



RECOMMENDATIONS

to the European Commission on smarter alignment of Smart Specialisation Strategies with Ocean Mission objectives

About

The BLUEMISSIONAA project, funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme, seeks to build a coordination hub to support the implementation of the EU Ocean Mission within the Atlantic and Arctic basins.

This document presents ten targeted recommendations addressed to the European Commission, aimed at enhancing the synergy between regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) and the EU Ocean Mission objectives. By fostering stronger connections between local research, innovation ecosystems, and coordinated EU policymaking, these recommendations intend to facilitate smarter alignment, unlock research and innovation funding, and maximize local and regional impact toward restoring and sustainably managing ocean resources.

At a glance

This document provides 8 clear recommendations for the European Commission to strengthen the integration of Ocean Mission goals within Smart Specialisation Strategies. Key recommendations include boosting coordination between Commission Directorates-General, promoting interregional partnerships, enhancing communication about mission-related innovation projects, and supporting accurate monitoring of funded actions to measure and replicate successes. Further recommendations encourage the use of EU-wide innovation databases, increased involvement of regional S3 experts in EU program development, and improved inclusion of regions in Mission Ocean-funded projects. Collectively, these measures aim to create a more coherent, effective, and locally relevant policy framework that accelerates ocean restoration and sustainable blue economy growth across European maritime regions.



SCAN ME

**1**

Continue improve connections between DG RTD with local research and development/innovation centers

2

Increase coordination between various DGs in the European Commission (DG MARE, DG RTD, DG REGIO) to reflect on the interoperability between different funding programmes to achieve the objectives of the Mission

3

Support the creation of interregional partnerships between regions linked to the objectives of the Mission Ocean thanks to the support of the EU Blue S3 Platform

4

Develop an accurate monitoring and communication on the Ocean Mission's projects results at regional level, making known the innovations that are ready to be on the market and could be transferred to other regions

**5**

Promote the use of EU-wide databases as a great source of technical information on innovation in the field of the Ocean Mission.

6

Support a stronger involvement of EU regional authorities, especially S3 experts in the preparation of Horizon Europe work programme to favour the harmonisation of R&I funding with the priorities of the regions and better screening of innovative projects, linked to the objectives of Ocean Mission.

7

Support the involvement of regions in “National and Regional Partnership Plans”. This way, coastal regions could nurture the content of the Partnership Plans and allow a better screening of innovative “Blue” projects in the Atlantic and Arctic, linked to the objectives of Ocean Mission

8

Improve the conditions for regions to be associated regions to the Mission Ocean-funded project

