European Commission

OceanEye

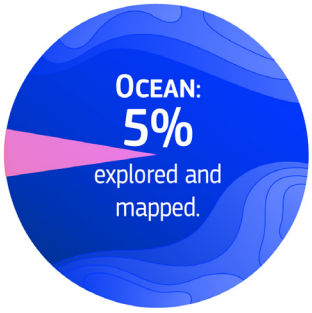
Making the EU the leader in ocean observation

June 2026

What is ocean observation?

Ocean observation involves collecting and analysing data on the ocean's physical, chemical, and biological properties. It can be done in various ways, including using satellites, research vessels, sensors like Argo floats, drones, or submarine cables.

Why it matters?



The ocean is the foundation of life on Earth, covering **70% of the Earth's surface,** yet **only 5% of it has been explored and mapped.**

With a well-functioning ocean observation system generating high-quality data, we can predict storms to keep coastal towns safe, plan where and how to protect endangered habitats and species and chart the most efficient and safe routes for shipping.

Benefits of ocean observation

Better evaluation of risks related to **extreme weather events**

Better protection of assets and fewer costs to **restore coastal infrastructure** and services

Closer environmental monitoring enabling the design of efficient conservation strategies

Boosted **blue economy competitiveness**

Maritime security objectives and the protection of critical assets

Objectives of OceanEye

OceanEye aims to boost ocean observation at the EU and global level and make the EU a leader in ocean observation.

By 2035, the EU aims to:

- Provide **35% of the global ocean observing system**
- Secure **35% of the market for ocean observation technologies**
- Become the **world's leading provider** of ocean intelligence

This will bring increased EU competitiveness in a high-growth global annual ocean observation market valued today at **EUR 10-20 billion.**

4 areas of action

Improving the way we collect, share and use ocean data, by creating a **clear system for governing ocean observation in the EU.**

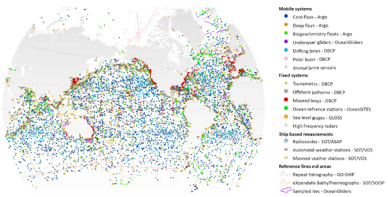
Working with partners around the world, with the creation of an **international alliance supporting the Global Ocean Observing System.**

Developing **innovative markets and sectors** related to ocean observation, finalising tools like the European Digital Twin Ocean.

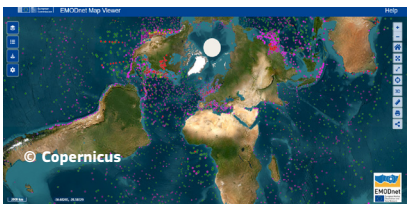
Connecting people to the ocean through education, culture and skills notably via a **New European Bauhaus Ocean, Coastal and Island Communities Lab.**

An OceanEye label will mark all infrastructure involved in the initiative.

€ 50 MILLION
from Horizon Europe to strengthen the EU's contribution to the **Global Ocean Observing System.**



€ 12 MILLION
from Horizon Europe to safeguard and maintain key **international marine in-situ data flows**



€ 30 MILLION
for a European Innovation Council thematic challenge on **ocean observation technologies.**

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