

“BLUE PORTS AND DESTINATIONS” AWARD

by BlueMissionMed CSA

in collaboration with MedCruise



Context	<p>The EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 is pleased to announce that the BlueMissionMed CSA proclaims the “Blue Ports and Destinations” Award, to be awarded to 3 ports and destinations, in collaboration with MedCruise. The “Blue Ports and Destinations” Award aims at recognising, promoting, and supporting the best initiatives which actively contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 in their local context.</p>	
Organizers	BlueMissionMed	Website
	In collaboration with MedCruise	Website
Chair of the award	Figen Ayan, MedCruise	
Introductory Message related to the “Blue Ports & Destinations” Award	<p>In April 2024, excellence in maritime sustainable achievements will be celebrated with the Blue Ports & Destinations Awards.</p> <p>Be inspired by discovering a world of innovation, efficiency, best-practices and dedication as we recognize the outstanding sustainable contributions within the dynamic realm of ports and shipping. These Awards bring together the industry's elite for an unmissable event of networking, and celebration all while enhancing our environmental, social, and economic impact in our host city Athens, Greece.</p> <p>In a holistic approach and by common efforts, we will become a zero waste and net zero carbon business by 2030.</p>	
Why to participate?	<p>The “Blue Ports and Destinations” Award will award the 3 winning ports and destinations with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Label “Blue Ports and Destinations”, given by the European Commission and recognizing the winning ports and destinations as best practices contributing to the Mission Ocean’s objectives. ● Be awarded with an official certificate in the context of the 9th Our Ocean Conference in Athens, with an acknowledgment of their contribution to target the Mission Ocean and Waters Objectives. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Receive technical advice and capacity building services from BlueMissionMed experts.● Access to the Mission Implementation Platform services (granting access to knowledge, projects portfolio, information on funding, etc.) and Help Desks (including support to develop science and transition roadmaps, and skills training).● Access opportunities for networking and sharing of best practices.● Be video interviewed and promoted through BlueMissionMed and the EU Mission "Ocean and Waters" communication channels as best practice in societal engagement.● Receive BlueMissionMed gadgets.
Who can apply?	<p>To compete for the special prize, participants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Represent a cruise port or a destination regardless of its size, traffic volume (passenger and/or crew), or a public island, from one of the following major basins: Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic-Arctic, Baltic-North Sea, and Danube-Black Sea.● The cruise port or destination shall consist of public and government departments, boards, commissions, agencies, authorities and organisations and other bodies, whether public or private and whether incorporated or unincorporated which, in the general interest, exercise powers, jurisdiction or authority or are charged with duties with respect to the planning, development, management and operation of ports, provided that such ports shall offer adequate facilities for the safe handling of passenger ships.● In the above definition, the word "port and destination" refers to: a single port operating one or several cruise facilities, or a group of ports that is located at the same geographical area, is managed by the same operator and constitutes a single tourist destination, termed as a "port area".
How to participate?	<p>To compete for the special prize, participants have to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Endorse the Mission Charter in line with the Mission Ocean's objectives before the deadline of the contest (22nd of March 2024). Link: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MissionOceanWatersCharter. Please note the Mission Charter is not binding and can be easily submitted through the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/MissionOceanWatersCharter. In case of support in drafting you can consult us via mail at info@bluemissionmed.eu● Fill the "Blue Ports and Destinations" Award Application Form.



<p>Important dates</p>	<p>Support the Application Form with a PowerPoint/pdf (no more than 15 pages) and/or video (no more than 3 minutes): in the Application Form in the designated line, add the link to WeTransfer, Google Drive or other, and be sure that the link doesn't expire before April 17, 2024, and that it is accessible by the Award's organisers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadline for submission is 22nd of March 2024. • The winners will be notified by 29th of March 2024. • The winners will be invited to the awards ceremony that will take place in Athens on April 16 or 17, 2024, and the organisers will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of the 3 winners.
<p>Selection criteria for the “Blue Ports and Destinations” Awards</p>	<p>1) Actions shall be submitted by ports and destinations to contribute to the Mission “Restore our Ocean and waters by 2030” and create the conditions to achieve one or more of the Mission objectives and enablers</p> <p>Mission objectives</p> <p>I. Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity</p> <p>a. <i>Protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's sea area</i></p> <p>b. <i>Strictly protect at least 10% of the EU's sea area.</i></p> <p>c. <i>Restore at least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers.</i></p> <p>d. <i>Contribute to relevant upcoming marine nature restoration targets, including degraded seabed habitats and coastal ecosystems.</i></p> <p>II. Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters</p> <p>a. <i>Reduce by at least 50% plastic litter at sea.</i></p> <p>b. <i>Reduce by at least 30% microplastics released into the environment.</i></p> <p>c. <i>Reduce by at least 50% nutrient losses, the use and risk of chemical pesticides.</i></p> <p>III. Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular</p> <p>a. <i>Eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from maritime economic activities in the EU and sequester those emissions that cannot be avoided (net zero maritime emissions).</i></p> <p>b. <i>Develop zero-carbon and low-impact aquaculture, and promote circular, low-carbon multi-purpose use of marine and water space.</i></p> <p>Mission enablers</p> <p>a. <i>the digital ocean and water knowledge system</i></p> <p>b. <i>broad public mobilisation and engagement</i></p> <p>3) The following will be considered as assets:</p> <p>- drive the ecological /energy /circular transition of the port or destination and /or</p>





- increase the resilience /connectivity / self-sustainability of the port or destination and its infrastructures and /or

- - drive the social transition and leaving no one behind. This implies a large involvement of the local communities, with actions co-designed and co-implemented with stakeholders, ensuring local business participation and citizen engagement and outreach.

The “Blue Ports and Destination” Award will be conferred at the **“Implementation of the EU Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030 in the Mediterranean Region and beyond” side event** taking place in Athens, Greece, on April 16 or 17 2024 (the exact date will be communicated), in the context of the **9th Our Ocean Conference**.

The side event will provide a high-level overview of current actions and initiatives with key examples of successful implementation of the EU Mission ‘Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030’ from Greece, the Mediterranean basin and within the European area at large. This event will bring together stakeholders – policymakers, scientists, NGOs, international organisations, and the private sector to showcase impactful solution-oriented initiatives aligned with the ‘Mission Restore our oceans waters by 2030’, that are accessible, reliable, scalable, and transferable from the local to the global scale.

The event will promote the exchange of best practices through mutual learning among the participants to identify needs, bottlenecks, opportunities, and concrete actions for the adoption and implementation of innovation- based solutions. Concrete examples of sustainable ‘green’ practices will include initiatives by small communities and islands, ports’ management and tourism, green shipping as well as sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

The event will be closed by the Award ceremony for “Blue Ports and Destination”.

- “Building, Design, Construction or Technical Sustainability Solutions” Award
- “Social, Corporate Sustainability, Community & Port Connectivity” Award
- “Eco-Conscious Entrepreneur & Personality” Award

Link for registration

- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfeUwwByKXp5kmMMjBTqxMfWodIHLJNjydFxTwyhoTqYXhBzq/viewform?usp=sf_link

Categories

1. “Building, Design, Construction or Technical Sustainability Solutions” Award



The jury will examine all facets of buildings through the lens of sustainability. It will choose the port committed to ensuring that its terminal, port facility, material and/or designs have a positive impact on ecosystems, throughout its value chain, with investments based on the bioeconomy, a commitment to renewable materials and the search for zero waste. Ports and destinations embedding clean energy, electrification to noise management, the bunkering of cleaner fuel, reduction of waste infrastructure investments to be fit for the future environmental necessities. Support the wide efforts of the industry to decarbonise, to mitigate local impacts on marine ecosystems.


2. “Social, Corporate Sustainability, Community & Port Connectivity” Award

The jury will examine the ports and destinations showing exceptional responsibility in the way it conducts its business, in its commitment to good corporate governance and evidence of good practice in environmental policy and social responsibility. This Award includes recognising an organisation that has demonstrated a particular commitment to diversity and inclusion, and achieving equality/diversity in a business environment. Strategic relationship between the port and the city to create collaborations for common environmental interests (destination capacity, mobility, transportation, etc). The adherence to social perceptions and the works, partnerships, synergies, and development with local communities to reverse misconceptions regarding the impact of cruise activities. Recognising the uniqueness of every destination no matter its traffic volume, size or origins; creation of sustainable and environmentally friendly excursions, trainings and destination experiences with the collaboration with tour guide associations, tour buses, museums, sites, destination authorities, etc.

3. “Eco-Conscious Entrepreneur & Personality” Award

The Judges will be looking for an individual from any sector of the maritime industry who has demonstrated success in bringing new thinking to established sustainable industry operation, practices and/or implementation or finding innovative solutions to ongoing industry sustainable challenges.

  **BLUE PORTS AND DESTINATIONS AWARD**




26 February 2024
Launch of the award

22 March 2024
Deadline for the submission and endorsement of the Mission Ocean and Waters Charter

29 March 2024
The 3 winners are notified

16 or 17 April 2024
The 3 winners will be invited to the awards ceremony in Athens

IN COLLABORATION WITH  **MEDCRUISE**
The Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports