

Ocean and Water R&I Strategy: Presenting ERRIN's contribution and the road ahead

Thursday 24 September | 14:00h – 16:00h CEST

ERRIN Office – Rue du Luxembourg 3, 1000 Brussels

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 and past policy work.

This meeting will present ERRIN's joint input to the wider network, structured in two parts. A first, generalistic part will cover the **network's core messages** on funding needs, the mission-oriented approach, smart specialisation and how skills support alone will not close the blue economy's innovation-to-market gap. A second topic-specific part will zoom into the **themes most relevant to ERRIN's members**, while providing regional examples..

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.

Members with relevant experience on marine and maritime issues and/or water resilience are invited to come forward and present their own initiatives of relevance to the Ocean and Water R&I Strategy. Interested regions are invited to contact Ana Nava (ana.nava@errin.eu) to discuss their contribution.

In order to attend the event, ERRIN members can register by pressing the “Register” button on this page. Please note that you need to be logged in to register.

Draft agenda

14:00	Welcome and introduction	<i>Saara Nuotio-Coulon, ERRIN's Blue Economy WG Co-Leader</i>
14:05	Ocean and Water R&I Strategy: Presentation by DG RTD, Unit "Ocean, Seas and Waters"	<i>Wiebke Pankauke, Head of Unit "Ocean, Seas and Waters"</i>

14:25 **Illustrating ERRIN's contribution: Regional examples**

*Turku - South-West Finland Region
(Saara Nuotio-Coulon)*

Regione Piemonte (Silvia Bruschieri)

*Emilia-Romagna Region (Savino
Dalmonte)*

14:50 **Interactive discussion:**

What's next before the Q4 2026 Strategy
adoption?

*ERRIN Members, European
Commission*

15:20 **Wrap-up | ERRIN's joint input: General
messages and Blue focus**

*Søren Heinecke & Saara Nuotio-
Coulon, ERRIN's Blue Economy WG
Co-Leaders*

15:30 **Networking coffee**

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16:00 **End of meeting**

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