



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



The Mission Ocean & Waters and its Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse coordinated by EcoDaLLi

Text example to be adapted for website
articles and regional journal contributions



Project Acronym: EcoDaLLi
Project Title: ECOsystem-based governance with DANube lighthouse Living Lab for sustainable Innovation processes
Call: HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02-04 – Danube river basin lighthouse – coordination activities
Programme: HORIZON EUROPE
Start Date: 01.01.2023
Duration: 42 months



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The EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters“

Around 75 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by oceans, seas and inland waters. They play a crucial role in the Earth's global ecosystem; their protection is fundamental to our future. Unfortunately, our oceans and waters are under serious threat from pollution, overfishing, unsustainable tourism and inappropriate land use. In addition, the consequences of the climate crisis, such as floods, droughts, rising temperatures, rising sea levels and heatwaves, are putting considerable pressure on water systems. One of the consequences of this is the loss of valuable biodiversity in water systems all over the world.

Restoration and full exploration of European marine and freshwater ecosystems by 2030

For this reason, the European Commission has launched a dedicated mission: The EU Mission “[Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030](#)”. It aims to contribute to the restoration, protection and full exploration of European marine and freshwater ecosystems by 2030. Specifically, the objectives and three priorities of the Mission Ocean & Waters are: (1) protecting and restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems and their biodiversity, (2) preventing and reducing water pollution and (3) creating a carbon-neutral and circular blue economy. The mission thus also supports the political goals of the Green Deal and is divided into two phases: Potential solutions demonstrated in a first phase (2021-2025) will be scaled up and replicated across the EU in the second phase (2026-2030). Implementation at regional, local and municipal level is crucial to the success of the Mission; research and innovation also have an important contribution to make.

Lighthouses within the EU Mission „Restore our Ocean and Waters“

In order to achieve the ambitious goals, four Lighthouse areas have been created in four large EU sea and river basins. These Lighthouses bundle the activities of the Mission and are sites for the piloting, demonstration, development and deployment of innovative solutions. Each area has been assigned one of the four main objectives of the Mission Ocean & Waters: Thus, the Mediterranean Sea Basin Lighthouse is dedicated to the prevention and reduction of water pollution; the Baltic & North Sea Basin Lighthouse to a sustainable blue economy that is climate neutral and circular. The protection and restoration of marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity are central themes of the Danube River Basin Lighthouse with connection to the Black Sea and the Atlantic & Arctic Basin Lighthouse.



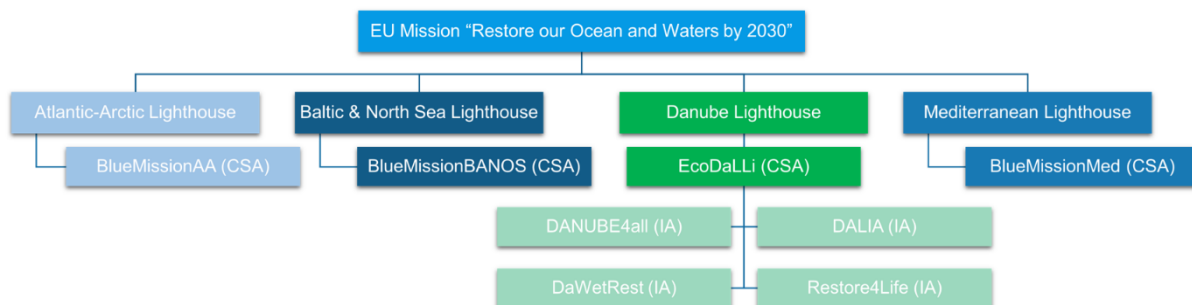
Elements for implementing the mission objectives

The planning and implementation of projects in the EU funding program Horizon Europe is crucial in the implementation of the Mission objectives. Each of the four Lighthouses mentioned is coordinated by a CSA (Coordination and Support Action) project and is accompanied by IA (Innovation Action) and RIA (Research and Innovation Action) projects. In addition, there are also cross-lighthouse projects that contribute to the objectives of the Mission. The “[Digital Twin Ocean](#)”, a virtual representation of the ocean that combines ocean observations, artificial intelligence and advanced modeling on high-performance computers, and the “[Mission Charter](#)” are also of great importance for the implementation of the Mission objectives. The Mission Charter brings together all organizations and actions that contribute to the Mission objectives and thus contributes to the interconnectedness of the Mission Ocean & Waters community. At the same time, it provides access to services and best practices and tools provided by the Mission.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Mission Ocean & Waters community, you will find further information and an interactive map with all the Mission Charter measures already submitted on the linked website.

EcoDaLLi plays a key role in the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse

The Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse is one of the four Lighthouses in the Mission Ocean & Waters. It currently comprises five projects: EcoDaLLi as a coordination and support action (CSA) and four innovation actions (IAs): DANUBE4all, DALIA, DaWetRest and Restore4Life. While the DANUBE4all and DALIA projects are dedicated to the restoration of the Danube river, DaWetRest and Restore4Life are committed to the revitalization of climatically valuable wetlands. EcoDaLLi works as a CSA not only with the other lighthouse areas and associated projects, but also with all key stakeholders and governance structures relevant to the mission. The projects are funded by the EU with a total of 35.7 million euros under Horizon Europe.



Simplified illustration of the Mission Ocean and Waters with a focus on the Danube Lighthouse and its associated projects. © EcoDaLLi

The EcoDaLLi project

[EcoDaLLi](#) (2023-2026) stands for “ECOsysteM-based governance with Danube lighthouse Living Lab for sustainable Innovation processes”. 17 partners and one associated partner from 11 countries are working on the centralization of governance structures of the Danube basin to promote the use of innovative solutions for the ecological restoration, protection and conservation of the Danube basin and its delta. With a well-connected Living Lab system, a stronger innovation ecosystem is being built.

Subscribe to the [Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse Newsletter](#) to stay informed about the activities of the entire lighthouse area and shape the future of the Danube together with us!

Video: [Lighthouses in Mission Ocean & Waters](#) (youtube.com).

