, the KIC aims to deliver market-oriented innovations. Lessons from existing KICs, such as tailored startup support and strategic co-investment, will guide KIC WMM's approach to creating long-term solutions for the blue economy.

Upcoming call for a new
EIT Knowledge & Innovation
Community on water, marine
and maritime ecosystems
and sectors

