



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership



Co-funded by
the European Union

The Regional Portfolios of Projects

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Informative Webinar for applicants

7 October 2026 – 13H-14H30 (Paris Time)



Webinar instructions

- ▶ The webinar will be recorded. The recording will be available on the SBEP website on replay
- ▶ The audio is available to speakers only
- ▶ Please ask your questions using the Webex Chat



Webinar Agenda



Time	Topic
13H – 13H05	Welcome
13H05 – 13H20	Welcoming words from the Coordination and Introduction to the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership
13H20 – 13H35	Introduction to the Regional Portfolio Action, calls for interest, and eligibility criteria
13H35 – 13H40	Feedback from a project in an ongoing SBEP portfolio action
13H40 – 14H10	Overview of the 5 Regional Portfolio topics
14H10 – 14H15	How to apply
14H15 – 14H30	Final Remarks, questions and conclusion

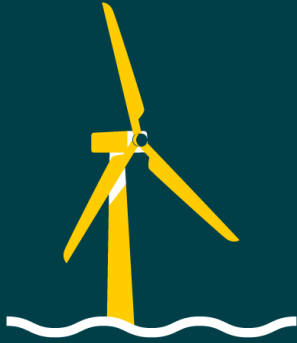


Introduction to the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

- ▶ Horizon Europe co-funded Partnership (2022 to 2029), bringing together **79 partner institutions from 32 countries, + European Commission co-funding** (Horizon Europe Cluster 6)
 - ▶ **Pools R&I investments** to boost the transformation towards a climate-neutral, sustainable, productive and competitive blue economy. Alignment of **national programs at pan-European scale, taking into account regional sea-basin needs**
 - ▶ Coordinated by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR, sbep@mur.gov.it), and co-coordinated by the Research Council of Norway (RCN)
 - ▶ Main activity: project co-funding (Joint Transnational Calls). **The Partnership also implements additional activities, aimed notably to increase the impact of cofunded projects**
 - ▶ **Additional activities aimed to boost projects' impact (including Portfolios of projects)**
- ▶ **250 million euros investments** and **6 co-funded calls** for R&I proposals are planned over 7 years.

The Partnership Intervention Areas (2026)



**Transitioning Blue
Economy Sectors**



**Managing Sea-
Uses**



Blue Bioresources

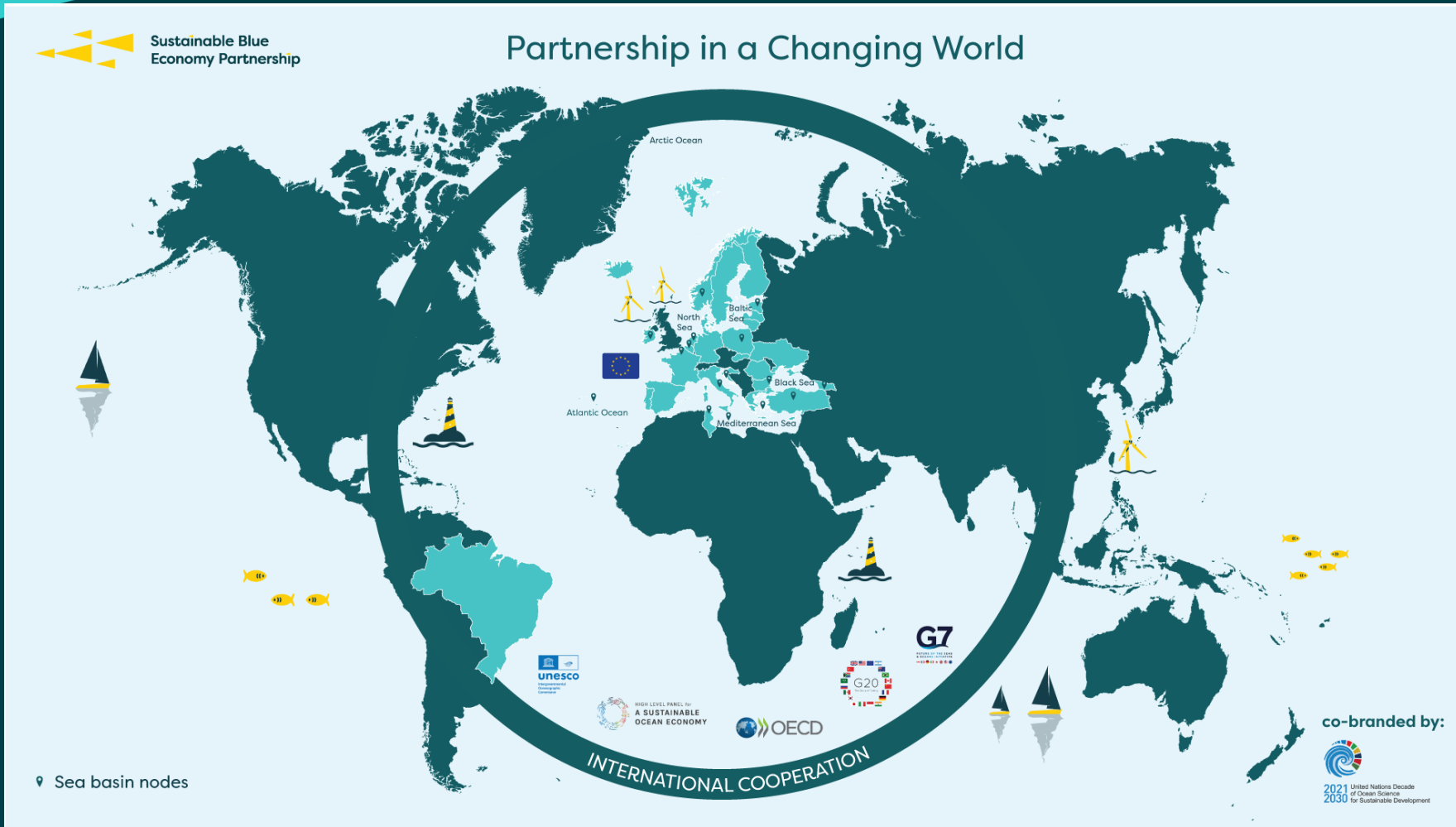


**Resilient Coastal
Communities and
Businesses**

Cross-cutting enablers:

- ▶ Digital Twins of the Ocean and digitalization, implementation of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) dimension, across all intervention areas.

The Regional Cooperation: Sea-basin nodes



- ▶ Key focus on EU sea-basins (Mediterranean, Black, Baltic, and North Sea) and the Atlantic Ocean, needs and priorities
- ▶ Active regional cooperation activity through a network of **sea-basin nodes**



Introduction to the Regional Portfolio Action and Calls for Interest



The SBEP Regional Portfolio Action (2027 – 2029)

WHAT ARE THE REGIONAL PORTFOLIOS OF PROJECTS?

- ▶ A networking action linking ongoing R&I projects within each European sea-basin
- ▶ 5 Parallel Portfolios: Atlantic Ocean, Black Sea, North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea
- ▶ Portfolio duration: early 2027 to early 2029
- ▶ Action similar to the Thematic Portfolios of projects (2026-2028)

GOALS OF THE REGIONAL PORTFOLIO ACTION?

- ▶ **Connect** ongoing projects (projects with a SBEP co-fund, and other national, regional and EU grants) through a dedicated networking, knowledge and data sharing platform
- ▶ **Amplify impact at regional and European levels:** addressing research gaps and priorities in the sea-basin, avoiding duplication, and facilitate networking and production of input to policy and projects' market uptake
- ▶ **Strengthen** collaboration with key regional stakeholders





The SBEP Regional Portfolio Action (2027 – 2029)

▶ Some of the **benefits**, of participating in a Regional Portfolio, for a project are:

- ▶ **Increased visibility** at the regional and international level
- ▶ **Networking** with regional and quadruple-helix stakeholders
- ▶ **Career boost**, especially for early-career scientists
- ▶ **Identification of new cooperation opportunities**
- ▶ Co-design of **market-uptake plans**
- ▶ **Meetings with key regional stakeholders**, included from the EU Commission
- ▶ **Participation in the Partnership events**





The SBEP Regional Portfolio Action (2027 – 2029)

WHICH PROJECTS CAN JOIN THE REGIONAL PORTFOLIOS?

- ▶ Projects funded by the Partnership Joint Transnational Calls, and projects granted with national, regional or EU funding, active in the chosen sea-basin(s), and ongoing between 2027 and 2029
- ▶ Projects can express an interest to join one/multiple Regional Portfolios by answering the open calls for expressions of interest, launched in 2 waves (online questionnaire)



FIRST WAVE OF CALLS
ATLANTIC OCEAN AND BLACK
SEA



Deadline for applications:
Oct 28, 2026

SECOND WAVE OF CALLS
BALTIC SEA, NORTH SEA,
MEDITERRANEAN SEA



Deadline for applications:
Dec 9, 2026



Call process, eligibility criteria and timeline



Call eligibility criteria

- ▶ **APPLICANTS MUST FULFILL THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA. PROJECTS THAT DO NOT FULFILL ALL THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WILL BE DECLINED WITHOUT ANY REVIEW BY THE PORTFOLIO BOARD**
- ▶ **Scope of projects' R&I activities:** Projects must fall in the scope of at least one sub-thematic listed in the Call text (presented earlier)
- ▶ **Duration of Projects:** Projects must be active and ongoing during the Regional Portfolio Action timeframe (from January 2027 to early 2029), for at least 6 months.
- ▶ **Source of Funding:** Projects must be recipient of a national, regional, or EU grant.
- ▶ **Geographical scope of Projects:** Projects must target at least the chosen portfolio sea basin (other sea-basins may be targeted, in addition to the chosen portfolio). Projects that submit an interest and are eligible to be part of another Regional Portfolio will be asked to rank the portfolios in order of preference.
- ▶ **Project Representative and alternate (if any):** Each project should be represented by a Project Representative (Principal Investigator (PI), or other appointed consortium member). A second representative of the project consortium can be proposed as alternate at the submission step.
- ▶ **Commitment, availability and capacity to engage on behalf of the consortium**



Selection Timeline

WAVE 1 (ATLANTIC OCEAN, BLACK SEA)

- ▶ **28 October 2026 (15H00, Brussels time):** Application deadline
- ▶ **November 2026:** Projects' selection
- ▶ **December 2026:** Announcement of results to the project representatives

WAVE 2 (BALTIC, NORTH AND MEDITERRANEAN SEA)

- ▶ **9 December 2026 (15H00, Brussels time):** Application deadline
- ▶ **December 2026:** Projects' selection
- ▶ **January 2027:** Announcement of results to the project representatives



2027- Portfolio launch

ON-SITE KICK-OFF MEETING

- ▶ Back-to-back to a regional event in the sea-basin
- ▶ Kick-off period: first quarter of 2027
- ▶ Key networking opportunity with portfolio projects and other regional stakeholders
- ▶ Opportunity to elect the portfolio Chair, and reflect on synergies with other projects and future common networking activities

AFTER THE KICK-OFF

- ▶ Regular online meetings (information exchange, key events, ...)
- ▶ Development of a roadmap of activities, based on projects' needs and synergies
- ▶ Networking opportunities
- ▶ Participation in SBEP events
- ▶ On-site final meeting

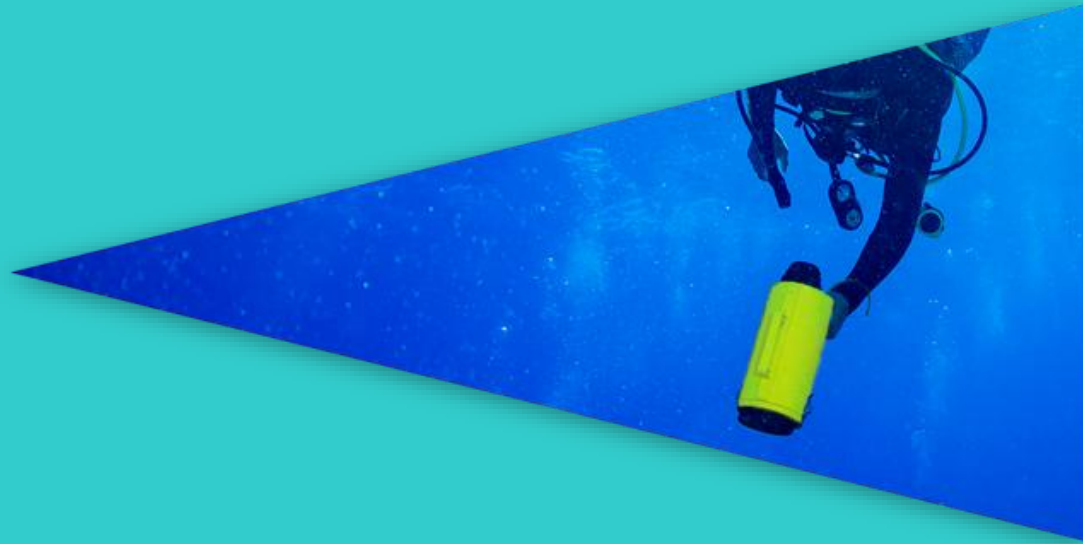


- ▶ Thematic Portfolio kick-off meetings (Bucharest, Feb 2027)



Experience from another Portfolio project

**Giovanna Romano, Algae Thematic Portfolio Chair
(2026-2028)**



The Five Regional Portfolio Topics



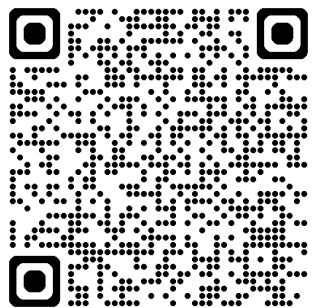
About the Portfolio Topics

- ▶ Topics identified by the Regional Portfolio Board (1 per sea-basin): sea-basin nodes, regional experts and SBEP Partners
- ▶ The Portfolio topics reflect **research needs/gaps and challenges in each sea-basin**. One objective of the Regional Portfolio is to address these regional priorities at an operational networking level.
- ▶ In the next slides, the Regional portfolio topics will be presented according to order of call launch
 - ▶ Wave 1 (Atlantic Ocean and Black Sea)
 - ▶ Wave 2 (Mediterranean, Baltic and North Sea)



1st Wave of Calls for Interest

- ▶ Atlantic Ocean Regional Portfolio: **“Addressing Atlantic Ocean Coastal Resilience in Practice”**
- ▶ Black Sea Regional Portfolio: **“Addressing knowledge gaps in the black sea: information, data exchange, and good practices in the context of climate change”**
- ▶ Launch date: 29 July, 15H00 (Brussels time)
- ▶ End date: 28 October, 15H00 (Brussels time)



- ▶ QR Code to access the 1st wave of calls



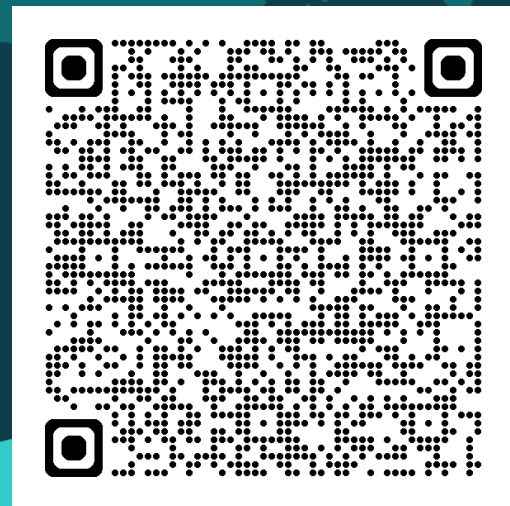


▶ Atlantic Ocean Regional Portfolio:

**“ADDRESSING ATLANTIC OCEAN COASTAL
RESILIENCE IN PRACTICE”**



**SCAN TO ACCESS THE CALL
TEXT**





Atlantic Ocean Regional Portfolio

ADDRESSING ATLANTIC OCEAN COASTAL RESILIENCE IN PRACTICE



MONITORING: UNDERSTANDING COASTAL SYSTEMS

Improving ocean observation, understanding coastal environments and pressures, understanding current conditions and detecting changes



ANTICIPATING: FUTURE RISKS AND PRESSURES

Analysing and anticipating future coastal conditions and risks, in the context of climate change and cumulative pressures



DECISION SUPPORT: ENABLING INCLUSIVE AND EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS

Use, translation and integration of knowledge into decision-making, bridging the gap between knowledge generation and practical application



IMPLEMENTATION: DELIVERING COASTAL RESILIENCE IN PRACTICE

Tangible examples of enhancement of resilience in coastal environments and communities. How to deliver coastal resilience in practice.



SCALING AND CONNECTING: AMPLIFYING IMPACT

Transfer, uptake, and wider impact of knowledge, approaches, and solutions. Connecting efforts to increase the projects' impacts and enabling the uptake of approaches across the Atlantic.

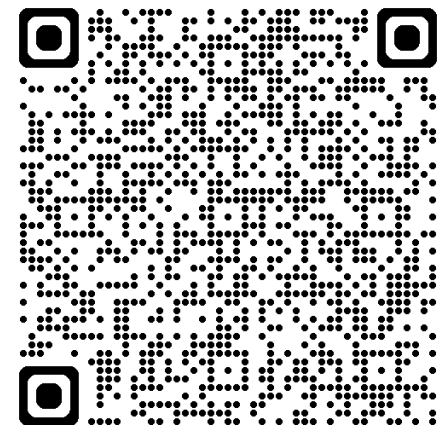


▶ Black Sea Regional Portfolio:

**“ADDRESSING KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN THE
BLACK SEA: INFORMATION, DATA
EXCHANGE, AND GOOD PRACTICES IN THE
CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE”**



**SCAN TO ACCESS THE CALL
TEXT**





Black Sea Regional Portfolio

ADDRESSING KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN THE BLACK SEA: INFORMATION, DATA EXCHANGE, AND GOOD PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE



CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED COASTAL PLANNING

Integrated planning to strengthen resilience, combining ecosystem-based conservation and sustainable coastal development



MULTI-USE COASTAL AND MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

Sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient infrastructure systems
Innovative planning, design, operation, management of coastal and offshore infrastructure, multiuse framework



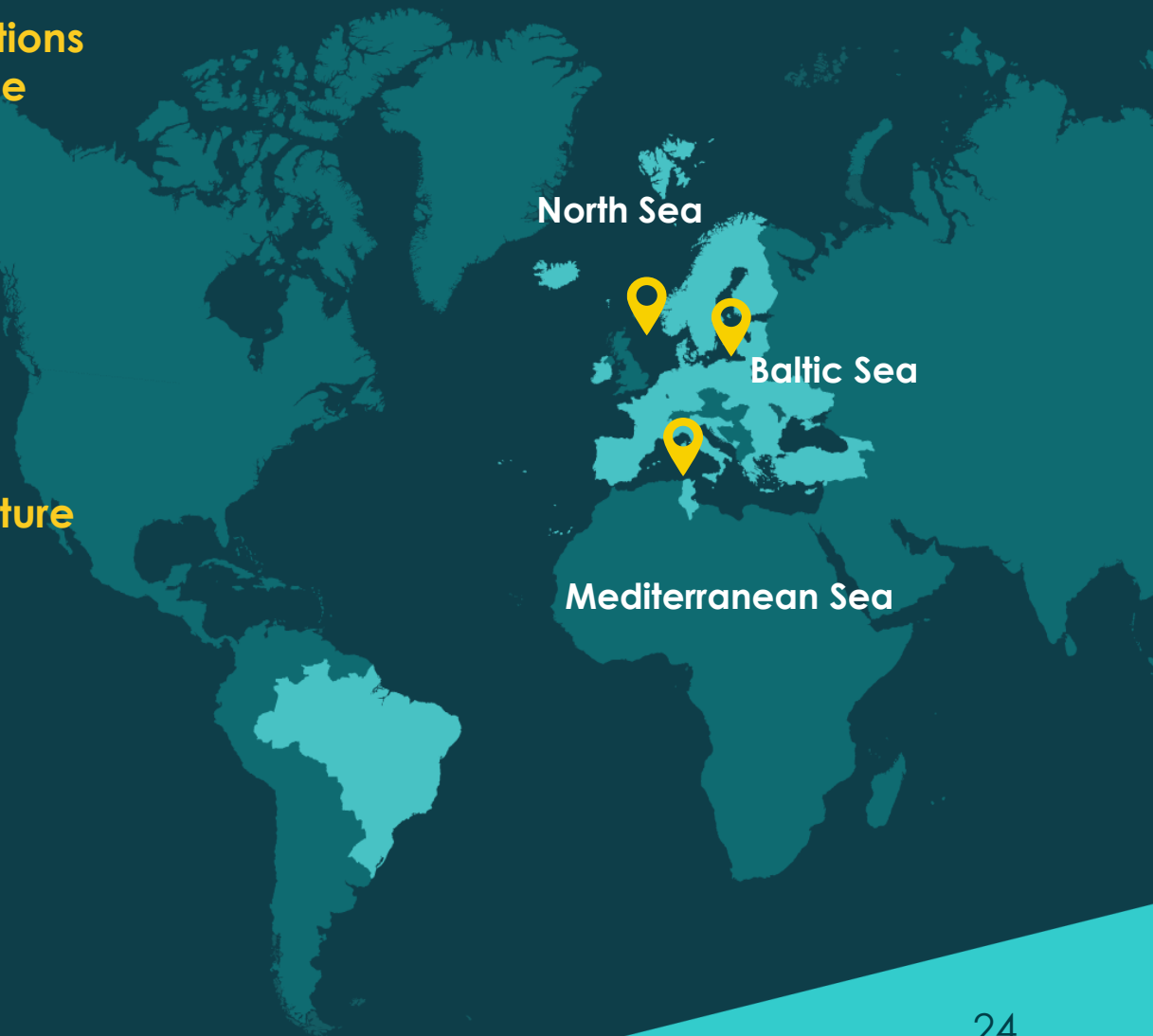
SMART GOVERNANCE AND DECISION SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

Governance, digitalisation and stakeholder processes to support evidence-based, inclusive and adaptive decision-making for MSP and integrated coastal zone management.



2nd Wave of Calls for Interest

- ▶ North Sea Regional Portfolio: “**Exploring nature-based solutions to address cumulative impacts on marine ecosystems while supporting maritime sea uses**”
- ▶ Baltic Sea Regional Portfolio: “**Improving the Baltic Sea resilience: Resilience to large-scale events, infrastructure resilience, and ecosystem resilience**”
- ▶ Mediterranean Sea Regional Portfolio: “**Fostering inclusive governance and multi-use coastal and maritime infrastructure for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Sea**”
- ▶ Launch date: 9 September, 15H00 (Brussels time)
- ▶ End date: 9 December, 15H00 (Brussels time)



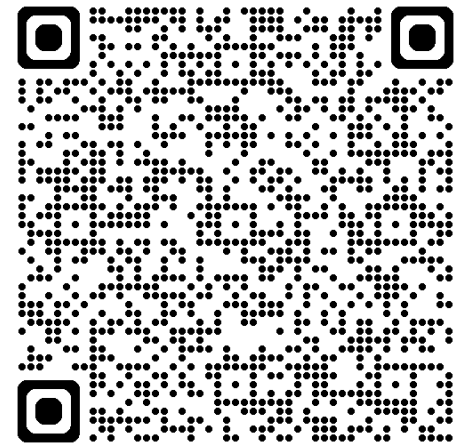
- ▶ QR Code to access the 2nd wave of calls



▶ Baltic Sea Regional Portfolio:

**“IMPROVING THE BALTIC SEA RESILIENCE:
RESILIENCE TO LARGE-SCALE EVENTS,
INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE, AND ECOSYSTEM
RESILIENCE”**

**SCAN TO ACCESS THE CALL
TEXT**





Baltic Sea Regional Portfolio

IMPROVING THE BALTIC SEA RESILIENCE: RESILIENCE TO LARGE-SCALE EVENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE, AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE



ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE AND NATURE RECOVERY

Healthy and secure ecosystems, resilience to climate change and to large-scale pressures, ecosystem-based management, nature recovery, blue carbon, eutrophication reduction, preservation of ecosystem services, digital tools and AI supported systems.



INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE, DECISION SUPPORT AND SOCIETAL RESILIENCE

Governance, digitalisation, societal processes to strengthen the Baltic Sea resilience. Advanced decision-support tools, digital and data infrastructures, participatory governance and transition pathways.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Integrated planning
- Sustainable multi-use, Nature-based solutions
 - Digitalisation, innovation & decision support
- Inclusive governance, societal resilience
 - Transboundary cooperation, policy uptake



▶ Mediterranean Sea Regional Portfolio:

**“FOSTERING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE AND
MULTI-USE COASTAL AND MARITIME
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
SEA”**



**SCAN TO ACCESS THE CALL
TEXT**





Mediterranean Sea Regional Portfolio

**FOSTERING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE AND MULTIUSE
COASTAL AND MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**



GOVERNANCE, PARTICIPATION AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

Coastal governance, participatory planning, Marine Spatial Planning, stakeholder engagement, community consent, land-sea cross-sectoral approach



MULTI-USE COASTAL AND MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE ECOSYSTEM

Multi-use infrastructure, coexistence between maritime sectors, coastal communities and ecosystem-based protection, infrastructure governance, hybrid design, minimised environmental impacts

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Integrated planning
- Sustainable multi-use, Nature-based solutions
 - Digitalisation, innovation & decision support
- Inclusive governance, societal resilience
 - Transboundary cooperation, policy uptake

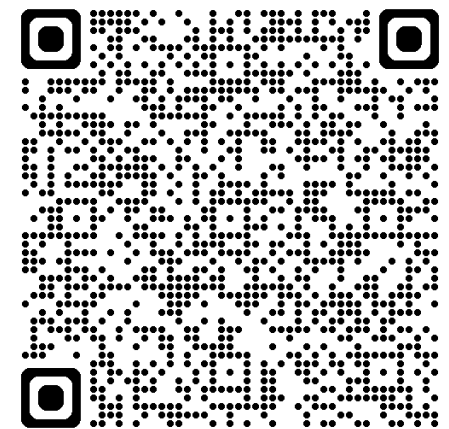


▶ North Sea Regional Portfolio:

“EXPLORING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ON MARINE ECOSYSTEMS WHILE SUPPORTING MARITIME SEA USES”



**SCAN TO ACCESS THE CALL
TEXT**





North Sea Regional Portfolio

EXPLORING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ON MARINE ECOSYSTEMS WHILE SUPPORTING MARITIME SEA USES



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Ecosystem restoration, marine & coastal conservation, biodiversity, ecosystem services, Nature-based Solutions, climate adaptation & mitigation, scalable & long-term approaches



MULTI-USE COASTAL AND MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE ECOSYSTEM

Ecosystem-based approach, sustainable sector coexistence, ecosystem-based fisheries management, low-impact fishing & regenerative aquaculture, nature-inclusive offshore activities, adaptive Marine Spatial Planning



DIGITAL MONITORING, DECISION SUPPORT AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Digitalisation & monitoring, decision-support tools, cumulative pressures, AI & digital twins, earth observation and autonomous systems, harmonised indicators and predictive models

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Integrated planning
- Sustainable multi-use, Nature-based solutions
 - Digitalisation, innovation & decision support
- Inclusive governance, societal resilience
 - Transboundary cooperation, policy uptake



How to apply?



How to apply?

- ▶ Light online questionnaire linked to the Call texts
- ▶ To be completed by the Project Representative (and alternate, if any), before the deadline stated in the Call texts:



- ▶ Completion of this light questionnaire is required to confirm the application (all required information has to be stated)
- ▶ One questionnaire per wave of Calls. Applicants to the two waves of Calls must fill in the two forms
- ▶ Questions may be addressed to sbep-portfolio@anr.fr



Final Q&A





Thank you for your attention

More information can be found on the SBEP website: www.bluepartnership.eu

Regional Portfolio Secretariat: sbep-portfolio@anr.fr

