



Union for the Mediterranean
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18th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy
Brussels, 15-16 October 2025

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

Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	✓ Enlargement of the MPAs network of Greece: The plans for the Ionian Marine National Park and the Aegean Marine National Park are under public consultation. Completion of these studies is expected to be followed by a formal designation. Furthermore, an MoU has already been signed between the MoEE, Ministries of Agriculture & Fisheries and Shipping & Insular Policy, NECCA, Global Fishing Watch and AC Laskaridis Foundation in order to provide support and training for the effective monitoring of the Greek MPAs. In addition, a tendering process is currently carried out for the procurement of monitoring and surveillance equipment. ✓ Support to Small Scale Fisheries: In order to maximise the participation of fishery and aquaculture sectors in the sustainable development of coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture areas, within 2025 the budget for financing local strategies was secured, a reform of local programs for each fishing zone was carried out (14 zones in total) and the preparatory actions to launch the call for the operational costs of the Local Action Groups has been advanced. • Permanent withdrawal of fishing licenses of boat seines During 2024 there was an effort for the voluntary withdraw of the specific fishing gear (boat seine) from the fishing vessels licensed to use it, through two calls for funding. A total of 47 vessels out of in total 122 vessels) applied, and were withdrew.
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	✓ By 2030, at least 12 Greek ports will be equipped with cold ironing //Fleet replacement plan to reduce the environmental footprint of passenger shipping. Both procured studies for the accomplishment of the initiatives conducted by HRADF and MoMAIP are well advanced and under finalization within the year. Coastal passenger shipping fleet renewal and commissioning of low-emission ships on public service obligation coastal connections (state-subsidized routes) The preliminary technical and economic feasibility study has been concluded. The project is expected to be submitted for co-financing early 2026
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	✓ Promote the country's diving and underwater tourism. The marine environment will be protected while utilizing the country's comparative advantages with regard to its rich natural and cultural environment under the principles of sustainability, so that Greece becomes a pan-European diving destination. Following a call for tender, the evaluation of 113 submitted investment proposals is underway. Another call for tender concerning the digital platform to link the diving and underwater tourism product has also been launched.
Marine Renewable Energies	During Oct. 24 the competent Directorate of the Ministry of Environment & Energy granted a positive opinion on the National Off Shore Wind Farm Development Program, whereby the adequate financing has been secured to explore the offshore wind potential and the advancement of the first organised wind farm development areas.
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	✓ Application of digital techniques and combined measurement methods to improve monitoring and inspection of marine pollution Imposing prevention measures, Greece procured within the year the purchase of the required equipment
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) (www.hcmr.gr/en) is the main national body in the field. Under its auspices there are 3 institutes, Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture (IMBBC) (https://imbbs.hcmr.gr/), the Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters (https://imbriw.hcmr.gr) and the institute of Oceanography (https://io.hcmr.gr/)
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	The enactment of the National Spatial Planning Strategy for the Maritime Space has been concluded in 2025). The expected benefits of its enactment include sustainable development, allocation principles and rules for marine space and resources, economic growth, stability, transparency and predictability of the investment climate. To complete the required legal framework, on 17 April 2025 Greece adopted two Ministerial Decisions on the "Technical Specifications for the Maritime Spatial Frameworks (MSFs) and on the "Determination of Maritime Spatial Units (MSUs).



Projects at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Projects at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	Amorgorama . A sustainable approach to tackle both the problems of a continuously increasing plastic pollution as well as of overfishing in the Aegean Sea. In August of 2025, the Greek government enacted the official designation of Amorgos' proposed Fishing Restricted Areas (FRAs), a landmark victory for Greek marine protection and sustainable fishing. On October 5 th 2025, at an event in the port of Aegiali, the Prime Minister committed to replicating Amorgorama across Greek waters , calling it a model for the Mediterranean and fast-tracking future fisher-led proposals. https://reviveourocean.org/stories/amorgorama/
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	"DECOMPRES" (DEcarbonizing the Greek COMPREhensive portS) DECOMPRES – Decarbonizing the Greek COMPREhensive PortS is an EU co-funded initiative under the CEF Transport programme, aiming to decarbonise four key Greek ports — Lavrio, Rafina, Corfu and Kavala — through shore-side electricity (SSE) infrastructure. The project involves the construction of operational SSE systems in the Port of Rafina, which will act as a lighthouse for the implementation of studies and future works in the remaining three ports. DECOMPRES is expected to significantly reduce maritime emissions and improve energy efficiency, aligning with the EU Green Deal and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy. Shipbuilding Alternative Fuels Propulsion Systems Alliance (https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice/partnership_sustainable_blue_bioeconomy_shipbuilding_en) TN,TRK,EG Green Shipping Pathways Towards a Clean Energy Transition in the Mediterranean (https://www.cmmi.blue/greenmed/) GR-Eco Islands (https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/gr-eco-islands-initiative-promoting-sustainable-development-green-economy-energy) Clean Energy Marine Hubs https://www.cleanenergyministerial.org/initiatives-campaigns/hubs/ A public-private platform bridging energy, maritime, shipping ,and finance communities to de-risk investments in co-creating a global network of low-carbon energy-maritime value chains. The initiative is a first-of-a-kind partnership between the private sector and governments across the energy-maritime value chain. All collaborating to unlock the production, transportation, and use of low-carbon fuels for the world at scale.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	
Marine Renewable Energies	
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	LIFE Integrated Project “Circular economy implementaton in Greece” https://circulargreece.gr/
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	ERASMUS+ project “YOU4BLUE – Young generations for sustainable blue growth” https://www.hcmr.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/P.R.-YOU4BLUE_Online-EMMA_LiceoSTEAM-Mar_2025_Eng.pdf SHORE WINNER (https://www.hcmr.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/SHOREWINNER-CoP-Platform-Flyer_Reduced.pdf) Gender Equality Plan (https://www.hcmr.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/SHOREWINNER-CoP-Platform-Flyer_Reduced.pdf) Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture runs currently 29 projects (https://imbbs.hcmr.gr/project/) Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters (https://imbriw.hcmr.gr/category/projects/research-projects-2019-present/) Institute of Oceanography (https://io.hcmr.gr/research-technology/research-projects-ongoing-projects/)



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** was enacted in 2021 inspired by the MD SBE recognizes the inherent distinctive features of islands and includes the will for a sustainable development of insular territories. Besides, it aims at coordinating the main public policies linked to maritime space and its development. GR will announce a National Strategy for the islands (Q2 2026)
- **LIFE Strategic Integrated Project GR Blue (2026 -2034)** – This project will support the National Strategy for the Protection and Management of the Marine Environment in a systematic and long-term manner. It aims at the adoption and wider utilization of innovative marine protection tools and pilot actions, while contributing decisively to the coherence of EU policies, and in particular to its Biodiversity and Green Deal objectives.

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. The sales of the allowances from Emission Trade System revenues will finance up to 60% of the projects, worth about €2 billion at current carbon prices. The scheme will diversify energy supplies by supporting renewable energy, power grid connections and onshore power supplies for ships. First projects to be financed in islands soon

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

