



Union for the Mediterranean  
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15<sup>th</sup> 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 – Greece***

# 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	<p>The <b>National Strategy for Research, Technological Development and Innovation</b> sets out the country's strategy (National RTDI Strategy).</p> <p>Linked Priority sectors: Transport and Logistics, and Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>Specific priorities include: Technologically advanced platforms, Design of alternative fuel supply network, Facilities and storage infrastructures for ship refuelling, Design of smart port infrastructures and use of Port Community Information Systems, Reduction of the environmental footprint of ships during their port calls, use of low carbon footprint fuels (including green power) in shipping and related infrastructures in ports and onboard.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Interior:</b> Innovation Observatory</p> <p><b>Region of Creta:</b> <u>Innovative Entrepreneurship Observatory</u> connecting businesses with research and academic institutions, as well as mapping the innovation ecosystem of the Region of Crete</p> <p><b>Municipality of Piraeus:</b> Blue Growth Strategy</p>
Clusters development	<p>Specific priorities include: Technologically advanced platforms, Design of alternative fuel supply network, Facilities and storage infrastructures for ship refuelling, Design of smart port infrastructures and use of Port Community Information Systems, Reduction of the environmental footprint of ships during their port calls, use of low carbon footprint fuels (including green power) in shipping and related infrastructures in ports and onboard.</p>	<p><b>PRIMA Partership, Horizon 2020</b> → continuation of PRIMA under the Sectoral Operational Programme on R&amp;D 2021-2027 and HORIZON Europe</p>
Training activities	<p>“<b>Research – Innovate</b>” Strategic Action / Sectoral Operational Program Competitiveness with available co-financing budget: EUR 300m</p> <p><u>Main objective:</u> to connect research and innovation with entrepreneurship and society</p> <p><u>Funded interventions:</u> SMEs R&amp;D, Partnerships with Research Organisations, Exploitation of research results, Seal of Excellence for Enterprises.</p> <p>Proposals to be linked with the eight areas of National Strategy among which are:</p> <p>Transport and Supply Chain, Sustainable Energy, Digital Technology, Agri-food chain, Environment and Circular Economy.</p>	<p><u>Maritime Education</u> is among the Ministry of Maritime Affairs &amp; Insular Policy top priorities undertaking currently initiatives to offer the means and skills ahead of the new developments in shipping towards green transition. Moreover promotes re-skilling and up-skilling of blue professions.</p> <p><b>MoU between the MoMAIP and Eugenidis Foundation</b> signed in May 2024 for the promotion of the National Agenda of Skills and Abilities in blue professions.</p> <p><b>Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)</b> is currently implementing three (3) programs with a key focus on the new generation and an emphasis on maritime professions and the Blue Economy: <b>Big Blue Accelerator Blue Horizons</b> and <b>Blue Generation</b></p>
Other		



# 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
<b>Establishment of Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas</b>	<p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Enlargement of the MPAs network of Greece to meet the 30% target by 2024 by designating 2 additional Parks: THE IONIAN MARINE NATIONAL PARK and the THE AEGEAN MARINE NATIONAL PARK. With these new parks Greece covers over 32% of the country's territorial waters.</p> <p>EU funding (LIFE Program and Green Fund)</p>	
<b>Tackling Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)</b>	<p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Ban Bottom Trawling in all MPAs by 2030, starting from Marine National Parks by 2026</p>	
<b>Support to Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)</b>	<p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Encouraging a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and internal regions and promoting the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture communities</p> <p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Permanent withdrawal of fishing license of boat seines</p>	
<b>Other</b>		



# 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	Adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA) is set to come into effect on 1 May 2025.	
Development of alternative and transitional fuels		
Digitalisation of the sector		
Other	<p><b>9<sup>th</sup> OOC Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2030 at least 12 Ports will be equipped with shore side electricity facilities.</li> <li>• Fleet replacement plan</li> <li>• Coastal Passenger Shipping Fleet Renewal and commissioning of low-emission ships on public service obligation coastal connections (state-subsidized routes)</li> </ul>	<p>CIPORT Project: electrification of ports</p> <p>ELECTRIPORT Project: electrification of ports</p> <p>ALFION – INFRA Project: electrification of ports</p> <p>EALING Project: Cold ironing of EU ports</p> <p>GREEN C PORTS Project</p> <p>Participation with proposals for co-financing projects under CEF II Transport Calls in ports of the TEN-T network; Port of Heraklion, Igoumenitsa, Thessaloniki, Piraeus , Lavrion and others.</p>



# 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
<p>Prevention measures and circular approaches</p>	<p>Special account for the prevention and neutralisation of sea pollution for interventions on the coast and ports (1994)</p> <p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Development of dedicated programme of measures to achieve Good environmental status in the marine environment of four specific marine areas: Corinthiakos, Thermaikos, Saronikos and Pagasetikos Gulf (Implementation of Marine Strategy Directive).</p> <p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Application of digital techniques and combined measurement methods to improve monitoring and inspection of marine pollution.</p>	
<p>Raising awareness and addressing marine litter including microplastics</p>	<p>Agreement with Cyprus and Israel for the implementation of a subregional emergency plan for marine oil pollution</p> <p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> By 2030 reduce by 50% plastic litter and microplastic by 30% compared to 2019.</p>	
<p>Other</p>		



# Coastal and maritime tourism

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
<p>Eco-tourism, slow tourism and reduction of carbon emissions of the industry</p>	<p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Encouraging a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and internal regions and promoting the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplified procedures for starting fishing tourism</li> <li>• Development of complementary activities under the prism of the local blue economy, in tourism (fishing, experiential, diving, etc.), environmental services and cultural maritime activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Promotion of the country's diving and underwater tourism.</p> <p>creation and upgrading of diving / underwater parks</p>	<p><b>The scope of the project includes: The upgrading of the infrastructure and equipment of existing marine/ underwater parks</b></p> <p><b>Elaboration of studies</b>, such as spatial plans, environmental studies, business plans or digital technology development studies, for new diving parks by potential management and operating agencies with the aim of licensing them.</p> <p>Creation of infrastructure and purchase of equipment in new diving parks.</p>
<p>Promotion of the digitalisation of the sector</p>	<p>Creation of a digital platform to capture and link the diving and underwater tourism product of the country.</p> <p>Elaboration of studies for the development of digital technologies and digitization of all the infrastructures/services of the existing bdiving/underwater parks.</p>	
<p>Other</p>		

# 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
Stakeholder engagement, consultations or establishment of MSP plans	<p>National Spatial Planning Strategy for Maritime Space of Greece 2023.</p> <p>Maritime Spatial Plans are in the finalisation process in order to be submitted in accordance with the provisions of MSP Directive.</p> <p>Preparation of special environmental studies for NATURA 2000 2023</p>	
Other	<p><b>9th OOC Commitment:</b> Management and spatial / land use planning of the Greek MPAs.</p>	

# Marine Renewable Energies

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
<p><b>Research and innovation on MRE technologies</b></p>	<p>Greece has significantly increased its renewable energy (RES) production and consumption, hitting a record high in 2023 in wind, solar and hydroelectric energy output.</p> <p>Greece is currently an eventual energy hub for the Balkan region and Europe. An updated energy and climate plan is expected to be submitted to the EC withing June 2024 which will reflect its continued commitment to increasing RES production.</p>	<p><b>Offshore Wind Projects:</b> Over 7 billion euro are expected to be invested in the development of offshore wind parks to achieve the goal of Greece’s Energy Plan (ESEK) of 1.9GW. 25 specific areas have been already identified for the possible development of offshore wind farms and could host installations of up to 12,4 GW. The Independent Power Transmission Operator S.A. (IPTO) is expected to issue a decision to reserve electrical space for the connection to the system of the estimated power of the offshore wind projects.</p>
<p><b>Specification of licensing procedures</b></p>	<p>Prior to this an updated National Plan for Energy and Climate (ESEK) has been submitted to EC 2023, which sets marine renewable target production of 1.9 GW by 2030.</p>	<p>The first two licenses for offshore wind parks in Alexandroupolis and Samothraki of 600MW have been issue already.</p>
<p><b>Other</b></p>		



# 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?**

Integrated Maritime Policy for the Islands

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.**

Decarbonization Fund for the Islands

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

