

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PartArt4OW Announces Six New Participatory Art Initiatives Addressing Ocean and Water Challenges Across Europe

29th January 2026 — PartArt4OW, an EU-funded Horizon Europe project under the Mission “*Restore our Ocean and Waters*”, has selected **six new Participatory Art Initiatives (PAIs)** through its Second Open Call. These initiatives bring together **artists, scientists, local communities, and civic actors** to co-create innovative responses to pressing ocean and water challenges across diverse European coastal and island contexts.

Spanning the **Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic-influenced coastal areas**, the selected PAIs demonstrate how **art–science collaboration and citizen participation** can translate environmental challenges into inclusive, locally rooted, and actionable practices.

The six selected initiatives are:

Sardinia's Invisible Marine Microbiome (Alghero, Sardinia, Italy)

A pioneering BioArt and citizen microbiology initiative that makes invisible forms of marine pollution — including antimicrobial resistance — tangible through participatory scientific sampling and craft-based artistic processes. The project empowers citizens to become co-researchers, strengthening ocean literacy at the microbial scale.

Anzio R.I.S.E. for the OCEAN (Anzio, Lazio, Italy)

A community-led participatory art and citizen science project addressing marine litter caused by non-reusable polystyrene fish crates. Working closely with fisherfolk and residents, the initiative combines artistic action, scientific monitoring, and supply-chain innovation to pilot reusable alternatives and support regenerative practices in Mediterranean fisheries.

THALASSONIA (Salerno, Campania, Italy)

A transdisciplinary participatory art initiative that transforms locally collected marine litter into playable musical instruments. By merging circular economy principles, sound art, and collective performance, THALASSONIA amplifies ocean literacy while reimagining waste as a shared cultural and educational resource.

Isola Alter Ego (Ventotene Island, Tyrrhenian Sea, Italy)

A collective artistic inquiry developed with the island's residents, scientists, and cultural practitioners to explore how island ecosystems reflect broader relationships between pollution, conservation, and belonging. Through participatory dialogue and circular artistic practices, the project rethinks the island as a living “alter ego” shaped by human–sea interactions.



MEDSAIL – Mediterranean Ecologies and Co-Design through the Sailing Art Inclusive Lab (Naples, Italy)

A participatory art and co-design initiative engaging communities along Naples' western coastline. MEDSAIL brings together artists, scientists, and residents to co-create knowledge, artistic works, and public events that reveal environmental challenges, amplify marginalized voices, and support socially inclusive coastal transformations.

WIPES OUT! Turning Hidden Pollution into Shared Action (Barcelona–Badalona, Spain)

A participatory art and citizen science project tackling the largely invisible pollution caused by flushed wet wipes. Through performances, collective actions, and an open-source toolkit, WIPES OUT! mobilises citizens, fishers, scientists, and decision-makers to raise awareness and enable other coastal communities to replicate solutions.

A shared participatory approach

Across all six PAIs, citizens are not passive audiences but **active co-creators**, contributing local knowledge, scientific data, and artistic expression. The initiatives address challenges such as **marine litter, water quality, pollution, and ecosystem health**, while fostering long-term engagement, collaboration, and ocean literacy.

Each project will take part in the **PartArt4OW Accelerator Programme** and connect with the **PartArt4OW Sailing Lab**, a mobile platform for knowledge exchange and experimentation travelling across European waters.

About PartArt4OW



PartArt4OW has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Mission Ocean Programme HORIZON-MISSION-2023-OCEAN-01
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PartArt4OW (Participatory Art for Society Engagement with Ocean and Water) is a Horizon Europe-funded project that explores how participatory art practices can strengthen collaboration between artists, scientists, civic society actors, and citizens to address ocean and water basin challenges across Europe. The project supports 19 interdisciplinary, inclusive, and ethically grounded initiatives that combine artistic creation with scientific knowledge and civic engagement.

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