



EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS  
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



# EUSDR EMBEDDING WEEK 2023

14 June 2023

**Andreea Strachinescu** – Head of Unit  
European Commission DG MARE;  
Mission ocean and waters



# Mission ocean and water: how we can work together?

1. Show political engagement and convergence of efforts by adhering to the Mission Charter and/or promote submissions
2. Share your views on needs and challenges the Mission can contribute to
3. Support participation of fisheries and maritime stakeholders in Mission calls, projects and activities
4. Promote the involvement of “associated regions” in Mission projects
5. Exchange with the Mission Board members: the Mission Advisory body
6. Join our Mission events!



# Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

## Objectives

### PROTECT AND RESTORE MARINE AND FRESHWATERS ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

- Protect at least 30% and strictly protect 10% EU's sea areas
- Restore 25.000 km free flowing rivers
- Marine nature restoration targets (incl. degraded seabeds, coastal ecosystems)

### PREVENT AND ELIMINATE POLLUTION OF OUR OCEANS, SEAS AND WATERS

- Reduce by at least 50% plastic litter
- Reduce by at least 30% microplastics
- Reduce by at least 50% nutrient losses, chemical pesticides

### MAKE THE BLUE ECONOMY CARBON- NEUTRAL AND CIRCULAR

- Net zero maritime emissions
- Zero carbon aquaculture,
- Low carbon multipurpose use of marine space

## ENABLERS

Digital Ocean and Waters Knowledge system

Public mobilization and engagement



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**Mission lighthouses:**  
sites to pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins



Baltic & North sea basin



**MAKE THE BLUE ECONOMY CARBON-NEUTRAL AND CIRCULAR**

Mediterranean sea basin



**PREVENT AND ELIMINATE POLLUTION OF OUR OCEAN, SEAS AND WATERS**

Danube river basin



**PROTECT AND RESTORE MARINE AND FRESHWATERS ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY**

Atlantic & Arctic coast





# Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

- **Stemming from Horizon Europe** → a new way of organising research and innovation around big themes
  - Calls for proposals, HE instruments
- **Going beyond – a federating initiative**
  - Societal buy-in
  - Bringing in funds from outside HE
  - Synergies with other programmes

**Cooperation with EUSDR, the ICPDR and Danube MS/ACs and regions is crucial!**

# Mission Work Programme: main features

- ✓ Follows the **impact-driven logic** of Horizon Europe and European Missions
- ✓ 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
- ✓ **Innovation Actions and the main implementation modality going beyond the R&I constituency**
  - **Demonstrate the technical, economic and/or societal viability of innovative solutions** in a (near to) operational environment (validation, testing, demonstration, prototyping, piloting, and market replication activities) - TRL 5 to 7
  - Involvement of at least 5 «***associated regions***» to showcase the feasibility, replicability and scale-up of innovative solutions
  - **Citizens' engagement and users' involvement**
  - MS/ACs, regional/local authorities **political engagement**
  - Ideally building on **previous successful projects**



# Associated Regions



The financial support to third parties may only be awarded to **local and/or regional authorities from an ‘associated region’**. To address the impact-driven approach of the Mission and the nature of Innovation Actions, proposals are **expected to work with and engage at least 5 ‘associated regions’** to showcase the feasibility, replicability and scale up of the solutions developed within the projects in other areas.

‘Associated regions’ are understood as **areas with similar ecosystems** (e.g. neighbouring regions and/or regions in a different river basin) and/or less-developed regions, to build capacity to implement the innovative solutions to restore freshwater ecosystems. The proposals should ensure that the **associated regions are located in Member States/Associated countries other than those that are part of the project consortium**. An “associated region” must benefit from the Financial Support to Third Parties provided under this topic only once.



# Mission work programme 2021-2022-2023: coverage of topics and support actions

2021

**CALL CLOSED - EUR 114 million | *Grant Agreement signed***  
***117 M€ EU funding***

2022

**CALL CLOSED - EUR 117.9 million | *Grant Agreement under signature***

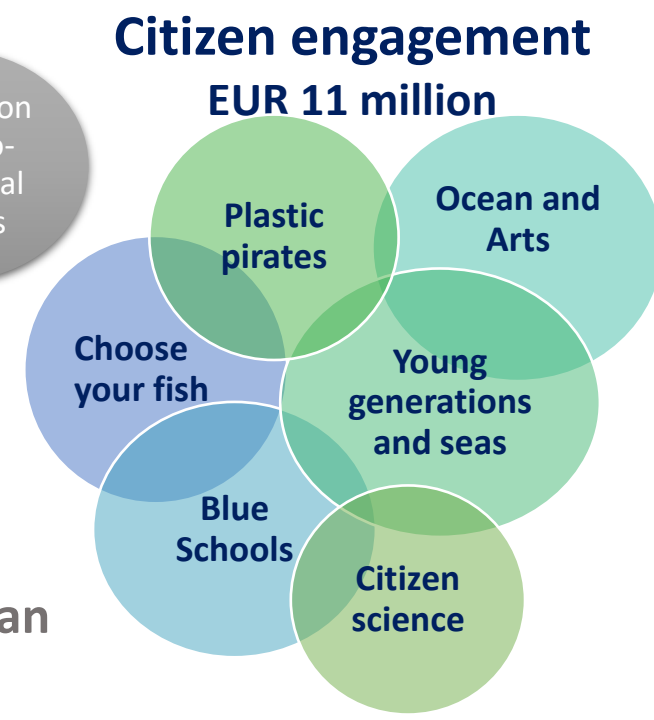
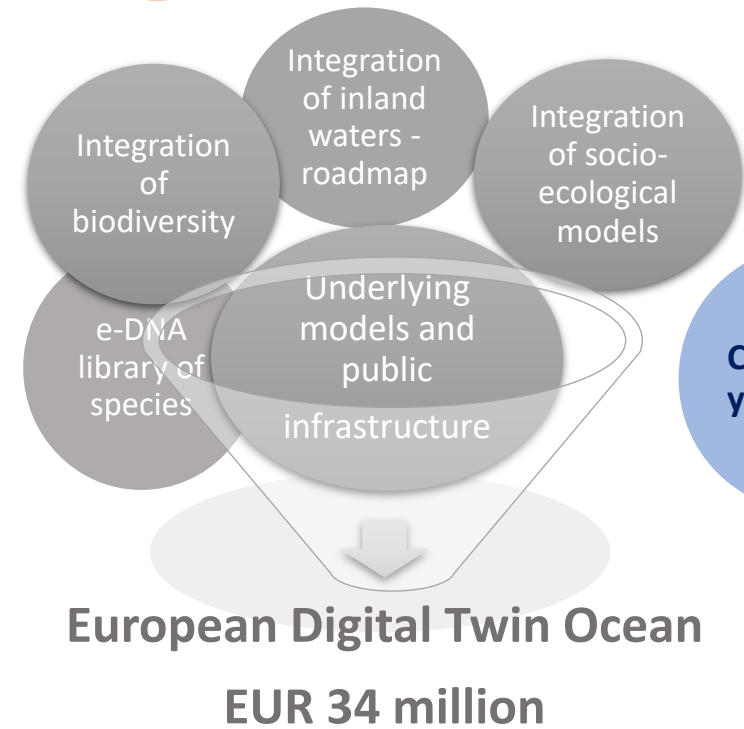
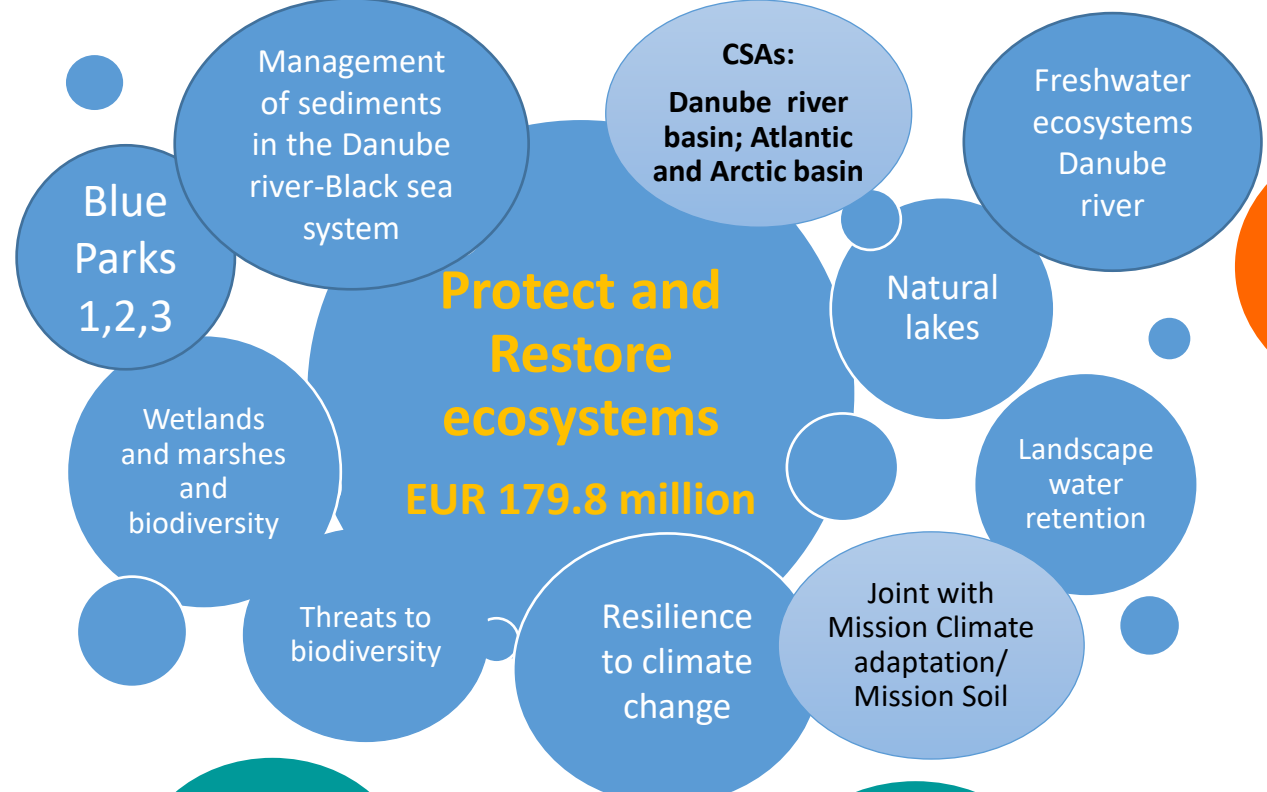
2023

**CALL – EUR 118.7 million | *WP adopted on 6 December 2022***  
***Calls open! Deadline: 20 September 2023***

2024

**WP in preparation: expected adoption September 2023**







## Mission 2021-2023 HE Work Programme – Danube river basin priorities

### Danube river basin lighthouse



- **2021 WP** (call closed): **Topics:** Danube river basin lighthouse: restoration of fresh and transitional waters ecosystems (IA, 17 million EUR, 2 grants) + coordination and support action (3 million EUR)
- **2022 WP** (call ongoing): **Topic:** Protection and restoration of wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands and salt marshes and their biodiversity (IA, 17 million EUR)
- **2023 WP:** **Topic:** Demonstration of effective and sustainable management of sediments in the Danube river-Black sea system (IA, 17 million EUR, 2 grants)

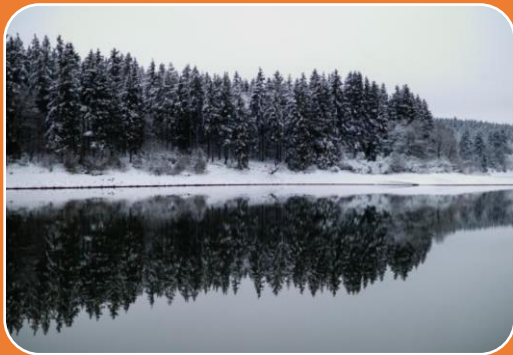


# Mission 2023 WP – Priorities of interest for the Danube region



## European natural lakes: demonstration of integrated approaches for protection and restoration of natural lake ecosystems and their biodiversity

- IA, 15 million EUR, 3 grants, TRL 5-7
- Associated regions, grants to third parties, focus on demonstration of protection and restoration of natural lake ecosystems.



## Mission Climate adaptation, Mission Ocean & waters and Mission Soil Deal for Europe – Joint demonstration of an integrated approach to increasing landscape water retention capacity at regional scale

- IA, 15 million EUR, 1 grant, TRL 5-7
- Associated regions, cascaded grants, multi-actor approach
- Demonstrate socio-ecological approaches and nature-based solutions to increase landscape and soil water retention capacity



# Mission 2023 WP – Priorities of interest for the Danube region

## Digital Ocean & Water knowledge system portfolio



- Integration of socio-ecological models into the Digital Twin Ocean (RIA, EUR 10 million EUR/3 grants)
- Roadmap for the integration of inland waters into the Digital Twin Ocean (CSA, EUR 2 million EUR/1 grant)

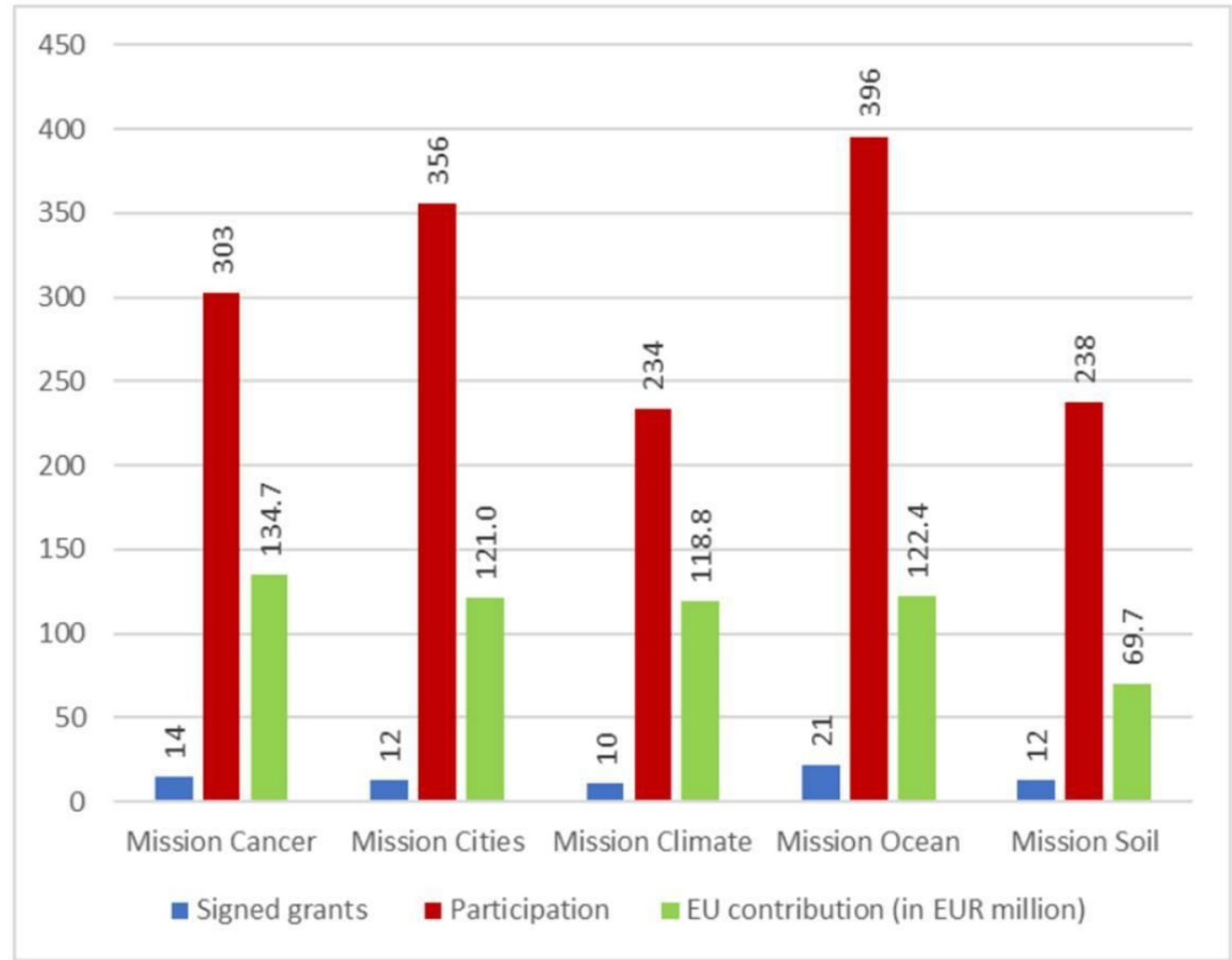


## Citizen mobilisation & engagement portfolio

- Ocean & water and arts: the contribution of the creative sectors to Mission Ocean and waters (CSA, EUR 2 million/1 grant, grants to third parties up to EUR 50 000 per entity)



# Participation to EU missions by the end of 2022



Source: Annual report on R&I activities 2022

# Mission Coordination and Support Actions and Implementation Platform

**Coordination, cooperation and joint activities and tools between the CSAs and with the Implementation Platform are crucial!**

- **“Governance and networking”** : Mobilisation of regional actors, networking opportunities, liaise with relevant projects; interface regional strategies and programmes
- **Communication, monitoring and contribution to the Mission implementation:** citizens’ engagement and users’ involvement; support associated region involvement in projects; monitoring of the implementation at basin level together with the Implementation Platform
- **Foster innovation ecosystem at basin level:** promote demos and testing initiatives; support access to finance; liaise with the Implementation Platform in relation to a “one stop shop” bringing together different sources of funding
- **Technical expertise and know-how:** catalogue of services supporting upscaling, replication and deployment of solutions; disseminate information of projects and their outcomes, liaise with the Implementation Platform



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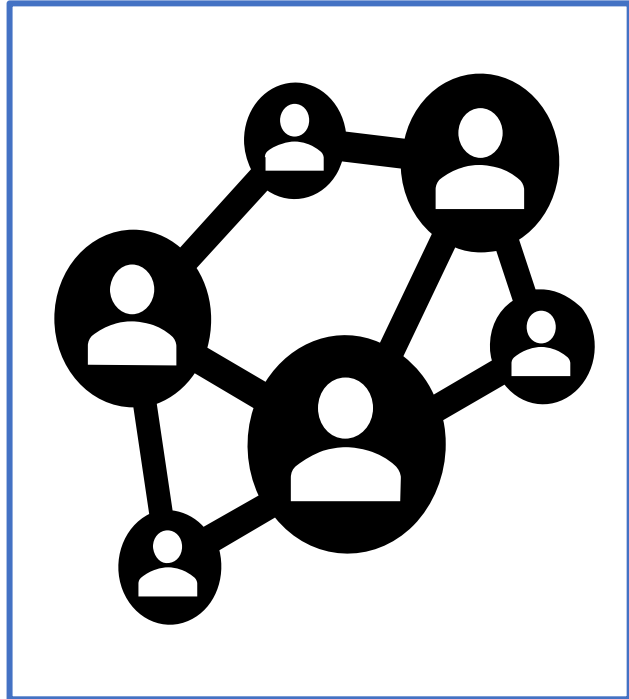
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European Commission

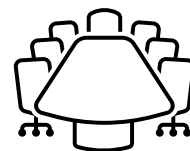


CINEA

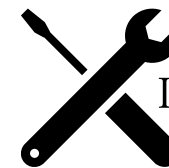


BLUEMISSION AA

Building a coordination hub to support the mission implementation in the Atlantic and Arctic Basins



Mission Board



Mission Implementation Platform



## Mission Charter

# Our joint commitment to restore our ocean and waters



Join forces for a **transformational change** for a healthy ocean and waters



A **simple, inclusive, efficient and inspirational** framework to enhance cooperation to deliver on **Mission objectives**

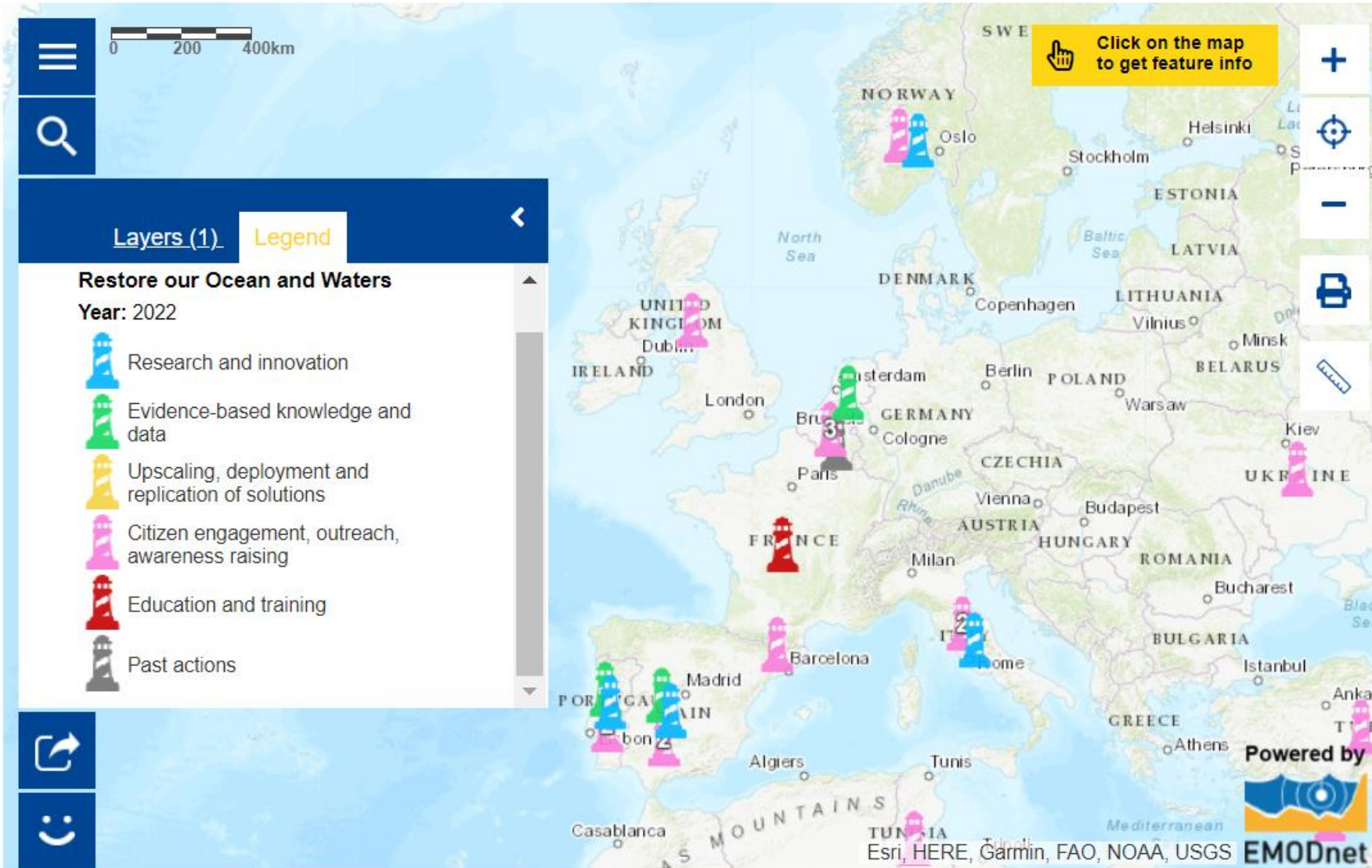


**Open** to any (public or private) interested parties



**Actions** can cover R&I, Knowledge & Data, Citizen engagement, Upscaling/deployment of solutions, Education & Training





# Your action in Mission Atlas

**Mission Actions - EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters (3 of 3)**



Title of the action: **Mission Ocean and waters work programme 2021, Horizon Europe**

Short description: **The Mission Ocean and waters work programme includes calls for R&I proposals addressing the Mission objectives and enablers.**

Name of organisation: **European Commission**

Budget: **114,3 Million Euro**

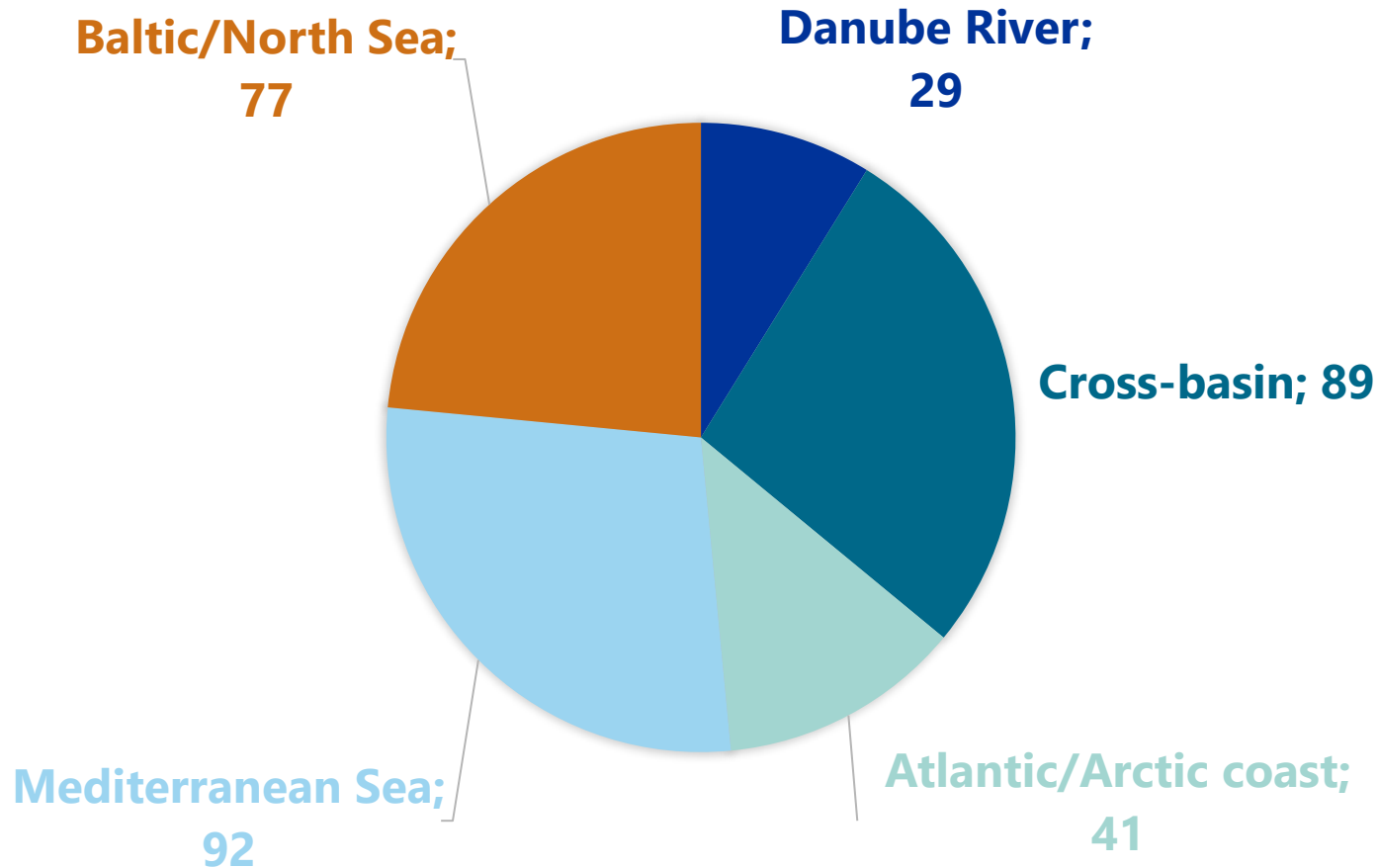
End date of action: **12/04/2022**

Website: [Website](#)



# Mission Charter actions

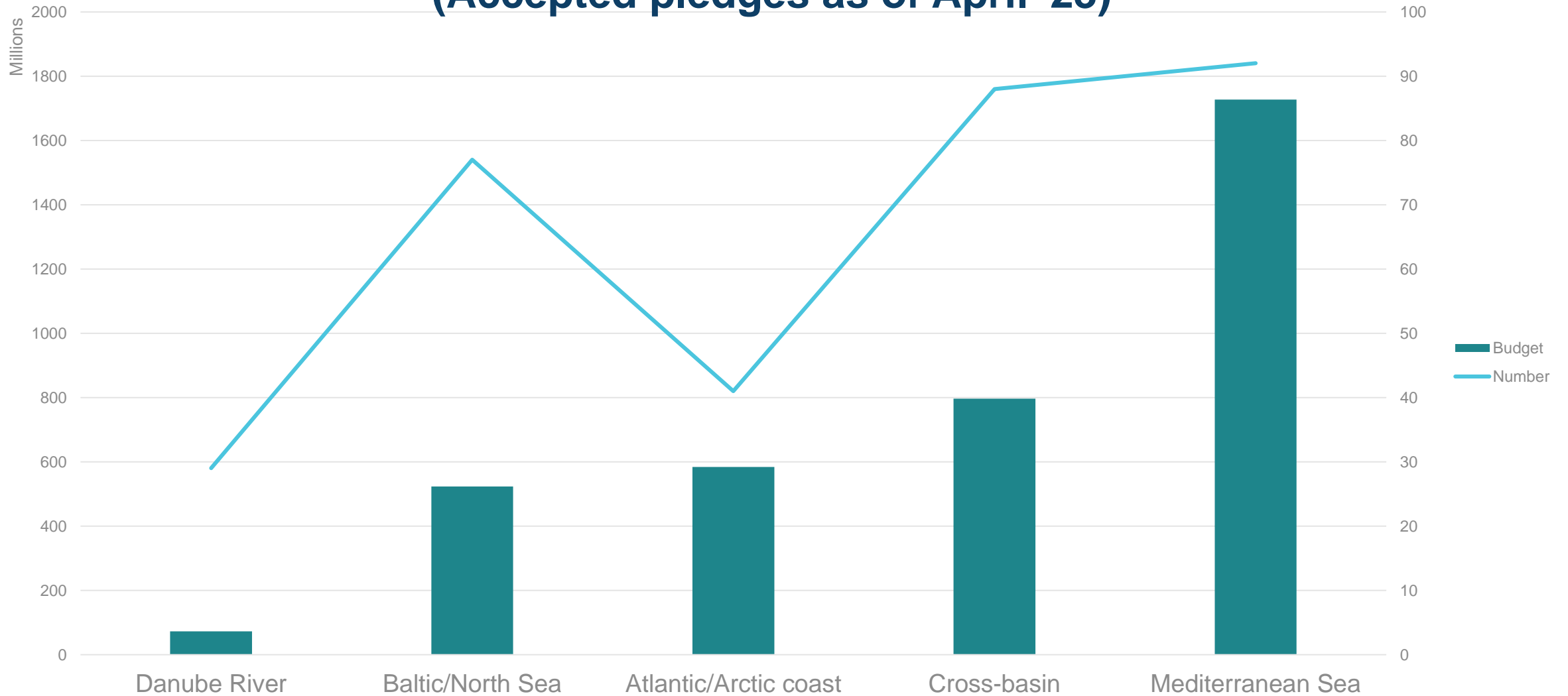
## BASIN COVERAGE



**Over 450 actions submitted with  
300 actions visible to the Mission  
Atlas  
Budget: €3,73 billion**



## Budget and Number of Pledges by Basin (Accepted pledges as of April '23)





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# Thank you!

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