BlueActionBANOS — Project Idea Form for 1st Transition Agendas

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Intro

Welcome to BlueActionBANOS Open Call for 1st Transition Agendas! Upon correct submission of this Project Idea Form, you will be contacted to schedule an individual online consultation with BlueActionBANOS experts to present your idea for the Transition Agenda.

In the full proposal stage, applicants will be required to define Performance KPIs and Impact KPIs. In this Project Idea Form, you are not expected to define KPIs, but you should show that you understand the expected impact pathway (Activities-Outputs-Outcomes-Impacts) and can identify areas where measurable change is expected.

We reserve the right to contact and consult only those applicants who submit complete and full information in the Project Idea Form.

Please remember that submission of the Project Idea Form and consultation are obligatory for full proposal submission.

You cannot edit your Project Idea Form after submission.

The deadline for submitting Project Idea Forms is 16 March 2026 17:00 (Brussels time).

Contact Info

Transition Agenda full name *

Full name of your Transition Agenda

Beneath the Blue: Restoring Seabed Health to unlock ocean services

Transition Agenda acronym *

Short name of your Transition Agenda

BeBlue

Contact person - First name *

Torben

Contact person - Last name *

Ankjærø

Organisation name *

Marine Collaboration in Eastjutland

Position *

Position in the organisation.

Marine environment coordinator

Contact email *

Enter the mail address you want to use to receive communications

atto@aarhus.dk

Phone number *

numerical +00100200300

+4523475150

Organisation website *

URL (eg. https://company.com)

havsamarbejdet.dk

Type of organisation *

Regional/ local authority

Country of the entity's registration *

Denmark

Project Idea Info

Country(-ies) where you are planning to implement the Transition Agenda *

Denmark

Which objective(s) of Mission Ocean will the Transition Agenda contribute to? *

✓ Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity

Specify for "Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity"

✓ Contribute to relevant marine nature restoration targets, including degraded seabed habitats and coastal ecosystems

✓ Protect at least 30% of the EU's seas and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true trans-European Nature Network

✓ Strictly protect at least 10% of the EU's seas

Please describe the specific problem you want to solve. *

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A healthy seabed is crucial in protecting and restoring marine ecosystems and biodiversity. Physical disturbances from sand extraction, sediment dumping and bottom trawling have historically degraded the ecosystem and natural functions of the seabed east of Jutland. Our Transition Agenda (TA) aims to facilitate the process and pathway towards a healthy seabed, supporting Ocean Mission nature restoration and protection goals. By reducing physical disturbances to the seabed, ecosystem recovery will positively support all 7 strategic goals of our 7 municipalities: 1/ Advocacy and frameworks for use of the sea 2/ Collection and sharing knowledge on marine biodiversity 3/ Mapping recreative opportunities and constraints 4/ Communication about the sea's condition, projects and the collaboration 5/ NGO collaboration improving the marine environment (Citizen Science) 6/ External financing of projects (fundraising and complementary projects) 7/ Physical restoration of lost habitats.

Please describe the context in which the proposed Transition Agenda will be implemented. *

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The TA will be implemented within Havsamarbejdet i Østjylland (HSO), a collaboration between 7 municipalities along the east coast of Jutland covering 7,200 km2 of costal and marine areas in partnership with Aarhus University (AU). Coastal waters in the region have not achieved good ecological status, and fish abundance in nearshore areas has declined significantly and abruptly in recent years. The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 requires that 30% of marine areas are protected, including 10% under strict protection. There is currently no science-based roadmap to determine the location of these areas or how protection and restoration should be prioritised to achieve real ecological recovery. The TA will transform existing ambitions and knowledge into a structured roadmap that defines priority reduction pathways for seabed disturbance, restoration zones, key knowledge gaps, clear success criteria, and a phased implementation plan for future seabed restoration and fish recovery projects.

What long-term change will your Transition Agenda contribute to? *

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The TA will contribute to the long-term marine restoration of functional seabed habitats and the recovery of benthic biodiversity in Danish coastal waters. By reducing cumulative seabed disturbance and establishing no-disturbance zones, it will improve nursery conditions for coastal fish species and secure ecological connectivity between marine areas. This will support increased fish abundance in nearshore ecosystems and enable a transition towards ecosystem-based marine management and fisheries. The roadmap provides a clear guidance for policymakers on protection and restoration localities and allows for the establishment of a carrying capacity on sand-dredging activities. Moreover, the protection efforts will result in healthier coastal waters, benefiting blue tourism.

What specific objectives will be achieved by the end of the Transition Agenda? *

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1/ New transdisciplinary stakeholder partnerships to boost innovation in trawling, dredging and sediment dumping. The TA includes fundraising and complementary efforts 2/ A scientifically validated TA based on new GIS and ecomodel technology to include connectivity and cumulative stressors for a sustainable management. 3/ New spatial roadmap: - Long-term protection of banks from sand-dredging - Restoration measures for dredging holes and cumulative seabed stressors - Leading the way to good ecological status (GES) of Water Framework Directive and Marine strategy Framework F Directives descriptor 1 (Marine biodiversity), 3 (Commercial fish and shellfish), 4 (Food webs), 6 (Seabed integrity) 4/ Provide municipalities and national authorities with novel insights and tools to meet GES.

Briefly describe key activities to achieve the objectives. Activities should logically lead to measurable outputs. These outputs form the basis for performance KPIs in the full proposal. *

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The project builds new transdisciplinary partnerships between municipalities, science and stakeholders to create a science-based spatial framework achieving 10% strict marine protection, supported by politicians. It includes a new scientifically validated approach using the latest knowledge and a gap analysis identifying ecological, spatial and governance barriers to effective seabed protection and restoration. A regional marine roadmap is developed with intermunicipal collaboration on governance, restoration and a proposal for a Marine Nature National Park. Spatial planning aims to limit seabed loss to max 2% by adjusting sand extraction zones, supported by workshops and living labs engaging industry and research. The project also supports a transition in fisheries to reduce bottom trawling by 2028 and sediment dumping to meet the EU threshold of max 25% adversely affected seabed for each bottom type. By 2028 preliminary results will be evaluated and activities adjusted accordingly.

What type of community(ies) will your Transition Agenda benefit? *

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The TA will benefit coastal municipalities by providing a science-based framework for marine planning and protection. Representatives of the blue economy (small scale costal fishing) will benefit from improved long-term fish stock recovery and healthier nursery habitats. Nature-based tourism and recreational users (anglers, divers and sailors) will benefit from improved water quality, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. The Ministry of Environment and national politicians will gain clear spatial guidance to implement protection targets. Marine planners and decision-makers will gain clear spatial guidance and inspiration to implement protection targets, including the EU 30% / 10% objective.

Tell us more about the partners you would like to engage (how many, type of organisations, their contribution to the Transition Agenda). *

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There will be 2 beneficiaries: HSO (through the secretariat and coordinator located in AAK) will be lead partner. HSO is a formal inter-municipal collaboration politically backed by 7 Central Danish municipalities and will be responsible for coordination and integration into local planning. AU will be partner contributing with scientific expertise. AU Ecoscience will be partner contributing with scientific expertise. Through the Blue Council (associated partner), environmental NGOs, the fisheries sector, local harbours, and industry will be included to provide the TA with key local ecological knowledge, credibility, and sustainability. Expected associated partner: Göteborg Municipality - coordinating activities in the cross-border maritime zone.

What is the expected budget for your Transition Agenda? *

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Total expected budget is €100,000, roughly split evenly between the budgets of the two beneficiaries, HSO and AU. The budget allocation will ensure a strong balance between governance coordination and scientific rigour.

During the Open Call, a webinar series on specific topics will support applicants with the design of their Full Proposal. Funded projects will receive support through individual counselling, in-depth sessions, expert/peer reviews, workshops, webinars, and training for successful project implementation. Please let us know what technical assistance you need from BlueActionBANOS experts, both during the Open Call and as part of the support program (if you are selected). *

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Shared knowledge from other Baltic areas regarding development of sustainable fishing (regulations and trade-offs between bottom trawling, and other fishing methods). Shared Knowledge and innovative management of sand-dredging activities. Calculations of the cumulative local and regional impact of physical disturbance on the seabed. Advice: How to structure the ActionPlan, so the results can be scaled up in a European context. Advice regarding how to implement the results in the legislation both national and EU context. Webinar with the Blue Council. Newest knowledge on the legislation in the Nature Restauration Law on for a conference for politicians in the 7 municipalities. Newest knowledge on the legislation on Nature Credits.

Assumptions/Risks: What external factors could affect the success of your Transition Agenda? *

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National political decisions in new legislation can risk further degradation of the ecosystems. We try to mitigate this by gathering both local politicians and stakeholders and send common agreement to the national parliament of relevant ministries. The full effect of seabed recovery is also dependent on nutrient reductions from land, which is planned through the National Danish Green Tripartite Agreement, converting large farmlands into nature. Local fishers and blue economy private companies can have conflicting interests resulting in reluctance to cooperate. As an inter-municipal collaboration, HSO decisions depend largely on broad political and citizen support, which sometimes lead to a moderation in level of ambition. Even with support, delays in decision-making are a possibility.

Processing of Personal Data

The information clause concerning processing of the personal data is available at https://fundingbox.com/privacy-notices/open-call/.

I confirm that I read and understood the privacy notice concerning processing of the personal data provided above. *

Yes

I confirm that I passed the Privacy Notice provided to all persons mentioned in the application form. *

Yes

I confirm that I have legal basis for processing personal data of all persons listed in the application form. *

Yes