

1. Understanding Deep-Sea Ecosystems

Under the framework of the Intergovernmental Joint Programming Initiative, JPI Oceans; Germany, Norway, Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands, announced to commit to a 2nd phase of research funds of approximately 7 million EUR in 2018 and to provide ship time to study the impacts of marine mineral mining. This research will advance the scientific knowledge on deep-sea ecosystems, providing a scientific basis for assessing the environmental impacts and risks of future seabed mineral extraction and continue to inform the establishment of a framework of best environmental practices for the management of potential seabed mining operations under the auspices of the International Seabed Authority.

2. MarTERA: Developing sustainable maritime technologies

Under the framework of the Intergovernmental Joint Programming Initiative, JPI Oceans; Germany, Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, South Africa in partnership with the European Commission (via its Research and Innovation Programme H2020), announced to commit research funding of up to 30 million EUR to marine and maritime technology development in a first call. In 2018 the partnership, "MarTERA", will fund the development of environmentally friendly maritime technologies, novel materials and structures, sensors, automation, monitoring and observations, advanced manufacturing and production, safety and security.

3. Microplastics

Under the framework of the Intergovernmental Joint Programming Initiative, JPI Oceans; Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, have an ongoing commitment of over 7.5 million EUR on transnational research projects, investigating microplastics in the marine environment. The research will, by 2018, promote the validation and harmonisation of methodologies and protocols for microplastics research, a key concern raised in the respective G7 and G20 Action Plans to Combat Marine Litter.

4. Blue Bioeconomy

Under the framework of the Intergovernmental Joint Programming Initiative, JPI Oceans; 17 European countries announced, to have the ambition to commit at least 30 million EUR in partnership with the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme by 2019 to fund research and innovation that will support the development of a sustainable and climate-friendly blue bioeconomy, targeting zero waste, production, harvest and exploitation of aquatic biomass for use in food and other bio-based value chains.

JPI Oceans?

The Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans) was established in 2011 as a coordinating and integrating strategic platform, open to all EU Member States and Associated Countries who invest in marine and maritime research. Currently JPI Oceans covers all European sea basins with 21 participating countries represented by their ministries and funding agencies. In its role as a coordination platform, JPI Oceans focuses on making better and more efficient use of national research budgets, which represent 88% of the research funding within Europe.