

European Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership reports record investments in 2024 and 2025

The Partnership Board of the Co-Programmed Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport adopts its Additional Activities Report 2024/2025, highlighting investments made by the European waterborne sector in support of the Partnership's objectives.

Brussels, 01 July 2026

The [Partnership Board](#) governing the [Co-Programmed Partnership](#) on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport in the framework of [Horizon Europe](#) adopted the Additional Activities Report 2024/2025. The report provides an overview of additional investments made by the broader European waterborne transport sector

The partnership leads and accelerates the transformation of waterborne transport (i.e. maritime transport and inland navigation) towards zero-emission objectives by eliminating greenhouse gas emissions, as well as air and water pollutants through innovative technologies and operations. Its objective is to develop and demonstrate, by 2030, zero-emission solutions applicable for all main ship types and services, paving the way for zero-emission waterborne transport by 2050.

The report on additional activities entails the amount of almost EUR 1.5 billion of investments in:

- i) Additional research, development and innovation
- ii) Scaling up of technologies
- iii) Demonstrators of these innovative technologies
- iv) The creation of new business opportunities
- v) Training and skills development
- vi) Contribution to the development of new standards, regulations and policies
- vii) Supporting the development of ecosystems, and
- viii) Supporting communication, dissemination, awareness raising and citizen engagement.

The Chairperson of the Delegates Group and Co-Chair of the Partnership Board, Pieter Huyskens, said: *"The Additional Activities Report 2024/2025 shows the commitment of the broader European waterborne transport sector to develop and implement solutions for societal challenges. The EUR 1.5 billion of additional investments made is significantly higher than originally foreseen. In addition, it is a clear indication of the catalyst effect of the Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport Partnership. Significant investments are foreseen for future years as well, whereas the step from technological maturity, to upscaling and deployment, requires substantial efforts".*

Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General, Waterborne Technology Platform said:

“The European waterborne sector is often perceived as conservative; however, I tend to call the sector introvert. As outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Waterborne Technology Platform, the sector indicated to invest EUR 3.3 Billion over the lifetime of the Partnership on Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport, complementing EUR 530 million of investments via Horizon Europe. Halfway through the Partnership, the private sector already invested EUR 3 Billion in total, an exceptional leverage effect which goes well beyond initial expectations. This clearly shows the added value of specifically co-programmed Partnerships at European level. This Partnership aligns public and private actors around shared objectives and a clear research and innovation pathway to achieve these objectives. It perfectly shows why a renewal of the Partnership in the next Multiannual Financial Framework, with an expanded scope and specific focus on upscaling and deployment, critical to actively mobilise public and private investment.”

WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between all waterborne stakeholders, such as classification societies, shipbuilders, shipowners, maritime equipment manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, universities or research institutes, and with the EU Institutions, including Member States (www.waterborne.eu). The members of Waterborne TP comprise members as well as associated members from both maritime and inland navigation countries, representing about 19 Member States. In addition, the Associations member of the Waterborne Technology Platform represent the broader waterborne sector throughout the entire EU.

Enquiries concerning how to join and become more closely involved in the “Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport” partnership or other activities of the Waterborne TP can be sent to: Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General Waterborne TP, jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu, tel: +32 493 835 626