



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

<https://medblueeconomyplatform.org/>



UfM Sustainable Blue Economy Roadmap - Taking stock



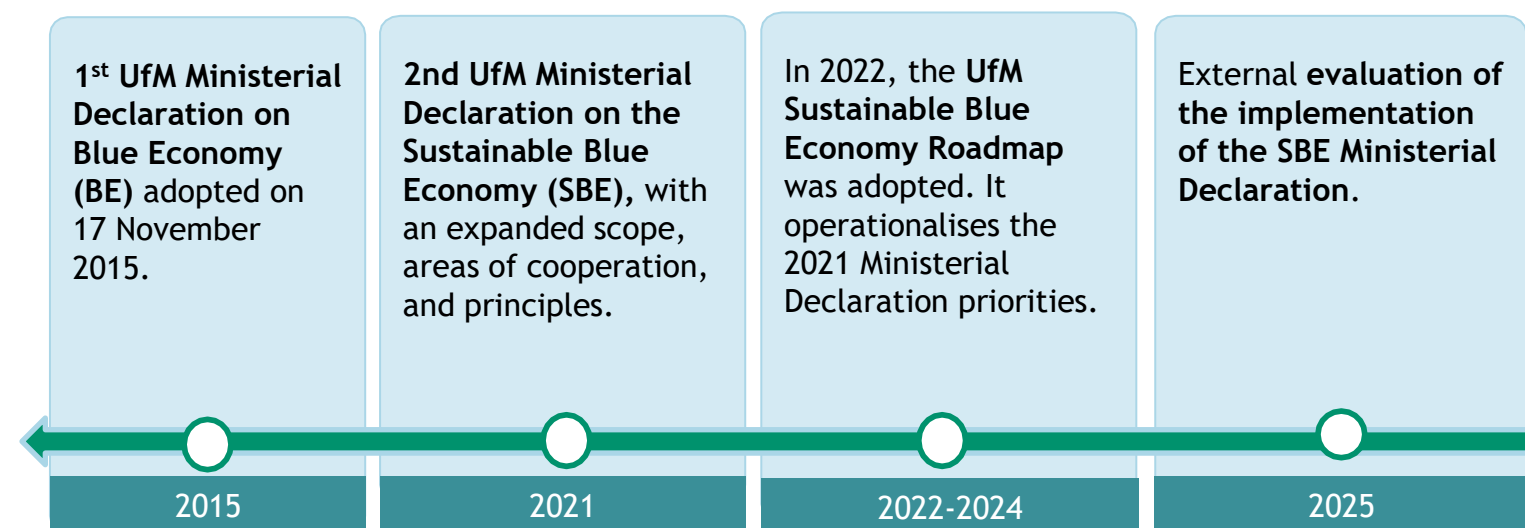
The UfM Secretariat
is co-funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

UfM & Sustainable Blue Economy

Working Together for a sustainable blue Mediterranean region

Through an integrated, interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder approach, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) facilitates the convergence of efforts to drive the ‘blue and green’ transition forward; to circularise our sea-based economies; to protect and restore our marine and coastal ecosystems; and to level the playing field, delivering on fairer, more resilient, and healthier livelihoods across the region.

- **Purpose:** Accelerate a sustainable, fair, circular, resilient, inclusive blue economy across the region.
- **Scope:** Support the regional dialogue on SBE among the 43 UfM member countries.
- **How it works:** A UfM SBE Regional Platform to foster political, technical, and financial convergence, and the development of joint initiatives.



Union for the Mediterranean Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE)

Main platform of dialogue bringing together UfM Member Countries, experts, regional organisations, financial institutions, and stakeholders to steer policy dialogue, review progress, and guide the implementation of agreed joint priorities and initiatives.

MedBESP

Digital hub, networking platform, and interactive one-stop shop to share knowledge and information on SBE across the region and contribute to the development of the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy Community

Blue Mediterranean Partnership (BMP)

Multi-donor fund and technical assistance framework that helps Mediterranean countries prepare and scale up bankable SBE investments aligned with the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration and its Roadmap.

The UfM SBE Roadmap at a glance

What is the Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) Roadmap?

Following the 10 priorities of the **2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE**, the **UfM Roadmap on SBE** is the regional reference document guiding implementation of the UfM Ministerial recommendations on SBE; reflecting progress and achievements; highlighting needs and gaps; compiling progressively Associated projects and relevant initiatives; and feeding the overall UfM process on SBE.

- Points towards potential areas for future cooperation and funding from the short to the long term.
- Shared implementation framework to create regional convergence and guide cooperation and policy support by the UfM, its Member States, and regional stakeholders.
- Updated regularly to reflect progress, and backed by an agreed-upon Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation (MRE) mechanism.
- Fosters the strong collaborative spirit of the Mediterranean SBE, with the UfM regularly gathering this vibrant Community through dedicated Stakeholder Conferences.



Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region

- Strengthen governance and regional cooperation
- Boost knowledge, innovation, and skills
- Accelerate the sustainability of BE sectors
- Mobilise sustainable investment and finance

Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture



- Diversify the blue bio-economy and strengthen seafood value chains
- Boost research, innovation and SME support
- Invest in market tools such as ecolabelling and traceability to ensure sustainable and resilient seafood systems



Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

- Strengthen regional action on marine litter
- Prevent plastic pollution at source
- Mobilise ports and maritime sectors
- Engage fisheries and aquaculture actors

Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management



- Strong regional policy framework
- Implementation driven by projects
- Uptake uneven across the basin
- Capacity and coordination gaps persist



Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities

- Regional cooperation and training strengthened
- Information-sharing systems expanded
- EU surveillance tools central
- Gaps remain for non-EU countries



Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment

- Strengthen the knowledge base
- Boost research, innovation and business creation
- Develop skills and decent jobs
- Build and connect blue economy clusters

Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports



- Strengthen regional transport governance
- Enhance Mediterranean transport connectivity
- Accelerate green and digital ports
- Scale up innovation and knowledge transfer
- Promote safe and sustainable ship recycling



Coastal and maritime tourism

- Strengthen resilience and governance
- Improve data, monitoring and digitalisation
- Green the tourism value chain
- Tackle seasonality and over-tourism
- Support sustainable tourism investment

Marine renewable energies



- Offshore wind R&I driven by EU frameworks
- Marine spatial planning applied unevenly
- Deployment concentrated in EU
- Regulatory complexity and capacity gaps persist

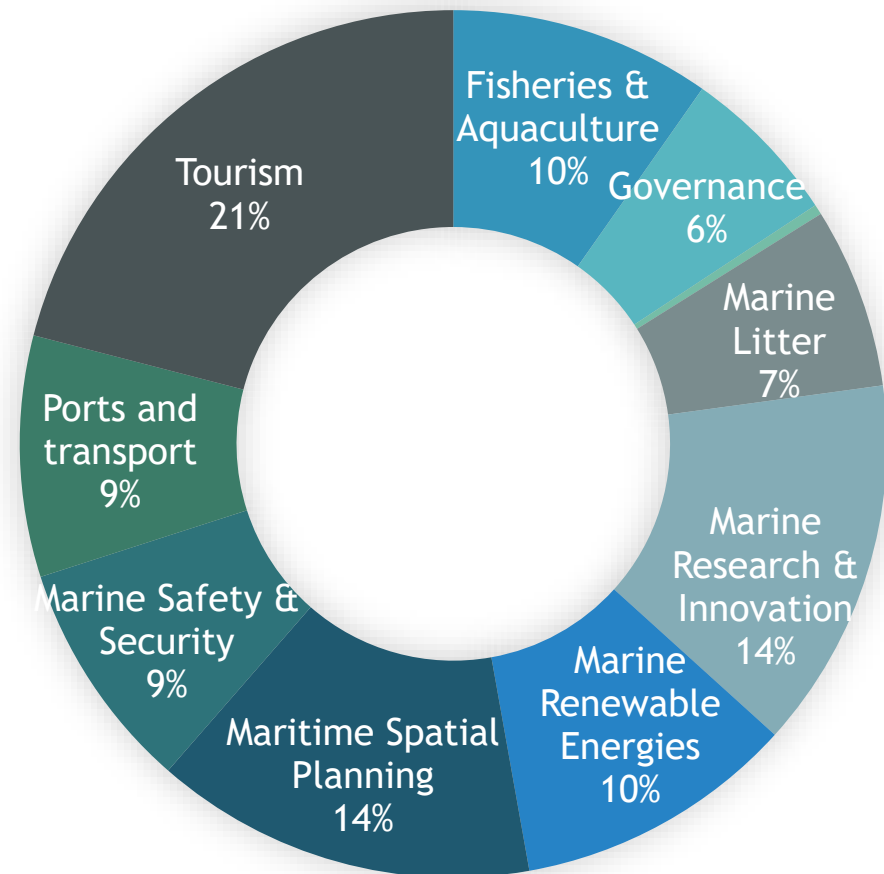


Sustainable investment in the Blue Economy

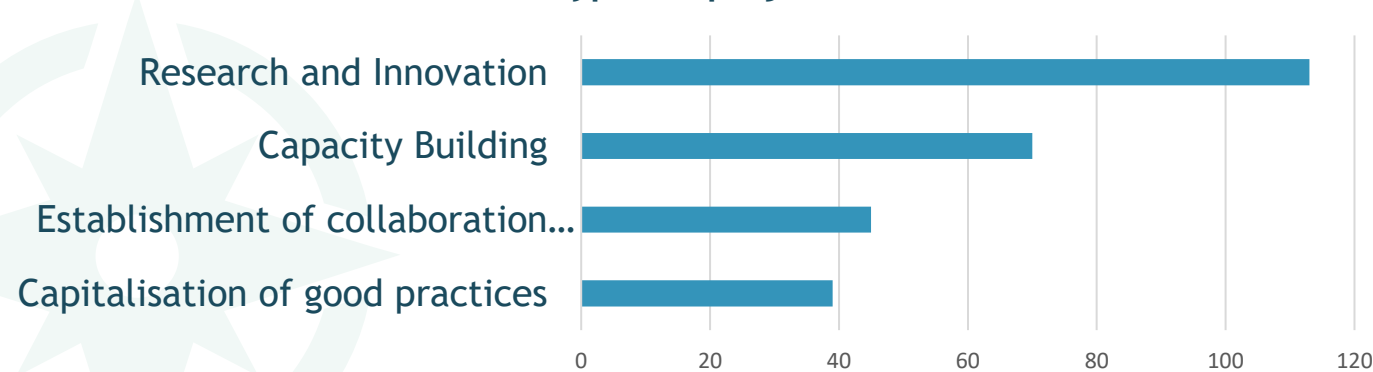
- Offer relevant training on project management and conceptualisation
- Innovative financial solutions will be required to enhance ocean and coastal resilience
- Stronger role of international multilateral banks

Zooming in key projects and initiatives

Since 2021, 267 regional cooperation projects associated to the Ministerial Declaration have been mapped. As a result, more than 897 million EUR were mobilised during the period 2021-2026.



Types of projects



Governance

- The **European Ocean Pact** is the EU's comprehensive strategy to better protect the ocean while promoting a sustainable blue economy and supporting the well-being of coastal communities. It will be complemented by a future **European Ocean Act**, designed to strengthen implementation and create a unified framework for achieving these objectives ("one ocean, one strategy").
- The **Pact for the Mediterranean**, developed by the European Commission and the European External Action Service, was adopted in October 2025 and provides a structuring framework to work together on shared priorities for a Common Mediterranean Space.

Sustainable Finance

- The **Blue Mediterranean Partnership** reached a key milestone with its first investments, linking priorities to bankable projects in 2026.
- **European Union (EU) funding programmes** are expanding support. Key examples include Interreg EURO MED and NEXT MED programmes; the Mission Ocean and Waters cascading grants for community-led actions and transition agendas across the Mediterranean; or the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's transnational calls for blue economy innovation.



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



The UfM Secretariat
is co-funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

More information about ongoing
Initiatives available at:



More information about ongoing
Funding opportunities available at:



ufmsecretariat.org



Palau de Pedralbes | Pere Duran Farell, 11
Barcelona, Spain - 08034
Phone: 00 34 93 521 4100 | Fax: 00 34 93 521 4102