



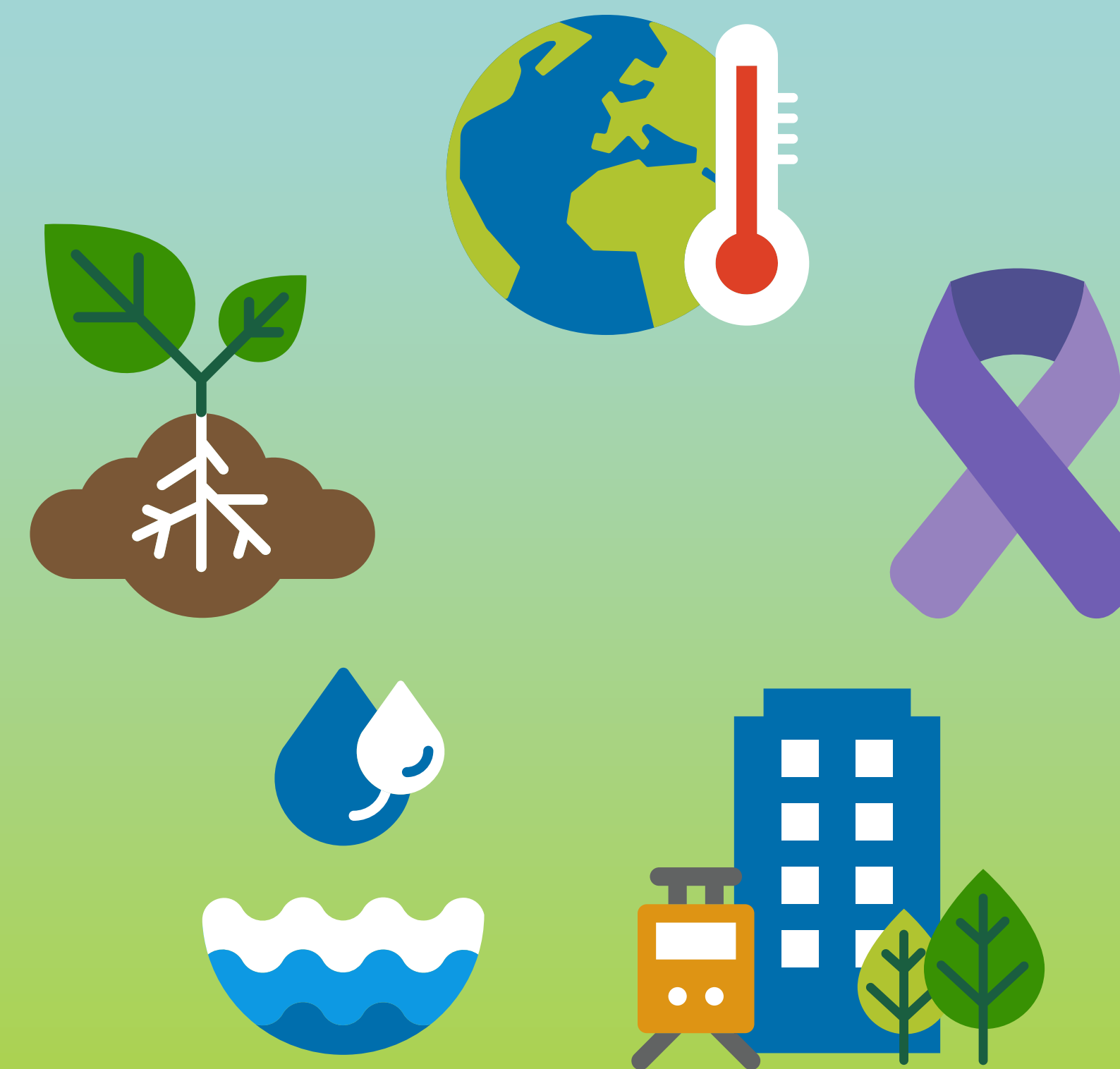
What are **EU Missions**?

The European Commission launched five new EU Missions – including the **Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”**.

European Missions are new broad mobilisation initiatives rooted in the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, by going beyond the existing instruments. Missions will bring **concrete solutions** to the **greatest challenges** of our time, such as fighting cancer, adapting to climate change, protecting the ocean, seas and waters, living in greener cities and ensuring healthy soil and food.

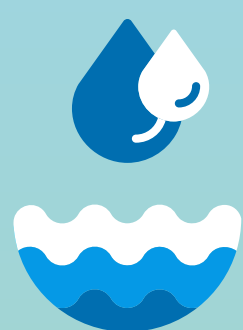
Missions will engage **all Europeans** at EU, regional and local level.

They are about what we can do together to shape the world we want to live in.





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EU MISSIONS

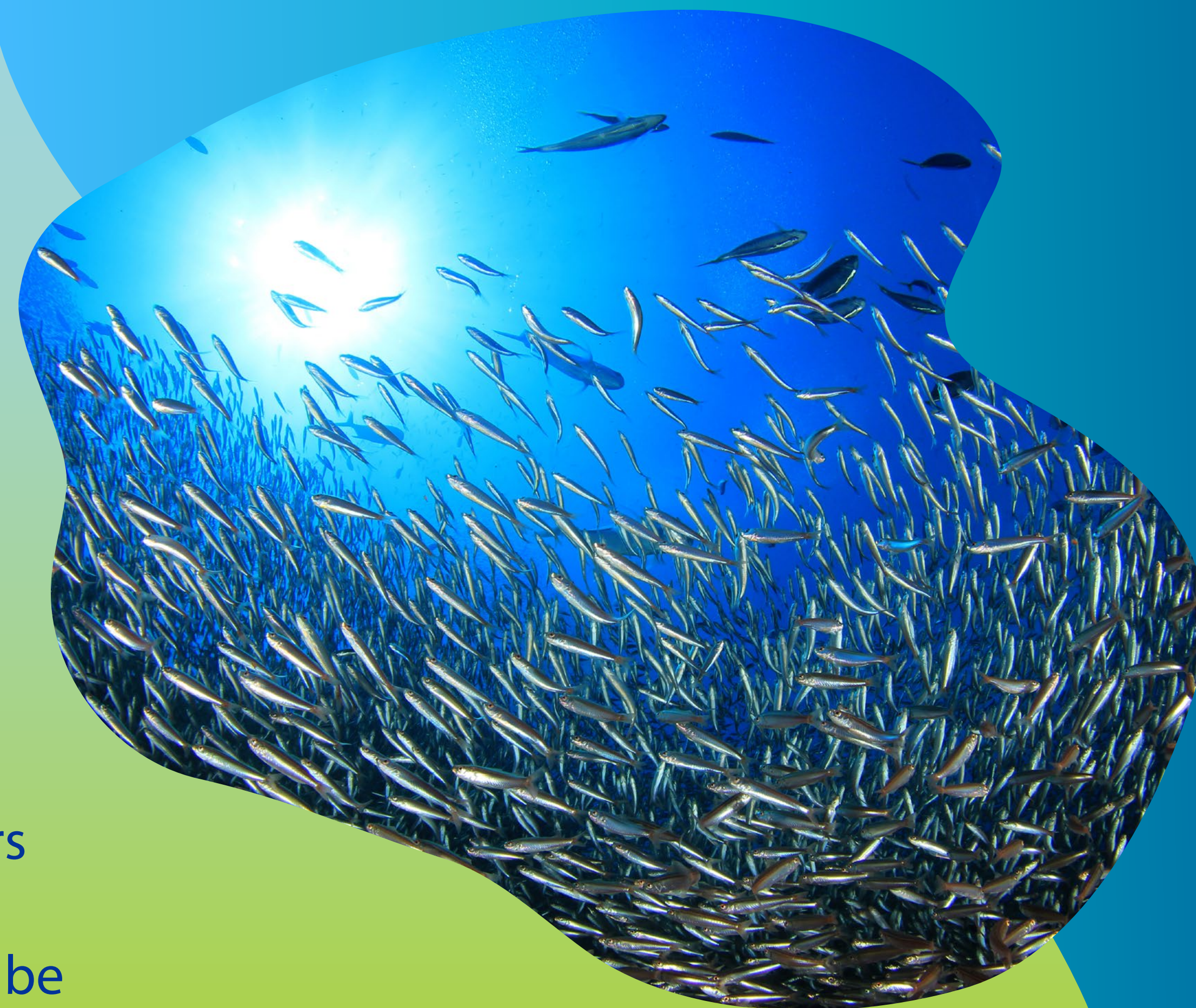
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS BY 2030

The objective of this Mission is to **restore by 2030** the health of one of our most precious shared resources: our ocean and waters. In a nutshell, this means to:

- **protect and restore** marine and freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems,
- **eliminate** pollution, and
- **make the blue economy** carbon-neutral and circular

The Mission will look at the **whole water** system from rivers to the seas and ocean. To support the Mission objectives and its related lighthouses, two cross-cutting enablers will be enhanced: the digital ocean and water knowledge system and broad public mobilisation and engagement.

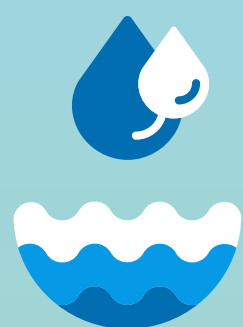
WHAT'S
IN IT FOR ME





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WHAT'S
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Why the **ocean** and **waters** matter

Life on Earth depends on the **health** of the connected system of the ocean, seas and inland waters, which covers around 75% of the Earth's surface. This system regulates our climate and provides oxygen, drinking water, clean energy and food.

40% of Europeans live in coastal areas, and at least **4.5 million people** in the EU work in sectors related to our ocean, seas and coasts.

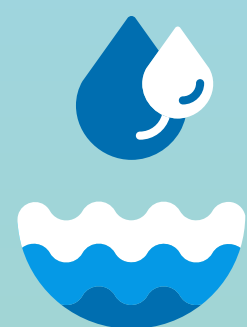
Human-made changes are putting our ocean and waters at serious risk. **But it's not too late.** We can still reverse the negative trend, by shifting our focus from exploiting our ocean and waters to making them **sustainable** and **resilient**, and ensuring economic recovery goes hand in hand with environmental protection.





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Why the **ocean** and **waters** matter

What opportunities we have if we take care of the ocean and waters

A **restored ocean** and **healthy waters** can play a key role in improving our lives and achieving:

- **Climate neutrality:** the ocean and waters are major carbon sinks and are also essential for adapting to a changing climate
- **Biodiversity:** the ocean and waters are home to a rich diversity of species
- **Economic prosperity:** the ocean is estimated to generate €2.5 trillion of goods and services per year by 2030





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How will this Mission work and who can get involved?

The Mission will **develop and demonstrate innovative technological, social, business and governance solutions**. It will promote new forms of cooperation, allowing everyone to play an active role.

The scope of the Mission goes far beyond research and innovation. It combines **new forms of governance** and cooperation and **a new way of reaching out to citizens** and getting them on board, including **young people**. EU countries, regions and a wide range of public and private sector **stakeholders** will also need to get involved, to help ensure we make real impact, together. Each one of us can co-design, co-implement and co-monitor this Mission by participating in campaigns and other activities.





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What happens now?

In early 2022, the first calls for proposals under Horizon Europe will make available **€1 14 million** to support the rolling out of the Mission. Projects will develop and demonstrate breakthrough innovation to **protect and restore ecosystems, eliminate pollution** and **make the blue economy** carbon-neutral and circular.

Alongside Horizon Europe the Mission also mobilises the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), InvestEU and other EU programmes. Together, they will provide around **€500 million** in seed funding during 2021-23. Along with Member State contributions and private funding, this will create a big and lasting impact.

Throughout its lifetime, the Mission will move from piloting to demonstration, deployment and market entry of innovative solutions to restore our ocean and waters.





What are the **lighthouses** and **how do they work?**

In the Mission Ocean and Waters we will set up **four Mission lighthouses** at basin scale in:

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

For centuries, lighthouses have been guiding sailors through storms to safety.

The four Mission Ocean and Waters lighthouses will act as **hubs that will develop, demonstrate and deploy new solutions** far and wide across the world. Building on existing governance structures, the lighthouses will bring together relevant Member States, the European Commission and other partners, through a political implementation charter. In the charters, the partners commit to cooperating and aligning resources to achieve the Mission objectives.





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The **Danube lighthouse** and the **Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse**

Objective: **protecting and restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity.**

Targets:

- Protect a minimum of **30%** of the EU's sea area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network.
- Strictly protect at least **10%** of the EU's sea area.
- Restore at least **25,000 km** of free-flowing rivers.
- Contribute to relevant upcoming marine nature restoration targets, including degraded seabed habitats and coastal ecosystems





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The **Mediterranean lighthouse**

Objective: **preventing and eliminating pollution of our ocean, seas and waters.**

Targets:

- Reduce by at least **50%** plastic litter at sea.
- Reduce by at least **30%** microplastics released into the environment.
- Reduce by at least **50%** nutrient losses, the use and risk of chemical pesticides.





The Baltic-North sea lighthouse

Objective: making the blue economy carbon-neutral and circular.

Targets:

- **Eliminate greenhouse gas emissions** from maritime economic activities in the EU and sequester those emissions that cannot be avoided (i.e. net zero maritime emissions).
- **Develop zero-carbon and low-impact aquaculture, and promote circular, low-carbon** multi-purpose use of marine and water space.





What have EU-funded projects achieved so far? (1)

Objective: **Protect and restore marine and freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems**

Example from Horizon 2020 programme:

MERCES project

Due to global warming, overfishing, pollution, species invasion and habitat loss, the ecosystems of our seas and ocean are feeling the pressure. To understand the impact of these actions more research is needed to understand these drivers and improve the state of the EU's degraded coastal and marine habitats.

Researchers from the project's 28 partners worked to advance the knowledge base and demonstrate practical approaches to implement marine ecosystem restoration in Europe.

Example from EMFF programme:

AFRIMED project

The AFRIMED project builds on the MERCES project, applying its findings in Europe and beyond. AFRIMED implements innovative restoration and formulates guidelines to effectively restore damaged macroalgal forests and degraded habitats in the Mediterranean Sea.



What have EU-funded projects achieved so far? (2)

Objective: **Eliminate pollution**

Example from Horizon 2020 programme:

CLAIM Project

By deploying and demonstrating a range of innovative technologies to collect and treat plastics waste, CLAIM aims to prove the feasibility of pollution-prevention approaches, set to make a big impact on protecting the marine environment. The solutions will prevent litter from entering the sea at two main source points: waste-water treatment plants and river mouths.

Example from EMFF programme:

OCEANETS project

Lost or discarded fishing gears can cause great harm at sea, as they are a source of pollution for marine waters and a waste of resources. OCEANETS project aims at preventing, recovering and recycling abandoned fishing gears, and demonstrating the feasibility of a circular economy model for managing these complex waste materials.



What have EU-funded projects achieved so far? (3)

Objective: **Make the blue economy carbon-neutral and circular**

Example from Horizon 2020 programme:

SUCCESS project

The project helped make European fisheries and aquaculture industries more competitive by researching the full value chain, i.e. from the fishing net (producers) to the plate (consumers).

The project has consolidated cooperation among scallop producers in Galicia, Spain, bringing producer organisations closer to processors to create a fresher, more premium product. The fishers sell to the company at a negotiated price, which beats selling by auction, yielding a high-quality product.

Example from EMFF programme:

GREENing the BLUE project

GREENing the BLUE presents the full-scale demonstration of a foldable wingsail solution based on aeronautical design, which reduces fuel use and pollutant emissions in maritime transport through wind energy co-propulsion.