EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS

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Version 1

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Technical assistance to support communities of actors to achieve the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters objectives

HISTORY OF CHANGES			
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Introduction

The aim of the *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQ) document is to provide support to potential beneficiaries of the Call for Expression of Interest throughout their application journey. The FAQ document offers concise and easy to read answers to the most commonly asked questions as part of the Call for Expression of Interest. The FAQ document will contribute to support interested stakeholders with all the necessary information required to make an informed decision about their potential participation and eligibility as well as to guide them in submitting a successful application.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Mission Ocean and Waters?

The EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030' provides a systemic approach to protection and restoration of European oceans, seas, and waters by 2030. The Mission aims to comprehensively restore the health of our ocean & waters using a systematic approach, focused on three objectives:

- Protecting and restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Preventing and eliminating oceans, sea, and water pollution; and
- Ensuring a sustainable carbon-neutral and circular blue economy.

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.

Through the Mission, four Mission lighthouses have been set up at basin scale in: the Mediterranean Sea, the Baltic and North Sea, the Danube river basin, and the Atlantic-Arctic basin. The four Mission Ocean and Waters lighthouses will act as hubs that will develop, demonstrate, and deploy new solutions.

How do I endorse the Mission Charter?

The Mission Ocean and Waters Charter is a non-binding tool for Member States, regions, and a wide range of stakeholders to commit to the protection and restoration of our oceans, seas and waters and pledge actions that will contribute to the successful implementation of the Mission and its lighthouses.

You may endorse the Charter and pledge actions through the dedicated online platform, which will remain open throughout the duration of the Mission. You may also find action pledges already submitted in this interactive map.

How do I apply

The application process consists of four steps:

1. **Determine your eligibility**: ensure you meet the eligibility and exclusion criteria as outlined in the Call for Expression of Interest.
2. **Prepare your application**: collect the necessary information and documents related to your project, such as project descriptions, budgets, team details, and any supporting documents that highlight your project's alignment with the Mission's objectives.
3. **Fill out the application form**: access and complete the form on the EU Survey Platform available on: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/TechnicalAssistance_Communities_MissionOcean
4. **Submit your application**: review and submit your application before the deadline.

Applications can be submitted in any of the 24 official EU languages. If your application is not in English, it is recommended (but not required) that you include a summary of the application in English in Section 7 of the Application Form.

Detailed information can be found in the Call for Expression of Interest: https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters/technical-assistance-support-communities-actors-achieve-eu-mission-restore-our-ocean-and-waters#call-weblink

How will applicants be selected?

All applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- Whether project description is in line with the Mission Ocean & Waters' objectives
- Impacts and synergies with other policy initiatives in line with the Mission.
- Project feasibility
- Relevance/ Added Value of Technical Assistance required
- Organisation receiving the Technical Assistance.

What support is offered for applicants?

The objective of the technical assistance is to support selected applicants in developing and strengthening their actions contributing to one or more of the Mission Ocean and Waters' objectives. **Selected applicants will be offered a free-of charge, tailored technical assistance package and feasibility study**.

The technical assistance will be tailored based on the selected applicant's needs, capacity, and interests, providing expert support for addressing **regulatory, technical, economic, operational, environmental, and commercial feasibility gaps**.

The feasibility studies will provide an assessment of the overall viability of projects, and recommendations on how to improve the feasibility of selected actions. Selected beneficiaries will gain a clearer understanding of the project feasibility and/or requirements to scale up and further develop the project.

If you have specific questions or need assistance with your application, contact our **Helpdesk** at mission.ocean.studies@technopolis-group.com

We will hold **webinars to guide applicants** through the process in different languages. Register for a session or access recordings through the MIP's website.

Can I combine this support with other funding?

Costs for the **same activity** cannot be funded twice from the EU budget. However, **scaling up or replication** of already existing projects or initiatives carried out with other EU, national, or regional funding is **highly encouraged**.

When is the deadline for submission?

The application for the Call for Expression of Interest will be organised in two distinct cycles running from:

- Cycle 1: from 22 March 2024 until 24 May 2024
- Cycle 2: from September/October 2024 until November/December 2024 (exact dates to be confirmed)

For **Cycle 1**, the submission deadline for the Expression of Interest is **24 May 2024 at 23:59 CEST.**

When will I be notified about the selection decision?

The assessment of the received applications will indicatively last **five weeks, counting from the date of closure of the call for expression of Interest**.

The Evaluation Panel and the European Commission will jointly review the eligibility and completeness of the submitted EoIs and assess them against the selection criteria.

Applicants will be promptly contacted with requests for clarification in case any gaps are found in their application and allowed to provide clarification on missing elements within 5 working days from the date of the notification.

A notification to the selected and rejected applicants about the final decision will be provided via email with the corresponding feedback after the review is carried out. All decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

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