

Dear Friends of the Atlantic,

We hope you are all great! We are very pleased to share with you some exciting news in this newsletter edition.

The first ASC meeting of the **Atlantic Action Plan 2.0** 2022 occurred in Madrid, Spain, and was led by the Spanish Presidency. This meeting was mainly in-person and counted with all National Representatives from the four regions, as well as other standing members. With the motto **Partnership for the Blue Atlantic Economy**, the Spanish presidency had the opportunity to present their annual plan which will ensure the continuity of the EU's work within the Atlantic Action Plan. Moreover, we had the opportunity to listen to our current Pillar Coordinators explain their achievements and planned activities. Additionally, it was time to discuss the main conclusions from the survey on the Pillars in order to understand the improvements required and strategies to follow. Finally, in this meeting the new Pillar Coordinators were elected for the next period which starts on June 2022.

In Madrid we also had the opportunity to assist a hybrid session organised by DG MARE and DG RTD, namely **Mission Restore our Ocean and waters by 2030** presented by Magdalena Andreea Strachinescu Olteanu, Head of Maritime Policy and Blue Economy Directorate Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment Unit.

Have you taken a look at the success stories published in our website? These one-pagers briefly tell the story of the most relevant and impactful projects pursuing a sustainable Atlantic Strategy.

Last but not least, check out the **upcoming events and opportunities** below. These might be interesting and relevant for you!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
The Atlantic Assistance Mechanism Team

ASC MEETING – 14th MARCH

1 This first meeting of the ASC was the occasion to listen to the current **Pillar Coordinators**, who **play a key role in energising the strategy and liaising between the public and private sectors and academia** on all issues related to the different thematic areas of the strategy.

The Atlantic Assistance Mechanism (AAM) presented the **2021 implementation report of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0**. This is the **first report endorsed by the ASC since the adoption of the Plan in July 2020**. The report provides a comprehensive **overview of all activities undertaken and the results of the first year** of implementation. The content was based on research and information gathered by the AAM in cooperation with pillar coordinators and task forces members, and with the assistance of the ASC representatives.

2

3 The ASC Presidency underlined the **need to reinforce the operational structure of the new Atlantic Action Plan (AAP)**. To this end, they will seek an active and central role for the Atlantic strategy in the development of the Atlantic sea basin. In order to improve the governance of the AAP, the ASC will work towards the creation of an agile and transparent operational framework.

The AAM presented the results of a **survey on the work carried out by the Pillar Coordinators over the last year**. The presentation highlighted the **central role played** by the Pillar Coordinators in preparing the roadmaps, identifying opportunities and obstacles, collecting information, creating Atlantic networks and organising task force meetings and workshops addressing relevant issues to the pillars of the action plan.

4

5 The AAM together with the Spanish Presidency, CINEA and DG MARE carried out an evaluation of the first year of implementation of the Action Plan 2.0. One of the conclusions is that it is **crucial that the Pillar Coordinators feel part of the process**, so it is needed to receive feedback from the stakeholders who are implementing the Atlantic Action Plan in order to prepare the next course of action for future implementations.

MISSION OCEAN & WATERS SESSION



i If you want to know more about **Ocean & Waters** check our [website](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS | SAVE THE DATES

TWO WORKSHOPS

TOWARDS DIGITAL AND GREEN BLUE CAREERS

DIGITAL LEARNING AND BLUE SCHOOLS' IMPACT

WORKSHOP 1 | Organised by Pillar I: Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy and Pillar II: Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy

APRIL 26th: TOWARDS DIGITAL AND GREEN BLUE CAREERS

Digital skills have been highlighted in previous initiatives of the Atlantic Action Plan as a transversal priority. Another skill gap that has been identified regards the preparation to contribute to the ambitious European Green Deal that, in particular, maritime workers should be able to understand and actively participate. Upskilling and reskilling in this area will further contribute for the valorization of maritime careers, critical to attract youngsters to the Blue Economy.

WORKSHOP 2 | Organised by Pillar II: Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy

APRIL 27th: DIGITAL LEARNING AND BLUE SCHOOLS' IMPACT

The power of digital learning tools was shown during the pandemics, where educators had to make an effort to accomplish in just two years a forced digital transition that would normally be slower. Digital learning tools will continue to be used and present advantages on some situations, as was discussed in previous workshops of the Atlantic Action Plan. In this workshop stakeholders will bring in successful experiences and tools, with a view to creating new partnerships and developing new innovative digital learning resources.

The impact of blue education is another topic that will be discussed in this workshop, as the Network of European Blue Schools set by the EU4Ocean Coalition for DG MARE is approaching two years of existence.

REGISTER NOW

Day 1 | Pillars III & IV National Event 9th May, Santander, Spain – In person | 12:30 - 17:30 CET

This in-person event will focus on discussing the EU perspective on the Sustainable Blue Economy and EU Maritime Energy Strategy, a brainstorming workshop for potential project ideas development to discuss "The Future we want for Marine Renewable Energies in the Atlantic Area".

Day 2 | EU Brokerage Session 10th May, Santander, Spain – Hybrid | 09:00 - 12:30 CET

DG MARE, in cooperation with the Atlantic sea basin strategy and its assistance mechanism, organises a dedicated brokerage session to inform stakeholders and promote the potentialities of S3 interregional partnerships, in particular in the framework of the I3 instrument and the currently open calls, specifically focusing offshore renewable energy (offshore wind and ocean energy).

REGISTER NOW

[Click here for calendar events](#)



[Click here for funding opportunities](#)



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