



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

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

Contents of the presentation

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 - Background
 - Reminding the methodology for the Roadmap update
 - Sample of updated new relevant frameworks, processes, initiatives and projects as a teaser (September 2025)
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3. Next steps

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.
 - **Results-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 investments 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 (September 2025)

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 September 2025)** per priority

The Roadmap has been updated three times since its publication in 2022

Key **sources of information** exploited:

- UfM Blue Economy stakeholder platform
- Outcomes of the 2nd 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 results: updated new relevant frameworks, processes, initiatives and projects as a teaser (September 2025)

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

Set of indicators calculated (September 2025)

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

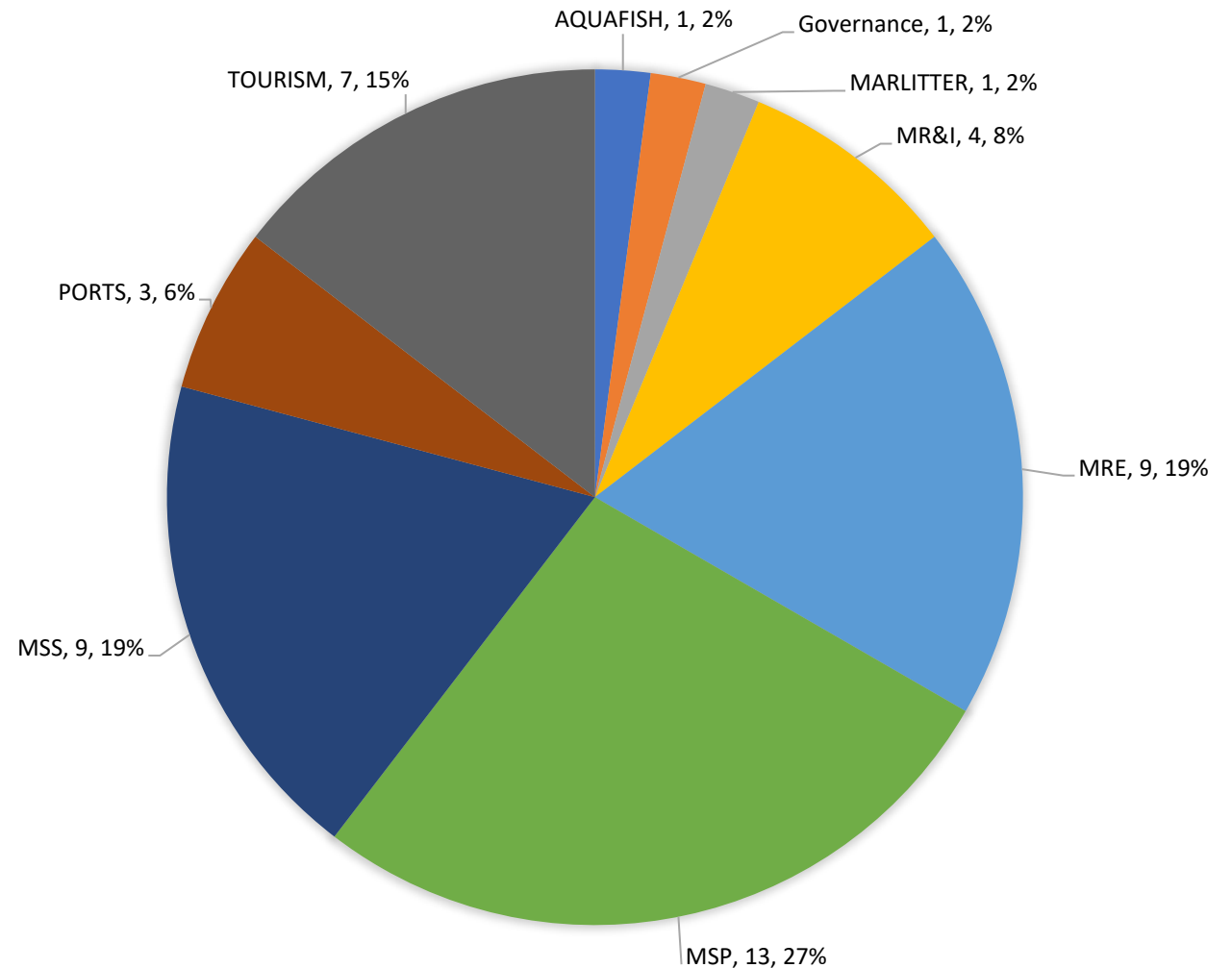
- **Total number of actions, sets of activities and projects of regional cooperation implemented per priority and overall**
- **Level of financial support secured through regional projects to support the priority and overall**
- **Number and typology of partners and stakeholders involved in the actions/sets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

Key **sources of information** exploited:

1. Information on regional policies, strategies, initiatives and projects gathered through the latest Roadmap update process (September 2025)
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

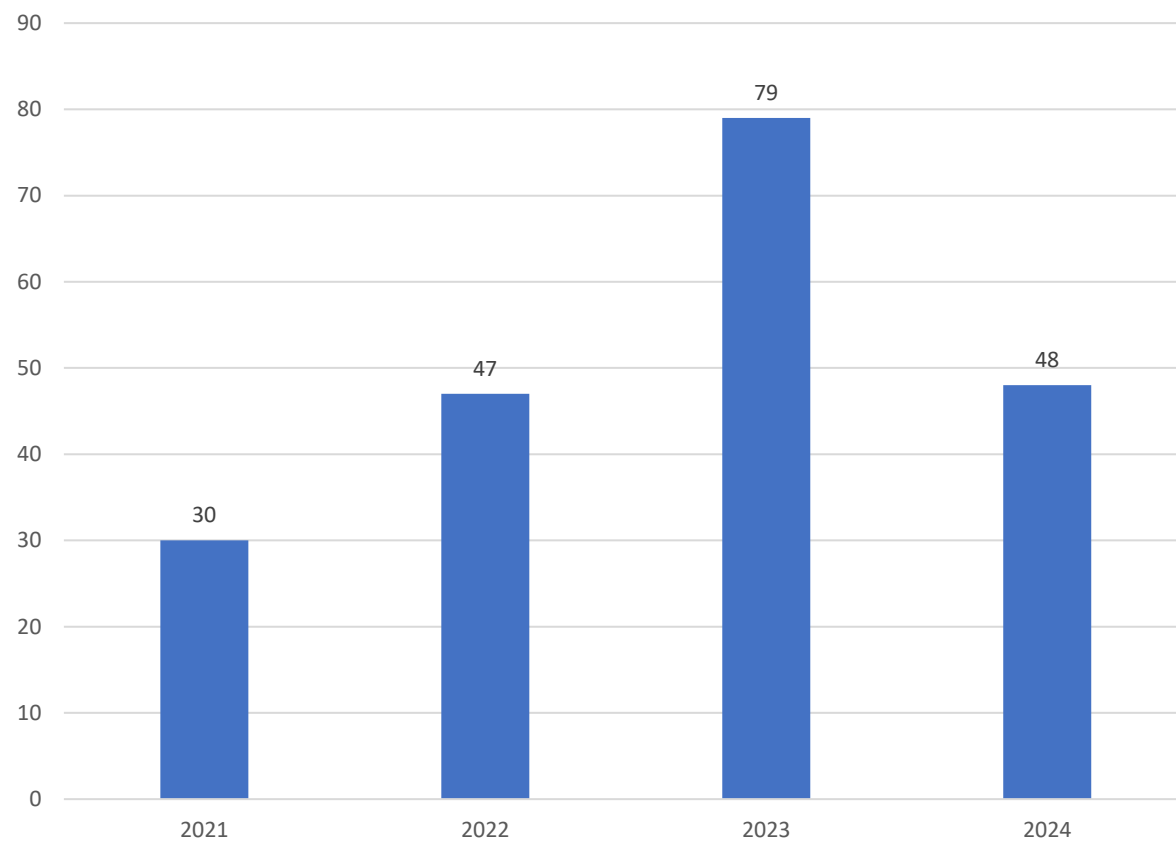
Overview of new projects (2024 - 2025)

- Total of **48 transnational projects** at Mediterranean level were identified so far during the last period.
- The total amount of funding in this period was **€160.471.465**, accounting for 10% of the total fund.
- ✓ The priorities *most* covered include: MSP/ICZM, Marine Renewable Energies and Maritime Safety and Security
- ✓ The priorities *least* covered include: governance and marine litter
- ✓ “Investments projects” are not considered as a category (only programmes were mapped)

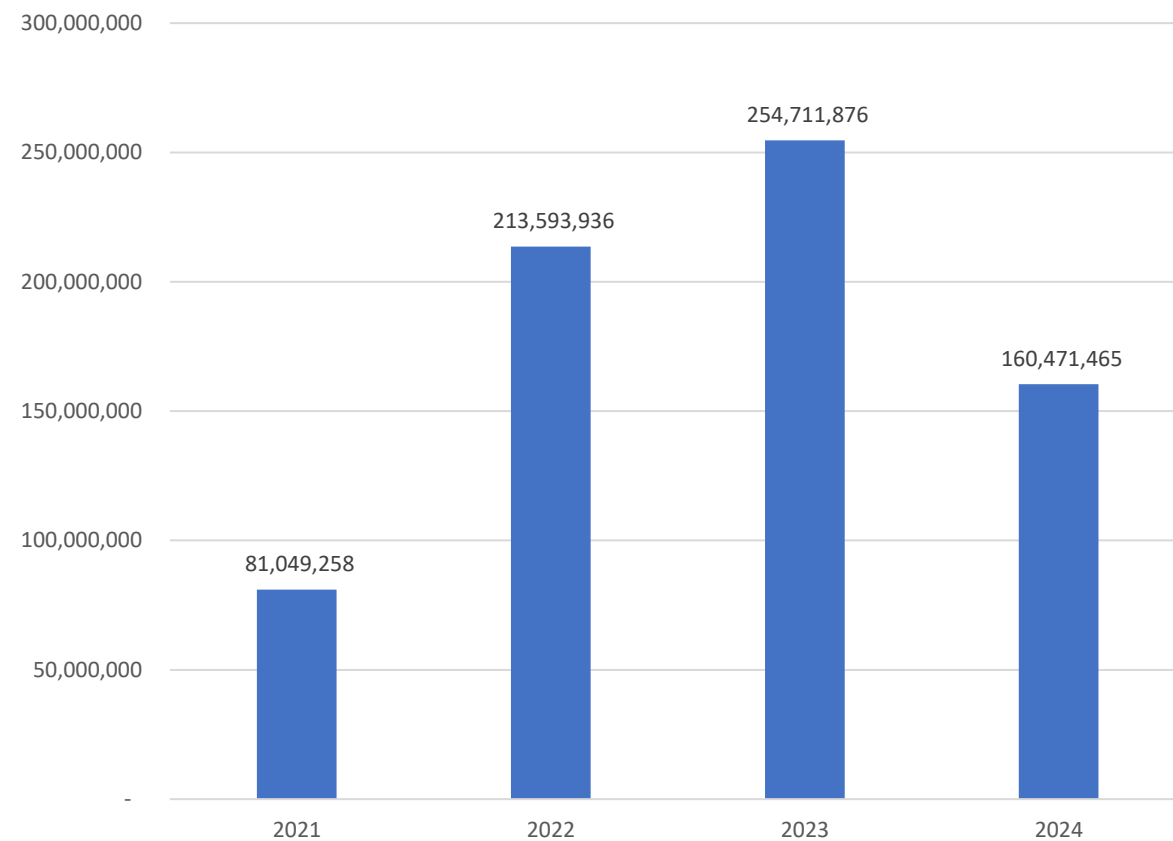


Evolution of project support over time

Total projects

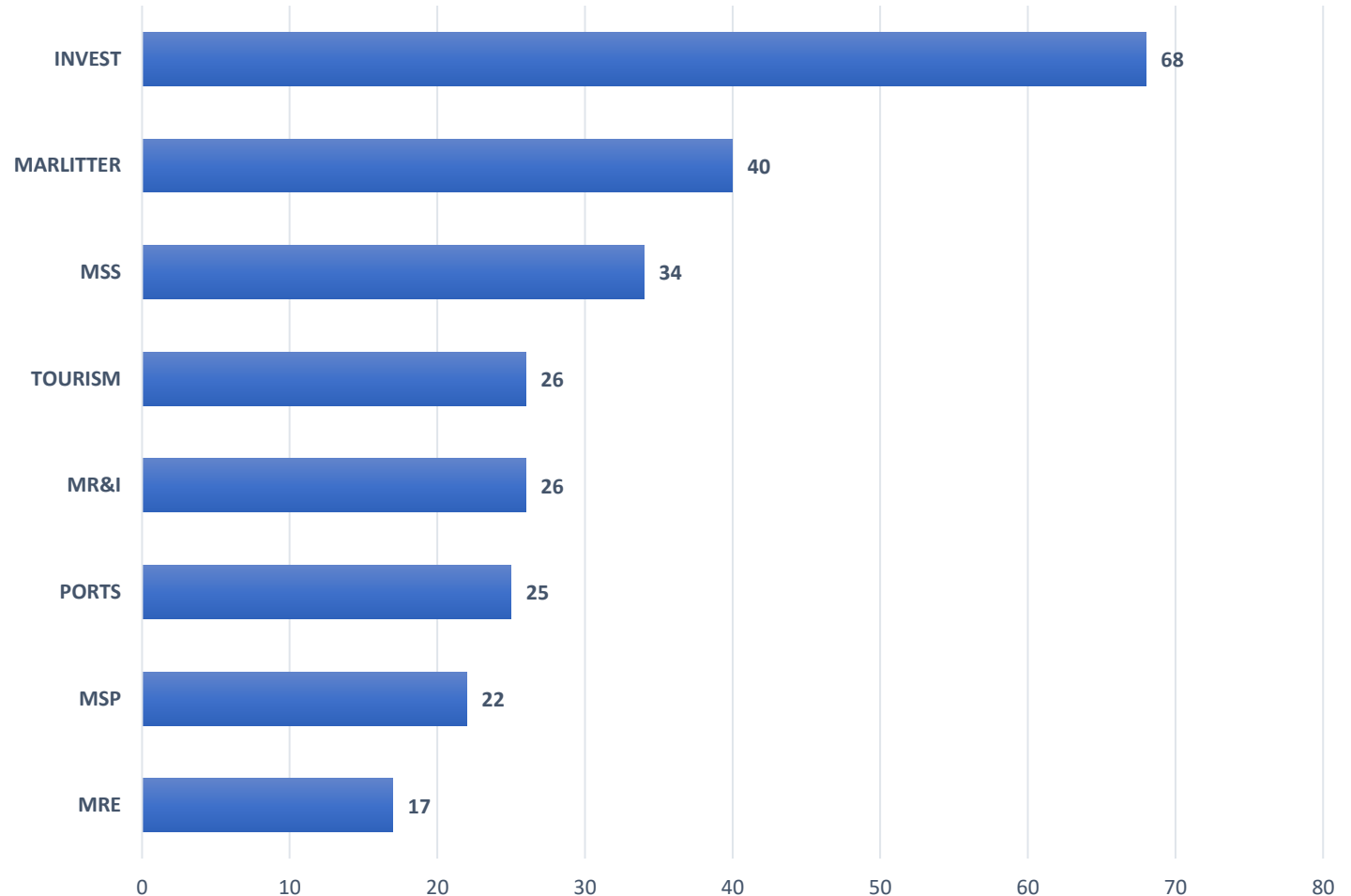


Total funding



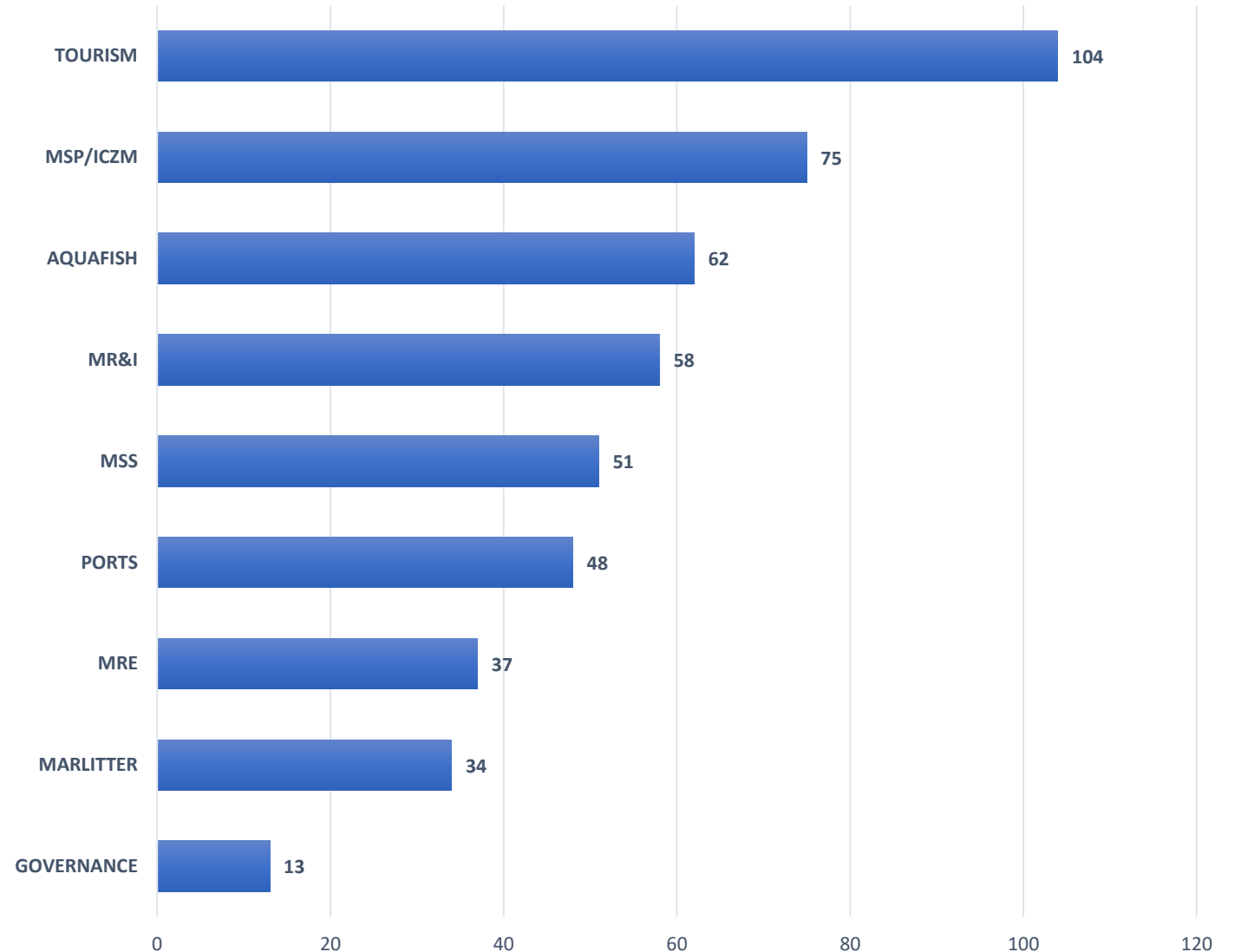
Total number of frameworks / initiatives / processes per Ministerial Declaration priority

- Total of **258 frameworks, initiatives and processes** (both regional and sub-regional) were identified.
- ✓ The priorities *most* covered include: sustainable investments, marine litter and marine safety and security
- ✓ The priorities *least* covered include: marine renewable energies and MSP/ICZM



Total number of regional projects per Ministerial Declaration priority

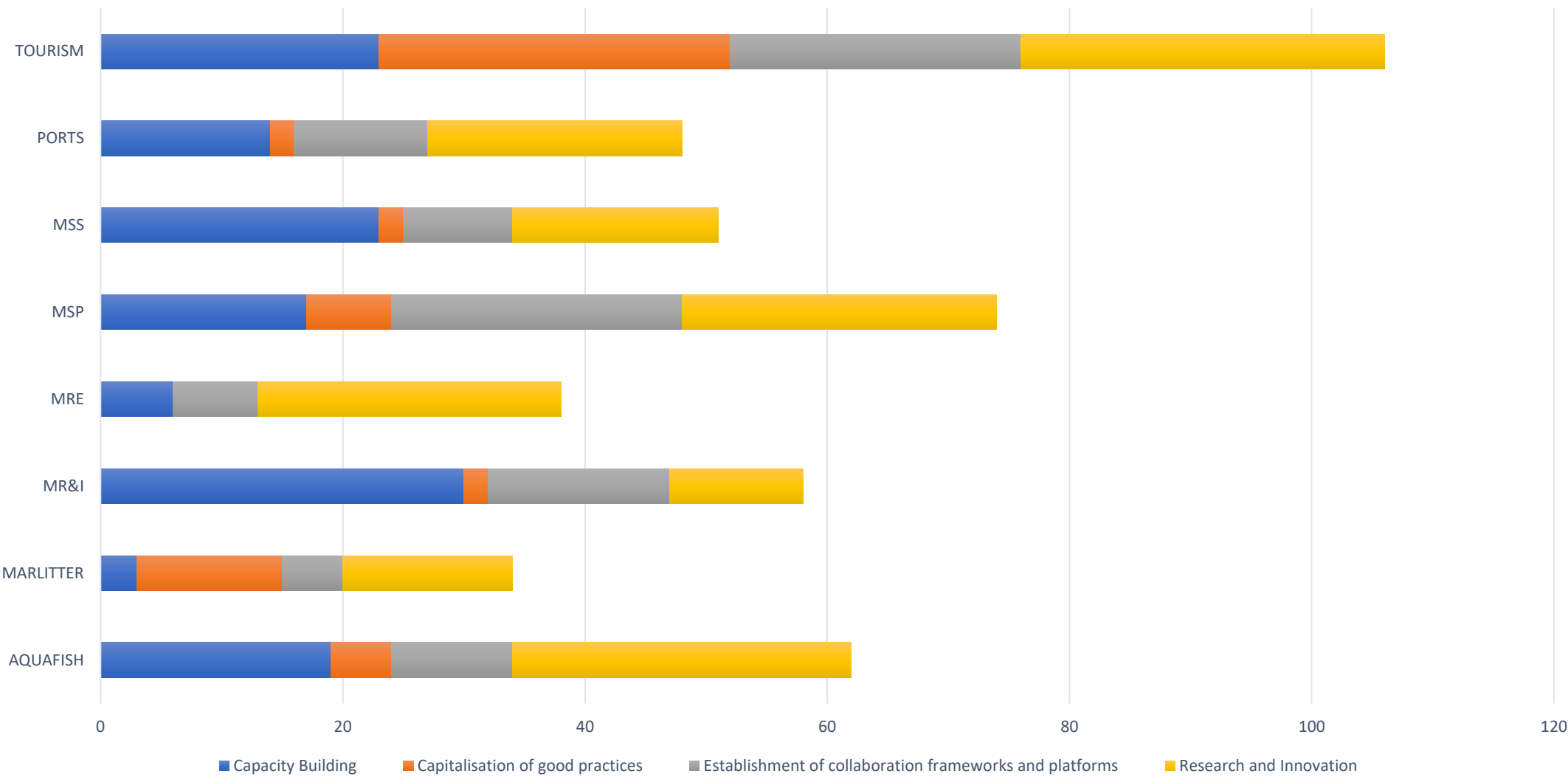
- Total of **482 transnational projects** at Mediterranean level were identified so far.
- ✓ The priorities *most* covered include: coastal and maritime tourism, MSP/ICZM, fisheries and aquaculture
- ✓ The priorities *least* covered include: governance and marine litter
- ✓ “Investments projects” are not considered as a category (only programmes were mapped)



Total funding mobilised per priority (regional projects)

- Over **1,5 billion euro** (1.546.318.170,44 €) 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



Points to be highlighted

Illustrative examples of advancements

- **Fisheries and aquaculture:** New GFCM binding measures to recover stocks are in place (harvest strategies, catch limits, aquaculture monitoring, decarbonization and waste reduction); **COAST-Action AquaClimaNet** proposal still under evaluation but exemplifying the dynamism of regional cooperation for sustainable innovation.
- **Transport and ports:** the **Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area (MED-ECA)** for Sulphur Oxides (SOx) under MARPOL Annex VI Regulation 14 effectively came into force on May 1, 2025; S3 partnership/alliance on shipbuilding propulsion systems, starting to involve south med as associates; the **S3 Partnership on Shipbuilding Alternative Fuels Propulsion Systems Alliance**, involving Atlantic, west/east Med and Black Sea partners.
- **Coastal and maritime tourism:** **Interreg InterProgramme Coordination Mechanism on Sustainable Tourism (MMM)**; InterregMed Governance Mission, including a fully dedicated one to Sustainable Tourism; close coordination with World Tourism Organization; **WestMED Technical Group on Sustainable Tourism** in place; **Blue Tourism Initiative** launched pilot sites in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.
- **Marine renewable energies:** a growing development of **offshore wind projects from pilots to commercial scale (e.g. France and Italy) or foreseen (e.g. Spain)**. International reports and papers highlighted floating offshore wind potential in the Mediterranean and provided techno-economic roadmaps; several feasibility studies and optimisation research for sites under preparation. Cross-border collaboration ensured via the **Med Offshore Coalition**.

Points to be highlighted

Illustrative examples of advancements

- **Marine litter:** **Plastic Busters / MIRAMAR and MEDPROACT; Marine Litter MED PLUS** project launched - UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention-led-, focusing especially on Southern Mediterranean countries to upgrade monitoring capacity.
- **Safety and security:** The **Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum** met (Tirana, Oct 2024) and continued to expand practical cooperation on port state control, SAR coordination, pollution response and information exchange among coastal states. **EMSA's CleanSeaNet** satellite surveillance and related EMSA services continued improving oil-spill detection and supporting national responses. **SAFEMED V technical assistance** by EMSA, bringing together national, and international stakeholders in non-EU Mediterranean countries started in 2022 and ending in 2028.
- **Marine research and innovation:** **Euro-Mediterranean Hub for Research and Innovation** (2024–2025) aims to foster a collaborative research and innovation ecosystem between the EU and Mediterranean partner countries. **CALLMEBLUE** promoting a Maghreb clusters alliance.
- **MSP:** The **MED-MSP Community of Practice** 2025–2027 Action Plan strengthens MSP in the Mediterranean by fostering expert collaboration, supporting sustainable marine uses, and advancing regional coherence through working groups and strategic partnerships. **MEDIGREEN** project funded by EMFAF exploring links between MSP and the European Green Deal.

Governance: Key new regional overarching frameworks in the making

EU Ocean Pact (spring 2025) with 6 priorities:

1. Protecting and restoring ocean health
2. Boosting the competitiveness of the EU sustainable blue economy
3. Supporting coastal and island communities, and outermost regions
4. Advancing ocean research, knowledge, skills and innovation
5. Enhancing maritime security and defence
6. Strengthening EU ocean diplomacy and international ocean governance

Future Ocean Act with role of spatial planning – possibly strengthened at sea basin levels

Pact for the Mediterranean (autumn 2025)

- It intends to cover the ten countries of the Southern Neighbourhood.
- It aims to strengthen the common space of peace, prosperity, and stability in the Mediterranean region.
- The Pact builds on the foundations of the Agenda for the Mediterranean, deepening cooperation in areas where both sides can mutually benefit.
- The goal is to deliver concrete improvements and strengthen integration through joint initiatives.

Immediate next steps

Activity	October	November	December	January 2026
Presentation today of the update of the Roadmap (September 2025)				
Analysis of country reports , based on inputs delivered by countries				
Calculation of all relevant indicators , building on countries' reports				
Elaboration of the 2nd Yearly Report on Progress				
Presentation of the results on the next Regional Platform meeting (date in 2026 to be confirmed)				



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

Output (Process indicators)
+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: • Reduce relevant air pollution, including the implementation of the global 0.50% sulphur limit in marine fuels • Setting up an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides in the Mediterranean Sea • Provision of Onshore Power Supply and energy saving technologies for ports activities • Development of alternative and transitional fuels • Technical and operational energy efficiency for ships • Provision of clean energy and technology • 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
+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)
+Level of enforcement / ratification of the IMO's requirement setting the global 0.50% sulphur limit in marine fuels at national level
+Level of financial support committed/secured to support the priority of Sustainable Climate Neutral and Zero Pollution Transport and Ports
+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 Climate Neutral and Zero Pollution Transport and Ports, 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).

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).