



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



16<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy  
Brussels – 2 October 2024

***Annual reporting by Ministerial priority:  
Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial  
Declaration on SBE – Türkiye***

# 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	<p>National Marine Research and Innovation Strategy Document</p> <p>Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and its Implementation Plan to strengthen regional cooperation among public research funders facilitate the alignment of national priorities (such as research and innovation strategies) and prepare the ground for the focused funding of strategic joint actions to address the key challenges and goals of the SRIA (Launch; <a href="http://connect2blacksea.org/press-release-on-the-launch-of-the-black-sea-sria-implementation-plan/">http://connect2blacksea.org/press-release-on-the-launch-of-the-black-sea-sria-implementation-plan/</a> Plan; <a href="http://connect2blacksea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/23062023-Black-Sea-SRIA-Implementation-Plan.pdf">http://connect2blacksea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/23062023-Black-Sea-SRIA-Implementation-Plan.pdf</a>)</p>	Marine Research Programme
Clusters development		
Training activities		<p>Mediterranean Fisheries Research, Production and Training Institute (AKSAM)</p> <p>Istanbul Technical University Eastern Mediterranean Centre for Oceanography and Limnology</p> <p>Dokuz Eylül University Institute of Marine Science and Technology</p> <p>Istanbul University Institute of Marine Science and Management</p> <p>Middle East Technical University Marine Sciences (i. Graduate level marine sciences</p>

# 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More than 70 completely restricted areas in Gokova Bay</li> <li>- The Twelfth National Development Plan (2024-2028)</li> <li>- <b>With the Regulation on the Amendment of the Regulation on Aquaculture published in July 2024, new legal arrangements were introduced especially on aquaculture production regions.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fisheries Coastal Zones Development Road Map and Governance Model Development Project</li> <li>- Marine Research Programme (TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center)</li> </ul>
Tackling Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)	<p>Ratification of FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing in 2018</p> <p>To combat IUU fishing more effectively Fisheries Law was issued in 2020</p>	
Support to Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)	<p>Financial support for SSF- <b>With a view to ensuring the protection and sustainability of aquaculture resources in our marine inland waters as well as ensuring the continuity of SSF, support payments are made within the scope of “Supporting Small-Scale Fisheries” to all fishing vessels operating in inland waters and fishing vessels of less than 12 m in length operating in the seas. In order to draw attention to the importance of women in rural development, to increase women's contribution to production, to encourage their transition to economic life, and to ensure that there are more women's hands in fisheries, it is planned to give 35% more of the unit support amount to women ship owners/partners in this support model. In 2024, a total of 70,407,750 TL was paid to 15,416 vessels.</b></p>	
Other	<p>Member of the General Fisheries Commission in the Mediterranean (GCFM)</p> <p>Full compliance with fisheries management at national level</p>	<p>MedSea4 Fish Project</p> <p>- Integrated Marine Pollution Monitoring Program (Den-İz): <b>The program is designed according to the Regional Marine Conventions that Türkiye is</b></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
<p>Setting up an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides in the Mediterranean Sea</p>	<p>Active role in designation of Med Sea as a whole, as Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides</p> <p>Ratification of MARPOL Annex VI, HNS, BMW and Hong Kong Convention</p> <p><b>Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031</b></p>	
<p>Development of alternative and transitional fuels</p>	<p>Financial Support Mechanism for Green Shipping <b>aims renewal of Turkish merchant vessels, which came to the end of their lifecycle, and which are not energy efficient with the new, energy efficient or alternative fuel using vessels. The relevant regulation was amended in March 2024 and for those vessels using alternative fuels, the amount of the incentive is increased. Within the scope of the same programme, retrofit of the main engine of the vessels with the engines using environmentally friendly alternative energy is supported.</b></p> <p><b>Legal works on introducing carbon levy for commercial ships arriving at or departing from Turkish ports is in progress. In this regard, the Law on Ports was amended in July 2024 and secondary legislation for the implementation details is being prepared.</b></p>	<p>Green Port Project</p> <p>Maritime Decarbonisation and Green Shipping Project</p> <p>LNG Bunkering Project in Marmara Sea</p>
<p>Digitalisation of the sector</p>	<p>National Maritime Single Window operational since 2018</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>Regional Plan for the Marine Litter Management in the Med 2013</p> <p>Marine Environment Protection Strategy Document and Action Plan</p> <p>Party to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Med Sea Against Pollution</p> <p>Adopted Mediterranean strategy for Sustainable Development</p> <p>MEDPAN</p> <p>Black Sea Marine Litter Regional Action Plan 2018</p> <p>Zero Waste Regulation 2019</p> <p>Circular Strategy on the Preparation and Implementation of Marine Litter Provincial Action Plans 2019</p> <p>5 Year Marine Litter Provincial Action Plans</p>	<p>Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter Sharing Report</p> <p>Zero Waste Project Zero Waste Blue</p> <p>DEEP Project Assessment of Türkiye's Potential on Transition to Circular Economy</p> <p>Den-Iz Integrated Marine Pollution Monitoring Program</p> <p>Establishment of Türkiye BlueMissionMed Hub (under Heurope BLUEMISSIONMED Project). Hub activities aim to transform Mission Ocean's actions towards the prevention and elimination of pollution in the Mediterranean (e.g. urban and industrial wastewater, terrestrial inputs from agriculture, etc., marine litter including macro and microplastic) into synergy. (Hubs in Action; in June 2024 <a href="https://bluemissionmed.eu/turkiye-bluemissionmed-national-hub-in-action-2/">https://bluemissionmed.eu/turkiye-bluemissionmed-national-hub-in-action-2/</a>)</p> <p>Preparation of National Action Plan Related to Pollution Originating from Land Based Sources (LBS NAP 2023) Project"</p> <p>National Baseline Budget Report 2023 for Turkey (5th Cyle NBB for Turkey)</p> <p>UNEP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP): Republic Of Turkiye For The Implementation of The LBS Protocol And Its Regional Plans</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	The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans prepared at the regional level to encourage eco-tourism in coastal areas.	
Promotion of the digitalisation of the sector		The “Sailing Permit System” or “Transit log” for all yachts visiting Turkish ports, which was moved to digital environment as of 2008 was upgraded and fully digitalized with the inclusion of all relevant ministries in July 2024. The upgraded System allows sailors to carry out all sailing permit procedures of their yachts and ship agencies through the system. It includes declarations and information regarding the yacht, skippers and passengers. The system is used to complete the procedures when yachts arrive, depart and when wintering in Turkish ports.
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>Blue Plan 2053- , <b>Preparation of the Blue Plan is ongoing. It is envisaged to complete the work on Guidelines for Blue Economy and Marine Spatial Planning by the end of the this year</b></p> <p>By Law on Preparation of Spatial Plans including procedures of the Integrated Coastal Zone Plans to be prepared with a strategic approach for coastal áreas and their hinterlands and guide the zoning plans</p> <p>Blue Economy was planned as a part of the Maritime Spatial Planning at our plans and integrated with MSP.</p>	<p>-GIS Project: establishment of blue economy information platform based o geographic information systems Project</p> <p>-Maritime Spatial Planning Project</p> <p><b>-A project has been initiated at the provincial and national levels, focusing on the interaction and relationship between terrestrial and marine spatial planning, particularly along the coasts and gulfs of Izmir Province. This project aims to examine how existing planning legislation and institutional frameworks can facilitate a coherent integration of land and marine-based planning processes. The goal is to highlight the synergies between terrestrial and maritime spatial planning, ensuring Blue economy, sustainable development and efficient governance across these interconnected domains</b></p> <p><b>Preparation of National Action Plan Related to Pollution Originating from Land Based Sources (LBS NAP 2023) Project"</b></p> <p><b>National Baseline Budget Report 2023 for Turkey (5th Cyle NBB for Turkey)</b></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	Hydrogen Technologies Strategy and Roadmap announced in 2023	
Specification of licensing procedures		
Other	<p>* National Energy Plan 2023: At the end of 2022, the long term Türkiye National Energy Plan covering the period between 2020-2035 was announced . In developing the report, basic indicators such as population, economic development and fuel prices were taken into account in order to estimate the sectoral activities that make up the energy demands of the industry, residential, services, agriculture and transport sectors. The plan also constitutes a base for the net-zero target of Türkiye by 2053 and includes recommendations for the 2035-2053 horizon.</p>	Offshore Wind Farms Large-Scale Integration in Türkiye - Windflag Project

# 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	Turkish National Maritime Safety Centre	
Exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance and best practices		
Other		Vessel Traffic Services (VTSs) are in place in major ports including İzmir and Mersin port areas to ensure navigational safety.

# 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?**

**We have strategies that include blue economy components, although currently they are not under the name of the national blue economy strategy. Blue economy strategies are being created within the scope of the authorities and responsibilities of different ministries.**

**In the medium/long term, while providing economic growth based on the sea, the 2053 National Sustainable Blue Economy Action Plan will be prepared to protect the seas and marine ecosystems.**

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.**

**Turkey's blue economy has been growing rapidly in recent years, and the added value created by sea-based industries in our country is also increasing. In addition, Turkey's blue economy is supported by a strong maritime sector that includes shipbuilding, ship repair and port activities. It is not difficult to predict today that these developments may have much more positive reflections when looking at the developments in green and sustainable finance markets in the coming period.**

**In this context, innovative financial instruments can create a very serious leverage effect for these sectors with strategic steps to be taken. We have some projects and action plans regarding the blue economy. For instance blue economy is an important part of maritime spatial planning.**

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

**The most important bottleneck is that blue economy issues fall under the jurisdiction of many different institutions. This fact may cause the work to proceed slowly.**

