



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



20<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy meeting  
Brussels, 14 -15 October 2026

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

# Country reporting template: aim and objectives

- This “country reporting template” has been created with the aim to gather data and information at national level to feed the **2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE Roadmap’s Monitoring, reporting and evaluation system**.
- As reflected in the “[Stand-alone document on the Monitoring system of the Roadmap / 2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE](#)” and its related Annex on “[Sector-specific indicators](#)”, the process kick-starts every year with the **delivery of presentations by the countries** (UfM Focal Points on Blue Economy) in the context of the **Regional Platform on SBE meetings**.
- By filling in this template, countries’ crucial inputs will feed current and future updates of the Roadmap and contribute to analyse progress over time in the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration.
- Instructions to fill in this template are provided in the next slide.

## How to fill in this template

- This template contains **one slide for projects and one for initiatives, including different sections for each of the SBE Ministerial Declaration Priorities** and related progress. Three open questions have also been included at the end of the document.
- For each of the sections, a simple **table** should be completed by the countries.
- Please fill in these tables to the best of your knowledge and feel free to enrich with **hyper-links** to key documents, publications, videos, etc. as needed.
- In case of questions, please don't hesitate to send an email to: [alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org) and [adriana.salazar@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:adriana.salazar@ufmsecretariat.org)
- These presentations will be delivered orally by each Focal Point on the UfM Regional Platform Meeting, and should be submitted to the UfM Secretariat team **no later than 7th October 2026, end of day.**

# Major updates on progress at national level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

Under the 2053 Sustainable Blue Economy Action Plan (Blue Plan 2053), two national projects in three pilot areas (Gulfs of Mersin, Iskenderun and İzmir) will be implemented:

- **Development of Governance Models for the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategic Action Plan:** Launched on 30 June 2026, the project aims to develop Türkiye's 2053 Sustainable Blue Economy Strategic Action Plan by promoting sustainable use of marine resources and economic growth and includes sectoral analyses, digital twin models, a marine spatial planning roadmap and a decision support system, with the Gulfs of Mersin and Iskenderun serving as pilot areas.
- **Development of a Digital Twin of İzmir Bay: İzmir Bay Integrated Modelling System:** aims to develop a three-dimensional model and digital twin of the Bay, assess pollution reduction scenarios, and identify medium- and long-term measures to improve water quality.



# Major updates on progress at national level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

## **Climate Law:**

Türkiye's Climate Law (Law No. 7552) was entered into force on 9 July 2025, establishing a comprehensive legal framework for combating climate change in line with Türkiye's 2053 Net-Zero Emissions Target.

## **Regional Activity Center for Climate Change (CC/RAC):**

The newest Regional Activity Centre under the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention system, officially established in 2023 and hosted by Türkiye in Istanbul.

## **Marine Litter Action Platform :**

Launched by Türkiye's COP31 Presidency during the Oceans and Seas Summit held in September 2026 in Trabzon. A part of the COP31 Action Agenda, linking the Oceans and Seas and Zero Waste Blue priorities of COP31 Presidency.

## **National Green Finance Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2029):**

Adopted in July 2026 to accelerate financial transformation in line with national climate objectives.



# Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

| Ministerial Declaration Priorities                                  | Initiatives at national/sub-national level                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TÜGİP – Türkiye Food Innovation Platform (Established under the INNOFOOD Project (2019–2024) – Food Innovation Center was established under the Project.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Support Mechanism for the Renewal of Turkish-Flagged Merchant Vessels was revised in July 2026, increasing the amount of incentives. A total of USD 27.3 million has been granted to support newbuilding projects.</li> <li>Green Ports Project: the "Regulation on the Issuance of Green Port Certificates to Coastal Facilities" was revised in March 2026. 4 coastal facilities have qualified for and been awarded the Green Port Certificate after the revision.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Coastal and Maritime Tourism                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Türkiye Environmental and Cultural Sustainability Program: Launched in 2022 in cooperation with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) as the world's first government-level national sustainable tourism program.</li> <li>Blue Flag Programme: being implemented since 1993 in Türkiye. As of 2026, Türkiye is the third-ranking country worldwide with 580 Blue Flag beaches. 30 marinas, 26 private yachts and 18 tourism boats qualified for the Blue Flag award.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Marine Renewable Energies                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero Waste Blue Movement: the second ‘5-Year Provincial Marine Litter Action Plans’, covering the period 2025–2029, took effect in January 2025 for 28 coastal provinces. A total of approximately 375,000 metric tons of marine litter has been collected to date.</li> <li>Marine Litter Action Platform- Launched by Türkiye’s COP31 Presidency in September 2026.</li> <li>National Water Plan (2026–2035)Türkiye has adopted its National Water Plan for 2026–2035, which provides a comprehensive strategic framework for sustainable water resources management in response to climate change, population growth, urbanisation and increasing sectoral water demands.</li> </ul> |
| Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment      | TÜGİP – Türkiye Food Innovation Platform (Established under the INNOFOOD Project (2019–2024) – Food Innovation Center was established under the Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Maritime Spatial Planning and                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

# Projects at national (and sub-national) level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

| Ministerial Declaration Priorities                                  | Projects at national/sub-national level                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisheries Coastal Zones Development Roadmap and Governance Model Development Project: launched in December 2022 was completed in February 2025. Within the scope of the project, the current status of 400 fisheries coastal structures was analyzed, classification and capacity assessments were conducted, and a governance model along with a development roadmap was established.</li> <li>SEAMPHONI Project: Türkiye participates as a project partner and leads the Eastern Mediterranean Sea demonstration site, contributing to regional marine research, monitoring and demonstration activities.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility Project for the Electrification of Ferries and Coastal Facilities in the Sea of Marmara under IMO GreenVoyage 2050 Program: The project covers 60-vehicle ferries, 10 companies, 32 port facilities. It includes cost–benefit analysis, environmental impact analysis, and social impact analysis focusing on health and employment. The main report has been published in September 2026.</li> <li>Marine Pollution Response Equipment Storage Stations: five marine pollution response equipment storage stations will be established in Samsun, Gemlik, Antalya, Istanbul and Hatay, with a total budget of approximately EUR 4.5 million.</li> <li>Carbon Pricing Mechanism for Maritime Transport: in 2024, Türkiye amended its Law on Ports to introduce a carbon pricing mechanism for greenhouse gas emissions from ships calling at Turkish ports. Preparations for the necessary Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) infrastructure are underway.</li> <li>Türkiye is a partner in the newly launched Horizon Europe Project called REMEDIES 5.0</li> <li>Development of a Digital Twin of İzmir Bay: İzmir Bay Integrated Modelling System</li> </ul> |
| Coastal and Maritime Tourism                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Marine Renewable Energies                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The technical assistance project “Increasing Capacity on Marine Litter Management in Türkiye» under IPA III 2022 Programme is being implemented. Project budget EUR 3.95 million.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment      | Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP): Supports transnational R&I projects contributing to a sustainable, climate-neutral and circular blue economy. Türkiye participates through TÜBİTAK.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>METU - Çukurova Development Agency Project – Blue Economy Atlas for the Mersin-Adana coastal and offshore region</li> <li>Development of Governance Models for the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategic Action Plan</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

# 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?**

Türkiye currently addresses the blue economy through various sectoral strategies, policies and programmes, although these are not yet consolidated under a single National Blue Economy Strategy. Blue economy priorities are incorporated into the strategies and policy frameworks developed by relevant ministries in line with their respective mandates and responsibilities.

In the medium to long term, the 2053 National Sustainable Blue Economy Action Plan is envisaged to provide an integrated framework for promoting sustainable ocean-based economic growth while ensuring the protection, conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems.



## Open questions

**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.**

Türkiye does not currently have a dedicated national Blue Economy Fund. However, several sector-specific funding mechanisms and investment incentives are available to support sustainable blue economy activities. These include funding under the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP), financial support for small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, including through IPARD III, and the Maritime Decarbonisation and Green Shipping Programme, supported by the EU and EBRD.

In addition, national investment incentive schemes and TÜBİTAK's R&D and green transformation programmes provide financing opportunities for eligible investments and innovative projects in maritime transport, marine technologies, aquaculture and other blue economy-related sectors.



# Open questions

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

One of the main challenges in implementing the SBE Ministerial Declaration is the cross-sectoral nature of the blue economy, with responsibilities shared among multiple institutions and stakeholders. This underlines the importance of strengthening inter-institutional coordination and promoting more integrated governance approaches.

Other challenges include limited access to financial resources and the need to raise public awareness of the opportunities and benefits of the blue economy. Furthermore, greater private sector engagement, further infrastructure development, and increased investment in blue economy sectors remain important areas for progress. Addressing these challenges would contribute to more effective and coordinated implementation of sustainable blue economy policies and initiatives.

