

# “Towards integrated European marine research strategy and programmes”



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A satellite map of Europe and its surrounding seas, including the North Atlantic, Arctic, and Mediterranean. The landmasses are shown in shades of green and brown, while the oceans are a deep blue. Yellow outlines delineate the borders of European countries.

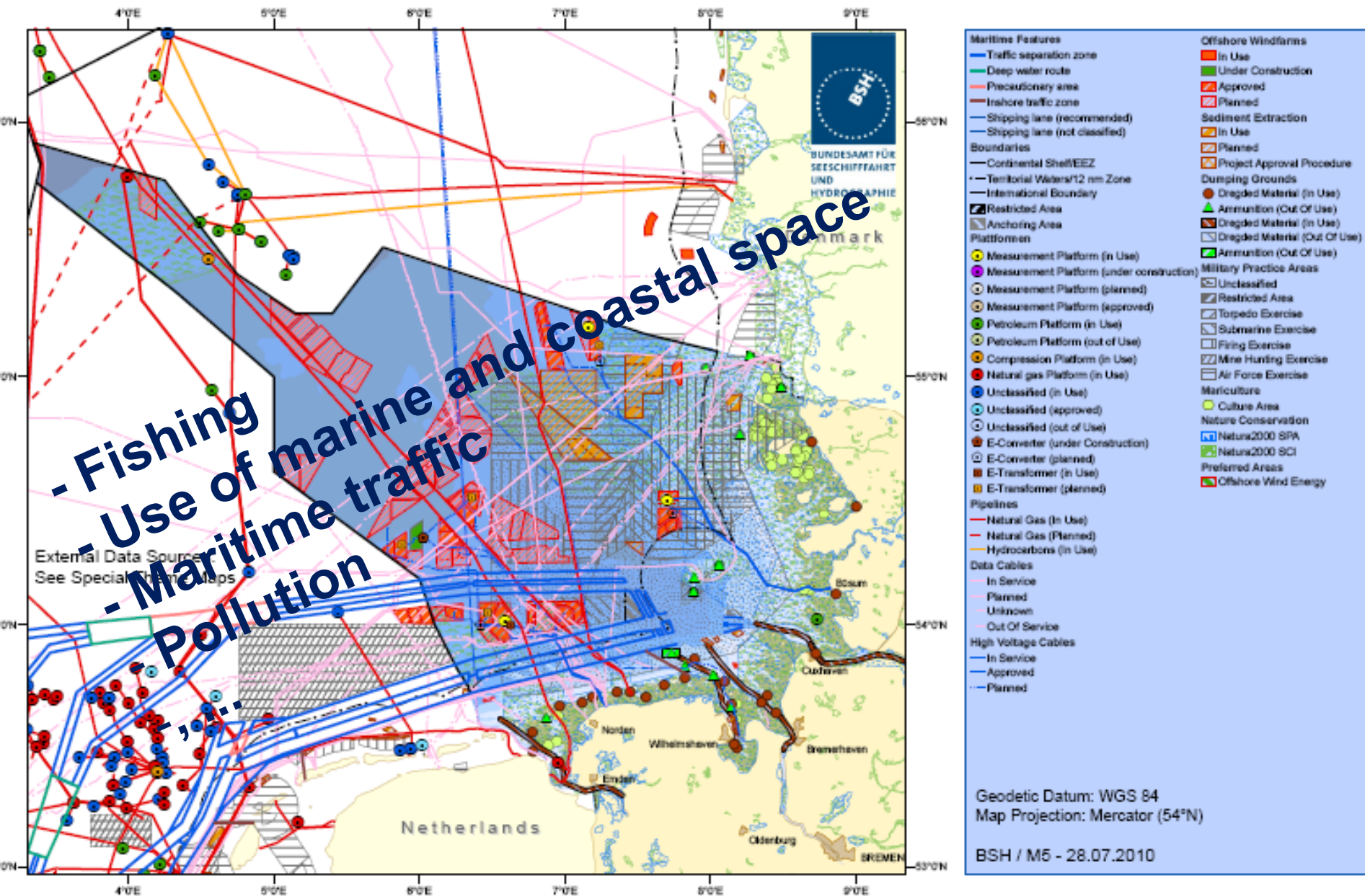
**European Seas and Oceans have been recognized as valuable assets from the economical and ecological standpoints**

**~5% of the EU GDP is generated from sea-related activities**

**Our seas and oceans are under enormous pressure**



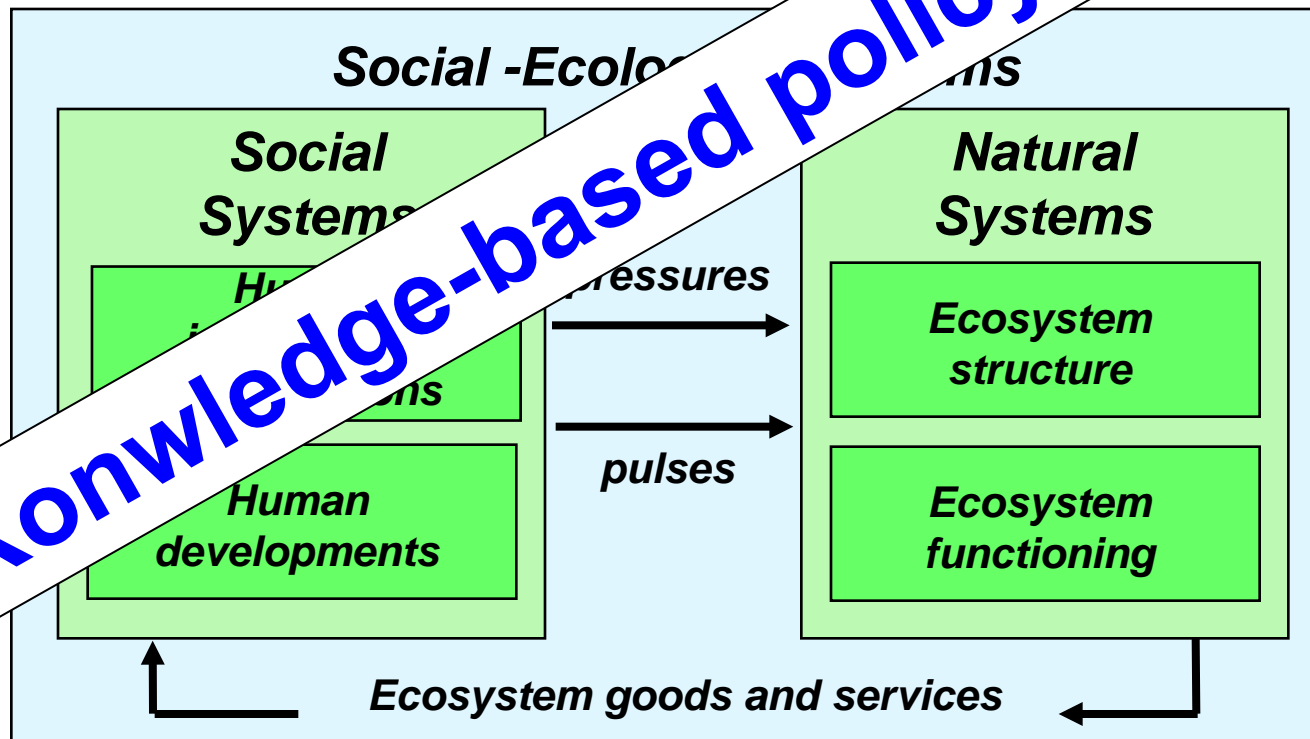
# North Sea: Existing and Perspective Uses and Nature Conservation



# New Marine Environmental Policy

*that recognizes the connection between natural and social systems, including people's activities and institutions*

**Knowledge-based policy making**



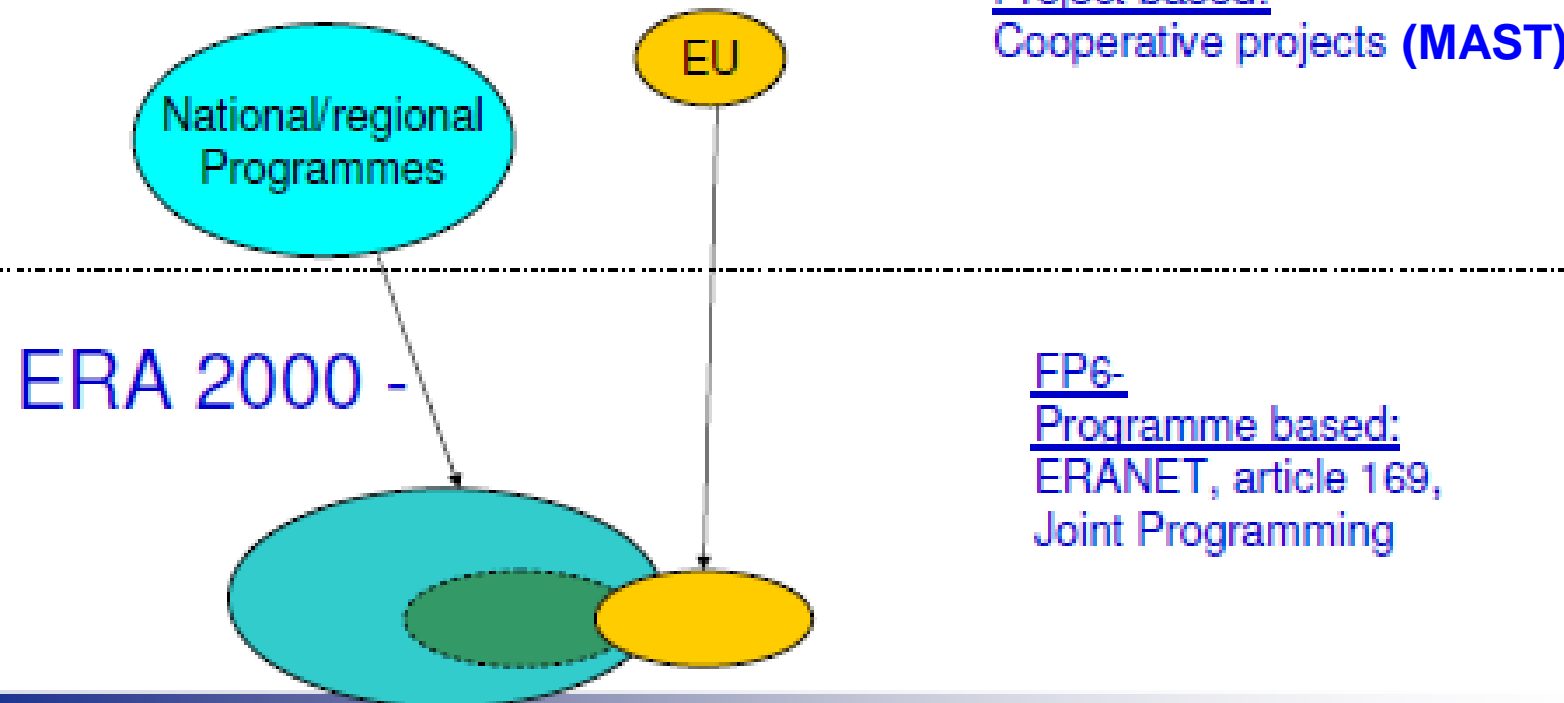
# EU science funding landscape

1983 – 2000

FP1 – FP5

Project based:

Cooperative projects (MAST)



ERA 2000 -

FP6-

Programme based:

ERANET, article 169,  
Joint Programming

**EU and national programs get more “integrated”**

**The ERA-NET scheme, aims at networking of national and regional research programmes in order to facilitate the strategic planning and implementation of joint activities, including joint calls for research proposals.**



# Marine ERA-Nets



## Strengths

The ERA-Net scheme became a key instrument for the reduction of research fragmentation and the realisation of the ERA.

## Weaknesses/Barriers

There are still legal, administrative, political and “psychological” barriers to transnational collaboration, the most important being for the creation of “common pots” for joint calls.

There are also difficulties for ensuring the sustainability of the initiatives when the project is closed.



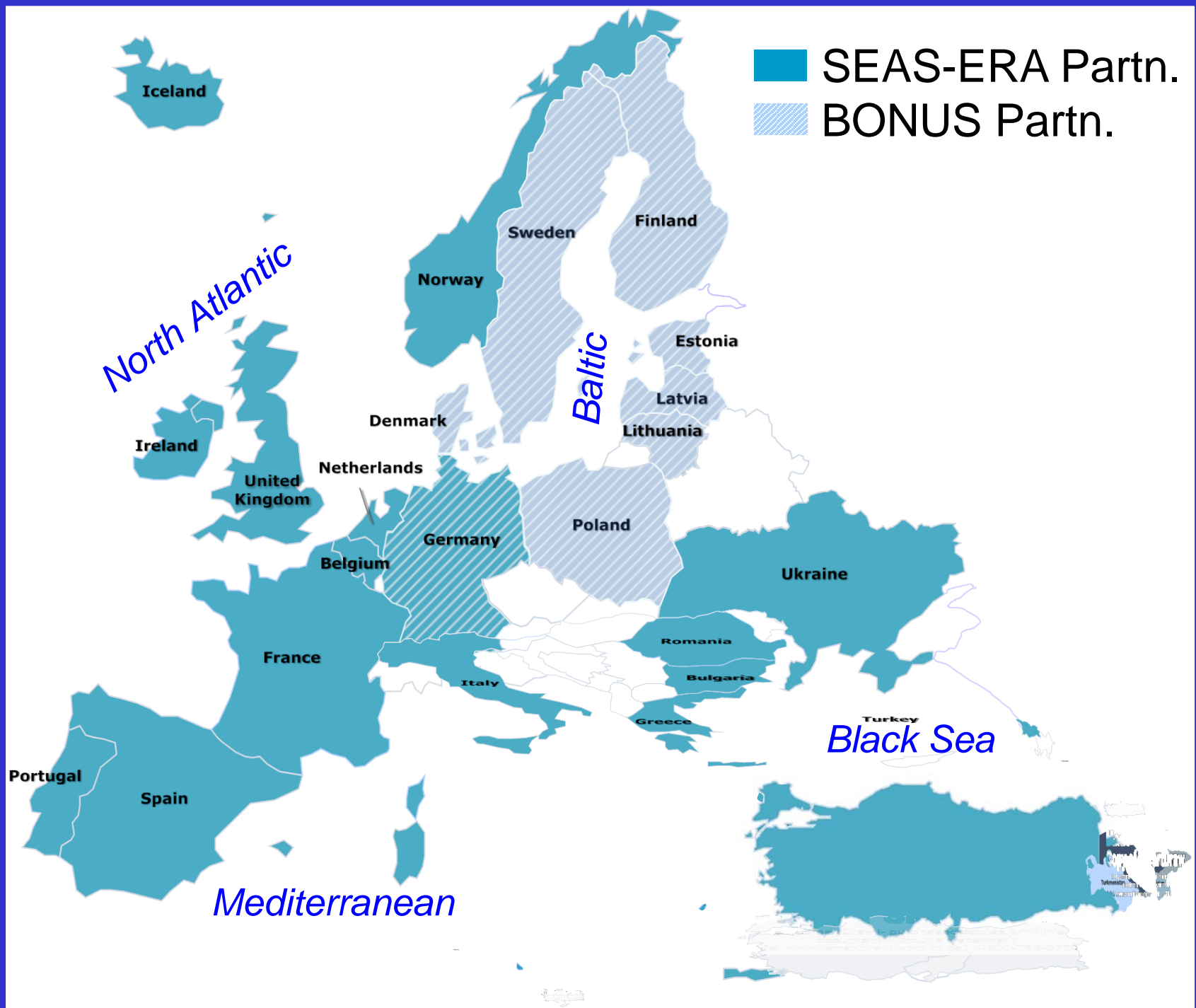
# Targeted objectives



- Fostering cooperation/integration between **marine research funding agencies**, thereby developing a stable European overarching operational structure for marine research.
- Developing and implementing **common research strategies and programmes** related to the **European sea basins** and common strategies and programmes for European coherence in developing and implementing globally important marine research.
- Building up a coherent vision of the **planning and use of research infrastructures**, in line with the actions undertaken within the Capacity Programme (ESFRI opportunity list).



SEAS-ERA Partn.  
BONUS Partn.



## Main objectives - 1

- ❑ Improve co-operation and co-ordination of **national/regional research programmes** to strengthen them, bridging possible gaps and avoiding duplications; this will significantly contribute to the **setting up of a European Marine and Maritime Research Agenda.**

**Strategic planning**



## Main objectives - 2

❑ **Foster synergies at national and regional level,** mobilising competitive and non-competitive funds for research in a more coordinated way, **through common programs and joint calls**, so as to reach a critical mass to address major cross-thematic marine and maritime research challenges.

**Joint research activities**

## Main objectives - 3

- ❑ Propose a plan for a **better and sustainable use of the existing Marine Research Infrastructures**, developing a common vision, e.g. a strategy for marine infrastructure research among the Member States and other countries, fostering technological development to improve MRIs quality and service.

## Infrastructures plan

## Main objectives - 4

☐ **Reduce imbalances among regions through human capacity building.**

To this end, the project will devote special attention to set-up a pan-European training and mobility strategy for human resources for the development of ocean-related activities.

**Regional development**

## Main objectives - 5

- ❑ Enhance **public awareness towards marine and maritime scientific and policy issues in Europe.**

SEAS-ERA will have a strong commitment to translate the RTD activities into social, economic and cultural benefits.

SEAS-ERA will emphasise the role of science in marine and maritime policy. Overall, this will form a core element of the **dissemination strategy.**



# Project structure





- ❑ In summary, **SEAS-ERA** will constitute a platform for developing a European integrated policy oriented structure to promote knowledge and expertise in any sea related area, combining a strong regional component with the pan-European dimension



- ❑ and will be instrumental in fostering the integration of a European Maritime Research Strategy and enhancing and consolidating the marine element of the **European Research Area (ERA)**.

