



BLUE MISSION BANOS

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

**Actions and outcomes
to further public
stewardship of resilient,
sustainable waters in
the BANOS region**



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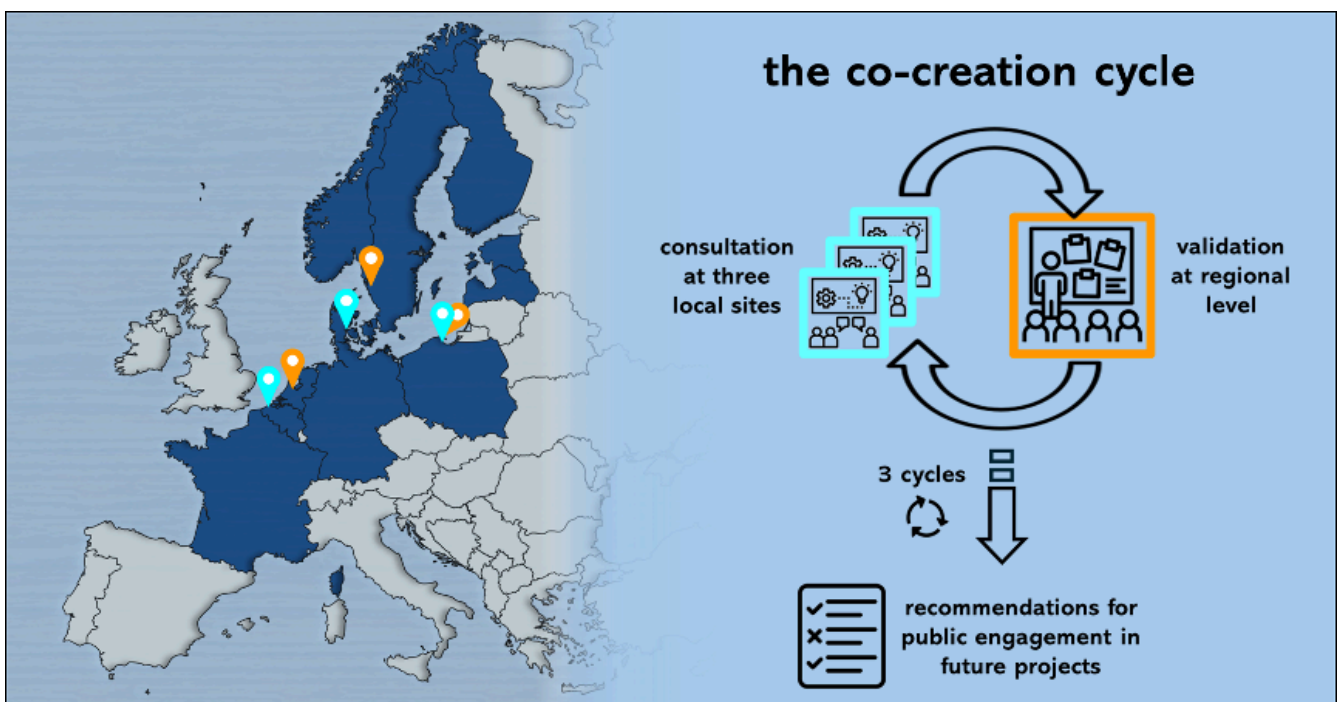
The EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" aims to restore aquatic biodiversity, eliminate pollution, and build a circular blue economy through research, innovation, and public engagement. In the BANOS region, our project BlueMissionBANOS connected people and organizations to share ideas, tackle challenges, and take action to meet the goals of the Mission together. We undertook several activities to increase public involvement in the Mission, the outcomes of which we present in this factsheet.

Impacts highlights

- **231+** local citizens and stakeholders directly engaged
- **11** co-creation workshops
- **291** citizen engagement activities mapped onto 35 formats
- **27** concrete, actionable examples for public engagement added to WaveLinks

How we worked

We set up stakeholder consultation sessions on citizen engagement in a way that functioned as a **feedback loop** between the local and regional levels. Stakeholders gathered at three localities, in the Southern Bight, Danish Straits and Gulf of Gdańsk, and their local experiences served as starting point for a discussion at the regional (BANOS) level. Regional stakeholders could then relay questions and insights to each of the local sites. By repeating this cycle three times, we **established a dialogue between regional participants**, who would identify common patterns and recommendations, **and local groups**, who could in turn apply suggestions to their specific contexts.



Key outcomes at glance

Outcome Title	Description
<u>Get Inspired!</u>	Brochure with examples of successful, aquatic-themed activities in citizen engagement, in a variety of formats and at multiple levels of engagement.
Mapping of citizen engagement formats	Comprehensive catalogue and typology of formats available for incorporating citizen engagement in project design.
Challenges and solutions for citizen engagement	Set of high-level challenges and solutions identified by stakeholders for citizen engagement in aquatic topics in the BANOS region.
<u>Recommendations for increasing public involvement in projects</u>	Set of recommendations for increasing public involvement, formulated by stakeholders and tuned specifically to Mission projects in the BANOS region.
Methodology for mapping stakeholders conflicts	Public consultation process for mapping the concerns and conflicts arising from different stakeholder interests. Here applied to marine spatial planning, including recommendations for working with conflicts of interest.
Outreach material	Promotional video and multilingual FAQ to bring BlueMissionBANOS closer to citizens. Multiple policy briefs to presents project results and lessons learnt to policymakers and the public.
Co-creation of marine science lesson plans	Blueprint for marine institutes on how to engage teachers for the co-creation of lessons plans, to integrate blue topics in the curriculum, including Danish pilot ‘My Mission Ocean’.
<u>Ocean literacy repository</u>	Public, online repository with material to support the promotion of ocean literacy in the BANOS region.
<u>Learning from local experiences</u>	Series of co-creation workshops at three local sites resulting in both common and country-specific considerations for putting citizen engagement into practice.
<u>Collection of solutions for public engagement</u>	Set of actionable solutions for public engagement, deposited on the online, interactive platform WaveLinks.

Story: the co-creation of marine science lesson plans

Fostering appreciation for the aquatic environment starts at a young age. To bring the ocean closer to the classroom, our project partner DTU Aqua has created a **step-by-step action plan for marine institutions to translate their ongoing science work into teaching material**. The plan involves reimbursed recruitment of teachers, who then work directly with scientists to co-create lesson plans that can be readily integrated into national curricula. One such lesson plan was tested with a group of high school students during our stakeholder workshop in Gothenburg.

"Mission Ocean provides a beautiful narrative for teaching the next generation how European countries can come together to solve complex challenges in marine environments" said Christian, who co-developed and tested the new teaching material.

Story: sea science festival 'ZEEKERWETEN'

As a practical component to the stakeholder co-creation process in the Southern Bight, participants in Ostend, Belgium, implemented various ways to connect coastal residents and visitors to the Mission Ocean and Waters objectives, through the sea science festival 'ZEEKERWETEN'.

Led by our project partner VLIZ, the festival serves as a dynamic space that combines entertainment and education.

Attracting visitors with **ocean-inspired theatre, music, food and art**, while bringing citizens directly in contact with marine and maritime industry, academia and public authorities through **interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities**. This integrated engagement method effectively fosters awareness, collaboration and community connection of ocean-related initiatives.

"There was a lot of willingness and enthusiasm coming from the Belgian stakeholders to work together (cross-sectoral) to get the objective of getting a healthier ocean across to the broader public. So, if opportunities arise to implement an actual campaign or project on this topic, many local stakeholders would be willing to put in their effort" said Line, host of the workshops in Southern Bight in preparation for ZEEKERWETEN.

From results to action

The insights from BlueMissionBANOS into the state of public engagement for the aquatic environment will shape the design of future projects in the BANOS area for Mission Ocean. Concrete actions, that have demonstrated **successful outcomes**, are now promoted through the **WaveLinks database**. We will **advertise their success and encourage their replication in broader settings**, such as through the project **BlueActionBANOS**. Active until 2029, BlueActionBANOS will fund community-led action for sustainable waters, building on BlueMissionBANOS' resources for public engagement.