



EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



## ‘Strengthening the EU Blue Parks Community’

The EU Blue Parks Community under the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" brings together EU Member States national and regional authorities, European marine networks, stakeholders, and research and innovation projects to collaborate on marine protection and restoration in EU sea-basins. The Community aims to help identify and address challenges, share tools, solutions and good practices for marine protected areas (MPAs), contributing to the protection of 30% and strict protection of 10% of EU sea areas by 2030.

This online event is the 3rd workshop in the series of EU Blue Parks Community workshops. More than 80 organisations active on marine protection are already members in this growing Community. This third workshop, themed 'Strengthening the Community,' aims to enhance our collaborative capabilities, share good practices and tools, and explore synergies both within the Community and across the EU.

### Why attend?

- Engage in interactive discussions with the Community on challenges and means to meet the European and International marine protection targets.
- Learn from expert presentations on good practices for marine protection and get updated on the most recent results from leading European projects and on other tools/services for MPA design and monitoring.
- Exchange on opportunities to enhance cooperation.

**12 November 2024, 10:00 – 12:30 CET  
(online via MS Teams)**

**10:00 Welcome & introduction to event**

- **Opening remarks**  
*Andreea Strachinescu, DG MARE HEAD of Unit A1*
- **Workshop aims and agenda**  
Moderator: Sergio Rossi, Ocean Citizen project coordinator, University of Salento

**10:10 State-of-Play of EU Blue Parks Community & Mission Implementation Platform services**

*Speaker: Clément Dupont, SML & Vineta Goba, Technopolis / MIP Ocean*

**10:20 Interactive exchange with audience**

**10:40 Good practices from Community Members**

- Stakeholder engagement for MPA optimal locations  
*Belinda Bramley, MPA Europe*
- BLUE CONNECT: a collaborative approach to protecting and restoring marine habitats and enhancing connectivity  
*Ivana Stojanovic, Submariner Network*
- Engaging Mediterranean stakeholders towards the MPA 2030 roadmap  
*Carole Martinez, MedPan*
- FairSeas: supporting the Government of Ireland to designate and implement new MPAs  
*Donal Griffin, FairSeas*

**Q&A**

**11:35 Services provided by European Research Infrastructures in marine domains and access to marine data**

- Overview of European Research Infrastructures in the marine domain  
*Agnès Robin, Head of Sector Research Infrastructures Policy, DG RTD*
- Marine hub of LifeWatch  
*Lennert Schepers, Flemish Institute for Sea Research*
- Emodnet and Digital Twin Ocean  
*Nicolas Segebarth DG RTD*
- WISE Marine  
*Joana Costa, EEA*

**Q&A**

**12:25 Closing remarks**

*Elisabetta Balzi, HEAD of Unit Ocean and Waters, DG RTD*