



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
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13th UfM Working Group on Blue Economy (Brussels - 14 March, 2023)

Monitoring and Reporting by Ministerial priority:
Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM
Ministerial Declaration on SBE – *Greece*

1. Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region I

With its **National Strategy for the Integrated Maritime Policy on Islands** (adopted with Laws 4770/2021 & 4832/2021) (following as a member state the Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Union) Greece recognizes islands' special features and the intention of revamping a specialized and differentiated regional policy for the islands e.g. focusing on the blue growth, maritime spatial planning, connectivity, maritime surveillance and sea basin strategies, incorporating green, energy and smart transitioning through specific investments in the islands.

Additional strategic elements include the introduction of:

- (i) maritime and islands' specific financial instruments for promoting green public investments in the insular areas (NEARCHOS financial instrument);
- (ii) the first Greek Maritime Blue Fund to support sustainable entrepreneurial business models and
- (iii) the setting up of the National Registry for Maritime/ Blue Economy Stakeholders.



1. Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region II

Greece under its competent **General Secretariat for Aegean & Insular Policy of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy** also participates in:

- (i) an OECD initiative for the challenges and policies that contribute to the development and prosperity of island economies,
- (ii) Greco-Islands project for the formation of a holistic approach to sustainable development in the Greek island area,
- (iii) the pilot application of innovative smart solutions on the island of Naxos which will promote the quality of life of the local community (in collaboration with Amazon Web Services) and
- (iv) the implementation of background monitoring of key indicators concerning port infrastructure aging, port corrosion, environmental condition sensors, etc. in collaboration with the US Centre for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation



2. Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment

Greece along with 10 EU (Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain) and 8 non EU Mediterranean participating states (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) form since 10 April 2018 the PRIMA partnership (funded under HORIZON 2020 with EUR 220m).

Areas of interest

- **Societal Challenge 2** 'Food security sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine maritime and inland water research and bio-economy'
- **Societal Challenge 5** 'Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials)
- **Industrial Leadership** (Nanotechnologies, advances materials, advanced manufacturing and processing biotechnology).

Activities are organised by PRIMA-IS and funded by the national funding body of (General Secretariat for Research and Technology). The planned financial national contributions on transnational calls for 2023 amounts up to EUR 800k.

Upon the closure of PRIMA funding under HORIZON 2020 Greece firmly supports the continuation of PRIMA under the Sectoral Operational Programme on R&D 2021 – 2027 and HORIZON Europe.



3. Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports I

1. A service project regarding a **General Plan for the renewal of the Greek passenger ship fleet** is underway. The international tender for its assignment is in the preparation stage and the project will be funded by the Recovery and Resilience Fund, scheduled for completion within the Q2 of 2025.

Tenders have been held and contracts are in the signatory stage with the preferred bidders for two other service projects:

2. Feasibility study financial analysis and provision of specialized legal services in matters of Services of General Economic Interest / state aid.

These projects will be the main auxiliary tools for the signing of passenger ships' routing service contracts for the execution of short-distance island sea transport with ships that will not use fossil fuels for their propulsion. The above action is expected to be implemented during the eligibility period of the NSRF programming period 2021-2027.



3. Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports II

3. CEF funded projects on ports

2021:

CIPORT project (EUR 1.4m CEF co-funding), concerns the preparation of a series of studies for the electrification of ships (cold ironing) in four areas of the cruise service section of the port of Piraeus, as well as required studies for the development of the relevant infrastructure, including environmental, transport and socio-economic studies. The aim of the action is to reduce the environmental footprint and optimize the operation of the port, creating added value for the port, users and the local economy of the city of Piraeus.

Duration: 01.08.2021 – 30.11.2023

ELECTRIPORT project (EUR 1.5m CEF co-funding), concerns the preparation of a series of studies and the design of the required projects for the onshore supply of electricity for the charging of ships (cold ironing) in the port of Heraklion, with the aim of reducing CO₂ emissions, the reduction of air pollution and the sustainable development of the port and the city of Heraklion.

Duration: 01.08.2021 – 31.03.2023



3. Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports III

2022-23

Under CEF Transport Call 2022 Greece participates with 6 (six) proposals for co-financing projects in ports of the core TEN-T network of the country:

Port of Heraklion: "Upgrading of the container terminal at the port of Heraklion (ConTerUP)"

Port of Igoumenitsa "ALFION - INFRA: Development of the energy upgrade infrastructure in the port of Igoumenitsa"

Port of Thessaloniki "Sustainable upgrade of Pier 6 of the Port of Thessaloniki & Improvement of its Environmental Performance as part of the Transport System in the Trans-European Networks"

Port of Piraeus "SSEPP - Onshore electricity supply infrastructure in the port of Piraeus"

Port of Piraeus "Sustainable Multimodal Interoperability for Ports and the Supply Chain (SMILE)"

Port of Piraeus "Timely Arrivals and Synchronization of Vessel Approaches with marine traffic management in European ports - JUSTINTIMEPORTS"

These proposals are consistent with the objectives of the updated Ports Strategy of the General Secretariat for Ports for 2020-2030, focus on the competitiveness, sustainable development and digital transformation of the ports, incorporating environmental friendly energy consumption actions on port operation and development.

Evaluation results are expected within Q2 2023.



5. Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

1. Greece has signed an **Agreement with Cyprus and Israel for the implementation of a Subregional Emergency Plan for Marine Oil Pollution**. The sub-regional plan in question was drawn up with the assistance and the coordination of Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Center for the Mediterranean Sea - REMPEC. The implementing agreement was ratified by our country with Law 4878/2022 and entered into force on 02.02.2022. The above subregional plan foresees, among other things, **the provision of assistance between the three countries by sending personnel, decontamination equipment, floating vessels, aerial vehicles, etc. in the event of large-scale marine pollution incidents from ships, offshore rigs/hydrocarbon (oil and gas) exploration and exploitation facilities as well as hydrocarbon pipelines.**

2. Since 1994, a special account has been set up with the purpose of allocating funds and resources for the **prevention and neutralization of sea pollution for interventions on the coasts and ports**. In this way, our country finances actions related to decontamination, and more generally the treatment of pollution incidents, the maintenance and repair of watercraft. The annual budget amounts to 2.5 million euros and for these purposes an action plan is foreseen and implemented annually.



7. Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management I

1. The National Spatial Planning Strategy for the Maritime Space of Greece will be enacted in 2023

The EU Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive 2014/89/EU has been transposed into Greek legislation with Law 4546/2018 that sets the legal framework defining the scope, objectives, procedure and structure of Maritime Spatial Planning.

MSP consists of

- (a) the National Spatial Planning Strategy for the Maritime Space (NSPSMS) and
- (b) the Maritime Spatial Frameworks (MSFs), which correspond to Maritime Spatial Plans and refer to Maritime Spatial Units (MSUs).

Currently, **the drafting of the NSPSMS as well as the public consultation and opinion on behalf of the National Spatial Planning Council have been completed. It is foreseen that within 2023 the NSPSMS will be enacted.** The NSPSMS: determines the strategic directions towards sustainable development, is harmonised with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) 2008/56/EC aiming at achieving good environmental status (GES) of the marine environment, indicates and justifies the priorities for the elaboration of Maritime Spatial Frameworks, sets goals focusing on the promotion of the Blue Economy and integrates within its planning the political framework and the current legislation introduced by the EU Green Deal, taking into account the New EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.



7. Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management II

2. The preparation of Special Environmental Studies for NATURA 2000 sites in Greece will be completed gradually by the end of 2023

Greece is in the process of compiling **Special Environmental Studies (SES) for all Natura 2000 sites, which will be completed gradually by the end of 2023**. The SES is a requirement of the framework law on biodiversity in Greece (law 3937/2011, as it was modified by law 4685/2020), in order to protect an area through the issuing of a Presidential Decree. The Presidential Decree demarcates each protected area and defines the land use and the allowed activities within the area, based on the scientific findings of the SES.

To that effect, **the Ministry of Environment and Energy** is implementing the project: "**Development of Special Environmental Studies and Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites**" with the following objectives: i) protected areas of the country are demarcated and safeguarded, ii) the appropriate land uses within protected areas are defined, iii) compliance with the EU nature legislation is ensured and iv) planning on the basis of sustainable development is facilitated.

The marine Natura 2000 sites in Greece currently cover 19,6% of its territorial waters and they will be included in the project. Moreover, a project for the mapping of habitats in marine protected areas of the NATURA 2000 network will also be launched in the period ahead. This project is expected to enrich knowledge in this field and improve the effectiveness of the management of these areas.



8. Marine renewable energies

Greece, currently has **4.5 GW of installed onshore wind capacity**. It has immense potential for offshore wind energy produced by both fixed-bottom and floating technology.

Within 2022 the Ministry of Environment and Energy created a high-level plan and new law on the **development of offshore wind power** which was approved by the Greek parliament in July 2022.

The law promotes competitiveness through an auctioning system, fostering cost efficiency and the development of innovative technologies, including fixed-bottom and floating offshore wind.

Greece's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) envisages a total of 7 GW of onshore wind energy by 2030. That target is expected to augment substantially once the current revision of the NECP has been completed. **Current plans foresee an additional 2 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030**. This could play a key role in supplying clean and reliable energy to the mainland, as well as the Greek islands.

Within 2023 a series of decrees setting out processes such as site selection, spatial planning and licensing/permitting are expected to be in place.



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...thank you for your attention!

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