



Maritime Spatial Planning in the MED

*12th Meeting of the UfM Working Group on
Blue Economy*

(Aqaba, Jordan and online)

Céline FRANK
**DG MARE, European
Commission**

24 October 2022

Maritime Spatial Planning in the EU



EU MSP Directive

All EU countries must set plans by 2021



Funding MSP cross- border projects

Producing data, tools,
methodologies



EU MSP Platform

Technical support,
studies and
workshops



MSP Expert Group

Exchanges of best
practices in the EU



International MSP

Best international practices,
transboundary pilot projects,
international workshops

Framework legislation (EU Directive) of 2014: Main objectives

- Apply the **ecosystem-based approach**
- Contribute to the preservation, protection and improvement of the **environment (GES)**
- Contribute to the **sustainable development of maritime sectors**
- Take into account **land-sea interactions**
- Use best available **data**
- Countries sharing a sea should cooperate to ensure **coherent and coordinated MSP**



How are we doing in implementing the MSP Directive?

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL outlining the progress made in implementing Directive 2014/89/EU establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning

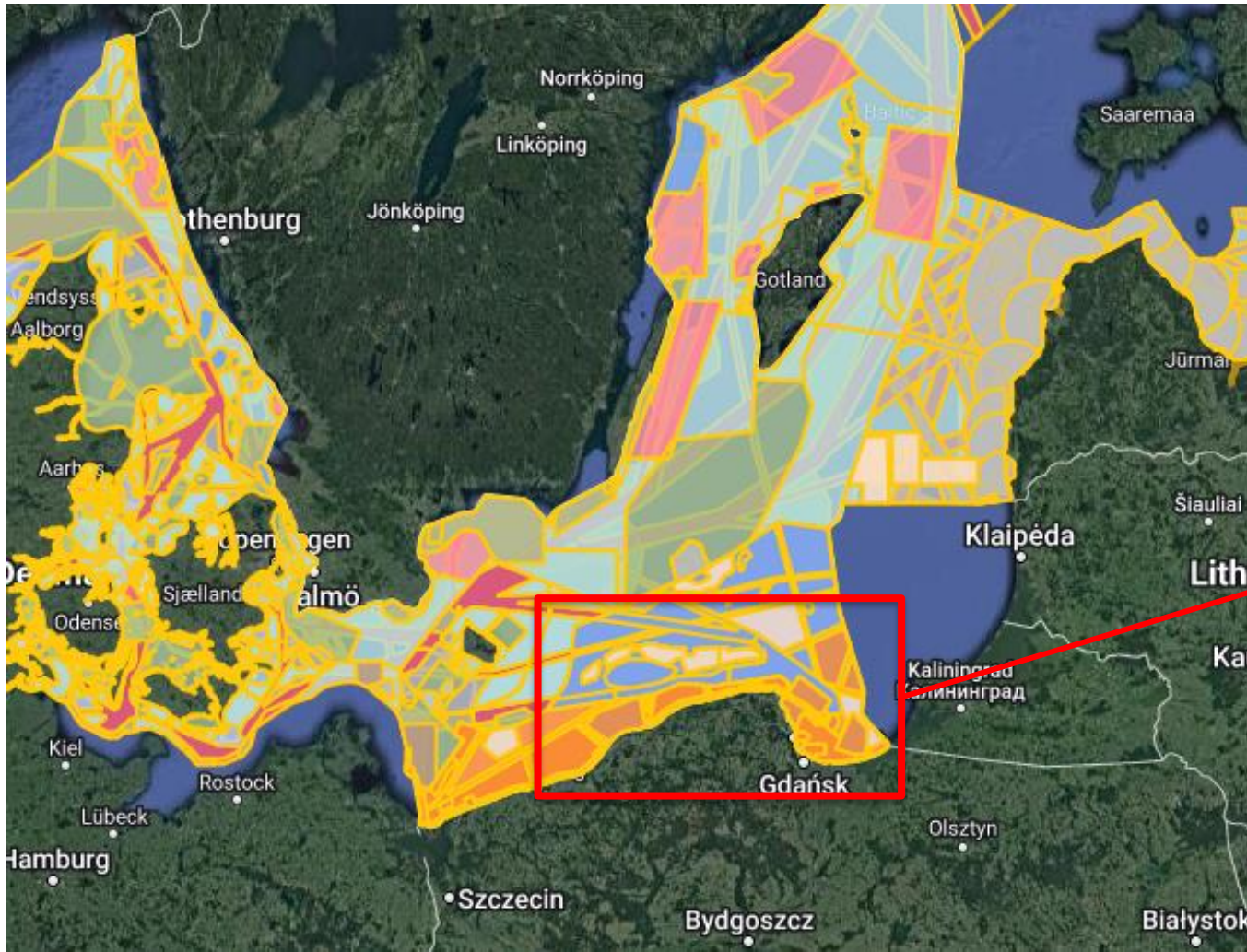
- gives a picture in time - an overview of progress, as required under the Directive, assesses **transposition and conformity**
- it also looks at developments that influenced/will influence the implementation of the Directive since its adoption in 2014, notably the **European Green Deal**



And now?

- **Member States** will continue to implement the MSP Directive by developing and adopting their Maritime spatial plans and **reviewing them at least every 10 years.**
- National plans will all be uploaded on **EMODnet**
- **The European Commission** will publish a report on progress and implementation of the MSP Directive every 4 years
- **MSP will increasingly support** sustainable developments at sea and the implementation of the **European Green Deal** (notably the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 or the EU strategy on offshore renewable energy)

Examples of MSP plans in EMODNET



MSP CROSSBORDER COOPERATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE EU

SIMATLANTIC

MSP-OR

eMSP

PLASMAR

OCEAN
METISS

MARSp

tpea Transboundary Planning
European Atlantic

SEANSE

SIMCELT

Simnorat

Simwest
med

MSP-MED

Supreme

North
SEE

MASP
NOSE

BALTSPACE

BalticScope

ADRIPLAN

CAPACITY4MSP
Strengthening the capacity of
MSP stakeholders and decision makers

PLAN
BOTHNIA

BaltSeaPlan

PanBaltic
Scope

MARSPLAN
BS-I

MARSPLAN
BS-II

PartiSEApate

SEAPLANSACE

Baltic
LINES
Lifeline to new infrastructures
in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans





Towards the operational implementation of MSP
in our common Mediterranean Sea

MSPMED is a European project
aiming at supporting national
maritime plans of Member States
facing the Mediterranean Sea and
enhancing international cooperation
for the coordination of Sea
management in the basin.

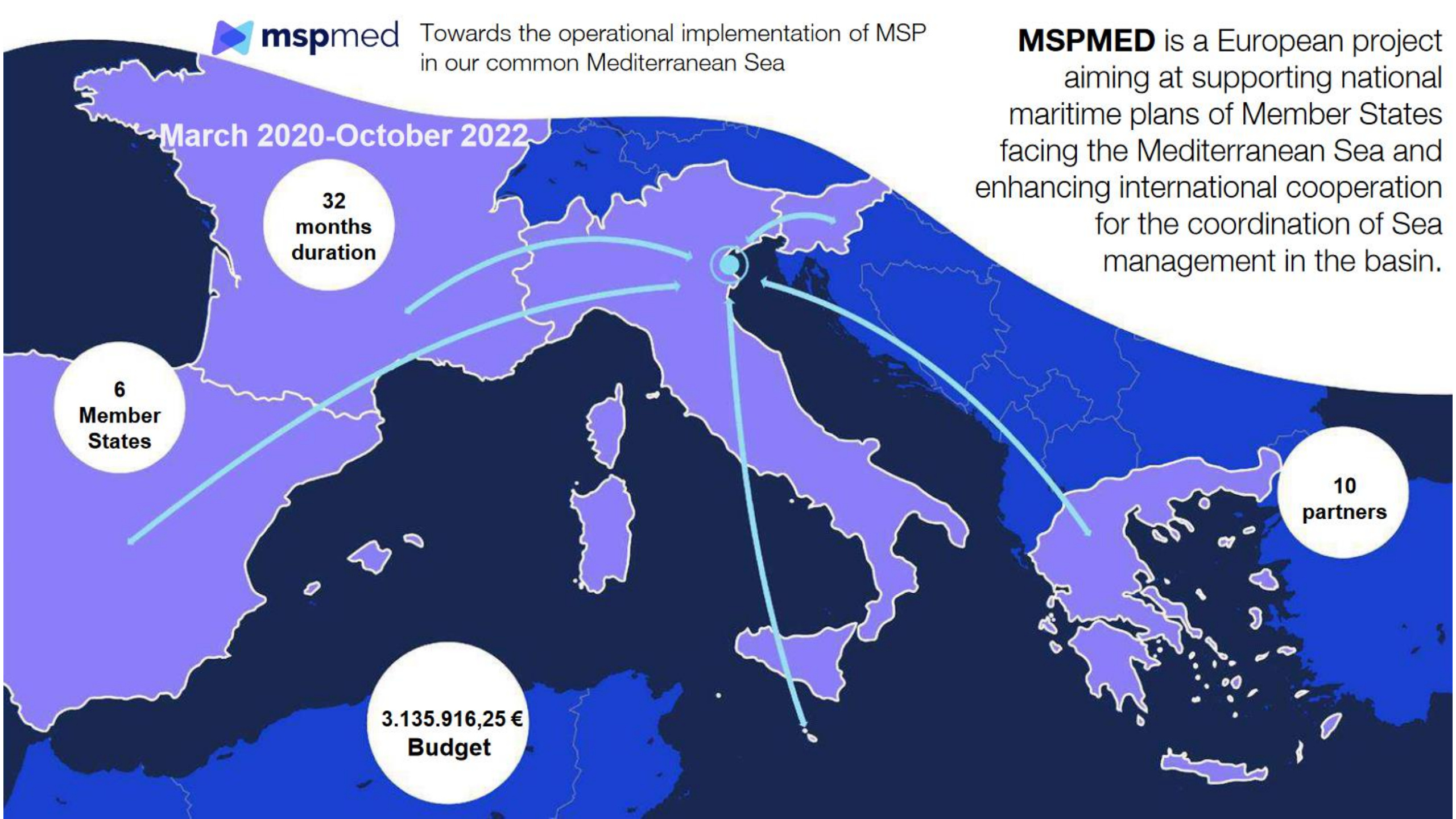
March 2020-October 2022

32
months
duration

6
Member
States

3.135.916,25 €
Budget

10
partners



The MSP-MED results

- Support to the 6 National Plans, in different forms, e.g. datasets and map creations, stakeholder involvement.
 - >10 meetings and events with national stakeholders (also with non-EU countries)
 - 8 Technical Workshops on Key Enabling Factors for MSP
 - 1 dedicated edition (Adriatic) of the MSP Challenge Simulation Platform
 - 1 joint event with MSP Platform on Marine Multi-use in the Mediterranean
 - Transboundary cooperation with non-EU countries for the identification of common issues and creation of data tools
- **Community of Practice** on MSP in the Med (with the support of the WestMed Initiative)

A new context

1. The **2030 Agenda** and the **European Green Deal** call for a sustainable transformation of the EU's economy and the blue economy is no exception (SDG 14);
2. « **There is no green without blue** »: the blue economy is part of the solution; we need to look at oceans to achieve the EGD objectives;
3. Transitioning to sustainable blue economy can contribute to the **recovery** of the sectors affected by the COVID crisis and bring more resilience;
4. Such a major shift call for joint efforts **across the different blue economy sectors** and **across the EU**.





Biodiversity loss and the **climate crisis** are interdependent and they exacerbate each other.

Restoring forests, soils and wetlands and creating green spaces in cities is essential to achieve the climate change mitigation needed by 2030.



The new EU-wide Biodiversity Strategy will:



Establish protected areas for at least:



30%
of land in
Europe



30%
of sea in
Europe

With stricter protection of remaining EU primary and old-growth forests legally binding nature restoration targets in 2021.

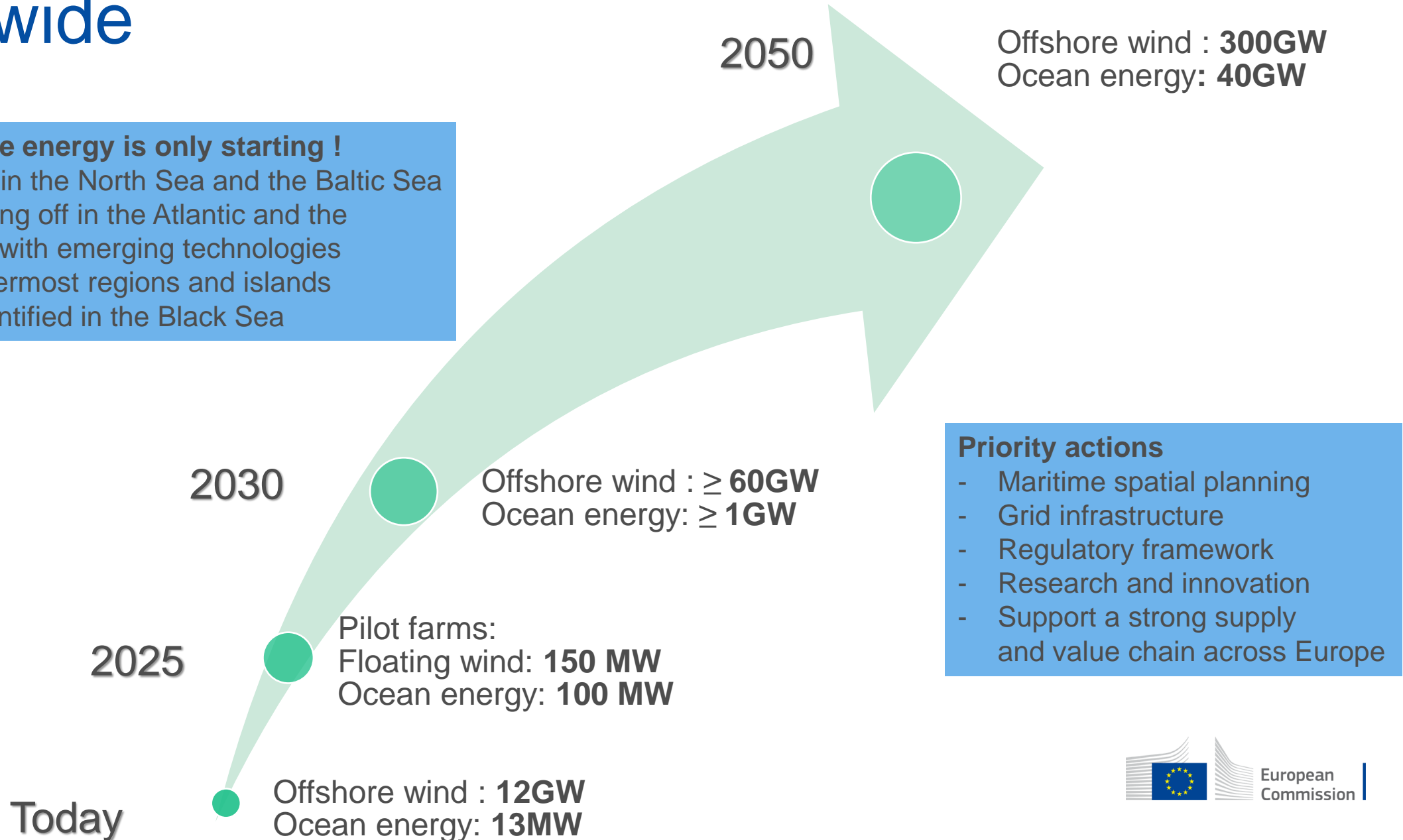


European
Commission

The Offshore Strategy: a step-change and EU-wide

Offshore renewable energy is only starting !

- Fast development in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea
- Blue energy is taking off in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea with emerging technologies
- Good case for outermost regions and islands
- Good potential identified in the Black Sea

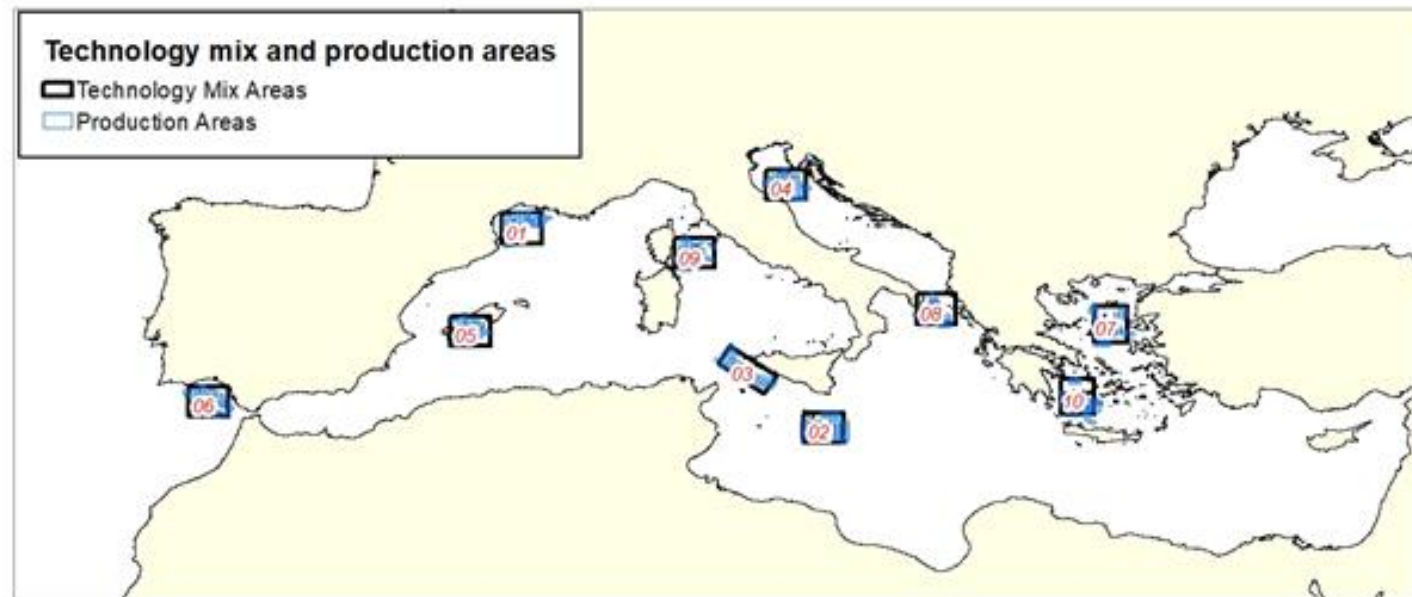


Priority actions

- Maritime spatial planning
- Grid infrastructure
- Regulatory framework
- Research and innovation
- Support a strong supply and value chain across Europe

Offshore renewables potential in the Med

Most Interesting Identified TMAs



(Source: Guidehouse)



What next?

➤ The European Commission:

- will **continue to support cross-border projects** (3 new projects to be launched in November 2022) and **help developing MSP community across the EU and globally** (MSP online platform, cooperation with IOC-UNESCO, WestMed, EUSAIR, etc.).
- will expand the necessary dialogue between the various users of the sea by setting up a **"Blue Forum"** for sea users in 2022.
- will closely monitor progress and support its Member States in using MSP as a tool to achieve the **tackle climate change and the biodiversity crisis**
- encourages **sharing data on MSP** and improving the **ecosystem-based approach** to MSP;



More background information at:

https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/ocean/blue-economy/maritime-spatial-planning_en

<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/>

https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/publications/eu-blue-economy-report-2022_en

<https://www.mspchallenge.info/>

<https://mspmed.eu/>

THANK YOU!