



# PREP4BLUE

METHODS AND TOOLS FOR MISSION OCEAN & WATERS

## *Citizen participation in Mission Ocean & Waters: Experiences and recommendations from PREP4BLUE*

*David Whyte, University College Cork, Ireland*



A 'Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters' initiative.



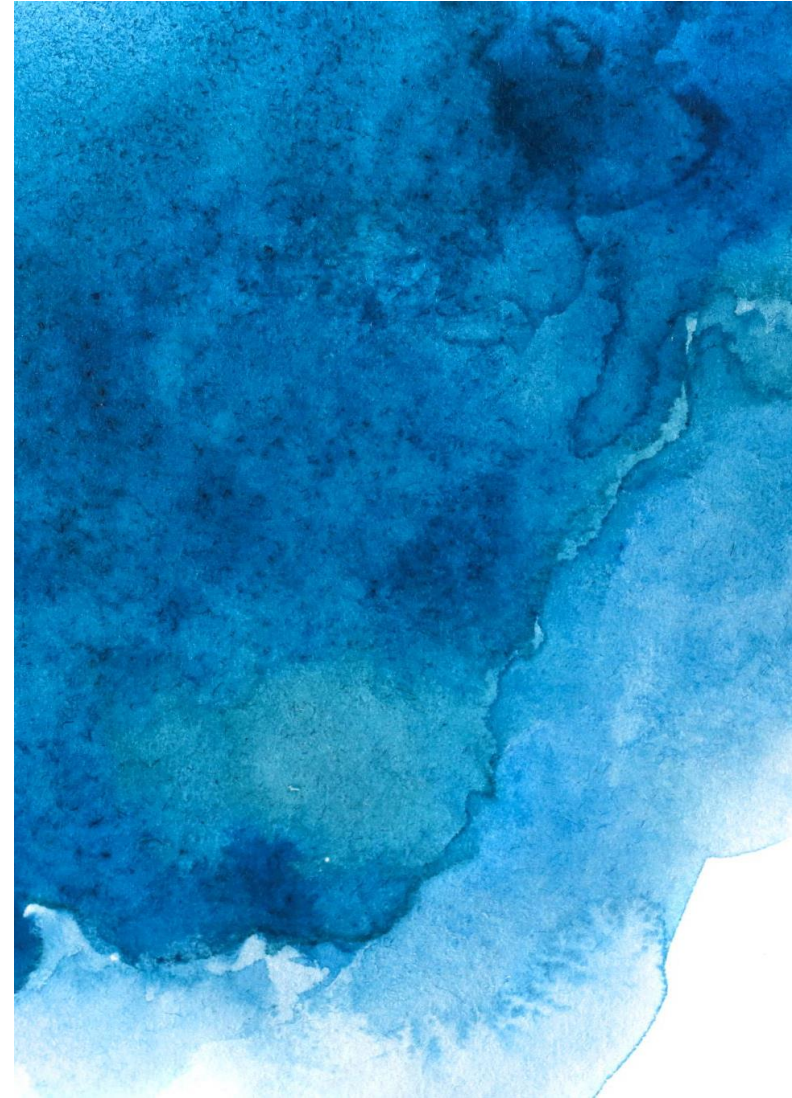
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## European Commission and the creation of community

“The EU is about doing together what is impossible apart. This Mission isn't supposed to do what can be done; it's supposed to do the impossible. With the EU we have made peace in many ways before: First it was with coal and steel; Then reconciling the continent; then through building the single market. Now our latest Mission is to make peace with nature.”

– John Bell, Deputy Mission Manager



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# Citizen engagement methods development

Find our Toolbox  
here:

- Methods and tools developed to enable the participation of citizens in Mission activities and to advance the Mission's citizen engagement expected outcomes
- A strategy to rollout a network of citizen assemblies for Mission Ocean that works with the Mission ecosystem



# Citizen engagement: Supporting aquatic citizen science across EU

Access our aquatic citizen science database here:

- Database of “all” EU aquatic citizen science initiatives: [wavelinks.eu](https://wavelinks.eu)
- Report: Beneath the Surface: A Collection of Recommendations and Good Practices in Aquatic Citizen Science to Support the EU’s Mission and Waters
  - Topic coverage, qualities of role, and geographic differences currently inhibiting more formal integration of citizen science into Mission governance



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## Citizen participation:

Encouraging inclusivity and building community

- Gender and youth inclusion as explicit early efforts, also language around indigenous inclusion in funding calls BUT there have been challenges in Phase 1

Watch our webinar series: Planning for citizen participation in Mission Ocean and Waters!





# Different experiences and infrastructures of participatory governance across EU



This image has been taken from one-europe.net and their article "United in Diversity"

Read our recommendations for cross cultural network mobilisation here!



- EU member states are culturally, politically and historically diverse. One size fits all approach to participation will not work
- Cultural difference: Irish Ocean Literacy Network vs Ocean Literacy Italia



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# Key Impacts

- **Impact 1:** *Aquatic CS database being integrated into other EU projects as a basis of their work*
- **Impact 2:** *Through collaboration with the UN Ocean Decade, PREP4BLUE's work on co-design integrated into Ocean Decade Challenge 9 Whitepaper*
- **Impact 3:** *Participatory methods developed in T3.1 are now being integrated into the Marine Protected Area designation by the Irish government*
- **Overall Impact 4:** *A capacitated and networked Mission Ocean citizen engagement community of practice mobilised for Phase 2 of the Mission*



## Link to article



- Whyte et al (2024). Planning for citizen participation in the EU mission to restore our ocean and waters by 2030. *Maritime Studies* 23.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40152-024-00385-x>.
- Open access link:  
<https://rdcu.be/dVe1K>

