

# NATURAL RESOURCES & ADAPTATION CLUSTER

## ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2025

### CLUSTER DESCRIPTION AND KEY PRIORITIES

ERRIN's **Natural Resources and Adaptation Cluster** combines the activities of the **Bioeconomy Working Group**, **Blue Economy Working Group** and **Climate Adaptation Task Force**, aligning their efforts to address key EU priorities and strengthen the R&I capacities of the regional innovation ecosystems of the ERRIN members. Operating as a Cluster enables the Working Groups to deliver more impactful messages with a collective voice, enhancing their influence on key EU strategies and initiatives. The cross-sectoral perspective further fosters innovative, holistic approaches to complex challenges while enhancing collaboration.

The Natural Resources and Adaptation Cluster actively monitors and engages with major EU priorities and strategies, including the **Horizon Europe Programme**, its **partnerships** and its **European Missions** '**A Soil Deal for Europe**', '**Restore our Ocean and Waters**' and '**Adaptation to Climate Change**'. It gathers intelligence to support regions' roles in macro-regional strategies and interregional knowledge-sharing.

With the aim of strengthening members' engagement in the three Missions covered by the cluster's work – the [Mission Soil](#), [Ocean and Waters](#), [Adaptation to Climate Change](#) – the Working Groups and Task Force under this Cluster regularly engages with the different Mission Secretariats to discuss and influence the implementation of the Missions in 2025.

Mirroring several of the Horizon Europe Pillar II Clusters, the Natural Resources and Adaptation Cluster aims to foster synergies to address complex challenges in a multi-perspective approach. Additionally, the ERRIN projects [Circular Cities and Regions Initiative \(CCRI\)](#), [RESIST](#), [SOILL](#), [Pathways2Resilience](#), [Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Platform](#) support the members and provide opportunities to build their regional R&I capacity to address these complex transitions. In 2025, three new ERRIN projects will kick off in this Cluster: two supporting regions to achieve the Mission Ocean and Waters objectives and one aiming at setting up national climate adaptation hubs. More details about each Working Group, Task Force and project can be found at the end of this file.

### CLUSTER CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Responsible
3 February	2025 Kick-off meeting Natural Resources and Adaptation Cluster	Cluster activity
3 March	ERRIN's Blue Economy Get Together	Blue Economy WG
14 March	Update of the EU Bioeconomy strategy	Bioeconomy WG
April (TBC)	Project development session	Cluster activity
9 June (TBC)	Water Resilience	Blue Economy WG
June	Info session on P2R second call	Adaptation TF
Sept./Oct.	ERRIN's Circular Economy workshop: opportunities and challenges for members	Bioeconomy WG + other WG's
9 October	Revitalising our seas and waters: how to address nutrient run-offs?	Blue Economy WG

November	Meeting with the Adaptation Mission secretariat: projects implementation and future calls	Adaptation TF
20 November	The Competitiveness of Europe's Maritime Industry	Blue Economy WG

## ACTIVITIES

### Natural Resources and Adaptation Cluster kick-off meeting 2025

**3 February | 14:30–17:00**

#### **Cluster activity**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Miia Paananen-Docx, Ingvild Jacobsen, Angele Liaigre, Randi Johanne Hoeseth, Marie Clotteau, Saara Nuotio-Coulon

**In-person meeting:** Oslo Region EU Office

This informal and interactive meeting will offer an opportunity for all members to connect, network and engage with the planned activities of the Bioeconomy Working Group, the Blue Economy Working Group and the Adaptation Task Force for 2025.

The event has been designed with an emphasis on interaction and collaboration. After the presentation of the Cluster Annual Work Plan 2025, two interactive sessions will give members the opportunity to discuss their potential involvement in the planned work and identify key Horizon Europe calls of interest to set the stage for the project development activities in 2025.

### **ERRIN's Blue Economy Get Together**

**3 March | 17.00–19:00**

#### **Blue Economy WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** all

**In-person networking**

Innovation is a team effort. But how to choose who shall be part of your team? First, one needs to know who is out there. That is what the Blue Economy Working Group wants to facilitate with a networking and matchmaking activity: ERRIN's Blue Economy Get Together.

The event will take place during the European Ocean Days when marine and maritime stakeholders of ERRIN members across Europe will travel to Brussels. This networking drink will be a great opportunity to get to other members of ERRIN and various stakeholders as well as learning more about ERRIN's activities in this field, for instance in the context of the EU Mission to Restore our Oceans and Waters.

### **Update of the EU Bioeconomy strategy**

**14 March | 9:30–12:00**

#### **Bioeconomy WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Marie Clotteau

**In-person meeting**

In March 2024, the European Commission has announced a revision of the existing European Bioeconomy Strategy that will now be led by DG ENVI. 13 years after the first EU bioeconomy strategy,

what are the results and future expectations for the regions? It is important that we keep good track of the developments of the new Strategy and that we make sure the needs of regional and local authorities are well represented in the new Strategy. The European Commission planned a public consultation in Q1 2025, in which ERRIN will continue its positioning activity that already started in 2024 with the publication of a joint position paper with BIC.

### **Cluster Project development session**

**April** (exact date TBC)

#### **Cluster activity**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Angele Liaigre, Zoé Buyle-Bodin, Saara Nuotio-Coulon, Pernille Dagø

#### **Online meeting**

The Cluster is planning a project development session in the Spring following the official publication of the 2025 Horizon Europe calls (Cluster 6 and Mission calls). Depending on the feedback received during the kick-off meeting early February, we will launch a bottom-up call to action inviting members to express their interest via the project development tool. Building on the expressions of interest received, the appointed co-leaders assess on which calls the session will be focussing on, and plan further online matchmaking opportunities.

### **Water Resilience**

**9 June** (TBC)

#### **Blue Economy WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Aki Ishiwa

#### **In-person**

According to the European Environmental Agency's recent [reports](#), water is one of the biggest threats for Europe. Countries are already experiencing drought, water scarcity and increasingly severe floods. The European Commission will propose a new European Water Resilience Strategy to ensure sources are effectively managed, scarcity is addressed, that the competitiveness of water industry and a circular economy approach are fostered. The Blue Economy Working Group offers to organise an event that will cover this initiative of the EC Work Programme.

### **Info session on P2R second call**

**June** (exact date TBC)

#### **Adaptation TF**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Torsten Raff

#### **In-person**

Pathways2Resilience ([P2R](#)) is one of the projects of the Adaptation Mission supporting regional and local authorities' efforts to set up climate adaptation strategies and action plans. The second P2R call, in which around 60 regions will receive funding, should be launched in June 2025. The Adaptation TF will invite ERRIN members to an information session to learn more about this new call and P2R tools to support regional and local authorities beyond the calls. One or two ERRIN members who were selected under the P2R first call will also be invited to present their feedback on the support received via the project as well as their experiences in the application process.

## **ERRIN's Circular Economy workshop: opportunities and challenges for members**

**September/October** (exact date TBC)

**Bioeconomy WG**, with the support of the **Culture and Creativity**, the **Health** and the **Low Carbon Clusters**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Randi Johanne Hoseth

**In-person**

Many members flagged the issue of circular economy in the annual survey as an important topic to work on. The working group has in the past dived into this issue through various angles but not much in a holistic approach. As the Circular Cities and Regions [Initiative \(CCRI\)](#) will come to an end in October 2025, this will be a unique occasion to bring the learnings from various value chains and perspectives (construction, water, waste, textile; circular design, NEB, ...) to the wider membership, showcasing practical roadmaps of how circular systemic solutions can be implemented in cities and regions.

With this half a day workshop, we aim to propose a deep dive in the world of circular economy, sharing insights on the latest political developments, looking back at the implementation of the Circular Economy Action plan from 2020 but also looking ahead towards the new Commission's actions with the announced 'Circular Economy Act'. The workshop will offer a mutual learning opportunity for the wider membership to learn from CCRI Pilot and Fellow Regions who have received support to implement circular systemic solutions in their territories. Also, this workshop will be the occasion to highlight best practices and projects from frontrunning regions coming from the ERRIN network.

## **Revitalising our seas and waters: how to address nutrient run-offs?**

**9 October 10:00–12:00**

**Blue Economy WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Saara Nuotio-Coulon, Pernille Dagø

**In-person/online meeting**

Nutrient runoff from terrestrial and agricultural grounds poses a severe threat to aquatic ecosystems all over Europe. Excessive amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen flowing into water bodies lead to nutrient overload, eutrophication, harmful algal blooms and finally oxygen depletion. These processes destroy local and regional water systems, resulting in the widespread death of aquatic life.

With the adoption of the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) in 2024 and the guidelines for the individual National Restoration Plans being published, the implementation phase of the law has commenced. This highlights the urgency of addressing nutrient pollution as part of broader restoration efforts. This meeting will provide a brief overview of the challenges faced, dive into how to approach the issues through policies like the NRL, and finally present number of regional examples which will explore innovative approaches and practical measures to tackle this issue.

## **Follow up meeting with Adaptation Mission secretariat and overview of regional experiences of support services offered by Mission Adaptation projects**

**November** (exact date TBC)

**Adaptation TF**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Ingild Jacobsen, Miia Paananen-Docx, Torsten Raff, Zoé Buyle Bodin

**In-person meeting**

The Climate Adaptation Task Force will invite regions and communities that have received support services from the different Mission Adaptation projects and initiatives ([Pathways2Resilience](#), [CLIMAAX](#), [MIP4Adapt](#), etc) aimed at supporting regions in the implementation of the Mission to share their experiences and learnings. Moreover, the Adaptation Mission secretariat will be invited to present its feedback on the Mission and exchange with ERRIN members. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for ERRIN members to discuss how they are implementing the Mission in their regions, and to look at potential future support offers towards regions and communities.

### **The Competitiveness in Europe's Maritime Industry**

**20 Novembre | 10:00–12:00**

**Blue Economy WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Klaas de Boer

**In-person**

The next years the EU's agenda will be all about competitiveness. One crucial sector which hasn't been mentioned enough yet will be the blue economy. Therefore, this event shall look into the potential of a sustainable blue economy to contribute to growth and jobs in the EU.

Together with ERRIN members we will discuss which sectors will be particularly crucial to ensure the EU's competitiveness, from maritime transport to offshore energy and blue biotechnology. Furthermore, we will discuss how innovation such as advanced materials or AI will be changing the sector and how this development can be supported at EU level.

### **OTHER ISSUES/TOPICS TO BE MONITORED:**

- New legislative developments and beginnings of the new European Commission: Circular Economy Act, Clear Industrial Deal
- Preparations of the follow-up scheme of the CCRI
- EU Adaptation Act and the links with the Mission
- Food Systems
- Forestry and upcoming 'Future Forest Partnership'
- Optional Cluster study Visit on urban farming
- EIT Water KIC: Call for proposals for a new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) on Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems (open to organisations from business, education and research)

### **OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTPUTS IN ERRIN PROJECTS**

#### **CCRI**

2025 will mark the 4th and final year of the [Circular Cities and Regions Initiative \(CCRI\)](#). ERRIN will organise a series of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues from February to June, for discussing policy recommendation for the EU level deriving from the [CCRI projects](#) (targeting plastics, batteries and vehicles, biobased side and waste streams, biowaste, packaging, food and nutrients, water, energy,



textile; circular buildings, circular households, Innovative governance). A call for a new Community of Practice will be launched in Q1, offering new cities and regions to get involved. Furthermore, the EU Green Week will feature the next [CCRI conference, taking place on 5 June 2025](#). ERRIN members are invited to express their regional support needs in the field of circular economy to the ERRIN Secretariat, which will be used for feeding into the preparations of the CCRI Follow up scheme.

### RESIST

In 2025, the [RESIST](#) project will deliver key outputs aligned with the EU Mission on Adaptation to climate change, including a transfer methodology for climate-related innovations, a Transformative Social Innovation Strategy, a socio-economic decision support tool, and several digital solutions, including Graphical Digital Twins, an online repository of solutions, a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and site-specific impact warning systems.

ERRIN will also increase the project outreach by building collaborations with additional adaptation projects and kicking off the RESIST Community of Interest (CoI) to engage diverse range of stakeholders from additional regions in sharing experiences and challenges. Through open webinars and workshops, the CoI will facilitate knowledge exchange and integrate tools developed with partners, fostering collaboration and mutual learning in climate adaptation.

### Pathways2Resilience

In May/June 2025, the second Pathways2Resilience call for applicants will open. This call will select an additional 60 regions and communities to receive sub-grants of up to €210 000 for an 18-month project period. The sub-grant must support work around the development of a climate resilience strategy, action plan, and accompanying investment plan, following the methodological framework developed by the Pathways2Resilience project. Additionally, Innovation Practice Groups - interactive working groups designed to foster collaboration and strategic thinking among regions - will be established, with opportunities for additional regions to join. Through the Pathways2Resilience project, ERRIN will also facilitate the organisation of multi-level and multi-stakeholder stakeholder engagement workshops in selected countries in autumn 2025.

### SOILL

SOILL is an EU Funded initiative supporting the deployment of the 100 Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses (SHLLs/LHs) under the Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'. In 2025, SOILL will support regional and national stakeholders across Europe to apply for the 2025 Mission Soil calls on Living Labs and Lighthouses. Additionally, stakeholders interested in benefitting from regular updates on SHLLs' progresses and achievements can fill out [this form](#). By joining the SOILL Community, stakeholders will be given the opportunity to access to a centralised hub of information on Soil Mission Living Labs (SHLL) and Lighthouses (LHs), benefit from regular updates on progress and achievements, and engage in knowledge exchange and collaboration opportunities through Thematic Working Groups. Additionally, matchmaking tools for potential applicants to the Mission Soil calls, policy support documents and capacity-building programmes will be available.

### Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Platform

The MIP Ocean Platform supports the European Commission's implementation by facilitating knowledge-sharing, communication and technical assistance across the Mission community monitors and evaluates progress in achieving mission objectives provides tools for collaboration and drives regional and local engagement through initiatives such as the Mission Charter. ERRIN is **collecting information about support needs from regional and local stakeholders to shape the Mission's services**. ERRIN is outreaching to regional and local stakeholders, enhancing their understanding and engagement to submit their pledges through a compelling narrative and is supporting the assessment of the Charter's impact and proposes improvements to enhance its effectiveness.

## MORE INFORMATION: LEADERS AND PROJECTS

### Bioeconomy Working Group



The **Bioeconomy Working Group** focuses on strengthening the role of regions and stakeholders in shaping the European circular bioeconomy. It actively follows the Horizon Europe Mission Soil, addressing topics such as food systems, soil health, forestry, bioenergy, biowaste, bio-based products and circular economy in a broader sense.

This group promotes ecological sustainability and decarbonization through nature-based and blue-green solutions, aiming to enhance regional participation in Horizon Europe and the Circular Bio-based Europe Partnership by fostering partnerships with policymakers and stakeholders.

#### LEADERS

- **Ana Rodriduez Vasquez**, Galician Innovation Agency, [arodr154@tragsa.es](mailto:arodr154@tragsa.es)
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- **Randi Johanne Hoseth**, Oslo Region European Office, [randi@osloregion.org](mailto:randi@osloregion.org)

**PROJECTS:** [Circular Cities and Regions Initiative \(CCRI\)](#) and [SOILL-StartUP](#)

### Blue Economy Working Group



The **Blue Economy Working Group** drives advancements in research, innovation, and policy related to marine, maritime, and water systems. It addresses sustainability, economic development, climate adaptation, and digital transformation, aligning with key EU priorities such as S3 Partnerships (Water Smart Territories and Maritime Sustainable Blue Bioeconomy), the Horizon Europe Mission to Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030, and the anticipated European Water Resilience Strategy (2025). The group supports regional engagement in initiatives like Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport, Sustainable Blue Economy, and Water4All, where ERRIN actively contributes through its Advisory Board representation.

#### LEADERS

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**PROJECT:** [Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Platform](#)

### Climate Adaptation Task Force



The **Climate Adaptation Task Force** leads ERRIN's engagement with Mission Adaptation by supporting regional implementation and developing Mission-related projects. Its priorities fostering regional roles in Mission Adaptation, monitoring the Mission implementation and maintaining dialogue with the Mission Secretariat. It also focuses on aligning with the New EU Commission (2024–2029) and shaping FP10 development. The task force aims to advance local and regional contributions to climate resilience through project development and capacity building, ensuring regions play a critical role in fostering adaptation efforts.

#### LEADERS

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**PROJECTS:** [RESIST](#), [Pathways2Resilience](#)

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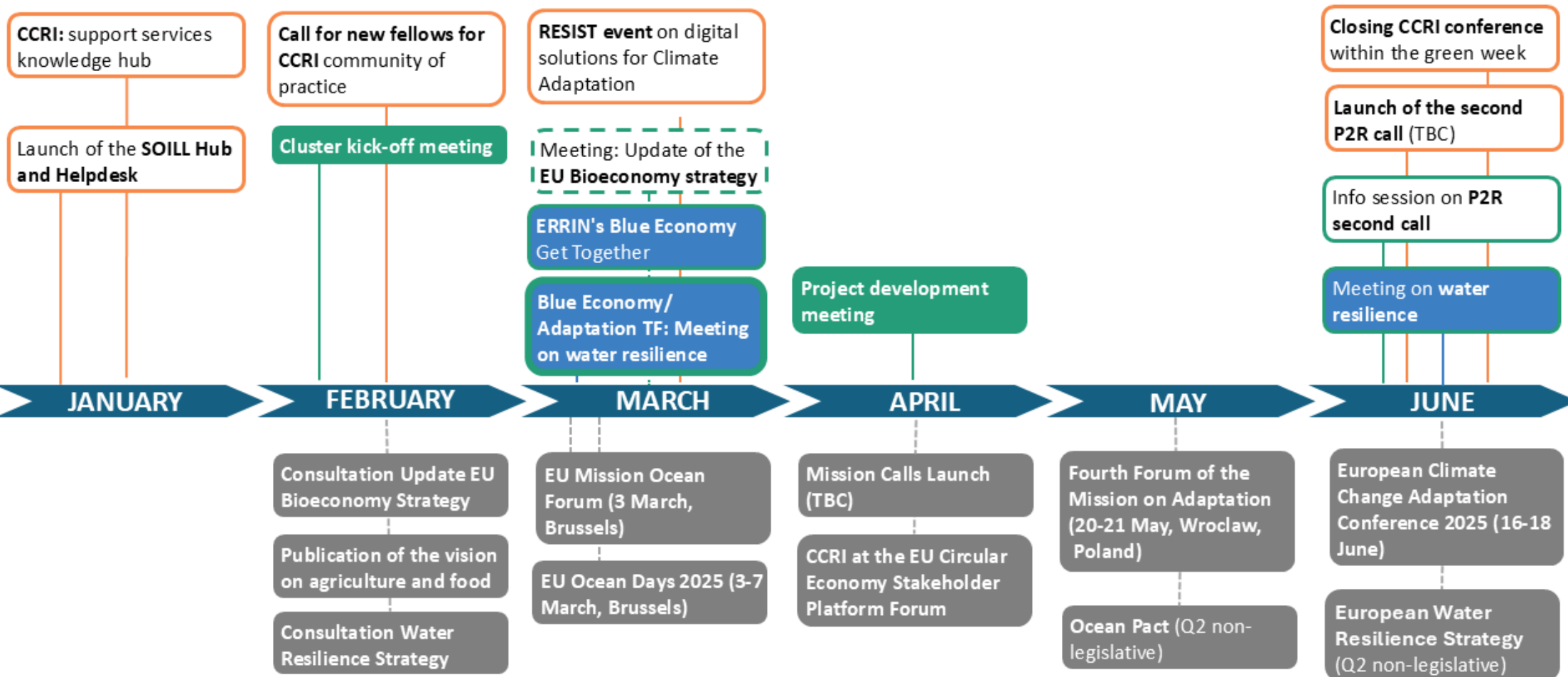
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# NATURAL RESOURCES AND ADAPTATION CLUSTER 2025 TIMELINE

CCRI policy multistakeholder dialogues (February to June)



# NATURAL RESOURCES AND ADAPTATION CLUSTER 2025 TIMELINE

