



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



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 – ITALY***

# 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](mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org) and [adriana.salazar@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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	In Italy, marine research and innovation are carried out by several specialised institutes, mainly under the aegis of the National Research Council (CNR), the main public body dealing with research, which operates under the supervision of the Ministry of University and Research. These institutes collaborate nationally and internationally to develop innovative and sustainable technologies for marine resource management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.	<p>ISMAR (Institute of Marine Sciences): Focuses on basic and applied research in physical, chemical and biological oceanography, as well as marine geology.</p> <p>IAS (Institute for the Study of Anthropogenic Impacts and Sustainability in the Marine Environment): Focuses on anthropogenic impacts and sustainability of marine ecosystems.</p> <p>IRBIM (Institute for Marine Biological Resources and Biotechnology): Promotes research on marine organisms and ecosystems, with a focus on marine biodiversity and biotechnology.</p>
Clusters development		
Training activities	<p>Currently, Italy does not envisage updated elements to report on this issue.</p> <p>The country, anyhow, is in line with the main international standards in force in the field of training and certification of seafarers and has fully implemented the provisions relating to the International Convention STCW (<i>Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers</i>) adopted in 1978 (as amended).</p>	
Other	Further developments will certainly be favored by the interaction between the public sector and the private cluster and by the dialogue with the	

# 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
<p><b>Setting up an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides in the Mediterranean Sea</b></p>	<p>Italy participates along with other 14 countries to INTERREG NEXT MED, the largest transnational cooperation programme on the EU's external borders and, in this framework, is strongly committed to one of the four priorities of this programme, which envisages a greener, low-carbon and resilient Mediterranean, by reducing green house gas emissions and achieving energy efficiency.</p> <p>Climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches, are part of this objective.</p>	<p>Through the Bilateral cooperation Agreement between MASE and UNEP MAP Italy has financed, inter alia, the implementation of the SECA (Sulphur Emission Control Area) in the Mediterranean and feasibility studies leading to the launch of a similar process (NECA - Emission Control Area for nitrogen oxides).</p> <p>Indeed, the designation of the entire Mediterranean as a SECA (MEPC-December 2022) represents the result of a process strongly supported by Italy since its launch in December 2019 in Naples, during the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p>In the framework of the Barcelona Convention and, in particular, of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness for and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, launched by REMPEC and adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2021, Italy is currently coordinating the intersessional working group on climate change and air pollution from ships IWG CCAS which intends to support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy with reference to its specific objectives CSO 2 and CSO3</p>
<p><b>Development of alternative and transitional fuels</b></p>	<p>As regards maritime traffic for commercial purposes, in the last decades it has undergone a profound transformation, driven by the globalization of supply chains which have found in ports and maritime transport the</p>	<p>Currently, the fuel mix used in the maritime sector is based entirely on fossil fuels, the main cause of GHG emissions. This circumstance can be explained by the lack, in this field, of mature, affordable and globally</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><b>"Strategia nazionale per la lotta contro l'inquinamento da plastica" (National strategy to combat plastic pollution):</b></p> <p>This Strategy will include measures to encourage the adoption of responsible behavior in the purchase of single-use plastic products and to provide consumers of certain categories of single-use plastic products and fishing gear containing plastic the following informations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the availability of reusable alternatives, reuse systems and management options for the aforementioned waste;</li> <li>the impact on the environment, in particular the marine environment and inland waters, of the dispersion or other inappropriate waste disposal of such single-use plastic products and fishing gear containing plastic;</li> <li>the environmental impact of bad practices, the percentage of plastic content in certain products, as well as the impact of improper waste disposal methods of these single-use plastic products on the sewage system, domestic gray water discharges and road drains for rainwater;</li> <li>disposal and management of biodegradable and compostable products.</li> </ul>	<p><b>National waste prevention program update:</b></p> <p>It aims at reducing the amount of waste generated and its impact on the environment by promoting prevention, source reduction, reuse and recycling. This program was introduced in accordance with European directives and is part of a broader strategy for sustainable waste management.</p>
<p>Raising awareness and addressing marine litter including microplastics</p>		



# 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	Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, is part of a new multi-donor and multi-partner financial instrument conceived to support Sustainable Blue Economy projects in the Mediterranean region, along with coastal resilience investments, including sustainable marine mobility (shipping and ports), coastal tourism and nature-based-solutions.	
Promotion of the digitalisation of the sector		
Other	Despite its potential, the sector faces some challenges, such as the need for greater cooperation between local actors and sustainable resource management	Organisations such as Federbalneari Italia work to promote quality, safe and sustainable coastal tourism through partnerships and certifications

# 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>The MSP Directive was transposed into national legislation through Legislative Decree 17 October 2016, n. 201 that establishes a <b>multilevel governance</b> to prepare the plans, as well as to subsequently implement and monitor the plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•According to article 8, functions of <b>MSP Competent Authority</b> are the responsibility of the <b>Ministry of infrastructure and transport</b>;</li> <li>•Article 6 establishes an <b>Inter-Ministerial Coordination Table</b>, chaired by a representative of the Presidency of the Council of Ministries (Department for European Policies), with participation of various Ministries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourisms, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Department of Regional Affairs, Autonomies and Sport of the Presidency of the Council of Ministries, Agency of Customs and Monopolies).</li> </ul> <p>The main tasks for the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Table to implement are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Defining maritime areas of reference for the development of maritime plans and coastal areas relevant for sea-land interaction analysis;</li> </ol>	<p>Italy has its own National Plan for the Sea (2023-2025). It was approved by Cipom, the Interministerial Committee for Sea Policy. The Plan for the Sea, envisaged by Article 12 of Legislative Decree 173 of 2022, is the planning tool that the government and parliament will use to launch a unitary and strategic maritime policy. It was drafted after several months of comparisons and hearings, by a special committee of experts, with the main public and private players operating in the ‘sea system’ and, according to the law, must be updated every three years. The approval of the document was attended by representatives of the Defence, Infrastructure, Environment, Culture, Finance, Agriculture, Tourism, European Affairs, PNRR, Foreign Affairs, Enterprise and Made in Italy, and Regional Affairs Ministries.</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		
Specification of licensing procedures		
Other	<p>The sea will have to play a central role in the production of renewable energies, as emerges from the work carried out as part of the update of the integrated national energy and climate plan and the report of the Minister for the Environment and Energy Security, attached to the Economic and Financial Document 2023, as well as the National Strategy for the Decarbonisation of the Italian Economy, adopted in 2021.</p> <p>According to the scenarios developed in these areas, the electrification of end-use of energy plays a key role in decarbonisation, but only on condition that the production of electricity from renewable sources is strongly promoted. Offshore wind production will therefore be a key decisive factor</p>	<p>Offshore wind: while remaining far from oil and gas supply, the production of wind energy is now a significant industry, with some ports serving as logistical hubs for the installation of offshore farms. The Integrated National Plan Energy and Climate (PNIEC) envisions the production of 900 MW by 2030 of offshore wind powering our nation as part of the target set by the European Strategy on offshore renewable energy to reach Europe-wide 60 GW of wind power offshore in 2030 and 300 GW in 2050. Traditional offshore wind power plants are now joined by new technology floating that allows projects to be built in deep waters such as those in the Mediterranean, an area that is experiencing strong interest from many major national and international players, particularly</p>



# 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		<p><b>EUREKA PROJECT</b></p> <p>On 30th September 2023, the project called EUREKA was financed by the Interreg ADRION 2014-2020 program in implementation of specific actions of the Action Plan of the EU Macro-regional strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR). The Italian Coast Guard (ITCG) contributed in this project as a partner and together with all the maritime administrations of the aforementioned region, to achieve the following main project objectives: creation of a permanent transnational network of representatives of maritime administrations for the coordination of the activities of specific thematic working groups relating to the various aspects of maritime safety in the Adriatic-Ionian region; modernization of the mandatory ship reporting system of the Adriatic Sea (ADRIREP Mandatory Ship Reporting System) by identifying adequate operational procedures and technical solutions for the amendment of IMO Resolution MSC 139(76) of 5th December 2002; strengthening the exchange of data and information on maritime traffic for the benefit of national VTMISS systems; harmonization and standardization of VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) services in the Adriatic-Ionian region. In particular, also thanks to the technical support provided by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the connection between the PELAGUS platform and the Integrated Reports Distribution (IRD) platform was implemented for the purposes of integrated management of the new ADRIREP system and following which the necessary experiments with ships will be conducted.</p>
Exchange of information, expertise, technical		



# 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?**

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.**

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

