

Stakeholder Consultation - Partnership for “A climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy”

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Contribute your perspective and help us shape the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the Blue Economy partnership. The consultation will run until 16 December.

The current draft for the SRIA has been prepared by a drafting team lead by JPI Oceans and national representatives from Ireland and France, on the basis of input and feedback from candidate member countries, associated experts and in close collaboration with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. The document is available for reference [here](#).

Personal information

* Name

Alexandra Neyts

* email

alexandra@eatip.eu

I am giving my contribution as an individual*:

- Working for a research-performing organisation (e.g. university, institute, research infrastructure, etc.)
- Working for a service provider for research (e.g. research (e-)infrastructure, library)
- Working in the private sector
- Citizen

Other (Please specify)

I am giving my contribution on behalf of the following type of organisation*:

- Research-performing organisation (e.g. university, institute, research infrastructure, etc.)
- Service provider for research (e.g. research (e-)infrastructure, library, etc)
- Governmental organisation
- Company/Business

NGO

Other (Please specify)

Name of the organisation

European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP)

Country

BE - Belgium

* Survey publication privacy settings *

at most 1 choice(s)

- Only your country of origin and survey response will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name) will not be published.
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I accept the Terms and Conditions of the survey.

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Introduction

Do you think that the overall thematic coverage of the proposed partnership SRIA serves the achievement of the vision?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- Not really
- Not at all
- No opinion

Please provide comments on the aspects that you see as particularly positive or negative.

The agenda provides a balanced focus on preserving healthy oceans while being a source of sustainable food production and job creation, if supported by a proper evidence-based governance, interdisciplinary research and technological innovations. Public-private partnerships, cross-sectoral collaboration and alignment of national and European strategies and efforts are strongly supported as an efficient way to reach the vision, which is correctly emphasizing a resilient and productive blue economy. Solely taking into account the individual ocean basin strategies may be limiting, as these mostly do not have the wider perspective of cross-regional commonalities, like the need for Europe to become more self-sustained and competitive when it comes to the production of seafood. The delivery of stimuli for innovative solutions and best practice are much needed and encouraged. The document is clearly more directed towards the research and policy community, and needs to be more concrete to be able to attract industry stakeholders (showing their potential role and the potential impact on their business).

Pillar 1: A Blue Economy in harmony with nature

In your opinion, how important are the research objectives the partnership proposes to address under pillar 1?

The research objectives below are outlined in the SRIA under two broader objectives:

A. Enabling economic development within environmental boundaries: preventing negative impacts on the environment

B. Reduction of pollution - promotion of circularity

Research objectives	Highly important	Important	Of low importance	Unimportant	No opinion
Understanding the individual and cumulative impacts of economic activity on marine ecosystems by characterizing ocean health and establishing boundaries to human use.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advancing digital transformation and automation for monitoring, surveying and sampling.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting biodiversity from negative effects of blue economic activity and of climate change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing innovative solutions for prevention and remediation of pollution, including eutrophication, hazardous substances, and underwater noise.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Innovating concepts for marine litter reduction and adopting a circular approach.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enabling responsible and ecodesigned use of marine non-living resource, including from the deep sea.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In terms of how urgently the identified research objectives should be addressed, please identify your top 3 (less than 3 is also accepted).

at most 3 choice(s)

- Understanding the individual and cumulative impacts of economic activity on marine ecosystems by characterizing ocean health and establishing boundaries to human use.
- Advancing digital transformation and automation for monitoring, surveying and sampling
- Protecting biodiversity from negative effects of blue economic activity and of climate change.
- Providing innovative solutions for prevention and remediation of pollution, including eutrophication, hazardous substances, and underwater noise.

- Innovating concepts for marine litter reduction and adopting a circular approach
- Enabling responsible and ecodesigned use of marine non-living resource, including from the deep sea.

If you think any research objectives are missing or redundant, please indicate which ones and why.

All human activities have an impact on the environment. It is crucial that these are within the carrying capacity levels of the ecosystem. Advances in monitoring capacity through digitisation should contribute to a viable, more evidence-based and predictable governance system and operation conditions for the Blue Economy stakeholders.

Pilar 2: A Blue Economy solutions towards climate neutrality

In your opinion, how important are the research objectives the partnership proposes to address under pillar 2?

The research objectives below are outlined in the SRIA under two broader objectives:

- A. Fast-tracking the blue economy to carbon-neutrality through digitalisation, digital twins, automation, autonomous operations, smart specialisation, and safe and secure purpose driven technology
- B. Optimising the resilience of coastal ecosystems and their capacity to mitigate against climate change

Research objectives	Highly important	Important	Of low importance	Unimportant	No opinion
Decarbonising marine sectors.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating green and smart ports.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding and fostering carbon sequestration capacity of coastal & marine environments.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigating nature based solutions that improve responsiveness to natural disasters.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quantifying regional-scale climate change, acidification and sea level rise to allow strengthening of ocean and coastal resilience.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In terms of how urgently the identified research objectives should be addressed, please identify your top 3 (less than 3 is also accepted).

at most 3 choice(s)

- Decarbonising marine sectors.
- Creating green and smart ports.
- Understanding and fostering carbon sequestration capacity of coastal & marine environments.
- Investigating nature based solutions that improve responsiveness to natural disasters.

- Quantifying regional-scale climate change, acidification and sea level rise to allow strengthening of ocean and coastal resilience.

If you think any research objectives are missing or redundant, please indicate which ones and why.

Lowering the carbon footprint has already been an on-going process in many sectors, stimulated by the consumer demands / behaviour change. Although climate neutrality may be difficult to achieve by each of the sub-sector in the Blue Economy, more emphasis should be put on a cross-sector optimisation of resource use, i.e. where can a resource be used in a most efficient way, measured by its carbon-footprint. There is also a need for unified indicators, assessment tools and auditing requirements to measure the value of ecosystem services .

Pillar 3: A Blue Economy for the People

In your opinion, how important are the research objectives the partnership proposes to address under pillar 3?

The research objectives below are outlined in the SRIA under three broader objectives:

- A. Delivering healthy, affordable, and sustainable food, feed and bioproducts with full transparency throughout the chain
- B. Creating resilient and sustainable coastal communities through a fair, just and inclusive transition
- C. Achieving equitable health and well-being from blue spaces

Research objectives	Highly important	Important	Of low importance	Unimportant	No opinion
Sustainable production and use of current and novel marine bioresources such as, but not limited to, food, feed, biotech compounds (medicines) and nutrientse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing human health risks from hazardous substances and their cumulative effects.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fostering innovation and job creation in coastal communities through digitalisation and nature-based solutions.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying climatic and anthropogenic disaster risks and attenuation options at different regional scales.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying benefits for health and wellbeing from blue spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exploring the opportunities of blue spaces for tourism and recreation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In terms of how urgently the identified research objectives should be addressed, please identify your top 3 (less than 3 is also accepted).

at most 3 choice(s)

- Sustainable production and use of current and novel marine bioresources such as, but not limited to, food, feed, biotech compounds (medicines) and nutrients.
- Reducing human health risks from hazardous substances and their cumulative effects.
- Fostering innovation and job creation in coastal communities through digitalisation and nature-based solutions.
- Identifying climatic and anthropogenic disaster risks and attenuation options at different regional scales.
- Identifying benefits for health and wellbeing from blue spaces
- Exploring the opportunities of blue spaces for tourism and recreation.

If you think any research objectives are missing or redundant, please indicate which ones and why.

Small businesses are a key source of jobs and the attractiveness of coastal communities, and should be acknowledged as such. These should not be limited to nature based solutions, but industrialised blue sectors should rather be encouraged to invest in innovative solutions with a low environment impact that may become profitable in the future. The aspects of industry-driven innovations towards a resilient blue economy deserves more attention.

Pillar 4: Integrated, responsible Ocean Governance

In your opinion, how important are the research objectives the partnership proposes to address under pillar 4?

The research objectives below are outlined in the SRIA under three broader objectives:

- A. Co-creating innovative and knowledge-responsive ocean governance at the appropriate geographic scale
- B. Enabling operationalisation of the 'Ecosystem Approach to Management' in the Blue Economy
- C. Behavioural and socio-economic analysis in support of social innovation and social licence to operate for the blue economy:

Research objectives	Highly important	Important	Of low importance	Unimportant	No opinion
Fostering an inclusive and multi-stakeholder participatory approach.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aligning and advancing scientific, legal, environmental and local knowledge towards opportunities and new operations in emerging sectors.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Contributing knowledge to achieve coherence in policy implementation across sea-basins, between Member States, between terrestrial, coastal and marine /maritime policies, and across sectors.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delivering data and knowledge for coherent area-based management including MPAs and multi-use of marine space	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting operational assessment frameworks to evaluate the status of the marine environment and sustainability of human uses.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting a just transition of Sea to Fork systems.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Valuing ecosystem services for strategic and economic decision-making.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In terms of how urgently the identified research objectives should be addressed, please identify your top 3 (less than 3 is also accepted).

at most 3 choice(s)

- Fostering an inclusive and multi-stakeholder participatory approach.
- Aligning and advancing scientific, legal, environmental and local knowledge towards opportunities and new operations in emerging sectors.
- Contributing knowledge to achieve coherence in policy implementation across sea-basins, between Member States, between terrestrial, coastal and marine/maritime policies, and across sectors.
- Delivering data and knowledge for coherent area-based management including MPAs and multi-use of marine space.
- Promoting operational assessment frameworks to evaluate the status of the marine environment and sustainability of human uses.
- Supporting a just transition of Sea to Fork systems.
- Valuing Ecosystem services for strategic and economic decision-making.

If you think any research objectives are missing or redundant, please indicate which ones and why.

It is not entirely clear how the methodology will work in terms of conflicting policy drivers - e.g. what happens where WFD ambitions are in direct conflict to further economic exploitation of a sea basis / increased biomass of fish farms in order to deliver food policy ambitions? It should be made clearer what weighting is being considered on such "impasse" situations.

Efforts should be made to achieve the multi-stakeholder approach, engaging each of the target groups to commit to the targets set out in the partnership. Benefits to the industry, i.e. the drivers of the blue economy, should be more emphasised, e.g. through strengthening the social license to operate.

Key enablers and collaboration opportunities

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda lists seven key enablers which are essential to achieve the research objectives:

- Digital transformation
- Innovative and enhanced ocean observation and monitoring
- Purpose driven technology and new materials
- Open Science and Responsible Research and Innovation
- Support systems and infrastructures
- Ocean Literacy
- Co-creation and participatory stakeholder engagement

Are there additional cross-cutting key enablers which are missing in the current overview? Do you consider any of them redundant?

Digitilisation should be adapted to the needs of the sector, providing the data type, quality, resolution, to concretely contribute to a higher predictive capacity and better control.

Use of biotechnology tools is lacking. It represents efficient methods to deliver more sustainable food and feeds, avoid the use of chemicals and make the production of bio-based products more efficient.

The weighting of EAM is necessary to understand its impact on the sector's profitability and competitiveness. How will this be done?

Would your organization be potentially interested to collaborate with the partnership? If that is the case, what potential collaborations regarding theme and type could your organization develop with the partnership?

EATiP can contribute through offering the services of its multi-stakeholder collaboration platform. The development of a SRIA to which also the aquaculture sector can commit to requires a process where both sector professionals, researchers and public administrators are represented. This level of collaboration is needed to build trust and mutual understanding of expectations when it comes to content (basic vs. applied), format (theoretical vs. practical) and approach (long vs. short-term) of the proposed objectives.

Stakeholder involvement (efforts to provide input to priority setting and strategy discussions) and sharing of company-owned knowledge and know-how are two main contributions.

Other comments?

Do you have any other comments on the draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda?

The document sets out the correct and necessary thematic considerations. However, the reality is going to be the requirement to take actual prioritisation decisions where stakeholders might have conflicting interests. The EAM and sea basin approach should be further looked at in order to be able to attract blue sector industry stakeholders in this joint effort.

Contact

willem.demoor@jpi-oceans.eu