



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

Brussels, 14–15 October 2026

Greece

Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy

2026 contribution

Greece: concrete progress and investment priorities

Fleet renewal, ports and maritime education

Master Plan completed. Coastal fleet renewal and financing.

€50 million approved. Small electric coastal vessels.

€500 million proposed. Investment aid scheme under discussion with the European Commission.

€62.245 million approved. National VTMS modernisation.

€30 million: Green Fund. Green, digital and resilient ports.

Maritime education. Onboard training, student support and modern training equipment.



National initiatives

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	MMAIP contribution
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	Coastal fleet Master Plan completed (RRF 16944). Technology-neutral renewal linked to routes and port readiness. Green Fund: national initiative for green, digital and resilient ports. In August 2026, the Special Spatial Framework for Industry and the Supply Chain was approved. It sets guidelines for industrial and logistics activities that require direct access to the sea front (including ship repair), treats ports and the coastal zone as a single land–sea spatial policy field, and promotes the legal framework for industrial ports, dry ports and Ro-Ro unitized cargo connections for the islands.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	VTMIS expansion and modernisation. Real-time traffic monitoring and interoperable systems.
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	Onboard training and access to maritime careers. Digital learning and skills for new ship technologies.
Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region	The National Strategy for Integrated Maritime Policy in the Island Area (Law 4832/2021) is under preparation and is expected to be completed at the end of 2026. Island Entrepreneurship Barometer: It is an initiative of the General Secretariat for the Aegean and Island Policy, carried out for the second time (October 2025 – February 2026) after 2023. It included primary research, with over 900 questionnaires collected from island businesses. The aim is for the survey to become a permanent tool for recording, systematically studying and monitoring island competitiveness indicators, with emphasis on the characteristics of island entrepreneurship, the cost of doing business on the islands, and other critical issues of interest to businesses operating in the Greek island area. Business Observatory for the Islands: An initiative of the General Secretariat for the Aegean and Island Policy, aiming to meet the need for a mechanism that monitors critical cost elements of insularity, so that conclusions, indicators and data can be drawn for the redesign of economic and other specific policies for island entrepreneurship. It is expected to be launched within 2026.
Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture	Two new National Marine Parks are being advanced in Greece, in the Southern Cyclades and in the Ionian Sea. For the South Aegean 1 – Southern Cyclades Marine Park, the draft Presidential Decree was signed (July 2026) and sent to the Council of State for a legality review. For the Ionian, the corresponding decree is under preparation. The aim is to exceed 35% of Greek seas under protection in the first months of 2027. The Special Spatial Framework for Aquaculture of 2011 remains in force. Its revision is pending; in June 2026 the Ministry of Rural Development and Food announced €4 million for spatial planning through the Organized Aquaculture Development Areas.
Coastal and maritime tourism	In August 2026 the new Special Spatial Framework for Tourism was adopted. It classifies areas by tourism intensity (Categories A–E) and islands into Groups I–III, and sets strict protection rules for the coastal zone.
Marine renewable energies	In August 2026 the new Special Spatial Framework for Renewable Energy Sources entered into force. For floating photovoltaics at sea, it excludes diving parks, newer shipwrecks, anchorage areas and artificial underwater attractions, and requires account to be taken of fishing grounds.



Projects: funding, intended outputs and stage

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Projects and delivery stage
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	Small electric vessels: €50 million approved. Green Fund: €30 million for the proposed port initiative. Regional ports: RRF 16975 and Transport 2021–2027 preparation. DECOMPRES (CEF): shore-side electricity works and studies.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	VTMIS: €62.245 million approved (September 2026). Planned outputs: 7 traffic centres to upgrade and 3 new centres.
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	Merchant Marine Academies: onboard training, student support and simulator / laboratory equipment. Digital education: project preparation.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	Approval of 12 diving tourism projects by the Ministry of Tourism, funded by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The aim is to develop diving parks, create free-access artificial underwater attractions, and modernise schools and vessels of recreational diving service providers.
Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture	Procurement of 3 surveillance vessels for the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA) through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The first vessel (Syrna) was delivered in July 2026. The vessels will significantly strengthen the Agency's operational capacity for the supervision, monitoring and protection of the country's marine protected areas.
Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region	Water supply projects: The Ministry of Environment and Energy has funded 10 water supply and water management projects in 9 island municipalities (Naxos, Amorgos, Astypalaia, Rhodes, Leros, Skopelos, Alonissos, Zakynthos, Crete (municipality of Viannos)), with a total budget of over €15 million (June 2026).



Green, digital and resilient Greek ports

€30 million from Greece's Green Fund

Green. Energy efficiency, water and waste management, pollution reduction.

Smart. Digital environmental monitoring and preventive maintenance.

Resilient. Climate-risk assessment and continuity of critical port functions.

Connected and place-based. Reliable island links and better port–city interfaces.

Proposed approach. Pilots for small, medium-sized and island ports, with common indicators and technical support.



Port investment for island connectivity

Regional upgrades and shore-side electricity

Regional ports. RRF 16975 upgrades and further project preparation under Transport 2021–2027.

DECOMPRES (CEF, 2024–2028). Port electrification in Rafina, Lavrion, Corfu and Kavala.

Rafina. Project scope: four shore-side electricity berthing positions for passenger and freight vessels.

Lavrion, Corfu and Kavala. Studies for future shore-side electricity infrastructure.

Delivery priority: align port readiness with the vessels serving island routes.



Maritime education: training for modern shipping

Merchant Marine Academies and seafarer training

Training at sea. First and second onboard training periods for Merchant Marine Academy cadets.

Access and employment. Financial support for students. Training and professional certification for unemployed seafarers.

Training equipment. Simulators and laboratory equipment for maritime education.

Digital education. Educational content and services in preparation.

Skills priority: safe operation of new ship technologies.



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?

Integrated maritime policy for islands

Framework established in 2021. It recognises insularity and coordinates policies for sustainable island development.

2026 sectoral progress. The completed coastal fleet Master Plan links vessel renewal with island route needs and port readiness.

Potential UfM cooperation. Technical exchange on fleet renewal, port investment and maritime skills.



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.

€50 million approved: small electric coastal vessels

Modernisation Fund, investment MF 2026-1 EL 0-001.

€500 million proposed: coastal shipping investment aid

New vessels and retrofits. SA.122531 under discussion with the Commission.

€30 million: Greece's Green Fund

Proposed national initiative for green, digital and resilient ports.

Complementary funding instruments

Cohesion policy and RRF: ports, VTMS, fleet planning and maritime education.

Islands Decarbonisation Fund: renewable energy and island grid links.



Open questions

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

Investment cost. Fleet renewal must remain viable on island routes with limited demand.

Vessel and port readiness. Ship investment, charging, grid capacity and alternative-fuel infrastructure must advance together.

Implementation capacity. Small port authorities need project-preparation support. Seafarers need skills for new ship technologies.

Priority: affordable, reliable island connections throughout the year.

