

# ANNUAL ACTIVITIES 2024



**Suggested Reference:** JPI Oceans (2025) Annual Activities 2024.  
Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans, Brussels.



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**18** Joint Actions running

**6** major products & publications

**2** Joint Calls launched

**200** experts active in Knowledge Hubs

**15** member countries & **5** countries pending decision status

**2024**

**3** new research projects launched, marking **130** since JPI Oceans' inception

**20** events organised

**3** Strategic Engagement kick-offs

**13** newsletters

**49** news articles published



# SCOPING ACTIONS

JPI Oceans regularly invites stakeholders to share their ideas about marine and maritime topics that could become JPI Oceans Joint Actions.

In October 2024, the JPI Oceans Management Board approved a new idea on the topic of ocean oxygen, or the lack thereof, in the form of a Scoping Action named Ocean Oxygen Loss.

The ongoing Scoping Action on Offshore Freshened Groundwater was prepared for assessment and approval as a new Joint Action in Spring 2025.



# OCEAN OXYGEN LOSS

Lead Country: Poland

## Objectives:

- Enhance biogeochemical and biological ocean measurement practices;
- Increase data accessibility;
- Align data collection efforts to address data gaps in low-coverage areas;
- Enhance observations in high-priority ecosystems vulnerable to oxygen loss.



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# OFFSHORE FRESHENED GROUNDWATER

Lead Countries: Malta, Italy

The first scoping workshop took place on 28 August, with the objective to identify opportunities and priorities that could lead to the establishment of a formal JPI Oceans Joint Action on "Offshore Freshened Groundwater" (OFG). Participants noted the need for technological innovation in OFG exploration, highlighting possible opportunities of building on existing infrastructures and of collaborating with energy sectors.



# NEW JOINT ACTIONS

## ABOUT

In 2024, JPI Oceans introduced two new Joint Actions: the European Marinas Network, following its successful scoping in 2023-2024, and the new Joint Action between JPI Oceans and JPI Climate focused on the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). AMOC was set up as a Rapid Response Action, skipping the scoping phase to respond fast to the imminent public interest in the topic.





# EUROPEAN MARINAS NETWORK

Type of Action:

- Knowledge Hub

Duration:

- Nov 2024 - Dec 2028

Lead countries:

- Italy and Greece

Objective:

- To enable marinas to become focal points for harmonised data generation and collection.

Highlights of 2024:

- Scoping meeting held in Venice in July;
- Concept paper publication and formal approval as a Joint Action.





# AMOC: RAPID RESPONSE ACTION

Type of Action:

- Knowledge Hub

Duration:

- Nov 2024 - March 2026

Collaboration between:

- JPI Oceans and JPI Climate

Scientific leads:

- Prof. Hans-Otto Pörtner (Alfred-Wegener-Institute)
- Prof. Gerard McCarthy (Maynooth University)

Objective:

- To produce a Review Report to assess the latest state of knowledge on the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC).

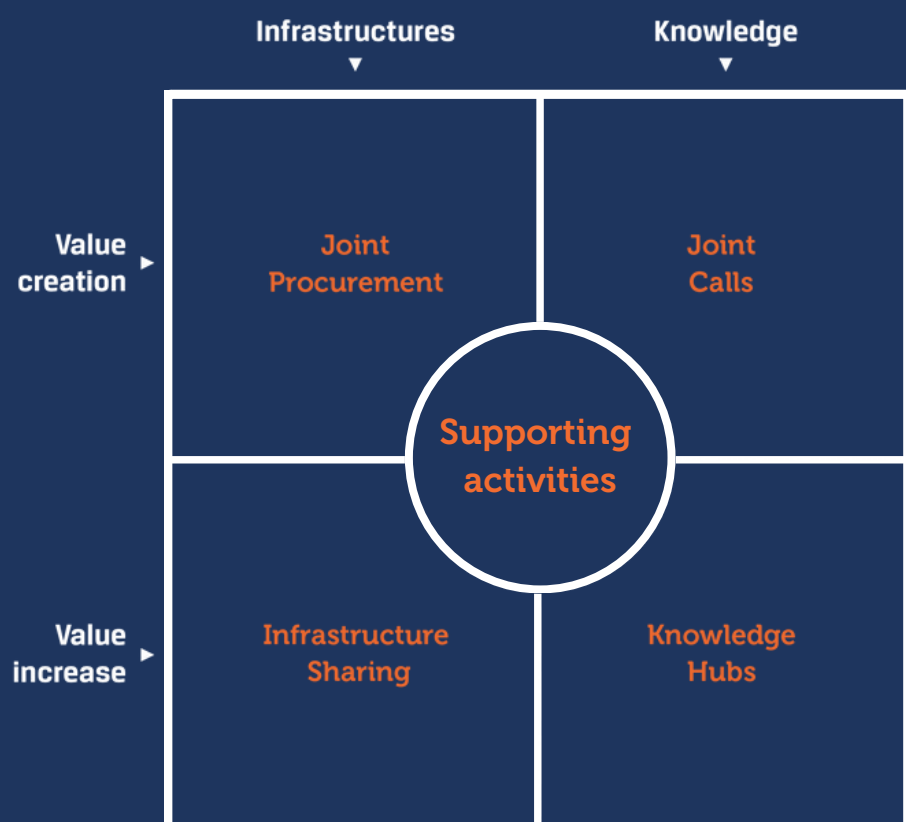
Rationale:

- To respond to growing scientific evidence of record ocean surface warming and a weakening of major ocean currents, particularly AMOC.
- Due to the urgently needed knowledge on this topic to inform policymaking, and building on the experience from the 1st Assessment Report on Sea Level Rise published in 2024, this Action skips the scoping phase, becoming JPI Oceans' first "Rapid Response Action".





# ONGOING JOINT ACTIONS



Applying the tools shown in the figure, JPI Oceans has been implementing Joint Actions related to marine pollution, ecosystem health, and sustainable use of marine resources. The trans-national collaboration and interdisciplinary research enhanced scientific understanding and policy-making in support of ocean health, productivity, stewardship and governance. This section presents the overview of our active Joint Actions throughout 2024.





# BLUE CARBON

2024 began with a successful online kick-off meeting on 24 January. There, three Working Groups (WGs) were formed to implement the Blue Carbon Knowledge Hub:

- WG State of the Art, tasked with developing a report on blue carbon knowledge in Europe, identifying gaps and solutions.
- WG Policy to advance a policy brief on integrating blue carbon ecosystems into the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- WG Platform, which shifted focus from creating a habitat database to defining vulnerability and mapping carbon-related projects.







# SCIENCE FOR GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Scientists and policymakers gathered at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research in Athens in June 2024 for a pivotal meeting of the JPI Oceans Knowledge Hub Science for Good Environmental Status (S4GES).

The event focused on advancing the novel, process-based approach to assessing marine environmental health developed in the context of the Joint Action and discussing its implications on the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).



© Lino Thaessler





## SEA LEVEL RISE

2024 was a milestone year for the Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise, with the publication of its First Assessment Report on Sea Level Rise in Europe. The report was officially launched in November 2024 in a dedicated online webinar, and presented at high-level events throughout 2024, including the UN Ocean Decade Conference 2024, the Equinox Summit 2024 and the JPI Oceans Strategic Navigation Forum. In October, the Management Board indicated strong support to extend the Knowledge Hub into a second phase of implementation, to be scoped throughout 2025.





# CHANGING MARINE LIGHTSCAPES

Marine lightscapes are experiencing two fundamental transformations: coastal darkening and the proliferation of artificial light at night. A Call for projects on such topics was published in April and co-branded as a UN Ocean Decade contribution. After an evaluation process guided by the Call Secretariat under German lead, a final decision was taken in December 2024. As a result, the two selected projects are set to commence in July 2025.







# UNDERWATER NOISE IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The JPI Oceans Joint Action on Underwater Noise held its project's mid-term meeting in June in Padua, Italy, where the funded projects came together to assess progress and outputs, strengthen collaboration, and plan for impactful dissemination.

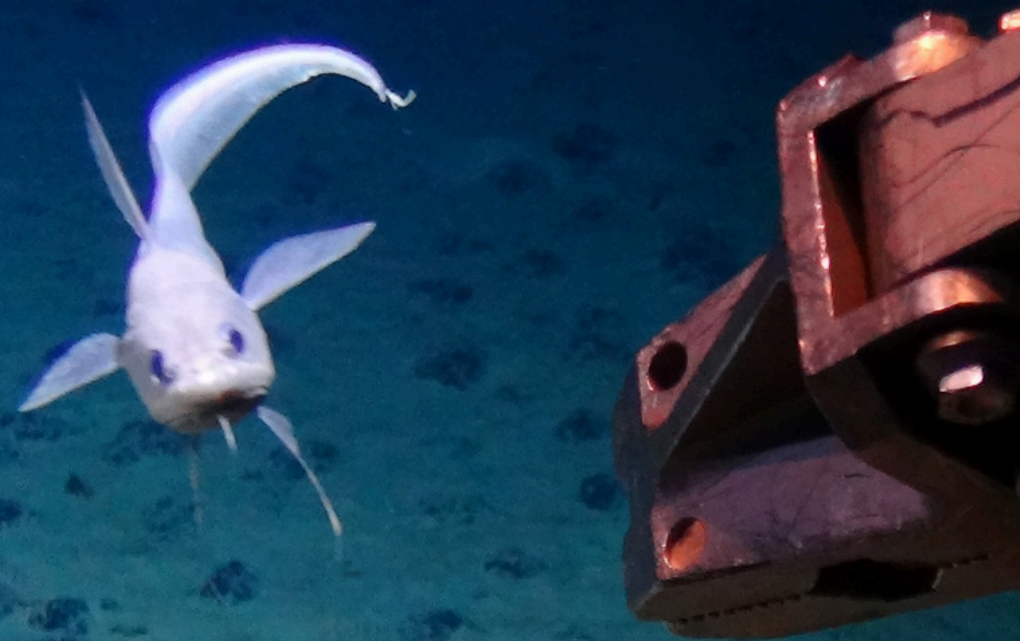
This Joint Action collaborated with the UN Ocean Decade Maritime Acoustic Environment to organise an exhibition during the Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona in April 2024. A follow-up activity from this conference was the international panel discussion 'Quiet Please' in October, featuring six experts from the USA, Norway, Japan, Sweden/EU, Spain, and Australia. The event dove into the latest advancements in the field and on translating scientific findings into policy-driven solutions.





# ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DEEP- SEA MINING

For the third phase of the JPI Oceans Joint Action on the ecological impacts of deep-sea mining, a new project named MiningImpact3 was selected after an evaluation process guided by the Call Secretariat under Belgian lead. With a total budget of circa €9 million (of which circa €5.7 million is funded by the national funders through JPI Oceans), the project will fill critical knowledge gaps about deep-sea ecosystems and the potential consequences of mining activities for them. Its scope extends beyond polymetallic nodule fields to include massive sulphide deposits, combining existing data with new expeditions to enhance understanding of deep-sea environments.





# OTHER JOINT ACTIONS

Click on the images to know more about these Joint Actions:

(More concluding Joint Actions in the next page)



**OCEAN CARBON CAPACITIES**



**TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FOR  
OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY**



# CONCLUDING JOINT ACTIONS

In 2024, several JPI Oceans Joint Actions reached their conclusion, providing an opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved.

These milestones were marked by the publication of numerous outputs, including the "Key Insights Microplastics Projects 2020–2023" brochure and the "Cumulative Effects Assessment in the Marine Environment" handbook.

## ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MICROPLASTICS

Although the Microplastics Joint Action concluded in 2023, its impact continues. In November 2024, JPI Oceans published the "[Key Insights Microplastics Projects 2020–2023](#)" brochure, summarising the latest findings from six transnational research projects on microplastics sources, distribution, and impacts on marine ecosystems. Building on the results of an earlier Joint Call (2014–2019), this second phase of research—funded by thirteen JPI Oceans member countries, Latvia, and Brazil—focused on detection methods, pathways, and ecological effects of microplastics. Announced at the 2024 Summit of Plastic Pirates Go Europe, the brochure presents key scientific insights across four thematic categories, highlighting progress in understanding microplastic pollution and reinforcing the need for international collaboration in addressing this global challenge.





# CLIMATE SCIENCE FOR OCEANS

The final meeting of the Next Generation Climate Science in Europe for Oceans Joint Action in April 2024 brought together researchers and funders to present project outcomes, discuss research gaps, and review dissemination efforts. Over four years, the 4 funded projects advanced understanding of ocean-climate interactions, enhancing climate models and informing adaptation strategies. Discussions addressed science communication challenges, emphasising the need for constructive public engagement over “doomsday scenarios.” The meeting concluded with reflections on call management and future research priorities, reinforcing the role of JPI Climate and JPI Oceans in shaping European climate science collaboration.





## CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES

The "Cumulative Effects Assessment in the Marine Environment" handbook was launched in June 2024 at the JPI Oceans Strategic Navigation Forum, marking the culmination of the JPI Oceans Knowledge Hub's work—led by Norway and involving Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, and Italy—on evaluating the combined impacts of human activities and natural processes on marine ecosystems. The handbook offers practical guidelines for policymakers, authorities, and researchers involved in environmental impact assessments. It provides easy-to-understand procedures with local context adaptations and was endorsed on World Ocean Day 2024 under the UN Decade of Ocean Science.





# MUNITION

At the 2024 European Maritime Days, JPI Oceans launched [the Knowledge Portal: Munitions in the Sea](#), the central outcome of this Knowledge Hub. This milestone marked the formal conclusion of the Joint Action in May 2024. However, JPI Oceans remains committed to addressing this issue and will continue its work through [the Horizon Europe MMinE-SwEEPER project](#), launched later in November 2024 as a Strategic Engagement.





# FOOD AND NUTRITION

The SYSTEMIC project, launched in January 2019 and concluded with a final meeting in July 2024, focused on enhancing Food and Nutrition Security through multidisciplinary collaboration. The project aimed to address the impact of climate change on food nutrition, propose adaptive strategies, and foster transnational cooperation. Key outcomes included databases on climate models, white papers, and recommendations on climate's influence on diets and sustainable food production. Notably, the project explored sustainable aquatic food sources, such as microalgae, to reduce meat consumption. SYSTEMIC's work has led to an array of scientific publications and has paved the way for further collaborative efforts across Europe.



# AQUATIC POLLUTANTS

The final meeting of the AquaticPollutants ERA-NET Cofund, held in October 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany, brought together researchers and stakeholders from 18 projects focused on aquatic pollution. The initiative led to significant innovations, and the "Funded Project Booklet" provides a good summary of the aims, outcomes, and expected impacts of all these projects. Collaboration between JPI Oceans, JPI AMR, and Water JPI resulted in knowledge transfer tools like the TransNetViewer information portal, aimed at improving outreach to the public, policy, and industry. Looking ahead, discussions emphasised sustainability and future funding opportunities beyond the end of the projects in 2025, with a focus on aligning research with EU Green Deal and UN Ocean Decade goals.



# LEGACY

Although these two Joint Actions have concluded, JPI Oceans continues to follow up on the funded projects and ongoing activities by supporting their communication efforts and fostering their progress.



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## BLUEBIO

The BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund concluded in summer 2024 with all relevant reports sent to the European Commission. The projects from the second Additional Call held their mid-term meeting, while a final event was organised for project partners from the first Additional Call.

## MARTERA



© Andrey Armyagov



# STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

JPI Oceans is engaged in strategic collaborations in Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) and other European and international initiatives. Key ongoing initiatives include European Partnerships, the EU Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters, the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance and the UN Decade of Ocean Science.



# MINE-SWEEPER

The MMinE-SwEEPER project was launched in November 2024 in Kiel, Germany. JPI Oceans plays a substantial role in the project, leading the Communication and Outreach work package, which encompasses tasks focused on immediate project communication and the long-term distribution of knowledge, cooperation, and capacity building. To enhance collaboration, JPI Oceans has established a coordination mechanism with the communication work packages of other munition research projects.



# AMRIT

Advance Marine Research Infrastructures Together (AMRIT) aims to enhance ocean research infrastructures and establish a sustainable European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) through collaborative innovation and coordination. JPI Oceans hosted the project kick-off meeting and mainly contributes to the design of a federal structure for an EOOS Technical Support Centre (TSC) and ensure its prolonged sustainability, including its funding model. Finding options to secure the long-term sustainability of the TSC will be essential for its lasting benefit for the marine community.





# ALL-ATLANTIC ALLIANCE

As partner in this new project supporting the All-Atlantic Alliance, JPI Oceans hosted the OKEANO Coordination and Support Action (CSA) kick-off meeting in March. Six months later, JPI Oceans played a strong role in the All-Atlantic Forum 2024, facilitating communications and organising the 2024 edition of the Intergenerational Dialogue.



# EUROPEAN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

In 2024, the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and JPI Oceans published the first two National Charts on ocean observing and monitoring in Europe, for Germany and Greece. The charts offer a detailed interactive overview of national responsibilities for ocean observing and monitoring and related data flows. JPI Oceans is leading this effort as Chair of the EOOS Resource Forum, to build a foundation for improving coordination and efficiency of ocean monitoring in Europe.



© Tomasz Szumski





# EU4OCEAN

JPI Oceans has actively contributed to the EU4Ocean initiative through various ocean literacy and engagement activities, including taking part in [the #EUBeachCleanup](#) for the [#MakeEUBlue](#) campaign. At the [Ocean Literacy in Action](#) event during the [European Ocean Days](#), JPI Oceans played a key role in facilitating dialogues on the importance of ocean literacy for a sustainable blue economy. At the [Science is Wonderful!](#) fair, JPI Oceans delivered interactive workshops, introducing students and educators to marine science with initiatives like [the JPI Oceans ANDROMEDA project](#).



# MISSION OCEAN PREP4BLUE CSA

Existing funding mechanisms and instruments were explored by JPI Oceans when developing [a series of factsheets](#) outlining funding mechanisms and recommendations for scaling up the financing of Mission Ocean activities.





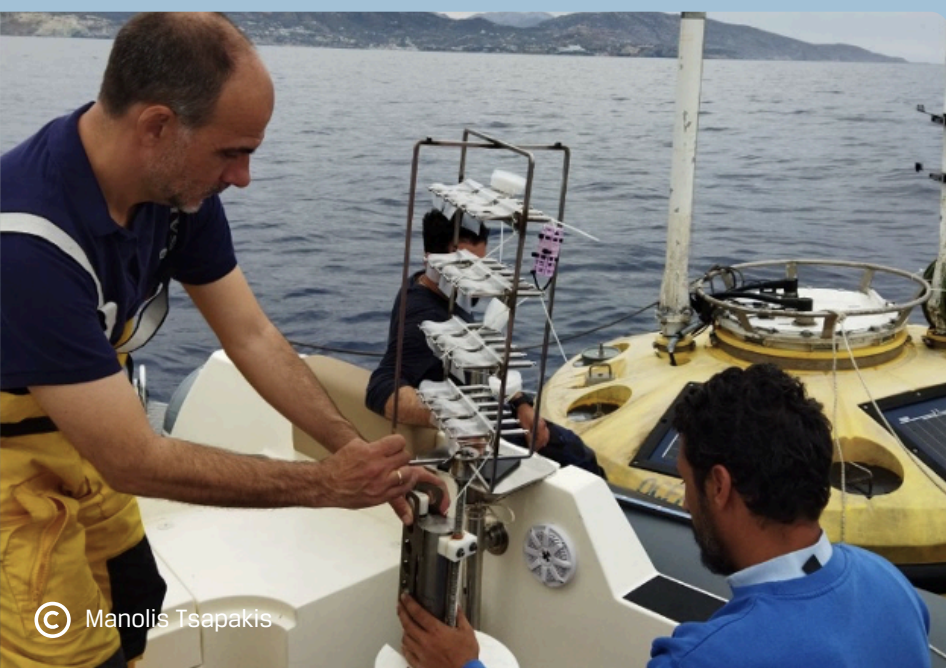
# SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

As the Partnership's Communication Lead, JPI Oceans developed the [website](#) and social media channels in 2023, and organised and communicated the [first Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership \(SBEP\) Symposium in February 2024](#). JPI Oceans participated in many SBEP regional workshops on different sea-basins and lastly, in September 2024, the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership officially launched its [first cohort of 19 funded projects](#) during a vibrant two-day kick-off event held in Madrid.



## MINKE

JPI Oceans is a partner in [MINKE](#), a Horizon 2020 project centred on European metrology research infrastructures. In 2024, JPI Oceans contributed to MINKE by integrating national workflows into structured National Charts of Ocean Observing and Monitoring for Germany and Greece, aligning MSFD monitoring with the S4GES Joint Action, and planning to engage marinas in ocean monitoring through sensor-equipped infrastructure. These efforts strengthen MINKE's capacity for innovation, metrological standards, and evidence-based marine policy.







# UN OCEAN DECADE

JPI Oceans actively contributed to the 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona in April 2024, engaging in key discussions and initiatives to advance ocean science and resilience. JPI Oceans was co-organiser of three satellite events by the Blue Carbon Knowledge Hub, the Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise that presented its inaugural assessment report, and the Listen to the Ocean exhibition by the Joint Action on Underwater Noise.





# EVENTS



**FEB**

Sustainable Blue Economy  
Partnership Symposium.  
Brussels, Belgium



**MAR**

Ocean Literacy in Action at  
the European Ocean Days.  
Brussels, Belgium



**APR**

UN Ocean Decade  
Conference.  
Barcelona, Spain

**MAY**

European Maritime Day.  
Svendborg, Denmark

**JUNE**  
JPI Oceans Strategic  
Navigation Forum.  
Brussels, Belgium

Endorsed by the Belgian  
Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union



**SEP**

#EUBeachCleanup for World  
Cleanup Day.  
Ostend, Belgium

**OCT**

All-Atlantic Ocean Research and  
Innovation Alliance (AAORIA)  
Forum. Ottawa, Canada

**NOV**

CommOCEAN 2024.  
Málaga, Spain





# GOVERNANCE

Management Board changes in representation in 2024:

- Christian Riisager-Simonsen replaced Floor ten Hoopen as representative for the Technical University of Denmark.

In April 2024, Eivind Lorentzen of the Norwegian Ministry for Trade, Industry and Fisheries was elected as member of the Internal Advisory Committee (IAC)





# SECRETARIAT

## From left to right:

- Kelly Diaz, Intern until October 2024
- Thorsten Kiefer, Executive Director
- Theresa Steins, Office Manager
- Paul Trautendorfer, Intern until October 2024, Science-policy advisor since November 2024
- Raluca Dumitrache, Communication Officer until December 2024
- Jella Kandziora, Science-policy advisor
- Yekaterina Astafyeva, Science-policy advisor until December 2024
- Willem De Moor, Deputy Director
- Ingeborg Korme, Science-policy advisor until October 2024
- Lavinia Giulia Pomarico, Science-policy advisor
- Lisa Picatto, Communication Officer since March 2024

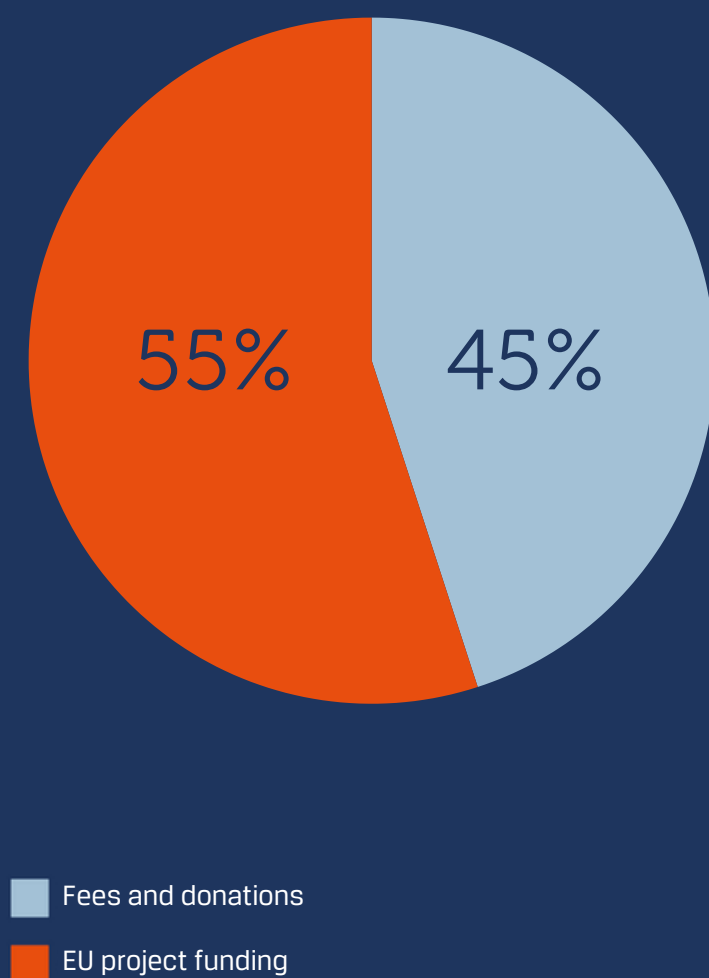


## Not pictured:

- Gabrielle Aubert, Science-policy Advisor since November 2024
- Pier Francesco Moretti, Science-policy advisor
- Frode Dal Fjeldavli, Science-policy advisor until September 2024
- Jon Øygarden Flæten, Science-policy advisor until July 2024



# FINANCE



In the accounting year of 2024, a total cash amount of EUR 985,486 was received, mainly from fees, donations, grants, desk fees and bank interests. EUR 542,728 was cumulatively received as installments of the 5 grants related to OKEANO, MMinE-SwEEPER, MINKE, PRE4BLUE and AMRIT.

The total expenditure amounted to EUR 899,468. Expenditure consisted of secretariat employment costs, office fixed costs, running expenses, bank charges and other costs< main cost items of the latter were the organisation of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership Symposium and the JPI Oceans Strategic Navigation Forum.

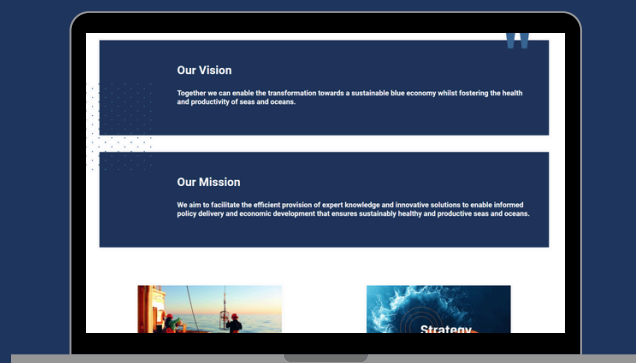
The Research Council Norway (RCN), the Government of Flanders via the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) via the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and the University of Kiel, and the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) kindly provided in-kind contributions through staff secondments. This is not further quantified in the finances of the JPI Oceans AISBL.

The reserves at the end of 2024 amounted to EUR 913,118.



# STATISTICS

## WEBSITE



65,143 page visits

125,474 page views

00:01:39 average visit duration

## WEB CONTENT & NEWSLETTER

## SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



3,219 LinkedIn

5,253 x

1,752 Facebook

1,011 Instagram



49 news items

13 newsletters

2,547 subscribers





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