



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
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15<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy meeting  
Brussels - 27 June 2024

***Latest update on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021  
UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy***

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# Roadmap to set the path towards the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy (2021)

## Background

- Following the adoption of the *2nd UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE)* in February 2021, the UfM EU and Jordan Co-Presidency, UfM countries, and the UfM Secretariat agreed to elaborate:
  - the **Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 Ministerial** with a view to maximizing existing resources and collaboration and producing an overview of ongoing initiatives, programmes, projects, and promising processes and actions to be launched and scaled-up from the short to longer term, for each of the 10 Ministerial priorities.
  - **Result-based monitoring, reporting and evaluation**, with a view to track progress over time.



# Grouping of UfM Ministerial Declaration priorities

## Sectoral priorities

- *Sustainable food from the sea: Fisheries and Aquaculture*
- *Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports*
- *Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy*
- *Coastal and maritime tourism*
- *Marine renewable energies*
- *Maritime safety and security*

## Cross-cutting priorities

- *Governance and the future of sea basin strategies (enabler)*
- *Sustainable investment in the blue economy (enabler)*
- *Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment (tool)*
- *Maritime Spatial Planning, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (tool)*

# Reminding the methodology for the update of the Roadmap (June 2024)

## Outline of the process:

1. Mapping of **new projects and initiatives** at regional and sub-regional level (from desk research and engagement with stakeholders) per each Ministerial Declaration priority
2. Adding a section containing a **summary on progress (up to June 2024)** per priority
3. Creation of a **consolidated table on progress** also included in Section 6 of the updated Roadmap

## Key **sources of information** exploited:

- UfM Blue Economy stakeholder platform
- Outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UfM Blue Economy Stakeholders Conference
- DG MARE and CINEA repositories and platforms
- EU project databases for different funding programmes
- Other regional platforms inputs (synergies)

# **Sample of updated new relevant frameworks, processes, initiatives and projects as a teaser (June 2024)**

1. Sample of key new regional frameworks/ initiatives/ processes
2. Project highlights
3. Overarching policy and frameworks development

# 1. Sample of key new regional frameworks, initiatives and processes

- **Transport & Ports** > Two new significant political commitments promoted by the UfM (i.e. the Ministerial Declaration on Transport, and the Regional Transport Action Plan (2021-2027) + newly updated Med SOx ECA, entering into force in May 2025, with provisions to further limit air pollution from ships.
- **R&I and skills** > launch of the Euro-Mediterranean Hub for Research and Innovation in April 2024
- **Governance** > new WestMED Ministerial Declaration was adopted in Malta in June 2023 by all involved countries, streamlining new priorities for its Framework for Action.
- **Sustainable Investments** > Partners reaffirmed commitment to the Blue Economy Mediterranean Partnership at COP28, with aim of mobilizing €1 billion investments.
- **MSP & ICZM** > launch of Mediterranean MSP Community of Practice (MED-MSP-CoP) in January 2023 (long-term envisaged extension to whole Med).
- **Marine Renewable Energy** > creation of the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature' in the Mediterranean (MED OCEaN).
- **New WestMED Technical Group on Sustainable Tourism**
- **INTERREG Multi-Programme Coordination Mechanism on Sustainable Tourism**

## 2. Sample of new illustrative projects reflection progress in the sea basin

- EMFAF Flagship projects on Tourism
- Mediterranean Green Shipping Network
- CALLMEBLUE / MEDBAN
- Interreg EURO MED Governance new batch of projects (as of 2023), Dialogue4Tourism, Community4Tourism...
- Horizon Mission Oceans – Mediterranean Lighthouse projects: Blue Mission Med, iMERMAID, RHE-MEDIation (chemical pollution), EFFECTIVE (protection and restoration management in Mediterranean MPAs)....
- New Med SBEP selected projects will be coming in November on 'Unified paths to a climate-neutral, sustainable, and resilient blue economy: engaging civil society, academia, policy, and industry'...



# 3. Subregional policy and frameworks development

## EU level

- **Fisheries & Aquaculture** > *New package of measures to improve the sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector + Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) for the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector was launched by the European Commission (DG MARE) in June 2023.*
- **Maritime Safety & Security** > *the EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) and related Action Plan was updated in March 2023.*
- **Coastal & Maritime Tourism** > *Launch of the Transition Pathway for Tourism (T4T) as part of the Industrial Strategy Update.*
- **Marine litter** > *the Mediterranean Lighthouse for the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters, BlueMissionMED, launched in January 2023. Open calls for Technical Assistance for cities and regions.*
- **R&I and skills** > *two new S3 thematic partnerships on Sustainable Blue Economy were officially initiated: 1) Smart Circular Aquaculture and 2) Sustainable Blue Bioeconomy.*
- **Sustainable investments** > *EU Blue Champions Scheme launched by the European Investment Bank*

# Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation System – First calculation of Indicators

## Background

- An easy-to-handle **Results-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation system** of the Roadmap/Ministerial was further adopted during the 12th meeting of the Working Group (October 2022, Aqaba and online)
- The **first Reporting exercise** by the countries (summarizing main achievements and advancements at national level, by Ministerial priority) taking place during the 13th meeting of the WG in March 2022, in Brussels.
- With a view to enhancing the quantity and quality of data collected through the monitoring system in upcoming reporting rounds (2024, 2025 and 2026), a **reporting template**, including more concrete specifications and guidance on the information to be provided by the Blue Economy Focal Points has been circulated.
- This will constitute the basis for the **full calculation of indicators in Autumn 2024**. A pilot/zero-draft calculation of a selection of indicators has already been carried out to be presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional platform on SBE.
- The above will contribute to the Mid term evaluation of the UfM Ministerial on SBE, foreseen in 2025.



# Reminder on the structure of the Monitoring, Reporting & Evaluation system

As set out in the general implementation arrangements of the **UfM SBE Roadmap's Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation system**, the monitoring process is structured in **three consecutive steps**, to be completed on a yearly basis:

- 1. The process kick-starts with the delivery of **presentations by the countries** (UfM Focal Points on Blue Economy) in the context of Regional BE Platform meetings, once per year, based on a structured template;*
- 2. Based on such inputs, **Yearly Progress Reports** (in the form of PPT presentations) on the implementation of the Sustainable Blue Economy Ministerial Declaration are prepared and delivered in the context of the second round of bi-yearly Platform meetings;*
- 3. Lastly, an independent, external **mid-term evaluation** will be carried out in the context of (or to set the path to) the preparation of a new Ministerial Declaration, expected possibly after 2025.*

# First set of indicators (June 2024) calculated based on data availability

The **selected indicators** analysed for each of the Ministerial Declaration priorities are as follows:

- **Total number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation implemented per priority and overall**
- **Level of financial support secured through regional projects to support the priority and overall**
- **Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects**

## Key **sources of information** exploited:

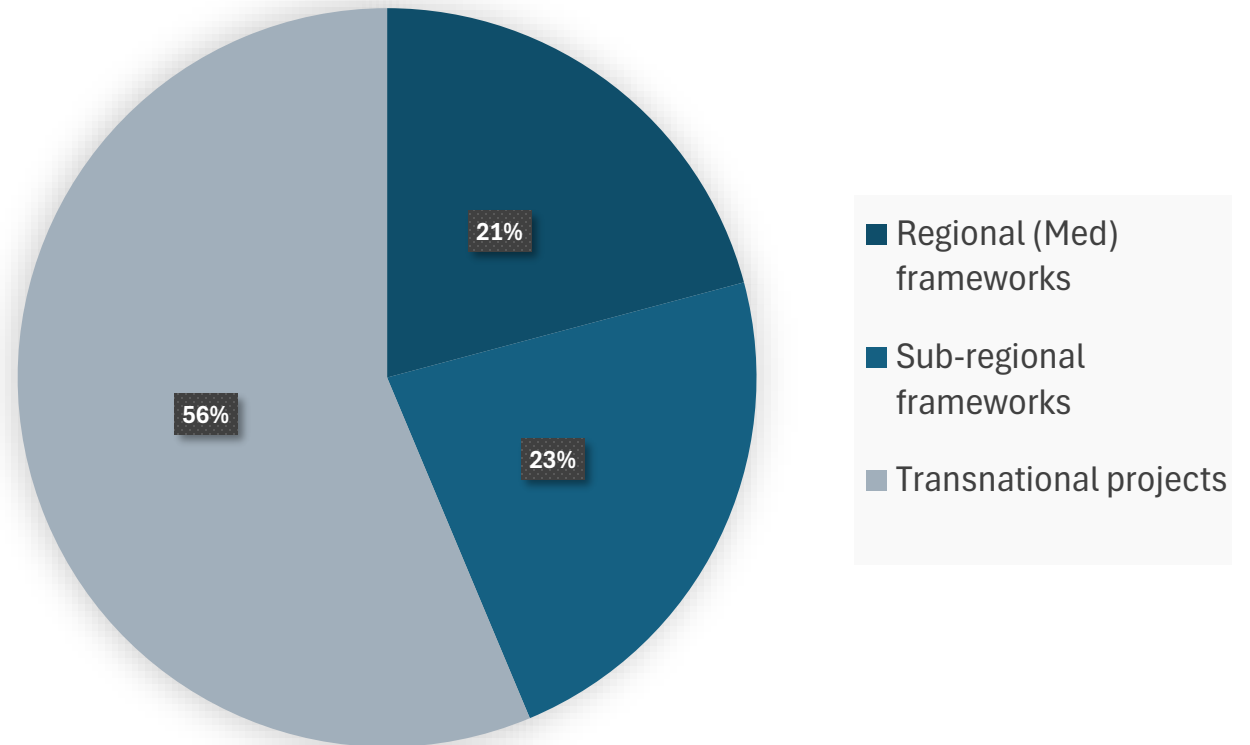
1. Information on regional policies, strategies, initiatives and projects gathered through the latest Roadmap update process (June 2024)
2. Complemented by baseline information provided by the countries in the latest round of yearly reporting in the context of the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy meetings

# Main results of the pilot calculation

- Total actions identified per type
- Total number of frameworks / initiatives / processes per Ministerial Declaration priority
- Total number of regional projects per Ministerial Declaration priority
- Total funding mobilised per priority (regional projects)
- Total number of regional projects per type of activity or service

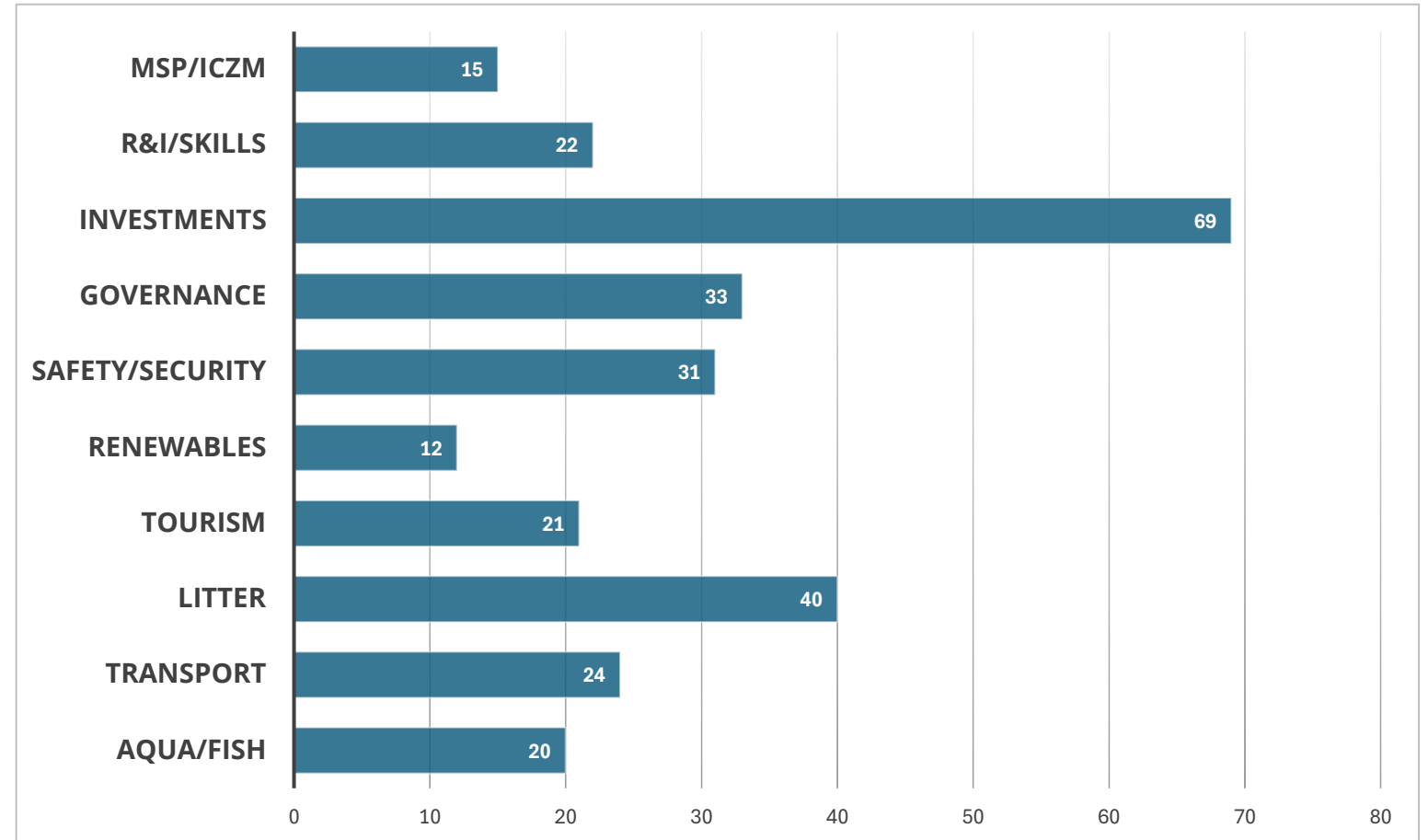
# Total actions identified per type

- Total of **657** actions identified through the mapping exercise, of which:
  - ✓ 137 (21%) are Mediterranean-wide frameworks, initiatives
  - ✓ 150 (23%) are sub-regional frameworks and initiatives
  - ✓ 370 (56%) are transnational projects



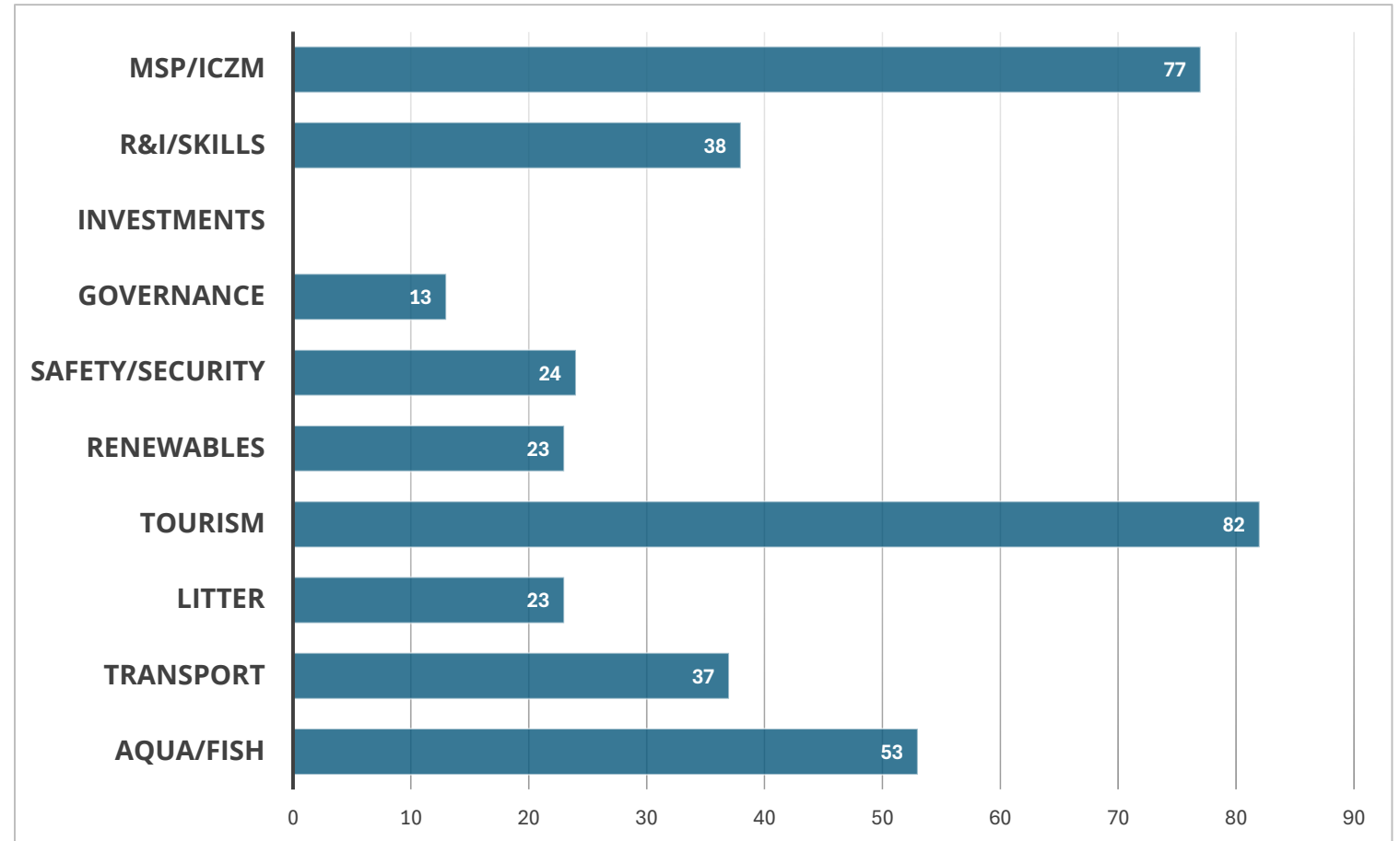
# Total number of frameworks / initiatives / processes per Ministerial Declaration priority

- Total of **287 frameworks, initiatives and processes** (both regional and sub-regional) were identified.
- ✓ The priorities *most* covered include: sustainable investments, marine litter and governance
- ✓ The priorities *least* covered include: marine renewable energies and MSP/ICZM



# Total number of regional projects per Ministerial Declaration priority

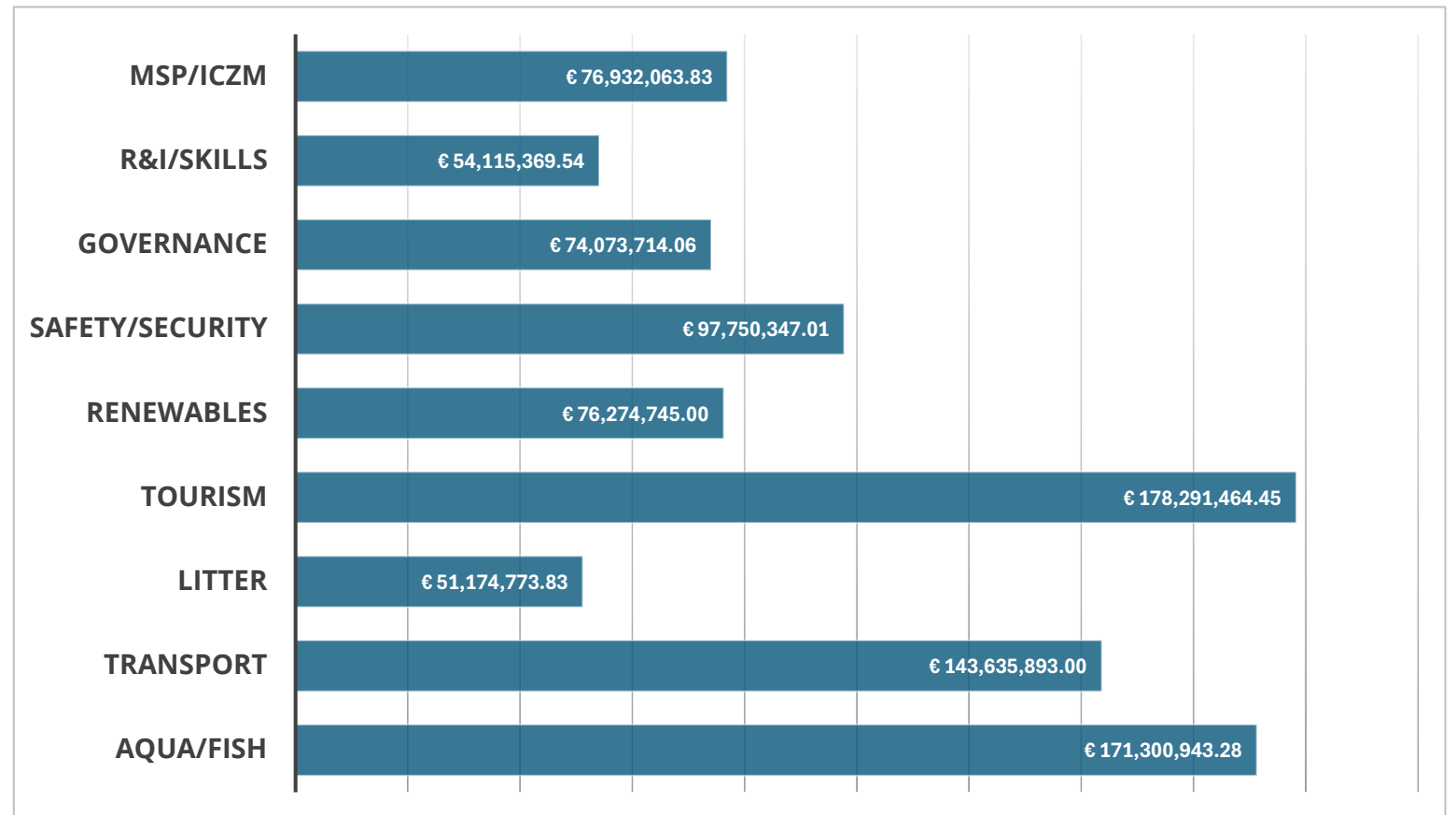
- Total of **370 transnational projects** at Mediterranean level were identified so far.
- ✓ The priorities *most* covered include: coastal and maritime tourism, MSP/ICZM, fisheries and aquaculture
- ✓ The priorities *least* covered include: governance and marine renewable energies
- ✓ “Investments projects” are not considered as a category (only programmes were mapped)



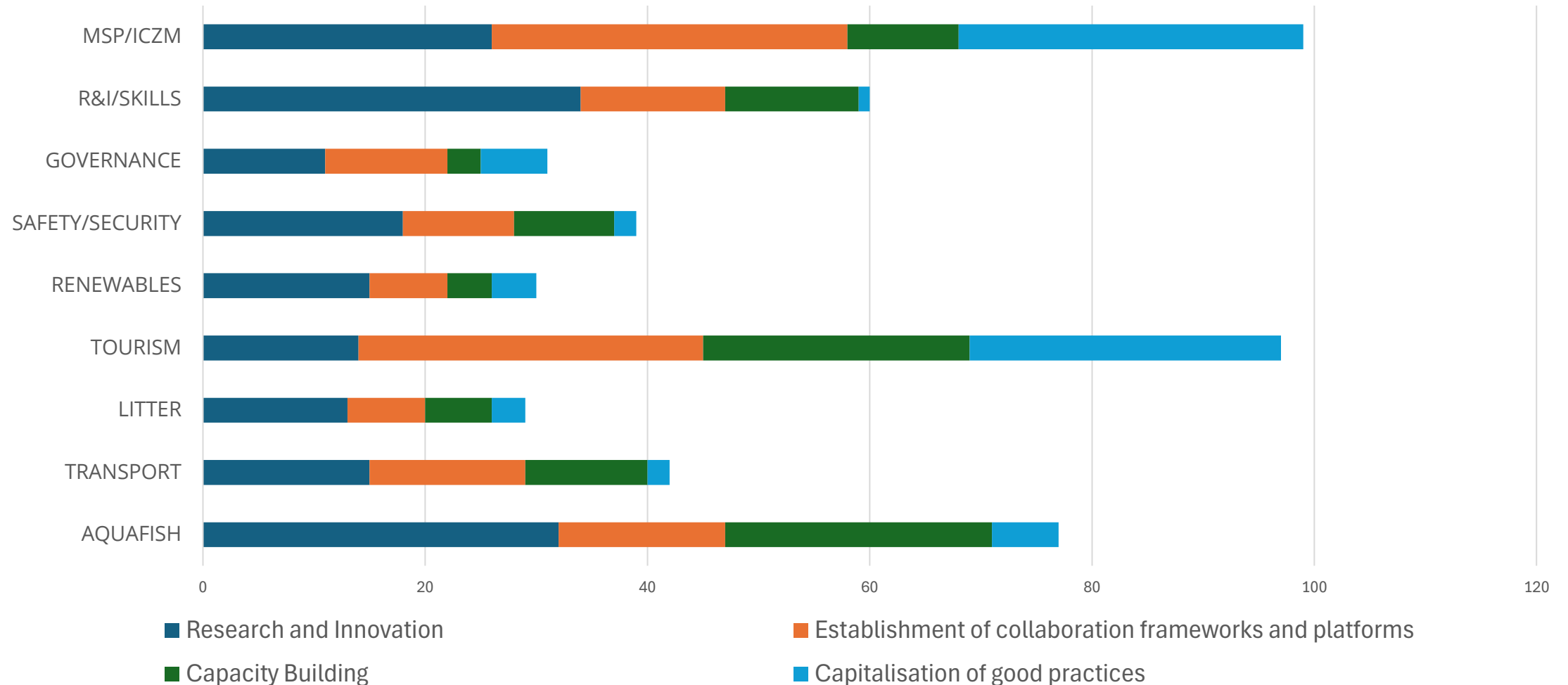


# Total funding mobilised per priority (regional projects)

- Close to **1 billion euro** (952.211.659,95 €) have been mobilised through transnational projects related to the blue economy Ministerial Declaration priorities in the Mediterranean.
- Transnational projects identified have been funded notably by **public funding programmes** at regional and sub-regional level, but also global funds, national international cooperation agencies, among other donors.
- Private investments in each priority are beyond the scope of this exercise.
- ✓ The priorities *attracting larger funding volumes* include: tourism and aquaculture and fisheries
- ✓ The priorities *mobilising relatively less funding* include: marine litter and research & innovation / skills



# Total number of regional projects per type of activity or service



# Indicators to be calculated yet - and that will need focus and country support

For each Ministerial Declaration priority:

- Actions, initiatives, frameworks and projects at national level
- Sub-sectoral/Sub-priority indicators (as indicated in country reporting template)
- Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects

# Immediate next steps

Activity	July	August	September	October
<b>Analysis of country reports</b> , based on presentations delivered during today's meeting				
Update of the <b>Roadmap</b> , incorporating countries' reports				
Calculation of remaining <b>indicators</b> , building on countries' reports				
Elaboration of <b>Yearly Report on Progress</b> (to be delivered in the next Regional Platform meeting)				



# Annex 1: Sector-specific indicators

The indicators calculated for each priority are displayed in the following slides in **bold**. Indicators not in bold have not been calculated so far.

## Fisheries and aquaculture

### Output (Process indicators)

+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation planned in the area of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, in particular with regards to the following sub-priorities:

- Ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries, including the establishment of marine protected areas and fisheries restricted areas
- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)
- Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)
- Diversification of the blue bio-economy
- Market innovation, eco-labelling and traceability of seafood

**+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation being implemented in the Mediterranean area in the field of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (with regards to the sub-priorities mentioned above)**

+Level of compliance at national level with GFCM/FAO recommendations on fishing stocks management and aquaculture

**+Level of financial support committed/secured to support the priority on Sustainable Food from the Sea: Fisheries and Aquaculture**

**+Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects**

### Outcomes (result indicators)

+Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects underway or finished in the field of Sustainable Food from the Sea: Fisheries and Aquaculture, mainly:

Number/type of new/enhanced products/services developed;

Number/type of new/enhanced collaboration networks and platforms being supported/activated;

**Number/type of stakeholders (businesses, research, CSOs, etc.) involved and benefitting from the action/activity/project;** Number/type of regional policies influenced as a result of regional cooperation (mainstreaming).

# Sustainable transports and ports

<b>Output (Process indicators)</b>
+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation planned in the area Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports, in particular with regards to the following sub-priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce relevant air pollution, including the implementation of the global 0.50% sulphur limit in marine fuels</li> <li>• Setting up an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides in the Mediterranean Sea</li> <li>• Provision of Onshore Power Supply and energy saving technologies for ports activities</li> <li>• Development of alternative and transitional fuels</li> <li>• Technical and operational energy efficiency for ships</li> <li>• Provision of clean energy and technology</li> <li>• Fully digital administrative environment for waterborne transport, necessary for achieving the full benefits of a Maritime Single Window system □ Ensuring that vessels only get dismantled in facilities which meet high social and environmental standards</li> </ul>
<b>+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation being implemented in the Mediterranean area in the field of Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports (with regards to the sub-priorities mentioned above)</b>
+Level of enforcement / ratification of the IMO’s requirement setting the global 0.50% sulphur limit in marine fuels at national level
<b>+Level of financial support committed/secured to support the priority of Sustainable Climate Neutral and Zero Pollution Transport and Ports</b>
<b>+Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects</b>
<b>Outcomes (result indicators)</b>
+Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects underway or finished in the field of Sustainable Climate Neutral and Zero Pollution Transport and Ports, mainly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number/type of new/enhanced products/services developed;</li> <li>• Number/type of new/enhanced collaboration networks and platforms being supported/activated;</li> <li>• <b>Number/type of stakeholders (businesses, research, CSOs, etc.) involved and benefitting from the action/activity/project;</b></li> <li>• Number/type of regional policies influenced as a result of regional cooperation (mainstreaming).</li> </ul>

## Coastal and maritime tourism

### Output (Process indicators)

+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation planned in the area of Coastal and Maritime Tourism, in particular with regards to the following sub-priorities:

- Promotion of the digitalization of the sector
- Reduction of carbon emissions and greening of the tourism industry, including tourism-related maritime transport
- Diversification including experience-based and slow tourism as well as tourism associating the hinterland
- Promotion of eco-tourism and niche tourism

**+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation being implemented in the Mediterranean area in the field of Coastal and Maritime Tourism (with regards to the sub-priorities mentioned above)**

**+Level of fiscal and investment policies to support sustainable coastal and marine tourism at national level**

**+Level of financial support committed/secured to support sustainable coastal and marine tourism.**

**+Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects**

### Outcomes (result indicators)

+Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects underway or finished in the field of Coastal and Maritime Tourism, mainly:

- Number/type of new/enhanced products/services developed;
- Number/type of new/enhanced collaboration networks and platforms being supported/activated;
- **Number/type of stakeholders (businesses, research, CSOs, etc.) involved and benefitting from the action/activity/project;**
- Number/type of regional policies influenced as a result of regional cooperation (mainstreaming).



# Marine renewable energies

## Output (Process indicators)

+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation planned in the area of Marine Renewable Energies, particularly addressing the following sub-priorities:

- Research and innovation on MRE technologies
- Multi-use activities (e.g. combination of different maritime activities in the same marine space, including MRE) □ Environmental impacts of MREs
- Enhancement of regulatory frameworks and facilitation of licensing processes

**+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation being implemented in the Mediterranean area in the field of Marine Renewable Energies (with regards to the sub-priorities mentioned above)**

+Number of national MRE-related strategies and regulatory frameworks in place

**+Level of financial support committed/secured to support the development of Marine Renewable Energies in the Mediterranean**

**+Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects**

## Outcomes (result indicators)

+Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects underway or finished in the field of Marine Renewable Energies, mainly:

- Number/type of new/enhanced products/services developed;
- Number/type of new/enhanced collaboration networks and platforms being supported/activated;
- **Number/type of stakeholders (businesses, research, CSOs, etc.) involved and benefitting from the action/activity/project;**
- Number/type of regional policies influenced as a result of regional cooperation (mainstreaming).

# Marine litter

## Output (Process indicators)

+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation planned in the area of Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy, in particular with regards to the following sub-priorities:

- Raising awareness and addressing marine litter including micro-plastics
- Prevention measures and circular approaches
- Improvement of port reception facilities to ensure proper collection and recycling of waste coming from all maritime activities
- Address the issue of marine litter from aquaculture and the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear engaging with fishermen to involve them in the collection of marine litter at sea
- Achieving 100% plastic waste collection and recycling, by 2025

**+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation being implemented in the Mediterranean area in the field of Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy (with regards to the sub-priorities mentioned above)**

+Level of implementation of the Regional Action Plan on marine litter management in the Mediterranean at national level

+Level of progress in the Barcelona Convention's COP 21 commitment to take urgent action to prevent plastic leakage in the Mediterranean Sea

**+Level of financial support committed/secured to support the priority of Marine Litter**

**+Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects**

## Outcomes (result indicators)

+Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects underway or finished in the field of Marine Litter, mainly:

- Number/type of new/enhanced products/services developed;
- Number/type of new/enhanced collaboration networks and platforms being supported/activated;
- **Number/type of stakeholders (businesses, research, CSOs, etc.) involved and benefitting from the action/activity/project;**
- Number/type of regional policies influenced as a result of regional cooperation (mainstreaming).

## Maritime safety and security

### Output (Process indicators)

+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation planned in the area of Maritime Safety and Security, particularly addressing the following sub-priorities:

- Development of training activities
- Exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance and best practices
- Prevention and reaction against manmade and natural disasters
- Ship pollution

**+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation being implemented in the Mediterranean area in the field of Maritime Safety and Security (with regards to the sub-priorities mentioned above)**

+Level of financial support committed/secured to support the development of Maritime Safety and Security in the Mediterranean

+Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects

### Outcomes (result indicators)

+Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects underway or finished in the field of Maritime Safety and Security, mainly:

- Number/type of new/enhanced products/services developed;
- Number/type of new/enhanced collaboration networks and platforms being supported/activated;
- Number/type of stakeholders (businesses, research, CSOs, etc.) involved and benefitting from the action/activity/project; □                      Number/type of regional policies influenced as a result of regional cooperation (mainstreaming).

# Marine Research & Innovation

## Output (Process indicators)

+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation planned in the area of Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment, particularly addressing the following sub-priorities:

- Development of socioeconomic observatories
- Promotion of business opportunities in collaboration with the private sector
- Collaboration and agreements between countries on educational requirements
- Ocean literacy
- Clusters development
- Smart specialisation strategies

**+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation being implemented in the Mediterranean area in the field of Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment (with regards to the sub-priorities mentioned above)**

**+Level of financial support committed/secured to support the development of Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment**

**+Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects**

- Balanced representation of relevant stakeholders
- Balanced geographical representation

## Outcomes (result indicators)

+Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects underway or finished in the field of Marine Research and Innovation, mainly:

- Number/type of new/enhanced products/services developed;
- Number/type of new/enhanced collaboration networks and platforms being supported/activated;
- **Number/type of stakeholders (businesses, research, CSOs, etc.) involved and benefitting from the action/activity/project;**
- Number/type of regional policies influenced as a result of regional cooperation (mainstreaming).

# Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

## Output (Process indicators)

+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation planned in the area of Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, particularly addressing the following sub-priorities:

- Marine and coastal protected areas
- Preserving inland wetlands
- Land-sea interactions

**+Number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation being implemented in the Mediterranean area in the field of Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (with regards to the sub-priorities mentioned above)**

+Level of financial support committed/secured to support the implementation and use of Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

**+Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets of activities/projects**

- Balanced representation of relevant stakeholders
- Balanced geographical representation

## Outcomes (result indicators)

+Achieved and projected results of the different actions, sets of activities and projects underway or finished in the field of Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, mainly:

- Number/type of new/enhanced products/services developed;
- Number/type of new/enhanced collaboration networks and platforms being supported/activated;
- **Number/type of stakeholders (businesses, research, CSOs, etc.) involved and benefitting from the action/activity/project;**
- Number/type of regional policies influenced as a result of regional cooperation (mainstreaming).