



Smart Specialisation for Sustainable Blue Economy Workshop

How to position partnerships for interregional innovation projects/investments to benefit from tools such as the Horizon Ocean Mission and the BlueInvest platform?

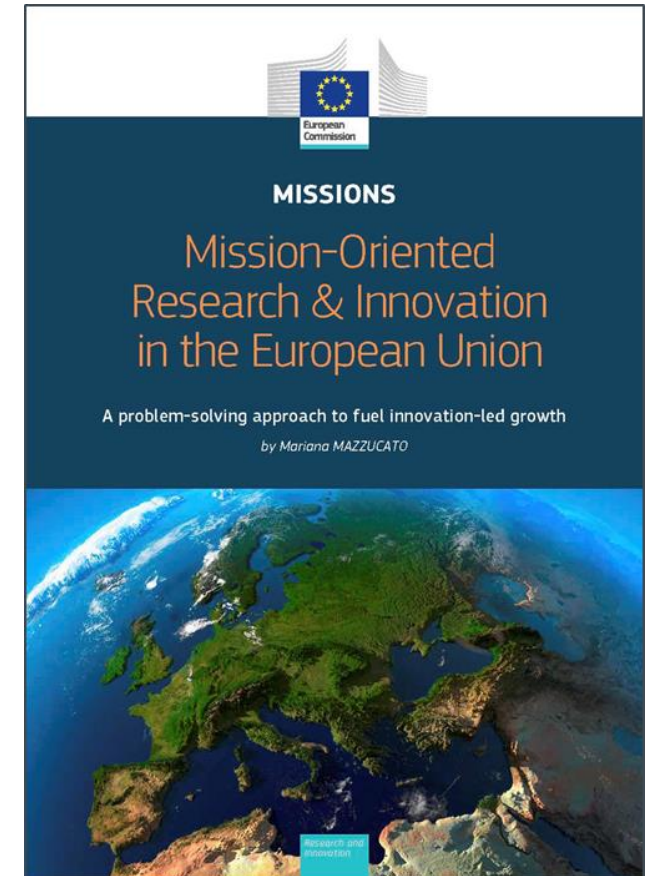
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Policy instruments and tools for interregional smart specialisation partnerships/investments

- Green Deal: twin transitions (green + digital)
- Sustainable Blue Economy Communication
- Industrial strategy: Focus on ecosystems and value chains
- **Research and Innovation: Horizon Ocean and Waters Mission**
- **Investment: InvestEU/BlueInvest**

The Horizon Europe Ocean and Waters Mission

- **Ambitious and inspirational**, with wide societal relevance
- **Clear direction**: targeted, measurable and time-bound
- Spark innovation **across disciplines, sectors and actors**
- Be based on a **bottom-up** approach of multiple solutions/actors
- Mobilise resources at EU, national and regional/local level
- Missions will have a separate part in Horizon Europe WP
- Each mission prepares a detailed **implementation plan** including:
 - intervention logic
 - actions to be supported
 - investment strategy
 - indicators



Mission objectives

Restore our ocean and waters by 2030



Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity



Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters



Make sustainable Blue Economy carbon neutral and circular

Digital ocean and water knowledge system
Public mobilization & engagement

Mission Targets

- Improvement and widening of the **network of marine protected areas** in the EU (30% of EU's seas protected, with integrated ecological corridors and 10% of EU's seas strictly protected)
- At least **25.000 km of restored free flowing rivers**
- Restored marine and coastal ecosystems in line with the upcoming EU Nature Restoration targets
- **Reduction of 50% of the plastic at the sea and 30% micro-plastics released into the environment**
- **Reduction by 50% of nutrient losses** and the risk and use of chemical pesticides and reduction of water pollution from pharmaceuticals
- **Reduction of the Blue Economy's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% and towards 55% compared to 1990 levels**
- Circular low carbon use of marine space and sustainable aquaculture

Mission implementation phases



Phase I (2022-2025)

Large area based lighthouses covering all Mission objectives

Phase II (2026-2030)

Scale up projects throughout the EU

Area based lighthouses



Area-based lighthouses

- Integrating and testing new governance, knowledge creation and dissemination and citizen and stakeholder engagement.
- Creating new sustainable Blue business models and jobs in the lighthouse area.
- Based on **replicability and scalability** principles.

What can regions do to support the Mission

Align Smart Specialisation Strategies with the Mission objectives

Cooperate with other regions and within macro-regions

Disseminate information about the Mission among citizens and stakeholders

Open dialogue with stakeholders & support educational activities linked to the Mission

Restore our ocean and waters by 2030



Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity



Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters



Make sustainable Blue Economy carbon neutral and circular

Digital ocean and water knowledge system, public mobilization and engagement

Funding the Mission

- **Horizon Europe's** Mission budget will cover the main R&I component and the activities for setting out suitable knowledge and monitoring systems
- **Other programmes such as LIFE, ERDF, EMFAF, EARDF and CF** will also have to be mobilised
- Private funding will have to be leveraged in, including **risk capital, impact investment, philanthropic funding and funding from public development banks**
- The **EU BlueInvest equity fund** will commit at least €140 million per year (during 2021 to 2027) to fund early stage innovative ventures of SMEs and start-ups that are relevant for the Mission (thus a total of €980 million).

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COMMUNITY



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ACADEMY



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EVENTS



BLUEINVEST
PROJECT PIPELINE



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READINESS ASSISTANCE



BLUEINVEST
COACH



BLUEINVEST
GRANTS



BLUEINVEST
FUND



BLUEINVEST TRACK RECORD



BLUEINVEST
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

1000+



BLUEINVEST
READINESS ASSISTANCE
ALUMNI

170+



BLUEINVEST
CLUB OF
INVESTORS

200+



BLUEINVEST
PROJECT PIPELINE
SHOWCASE

200+

The BlueInvest Fund

The European Commission partnered with the European Investment Fund to launch the EUR 75m BlueInvest Fund

The BlueInvest Fund will support innovative blue economy

EIF shall invest in **equity funds** whose investment strategies target partially or fully **blue economic activities** including natural or cultural capital, ocean energy, climate action, inclusion of coastal communities and better coastal protection.

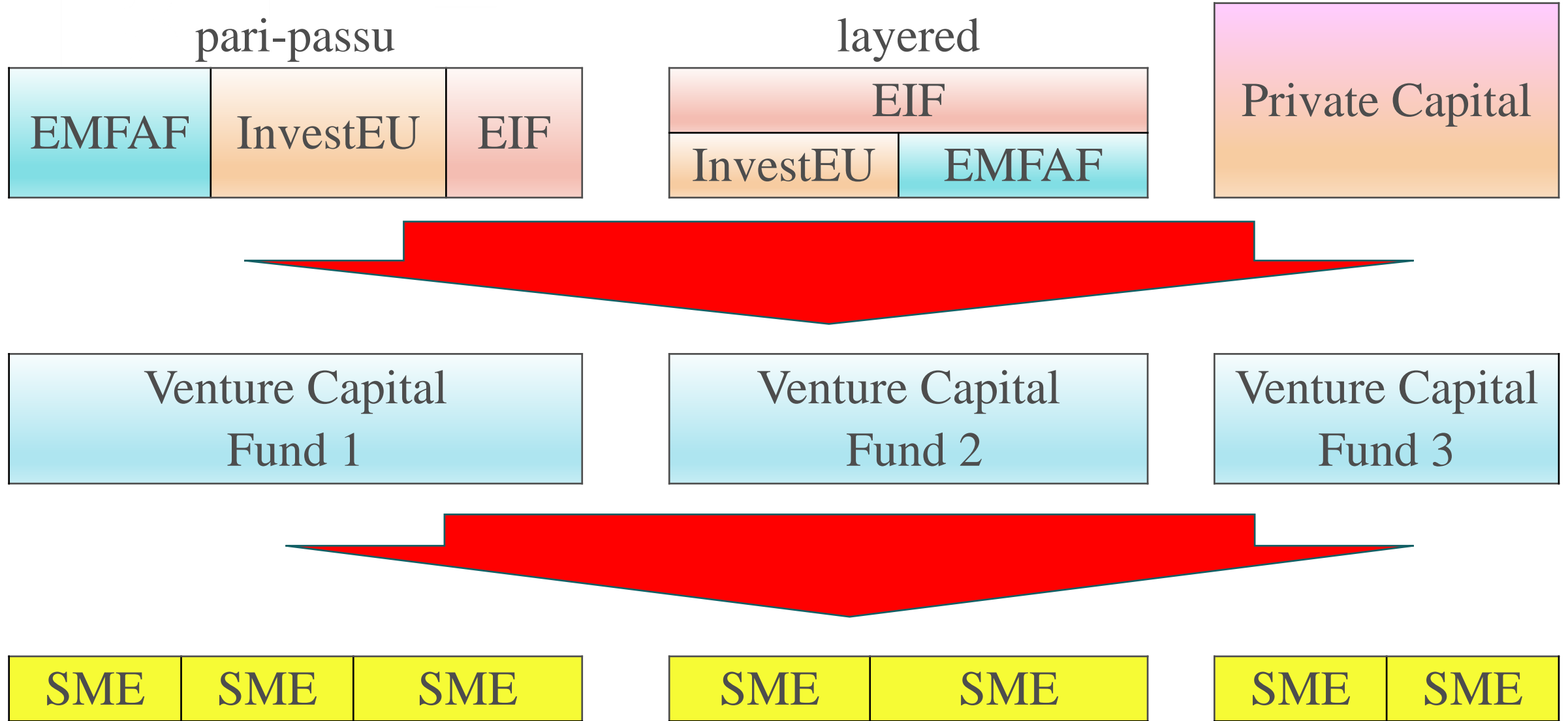
Blended finance - complementarity with EC backed projects

The new fund was complemented by the European Commission's **BlueInvest platform**, a blended finance initiative, which supports investment readiness and access to finance for early-stage businesses, SMEs and scale-ups.

→ Complementary call for expression of interest for portfolio companies [here](#)



Blending



Summing up

- The Horizon Ocean and Waters Mission offers opportunities for blue economy regional partnerships to benefit from HE support through involvement in large-scale demonstrators in the mission-areas (ecosystems and biodiversity, fight against pollution, decarbonisation of the blue economy)
- The BlueInvest initiative is there to help regional partnerships by supporting SME-driven innovation project through investment readiness support matchmaking with investors