

## Recommendations for Next phase of the Mission

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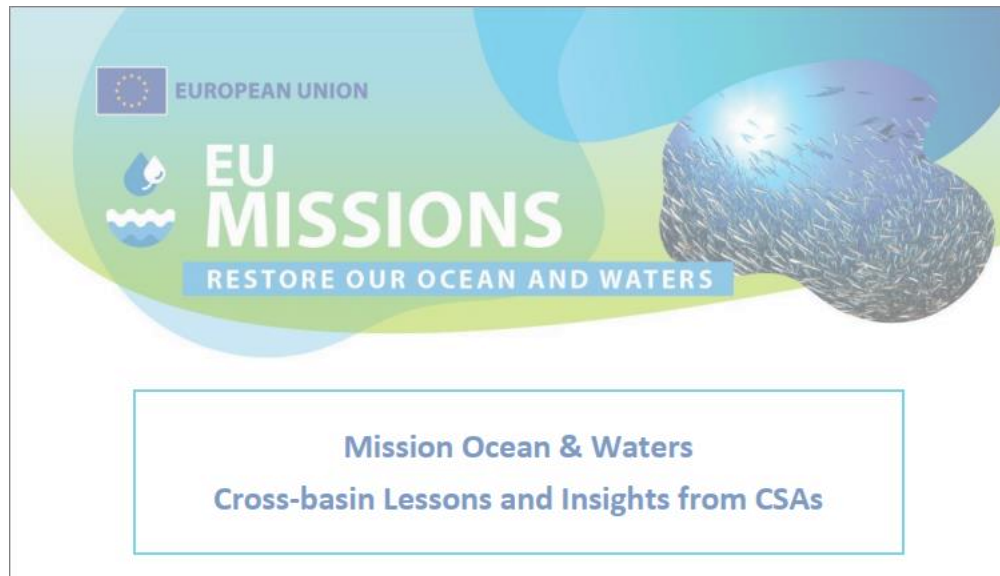


A 'Mission Restore  
our Ocean and  
Waters' initiative.



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# CSAs Legacy document

Nys, C., de Liedekerke, V., Schultz-Zehden, A., Klatt, F., Schlichenmaier, N., Conti, E., Li Chen, T., Faria, A., Francocci, F. (2025) **Mission Ocean & Waters: Cross-basin Lessons and Insights from CSAs (Version 1.0)**. PREP4BLUE, BlueMissionAA, EcoDaLLi, BlueMissionMed, BlueMissionBANOS.  
<https://doi.org/10.13155/105135>



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# Structure CSAs Legacy

1. Introduction
2. CSAs implementations
3. Global results by CSAs
4. Connectivity with the Mission Ecosystem
5. Barriers and Challenges
6. Recommendations
7. The CSAs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Mission
8. Conclusions



# Connectivity with the Mission Ecosystem

## Cross-CSAs & (R)IAs Working Groups



- **Mission Ocean and Waters Lighthouses Working Group (monthly meetings):** all the Mission CSAs project Coordinators and their Project Manager(s) and it aims at exchanging the advancements of each other's projects and discuss the evolution of the Mission as well as the links and relationships with MIP Ocean, Mission Secretariat and the Commission.
- **Mission Ocean and Waters LH and MIP Ocean Working Group (monthly meetings):** all the Mission CSAs project Coordinators and their Project Manager(s) and the MIP Ocean Coordinator and MIP task leader(s). It aims at exchanging the advancements of each other's projects and discuss the evolution of the Mission.
- **Communication Collaborative (monthly meetings):** to discuss all Communication aspects linked to the Mission with Mission projects, DG MARE, CINEA and MIP Ocean.
- **Citizen engagement Collaborative:** community of practices on citizen engagement with Mission projects.
- **Helpdesk Working Group:** to discuss all Helpdesks aspects linked to the various resources developed by the CSAs and the MIP Ocean for the Mission.
- **Monitoring, Indicators, KPIs across Mission Ocean CSAs Working group:** to exchange on and to harmonise the approaches in the development of Indicators, KPI and Monitoring Frameworks, and to communicate the outputs from the CSAs and MIP among each other, and in the Mission-Context.



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# Recommendations

- Stakeholder engagement
  - National Hubs
  - Mission Arenas
  - Weekly hours
  - **BlueBioMatch**
- Citizen engagement in the Mission
- Communication
  - Mission Storytelling guide
  - Communication Plan
  - Social Media Channels & Campaigns
  - Web experiences/Websites
  - **Trello board**
  - **Digital Academy**
  - Physical spaces/Events
  - Communication Collaborative WG
- **Business Models & Funding**
- **RIS3**



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# Prep4Blue recommendations

## Governance



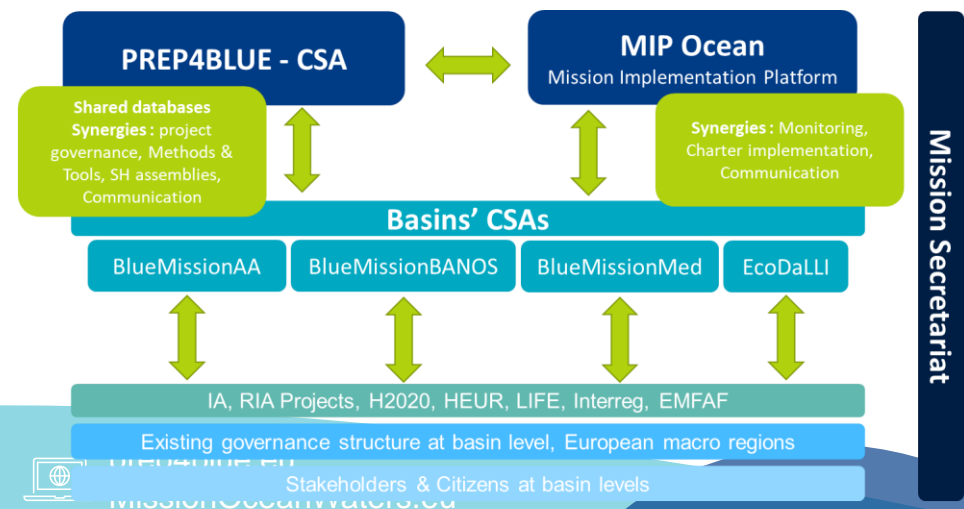
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# Governance

- Mission Governance
  - Mission Transversal WG on Key topics
  - LH/Sea-Bassin CSAs
  - Mission Stakeholder Assemblies at regional levels
  - Streamlined and harmonised roadmap |b| different EC DGs
- Regional/National Governance : (Trans-)National Hubs
- International Governance :
  - TransOcean WG
  - Joint roadmap EC & IOC-UNESCO



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# Mission Governance

- Mission Transversal WG on Key topics
  - Existing
    - Mission Ocean and Waters Lighthouses WG
    - Mission Ocean and Waters LH and MIP Ocean WG
    - Communication Collaborative
    - Citizen engagement Collaborative
    - Helpdesk WG
    - Monitoring, Indicators, KPIs across Mission Ocean CSAs WG
    - TransOcean WG (EU Mission – UN Ocean Decade)
  - To develop
    - Knowledge Transfer/Solutions/Knowledge outputs uptake (streamline transfer method throughout Mission)
    - Database(s) WG
    - Ecological restoration WG (EU Mission – UN Ecological Restoration Decade)
    - Cross-MissionS WG (follow-up on TRAMI)
    - *Etc.*
- Sea-Bassin focused
  - LH/Sea-Bassin CSAs
  - Mission Stakeholder Assemblies at regional levels (→ Regional Roadmap)
    - Living Labs, Mission Arenas, National/Regional Hubs
- Streamlined and harmonised Mission roadmap |b| different EC DGs





# National Hubs Guide (1/2)

- Accessible online : <https://prep4blue.eu/portfolio/guidance-for-establishing-mission-ocean-and-waters-national-hubs>

## Mission Ocean & Waters National Hubs and Living Labs



**Source :**

*Guidance for establishing Mission Ocean and Waters National Hubs*



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# National Hubs Guide (2/2)

- Existing Mission (trans-)national hubs
  - What is a (trans-)national hub ?
  - What are the functions of a Mission (trans-)national hub
  - Where are the existing Mission (trans-)national hubs : Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Malta, Turkey, Tunisia, Denmark, Danube river (practice LLs)
  - Mission hubs case studies
    - BlueMissionMed national hubs
    - Danish Mission Ocean Hub
  - What is the added-value of Mission (trans-)national hubs?
- How to establish a Mission (trans-)national hub
  - Identify key SH
  - Establish right governance structures
  - Consulting with national authorities
  - Success factors
- Lessons learned from other missionS hubs



# International Governance (Ocean Decade)



- TransOcean WG: *Transoceanic, Transversal and Transformative International Ocean Programs*
- Co-authored paper : **Collaborative bottom-up Trust Missions: A long-term strategy with and for people and Nature** (doi : [10.5281/zenodo.14768300](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14768300))
  - Harmony with Nature and the Green Deal
  - The Ocean in the UN and EU development strategies
  - The UN Ocean Decade and the EU Mission Ocean and Waters
  - Citizen engagement within the Ocean Decade and Mission Ocean
  - Trust Missions
  - Agents of change

➔ Under review with *Nature Portfolio Journal*, 2025

**Ocean Decade,  
Mission Ocean and other  
international initiatives**





# Prep4Blue recommendations

## Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement



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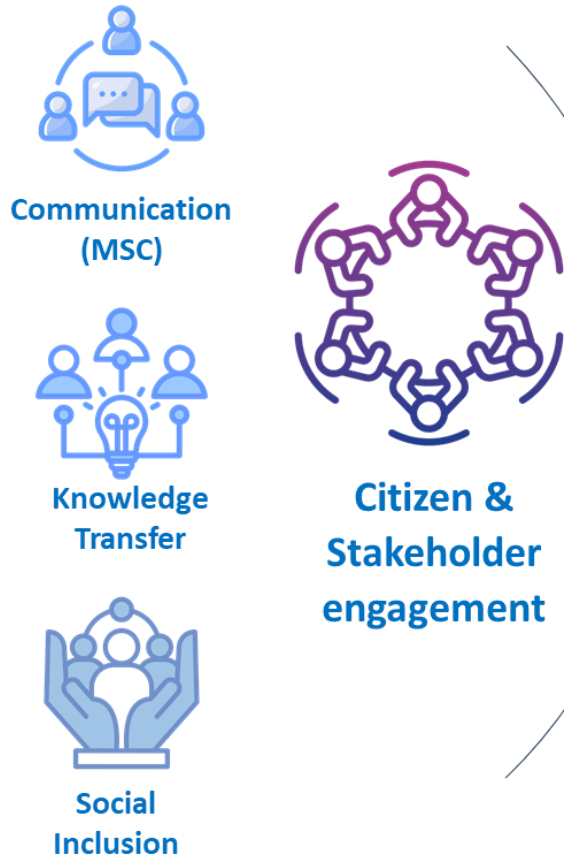
# Citizen Engagement

- Issues
  - Go **beyond the core stakeholder groups** and across European society
  - Perceived **lack of tangible benefit or added value to communities** offered by the Mission
  - **Stakeholder fatigue**
- Recommendation
  - More use of **Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)** in Mission → provide consistent and tangible benefit to the communities and small organisations (not yet capable to be involved in project consortia)
  - FSTP provision could be **made mandatory** in some/most/all of the remaining work programmes for Phase 2 of the Mission
  - Provide (small) **grants to small groups, communities, citizen science initiatives, etc.**, a **reason to consistently engage** with the Mission on a yearly basis

## BENEATH THE SURFACE

A COLLECTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
AND GOOD PRACTICES IN AQUATIC  
CITIZEN SCIENCE TO SUPPORT THE EU'S  
MISSION OCEAN & WATERS

# S engagement



**Customize communication strategies**

**Strengthening Ocean Literacy in Europe**

**Foster public-private-research collaborations**

**Involve stakeholders early**

**Provide tangible incentives for engagement**

**Allocate funding for grassroots initiatives**

**Change the actual model to a collaborative governance**

**Foster long-term engagement through structured feedback and decision-making integration**



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# Prep4Blue recommendations

## Funding



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# For Funders



## EU MISSIONS

### RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS

#### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Ensure coordination and alignment of funding models and business models

Improve coordination between regional, national, and European funders.



Involve business and industry in setting the research agenda.

Engage private funders to increase the funding pool and broaden the spectrum of funding models available.



#### Ramp-up navigation through the complex funding seascape

Upscale assistance for start-ups and innovators including coaching, matchmaking, market uptake facilitation.



Emphasise support for researchers going from research funding to innovation funding and commercialisation.

Strengthen innovative mechanisms to ease fundraising efforts, such as seals of excellence.



#### Establish simpler and faster opportunities

Simplify administrative requirements in general.



Make available fast-track support schemes for smaller groups.

Aim to reduce complexity in the current funding seascape.



#### Explore innovative funding models

Consider pursuing opportunities through profit-oriented funding models, such as blue bonds.



Discover results-based funding.







# Prep4Blue recommendations

## Regulatory barriers and enablers



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# Regulatory & Policy

- Agenda Setting and thematic focus
  - Allow faster access to testing and licensing
  - Favour (long-term) innovation through adjusted cost and tax systems
  - Redefinition of profit
  - Improve ways in which local contexts can be included
- Policy creation
  - Carefulness in writing new policy
  - Easier language to understand initiatives, policies, etc. as well as clear definitions
- Policy implementation & adoption
  - Adequate implementation of existing regulations
  - Communicate the hindering factors that limited development of business and initiatives

## Deliverable D5.3

Roadmap to success for future LH projects:  
Solutions to better address regulatory barriers and create  
enablers

## *The Five Commandments*

**I**

ALLOW FASTER ACCESS TO TESTING AND LICENSING, WITHOUT LOSING OUT ON THE NECESSARY DILIGENCE

**II**

IMPROVE WAYS IN WHICH LOCAL CONTEXTS CAN BE INCLUDED IN POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

**III**

ADEQUATE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING REGULATIONS, INCLUDING FORESEEING THE NECESSARY RESOURCES FOR THIS ON ALL LEVELS

**IV**

BE OPEN AND CLEAR ABOUT HINDERING FACTORS THAT LIMITED DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS AND INITIATIVES SO THAT OTHERS CAN LEARN FROM IT

**V**

REDEFINITION OF PROFIT: INCLUDE THE TRIPLE BOTTOM APPROACH WHERE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL FACTORS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT



# Prep4Blue recommendations

## Communication



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# Communication

- Mission Storytelling guide
  - Tendency of community to function as echo chamber
  - Communication and media outreach more focused and collaborative
- Communication Plan
  - Attendance to Communications Collaborative mandatory
  - Expand role of Comms Collab to include guidelines for social media, website, ...
- Social Media Channels & Campaigns
  - Ever-changing political climate
  - All Mission projects to use at least one common platform (e.g. LinkedIn) to ensure consistent connections
  - Centralized Social media team to collect and distribute information through primary platform
- Web experiences/Websites
  - Multiple project website (complexity/maze for SH)
  - Central website hosting all relevant info with contributions from all projects
- Physical spaces/Events
  - Cost-prohibitive & time intensive
  - Large-scale public engagement anticipated with aligned budget and resources
- Communication Collaborative WG
  - Ensure all Mission project engage with Collab and use its resources
  - Make participation mandatory and expand its role



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# Prep4Blue recommendations

## Knowledge Transfer



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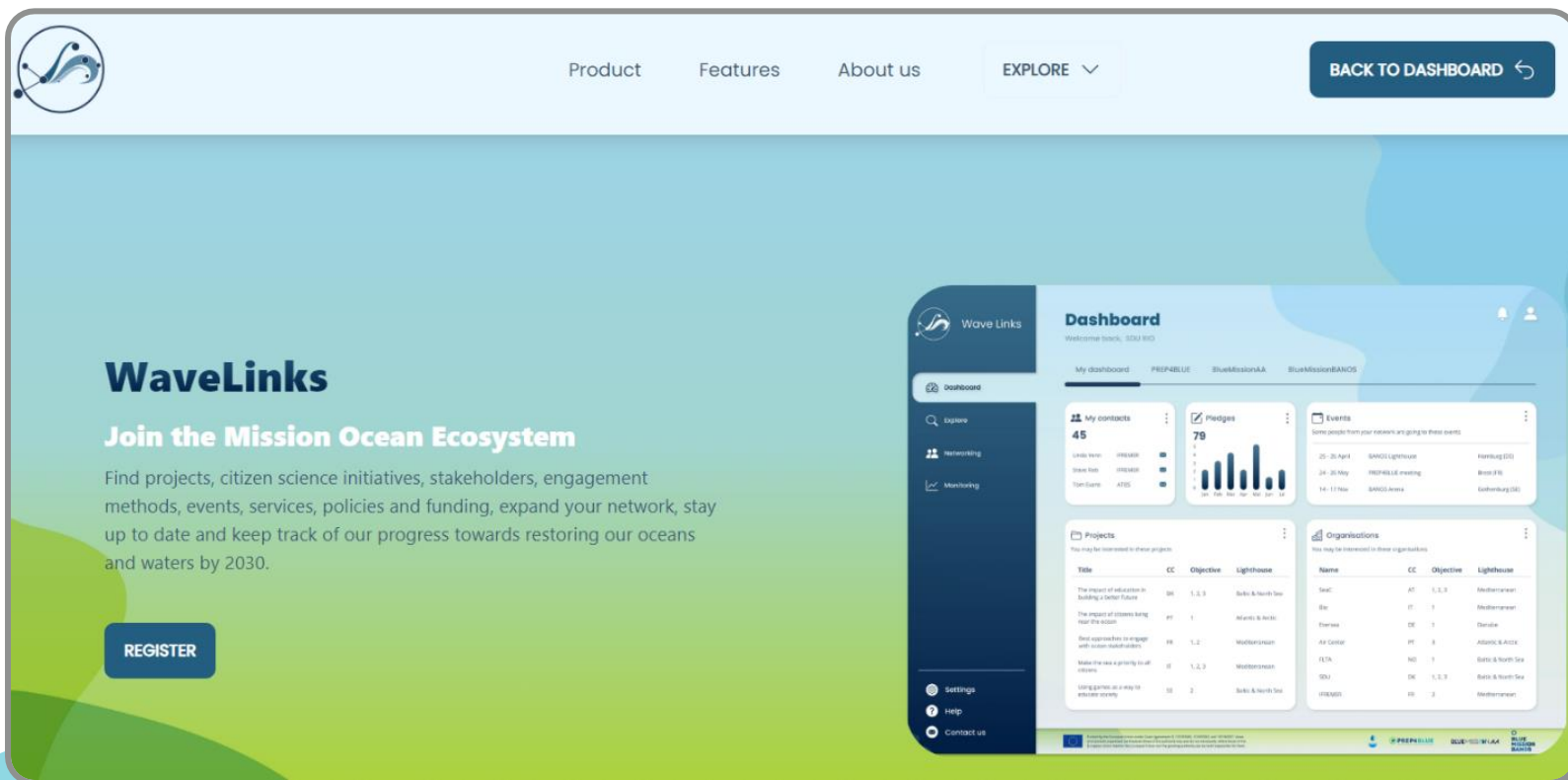


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# Knowledge Transfer

- Share successful regional strategies aligned with Mission Ocean & Waters to inspire others.
- Provide training on EU funding for less-experienced and under-resourced regions.
- Evaluate and adapt knowledge-sharing based on feedback and impact.
- Develop modular courses to strengthen science-policy collaboration.



The screenshot displays the WaveLinks website and its user dashboard. The website header includes navigation links for Product, Features, About us, and an EXPLORE dropdown, along with a BACK TO DASHBOARD button. The main content area features the WaveLinks logo and a call to action: "Join the Mission Ocean Ecosystem". Below this, a paragraph describes the platform's purpose: "Find projects, citizen science initiatives, stakeholders, engagement methods, events, services, policies and funding, expand your network, stay up to date and keep track of our progress towards restoring our oceans and waters by 2030." A REGISTER button is prominently displayed.

The dashboard, accessible via the BACK TO DASHBOARD button, provides a comprehensive overview of the user's activity. It includes sections for My contacts (45), Pledges (79), Events, Projects, and Organisations. The dashboard also features a sidebar with navigation options like Explore, Networking, and Monitoring, and a bottom section with Settings, Help, and Contact us links.

**WaveLinks**

**Join the Mission Ocean Ecosystem**

Find projects, citizen science initiatives, stakeholders, engagement methods, events, services, policies and funding, expand your network, stay up to date and keep track of our progress towards restoring our oceans and waters by 2030.

**REGISTER**

**Dashboard**

Welcome back, SOU RIG

My dashboard PREP4BLUE BlueMissionAA BlueMissionBANGS

**My contacts** 45

Links from: PREP4BLUE  
Share from: PREP4BLUE  
Team from: ATOS

**Pledges** 79

Some people from your network are going to these events

25 - 26 April SPNCC Lighthouse Hamburg (DE)  
24 - 26 May PREP4BLUE meeting Bonn (DE)  
14 - 17 Nov SPNCC Areas Ljubljana (SI)

**Projects**

You may be interested in these projects

| Title  | CC | Objective | Lighthouse         |
|--|----|-----------|--------------------|
| The impact of education in building a better future        | DE | 1, 3, 5   | Baltic & North Sea |
| The impact of citizens being near the ocean                | AT | 1         | Atlantic & Arctic  |
| Good cooperation to engage with citizen science activities | FR | 1, 2      | Mediterranean      |
| Make the sea a priority for all citizens                   | IT | 1, 2, 3   | Mediterranean      |
| Using gamification to engage citizens                      | ES | 2         | Baltic & North Sea |

**Organisations**

You may be interested in these organisations

| Name       | CC | Objective | Lighthouse         |
|------------|----|-----------|--------------------|
| Sea4       | AT | 1, 3, 5   | Mediterranean      |
| Blue       | IT | 1         | Mediterranean      |
| Thomas     | DE | 1         | Atlantic           |
| Art Center | PT | 3         | Atlantic & Arctic  |
| ECTA       | NO | 1         | Baltic & North Sea |
| SDU        | DK | 1, 3, 5   | Baltic & North Sea |
| PREP4BLUE  | FR | 2         | Mediterranean      |

Settings  
Help  
Contact us

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# Prep4Blue recommendations

## Multiple Platforms



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# Multiple platforms - Solution ?

**Ressources/  
Knowledge Outputs**

**Monitoring**

**Impact**



MIP Ocean Platform



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METHODS AND TOOLS FOR MISSION OCEAN & WATERS

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MISSIONS**

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Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges



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## Conclusions and Recommendations



- **For Businesses:**

- **Invest in Partnerships:** Collaborate with universities, research institutions, and companies.
- **Leverage Funding Opportunities:** BlueInvest, SBEP, and EIT KICs programs.
- **Focus on Market Readiness:** Align innovations with market demands and environmental frameworks.
- **Adopt Sustainable Technologies:** eco-friendly technologies for profitability and sustainability.

- **For Academia:**

- **Enhance Knowledge Transfer:** Prioritise applied research with business and market value.
- **Align Education with Industry Needs:** Develop programmes addressing skills gaps in blue economy sectors.

- **For Policymakers:**

- **Simplify Funding & Regulations:** Simplify and accelerate permitting. Streamline administrative processes for blue economy projects.
- **Promote Place-Based Innovation through S3:** Align regional strategies with innovation goals to support local economies.
- **Provide Sustainability Incentives:** Offer financial incentives and public contract access to support startups and SMEs in entering the market, scaling their operations, and improving their competitiveness while adopting sustainable practices.

- **NGOs & Civil Society:**

- **Promote Community Engagement:** Raise awareness and involve local communities in conservation efforts.
- **Support Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for policies supporting biodiversity restoration and pollution reduction.

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