

# BUILDING COALITIONS FOR CONSERVATION IN TOUGH TIMES



Alice Albertini, EAZA Executive Office



# EU SIMPLIFICATION PACKAGES

Since February, the EU Commission presented 6 “Omnibus” simplification packages to reduce the number of rules for businesses and sectors.

- Reporting simplification: Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)
- Agricultural policy simplification: CAP
- Other simplification efforts: Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), climate targets for 2040, Green Claims Directive.

Main criticism:

**simplification ≠ weakening environmental and social standards**



# DOWNGRADING THE WOLF

The protection status of the Eurasian wolf *Canis lupus* have been downgraded from *strictly protected* (Annex IV HD) to *protected* (Annex V HD), both in the **Bern Convention** and in the **EU Habitats Directive**.

Background: The conservation status of the wolf has shown a positive trend over the last few decades. According to a 2023 EU Commission study, the species has successfully recovered across Europe. However, this expansion has caused socio-economic challenges, particularly regarding coexistence with human activities and livestock damage.



The new status gives Member States more flexibility to manage wolf populations. Each country can set its own culling quotas, timing and methods, but must still ensure wolves maintain a “favourable conservation status”.

Main criticism: the evaluation process lacked a sound scientific basis, more investment in preventive measures could improve coexistence.



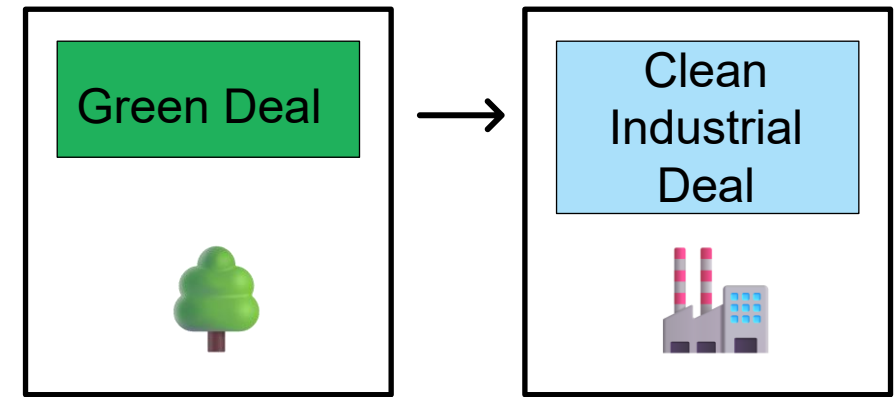
# DOWNGRADING THE WOLF

Will other (large) carnivores follow a similar downgrade?



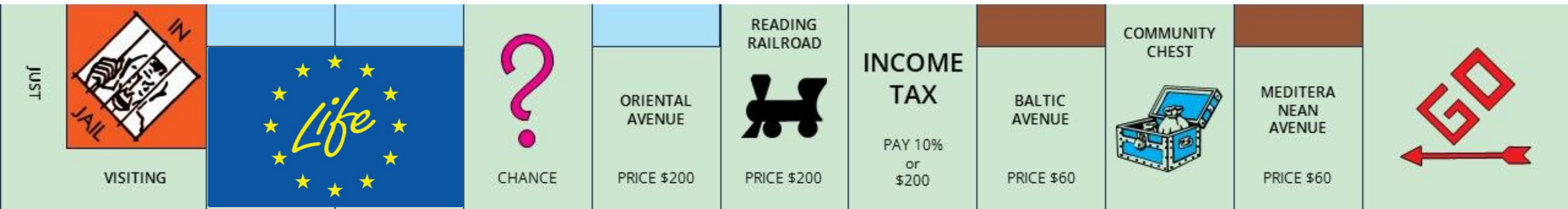


# NEW EU BUDGET and LIFE



July: EU Commission proposed the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), covering the years 2028-2034.

- Environmental priorities: **boost bioeconomy and circular economy**.
- **LIFE Programme** seems to be absorbed into the new European Competitiveness Fund (with many programmes to facilitate funding for clean technologies and industrial decarbonisation).
- Risk: **sidelining biodiversity in favour of industrial priorities** presented as green investments.



# NATURE RESTORATION REGULATION

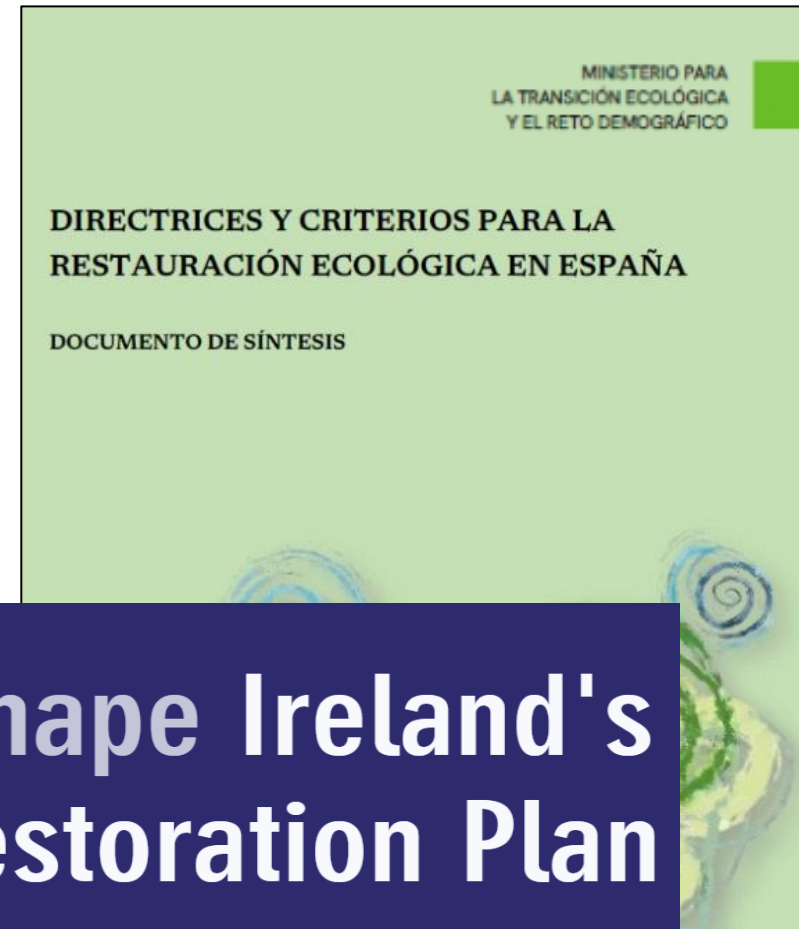
Member states must submit their **Restoration Plans by mid-2026** to show how they will achieve the targets set out in the Regulation. Have a look at **your national guidance and platforms for citizen input!**



## Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung zur Wiederherstellung der Natur geht an den Start

Gemeinsame Pressemitteilung mit Bundesumweltministerium

Presse • Wiederherstellung der Natur  
01.09.2025 • Berlin/Bonn



# NATURE RESTORATION REGULATION

Member states must submit their **Restoration Plans by mid 2026** as set out in the Regulation.

NEWS ARTICLE | 9 September 2025 | Directorate-General for Research and Innovation | 2 min read

## Biodiversa+ launches a new research call on ecosystem restoration

The BiodivConnect call, launched today, supports innovative research on **the restoration of ecosystem functioning, integrity and connectivity**. The funded research projects will **produce actionable knowledge to support nature restoration** and reverse biodiversity decline and ecosystem degradation.

This call will benefit the implementation of the [EU Nature Restoration Law](#), the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#).

With a **total budget of around EUR 40 million**, this call will address restoration efforts for biodiversity in all

## Nature Restoration Plan



# NATURE RESTORATION REGULATION: URBAN ECOSYSTEM



## Urban Greening Plans

### Urban Nature Platform

Supporting towns and cities in restoring nature and biodiversity



Guidance for cities to help prepare an Urban Greening Plan

b. Actions/targets to increase the abundance and richness of selected indicator **species** (eg. rare and endangered species, or common species that are a good indicator of ecosystem condition) / increase the **quality and quantity of habitats that support biodiversity** and/or reduce pressure on them, such as:

- Establishing / increasing area of protected areas/habitats.
- Quantity / quality of biodiversity-rich parks/gardens.
- Length of tree-lined streets / Number of trees in streets, Parks, Open Spaces, on Private Property.
- Change in number of species of...
  - Birds
  - Pollinators
  - Native vascular plant species
  - Native arthropod species

...in urban area/built-up areas in the municipality, and actions to increase / provide additional space for them.

- Inclusion of the concept of 'corridors' or connected spaces for wildlife across the city.





# HOW TO FRAME COMPETITIVENESS IN YOUR NARRATIVE



# HOW TO FRAME COMPETITIVENESS IN YOUR NARRATIVE

ZOE Institute for Future-Fit Economies, 2025



**zoe** institute for  
future-fit  
economies

## Framing competitiveness

Research-based recommendations for  
communicating at the EU level

ZOE Institute for Future-fit Economies

**Define it.** Be ready to measure what competitiveness looks like to your institution.

**Always make it long term.** A project takes time, it's the long term that matters. Combine it with care for future generations.

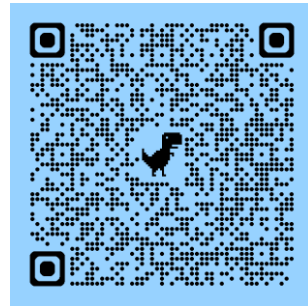
**Use clear and positive qualifiers** of competitiveness, such as “sustainable” and “fair”.

**Be cautious with European leadership framing:**

- Don't assume your audience views Europe as a leader.
- Call for **specific types of leadership**, such as climate action and sustainable technologies.
- Don't feel obliged to talk about competitiveness. **If your organisation is more credible talking about your core topics and areas of expertise, stick to those.**

# CONSERVATION IN TROUBLED TIMES

Dudley N, Mitchell BA, Redford KH, Stolton S, Timmins HL, Watson JEM. Conservation in troubled times. *Oryx*. 2025;59(1):1-3.



Keep doing what we have been doing!

Build coalitions

Bring along the uncommitted public

Focus on issues people are willing to engage with

Focus on the sources of future restoration

Use economic arguments strategically





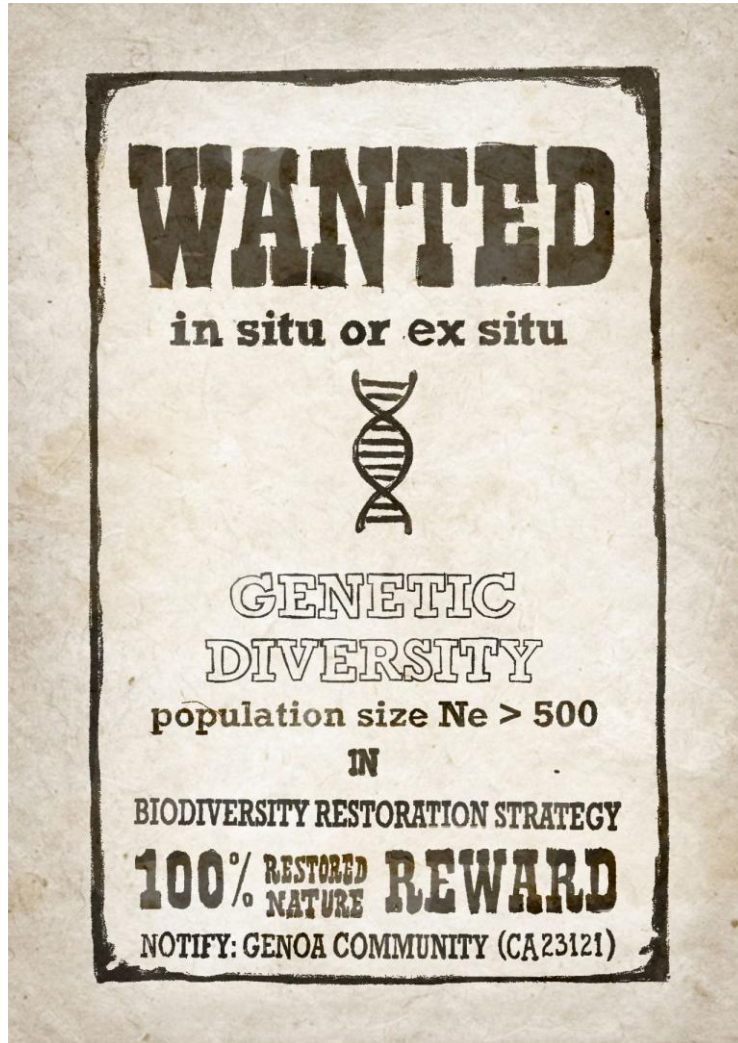
# SUCCESSFUL COALITIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



© Ralph Robinson/Comedy Wildlife Photo Awards

# GENOA (COST) 2024-2028

## Genetic Nature Observation and Action



EAZA Members: Copenhagen Zoo + Antwerp Zoo (+ EAZA)

Aim: **to support the implementation of genetic diversity data and indicators across European countries**

- Better integration of genetic diversity into EU, national and subnational **policies** by working closely with policymakers.
- Improving existing tools to make genetic diversity **indicators more accessible** to non-experts.
- Enhancing **species and ecosystem conservation** through the application of genetic diversity knowledge.
- Bridging the **communication gap** and raising **public awareness** about the importance of genetic diversity.



# G-BiKE (COST) 2019-2023

## Genomic Biodiversity Knowledge for Resilient Ecosystems



EAZA Members: Copenhagen Zoo + Antwerp Zoo

**Aim: to assist scientists and practitioners across the EU for integrating genetic and evolutionary knowledge into conservation planning policies**

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

**Biological Conservation**


journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon)

ELSEVIER

Policy analysis


**Genetic diversity targets and indicators in the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework must be improved**

Sean Hoban<sup>a,\*,1,2</sup>, Michael Bruford<sup>b,1,2</sup>, Josephine D'Urban Jackson<sup>b</sup>, Margarida Lopes-Fernandes<sup>c,1</sup>, Myriam Heuertz<sup>d</sup>, Paul A. Hohenlohe<sup>e</sup>, Ivan Paz-Vinas<sup>z,2</sup>, Per Sjögren-Gulve<sup>f,1</sup>, Gernot Segelbacher<sup>g,1,2</sup>, Cristiano Vernesi<sup>h,1,2</sup>, Sally Aitken<sup>i</sup>, Laura D. Bertola<sup>1,1,2</sup>, Paulette Bloomer<sup>k</sup>, Martin Breed<sup>l</sup>, Hernando Rodríguez-Correa<sup>m</sup>, W. Chris Funk<sup>n,1,2</sup>, Catherine E. Grueber<sup>o</sup>, Margaret E. Hunter<sup>p,1,2</sup>, Rodolfo Jaffe<sup>q</sup>, Libby Liggins<sup>r</sup>, Joachim Mergeay<sup>s,1,2</sup>, Farideh Moharrek<sup>u,v</sup>, David O'Brien<sup>w</sup>, Rob Ogden<sup>x,1,2</sup>, Clarisse Palma-Silva<sup>y</sup>, Jennifer Pierson<sup>aa,2</sup>, Uma Ramakrishnan<sup>ab</sup>, Murielle Simo-Droissart<sup>ac</sup>, Naoki Tani<sup>ad</sup>, Lisette Waits<sup>ae,1,2</sup>, Linda Laikre<sup>af,1</sup>

 Kunming-Montreal  
**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

GBF HOME // TARGET 4

**Target 4**  
**Halt Species Extinction,  
Protect Genetic  
Diversity, and Manage  
Human-Wildlife Conflicts**



The [monitoring framework](#) for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework identifies the following indicators for this target:

*Headline indicators:*

- [A.3 Red list Index](#)
- [A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500](#)

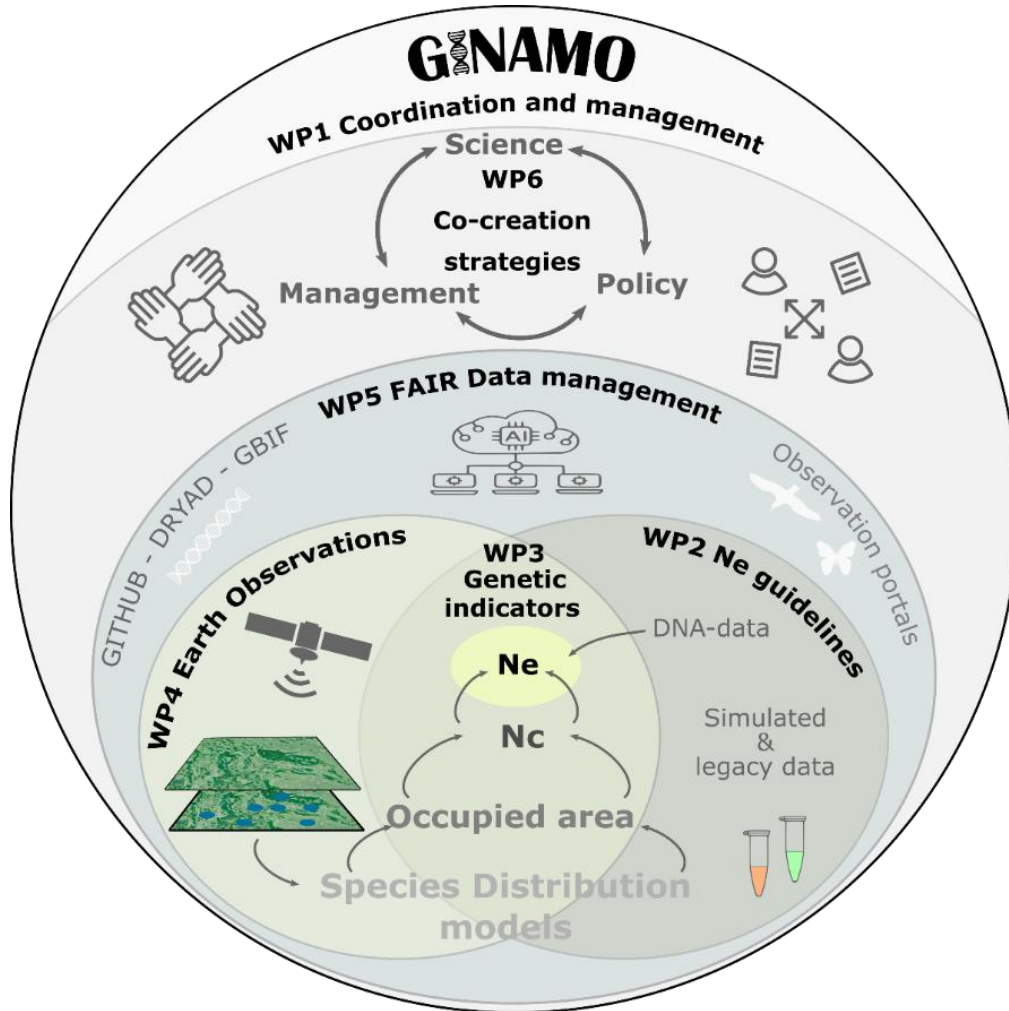
*Component indicators:*

- Living Planet Index
- Number of plant and animal genetic resources secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities
- Trends in effective and sustainable management of human-wildlife conflict and coexistence
- Green Status of Species Index
- Conservation status of species listed in the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved



# GINAMO (BIODIVERSA+) 2024-2027

## Genetic Indicators for NAture MOnitoring



EAZA Members: Copenhagen Zoo (coordinator) + Antwerp Zoo

Aim: **to address a critical gap in biodiversity monitoring: the practical implementation of genetic diversity indicators.**

- The project develops accessible frameworks for monitoring genetic diversity using 2 indicators incorporated into the GBF.
- Through a co-creation approach, GINAMO unites researchers, policymakers and nature managers to develop methodologies that are both scientifically rigorous and practically implementable, from various data sources.



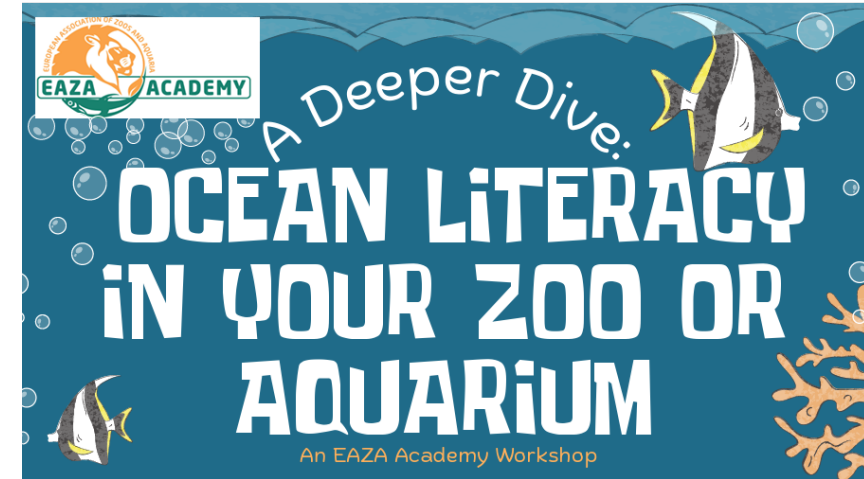
# EU4OCEAN (HORIZON EUROPE, DG MARE) 2022-2025



EAZA Members: Nausicaá + EAZA

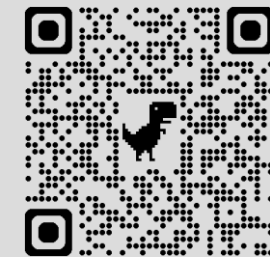
Aim: **to contribute to ocean literacy and the sustainable management of the ocean**

- It connects a mix of research and policy networks, education and communication specialist, youth organisations, aquariums and science centres, and NGOs.
- The coalition is built around 3 communities:
  - **The Platform**, for organisations working on ocean literacy projects.
  - **The Youth Forum**, to involve young ocean advocates.
  - **The Network of Blue Schools**, connecting schools that commit to ocean education.





# EU4OCEAN (HORIZON EUROPE, DG MARE) 2022-2025



**#MakeEUBlue:  
Cities in Action!**

**THE OCEAN STARTS IN  
YOUR CITY!**

## About the Campaign

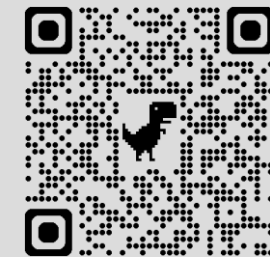
Whether your city is by the coast or inland, it has an essential role to play in protecting and restoring Europe's waters. Pollution, carbon emissions and other human activities threaten our aquatic ecosystems, but together, we can turn the tide.

**MakeEUBlue: Cities in Action** empowers city dwellers to call upon their municipality to act for ocean sustainability. **How?** By giving citizens the opportunity to petition their city and ask for meaningful action, and by providing cities with a simple guide to act for their rivers and ocean. **Why?** Because a wave of local commitments will have a lasting impact on our waters





# EU4OCEAN (HORIZON EUROPE, DG MARE) 2022-2025



## WHAT THE CAMPAIGN OFFERS (1)

### ➤ A petition

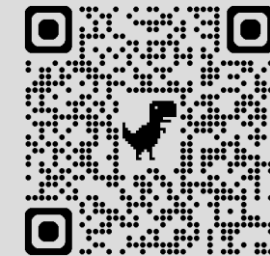
- For all city-dwellers to sign
- Shared by campaign partners and supporters, including in several European aquariums (soon!)
- With local targets to aim for, such as:



...with **7816** signatures!



# EU4OCEAN (HORIZON EUROPE, DG MARE) 2022-2025



## WHAT THE CAMPAIGN OFFERS (1)

### ➤ A toolkit for partners, including:

- A campaign email address: [info@makeeubblue.eu](mailto:info@makeeubblue.eu)
- A short presentation of the campaign
- Ready-made social media posts
- Text-template for newsletters or emails
- A website tracking progress across European cities
- A poster for events/public places
- Translations into all EU languages
- Campaign t-shirts

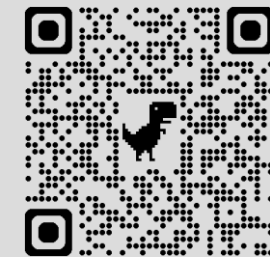


Cities in Action:  
A MakeEUBBlue Campaign





# EU4OCEAN (HORIZON EUROPE, DG MARE) 2022-2025



## WHAT THE CAMPAIGN OFFERS (1)

### ➤ A guide for cities to act

- Available for download on our [maritime forum](#) page
- Listing actions coastal and inland cities can take
- Including easy and ambitious actions, such as:

#3

**Upscale your waste management** to sustainable resources management. Establish city-wide universal collection and safe disposal, reduce and treat food waste, boost recycling rates, encourage a circular economy or set a zero-waste goal to reap social, economic and environmental rewards.



Become an active member of the *Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management* and raise the profile of ocean and river sustainability within the network.



**Bring rivers and the ocean into your city's classrooms.** Support 'blue' educational projects in your schools by facilitating partnerships between schools and professionals, providing logistical and financial support for school trips/projects, and giving them visibility in your events, celebrations and communication

#6

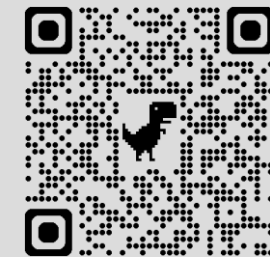


Support your schools to become *EU Blue schools!*

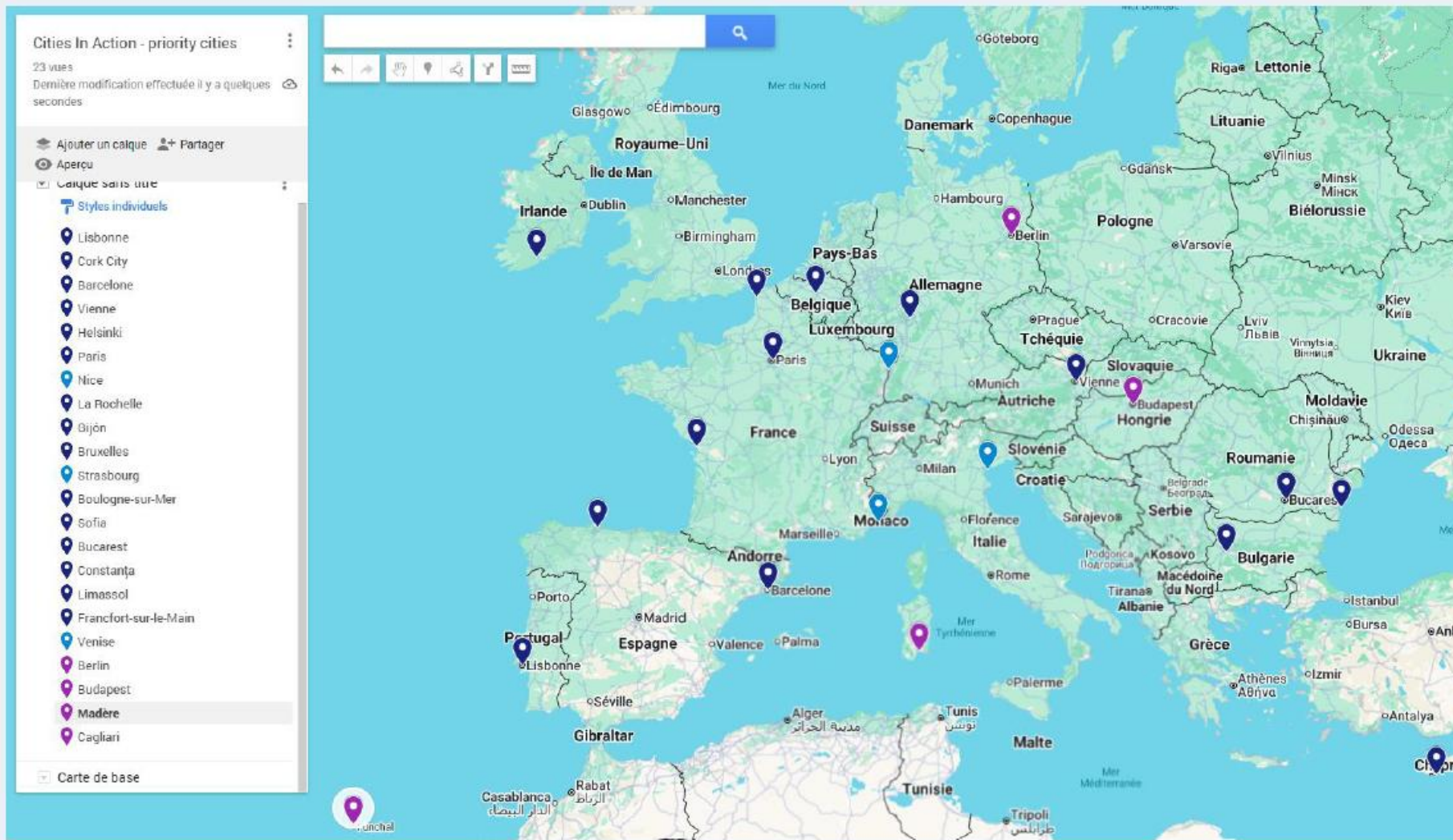




# EU4OCEAN (HORIZON EUROPE, DG MARE) 2022-2025



## PRIORITY CITIES THE CAMPAIGN NEEDS SUPPORT IN





NATURE CAN BE  
VERY RESILIENT,  
AND WE NEED TO BE  
THE SAME.



Forêt de Soignes © Yves Adams





# Dziękuję!

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