

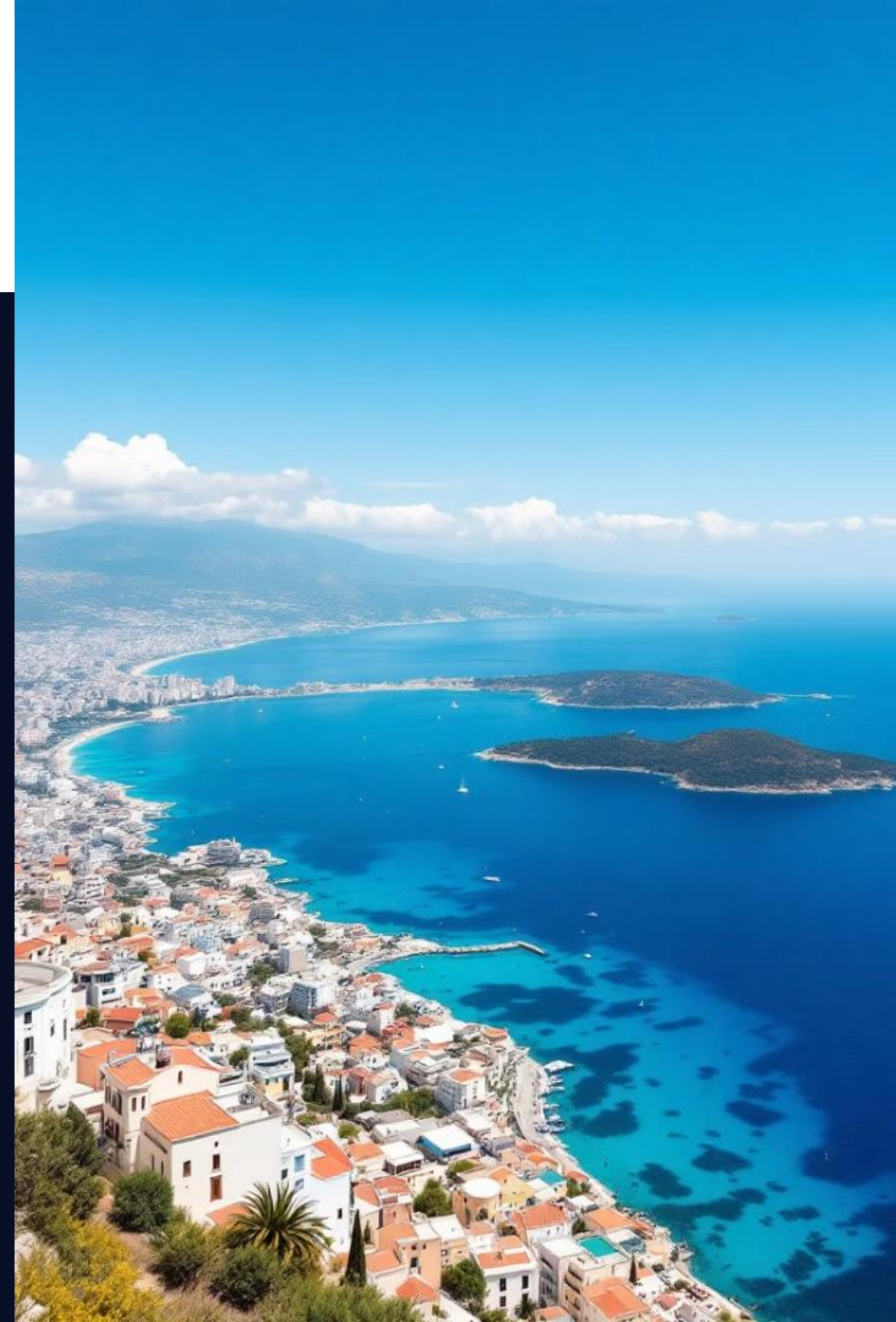


Strengthening Synergies: EUSAIR Priorities and the Sustainable Blue Economy Platform of UfM

Exploring Cooperation for a Sustainable Mediterranean Future

17th meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy
Barcelona, 19 February 2025

Mathilde Konstantopoulou
EUSAIR National Coordinator
Ministry of Economy & Finance, Greece



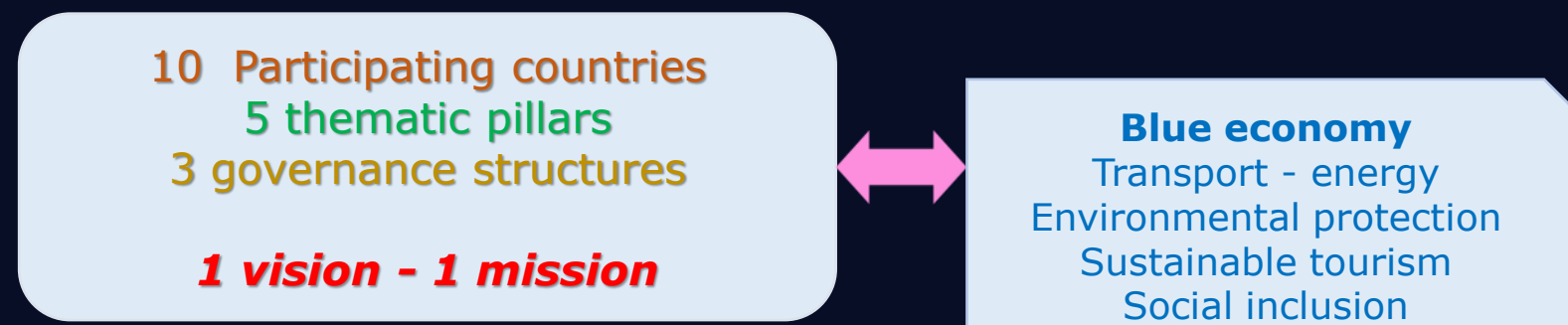
Introduction

EUSAIR

A macro-regional strategy aimed at fostering sustainable growth and prosperity in the Mediterranean region.

UfM's Sustainable Blue Economy Platform

A platform promoting the sustainable use of marine resources and promoting sustainable maritime activities.



EUSAIR Hellenic Presidency Priorities



10th EUSAIR FORUM

Chania, Crete

6-7-8 May 2025

1 EU Enlargement

Facilitating the integration of Western Balkan countries into the European Union.

2 Cohesion Policy Post-2027

Promoting territorial and economic integration through targeted investments.

3 Green Transition

Transitioning to a low-carbon economy and investing in renewable energy sources.

4 Blue Economy & Skills

Developing maritime expertise and skills through training and research.

5 Environmental Protection

Conserving biodiversity and protecting Mediterranean ecosystems.

EUSAIR Hellenic Presidency Priorities & Hellenic Presidency Events & Activities



1

EU Enlargement

Facilitating the integration of Western Balkan countries into the European Union

2

Cohesion Policy Post-2027

Promoting territorial and economic integration through targeted investments

3

Green Transition

Transitioning to a low-carbon economy and investing in renewable energy sources.

Thessaloniki
7.2.2025

Athens
12.3.2025

4

Blue Economy & Skills

Developing maritime expertise and skills through training and research.

5

Environmental Protection

Conserving biodiversity and protecting Mediterranean ecosystems.

Piraeus
10.12.2024

Athens
4.3.2025

Corfu
8.4.2025

Union for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy Platform

Objectives

Balancing economic growth with ecological sustainability and promoting a circular economy.

Achievements

Establishing a Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform, implementing the BLUEMED initiative, and launching projects focusing on spatial planning and pollution reduction.



Success Stories ...



BLUEMED Initiative

Advancing marine research and innovation, supporting the development of sustainable blue economy sectors.

WestMED Initiative

Catalyzing sustainable maritime activities in the Western Mediterranean, promoting economic growth and environmental sustainability.

1

2

3

Marine Protected Areas

Expanding the network of Marine Protected Areas in Greece, preserving biodiversity and fragile ecosystems.

Interlinkages Between EUSAIR & UfM



Common Goals

Sustainable growth, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.



Opportunities for Synergy

Joint capacity-building programs, policy harmonization, and collaborative funding initiatives.



Identifying synergies 1/2

Sustainable Tourism & Blue Economy

- ❖ Develop eco-friendly tourism strategies that highlight marine resources.
- ❖ Collaborate on projects that promote Adriatic marine conservation.

Marine Environment Protection

- ❖ Joint efforts in protecting marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
- ❖ Share research and best practices on pollution reduction.

Maritime Transport and Connectivity

- ❖ Enhance shipping routes and logistics that support sustainable trade.
- ❖ Develop policies that promote greener shipping initiatives.



Identifying synergies 2/2

Fisheries and Aquaculture

- ❖ Work together to create sustainable fisheries management practices.
- ❖ Encourage innovation in aquaculture technologies.

Blue Growth Innovation

- ❖ Foster partnerships to drive innovation in marine technology.
- ❖ Joint funding opportunities for research and development.



Proposals for Collaboration



Potential Collaborative Projects

1

Workshops and conferences to disseminate best practices.

2

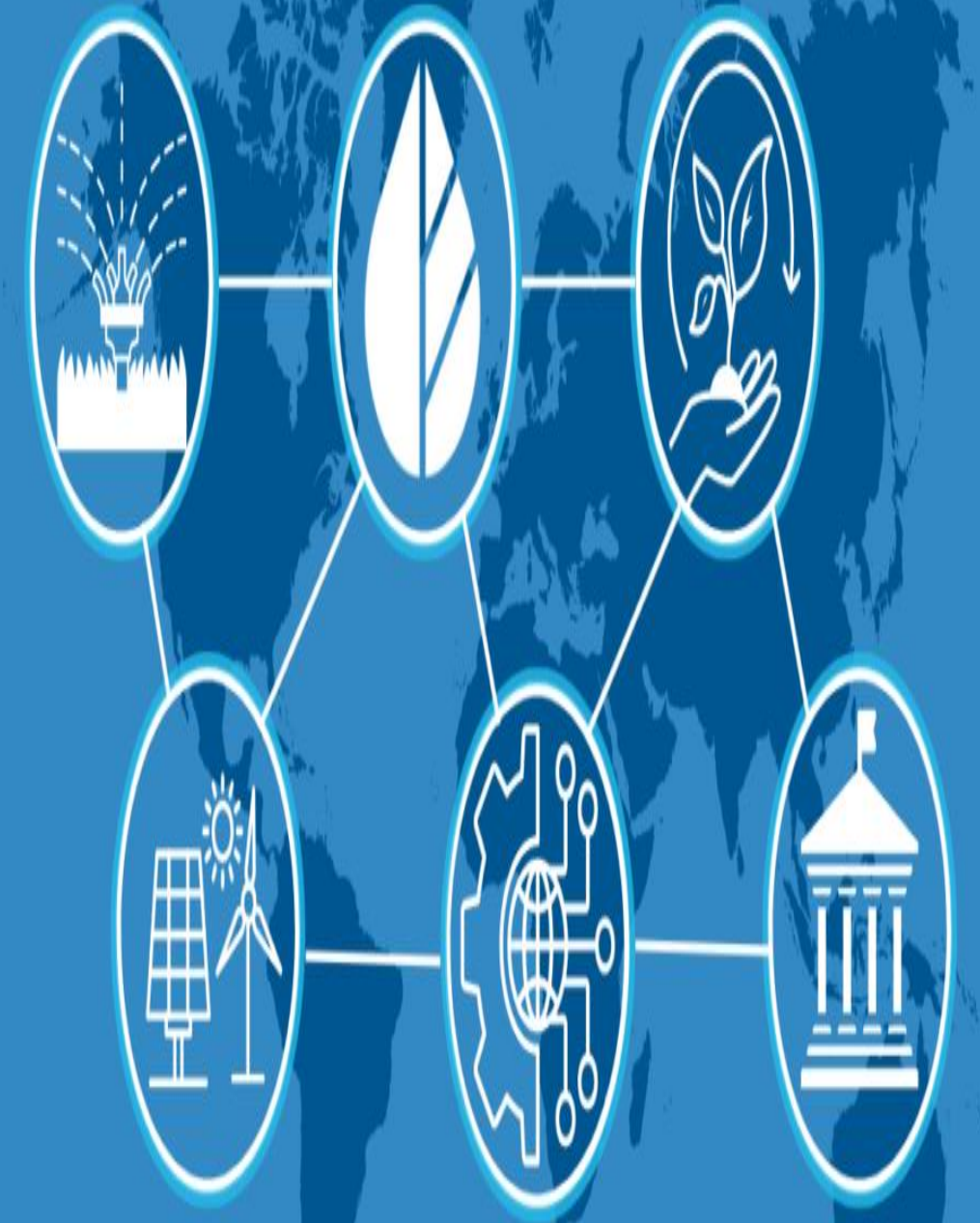
Pilot projects focusing on sustainability in tourism and fisheries.

3

Joint research initiatives on climate impact and marine life

4

.....



Challenges in Implementation

1

Fragmented Funding

Lack of coordinated funding mechanisms and challenges in accessing resources.

2

Policy Misalignment

Inconsistencies in policies and regulations among member states, creating barriers to collaboration.

3

Skill Gaps

A need for targeted training programs to address skills shortages in maritime industries.



EU Pact of skills 1/2

1

The Core Mission

- ❖ A European Commission initiative to address skills gaps and ensure a skilled workforce for the green and digital transitions.
- ❖ Aims to mobilize employers, education and training providers, and public bodies to create upskilling and reskilling opportunities.
- ❖ Focuses on large-scale and regional partnerships to foster collaboration across sectors and regions.
- ❖ Supports the delivery of shared skills objectives, meeting the needs of employers, economic sectors, and employees.
- ❖ Offers resources, guidance, and funding opportunities to support skills development initiatives.

2

Key Goals and Principles

- ❖ **Member-led:** Partnerships driven by the needs and priorities of participating organizations.
- ❖ **Collaborative:** Shared responsibility and active participation among members.
- ❖ **Inclusive:** Open to a wide range of stakeholders across sectors and regions.
- ❖ **Sustainable:** Focuses on long-term skills development and economic growth.
- ❖ **Impact-focused:** Emphasis on measuring progress and demonstrating results through key performance indicators (KPIs).

EU Pact of skills 2/2/2

3 Partnership Activities and Support

- ❖ **Developing Partnerships:** Guidance on creating partnership agreements, engaging stakeholders, and establishing coordinating arrangements.
- ❖ **Key Activities:** Expanding partnership reach, skills intelligence, knowledge sharing, community building, and regional initiatives.
- ❖ **Pact Support Services:** Provides tailored advice, guidance, and technical support to partnership coordinators.
- ❖ **Capacity Building:** Access to online resources, funding opportunities, and networking activities.

4 Monitoring and Evaluation

- ❖ Development and use of monitoring frameworks to track progress toward commitments.
- ❖ Use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the impact of partnership activities.
- ❖ Regular monitoring exercises, including surveys and reports to assess progress.



EU Pact for Skills in Tourism: A Collaborative Approach



1 Unified Voice

The Pact brings together diverse stakeholders (businesses, EU organizations, social partners, training providers, and authorities) to address skills challenges in the tourism sector.

2 Twin Transition Focus

Addresses the skills needs of the green and digital transitions within the tourism industry.

3 Upskilling/Reskilling

Aims to improve existing skills (upskilling) and train for new skills (reskilling) across the tourism workforce. Targets 10% of the workforce annually for upskilling/reskilling through 2030

4 Multi-level Approach

Promotes joint action at national, regional, and local levels, building on existing structures while ensuring new skills align with overall policy and curricula.

5 Key Priorities

Includes initiatives to recover the workforce lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, address skills gaps, and promote training in high-demand areas (digital, green, and social skills). Highlights the importance of blended learning approaches (internships, apprenticeships).

6 Monitoring and KPIs

Uses key performance indicators (KPIs) to track progress toward goals, regularly reviewing and adapting activities as needed. Focuses on improving the quality of training offered.

7 Collaboration and Support

The Pact for Skills provides resources, guidance, and funding opportunities, along with networking and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve shared objectives

EU Pact for Skills in Blue Economy – Key Objectives

1 Addressing skills gaps for a sustainable Blue Economy

- ❖ Blue skills are essential for supporting innovation, sustainability, and the twin green & digital transition.
- ❖ The EU Pact for Skills promotes upskilling & reskilling to enhance workforce adaptability

2 Financial & Policy Support

- ❖ Leverages EU funds (ESF, ERDF, EMFAF, Horizon) for training programs.
- ❖ Aligns with EU Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy & European Green Deal

3 Collaboration across sectors

- ❖ Focus on cooperative partnerships in maritime industries, including shipbuilding and offshore renewable energy
- ❖ Involves education institutions, businesses, public authorities, and research bodies.

EU Pact for Skills in Blue Economy

Key Actions & Expected Outcomes



Key Actions

- ❖ Blue skills are essential for supporting innovation, sustainability, and the twin green & digital transition.
- ❖ The EU Pact for Skills promotes upskilling & reskilling to enhance workforce adaptability



Expected Outcomes

- ❖ A highly skilled workforce supporting maritime innovation & competitiveness.
- ❖ Increased investment in blue careers and improved job retention.
- ❖ Strengthened cooperation across EU regions for a sustainable blue economy.



Conclusion

Collaboration between EUSAIR and UfM is essential to achieve sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

By aligning strategies and maximizing regional impact, we can address shared challenges and create a more prosperous future for all.

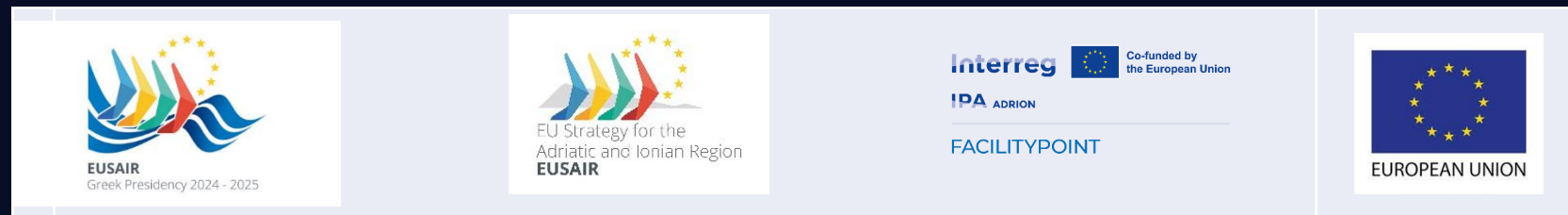




Thank you for your attention!

eusair-fp.gr@mou.gr

Stay tuned to EUSAIR's activities on: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Youtube](#).



Strategic project EUSAIR FACILITY POINT is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg IPA ADRIAN