



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



15th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy

Brussels - 27 June 2024

Annual reporting by Ministerial priority:

Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE – Malta

Country reporting template: aim and objectives

- This “country reporting template” has been created with the aim to gather data and information at national level to feed the **2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE Roadmap’s Monitoring, reporting and evaluation system**.
- As reflected in the “[Stand-alone document on the Monitoring system of the Roadmap / 2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE](#)” and its related Annex on “[Sector-specific indicators](#)”, the process kick-starts every year with the **delivery of presentations by the countries** (UfM Focal Points on Blue Economy) in the context of the **Regional Platform on SBE meetings**.
- By filling in this template, countries’ crucial inputs will feed current and future updates of the Roadmap and contribute to analyse progress over time in the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration.
- Instructions to fill in this template are provided in the next slide.

How to fill in this template

- This template contains **one slide per each of the SBE Ministerial Declaration Priorities** and related progress. Three open questions have also been included at the end of the document.
- For each of the Ministerial Declaration priorities, a simple **table** should be completed by the countries, with the following information:
 - Policies, strategies and plans in place at national (and sub-national) level
 - Projects and initiatives at national in place at national (and sub-national) level
- Please fill in these tables to the best of your knowledge and feel free to enrich with **hyper-links** to key documents, publications, videos, etc. as needed.
- In case of questions, please don't hesitate to send an email to: alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org and adriana.salazar@ufmsecretariat.org
- These presentations will be delivered orally by each Focal Point on the UfM Regional Platform Meeting, and should be submitted to the UfM Secretariat team **no later than June 19th, end of day.**

Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Development of socioeconomic observatories		
Clusters development		<p>International and regional marine and ocean research projects</p> <p>Active participation in BlueMed Initiative and JPI Oceans</p> <p>Co-lead of the Knowledge Hub titled 'Science for Good Environmental Status' (S4GES)</p> <p>Science Malta through its Bilateral R&I Programme 'SINO-MALTA'</p> <p>Science Malta is a key partner in the 'BlueMissionMed' project</p> <p>Interreg MED Project Blue Bio Med; also BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund, Joint Action Ecological Aspects of Microplastics and ERA-NET Cofund scheme of Horizon 2020 MarTERA via JPI Oceans</p> <p>Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) participation</p>
Training activities		<p>Renewed catalogue of training courses covering various areas and sectors of BE launched in 2022</p>
Other	Supporting local scientific community	

Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Establishment of Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas		
Tackling Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)		
Support to Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)		
Other	<p>General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean GFCM 2030 Strategy</p> <p>Following the 'Code of Conduct for European Aquaculture'</p> <p>Implementation of satellite monitoring for fisheries</p> <p>National management plans introduced – promoting sustainable aquaculture industry</p> <p>Underwater monitoring technologies for bluefin farming industry to monitor recovery of stock</p> <p>Implementation of Multi-annual National Plan for development of Sustainable Aquaculture 2022-2030</p>	<p>Participation in several projects e.g. PRIMA (Horizon 2020), SIMTAP (Interreg VA Italia-Malta) and IMTA</p> <p>Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)</p>

Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Setting up an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides in the Mediterranean Sea		
Development of alternative and transitional fuels		Investment in Onshore Power Supply at Malta Freeport
Digitalisation of the sector		
Other		Grand Harbour Clean Project



Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Prevention measures and circular approaches	Reviewing relevant legislations	
Raising awareness and addressing marine litter including microplastics	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean Transposing SUP Directive and Port Reception Facilities Directive Fishing for Litter Scheme Multiannual National Plan for the development of Sustainable Aquaculture (MNPSA) 2022-2030	
Other	Port Receptions Facilities Directive Implementation	

Coastal and maritime tourism

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Eco-tourism, slow tourism and reduction of carbon emissions of the industry		DETOCS: Decarbonising the Tourism Industry Port Covid-19 Support The Tourism Strategy 2021-2030 Digitalisation of the tourism sector in Gozo
Promotion of the digitalisation of the sector		
Other		

Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
<p>Stakeholder engagement, consultations or establishment of MSP plans</p>		<p>Following the studies for the first stage of the SPED, a consultation process across Government and the public will commence</p> <p>Ongoing consultations at government level on initiatives concerning future deployment of offshore renewable energy infrastructure, fisheries and aquaculture and nature protection</p> <p>Continental Shelf Department drafted the required amendements to the Exclusive Economic Zone Act (EEZ), the drafting of the EEZ Regulations and drafting of the amendements to the various legislation</p> <p>The EEZ Regulations and amendements to the environmental legislation as we as other legislation addressed paragraph 68 of the Declaration</p>
<p>Other</p>		



Marine Renewable Energies

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Research and innovation on MRE technologies	Focus on development of offshore renewable potential	
Specification of licensing procedures	Enabling the licensing of marine renewable energy systems (2024)	
Other		

Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Development of training activities		
Exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance and best practices		<p>SafeSeaNet SSN V5</p> <p>Digital transformation of the Maltese ship register and its ancillary services</p>
Other		

Open questions

1 – Related to the priority on Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region: **Is there any overarching blue economy strategy in your country? Or any process initiated leading to the elaboration of such a strategy?**

No. At the moment Malta do not have a blue economy strategy

2 – Related to the priority on Sustainable investments in the blue economy: **is there any national funding/financing scheme related to the blue economy (or any of its sectors) promoted by your country? If yes, please specify.**

Malta has the Maritime Proof of Concept Fund. The primary scope behind the initiative is to help move forward promising ideas towards commercialisation, with the ultimate aim of generating blue growth in Malta. The Maritime Proof of Concept Fund is designed to facilitate innovation and the creation of science-based business ideas in the marine field through research in the University of Malta, aiming for commercialisation.

The idea behind this fund is to encourage academics, entrepreneurs and students with creative and innovative ideas to get the financial support necessary to enable them to develop their ideas into business concept.

3 - **What are the main challenges, issues or bottlenecks for the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration in your country?**

The biggest challenge is to have a better coordination between entities in view that the blue economy is much of having a cross-sectoral policies that need to have an efficient and effective coordination in order to better implement the Ministerial Declaration

