

NATURAL RESOURCES & ADAPTATION CLUSTER

ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026

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 and Resilience Working Group**, 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 **European Partnerships** and the **EU Missions 'A Soil Deal for Europe', 'Restore our Ocean and Waters' and 'Adaptation to Climate Change'**. Key workstreams for the Cluster in 2026 include **circular economy**, **bioeconomy** and **resilience-related** policies and initiatives, the new **European climate resilience framework**, while closely monitoring their evolution and funding implication in the context of the **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2027**. In 2026, the Cluster will operate in a dense policy landscape for ocean and maritime issues, following the publication of the **European Ocean Pact** at the end of 2025. ERRIN will structure its work on blue policies around the six priorities of the Ocean Pact to ensure coherence across related EU initiatives.

With the aim of strengthening members' engagement in the three EU Missions covered by the cluster's work – the [Mission Soil](#), [Ocean and Waters](#), [Adaptation to Climate Change](#) – the Working Groups under this Cluster regularly engages with the different Mission Secretariats. These exchanges aim to discuss and help shape the implementation of the Missions in 2026, while also contributing to reflections on their continuation, strategic orientation, and integration within the MFF post-2027, in particular in Horizon Europe and in the European Competitiveness Fund.

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](#), [National Adaptation Hubs](#), [Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Platform](#), [CO-WATERS](#) and [BlueActionBanos](#) support the members and provide opportunities to build their regional R&I capacity to address these complex transitions.

More details about each Working Group and project can be found at the end of this file.

CLUSTER CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Responsible
26 January	Cluster Kick-off meeting	Cluster Activity
Consultation deadline: 23 February	Open Public Consultation for the new European climate resilience framework	Climate Adaptation and Resilience WG
12 February	Policy Recommendations from the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative to the Circular Economy Act	Bioeconomy WG
February, several dates	Taskforce to support the design of the Mission Ocean and Waters Label (CO-WATERS project)	Blue Economy WG
27 February	Project Development Session	Cluster Activity
4 March	Blue social drink	Blue Economy WG
16 April	From Policy to Practice: Regions at the Heart of Europe's Bioeconomy and Biotech Innovation	Bioeconomy WG
30 June	Innovative Climate Adaptation Solutions: From Local Practices to Future EU Funding	Climate Adaptation and Resilience WG
24 September	Ocean and Water Resilience R&I Strategies: Presenting ERRIN's contribution and the road ahead	Blue Economy WG
6 October	ERRIN's online Blue Skills Talk	Blue Economy and SEFS WGs
7 October	The Biotech Act II and Life Sciences Strategy	Bioeconomy and Health WGs
20-21 October	ERRIN workshop at the Global Bioeconomy Summit: 'Building an enabling environment for place-based bioeconomies to succeed'	Bioeconomy WG
3 November	Bridging policy and practice for climate resilience - RESIST Community of Interest	RESIST Project and Climate Adaptation and Resilience WG
25 November	Project Development Session on Horizon Europe Cluster 6 calls 2027	Cluster Activity + UnLiON Network
November TBC	Implementing the European Climate Resilience Framework: Implications for Regions, EU Policy and Funding	Climate Adaptation and Resilience WG

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

[Ocean and Water Resilience R&I Strategies: ERRIN's contribution and the road ahead](#)

24 September

Responsible WG: Blue Economy

Responsible co-leader: Saara Nuotio-Coulon

In-person

The European Commission's parallel [Calls for Evidence](#) on the Ocean Research and Innovation Strategy and the Water Resilience Research and Innovation Strategy closed on 2 August 2026, ahead of a combined EU Ocean and Water R&I Strategy expected in Q4 2026. ERRIN's Blue Economy Working Group coordinated a [joint network response](#), drawing on members' regional experience and on ERRIN's ongoing policy work on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

This meeting will present and discuss [ERRIN's input](#) together with the wider network structured in two parts. The first part covers the core messages on future EU funding needs, the mission-oriented approach, smart specialisation and how skills support alone will not close the blue economy's innovation-to-market gap. And the second part will zoom into the thematic aspects, exemplified by relevant regional cases.

The session will include an exchange with a representative of the Mission Ocean and Waters Secretariat, with whom ERRIN's Blue Economy Working Group has maintained a close dialogue, and will showcase regional examples raised through the consultation process. Participants will be invited to discuss what comes next as the Commission moves towards adopting the combined Strategy.

[ERRIN's online Blue Skills Talk](#)

6 October 2026 | 9:30–11:00

Responsible WG: Science & Education for Society + Blue Economy

Responsible co-leaders: Joakim P. Berg, Berwyn Davis, Delia Mitcan, Marko Setinc (SEFS), Søren Heinecke (Blue Economy)

Online

This 3rd session in the series of ERRIN online Skills Talks will focus on Blue Skills and aims to introduce the [European Water Academy \(EUWA\)](#), one of the Commission's flagship initiatives designed to bridge the knowledge and implementation gaps in the water sector. ERRIN members will be invited to present their regional skills initiatives aiming at capacity building in areas such as maritime operations, water resilience, wastewater management, water technology and innovation. This session will also offer a space for exchange about pressing upskilling needs and skills gaps regions face. The output of this session will feed into an input paper which the WG co-leaders will prepare in view of the high-level exchange with the Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on Skills in the next MFF, taking place on 12 November.

[The Biotech Act II and Life Sciences Strategy](#)

7 October

Responsible WG: Bioeconomy + Health

Responsible co-leaders: Marie Clotteau (Bioeconomy), Cedric Daumas (Health)

The session is designed to provide a platform for regions and stakeholders to examine the objectives and expected implications of the Biotech Act II and the EU Life Sciences Strategy for regional bio-industries and highlight regional ecosystems, clusters and policy approaches supporting biotechnology and life sciences.

The European Biotech Act II, set to be published in Q4 2026, will focus on complementing [European Biotech I](#) by broadening the scope to industrial biotechnology and biomanufacturing, addressing cross-cutting challenges and establishing an enabling regulatory framework for industrial biotechnology and biomanufacturing in the EU. It will implement a part of the [EU Bioeconomy Strategy](#), adopted in November 2025, especially in terms of building lead markets for industrial biotechnology and bio-based materials, while also ensuring sustainable biomass supply across the value chain.

The session will offer ERRIN members a valuable opportunity to engage directly with the European Commission, ask questions and share their expectations and perspectives on the forthcoming Biotech Act II.

[ERRIN workshop at the Global Bioeconomy Summit: ‘Building an enabling environment for place-based bioeconomies to succeed’](#)

20-21 October

Responsible WG: Bioeconomy

In-person in Dublin, Ireland

ERRIN’s Bioeconomy Working Group will actively participate in the [Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026](#) by co-organising the workshop **‘Building an enabling environment for place-based bioeconomies to succeed’**.

The session will explore the conditions needed to develop and scale bioeconomy solutions at regional and local level, with a focus on enabling policy and governance frameworks, access to funding and investment, skills and capacities, and effective stakeholder engagement. The workshop will contribute to ERRIN’s wider objective of strengthening the role of regions in bioeconomy policies and ensuring that EU and international approaches are better connected to the realities of regional innovation ecosystems.

This activity builds on ERRIN’s Bioeconomy WG ongoing work to bring regional perspectives into EU bioeconomy policies and accelerate the transition towards place-based, circular and competitive bioeconomies.

[Bridging policy and practice for climate resilience - RESIST Community of Interest](#)

3 November

Building on the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Working Group’s ongoing discussions on the future of EU climate adaptation policy and funding, the RESIST project will organise a Community of Interest session examining how the evolving concept of climate resilience can be translated into effective policies, projects and actions on the ground. The event will bring together climate adaptation practitioners and stakeholders to exchange perspectives on how resilience can inform project design, implementation and evaluation.

The discussion will connect practical experiences with emerging EU developments, including the European Climate Resilience and Risk Management Integrated Framework, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the next Multiannual Financial Framework. It will consider different but interconnected dimensions of resilience - including communities, infrastructure, essential services and nature-based solutions - and offer ERRIN members a further opportunity to contribute to the debate developed through the Working Group’s activities.

Project Development Session on Horizon Europe Cluster 6 calls 2027 - ERRIN UnLiON

25 November | 10:00

Cluster Activity

Responsible co-leaders: Francesca Ricardi, Angèle Liaigre

Online

ERRIN's Natural Resources and Adaptation Cluster is joining forces with the [UnLiON](#) network to organise a **project development session** focusing on the **Horizon Europe Cluster 6 calls for 2027**.

The session will be structured in two parts. The first part will provide an overview of the relevant policy priorities and the 2027 Cluster 6 calls, helping participants understand the policy context, expected outcomes and opportunities for collaboration. The second part will give organisations the opportunity to pitch their project ideas, identify potential partners, and explore opportunities for building consortia around the relevant calls.

ERRIN members are invited to express their interests and project ideas through the [ERRIN Project Development Tool \(PDT\)](#). The information collected will be used both to help shape the session and to support follow-up after the event, providing a basis for participants to continue exchanges, connect with potential partners and further develop project ideas.

Implementing the European Climate Resilience Framework: Implications for Regions, EU Policy and Funding

November TBC

Responsible WG: Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Responsible co-leaders: Zoe Buyle-Bodin, Ingvild Jacobsen, Torsten Raff

Building on the Working Group's spring meeting on innovative climate adaptation solutions and future EU funding, this meeting will continue the discussion on the future of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the place of climate adaptation and resilience within the evolving EU policy and funding landscape. The main focus will be the newly published European Climate Resilience and Risk Management Integrated Framework. The discussion will also build on [ERRIN's contribution to the European Commission's consultation on the Framework](#), which brought forward the perspectives and priorities of regions and local authorities. Together with representatives of the European Commission and ERRIN members, the Working Group will examine how the Framework is expected to affect regions and local authorities, as well as how its objectives will be integrated across relevant EU policies, programmes and funding instruments.

The discussion will explore the implications of the Framework for regional climate adaptation planning, governance and implementation, including the responsibilities, resources and support that may be required at regional and local levels. It will also consider how the Framework relates to existing initiatives, particularly the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, and what role the Mission could play in supporting its implementation beyond 2030.

The meeting will provide a space for ERRIN members to assess the new Framework from a regional perspective, identify opportunities and potential implementation gaps, and contribute to the Working Group's continued policy engagement on the future of EU climate adaptation and resilience.

The date of the event may be subject to change depending on the timing of the publication of the European Climate Resilience Framework by the European Commission, in order to ensure that the discussion can take place once the Framework has been officially presented.

PAST ACTIVITIES

[Kick-off meeting](#)

26 January | 14:00–17:00

Cluster Activity

Responsible co-leaders: Angele Liaigre, Aki Ishiwa

In-person

This informal and interactive meeting offered an opportunity for all members to connect, network and engage with the planned activities of the Bioeconomy, Blue Economy, and Climate Adaptation and Resilience Working Groups for 2026. The objective was to gather first impressions and inputs on what is to come, leaving room for potential modifications and allowing the members to react to the planning.

The meeting provided an overview of the Cluster Annual Plan, including a teaser for the project development session in February. A dedicated session was organised to get to know the members of the Cluster better and gather feedback on the proposed activities.

[Open Public Consultation for the new European climate resilience framework](#)

Consultation deadline: 23 February

Responsible WG: Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Responsible co-leader: Zoé Buyle-Bodin

The European Commission launched on the 1 December 2025 a public consultation on the future European climate resilience framework (legislative and non-legislative proposals to be published on Q4 2026). This public consultation closed on 23 February 2026.

Building on its previous contribution to the call for evidence, which closed in September 2025 as well as on the feedback received to its questionnaire on the Adaptation Mission, ERRIN responded to specific sections related to governance, ‘protecting people and supporting regional and local action’ as well as ‘Competitiveness – harnessing innovation opportunities’. ERRIN members were also invited to answer the consultation and to share their answers with ERRIN.

[ERRIN’s contribution to the European Commission’s consultation on the Framework](#)

[CCRI Policy Recommendations in view of the Circular Economy Act](#)

12 February | 14:00

Responsible WG: Bioeconomy

Responsible co-leaders: Angèle Liaigre, Randi Johanne Hoseth

Hybrid

The first phase of the [Circular Cities and Regions Initiative \(CCRI\)](#) came to an end, and 2026 marks the start of the second phase, with opportunities for cities and regions to be involved. To take stock of the knowledge and expertise that have been developed over the past years, this CCRI multi-stakeholder dialogue offered an opportunity for cities and regions to provide recommendations in preparation of the Circular Economy Act, set to be published in Q3 2026.

Topics addressed included the following:

- Public procurement
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes
- Revision of End of Waste (EoW) criteria
- Product-specific recycled content mandates
- Recycling of Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
- Transnational and regional initiatives

The key inputs and outcomes of the dialogue have been brought together in a set of CCRI policy recommendations for the Circular Economy Act, reflecting the perspectives and priorities of cities and regions. The recommendations aim to inform the development of the Act and highlight key areas where EU policy can better support regional and local authorities in accelerating the transition towards a circular economy.

The CCRI policy recommendations on the Circular Economy Act are available [here](#).

[CO-WATERS: Sustainable Blue Economy Taskforce to support the design of the Mission Ocean and Waters Label](#)

1st meeting: 17 February | 2nd meeting: 23 February

Responsible WG: Blue Economy

Responsible co-leaders: Saara Nuotio-Coulon, Aki Ishiwa, Capucine Seguin, Søren Heinecke

Hybrid

In the framework of the [CO-WATERS](#) project, ERRIN hosted two meetings to support the design of the Mission Ocean and Waters (MOW) Label. The aim was to have ERRIN members and relevant actors within their R&I ecosystems, and potentially other stakeholders (MOW Charter signatories, recipients of MOW Technical Assistance, etc.) present to get as many different and highly relevant views as possible. These discussions directly supported the review and refinement of the Label methodology.

The scope of this meeting was to discuss:

- The EU context,
- Key challenges, risks and bottlenecks,
- Good practices, case studies and progress assessment criteria/indicators,
- Broader enabling conditions: governance models, financing mechanisms and support instruments.

[Project Development Session](#)

27 February | 10:00

Cluster Activity

Responsible co-leaders: Zoe Buyle-Bodin, Essi Virtanen, Angèle Liaigre, Capucine Seguin

Online

The Cluster organised a project development session following the official publication of the 2026–2027 Horizon Europe calls (Cluster 6 and EU Mission calls). Based on members' expression of interests via the [Project Development Tool](#), the Cluster co-leaders assessed which calls the session should focus on and organised a meaningful project development session. Priority was given to calls for which a project coordinator (or more) was identified and calls for which there was significant interest.

[Blue networking event: Launch of the Coalition of cities, regions, islands and ports for the Mission Ocean and Waters](#)

4 March | 18:00–20:00

Responsible WG: Blue Economy

Responsible co-leader: Capucine Seguin

In-person

Building on last year's success, the Blue Economy Working Group hosted a new networking reception during the [2026 European Ocean Days](#). The objective was to strengthen the Blue Economy community in a relaxed and engaging setting, connecting ERRIN members and their local actors with the [CO-WATERS](#) stakeholders attending the European Ocean Days on the occasion of the Launch of the Coalition of cities, regions, islands and ports for the Mission Ocean and Waters (which is supported by CO-WATERS). The Blue Economy Working Group also highlighted the progress of ERRIN's work on the Mission Ocean and Waters, with a special focus on another project, [Blue Action Banos \(BAB\)](#), for which ERRIN is teaming up with [NIVA \(Norwegian Institute for Water Research\)](#), a member of ERRIN.

[From Policy to Practice: Regions at the Heart of Europe's Bioeconomy and Biotech Innovation](#)

16 April

Responsible WG: Bioeconomy

Responsible co-leader: Marie Clotteau

In-person

The meeting took place following the [publication of the updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy](#) by the European Commission in November 2025. The Strategy focuses on industrial development and overcoming barriers to the sustainable use of biomass. It also underlines the important role of regional and local authorities in fostering a circular bioeconomy and encourages the development of national bioeconomy strategies across Europe. The event marked a key moment in ERRIN's ongoing work on bioeconomy, building on the [policy contributions developed with ERRIN members to provide input to the Strategy](#).

The meeting featured a presentation by the European Commission on the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, its objectives and its implications for regional and local authorities. Participants also gained insights

into the preparation of the Biotech Act II, including discussions on definitions, roles and the economic impacts of biotechnologies across the EU. Key stakeholders, including EuropaBio, contributed to the discussion.

The event also featured best practices from ERRIN members, showcasing real-world examples of how biotech innovations are driving regional growth, sustainability and societal impact across Europe.

Innovative Climate Adaptation Solutions: From Local Practices to Future EU Funding

30 June

Responsible WG: Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Responsible co-leader: Ingvild Jacobsen

The meeting brought together regional perspectives and EU-level insights to explore how innovative climate adaptation solutions could be scaled up and better supported. ERRIN members showcased solutions developed through EU-funded projects, including digital tools, nature-based solutions and governance models, while highlighting key implementation challenges, investment needs and gaps in existing support.

Participants engaged with European Commission representatives on the future of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the place of climate resilience within the next Multiannual Financial Framework, FP10 and the European Competitiveness Fund. The discussion also considered how emerging initiatives, including the European Climate Resilience and Risk Management Integrated Framework and the Water Resilience Strategy, could shape future EU funding priorities.

OTHER MONITORED TOPICS:

- EU Ocean Observation: [OceanEye](#)
- [Ocean](#) and [Water](#) R&I Strategy (Q4 2026)
- [Revision of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#)
- Publication of the new **Circular Economy Act** (Q3-Q4 2026)
- Publication of the Biotech Act II (Q4 2026)
- Trans-Regional Circularity Hubs (Q4 2026)
- New **Climate Resilience Framework** (Q4 2026)
- [EU Ocean Act & Revision of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive](#) (Q4)
- **EU [Industrial Maritime Strategy](#)** and **EU [Ports Strategy](#)**: Launched in March 2026
- Agroecology Partnership
- EU Forest Partnership
- Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking and role of the regions in the Partnership
- Future of the Joint Undertakings under FP10 – [ERRIN contribution to the Call for Evidence](#)

EVENTS ATTENDED OR TO BE MONITORED:

- **[EU Ocean Days](#) | 2–6 March**
 - Stakeholder consultations events on different Strategies: 3 March (Ocean R&I), Wednesday 4 March (Water Resilience R&I) and 6 March (Coastal development and resilience)
 - **[Mission Ocean and Waters Forum](#) | 5 March.** ERRIN will take part in the policy session focusing on the Ocean and Waters Mission evaluation and future funding for the EU Missions
 - From Actions to Impact: Tracking the Mission's Progress | Friday 6 March
- **[Forests for resilient Water](#) | 23 April**
- **ERIAFF Annual Conference | May**
- **EU Maritime Day | 22 May.** ERRIN, represented by Soren Heinecke (South Denmark), participated in the SBEP workshops entitled 'Ocean (funding) under the next MFF'
- **EU Green Week | 3–4 June**
- **Bioeconomy and Competitiveness Days | 17–18 June**
- **ERRIN event: Next Generation of Healthcare: Resilience and Circularity | June**
- **European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) | 17–19 June**
- **European Week of Regions and Cities | 12–14 October**
- **Global Bioeconomy Summit (20-21 October, Dublin).** ERRIN will co-organise the workshop 'Building an enabling environment for place-based bioeconomies to succeed' during the Summit.
- **Forum of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change | 24 November.** ERRIN will participate and bring the regional perspectives to the Fifth Forum of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, ensuring that the next steps reflect the needs and experiences of regional ecosystems.
- **EU Mission Soil Week (17–18 November, Dublin)**
- **ERRIN Transport WG meeting: Preparedness of infrastructure and dual use | Q4**

OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTPUTS IN ERRIN PROJECTS

CCRI

2026 will mark the launch of the second phase of the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI), opening up expanded opportunities for cities and regions to engage in the initiative. Building on the results and lessons learned from the initial phase, CCRI will move towards supporting implementation and upscaling of circular solutions across Europe. Policy-oriented multi-stakeholder dialogues will be organised, providing cities and regions with dedicated opportunities to contribute practical insights and policy recommendations in support of the EU Circular Economy Act, foreseen for publication in Q3 2026. The second phase of the CCRI will introduce new engagement opportunities for cities and

regions to become actively involved in the initiative, reinforcing its role as a key implementation instrument for circular economy policies at local and regional levels.

In parallel, CCRI-related Horizon Europe Cluster 6 calls for 2026–2027 will offer concrete funding opportunities for cities and regions to participate in and lead circular economy projects, further strengthening the role of local and regional authorities in delivering Europe’s circular transition.

RESIST

In 2026, 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 already tested by the 12 RESIST regions, and several solutions, including NBS, Graphical Digital Twins, an online repository of solutions, a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and site-specific impact warning systems.

ERRIN will also keep building collaborations with additional adaptation projects and managing the RESIST Community of Interest (CoI) to engage a 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

The second group of selected regions and communities benefiting from Pathways2Resilience support kicked off in January 2026. In the context of this second wave, an additional 60 regions and communities will receive sub-grants of up to €210 000 and technical support 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 (open not only to P2R benefiting regions). Through the Pathways2Resilience project, ERRIN will also facilitate the organisation of multi-level and multi-stakeholder stakeholder engagement workshops in selected countries.

National Adaptation Hubs

The AdaptationHubs project aims to strengthen climate adaptation efforts by establishing 27 National Multilevel Governance Adaptation Hubs. These hubs bring together national expert organisations closely linked to their respective adaptation governance frameworks. AdaptationHubs will start by defining and implementing the 27 governance hubs, engaging key stakeholders and integrating

existing structures. Each hub develops and executes an action plan, including five dedicated sessions tailored to national contexts. Peer-learning activities foster cross-border cooperation, while hubs focus on a multi-level governance approach, ensuring representation from all governance levels. The project also facilitates a twinning programme to enable targeted transnational exchanges.

SOILL

SOILL is an EU-funded initiative supporting the deployment of the 100 Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses (MHLLs/LHs) under the Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'. In 2026, SOILL will support regional and national stakeholders across Europe to apply for the 2026 Mission Soil calls on Living Labs and Lighthouses.

Within the project, ERRIN will lead the work on the SOILL Working Groups, dedicated online spaces targeting Mission Soil Living Labs and key stakeholders, including regions, to discuss challenges and best practice on three identified topics: a) Living Labs Foundations and Governance; b) Stakeholder Engagement in the Living Labs; c) Soil Biodiversity.

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 the [SOILL Hub](#), a centralised point of information on MSLLs and LHs, regular updates on progress and achievements. Finally, 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 of the Mission Ocean and Waters by facilitating knowledge-sharing, communication and technical assistance across the Mission community. It 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 proposing improvements to enhance its effectiveness.

BlueActionBANOS (BAB)

BlueActionBANOS' approach includes mobilising diverse communities to implement ocean restoration actions, providing them with targeted financial support, technical expertise and tools for sustainable transformation. The project launched cascade funding calls open to local and regional stakeholders and communities in the Baltic and North Sea Lighthouse Area, to design transition agenda and implement community-led actions. 222 proposals were submitted in total, with 61 proposal submissions for Transition Agendas and 161 proposals for the Community-Led Actions Call.

ERRIN contributes to the coordination and management of BlueActionBANOS, particularly through liaising with the EU Commission, Mission Secretariat and other relevant policy networks. ERRIN also supports the exchange of information and coordination with sister projects across lighthouse areas. Additionally, ERRIN is involved in preparing for open calls and supporting the design of technical assistance tools to help communities transition to sustainable practices.

CO-WATERS

CO-WATERS is a Horizon Europe project running from 2025–2029 and supporting a Coalition of cities, regions, islands and ports for the Mission Ocean and Waters, ERRIN members can access tailored services, such as networking, peer learning, trainings, citizen and stakeholder engagement, and funding advice, to help take effective action. To support recognition of efforts in this space, the project will also develop the Label in support of the Mission Ocean and Waters, to be acquired by waterfront territories with strong and ambitious transition plans. Within this project ERRIN leads the preparatory work for building the Coalition. ERRIN also supports the development of the Coalition's governance, ensures the continuous engagement of members, and contributes to work on policy recommendations.

The Coalition was [officially launched in March 2026](#) and has opened its first support services for Members. The first wave of the **Capacity Building Programme** has started, and a second wave will run from September 2027 to March 2028. At the same time, the **Working Groups for networking and peer-learning** (led by ERRIN) are also open for [registration](#) and will host its first meetings after the summer. Potential topics include Policy and Governance; Capacity Building; Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement; Mobilising Finance; and Credibility and Recognition. Lastly, applications are open until 27 September 2026 for the first round of CO-WATERS Blue Climathons (local innovation hackatons). Interested members with a water-related challenge that they would like to address together with citizens and stakeholders are invited to [apply by 27 September](#) to receive training, resources and expert support.

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

- **Angèle Liaigre**, Cities Northern Netherlands, a.liaigre@citiesnorthernnetherlands.eu
- **Francesca Ricardi di Netro**, Autonomous Province of Bolzano, francesca.ricardi@unibz.it
- **Marie Clotteau**, Grand Est-Europe, marie.clotteau@grandest.eu
- **Randi Johanne Hoseth**, Oslo Region European Office, randi@osloregion.org

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

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

- **Aki Ishiwa**, Emilia-Romagna Region – ART-ER Attractiveness Research Territory, Aki.Ishiwa@regione.emilia-romagna.it
- **Søren Heinecke**, South Denmark European Office, she@southdenmark.eu
- **Saara Nuotio-Coulon**, Turku-Southwest Finland European Office, saara.nuotio-coulon@turku.fi
- **Martin Mišek**, South Moravian Region, misek.martin@kjmek.eu
- **Loles Vidal**, Comunitat Valenciana, Ioles

PROJECTS: [Mission Ocean and Waters Implementation Platform](#), [CO-WATERS](#), [BlueActionBanos \(BAB\)](#)

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Working Group



Climate adaptation, alongside resilience, has become a long-term strategic priorities for ERRIN members. In response, the Climate Adaptation Task Force was as of 2025 transitioned into a [Climate Adaptation and Resilience Working Group](#) leads' to address these themes more comprehensively and over the long term. The Working Group leads ERRIN's engagement with Mission Adaptation by supporting regional implementation and developing Mission-related projects. Its priorities are fostering regional roles in Mission Adaptation, monitoring the Mission implementation and maintaining dialogue with the Mission Secretariat, sharing evidence of how the Mission has supported regional adaptation efforts, highlighting lessons learned, assessing Mission support services and contributing to discussions on the future of the Mission. The Working Group also places a strong emphasis on resilience, focusing on strengthening regions' capacity to anticipate, absorb and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses.

LEADERS

- **Ingvild Jacobsen**, Oslo Region European Office, ingvild@osloregion.org
- **Miia Paananen-Docx**, Turku-Southwest Finland European Office, miia.paananen-docx@turku.fi
- **Torsten Raff**, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, torsten.raff@europa.bremen.de
- **Zoé Buyle Bodin**, Normandy Region, zoe.buylebodin@normandie.fr

PROJECTS: [RESIST](#), [Pathways2Resilience](#), [National Adaptation Hubs](#)

ERRIN CONTACTS



Bioeconomy

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Blue Economy

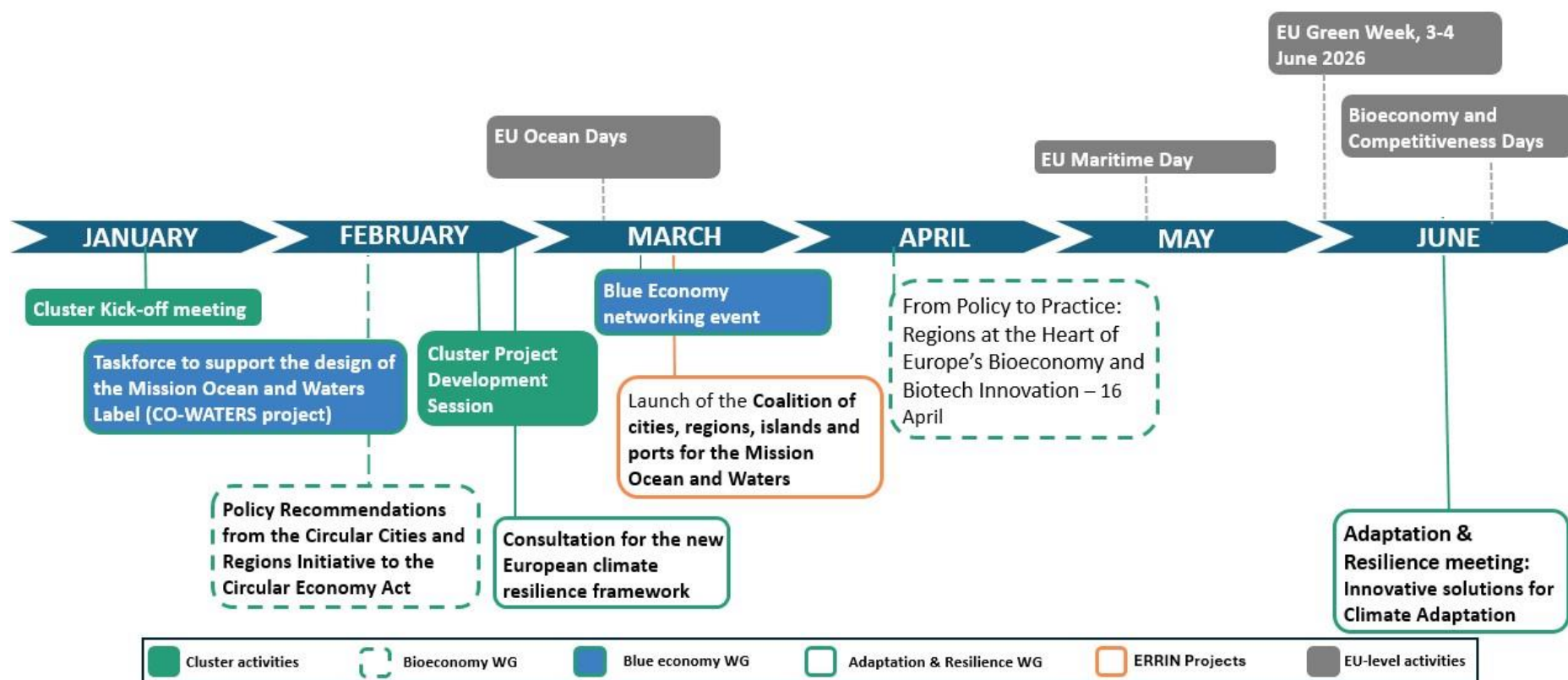
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NATURAL RESOURCES AND ADAPTATION CLUSTER 2026 TIMELINE



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