



# **BLUE MISSION BANOS**

Supporting the Mission Ocean  
Lighthouse in the Baltic and North  
Sea Basins

## **Supporting Actors and Communities to Engage with Mission Ocean**



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## Executive Summary

Between 2023 and 2025, Blue Mission BANOS (BMB) coordinated and supported the implementation of the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters” in the Baltic and North Sea regions. By involving actors across the blue economy—seen as the driving force of the Mission—BMB helped actors understand their current and future roles in the Mission. This broad

engagement boosted awareness and momentum, laying a solid foundation for future work. This policy brief provides key recommendations for engaging different categories of actors, to ensure their potential for contributing to the Mission is leveraged, in the next phase of the Mission.

### Enabling Mission actors in the BANOS area

- Hosts of European **online databases**
- **Sea bassin networks**
- National **mission hubs**
- National **industry clusters**
- **Local communities** of ‘Mission’ practice
- **Research** institutions
- **Youth**



## Recommendations for supporting enabling actors beyond 2025 in the BANOS area

### 1 European Public Databases

#### ROLE

- Hosts of platforms like **WaveLinks** and the **Mission Implementation Platform**, essential for knowledge sharing and coordination

#### RECOMMENDATION

- Support ongoing dialogue with European databases to ensure **relevance** for National Mission Hub activities, and other evolving stakeholder **needs**

### 2 Sea basin Networks

#### ROLE

- **Regional connectors** that accelerate Mission roll-out and break down of silos across disciplines and countries

#### RECOMMENDATION

- Engage these networks consistently to **maintain momentum** as multipliers of Mission awareness and **cross-border collaboration**

### 3 National Mission Hubs

#### ROLE

- National-level structures that facilitate **cross-ministerial collaboration** and **stakeholder engagement**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Facilitate their ability to **share good practices** among current and future Mission Hubs
- Promote or request **inter-ministerial collaboration** to optimize national engagement and coordination structures

### 4 National Industry Clusters

#### ROLE

- **Engines of transformation** in the blue economy, capable of **leading or participating** in Mission actions

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encourage **sharing of best practices** within blue industry
- Use for instance Mission Arenas to **raise awareness** and **foster collaboration** at regional levels

## 5 Local communities of 'Mission' practice

### ROLE

- Ground-level agents of change with **direct impact** on marine and coastal environments and **direct connection** to citizens

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support **community-led actions**, guided by science
- Expand Mission awareness and foster synergistic impact through **inclusive engagement**, and **links to other actors** included sea-basin networks and national Mission Hubs

## 6 Research Institutions

### ROLE

- Key drivers of scientific advances and **innovation**, but with ocean literacy capacities as well

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support systematic collaboration between researchers and educators, to increase **ocean literacy** among the BANOS youth, using e.g. BANOS guidelines
- Reflect on the balance in Mission communication between **advocating** for a societal change or policy target, and the relevant roles of **politically neutral** research institutions participating

## 7 Youth

### ROLE

- The **next generation of ocean professionals and citizens**, and receivers of ocean literacy related teaching efforts

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Facilitate and **support youth participation in Mission activities** such as Mission Arenas to understand how EU works to address sustainability challenges in their oceans and waters
- Enable youth to participate in Mission projects or share ideas
- Ensure teachers have access and capacity to teach aquatic topics, using e.g. Mission related projects as cases

## Develop the glue to connect actors at sea-bassins level

## 8 Mission Arenas

### ROLE

- Can work as a **systematic and strategic forum** for knowledge exchange and Mission alignment across, sectors, countries and disciplines

### RECOMMENDATION

- Keep the momentum and support similar concepts to leverage the understanding of the Mission's community of the role they can serve for institutions, projects, networks, etc