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SBE Roadmap: Progress on implementation

UfM Sustainable Blue Economy Regional Platform meeting – 15th October 2026, Barcelona

Objectives:

1. **Roadmap:** Updating the shared implementation framework for the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration.
2. **Monitoring & Evidence:** Maintaining the MRE system and assessing progress across the Mediterranean.
3. **Governance Support:** Technical support to future political developments on SBE (ex. A revised roadmap according to a new Ministerial)
4. **Knowledge & Communication:** Disseminating results through Regional Platform meetings and the 4th UfM SBE Report

Duration: 34 Months (Aug 2026-May 2029)



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A new phase for UfM SBE cooperation

- **From annual updates to continuity:** The contract creates a recurring cycle linking Roadmap updates, project mapping and the results-based MRE mechanism across 2026–2029.
- **From monitoring to strategic direction:** The evidence generated should inform future support, funding and actions under each Ministerial priority.
- **From the current framework to the next political cycle:** Implementation of the 2021 Declaration will run alongside preparations for a potential 3rd UfM Ministerial Declaration, if endorsed, in terms of a revised Roadmap and MRE framework.
- **Eastern Mediterranean:** The contract will support potential developments in an eventual emerging EastMed framework and the alignment required.

Team Composition



Team Leader- Javier Fernández

Team of Experts



Irene Alonso

Expert Coordinator



Imed Zammit

West MED (TN)



Matteo Bocci

EU-wide (BE)



Thanos Smanis

East Med (EL)

Communication

Egbert Hoogstad



Backstopping & Research Assistance Research Assistance



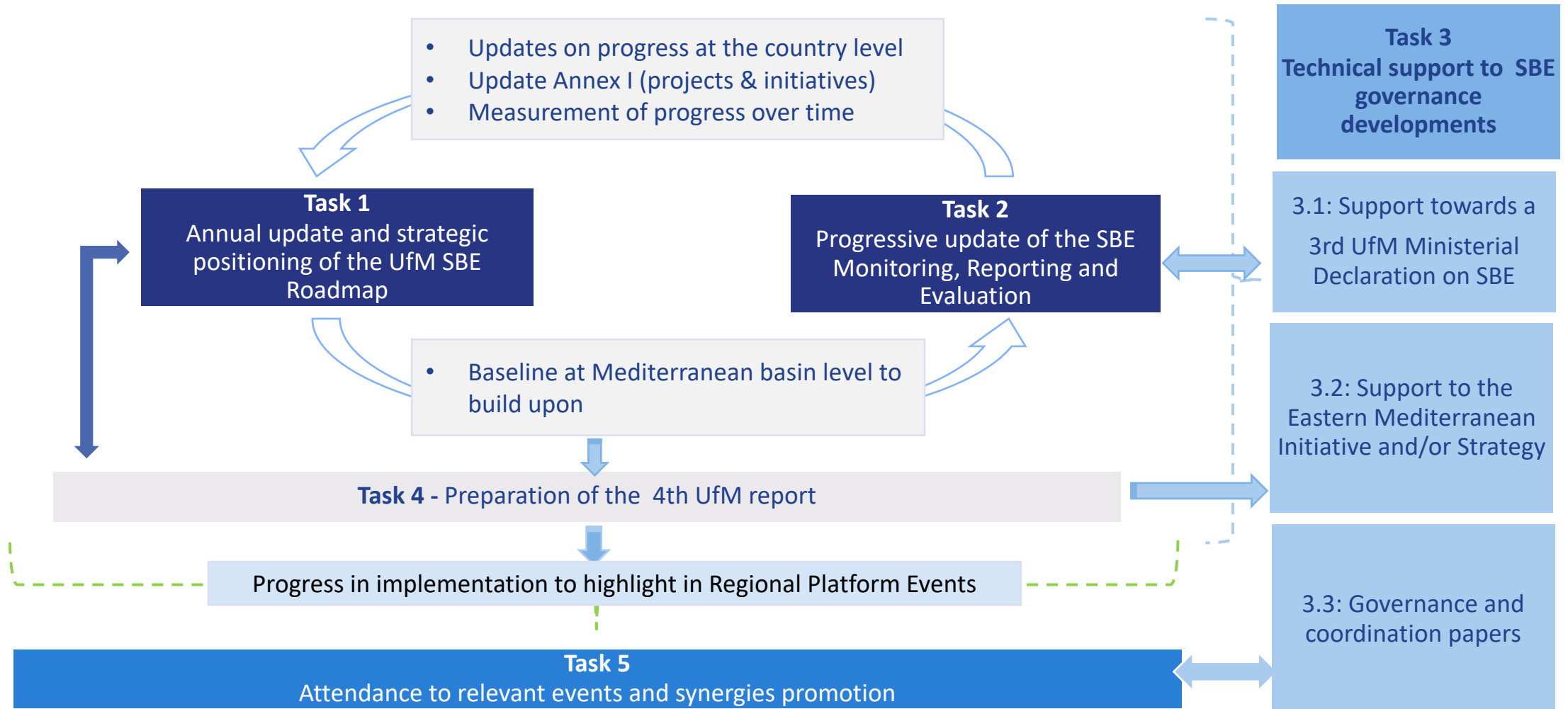
Marta Hergueta

Jan Wynarski



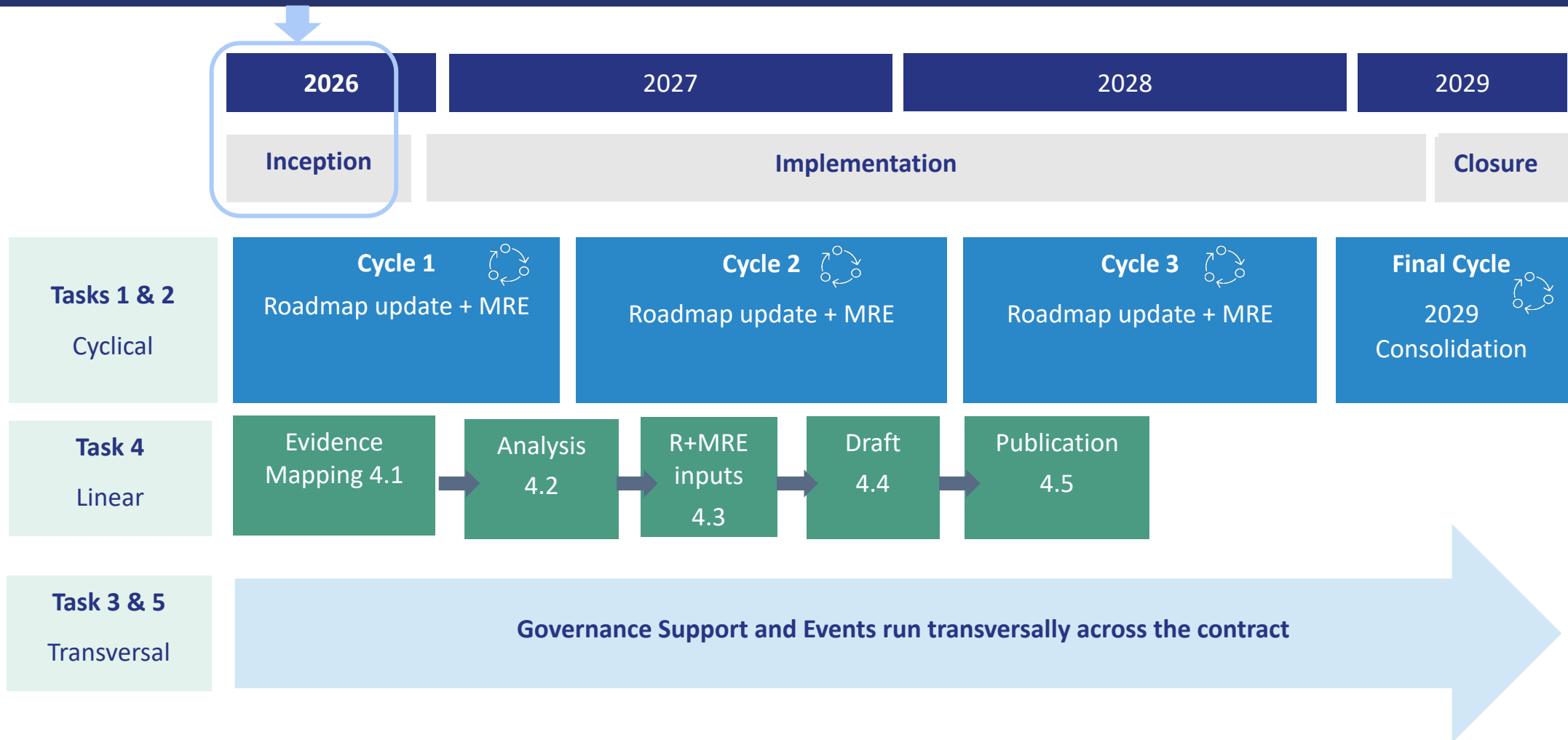
Felipe de Burgos

Overall Approach



State of play

Timeline



State of play

T1: Roadmap update

Roadmap update: Data gathering has started through the identification and review of 49 new projects and initiatives.

Analysis: The initial mapping is providing the evidence base for identifying emerging trends and gaps.

T2: MRE

MRE preparation: Country-reporting presentations and templates have been revised to capture contributions.

Reporting baseline: Previously reported country information has been incorporated into the 2026 templates to provide a reference point for the new monitoring cycle

T3: Governance

EastMed Strategy development regular exchanges

T5: Events

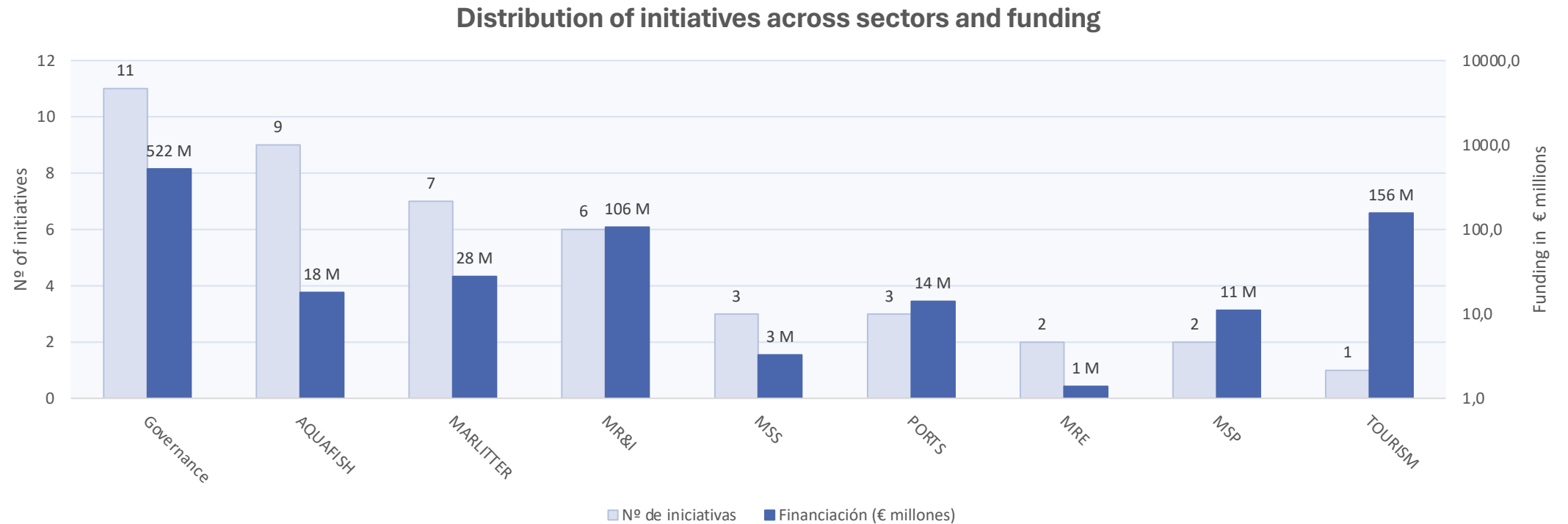
Regional Platform support: Tailored support for the SBE Regional Platform meeting in Brussels.

2026 update: progress across projects and initiatives



Updates from the last 6 months

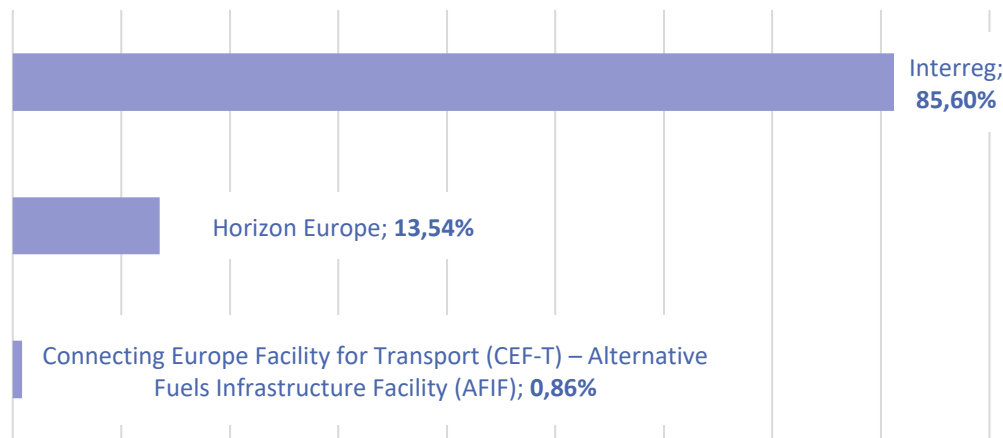
- **45** new projects and initiatives mapped, distributed as per below:



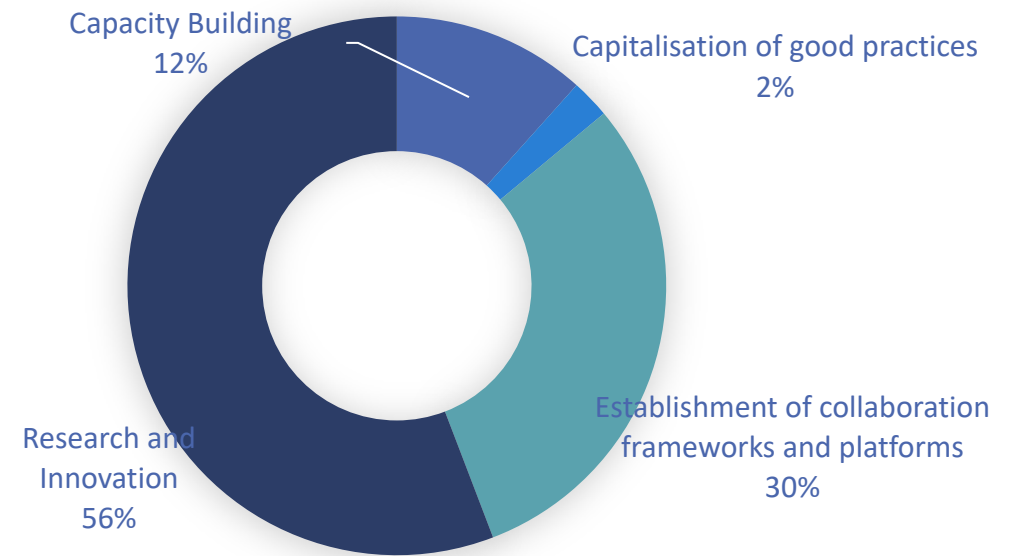
Updates from the last 6 months

- In terms of projects, **31** new projects were identified

Sources of funding



Project typologies



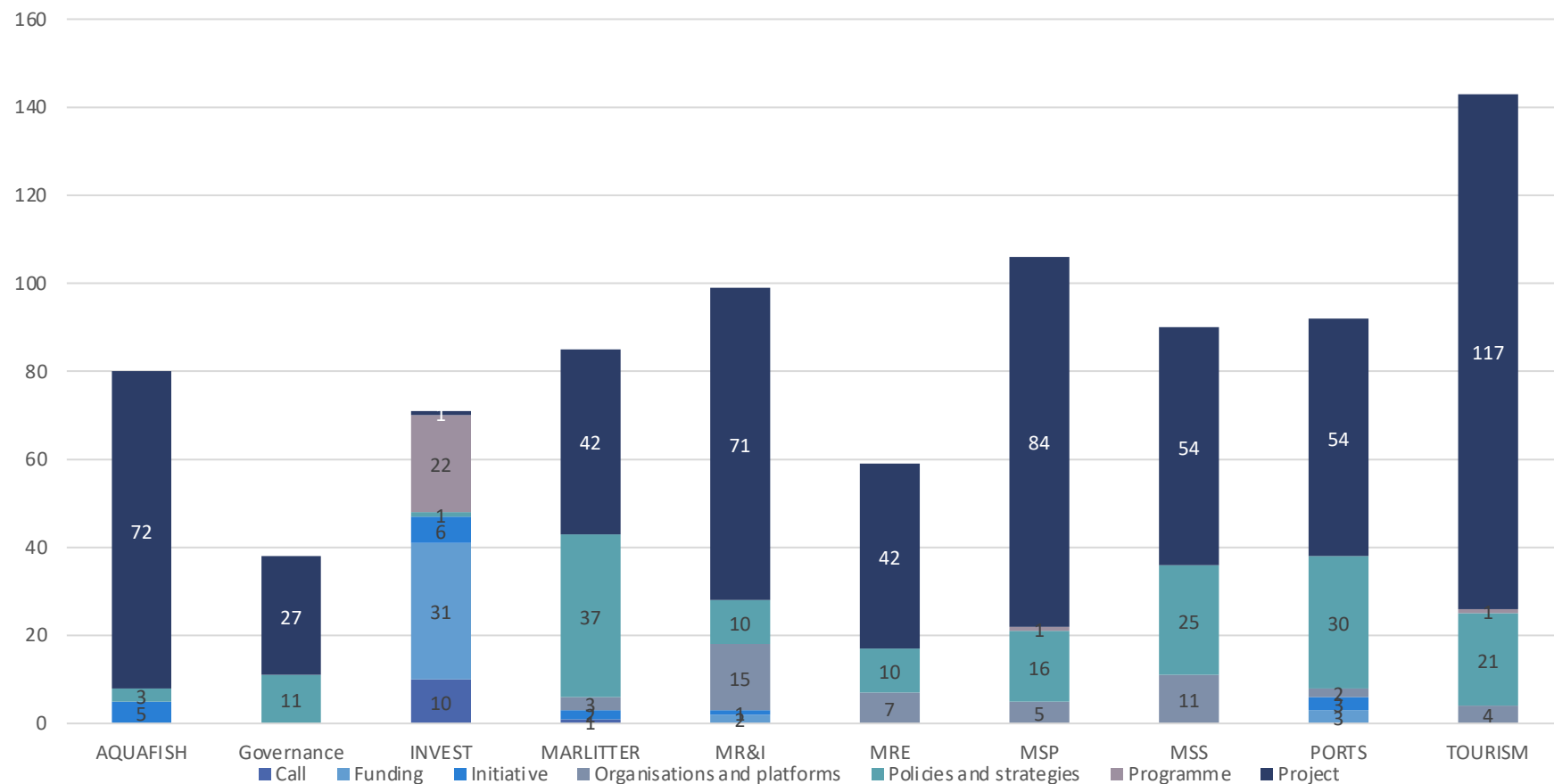
Key Messages

- **Funding** is highly concentrated in **Marine Research & Innovation (MR&I)** and **Maritime Safety & Security (MSS)**, which together account for the majority of investments.
- Regarding the sectors with the highest **number of projects**, **Aquaculture, Governance and Marine Litter** seem to lead in the last semester.
- **Research and innovation projects** dominate the portfolio **typologies**, while capacity-building and collaboration initiatives play a complementary role.

Aggregated view of regional progress



Showcasing progress: actions mapped by Ministerial Declaration priority

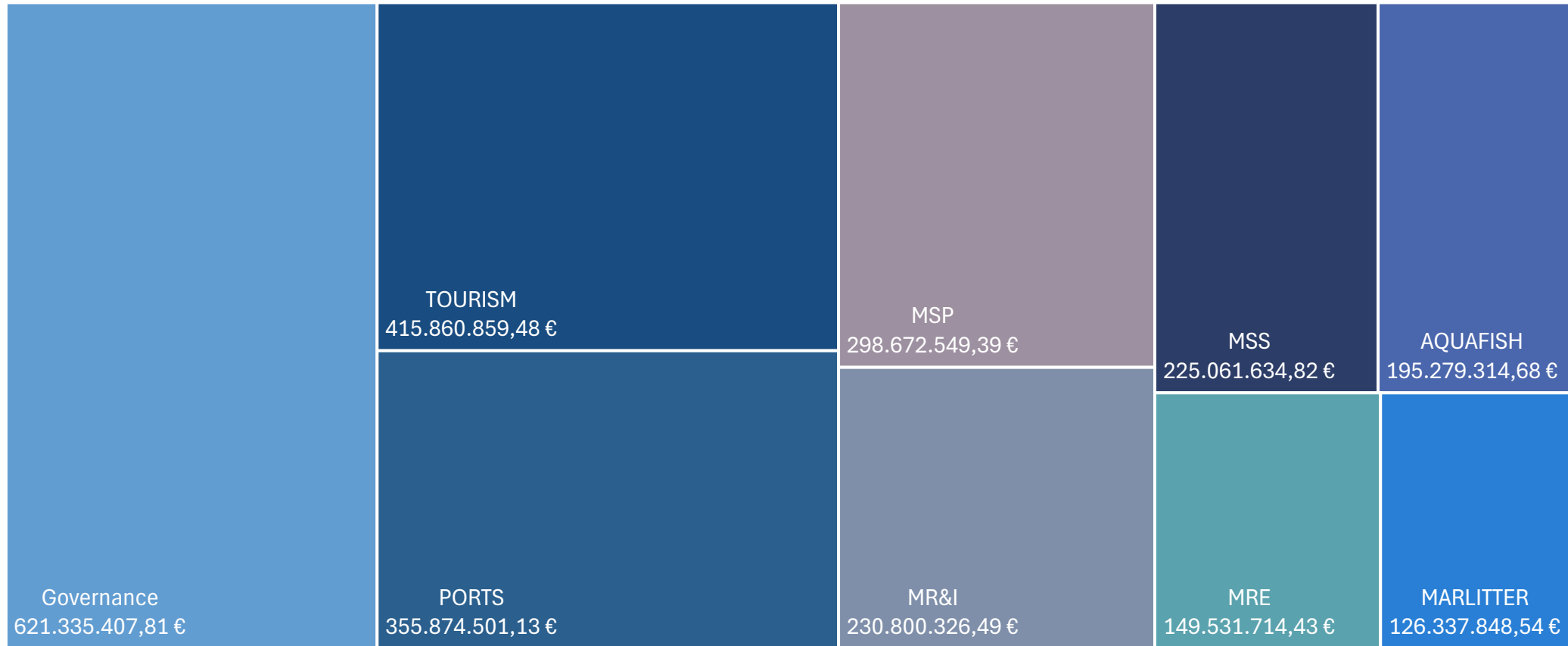


Projects dominate the portfolio, representing 65% of all mapped actions.

Tourism leads with 143 mapped actions, followed by MSP (106) and MR&I (99).

Policies and strategies (19%), concentrate in three main sectors: MARLITTER, PORTS and MSS.

Distribution of aggregated funding across sectors



Examples of ongoing projects across SBE priorities in the Med

BlueGovAI

- Uses AI tools to reduce regulatory and administrative barriers affecting maritime action across the Adriatic



EMSO Evolve

- Building a basin-scale ocean observation network to better understand long-term changes in European seas



OCEANITY

- Strengthens the European Digital Twin Ocean with new applications designed to support better decisions in coastal management, marine spatial planning and maritime activities.



MEDCONNECT

- Mediterranean Lighthouse of Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030 – Coordination and Support Action to strengthen the innovation ecosystem



Highlighted initiatives: Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy and Clean-Tech Cooperative Initiative

- **T-Med** aims to strengthen renewable energy and clean-tech cooperation between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, creating a common framework for investment and partnership.
- The initiative supports the **deployment of renewable energy projects and the development of regional clean-tech value chains** across the Mediterranean.
- By combining public backing with private-sector engagement, T-Med seeks to accelerate the region's green transition and enhance economic integration.
- Its scale and geographic reach make it one of the most significant emerging cooperation initiatives in the Mediterranean.



- **Timeline:** 2026 – ongoing
- **Geographical scope:** Europe, Middle East & North Africa (MENA)
- **Type:** Cooperation and investment platform
- **EU support:** €5 billion (EFSD+)
- **Expected impact:** Up to €25 billion in investments mobilised by 2035
- **Focus areas:** Renewable energy deployment, clean-tech value chains, sustainable investment

Questions and Answers

