

Integrating Research Infrastructures - Connecting Scientists - Enabling Transnational Access For healthy and sustainable marine and freshwater ecosystems

Four years (Mar 2024 - Feb 2028) | 45 Partners (18 nations) | €14.5 Million Horizon Europe Funding



## Research Infrastructure Catalogue

For the first time AQUARIUS will bring together **a portfolio** of 57 diverse research infrastructures, ranging from satellites to research vessels, and from drones to laboratory research facilities (+ 10 Data Centers & Virtual Labs), in an online searchable catalogue.



Free on-site, remote and virtual access to these research infrastructures will be provided through two transnational access funding calls.

#### Infrastructure categories offered in AQUARIUS

- 1 Research Vessels Mobile Marine Observation Platforms (Gliders, AUVs, USVs, ROVs, Ferrybox systems)
- (Databuoys, seafloor observatories) 4 Experimental Research Facilities 5 River and Basin Supersites 6 Aircrafts

3 Fixed Marine Facilities

7 Drones 8 Satellite Services 9 +10 Data Centers & Virtual Labs

Participating RIs:







Transnational Access Funding Calls







Transnational access (TA) to AQUARIUS infrastructure will be provided via a competitive call process. Researchers across the marine and freshwater domains are invited to submit project proposals making use of multiple research infrastructure services and demonstrating how their project will contribute to at least one of the EU Mission 'Ocean and Waters' objectives in one of the EU Mission Ocean Lighthouse Regions.

Calls will be evaluated based on their scientific excellence and logistical ability to address the defined challenges. A dedicated user-friendly call access platform will provide an EU wide system for call applications, and to carry out the evaluation process and reporting on the successful projects.



Mediterranean Sea

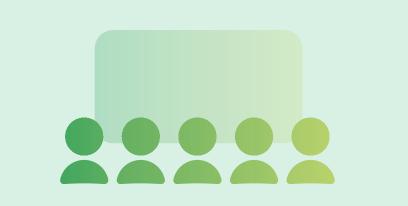
To prevent & eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas & waters

Mission Ocean and Waters' identifies four lighthouse regions each focusing on one of the three Mission challenge areas

**TA Call 1 – Open: 11 November 2024 – 20 January 2025** TA Call 2 – Open: 2 September 2025 – 28 October 2025

Selected projects will be fully supported to use the research infrastructures in terms of travel costs, training and logistics.





DATA

## Technical Training

AQUARIUS will offer a diversity of training opportunities to infrastructure users, early career scientists and to the wider marine and freshwater research community.

Successful projects will be offered a range of tailored training programmes to equip them with the necessary scientific and technical support to use the research infrastructures. Aimed at early career scientists, floating universities and open calls for AQUARIUS internship programmes will be launched. Finally, the AQUARIUS website 'technical training hub', will feature a range of relevant training materials including e-learning digital resources, tools, presentations and webinars, with a focus on data stewardship and training.

# Open Science, Open Data

AQUARIUS will implement best practices in open science and open data, making all data FAIR



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(Findable, Accessible, Interoperable & Reusable), ensuring generated data, data products and knowledge become part of the leading European data infrastructures for long-term stewardship and wide access, and maximising the return on investment from AQUARIUS and the successful transnational access projects. Scientific teams of the awarded projects will be invited to make use of the Blue-Cloud Virtual Research Environment.

## Maximising Impact

AQUARIUS, will maximize impact through effective and targeted dissemination, exploitation, and communication of project research and innovation activities and results. This will ensure uptake and application of AQUARIUS outputs by target stakeholders, and thus supporting the delivery of the EU Green Deal and relevant policy goals, including by enhancing and further integrating EU marine and freshwater research infrastructures services in support of the development phase of the EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030.'

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