

ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN 2.0 2020-2022

An updated action plan for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the European Union Atlantic area

The purpose of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 is to promote the EU's new approach to a sustainable blue economy in the Atlantic area, through a holistic vision of economic growth in sustainable, and environmentally friendly terms by promoting economic well-being and social equity. The implementation of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 throughout its almost two years has been successful in establishing a new governance structure with distinct Thematic Pillars that encompass all aspects of the marine economy, promoting major opportunities for the European Blue Economy. Moving forward in the next year of implementation the aim is to enhance the synergies between all sea basins as well as examining ways that joint Pillar actions can have a positive impact on the Atlantic stakeholders.



DYMPHNA KEOGH

**IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE ATLANTIC STRATEGY COMMITTEE
2020 - 2021**

“Since it was adopted on 23rd July 2020, the French Presidency of the Atlantic Strategy Committee (ASC) in 2020, the Irish Presidency of the ASC 2021, alongside fellow Member States Portugal and Spain, the EU Commission, Pillar Coordinators, Taskforce Members, Assistance mechanism, national coordinators and Regional stakeholders have been working toward its implementation and laying the groundwork for the development of the plan in the years to come.”



JOSÉ MARÍA SOLANO & LARA VENTAS

**SPANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE ATLANTIC STRATEGY COMMITTEE
2021 - 2022**

"From the Spanish Presidency of the Atlantic Strategy we trust in the continuity of the Atlantic Strategy in a future in which the importance of the blue economy will be increasingly greater given its strategic nature, and with it the work of this key initiative of the European Union. Among the objectives that will need to be addressed through this initiative, we hope that, in the future, the Atlantic Strategy will work to strengthen EU policies related to the EU Atlantic region and increase synergies between them in order to support a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the EU Atlantic region."

ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN 2.0

Building on successful projects, to foster a sustainable blue economy

The Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 aims to unlock the potential of the sustainable Blue Economy in the Atlantic area while preserving marine ecosystems and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation of environmental hazards. Some remarkable and impactful projects are important to highlight:

PILLAR	PROJECT TITLE	SCOPE
I	<u>Atlantic Smart Ports Blue Acceleration Network (AspBAN)</u>	Support Atlantic Ports to act as ecosystems in order to foster innovation in the blue economy, thus diversifying their business models and revenue sources.
II	<u>MATES</u>	Develop a skills strategy that addresses the main drivers of change in the maritime industry, in particular shipbuilding and offshore renewable energy. Both sectors are strongly linked and require new capacities to succeed in an increasingly digital, green and knowledge -driven economy.
III	<u>MaRINET2</u> (Evolving from <u>MaRINET</u>)	Unlock the energy potential of our oceans. Specifically, its goals could be described as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enhance networking between different European research infrastructures• To contribute to the improvement of knowledge transfer• To understand the differences between facilities
IV	<u>CleanAtlantic</u>	Protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Atlantic Area by improving capabilities to monitor, prevent and remove (macro) marine litter. Will also contribute to raising awareness and changing attitudes among stakeholders and to improving marine litter managing systems.
R&D	<u>Atlantic YouthInternational Cooperation</u>	Development of maritime culture among the youth, especially through watersports and maritime education in schools and clubs. It is also aimed at making the Atlantic Area become an excellence pole for the maritime culture of the youth.



PILLAR 1: PORTS AS GATEWAYS AND HUBS FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY



PILLAR 2: BLUE SKILLS AND OCEAN LITERACY



PILLAR 3: MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY



PILLAR 4: COASTAL RESILIENCE & HEALTHY OCEAN

For more information regarding each pillar, click on the images.

FUNDING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The Atlantic Ocean does not have funding on its own. However, several EU programs take into consideration the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 goals and priorities. Some opportunities available in the sea basin that are worthy of notice are:

EU renewable energy financing mechanism: Supports renewable energy projects. The financial will, through competitive tenders for grants, support new renewable energy projects in all EU countries that are willing to host them.

European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund: is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2021-2027 (replacement of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – EMFF). Provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably.

Horizon Europe: is the EU's key funding Research and innovation funding program, with a budget of €95.5 billion, that runs until 2027. The budget is divided amongst four pillars: excellent science, global challenges and industrial competitiveness, innovative Europe and widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area.

Connecting Europe Facility 2: Is the 2nd generation of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF-2 program) "Digital" strand (2021-2027), with a total budget of €2,065 billions. Aims to support and catalyze investments in digital connectivity infrastructures of common interest.

Innovation fund: is one of the world's largest funding programs for the demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies. Will provide around EUR 38 billion of support from 2020 to 2030. This is done through calls for large and small-scale projects.

Connecting Europe Facility 2: Is the 2nd generation of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF-2 program) "Digital" strand (2021-2027), with a total budget of €2,065 billions. Aims to support and catalyze investments in digital connectivity infrastructures of common interest.

The LIFE Program: is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It is composed of the following sub-programs: Nature and Biodiversity; Circular Economy and Quality of Life; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Clean Energy Transition. At the moment, there are open calls for proposals.

Interreg Europe: is a cooperation program, co-funded by the European Union, with a budget of €379 Millions that runs from 2021-2027. Supports cooperation across borders through project funding, in fields such as health, environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy and more.

NEXT STEPS IN THE AAP 2.0?



Increase our stakeholder engagement, giving emphasis to the integration of smaller stakeholders



Assists stakeholders in better accessing funding for projects and initiatives



Promote cross-cutting topics amongst Pillars and enhancing the synergies between them as well as examining ways that joint Pillar actions can have a positive impact on the Atlantic stakeholders



Exploit synergies at all levels: within and between sea basins, projects, amongst areas of strategic relevance and between programs

CONNECT WITH THE ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN ONLINE

Explore the resources, actions & cooperation opportunities in the Atlantic area:

- Atlantic Website: <https://atlanticstrategy.eu/en>
- CINEA Website: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/index_en
- Register for the 2022 Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference: <http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/news-and-events/events/9th-atlantic-stakeholder-platform-conference>

ATLANTIC STRATEGY
Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan



European
Commission

