



Women in the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

Significance of Data for a sustainable and inclusive economy



1. Importance of data
2. Available data
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5. Call for Change

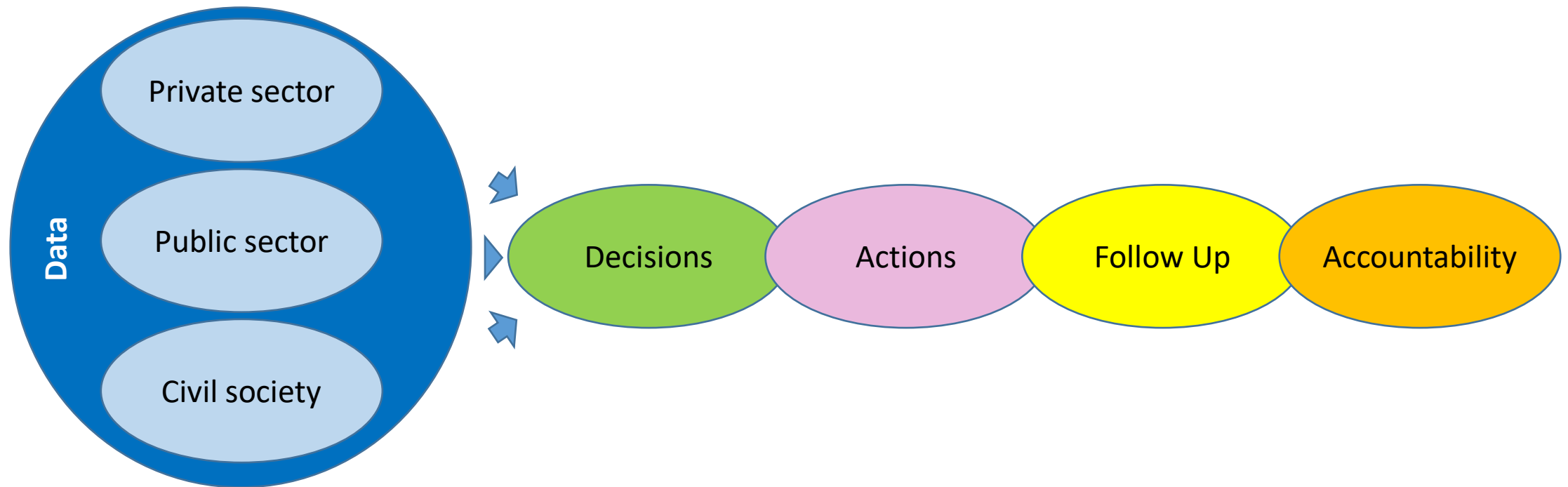


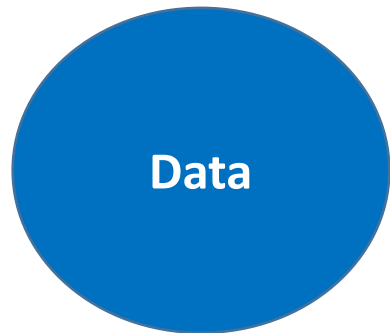
1. Importance of data on women's participation in the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean



“When we exclude half of humanity from the production of knowledge we lose out on potentially transformative insights.” Caroline Criado Pérez” - Invisible Women

A sustainable Blue Economy is an inclusive economy that facilitates women's social and economic empowerment, and contributes to closing the gender gap in the near future.





- Better Management: time & seasonality
- Capacity building programmes
- Value chain of the Blue Economy
- Job creation
- Innovation (new products and services)
- Protection of the marine environment and biodiversity
- Women empowerment
- Improvement in standard of living
- Reducing Costs
- Sustainable economy and blue growth



2. Available data on women in the Mediterranean Blue Economy sectors



- ***Fisheries and aquaculture:***

- Capture fisheries in the Mediterranean support approximately 200,000 direct and 500,000 indirect jobs (with a relative stagnation since 2016).
- Formally employed women represent only a small share of the catching workforce (between **1 and 6%**).
- Aquaculture is a male dominated sub-sector with women representing **7% to 26%** of the workforce.
- Women play an important role in aquaculture, at the processing and marketing stage in both industrial fisheries and small-scale.
- *Women* work in assisting roles without a specific legal status or adequate remuneration, especially in the case of small-scale, family-run businesses where fishers' wives, daughters, mothers, assist with operations of the family business on a full-time or ad-hoc basis.

- ***In processing:***

- women either represent the majority of workers or are in the same numbers as men.
- In some places, up to **90%** of seafood processors are women.

Women with lower levels of education tend to perform unskilled tasks (labelling, packaging, filleting and canning); low-skilled jobs that do not provide economic stability and advancement.



2. Available data on women in the Mediterranean Blue Economy sectors



- **Tourism:** **54%** of people employed in core tourism activities are women.
- **Seaports and shipping:** Today, women represent only **1.2%** of the global seafarer workforce.
- **Maritime transport and ports:** Women are under-represented in the sector. Intra-Mediterranean maritime trade flows accounts for **25%** of global traffic from just **3.5%** of world's water.
- **Maritime safety and security:** Male-driven sector.
- **Marine renewable energies:** Women continue to face barriers to recruitment and job retention in a still male-dominated energy industry.
- **Research & marine Science:** From fisheries to marine biology and ecological modelling. Women are in the value chain of the Blue Economy and contribute to our understanding, protection and management of the ocean's resources



3. Challenges



- Historically, the lack of female visibility and education was a barrier to them to being included in data as well as a barrier to receiving fair wages and social benefits.
- Existing statistical data only partially reflects the presence and role of women in the Blue Economy, as it only reports on declared and remunerated employment. This excludes a sizable portion of **“invisible”** female workers (wives, mothers, sisters and daughters); these women play an active role in family fishing and aquaculture enterprises without a specific legal status.
- Data on women’s participation within key sectors of the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean is fragmented, lacks quality and is often not gender-disaggregated.
- Data gaps relate to various socio-economic variables such as employment, age, education levels, types of jobs performed, pay scales, etc.
- Lack of process.
- Lack of qualified human resources.
- Budget.





- Did you know that the best clams for the classic Italian dish *spaghetti alle vongole* actually come from the Gulf of Gabes in the south of Tunisia?
- In the Gulf of Gabes, more than 4,000 women work in harsh conditions across 17 production sites as '**pêcheuses pied**', digging clams to earn an income.
- In 2019, a databank of female clam collectors was created by the FAO in specific regions of Tunisia in order to facilitate the government's ability to provide social security coverage.
- The data was collected thanks to the commitment and collaboration of different international , ministries, academia and local institutions (Association of Continuity of Generation ACG, etc.)
- Following the collection of data, training initiatives from the government and civil society took place; the working conditions of these ladies and the standards of living of the local community have been improved.

- **Change** of mind set for different stakeholders.
- **Raise awareness** of line ministries of gender and Statisticians on the role played by women in each of the Blue Economy sector.
- **Communication and Financial Education:** Impact of inclusivity.
- Mediterranean states is required to **capture systematic gendered data** on the Blue Economy
- Collection of sex-disaggregated data on the Blue Economy key sectors including socio-economic variables such as age, education level, employment legal status (employed, self-employed, etc.), types of jobs performed, pay scales, etc.
- Develop a supportive environment, **digital infrastructure and technology** for data creation and reuse.

- **Encourage Research:** It is essential to fill the data gap.
- **Collaborations** between policymakers, international organisations, civil societies, academics, local communities and concerned networks are encouraged to generate the necessary data needed for evidence-based policymaking.
- Establish **Data Collection Framework**
- Make sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data available and accessible at national and subnational level.
- Active public conversation.
- A change in **culture** is needed, and that change, in part, will be driven by data.

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