The Horizon Europe Blue-Cloud initiative started its journey in 2019 to create a European Open Science Cloud for marine data by federating data and e-infrastructures and making data products and technologies available as open science resources for the broad marine research community. Since 2023, with input by EMODnet, Copernicus Marine and several leading marine Research Infrastructures, the Blue-Cloud 2026 follow-up project aims at a further evolution of this pilot ecosystem into a Federated European Ecosystem, to deliver FAIR & Open data and analytical services, instrumental for deepening research of oceans, EU seas, coastal & inland waters. Ultimately, to provide a core data service for the Digital Twin of the Ocean.