

UfM Webinar

Fostering the Sustainable Development of Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) through effective Licensing and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)

Concept & Draft programme

Date: 01 July, 2024

Time: 12:00-13:45 CET

Objective:

The webinar aims to explore the critical aspects of licensing processes and maritime spatial planning in the context of marine renewable energy projects. It seeks to provide insights into the regulatory frameworks, challenges, and best practices to facilitate the sustainable development of nature-friendly marine renewable energy resources.

Background:

As the world transitions towards cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, marine renewable energy emerges as a promising solution to meet the growing energy demand while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, the development of marine renewable energy projects is often hindered by complex regulatory procedures, environmental issues and spatial constraints. Effective licensing, maritime spatial planning, accompanied by sensitivity mapping and stakeholder engagement, among others, are essential to navigate these challenges and unlock the full potential of sustainable marine renewable energy.

While the southernmost marine areas of the Mediterranean region have considerable energy potential, the development of MRE sources has so far been slow also for reasons related to natural conditions such as lower wind, tide, and current as well as greater depths. Despite this, there are numerous locations in the Mediterranean Sea basin with considerable development potential, to the benefit of the clean energy transition in and for the entire region. For instance, offshore wind has a huge potential, and it is predicted that it could increase energy production up to 12 GW in 2030 and to 40 GW in 2050 in EU Mediterranean countries.

Along with the opportunity to generate clean 'blue' power, the deployment of renewable offshore facilities can play an important role in strengthening energy diversification in the region, stimulating economic growth through R&I and job creation, and contributing to the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems. Targeted investments are key to harnessing the potential of renewable energies in the Med, while positioning them at the heart of further carbon-neutral economic development. In this respect, the 2050 target of the European Union to decarbonize the economy by 80–90% will undoubtedly see Marine Renewable Energies playing a key role.

This webinar has been designed with Renewables Grid Initiative, leading collaborations on energy and nature in EU sea basins (see [here](#) for more information on Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature).

Key Themes:

1. **Overview of Marine Renewable Energy:** Understanding the new technologies of marine renewable energy (e.g., wind, wave, tidal) and their potentials, with specific focus on offshore wind and connecting electricity grid
2. **Licensing Processes:** Exploring the regulatory frameworks governing the licensing of marine renewable energy projects, including permits, environmental assessments, and stakeholder consultations.
3. **Maritime Spatial Planning:** Discussing the role of maritime spatial planning as a tool for sustainable development and the importance of allocating suitable areas for marine renewable energy development while considering environmental, social, economic factors and multi-use approach.
4. **Challenges and Solutions:** Identifying common challenges faced during licensing and maritime spatial planning processes and showcasing innovative solutions and best practices (case studies) from the EU

The webinar will feature presentations by experts in the field, followed by interactive Q&A sessions. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with speakers, share experiences, and network with fellow attendees.

Target Audience:

- Government officials and policymakers involved in energy and maritime sectors
- Industry professionals, developers, and investors in the marine renewable energy sector
- Academics and researchers interested in renewable energy and maritime spatial planning

The webinar will feature presentations by experts in the field, followed by interactive Q&A sessions and panel discussions. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with speakers, share experiences, and network with fellow attendees.

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding of licensing procedures and maritime spatial planning requirements for marine renewable energy projects.
- Identification of opportunities to streamline regulatory processes and improve stakeholder engagement.
- Inspiration for innovative approaches to overcome challenges and accelerate the development of nature-friendly marine renewable energy resources.

<p>12:00-12:10 CET</p>	<p>Welcome and Setting the stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM EU Co-Presidency: Mr Manuel Pleguezuelo – Policy Officer, DG MARE • UfM Secretariat: Ms Alessandra Sensi – Head of Sector, Environment, Green and Blue Economy <p><i>Moderation:</i> Ms Adriana Salazar, SBE Expert – UfM Secretariat</p>
<p>12:10-13:30 CET</p>	<p>Technical presentations – Stakeholder perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Vera Kissler, DGENER C1 <i>Permitting procedures for RE</i> • Ms Cristina Simioli, Med Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (RGI) <i>The role of informal regional and cross-sector collaborations</i> • Mr Mauro Randone, WWF Med <i>Maritime Spatial Planning</i> • Mr Claudio Celada, LIPU <i>Sensitivity Mapping</i> • Mr Christian Keller, BlueFloat Energy <i>Floating technologies and stakeholder engagement</i> • <i>Mr Taha El Ouryachi - Managing Director and Co-founder, ATAREC Harnessing the power of wave energy</i> • Mr Giovanni Bracco, Politecnico di Torino <i>Spatial Planning for Offshore Wind Industry (SPOWIND)</i> <p><i>Moderation:</i> Mr Thanos Smanis, Mr Matteo Bocci – Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism</p>
<p>13:30-13:35 CET</p>	<p>Q&A and wrap-up by moderators</p> <p><i>Moderation:</i> Mr Thanos Smanis, Mr Matteo Bocci – Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism</p>
<p>13:35-13:45 CET</p>	<p>Conclusions and way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM EU Co-Presidency: Mr Manuel Pleguezuelo – Policy Officer, DG MARE • UfM Secretariat: Ms Alessandra Sensi – Head of Sector, Environment, Green and Blue Economy <p><i>Moderation:</i> Ms Alessandra Sensi</p>



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