



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



13<sup>th</sup> 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 – *Italy* 

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

**15 million €** through the Ministry of Universities and Research and the Ministry of Industry and Made in Italy, in the framework of the European Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership ([www.bluepartnership.eu](http://www.bluepartnership.eu)), for the first transnational co-funded R&I call for proposals in 2023.

The projects, to be developed at pan-European level and in the different European Sea-basins, will address the following priority areas:

- Planning and managing sea-uses at the regional level
- Development of offshore marine multi-use infrastructures to support the blue economy
- Climate neutral, environmentally sustainable, and resource-efficient blue food and feed
- Green transition of Blue Food production
- Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs) test use cases at EU sea-basins and the Atlantic Ocean.



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

**700 million euros:** the electrification of docks (**cold ironing**): 44 interventions in 34 ports, with the objective of minimizing the dependence on fossil fuels and the environmental impact in the shipping sector.

**500 million euros:** contribution to shipowners for the purchase of new ships or the modernization of existing or under construction ones. The financing will be provided to projects that will ensure **better environmental performance and a significant reduction in polluting emissions**, including in ports, through innovation in propulsion systems, electric batteries, hybrid or hydrodynamically innovative solutions, digital control systems or the sustainability of materials.

**220 million euros:** LNG Program - construction of natural gas liquefaction plants in the national territory for the **decarbonisation of transport, in particular in the maritime sector**; construction of liquefied **LNG and Bio-LNG refueling points in port areas** with the related storage capacities; provision of **LNG and Bio-LNG mobile refueling services in port areas** through special naval units for bunkering activities.

**50 million euros:** project to increase **energy efficiency of the ports of the Strait of Messina**, including the electrification of docks in the ports of the Strait and the construction of a coastal LNG depot in Messina.

Support to the designation of the Mediterranean Sea as **Sulfur Oxides Emission Control Area** and the feasibility studies for the designation of a **Nitrogen Oxide Emission Control Area** (bilateral agreement with UNEP/MAP in 2021).



## 4. Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

Italy actively engages in the work conducted at EU level and within Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

Italy's National Operational Program funded by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027, under Priorities 1 and 2, contains a set of specific objectives aimed at promoting sustainable fisheries (Objective 1.4: fight against IUU fishing; Objective 1.6: Contributing to restoring biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems; Objective 2.1: Promoting sustainable and competitive aquaculture in the long term; Objective 2.2: Promoting transformation and marketing of quality and value-added fisheries and aquaculture products).

Link to the National Operational Program funded by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027: <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17193>

The Italian Multi-Annual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture (MNSPA) 2021-2027 is in line with the *EU Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030*. It contains provisions encouraging, among others:

- production complying with sustainability criteria;
- development of sustainable aquaculture systems (introduction of seaweed and low trophic species) with a distinctive ecological and socioeconomic value (shellfish farming, fish farming in coastal lagoons aka *vallicoltura*, extensive aquaculture); organic farming and certification systems;
- improve fish farming environmental compatibility through reduced use plastic in farming;
- improve systems to ensure best animal welfare standards; reduced use of antibiotics.

Link to Italy's National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2021-2027 (Italian only):

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17193>



## 5. Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

### Implementation of the Italian National Operational Program funded by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027

- Actions regulating the intentional / unintentional collection of marine debris (lost fishing gear, marine litter) and supporting innovation towards the traceability of lost fishing gear. Such actions are managed at both central and local levels, including:
  - ✓ creation of a collection and disposal chain for litter collected accidentally by fishermen
  - ✓ creation of an inter-ministerial, multidisciplinary technical panel of experts on sea floor litter
  - ✓ design and testing of experimental prototypes for the removal of microplastics by wastewater treatment plants
  - ✓ identification of functional tools for the geolocalization of fishing gears

**Law n.60 of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 so called “Salvamare”** (Sea Protection Act) includes measures encouraging fishers to collect marine litter. Creation of an *ad hoc* permanent Interministerial advisory committee, coordinating actions to fight marine plastic pollution and optimise fishers’ active involvement in this regard.



## 6. Coastal and maritime tourism

### Strategic Plan for Tourism 2023-2027:

- Support to investments in sustainability of **maritime transportation and ports**
- Support to the creation of **integrated digital platforms** aimed at: monitoring the environmental impact of tourist activities, improving information accessibility.
- Provides for incentives for **training** aimed at the development of new skills in process efficiency and environmental sustainability.
- Support to **innovation, digitalization and sustainability of coastal tourism** in order to reduce over-tourism, including by promoting less well-known coastal areas and improving access.
- Creates new **governance models** for the development of multi-level and inter-territorial tourism offers.



# 7. Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

The public consultation as provided for by Directive 2014/89/UE was concluded on October 30, 2022.

Three Maritime Areas of reference have been identified: a) Western Tyrrhenian-Mediterranean; Adriatic; Ionian-Central Mediterranean.

The Maritime Space Plans identify cross-sectoral guiding principles: a) sustainable development, b) protection of species, habitats and ecosystems, c) protection of landscape and cultural heritage. They provide strategic level indications and guidelines for each Area Maritime and their sub-areas, to be used as a reference for other planning actions and for specific concession or permit actions.

The Plans consider the following sectors/uses of the sea, for which they identify strategic objectives at the national level and specific objectives at the sub-area level, as well as a series of measures : a) safety of civil uses of the sea, b) fisheries, c) aquaculture, d) maritime transport, e) exploration and mining and hydrocarbon extraction, f) renewable energies, g) coastal defence, h) flood protection, i) restoration of seabed morphology, l) coastal and maritime tourism, m) scientific research and n) innovation.



## 8. Marine renewable energies

**675 million euros:** Support to the construction of off-shore plants, **including floating wind and photovoltaic plants for a total of at least 200 MW**, including:

- floating wind farms and/or off-shore floating photovoltaic systems combined with energy storage systems;
- integrated plants with a combination of two or more of the following technologies: floating offshore wind, floating photovoltaic, marine energy plants (e.g. wave motion, tides).

The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC) aims at the installation of at least 900 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2030.

