



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

2021  
2030

United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



CNDO - Portugal  
Comité Nacional - Década do Oceano

OCEAN DECADE UK



# Empowering the Decade: Webinar on Horizon Europe Funding

*Chaired by Professor Matt Frost,  
Plymouth Marine Laboratory,  
Chair of the UK National Decade Committee*



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



26 January 2026 – Microsoft Teams  
[NDC.Secretariat@cefas.gov.uk](mailto:NDC.Secretariat@cefas.gov.uk)

# Event Introduction



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

OCEAN DECADE UK

Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada



CNDO - Portugal  
Comitê Nacional - Década do Oceano

## The Ocean Decade

- We are halfway through the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030); yet SDG14 ("Life Below Water") remains the least funded Sustainable Development Goal
- Despite this, the Ocean Decade has become the largest global ocean science initiative – ever

## Horizon Europe

- Horizon Europe is a major EU funding programme, intended to support research and innovation
- The HE 2026-2027 work programme, recently published, includes a single-stage €9 million funding call for Coordination and Support Action (CSA) projects contributing to outcomes 1-7 of the Ocean Decade; the call notes that "all international organisations are exceptionally eligible for funding"



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Europe Funding

# Session Aims



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## 1 ENGAGING

Raising awareness and increasing reach for this new Ocean Decade funding opportunity

## 2 LEARNING

Sharing information from diverse institutions and states working to support the Decade

## 3 CONNECTING

Fielding questions, exchanging ideas, and networking in the chat with other attendees



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# Webinar Agenda



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Session	Speaker	Timing
Welcome	Matt Frost (webinar chair, UK NDC)	10 minutes
HE Decade Funding Call	Nicolas Segebarth (European Commission)	15 minutes
1st Q&A	Matt Frost (webinar chair, UK NDC)	5 minutes
UN Ocean Decade coordination	Alison Clausen (IOC-UNESCO)	10 minutes
CSA Best Practice	Sofia Cordeiro (DGEPA, MECI)	10 minutes
2nd Q&A and Wrap-Up	Matt Frost (webinar chair, UK NDC)	10 minutes



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# Housekeeping Rules



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## Attendee Contributions

- You can submit questions via the Q&A function – please include the relevant speaker's name
  - *Please submit questions for Nicolas during his talk, as he will be leaving after the 1st Q&A*
- You are encouraged to introduce yourself and connect with other attendees in the chat!

## Accessibility

- You can enable live captioning for this event – all presenters will be speaking in English
- A transcription and a recording of this event will be shared by e-mail and online afterwards
- All slides will be shared with attendees via e-mail after the event



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#HorizonEU

# THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

**NICOLAS SEGEBARTH**

UK NDC Webinar  
26 January 2026

Research and  
Innovation

# Empowering the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-03

## CONTEXT

- EC-RTD roadmap for Cooperation on the UN Decade of Ocean Science
- Ocean Decade, mid-term
- EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters
- European Ocean Pact & Ocean Observation Initiative

*Ensuring key processes, initiatives and structures put in place through the Decade continue after its end*

## INSTRUMENT AND INDICATIVE BUDGET

Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

Total: EUR 9 million

Per project contribution: EUR 3.00 million

NB: Lump Sum

Opening: 14/01/2026

Closure: 15/04/2026

# Empowering the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-03

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Proposals are expected to contribute to **all** following outcomes:

- ✓ At least 1 Ocean Decade Outcome, aligned with the Mission Ocean: :
  - (1) A clean ocean, (2) A healthy and resilient ocean, (3) A productive ocean, (4) A predicted ocean, (5) A safe ocean, (6) An accessible ocean, (7) An inspiring and engaging ocean
- ✓ Structural and long-lasting changes as per how ocean science is supported and performed globally. “Legacy of Ocean Decade”



# Empowering the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development


HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-03

## SCOPE

### Consolidating of international cooperation

- Key global efforts: Decade Programmes, Actions, Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices. Implementation of the Vision 2030 white papers or of the Ocean Decade data & information strategy
- EC-RTD roadmap for Cooperation on the UN Decade of Ocean Science: Mission Ocean, AAORIA, Digital Ocean
- At least one of selected Decade Challenges: (1) pollution, (2) biodiversity, (6) resilience, (7) goos, (8) digital ocean, (9) capacity, (10) society's relationship with the ocean

## IMPORTANT

- International cooperation strongly encouraged  
 [funding eligibility](#)
- International organisations are exceptionally eligible for funding

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# Thank you !



**EU FUNDING PORTAL:** [HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-03](#)

**R&I INFO DAYS :** [ADDITIONAL INFO](#)

**[EC-RTD ROADMAP FOR COOPERATION ON THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE](#)**

**[EU MISSION RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS](#)**

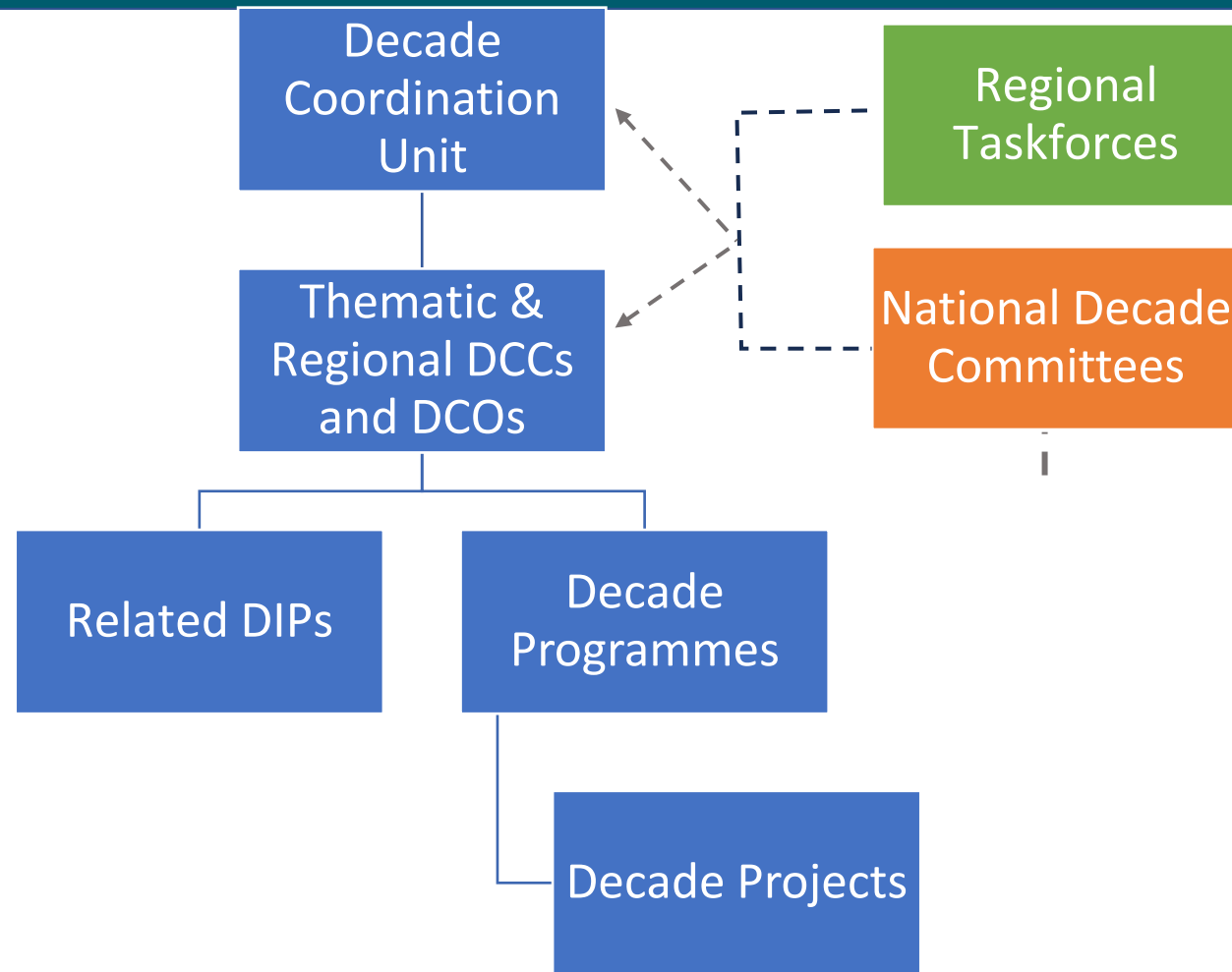


# Priority Needs for Ocean Decade Coordination: a perspective from the Decade Coordination Unit

*Alison Clausen*

*[a.clausen@unesco.org](mailto:a.clausen@unesco.org)*

# IMPORTANT OCEAN DECADE COORDINATION STRUCTURES





# COORDINATION STRUCTURES @ MID-POINT OF DECADE



2021 United Nations Decade  
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## THE OCEAN DECADE

in a snapshot

As of December 2025

### ENDORSED OCEAN DECADE ACTIONS

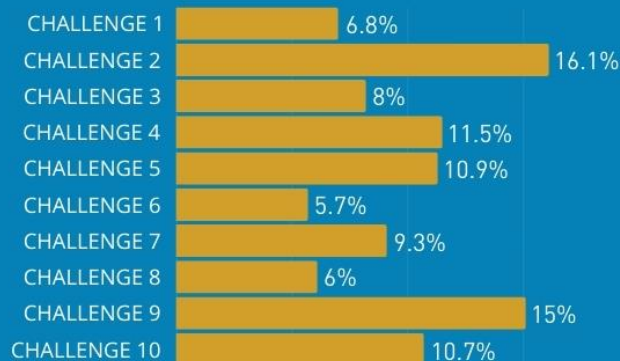


**62** PROGRAMMES **127** CONTRIBUTIONS  
**582** PROJECTS **1,178** ACTIVITIES



DECADE ACTIONS LED  
BY PARTNERS FROM **78** COUNTRIES

#### ENDORSED ACTIONS PER CHALLENGE



### REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION

**13**  
DECADE  
COLLABORATIVE  
CENTRES/  
COORDINATION  
OFFICES

**24**  
DECADE  
IMPLEMENTING  
PARTNERS



**43**  
NATIONAL  
DECADE  
COMMITTEES

**2**  
REGIONAL  
TASKFORCES

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### ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

**6** INFORMAL  
WORKING GROUPS

**14** PATRONS AND  
**21** INSTITUTIONAL  
MEMBERS OF  
THE OCEAN  
DECADE  
ALLIANCE



OVER **20**  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
FOUNDATIONS  
DIALOGUE



**2,640,000**  
PAGE VIEWS  
FROM USERS IN  
**230** COUNTRIES AND  
TERRITORIES ON  
THE DECADE WEBSITE  
Since December 2024



**11 MILLION**  
REACH  
Since 2021



# PRIORITY NEEDS FOR COORDINATION & GOVERNANCE

Priorities driven by The Barcelona Statement, MTE Action Plan, with a vision to implementing the 2027 ODC Outcomes

Global coordination to deliver impact in priority areas of impact to and beyond 2030

Sustainability, impact and post-2030 longevity of existing coordination structures inc. SIDS, LDCs

Establishment of new coordination mechanisms, initiatives & structures to fill gaps



unesco  
Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



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# CSA Best practices

Experience from the **AANCHOR CSA** project  
supporting the implementation of the **All-  
Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation  
Declaration**

Sofia Cordeiro  
26 January 2026

UK National Decade Committee webinar on Horizon  
Europe Decade funding



# What are Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) under the EU Horizon Europe?

## Specific type of EU-funded action designed to:

- Support
- coordinate, and
- enhance research and innovation activities



## They do not:

- fund actual research or innovation work itself.



## Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs)

RIAs fund **research-oriented projects** that aim to **generate new knowledge or explore new technologies**.



## Innovation Actions (IAs)

IAs fund projects that **turn existing knowledge or technologies into practical solutions** ready for the market or real-world deployment.

# Evaluation Logic and Proposal Structure

## Evaluation Logic:

- Political relevance and alignment
- Practical usefulness for decision-making
- Capacity to enable change and coordination

## Proposal Structure

- Part A: Administrative forms
- Part B: Excellence, Impact, Implementation
- Strong alignment with policies (example, EU and UN policies)

# Excellence – Objectives & Approach

- Clear, operational **policy objectives**
- Alignment with **EU priorities and UN Decade goals**
- Participatory and co-creation methodologies



## **Participatory methodologies**

(Stakeholders actively contribute, but don't necessarily design everything)

Examples:

**Focus groups** – guided discussions with target users or communities

**Citizen panels / citizen assemblies** – citizens deliberate and provide recommendations

**Participatory surveys** – stakeholders help shape questions or interpret results

**Living labs** – real-life environments where users test and give feedback



## **Co-creation methodologies**

(Stakeholders **jointly design and shape** solutions)

Examples:

**Design thinking** – iterative process (empathise, define, ideate, prototype, test)

**Co-creation labs** – multi-actor spaces to jointly develop concepts or strategies

**Hackathons / ideathons** – collaborative, time-bound problem-solving events



# Impact

## Focus is **policy impact**

- **Link the impacts directly** with the ones described in the Work Programme
- Describe how the impacts are uptake, and by whom (**public authorities and stakeholders**)
- Support to **implementation and reporting processes**

## Examples of valued impacts:

- Integration of results into national and European strategies and UN policies
- Support to regulatory decision-making
- Harmonisation of approaches across Member States
- Contribution to international reporting

# Dissemination & Exploitation

**Critical aspect in CSAs.** Assessment focuses on:

- Clear distinction between:
  - communication (awareness)
  - dissemination (targeted stakeholders in all countries engaged; )
  - exploitation (effective use in policies and instruments)

- The existence of:
  - decision-maker-oriented outputs (policy briefs, guidelines),
  - timing aligned with policy cycles.



## **Golden rule for CSAs**

**Always include stakeholders who:**

- **Decide** (policymakers, regulators)
- **Use** (end users, citizens)
- **Implement** (industry, public authorities)
- **Multiply impact** (networks, associations)

# Consortium and Implementation

- Clear work plan and governance
- **Diverse consortium** (academia + public administration + intermediary/interface organisations + civil society;)
- Legitimacy and access to policy networks



Academia-only consortia are penalised.

In a policy-oriented CSA it is expected:

- **Strategic flexibility**: the ability to adjust activities to the political context;
- **Continuous stakeholder engagement**, not just one-off events;
- **Production of actionable outputs**: policy briefs, clear recommendations, roadmaps, others.



Note: Success is **measured more by the use of results** than by their mere production.

# Key Performance Indicators and Sustainability

## Policy-oriented KPIs.

**Indicators should go beyond basic quantitative metrics – should provide evidence of change and uptake.** Valued examples include:

- Number of policies influenced;
- Number of decision-makers actively engaged;
- Uptake of results by public authorities;
- Integration into strategic documents.

## Strong value on:

- What remains **after the project ends, such as:**
  - o networks,
  - o platforms,
  - o institutional processes;
- Realistic plans for **continuity without direct EU funding.**

# Key Takeaways

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A CSA supporting policy initiatives should:

- Think less like a scientific project and more like a **public policy instrument**;
- Demonstrate: **flexibility, relevance, utility, tangible impact, sustainability**;
- Be written in the language of governance, decision-making, and implementation.



**Thank you!**



# Event Wrap-Up



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## Notices

- Please fill out our feedback form! 
- **15 April 2026:** funding call deadline



Programme  
Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Call  
Call 03 - single stage (2026) (HORIZON-CL6-2026-03)

Type of action  
HORIZON-CSA HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions

Type of MGA  
HORIZON Lump Sum Grant [HORIZON-AG-LS]

 Open For Submission

Deadline model  
single-stage

Opening date  
14 January 2026

Deadline date  
15 April 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

- Follow the UK NDC on LinkedIn! 



## Resources

- [Horizon Europe: Funding Call](#)
- [Decade Coordination Roadmap](#)
- [EU: Restore our Ocean and Waters](#)



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