



Union for the Mediterranean
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20th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy
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 – Malta***

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 and 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 07 October, end of day.**

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

- **Greener ports and shipping:** Grand Harbour shore-to-ship infrastructure became operational, while further Onshore Power Supply investment is progressing in the South Harbour Region and at Malta Freeport.
- **Marine renewable energy:** A three-stage procurement process was initiated at the end of 2024 to attract investment in renewable energy supplied through floating wind turbine technology.
- **Digital maritime safety and efficiency:** Remote document verification has been introduced for Flag State and Port State inspections, supported by SafeSeaNet Version 5 improvements and more centralised ship-call processes.
- **Maritime spatial planning and coastal governance:** The national MSP Technical Team is improving institutional coordination, while monitoring of the SPED and preparations for a UNEP-MAP CAMP project support future MSP and ICZM implementation.



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	Malta has implemented the satellite monitoring at national level for a number of fisheries to improve control of the sector. From the conservation perspective, national management plans were introduced to concretise efforts in the management of this sector. It has introduced underwater monitoring technologies for the bluefin tuna farming industry to monitor the recovery of this particular stock. With the implementation of the Multi-annual National Plan for the development of Sustainable Aquaculture, Malta will address the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability in order to build resilience to respond to global challenges.
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	Onshore Power Supply (OPS) South Harbour Region Project. The structural works which will supply medium-voltage power for Ro-Ro vessels have been completed. The main electrical equipment has been ordered and is currently in production.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	As part of the Malta Tourism Strategy 2021-2030, Malta achieved better connectivity with long-haul markets while also differentiating between the International and domestic markets through products, travel patterns, seasonality and length of stay.
Marine Renewable Energies	Research and innovation on MRE technologies: Focus on development of offshore renewable potential Specification of licensing procedures Enabling the licensing of marine renewable energy systems.
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	In terms of implementation, Malta has transposed the Directive on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships. Malta has also been adhering to the obligations set within the Directive on port reception facilities, which aims to protect the marine environment from the negative effects of waste from ships using European Union (EU) ports, by improving port reception facilities for waste from ships.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	As a direct result of the digital transformation, Flag State and Port State inspectors shall be enabled to conduct inspections, or parts thereof, remotely. While inspectors will still need to board the vessels, they will now have the capability to remotely request and verify certain documents before the vessel even docks at the harbour. This reduces the time required for physical inspections and in turn reduces the time the vessel remains at berth, thus positively impacting air quality at the harbour area which houses circa 50% of the Maltese residential population.
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	Malta also administers the plumtri platform that serves as a tool for R&I stakeholders in the Mediterranean Region. The main aim of plumtri is to facilitate networking and knowledge sharing and also to serve as a 'one-stop-shop' for information on the latest news, events and funding opportunities in the spheres of R&I, including those related to the Sustainable Blue Economy.
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone	The Planning Authority as Competent Authority for MSP has contributed to the work of government entities leading the preparation of national policy on offshore RES, identification of sites/areas for offshore RES, fisheries and aquaculture as well as

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	Participation in several projects e.g. PRIMA (Horizon 2020), SIMTAP (Interreg VA Italia-Malta) and IMTA Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	Onshore Power Supply The first phase of shore-to-ship infrastructure in the Grand Harbour became operational in 2024. By October 2025, the system had reportedly been used on around 80 vessel calls, supplying approximately 3.7 million kWh of electricity, with MSC vessels alone having accumulated more than 300 hours connected to shore power. Further investment is underway. Infrastructure Malta's OPS South Harbour Region project covers Ras Hanżir, Laboratory Wharf and Magazine Wharf. The project has an eligible value of approximately €15 million, with around €12.8 million in Connecting Europe Facility funding. Separate projects are also extending shore-power infrastructure at Malta Freeport, meaning Malta is progressing OPS investment in both TEN-T core ports: Grand Harbour and Marsaxlokk.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	The 'Support to Malta's Tourism ecosystem' project aims to provide technical support for the following measures: closing the implementation gap of the Tourism Satellite Account statistical framework, upgrading tourism statistics to include sustainability, outing in place effective sustainable tourism management and monitoring tools at destinations level and improving the enabling framework for the tourism ecosystem.
Marine Renewable Energies	At the end of 2024, the Government initiated a three-stage procurement process to attract parties interested in supplying renewable energy through floating wind turbine technology.
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	Various actions referred under the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management are being addressing and are being taken forward under Malta's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Programme of Measures, Conservation objectives and measures for Malta's marine Natura 2000 sites and the update of the monitoring programme of marine litter under the MSFD.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	Malta's new SafeSeaNet Version 5 system on Port Reception Facilities adds improvements on the Incident Report information and counting and registration of persons on board passenger ships. It will also be further enhanced to continue reducing the administrative burden, thereby also increasing efficiency, since various processes concerning ship calls that will be centralised.
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	Clusters development: International and regional marine and ocean research projects Active participation in BlueMed Initiative and JPI Oceans Co-lead if the Knoledge Hub titled 'Science for Good Envionmental Status' (S4GES) Science Malta through its Bilateral R&I Programme 'SINO-MALTA' Science Malta is a key partner in the 'BlueMissionMed' project Interreg MED Project Blue Bio Med; also BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund, Joint Action Ecological Aspects of Microplastics and ERA-NET Cofund scheme of Horizon 2020 MarTERA via JPI Oceans Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) participation

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?**

No. At the moment Malta do not have a blue economy strategy



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.**

N/A



Open questions

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

The biggest challenge is to have a better coordination between entities in view that the blue economy is much of having a cross-sectoral policies that need to have an efficient and effective coordination in order to better implement the Ministerial Declaration

