



Atlantic Strategy

Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan

Implementation Report 2024

Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism – Atlantic Sea Basin



ATLANTIC STRATEGY
Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan



List of Abbreviations

AAM/AM	Atlantic Assistance Mechanism
AAORIA	All-Atlantic Ocean Research & Innovation Alliance
AAP	Atlantic Action Plan
AMS	Atlantic Maritime Strategy
ASC	Atlantic Steering Committee
ASPC	Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference
CT	Central Team
CINEA	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
GNSBI	Greater North Sea Basin Initiative
MRE	Marine Renewable Energy
MS	Member States
PC	Pillar Coordinator
R&I	Research & Innovation
SME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Message from the ASC French Presidency
- 1.2 Executive Summary
- 1.3 Presentation of AAP 2.0 renewed priorities
- 1.4 AAP 2.0 Governance and ASC meetings
- 1.5 Presentation of new Pillar Roadmap objectives and expected outputs

2. AAP 2.0 Progress

- 2.1 Overview of AAP 2.0 Progress (2020 - 2024)
- 2.2 Stakeholder engagement activities
- 2.3 AMS synergies building events and activities
- 2.4 Key Results per Pillar 2023-2024 along with Good Practice Examples
- 2.5 Data on AAP 2.0 Implementation

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 3.1 Key recommendations per Pillar (incorporating info/feedback from Pillar Roadmaps and NH Roadmaps)
- 3.2 Next Steps
- 3.3 Conclusions

4. Annex

1.

Introduction



1.1 Message from the ASC French Presidency

Dear Atlantic Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2024 Implementation Report of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 (AAP 2.0)!

In 2024, France chaired the Atlantic Strategic Committee (ASC) in accordance with the rotating presidency between the EU Member States of the Atlantic Maritime Strategy. The Atlantic area accounts for more than a third of the gross added value of the EU's blue economy, and the Atlantic Member States are key players in this, contributing to the blue component of the European Green Deal.

The Ministerial Declaration adopted in Porto on 18 October 2023, during the Portuguese Presidency, aims to strengthen the response to the critical issues linked to the negative impacts of the Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, as well as the imperative of the energy and ecological transition to combat climate change and the decline in biodiversity. In line with the Ministerial Declaration, and under the motto "Navigating towards a sustainable blue future", the French Presidency was keen to promote inclusiveness, cooperation and dialogue between all the political and economic players in the Atlantic Sea basin, not forgetting its outermost regions, national authorities of the Member States, representatives of the European Commission, Atlantic regions and regional organisations. The key challenge was to make the Atlantic Basin a prosperous and resilient region to face the crucial challenges and stakes in the development of a sustainable and competitive blue economy on a sea-basin scale by sharing a joint vision and working together to build solutions to meet them.

The Presidency therefore focused its efforts in particular **on making the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 (AAP) more operational by bringing stakeholders closer together** and improving coordination between them in order to implement this AAP as closely as possible on the ground for the benefit of regional and local communities, by developing a bottom-up and multi-level approach. It also **promoted dialogue around areas of cooperation** of common interest between Sea Basins within the EU, in particular between the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean (WestMED) and the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI).

Finally, it **endeavoured to work towards the internationalisation of the Atlantic Maritime Strategy (AMS)** by opening the debate on renewed dialogue with the United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland and other third countries in the Atlantic, and by strengthening links with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science and the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA).

The French presidency was delighted to be working closely throughout this year with the members of the Atlantic Strategic Committee, the Member States, the European Commission, the representatives of the Atlantic regions (Atlantic Arc Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and the Atlantic Trans Network), Atlantic Cities and the Interreg Atlantic Area programme, the AAM and the Pillar Coordinators, as well as with the Portuguese co-presidency of WestMED, to ensure the success of its presidency's ambition with a view to sailing towards this sustainable blue future for the Atlantic Basin.

French Presidency of Atlantic Strategy Committee 2024

1.2 Executive Summary

The AAP 2.0 Implementation Report 2024 provides an analysis of the fourth year of implementation of the [Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 \(AAP 2.0\)](#). The overall objective of this document is to present the progress and the results achieved within 2024, while showcasing the specific activities undertaken, the key takeaways and lessons learnt as well as recommendations for the next year. All data and key findings presented within this report are a result of desktop research and information gathered by the Atlantic Assistance Mechanism (AAM), in cooperation with the ASC Presidency, the Pillar Coordinators, the Atlantic National Hubs and the respective Taskforce members.

The report includes a presentation of AAP 2.0 renewed priorities based on the Porto Ministerial declaration, presents the activities organised by the AAM, the Pillar Coordinators and the National Hubs to promote and raise awareness of the AAP 2.0's goals and objectives and gives an overview of selected projects that are in line with AAP 2.0 priorities and which have been identified as good practice examples from the [Maritime Data Hub](#).

In a nutshell, the main results and achievements of 2024 are the organisation by the French Presidency & EC of the annual Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (ASPC), whose results are also presented in this report. Also, in 2024, four ASC meetings, dedicated workshops and national events have been organised by the Pillar coordinators and the Atlantic National hubs in collaboration with the AAM. These workshops/events aimed to showcase the most important issues around AAP 2.0, share knowledge and developments around the AAP areas of work and exchange opinions on how to solve important challenges. In addition, the AAM continued to map funded projects around the AAP Thematic Pillar Goals in the first semester of 2024 and the ASC Committee Atlantic Strategy Committee continued to monitor, report and evaluate the different aspects of the AAP 2.0 and highlight important concerns.

Lastly, pertinent conclusions, recommendations and insightful respective lessons learnt from the fourth year of AAP implementation have been gathered and pointed out in this implementation report to guide the future work of the AAP 2.0. These findings can serve as crucial guides for shaping the future strategy implementation and for maximizing the AAP's impact in fostering sustainable blue economy across the Atlantic Region.

1.3 Presentation of AAP 2.0 renewed priorities

Ministerial Declaration of 2023

Updates in the AAP 2.0 - Renewed priorities based on the Porto Ministerial Declaration

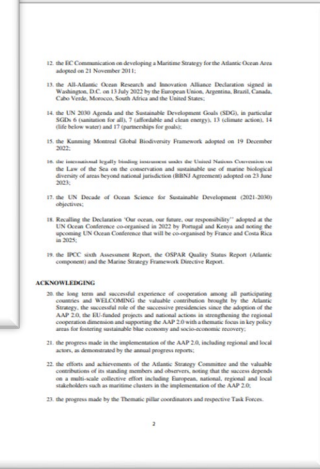
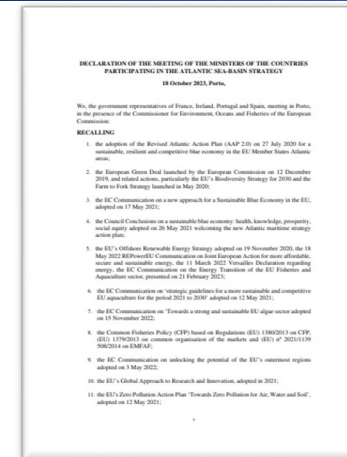
On 18th of October 2023, the first Atlantic Ministerial Declaration was signed in Oporto, Portugal in the context of the 10th Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference.

During the Ministerial Meeting the 4 Atlantic Member States (MS) - France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain-, supported by the European Commission (EC), committed to further build on Atlantic's success by cooperating on a wide variety of Sustainable Blue Economy topics.

The renewed priorities of the Declaration included, among other, actions related to all Pillars of the AAP 2.0. As such,

- developing ports as gateways for trade and energy,
- boosting quality education, training and life-long learning as well as ocean literacy
- promoting carbon neutrality in particular through marine renewable energy
- enhancing coastal resilience and fight against marine pollution

were in the center of discussions during the Ministerial Meeting.



For more information on Ministerial Declaration click [here](#)

1.4 AAP 2.0 Governance and ASC meetings

Overview of AAP 2.0 Governance

Introduction to AAP 2.0

The Atlantic Maritime Strategy was originally adopted in 2011 in order to support the sustainable development of blue economy in the EU Member States bordering the Atlantic ocean.

In 2013, the European Commission (EC) put forward an Atlantic Action Plan (AAP) to implement this strategy. Few years later, with the aim to give a new boost to a sustainable maritime economy, the EC updated the priorities for regional cooperation by releasing a [Communication](#) which acted as a fresh contribution to Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. This Communication outlined the updated AAP 2.0 for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the EU Atlantic area.

The AAP 2.0 has the ambition to achieve seven goals under four thematic Pillars through concrete actions mobilising all relevant Atlantic stakeholders across sectors, coastal regions and countries. The governance structure of the AAP 2.0 is depicted in the graph on the right.

Besides the four thematic Pillars, Research & Innovation (R&I) - the International dimension underpins all Thematic Pillars of the AAP; the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance is an important example of these cooperative international R&I efforts.



For more information on AAP 2.0 click [here](#)

1.4 AAP 2.0 Governance and ASC meetings

Atlantic Steering Committees – 1st of 2024

In accordance with the planning of French ASC Presidency, each of the four ASC meetings of 2024 was focused on a different Pillar of AAP 2.0. Each ASC was also accompanied by a thematically related on-site visit in French Regions.

1st ASC meeting 2024



AAP 2.0 Pillar focus: Pillar II - Blue skills and ocean literacy



[More information on ASC meeting outcomes here](#)

Overview: The first ASC (Atlantic Steering Committee) held under the French Presidency took place in Paris on 19th of March 2024. The meeting showcased a robust agenda aimed at fostering collaborative strategies and initiatives for the Atlantic region's maritime domain.

The main topics emerged from the meeting's discussions include:

- **Debate on broadening the action of the AAP 2.0:** Time was dedicated to an internal debate on the future relationship with other Atlantic countries, such as the UK, Norway and Iceland. The French Presidency led the discourse, followed by a constructive roundtable discussion, highlighting the interest on maintaining strong ties while navigating new frameworks (i.e. Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI)).
- **Promoting Ocean Literacy:** Under the theme of "Blue Skills and Ocean Literacy in Action," the coordinator of the EU4Ocean coalition, presented initiatives aimed at enhancing ocean literacy across Europe. The discussion encompassed European Ocean Days, Ocean Literacy Dialogues, and the forthcoming United Nations Ocean Decade Conference, illustrating the region's commitment to fostering environmental awareness.
- **Addressing Funding Gaps in MRE:** During the meeting, the AAP Coordinator of Pillar III presented the funding gaps in the field of marine renewable energy, as identified by Taskforce of Pillar III, highlighting best practices and advocating for proactive measures to address challenges related to securing funding for critical initiatives.



19 March
2024



Paris,
France



1.4 AAP 2.0 Governance and ASC meetings

Atlantic Steering Committees – 2nd of 2024

In accordance with the planning of French ASC Presidency, each of the four ASC meetings of 2024 was focused on a different Pillar of AAP 2.0. Each ASC was also accompanied by a thematically related on-site visit in French Regions.

2nd ASC meeting 2024



AAP 2.0 Pillar focus: Pillar III – Marine Renewable Energy



[More information on ASC meeting outcomes here](#)

Overview: The 2nd Meeting of the Atlantic Strategy Committee under the French Presidency was held at IFREMER in Nantes on June 25th. The meeting was attended both in person and remotely by the members of the Committee and some invited guests.

The main topics were discussed during the meeting included:

- **Internationalisation:** The ASC chair announced that the progress on the future relationship with the UK, Norway, Iceland and other third countries in the Atlantic is ongoing. DG MARE underlined that the process with these countries should happen in parallel with GNSBI.
- **Cross-sea Basin Dialogue:** Sea Basin Strategy representative highlighted the importance of discussions at the European Maritime Day involving the three Sea Basins and underlined a need for more practical solutions on how to cooperate better, activate joint working groups, and invite regional stakeholders to events or conferences. The ASC French presidency announced that it is its goal to work together for concrete actions and that they intend to add a session on cross sea basin dialogue during the Atlantic Stakeholders Platform Conference 2024.
- **Pillar III: Marine Renewable Energy (MRE):** Interventions from all four AAP member states as well as the EC (DG MARE) took place during the meeting, focusing on national policy developments, setting of EU and national strategies, definition of strategic goals as well as respective targets on Marine Renewable Energy.
- **New Pillar Coordinators elections (for the period 2024-2026):** Following a congratulating message to the pillar coordinators of 2022-2024 and their teams for their outstanding work, the ASC proceeded to select the new Pillar Coordinators which started their work on the second half of 2024.



28 June 2024



Nantes,
France



1.4 AAP 2.0 Governance and ASC meetings

Atlantic Steering Committees – 3rd of 2024

In accordance with the planning of French ASC Presidency, each of the four ASC meetings of 2024 was focused on a different Pillar of AAP 2.0. Each ASC was also accompanied by a thematically related on-site visit in French Regions.

3rd ASC meeting 2024



AAP 2.0 Pillar focus: Pillar IV – Healthy Oceans and resilient coasts



[More information on ASC meeting outcomes here](#)

Overview: The 3rd ASC (Atlantic Steering Committee) meeting, held under the French Presidency, took place on October 17th in Brest. The meeting was attended both in person and remotely by Committee members and guests.

The main topics emerged from the meeting's discussions include:

- **Previous Pillar Coordinators results:** The main achievements/results of the 2022-2024 Pillar Coordinators were presented during the meeting with specific emphasis to their relation to the AAP 2.0 goals.
- **Interventions from ASC observers:** The Interreg Atlantic Management Authority provided updates on ongoing and future actions linked to the AAP 2.0. ATN also presented their activities from the past months, and CPMR shared updates on ongoing and future actions related to the AAP 2.0.
- **New Roadmaps presentations:** The new Pillar Coordinators elected and the AAP 2.0 National Hubs also presented their roadmaps for the upcoming period.
- **Internationalisation of AAP 2.0:** The French presidency announced the actions performed/in progress regarding the future relationships of Atlantic MS with the UK and Norway
- **Funding Opportunities:** CINEA updated the ASC committee on calls and funding opportunities related to the Atlantic and AAP 2.0.
- **ASPC Preparations:** A discussion also took place regarding the preparations and themes to be analysed during the upcoming ASPC24 in Bordeaux.



17 October
2024



Brest,
France



1.4 AAP 2.0 Governance and ASC meetings

Atlantic Steering Committees – 4th of 2024

In accordance with the planning of French ASC Presidency, each of the four ASC meetings of 2024 was focused on a different Pillar of AAP 2.0.

4th ASC meeting 2024



AAP 2.0 Pillar focus: Pillar I – Ports as gateways for the blue economy



[Outcomes link](#)

Overview: The 4th ASC (Atlantic Steering Committee) meeting, held under the French Presidency, took place on December 10th, 2024. The meeting was attended and remotely by Committee members and guests.

The main topics emerged from the meeting's discussions include:

- **ASPC24 and Atlantic Week outcomes:** During the meeting, the results, key outcomes and feedback for future editions of the ASPC were discussed between the ASC members. The AAM and Interreg AA Managing Authority presented the outcomes and statistics gathered during the Atlantic Week.
- **AAP 2.0 Implementation report:** The AAM presented the updated version of the Implementation report of the AAP 2.0 including all information collected from the ASPC24, National events, PC roadmaps etc. The report was agreed to be disseminated to all ASC members for review and approval within 2024.
- **New taskforce members:** The AAM presented the new task force teams of the Pillar Coordinators, which were discussed and sent for approval following the meeting.
- **Funding Opportunities:** CINEA and Interreg Atlantic Area updated the ASC committee on calls and funding opportunities related to the Atlantic and AAP 2.0.
- **OECD intervention:** An OECD representative presented OECD's initiative and report on Blue Economy cities and regions
- **Handover of ASC Presidency:** An intervention from the French Presidency was done focusing on wrapping up the accomplishments of 2024.
- **Intervention from new Irish presidency:** ASC Presidency for 2025 made an announcing the goals for 2025.



**10 December
2024**



Online

1.5 Presentation of new Pillar Coordinators 2024-2026 (1/2)

Pillar I & II of AAP 2.0

The second half of the 2024 constituted a transitional period, as the ASC elected the new AAP 2.0 Pillar Coordinators (PC) for 2024–2026.

Pillar I Coordinator

Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy



Carlos Botana LAGARÓN (PC for 2022-2024 & 2024-2026)

Head of sustainability department
in Port Authority of Vigo



Carlos Botana LAGARÓN is the Head of Sustainability and Development Policies in the port of Vigo (Spain) and Chairman of the blue growth network “European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)” and, since 2022, Member of Climate and Energy Committee of International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH).

He holds a PhD in Climate Change and a MSc. Sciences of the Seas. Carlos has over 19 years of experience in management in commercial, fishing and port environment in the port of Vigo.

He has worked in more than sixteen European projects about environment and development in several programs (FP7-THEME 7, LIFE, LIFE+, Feder, and others). He is an expert in environmental implementation, quality, and security systems, and a member of the Sustainability and Development Committee of ESPO “European Sea Ports Organisation” since 2013.

Pillar II Coordinators

Blue skills and ocean literacy



For more information on the AAP Pillars and Pillar Coordinators click [here](#)



Ana NORONHA (Previous PC for 2022-2024)

Executive Director of Ciência Viva



Céline LIRET (New PC for 2024- 2026)

Scientific Director - Partnerships and International Relations at Océanopolis



With a background in marine biology, **Céline LIRET** completed her PhD in oceanography at the European Institute of the Sea of the Université de Bretagne Occidentale (IUEM/UBO, Brest). She, then, joined Océanopolis, the national centre of scientific culture dedicated to the ocean, in 1998 to support marine mammal research activities. Her scientific work on bottlenose dolphins has enriched various national and European programs, been the subject of several presentations and publications, and contributed to the creation of France's first marine national park, Iroise, in 2008.

As her research work is at the crossroads of several disciplines have led her to occupy various positions within the management of Océanopolis: scientific and sustainable development officer, then cultural program and scientific relations officer, then scientific and cultural director and curator. Since 2020, she holds the position of Scientific Director - Partnerships and International Relations at Océanopolis.

1.5 Presentation of new Pillar Coordinators 2024-2026 (2/2)

Pillar III & IV of AAP 2.0

The second half of the 2024 constituted a transitional period, as the ASC elected the new AAP 2.0 Pillar Coordinators (PC) for 2024–2026.

Pillar III Coordinators

Marine Renewable Energy



Kerrie SHEEHAN (Previous PC for 2022-2024)
Head of Research and Technology Department
in Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)



Emer DENNEHY (New PC for 2024- 2026)
Programme Manager for Offshore Renewable Energy
with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)



Emer DENNEHY holds both a Masters and PhD in Energy Engineering from University College Cork, Ireland.

She has nearly 15 years of experience in analysing energy systems both at national and international levels, through energy statistics analysis and senior modelling specialist roles for SEAI, as well as in the Energy Technology Perspectives Division in the International Energy Agency (IEA) from 2013 to 2016. Emer joined the SEAI Offshore renewable energy team in early 2022 as Programme Manager, where she is responsible for Research and Innovation supports and the national Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) test site infrastructure.

Pillar IV Coordinators

Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts



Phil MONBET (Previous PC for 2022-2024)
Director Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique



Eduardo SILVA (New PC for 2024- 2026)
Coordinator of the TEC4SEA platform at INESC TEC



Eduardo SILVA is the Coordinator of the TEC4SEA platform at INESC TEC. Until 2019, he was the Centre for Robotics and Autonomous Systems (CRAS) Coordinator at INESC TEC. From 2020 onwards, he is a Coordinator Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering (DEE), School of Engineering of Porto Polytechnic Institute (ISEP), where he has taught since 1993. As a teacher-researcher, Eduardo has always strived to equip Portugal's north coast with expertise and resources to leverage autonomous systems and marine technology to the maritime system and marine resources.

Eduardo Silva is also responsible for the Leixões I Blue Hub (HAL), a project funded by the RRP (Recovery and Resilience Plan) which aims to establish an infrastructure for testing technologies, products, and systems in the fields of ocean engineering, maritime logistics, and blue biotechnology (blue biobank of the North and scientific diving center) within the perimeter of the Leixões port, and featuring the expertise of the various partners.



For more information on the AAP Pillars and Pillar Coordinators click [here](#)

1.5 Presentation of new Pillar Roadmap objectives and expected outputs (1/2)

Pillar I and Pillar II new Roadmaps

Pillar I

Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy

The 2024-2026 Pillar I roadmap is designed to achieve the following objectives and expected outputs:

- 1 Provide a methodology for ports to develop plans and roadmaps to adapt to climate change
- 2 Design a roadmap to test and develop prototypes of vessels that promote energy transition, identifying necessary port facilities for sustainable energy solutions.
- 3 Identify funding sources for roadmap implementation, focusing on investments in decarbonisation and renewable energy infrastructure
- 4 Disseminate achievements in decarbonisation and footprint reduction in port operations to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Pillar II Coordinator

Blue skills and ocean literacy

The 2024-2026 Pillar II roadmap is designed to achieve the following objectives and expected outputs:

- 1 Provide continuity, consolidation and enrichment
- 2 Follow a cross-pillar approach for all implemented activities
- 3 Follow an “Out of the Atlantic strategy” box and synergetic approach
- 4 Support a collaboration and co-construction via projects

1.5 Presentation of new Pillar Roadmap objectives and expected outputs (2/2)

Pillar I and Pillar II new Roadmaps

Pillar III Coordinator

Marine Renewable Energy

The 2024-2026 Pillar III roadmap is designed to achieve the following objectives and expected outputs:

- 1 Progress the 2024-2026 Roadmap and share input for EU Work programmes
- 2 Assess and identify challenges on floating Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) deployment and technological developments
- 3 Monitor policy landscape developments
- 4 Foster collaboration between Atlantic Member States

Pillar IV Coordinator

Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts

The 2024-2026 Pillar IV roadmap is designed to achieve the following objectives and expected outputs:

- 1 Integrate the Pillar IV updated database into the Maritime Data Hub & Atlantic Strategy site and add additional started and ongoing projects, programmes and entities, supporting public access to relevant information.
- 2 Improve the “free-litter community” actions, also in line with the present intentions of Pillar IV 2024-2026, with more clustering activities with ongoing and new related projects, like FreeLitterAT & Toolkit.
- 3 Launch additional events that will corroborate the attendance and representation at relevant events and further promote the new envisaged actions for this upcoming 2-year period.

2.

AAP 2.0 Progress



2.1 Overview of AAP 2.0 Progress (2020 - 2024)

In the context of preparing the annual Implementation Reports from 2020-2024, the AAM has been monitoring and keeping track of the AAP 2.0 overall progress. Utilising this monitoring activity, the data presented below constitute the aggregated results achieved around AAP 2.0 during those four years of implementation.



>860

Total projects related to AAP identified in the Maritime Data Hub
(>25 identified within 2024)

27

Total projects awarded in the context of Atlantic Project Awards
(6 awarded within 2024)

22

National Events related to AAP 2.0 Pillar themes and objectives
(9 organised within 2024)

5

Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conferences (2020-2024)
(1 Annual ASPC organised within 2024)

>4000

People registered in the Atlantic newsletter

>80

Identified Good Practices/Success stories since 2020
(25 identified within 2024)



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Irish National Hub and PC National Event

Irish National Hub and PC National Event



Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): Pillar III



Atlantic Strategy Workshop for Policy Makers on Floating Offshore Wind

Overview: The webinar focused on the themes of floating offshore wind knowledge, the Member States (MS) national plans elaborated so far as well as the targets set for European Atlantic country policy makers.

Conclusions:

- From the information presented by the Norwegian counterpart, it was evident that the significant potential for floating offshore wind in European Atlantic countries is being brought to light, in particular when there is a prioritised and mutually beneficial collaboration between policy makers and industry stakeholders. A pivotal insight gleaned from Norway’s advancement in this domain is that a decline in infrastructure costs naturally follows on from experience and industry growth.
- The four Atlantic countries, France, Ireland, Portugal, and Spain, all have ambitious floating offshore wind targets in place but differ significantly in how those targets were reached, and the current phase of implementation.
- Public input/social acceptance, environmental and biodiversity impacts, and cooperation with the seafood sector were all emphasised by speakers as being important points of consideration in the planning phases.



23 January
2024



Online



32
in-person
participants



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Workshop by the French National hub of the EU Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism

Workshop by the French National hub of the EU Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism



Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): Pillar I & IV of AAP 2.0



WestMed and Atlantic Action Plan national event at Euromaritime

Overview: This event was the first national joint event related collaboratively to the WestMED initiative and the AAP 2.0. Projects related to smart ports and decarbonisation of the shipping were presented as good examples supporting the sea basin initiatives but also with strong synergies to be shared or replicated.

The event was also the opportunity to recall the ongoing and future funding opportunities to be considered for each initiative implementation but also to ensure the engagement/participation of the French blue economy Community. A focus on the Innovation fund was made as its last call is now open to decarbonisation in the maritime industry.



30 January
2024



Marseille,
France



35
in-person
participants



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Roadshow by the Spanish National Hub

Roadshow by the Spanish National Hub

Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): All pillars of AAP 2.0



Roadshow: Oportunidades de la Economía Azul en el Atlántico

Overview: The Roadshow organised by the Spanish National Hub on the 14th of March poised as a meeting with main blue economy actors, with the objective to debate project proposals, ideas, needs and guidance towards the best funding mechanisms currently available for the blue economy. As a result of the roadshow a mind map gathering all the needs discussed was created and further shared with participants.



14 March
2024



Baiona,
Spain



15
in-person
participants



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Online Webinar from Pillar I of the AAP 2.0

Online Webinar from Pillar I of the AAP 2.0



Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): Pillar I of AAP 2.0



Ports as gateways and hubs for the energy transition: Potential sources of energy and prototype's analysis

Overview: The online webinar hosted by the Atlantic Action Plan (AAP) Pillar I delved into the pivotal role of ports as gateways and hubs for the energy transition. The objective of this webinar was to discuss the main challenges encountered when finding oriented solutions on sources of energy and prototypes for adapting the various maritime fleets towards the energy transition needs.

The webinar served also so as to present the reflections and conclusions that were gathered on a previous [Atlantic Action Plan Workshop \(June 2023\)](#), which were gathered in a comprehensive document aiming to serve as guidance for the industry, academia and decision makers on potential sources of energy and existing prototypes for adapting our various fleet types.

Key next steps emerged from the webinar discussions include:

- Presenting the webinar results alongside the Pillar I report to the EU Energy Transition Partnership (ETP), thus amplifying the impact of the insights garnered.
- Actively seeking funding opportunities for the showcased prototypes, facilitating their development and implementation within port infrastructures.



15 April
2024



Online



20
in-person
participants

The banner features logos for the European Commission, ATLANTIC STRATEGY Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan, and Puerto de Vigo. The main title is 'PORTS AS GATEWAYS AND HUBS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION: Potential sources of energy and prototype's analysis'. The date and time are '15TH OF APRIL 2024 / 10,00 - 12,00 CET'. The background shows a night view of a port with lights reflecting on the water.

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

EMD Workshop: EU Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism

EMD Workshop: - Maximising synergies amongst EU “blue” initiatives



Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): All Pillars of AAP 2.0



EMD Workshop: Maximizing Synergies Amongst EU Blue Initiatives

Overview: This workshop aimed at exploring how the EU Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism can further enhance an effective cooperation with strategic blue economy initiatives promoted by the EU in the ‘cross-cutting’ areas of research and innovation, ocean literacy and green energy transition. It also allowed the different initiatives to share the main activities and results achieved so far in their areas of intervention, and then proceed to identify concrete actions for further cooperation– also by building upon the results of the High-Level Panel 1 held in the context of EMD.

The main outcomes of the meeting included:

- The Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism (with a concrete Pillar on the Atlantic sea basin focused on this topic) is exploring the possibility of creating a cross-sea basin working group on blue skills and ocean literacy.
- From the R&I point of view, SBEP incorporates blue skills as a cross-cutting theme within its scope of work, and has supported projects focused on, e.g., “upskilling” in the tourism sector. Moreover, the foreseen Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) on marine/water is expected to have a focus on education and skills.
- From the angle of energy transition and decarbonisation in different maritime sectors, as highlighted by the Energy Transition Partnership, the development of a new set of “blue skills” is crucial.
- The issue of ocean literacy is the main axis of activity for the EU4OCEAN coalition, and particularly when it comes to involving the younger generations and “training the trainers”. As such, this initiative is supporting integrated outreach actions with the aim to attract and engage such groups to the vast opportunities of the Blue Economy job market.



30 May
2024



Svendborg,
Denmark



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Synergies meeting between AAP, WestMED and Energy Transition Partnership

AAP, WestMED and Energy Transition Partnership collaboration



Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): Pillar I of AAP 2.0



Meeting between Atlantic Action Plan Pillar I & WestMED Initiative Spanish NH and Energy Transition Partnership

Overview: The main objective of this meeting was to discuss on the main challenges encountered when finding oriented solutions on sources of energy and prototypes for adapting the various maritime fleets towards the energy transition needs where discussed.

The presented prototypes were analysed and a discussion about potential funding opportunities and ways of collaboration where explored.

Potential for synergies with other Sea Basins – WestMED and Black Sea- were also identified and analysed.

Key next steps emerged from the webinar discussions include:

1. Seek for funding opportunities for the presented prototypes
2. Keep contact with Energy Transition Partnership to advance on the roadmap
3. Send relevant information from Port of Vigo with regards to the Carbon Footprint Application
4. Seek collaborations between DG RTD - Energy Transition Partnership - WestMED & AAP 2.0
5. Establish contacts with Black Sea Assistance Mechanism to explain what Spain has been working on



03 June
2024



Hybrid (Online &
in Brussels,
Belgium)



7

representatives



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Joint Pillar I and Pillar IV National Events

Joint Pillar I and Pillar IV National Events



Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): Pillar I & IV of AAP 2.0



Atlantic Action Plan Icebreaker Event

Overview: This joint event was organised back-to-back to the Green Energy Ports Conference which happened on the 18th and 19th June 2024 in Vigo (Spain) and served as the icebreaker for the upcoming Conference. During the event the Atlantic Action Plan, and more concretely its Pillars I and IV have been presented and discussed.

The key themes of the event were the Decarbonisation and Green Infrastructures for Ports and Vessels, Sustainable Transport and Ports (Pillar I), and Coastal Resilience & Healthy Ocean (Pillar IV). The event showcased the progress made by Pillar I and Pillar IV of the Atlantic Action Plan, highlighting key achievements and gathering future steps and suggestions through a participatory approach using the Mentimeter tool.

Main outcomes of the event included:

- Presentation of the advancements and strategic directions of the AAP 2.0 Pillar I and IV
- Showcase the importance of sustainable transport, port infrastructure, coastal resilience, and ocean health
- Detailed discussions on the future of the Atlantic region's blue economy and environmental sustainability



18 and 19
June 2024



Vigo,
Spain



30 in-person
and 10 online
participants



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

11th Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (ASPC 2024)

Conference Overview

The 11th Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (ASPC 2024) took place four years after the launch of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0. This year, the Conference was held in Bordeaux, France on 21st and 22nd of November 2024.

As in previous years, ASPC provided stakeholders of the Atlantic Community the opportunity to network, discuss and review the progress and achievements made so far regarding AAP 2.0, objectives and blue economy challenges in the Atlantic Sea Basin.

In line with the 2023 Ministerial Declaration signed in Porto, this year's French Presidency of Atlantic Steering Committee has been focusing on three key priorities that underscore the Ministerial Declaration: environmental stewardship, stakeholder community involvement and international cooperation. Based on this approach, the ASPC 2024 included 3 dynamic sessions focusing on increasing inclusivity by fostering participation of different communities, regional and local stakeholders in the AAP 2.0, internationalisation of AAP and enhancing cross-sea basin dialogue.

The theme of this year's conference was "Atlantic week in Bordeaux: towards a blue future supported by cooperation".

Goals of ASPC 2024

- Provide an overview of the current status of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 implementation
- Focus on Atlantic cooperation opportunities in order to boost the operationalisation of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 and in particular bring the Atlantic Maritime Strategy closer to its actors/projects/communities
- Identify critical and common challenges of all EU Sea Basins and promote cross-sea basin dialogue
- Showcase funding opportunities, projects, best practices, and community platforms that promote the Blue Economy
- Foster interactive sessions promoting collaboration between stakeholders that will unlock opportunities and accelerate the implementation of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 - contributing to an impact-driven networked innovation ecosystem in the Atlantic



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Atlantic Week in Bordeaux (19- 22 November 2024)

Events' Overview

The Atlantic Strategy, in collaboration with the Interreg Atlantic Area, Interact, and Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine hosted, from 19-22 of November 2024, the much-anticipated Atlantic Week in Bordeaux.

A consolidated agenda of the events was built by all co-organisers including a dynamic series of events and participatory workshops dedicated to the future of our Atlantic Ocean. Under the theme "Towards a Sustainable and Cooperative Blue Future," this gathering brought together more than 200 experts, policymakers, researchers, and ocean enthusiasts to explore innovative solutions and collaborative efforts for preserving our vital marine environments.

The main elements of the events included:

- Engaging workshops with interactive sessions on marine conservation, sustainability, and innovative blue economy practices.
- Presentations from leading voices in oceanography, environmental policy, and maritime industries
- Discussions on the latest research and policy developments during expert panels.
- Networking opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals and organisations passionate about the Atlantic and its future.
- Learnings about ongoing and upcoming initiatives aimed at fostering international cooperation for a healthier ocean through collaborative projects.



2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Statistics from ASPC 2024



More than 190 Participants (114 in-person participants & 78 online participants)



Participants from >8 EU countries



23 Speakers



Back-to-back with 2 pre-related events (Interreg Atlantic Area Annual event and Blue Synergies event)



Participants' Satisfaction

92%* of participants were satisfied with the overall event

87%* were satisfied with the balance of stakeholders represented during the event

92%* of participants were satisfied with the interactivity of the ASPC24

* These numbers refer to the percentage of people that replied to the ASPC evaluation form

Participants' Organisations

01

23% National Government and EU institutions

02

21% Local Government/ Institution

03

19% Academia, Research institutions

04

19% Private Sector

05

18% Other*

2.3 AMS synergies building events and activities

Sea Basin Strategies participating in EMD 2024

High-Level Panel 1: Sea Basin Strategies as Key Enablers for a Sustainable Blue Economy



Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): All Pillars of AAP 2.0



High-Level Panel 1: Sea Basin Strategies as Key Enablers for a Sustainable Blue Economy

Overview: On the first day of the European Maritime Day (EMD) 2024 in Svendborg, a high-level panel reviewed the progress since the EU Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) Communication's adoption three years ago. Led by DG MARE and representatives from various Sea Basin Strategies, the session featured a high-level inter-basin dialogue emphasizing the importance of these strategies in implementing the SBE policy framework and exploring future cooperation areas.

In particular, the panel showcased the role of Sea Basin Strategies as a driving and enabling force in the implementation of the Sustainable Blue Economy policy framework, while **defining new ambitions and pointing towards concrete areas of future policy cooperation**. The Presidencies of the three Sea Basin Strategies in the Atlantic, the Black Sea and the Western Mediterranean reflected on the challenges and opportunities ahead, as well as future priorities for the EU Sea Basins in the next five years.

The main topics were discussed during the panel included:

- Presentation of achievements in maritime cluster development, aquaculture, green shipping, blue skills, marine spatial planning, and coastal tourism
- **Discussions focused on enhancing synergies and coordination among EU Sea Basins** and integrating lessons into the newly established North Sea Basin Strategy
- Establishment of a High-Level Group to guide the future direction of Sea Basin Strategies was also announced
- **Identification for concrete opportunities for future cooperation**, including cross-sea basin thematic cooperation, strengthening political cooperation among National Coordinators, and promoting stakeholder cooperation in upcoming regional events.



30 May
2024



Svendborg,
Denmark



2.3 AMS synergies building events and activities

Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days 2024

Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days 2024



Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): All Pillars of AAP 2.0

Overview: Co-organised by DG MARE and DG REGIO, the event focused on the four Macro-regional strategies (Alpine, Danube, Adriatic-Ionian, Baltic) and the three Sea Basin Strategies (Atlantic, Western Mediterranean, and Black Sea). The seven strategies encountered each other's during a two-day event in Brussels, as the event aimed to act as a communication and networking platform, enhancing coordination among participating countries, pillars coordinators, stakeholders, presidencies and representatives of the EU institutions.

The main topics were discussed during the event included:

- Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies not having their own dedicated funding sources, thus needing to mobilise existing EU funding instruments. Different ways were explored in the workshops of the event's first day, in which the strategies can be embedded in other funding sources, cohesion programmes, including Interreg, directly managed, regional, national, private funding and innovative finance as well as other sources.
- Identification of ways in which macro-regional and Sea Basin strategies can support and accelerate the EU enlargement process by sharing ideas and collecting suggestions from regional stakeholders were also discussed.
- The strong need to respond to geopolitical changes was highlighted, especially regarding resilience-building and the need for even better coordination and complementarity between different formats and levels of the MSR's multilevel governance structures.
- Member States should work together more strongly on enhanced integrated and international cooperation regarding the MRS and Sea Basin strategies.



12-13 June
2024



Brussels,
Belgium



2.3 AMS synergies building events and activities

ASPC24 – 3rd Flash Session

Stakeholders input to Atlantic Strategy and cooperation with other Sea Basins (WestMed, Atlantic, North Sea and Black Sea) Relevance to Assistance Mechanism (priority/ pillar): All Pillars of AAP 2.0



ASPC24 Conference Report

Overview: This ASPC24 session aimed to **foster greater cooperation between the Atlantic, WestMED, Black Sea, and GNSBI** by building on the work of the Atlantic Pillars and addressing the needs and priorities of each Sea Basin Strategy. The second part of the session featured interactive discussion with experts from the Sea Basins, who shared real-life examples and best practices on **how to strengthen collaboration between the Atlantic Strategy and other Sea Basins.**



22 November
2024



Bordeaux,
France

Key outcomes of the session included:

- Between all Sea Basin strategies there are several common areas for future cooperation which include: Blue skills and ocean literacy, decarbonisation of shipping and ports, including links with Marine Renewable Energy, fight against pollution/marine litter, sustainable aquaculture and tourism
- Key challenges identified with regards to the cooperation between the Atlantic, WestMED, Black Sea and GNSBI consist of addressing diverse regional needs and priorities, and coordinating across different Sea Basin Strategies to ensure cohesive and effective collaboration.
- Cooperation is important to accomplish synergies between Sea Basins to tackle shared challenges and promote sustainable development across all Sea Basins.
- Internationalisation of the AMS (including the GNSBI initiative) is a point of interest expressed by the Atlantic MS and the ASC presidency.
- EU4Ocean consists of successful example of cross sea basin cooperation on ocean literacy and blue skills



2.4 Key results per Pillar 2023-2024 along Good Practice Examples

Pillar I Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy

Key results achieved

1

Work Plan elaboration: Development of a comprehensive work plan for the port areas in the Atlantic region, featuring tailored energy prototypes for various vessel operators, through Pillar I's design and dynamisation efforts. Throughout this year the plan was successfully implemented with the support of a 12-member task-force group, comprising experts from various blue economy activities in the Atlantic Region's maritime port sector, which provided strategic guidance and facilitated a series of collaborative meetings, workshops, and presentations in 2024 that effectively presented and analysed the plan's outcomes.

2

Collaborations and synergies identification: Since ports provide the fundamental infrastructure and services for numerous industries, including maritime transportation, marine renewable energy, marine living resources, coastal tourism, and maritime defense, port activities are still essential. As a result, they are equally essential to meeting the climate change targets. In this context, Pillar I participated in a meeting with EC and other Sea Basins – WestMED and Black Sea- to identify and analyse potential for synergies and seek collaborations between DG RTD - Energy Transition Partnership - WestMED and AAP Pillar I.

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar I Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy



Identified good practice example – Boosting the hydrogen transition in the Atlantic Area ports (HYDEA)

Funding Source: Interreg Atlantic Area Programme



The HYDEA project has been designed to carry out pilot tests for the application of hydrogen and methanol as an energy alternative in the fleet and vehicles of the ports of the Atlantic area, to achieve the integration of marine technologies and renewable energies in the maritime sector.



Expected Results

Accelerate the development and application of technologies based on the use of green hydrogen as an energy alternative in different types of fleets and vehicles

Promote a clear role of hydrogen in the strategic energy plans of ports

Increase knowledge on various hydrogen production technologies that are viable for use in ports

Implement technology demonstrators to attract investor interest in viable business models



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar I Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy



Identified good practice example – Decarbonization and Digitalization of Atlantic Ports (ENEPORTS)

Funding Source: Interreg Atlantic Area Programme



ENEPORTS is a project where partners from different locations have identified that ports face similar challenges and can use similar solutions and tools to become more sustainable. The project plans to try out three examples, or pilots, to see how digital technology and artificial intelligence can help manage energy more efficiently. They want to explore new ways to reduce carbon emissions, such as using hydrogen, and test devices that can use different sources of energy.

Expected Results

Test renewable technology within a real environment, improving the energy system of ports and allowing them to manage the energy produced in the most efficient way.

Support the creation of protocols for systematising the aforementioned innovative renewable energy integration.

Collect and process power-related data for optimising energy utilisation so as to increase efficiency in managing renewable energy and hybridise technologies in a safe way, maintaining power quality by involving digitalisation and intelligent algorithms.



Innovative Energy Production



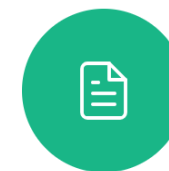
Facilities Improvement



Collection and Distribution



Research and Innovation



Standardization and Implementation

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar I Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy



Identified good practice example – Climate resilient Port Infrastructure (CLARION)

Funding Source: Horizon 2020,
Climate, Energy and Mobility
Programme



The CLARION Project addresses the resiliency and sustainability of port infrastructures and hinterland transport networks (both land and water connections) in the event of disruptions caused by climate change or other human-related incidents. By focusing on ensuring resiliency, CLARION will also promote the safety and security of port access and operations while minimizing the environmental impact of construction, maintenance, operation, and decommissioning of port infrastructure.

Expected Results

Evaluate the current state of the art in terms of port procedures for dealing with climate disruptions, highlighting the needs and challenges that must be addressed.

Deploy 10 pilot demonstrations in operational environments to evaluate 4 ports operational availability in crisis scenarios.

A series of KPIs will be chosen and monitored based on extensive data collection, including in-situ historical and real-time datasets from the sensor networks deployed at participating ports.

Source: CLARION

Climate Resilient Port Infrastructure

Is a collaborative project funded by the Horizon Europe Programme, aimed at enhancing the resilience, sustainability, and security of European ports in the face of climate change.

20 partners from 11 European countries

Bringing together a multidisciplinary team of 20 partners from 11 European countries, CLARION will develop and implement innovative solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change on port infrastructure.

European Commission's EU

CLARION aligns with the European Commission's EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and the European Green Deal, emphasizing the importance of climate-resilient infrastructure in achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar I Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy

Identified good practice example – Smart Clusters for Maritime Decarbonisation (SMARTDEC)

Funding Source: Interreg Atlantic Area Programme

SMARTDEC

Smart clusters for Maritime Decarbonisation

SMARTDEC's goal is to create a network across the Atlantic Area in the maritime transport sector. The aim is to provide the necessary tools, knowledge, and structure to quickly tackle the challenge of reducing pollution from waterborne transportation in the Atlantic region.

Expected Results

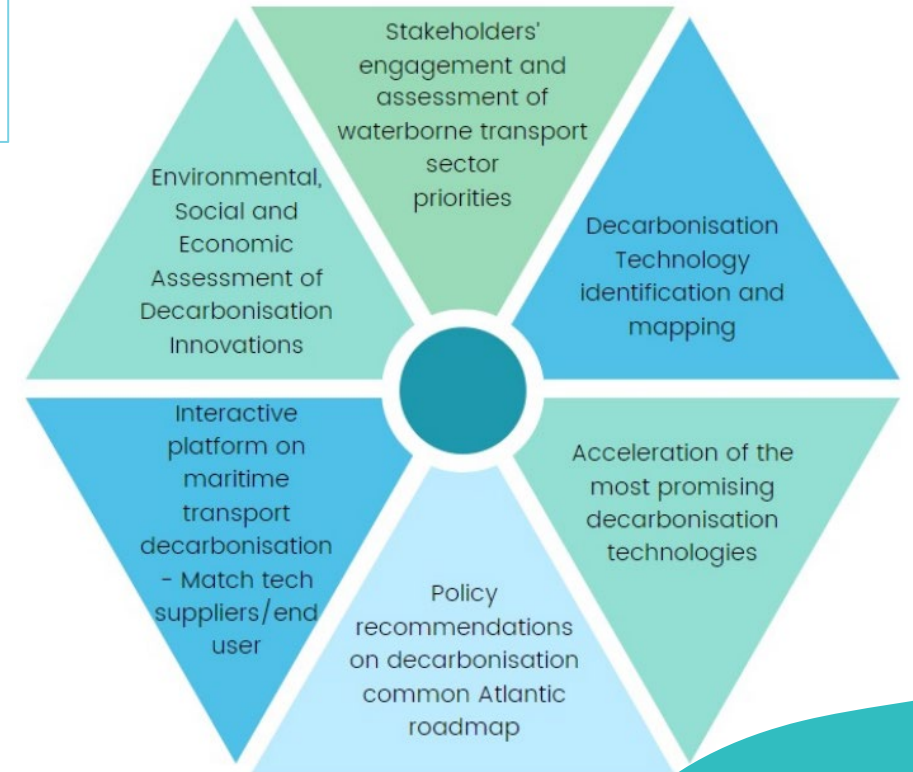
Develop a platform to support technology adoption and transnational cooperation by providing the tools, knowledge and structure

Develop common strategies and boost the innovation capacity

Provide cost-benefit and social analysis on clean technologies

Share best practices and tackle problems jointly with the preparation of future pilots

Outcomes of the Project



Source: SMARTDEC

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar I Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy



Identified good practice example Smart Maritime And Underwater Guardian (SMAUG)

Funding Source: Horizon 2020
Research and Innovation programme



SMAUG project aims to transform underwater threat detection in ports, by integrating advanced systems, combining port security infrastructure, cutting-edge underwater detection methods and vigilant surveillance vessels. This approach incorporates acoustic detection, rapid sonar hull scans, high-resolution sonar inspections and the collective action of autonomous underwater vehicles. These elements join forces to empower artificial intelligence modules, ultimately fortifying our capacity to safeguard ports and identify concealed threats in vessels, and ushering in a new era of maritime security.

Expected Results

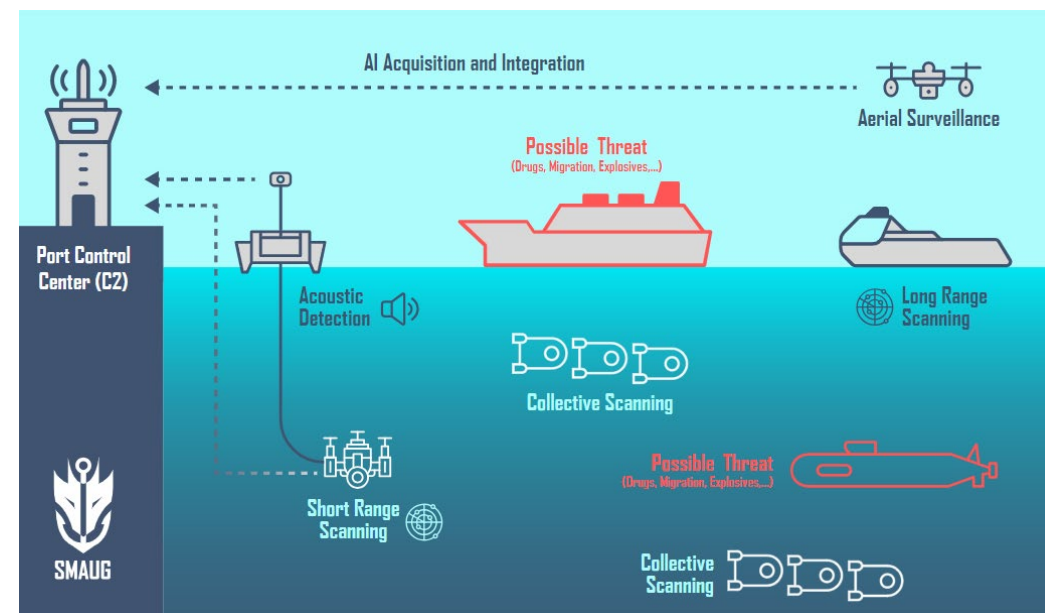
Improve technological capabilities and interoperability of current PCS and CCS systems

Set detection targets for underwater threats

Improve security and information exchange capacities of cooperative vessels and platforms in the vicinity of the port

Develop Control Portals - Underwater & Surface Vehicles

Intergrade Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning in operations for improved performance in detection, data analytics and data sharing security



2.4 Key results per Pillar along Good Practice Examples

Pillar II Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy

Key results achieved

1

Identification of existing and emerging (current and foreseen) skill gaps across the four AAP 2.0 Pillars and discuss how training centres are proactively adjusting and adapting to meet these evolving needs. In particular, the current gaps in the Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) sector include a shortage of skilled professionals with experience in MRE technologies, limited training programs tailored specifically to MRE, and the need for ongoing research and development to advance the sector, and upskilling and reskilling of value chain actors and new entrants.

2

Identification of methods to educate people about the effects of climate change on the ocean and coastlines while encouraging participation in risk reduction and adaptation, particularly through Citizen Science (Synergies with Pillar IV).

3

Advancement of the awareness of European ocean literacy projects by working together with the EU4Ocean Coalition in order to create international alliances and synergies for Pillar II-aligned projects.

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar II Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy



Identified good practice example – BLUESKILLING INNOVATION

Funding Source: Interreg Atlantic Area Programme



The project aims to increase the level of training of the staff working in shipbuilding companies and in the maritime tech supply-chain in digital and cutting-edge technologies, both to increase their contribution to the generation of value for the company, and to encourage their quick implementation.

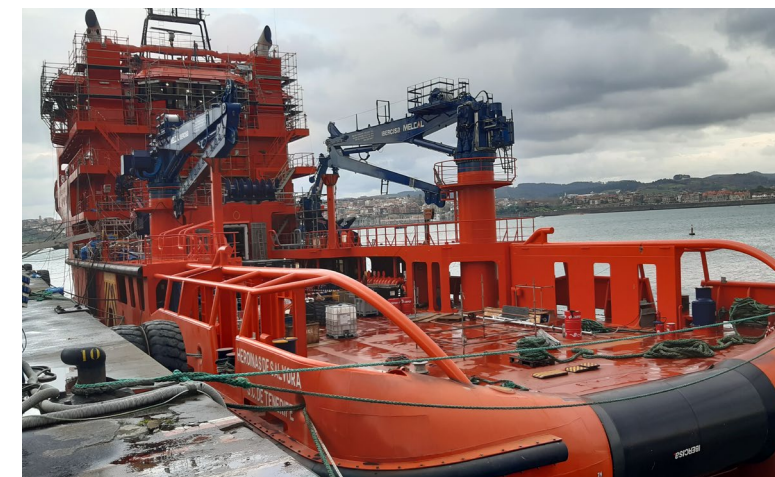


Expected Results

Compile the specific offer of both university and vocational training for the maritime sector in the Atlantic Area, study the specific needs of companies in the sector and identify the gaps that may lead to the development of new training curricula and professional profiles.

Design and pilot specific curricula at EQF levels of both university education and vocational training for the sector with the participation of companies, with special emphasis on skills resulting from green and digital transition.

Exchange information between training centres on their curricula and experiences of improving technical training in order to develop common projects to suit the requirements of the maritime industry.



Source: BLUESKILLING INNOVATION

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar II Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy



Identified good practice example – Piloting blue education to deliver sustainability in Europe (BlueLightS)



BlueLightS project aims at strengthening the skills and competencies of European children and youth to deliver “blue” resilience and sustainability. The project will also support co-built blue challenge projects in schools; facilitating a conversation at different scales between the “blue” and education communities; and, experimenting adaptations in education systems that raise attention given to rivers and seas.

Expected Results

Create a knowledge base on Blue (school) education

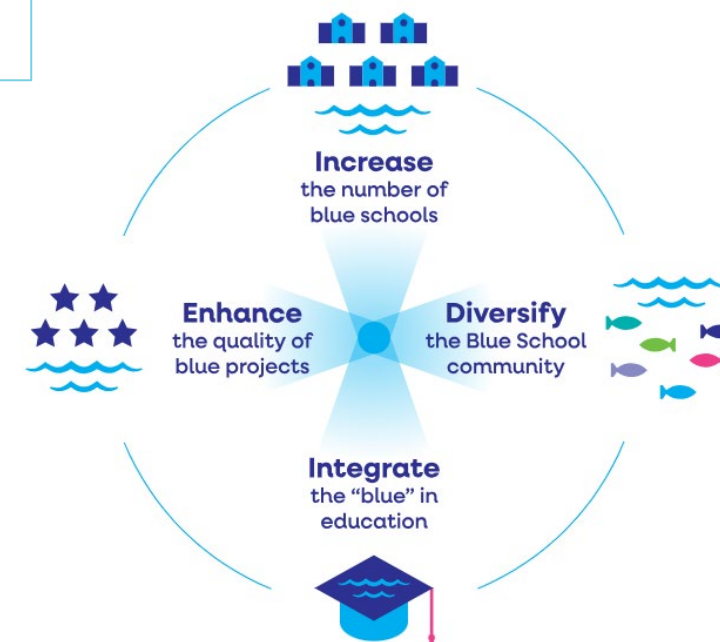
Provide support for European blue schools

Engage in Blue education Community of Practice

Developing and testing a Blue education framework for national upscaling

Funding Source: Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme

Strengthening blue education in Europe



Source: BlueLightS

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar II Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy



Identified good practice example – Bluefishing Training

Funding Source: Recovery and Resilience Plan funded by the EU– Next Generation EU



The main objective of the Bluefishing Training project is to promote innovative approaches to strengthen cooperation between the extractive fishing industry and the scientific community, strengthening the transfer of experience/knowledge in training, research and innovation to reinforce the sector's competitiveness in sustainable fisheries. To this end, the project focuses on updating and promoting the qualification of professionals in the fishing sector and their adaptability to the labor market in order to maintain their employability and improve their professional progression and growth, based on a sectoral diagnosis that allows the development of a Sectoral Cooperation Plan on Skills, integrating innovative practices and the acquisition of new professional competencies related to the extractive fishing activity.

Expected Results

Promote structured frameworks for collaboration between industry and education in the extractive fishing sector

Identify needs and opportunities for improvement in current training programs

Engage the business sector in training and specialisation, updating professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning

Orient training to practice through qualitative learning models, promoting learning based on practical work

Developing innovative practices, acquiring new professional skills and reducing the environmental impact related to aquaculture activities

Improve the competitiveness of the fishing sector through specialised training of professionals in the sector on the latest technological and market advances

Promote social participation and outreach

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar II Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy



Identified good practice example – Blue Schools

Funding Source: Erasmus+ Programme



The Blue Schools project aims to introduce the Blue Economy to school education and support students to be aware of the blue economy and culture and learn how to build a sustainable future in coastal areas. Students will mainly be educated in the blue concept through projects, this means, learning by doing and then reflecting practically.

Expected Results

Develop a blue school concept, with the goal to establish a common language for partners and potential additional schools that will find attractive the idea of joining the initiative

Train teachers about the blue economy to empower them by providing them the tools they need in order to promote the blue school concept in their schools.

Create educational materials for students, which be accessible on-line so as to facilitate their involvement with blue economy and related projects

Create a transnational competition of these projects



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar II Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy



Identified good practice example – FISATUR Project

Funding Source: European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund



The FISATUR PROJECT is directly linked to the local fisheries and tourism sectors to achieve coastal fishing regions proper economic growth. This goal will be achieved through the integration and promotion of Atlantic tourist products and services related to fishing, aquaculture and maritime heritage. The project will contribute to assess the fishing-seaside tourism model that can help spreading an innovative way to think and use the coastal resources.

Expected Results

Create a cohesive Atlantic network aimed at fostering the integration and promotion of products and services rooted in the region rich fishing maritime heritage.

Providing comprehensive training and mentoring to project leaders in critical areas such as sustainability (green skills), digital competencies, policy and legal knowledge, business acumen, soft skills (including customer service and languages), and effective communication.

Exchange of experiences and good practices on fisheries diversification and blue tourism to elevate understanding and awareness of available opportunities, fostering a community that thrives on shared knowledge, resources, and expertise.



EXPECTED RESULTS

- > 1 digital tool developed to support the network
- > 100 fishing-seaside tourism initiatives linked to the network
- > 50 linkages among fishing tourism value chain promote through the network
- > 150 participants that increased awareness and engagement with fishing and maritime sector
- > 30 project leaders supported

Source: FISATUR

2.4 Key results per Pillar along Good Practice Examples

Pillar III Marine Renewable Energy

Key results achieved

1

Identification of key gaps in available funding for marine renewable energy, which were shared via an official letter with the EC. This activity aimed at helping the policy makers in informing key funding programmes for research and innovation, and regional development such as Horizon Europe and Interreg with regard to MRE needs.

2

Spreading awareness of the Atlantic Action Plan, Atlantic Strategy, and particularly Pillar III, which has been accomplished through a mix of presentations to key stakeholders, and engagement with participants at marine renewable energy events, notably:

- Presentation of the Atlantic Strategy and Pillar III activities and goals at: the Irish Regions European Office April 2024 pre-plenary meeting;
- European Maritime Day 2024 in Svendborg, Denmark; and Seanergy 2024 in Nantes, France.
- Attendance at WindEurope 2024 in Bilbao, Spain; and Marine Ireland Industry Network event in Donegal, Ireland.

3

Atlantic Strategy Workshop for Policy Makers on Floating Offshore Wind: European Atlantic countries policy makers were invited in the workshop so as to expand their knowledge of Floating Offshore Wind and to exchange opinions on the tentative national plans and targets. The workshop provided a forum for stakeholders not only from the AMS, and highlighted the ambitious targets of each state, and their unique implementation plans.

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar III Marine Renewable Energy

 For more information click [here](#)

Identified good practice example – Flora Ocean Station

Funding Source: European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund



The aim of the project is to develop an automated, modular and self-powered platform to enable accurate, continuous, and cost-efficient bird and biodiversity data acquisition for the offshore wind sector.



Expected Results

A hybridised & renewable energy production system, combining wave, solar and wind, that provides sufficient power for a wide range of sensors

Stability through the naval design of the station, enabling accurate data acquisition from the onboard equipment and sensors

Real sea testing in the Canary Islands & Go to market path



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar III Marine Renewable Energy

 For more information click [here](#)

Identified good practice example – Aquawind

Funding Source: European Maritime and Fisheries Fund



Aquawind aims to achieve a practical demonstration of a multi-use integrated solution to offshore renewable energy developments. This will consist of joining an existing marine renewable energy production Wind to Power (W2Power) prototype with an innovative finfish aquaculture solution.

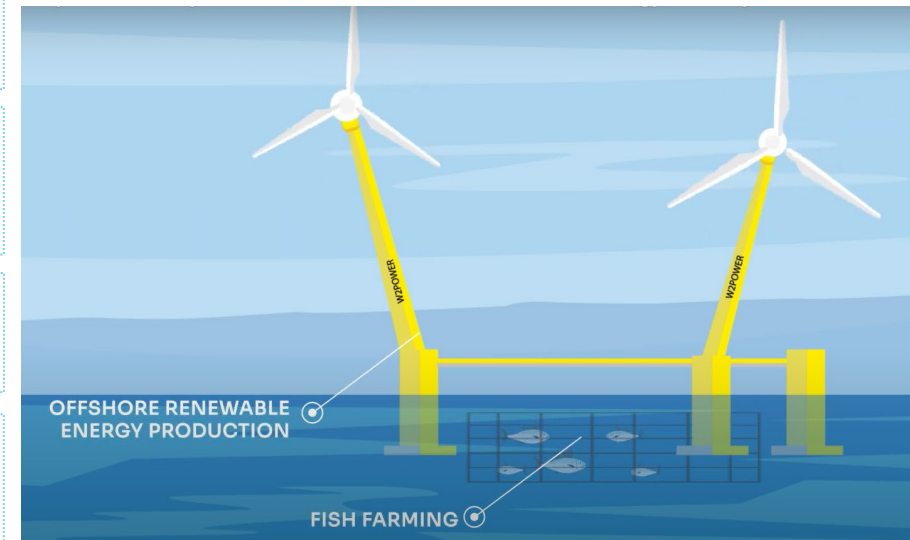
Expected Results

Provide real data to demonstrate the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of the multi-use proposal

Demonstrate how the joint activity can be digitised to be remotely operated in the same maritime space with different fish species and how one activity might affect the other

Involve a wide network of stakeholders throughout all the project phases to ensure social acceptance

Provide a route map for regulatory and legal issues that need to be addressed for real implementation of MU projects, taking advantages, and facilitating interaction with previous and ongoing EU funded projects



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar III Marine Renewable Energy

Identified good practice example – Blue-X - Blue Energy Offshore Installation Accelerator

Funding Source: Horizon Europe



In Europe, the push for renewable energy is obstructed by limited land availability and community opposition to onshore wind and solar installations. This poses a challenge to the EU's ambitious Green Deal objectives. In this context, the EU-funded BLUE-X project will unlock the vast potential of blue renewable energy sources. BLUE-X is an innovative Copernicus based solution for optimising and accelerating decision making for blue renewable energy projects in all phases, from planning to construction, operation and decommissioning.

Expected Results

Development of a cloud-based IT network of relevant Earth observation and MetOcean data streams

Support the European Green Deal, advancing climate ambitions while ensuring clean, affordable and secure energy availability of options.



Source: Blue-X

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar III Marine Renewable Energy

 For more information click [here](#)

Identified good practice example – MARINERG-i_PP

Funding Source: Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Programme



MARINERG-i_PP will produce the scientific, business and implementation plan for an integrated European Research Infrastructure, designed to facilitate the future growth and development of the Offshore Renewable Energy sector. It is a key step in forming an independent legal entity of distributed testing infrastructures, united to create an integrated centre for delivering Offshore Renewable Energy.

Expected Results

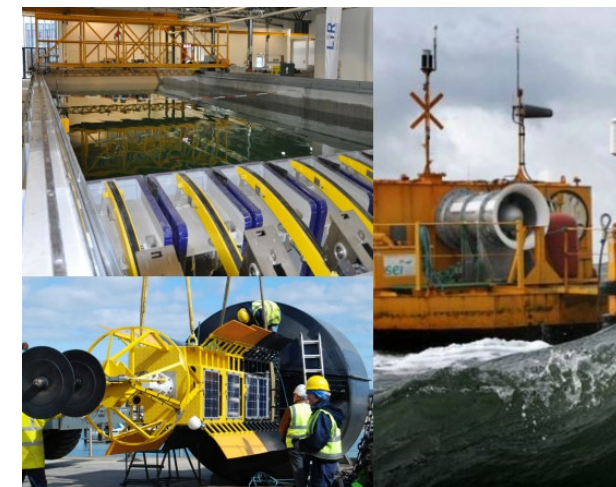
Provide access to Offshore Renewable Energy test facilities across Europe through funded research programmes and commercial testing

Leverage existing local knowledge and capabilities to accelerate the development of the Offshore Renewable Energy industry

Provide a one-stop shop to access information, services & facilitate and mediate access to curated data archives; knowledge resources; and analytical tools


Establish best practices and common standards, ensuring the quality of facilities & consistency and comparability of results between centres

Promote operational and strategic planning and efficiency to make best use of infrastructures and target research that will accelerate the development of the ORE industry



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar III Marine Renewable Energy

 For more information click [here](#)

Identified good practice example – COst REDuction and increase performance of floating WIND technology (COREWIND)

Funding Source: Horizon 2020



The COREWIND project aims at achieving significant cost reductions and enhancing performance of floating wind technology through the research and the optimisation of mooring and anchoring systems and dynamic cables. These enhancements will be validated by means of simulations and experimental testing in both wave basin tanks and wind tunnel by taking as reference two concrete-based floater concepts (semi-submersible and spar) supporting large wind turbines (15 MW). Special focus is given to development and validation of innovative solutions to improve installation techniques and operation and maintenance (O&M) activities.

Expected Results

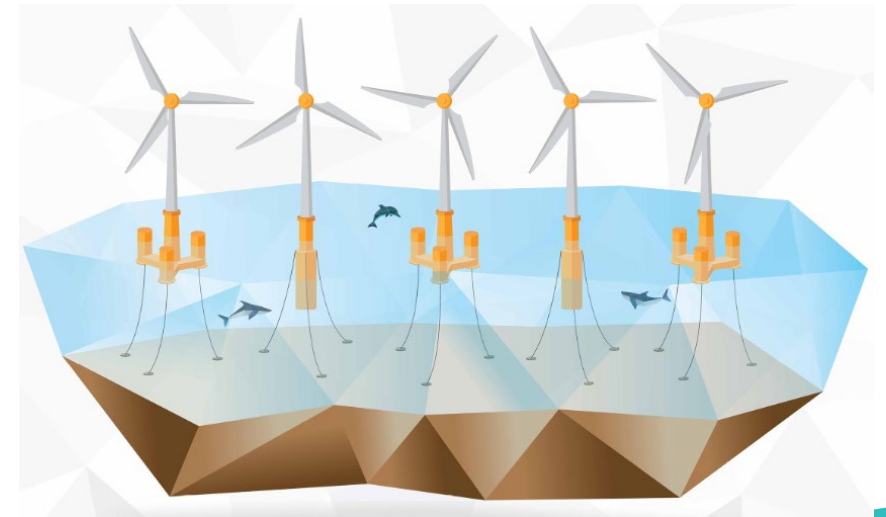
Produce efficient design tools for Floating Offshore Wind Technologies

Support the design and optimisation of station keeping systems

Optimise Operations & Maintenance strategies and installation techniques

Perform cost reduction analysis and Life Cycle Assessment

Support the standardisation, commercialisation and exploitation of wind technologies



2.4 Key results per Pillar along Good Practice Examples

Pillar IV Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts

Key results achieved

- 1 Performing an update and continuously enriching the Pillar IV repository.** The online database gathers 60+ projects related to Pillar IV of the AAP 2.0, 30+ Initiatives – programmes, 30+ Institutions in the Atlantic Area, as well as 30+ Alert & observing schemes.
- 2 Establishment of a ‘free litter’ community gathering more than 15 EU project coordinators related to plastic litter** (e.g. Aqua-LIT, CleanAtlantic, Free LitterAT, INDIGO, INSPIRE, INTEMARES, MAELSTROM, MARELITT, NETTAG+, OCEANETS, REMEDIES, SEACLEAR 2.0 and more) in order to capitalise on most recent acquired knowledge.
- 3 Development of a Toolkit for litter-free Coastal Communities** including references and facilitating the access to selected projects, resources, good practices, manuals and tools, as well as examples of solutions that may help to achieve the concept of free litter communities.
- 4 Attendance and representation of Pillar IV at key maritime events**, like UN Ocean Conference 2022, Clean Atlantic final Conference, MSP European platform workshop, Green Energy Ports Conference 2024.

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar IV Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts



Identified good practice example – Community driven Farming for the Atlantic and Arctic Sea basins through REgeneRative aquaculture (C-FAARER)



C-FAARER mission is to support marine innovators, entrepreneurs, and other pioneers in the Atlantic and Arctic Sea basin in transitioning towards the use of community-driven sustainable business models for regenerative ocean farming. The project aims to deliver a roadmap and guidance, co-designed with stakeholders, to support ocean farmers in the Atlantic and Arctic Sea basin to develop community-driven business models for regenerative ocean farming and policymakers to take enabling actions.

Expected Results

Define the scope and technical key success factors of regenerative farming operations and translate insights into strategies and tools

Co-create community-driven business models, drawing on cutting-edge evidence and expertise and supporting local skills development

Create a framework for multi-stakeholder engagement that supports community-driven partnerships, providing the conditions for capacity building and synergies

Co-create recommendations for further cluster development, learning and replication in other countries across the three Sea Basins



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar IV Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts

 For more information click [here](#)

Identified good practice example – MSP-OR Advancing Maritime Spatial Planning in Outermost Regions

Funding Source: Horizon European Maritime and Fisheries Fund



MSP-OR will support competent authorities in the establishment and adoption of the EU MSP Directive (2014/89/UE), advancing the implementation of the MSP processes in the Outermost Regions of the Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands and French Guiana, contributing to promote ocean governance through MSP and applying the Ecosystem-Based Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).

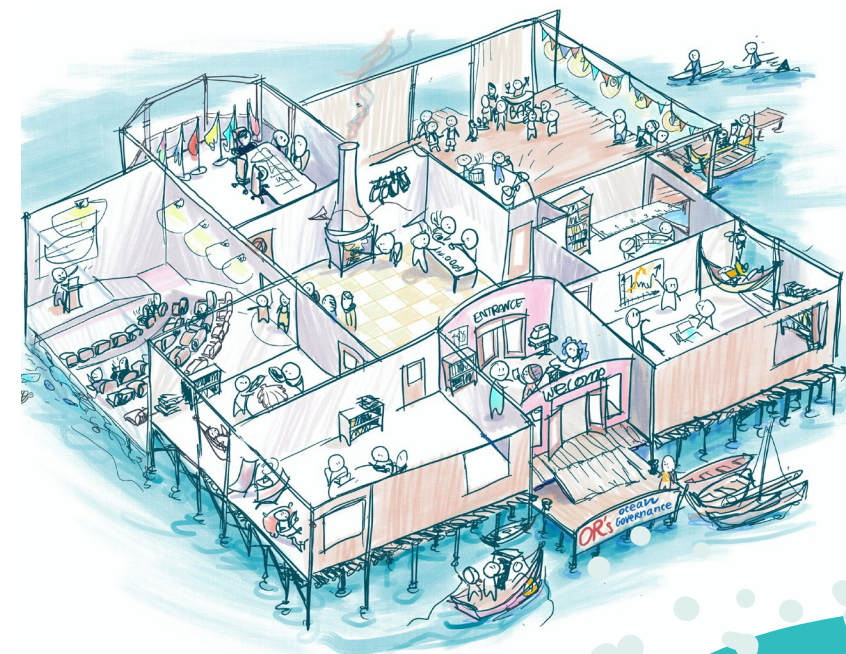


Main Results

Creation of the common Outermost Regions Ocean Governance Platform to provide stakeholders with a virtual arena for discussion, knowledge generation/sharing, and capacity building.

Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) supported regional downscaling, integrating green infrastructure in MSP, aligned with EU Biodiversity Strategy, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and EU Green Deal.

Produce pilot test, baseline, and recommendations for monitoring and evaluation of the MSP plans in the ORs.



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar IV Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts

 For more information click [here](#)

Identified good practice example – Innovative approaches for marine and freshwater based ingredients to develop sustainable foods and value chains (IMPRESS)

Funding Source: Horizon Europe



IMPRESS is centered around the greater EU Bioeconomy and Blue Growth Strategies which strive to support the development of “green” technology to deliver sustainable products and processes, while contributing to the overall health of European aquatic ecosystems. The project’s vision is to provide tangible solutions for the development of marine and freshwater bio-based economies in Europe that take full advantage of the underutilized marine and freshwater low trophic species (LTS).

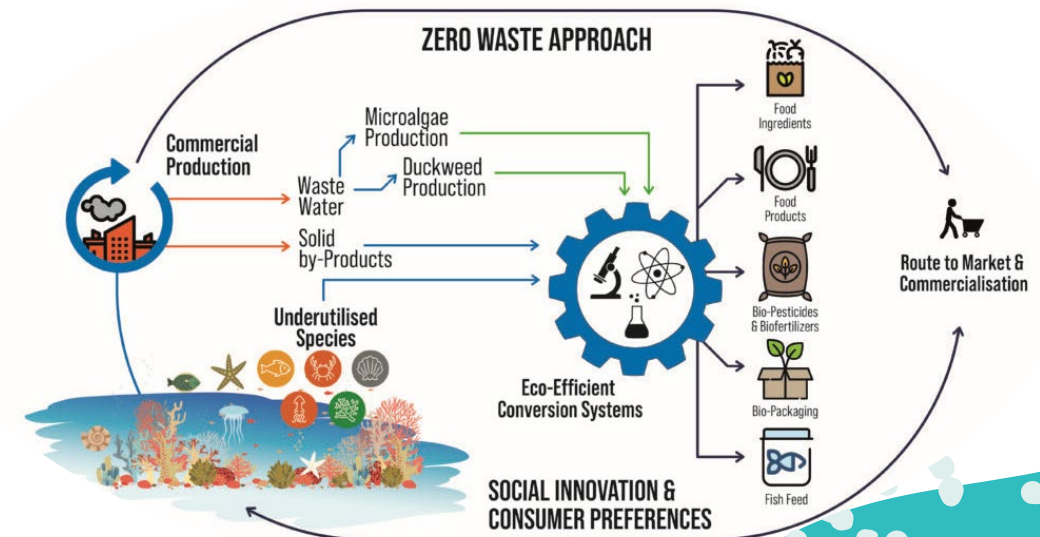
Expected Results

Empower stakeholders to transition from current practices to more innovative production and processing of low trophic species (LTS)

Valorise side streams and processing waste streams to create zero-waste value chains

Develop new food products, and promote underutilised low trophic species.

Promote the positive nutritional, health and environmental benefits of consuming underutilised species and provide capacity building opportunities for all stakeholders



Source: IMPRESS

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar IV Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts



Identified good practice example – Coastal Climate Core Services (CoCliCo)

Funding Source: Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Programme



CoCliCo will be an open-source web platform informing users on present-day & future coastal risks with the goal of improving decision-making on coastal risk management and adaptation, by establishing an integrated core service dedicated to coastal adaptation to sea-level rise.

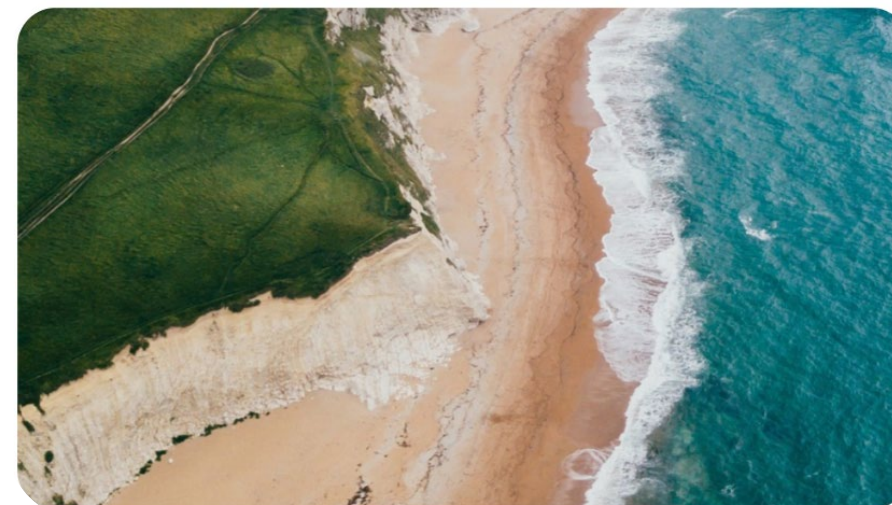
Expected Results

Develop a web-based distributed, interoperable and open European Coastal Risk Data and Mapping Web Platform

Implement demonstration case studies, with Champion Users to guide and demonstrate the platform's usefulness for adaptation decision making

Collect, develop and validate existing and new geospatial datasets relevant to coastal risks and adaptation

Establish a Stakeholders Group in the collaborative design of the platform



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

Pillar IV Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts



Identified good practice example – Blue Circular Economy Of Marine Plastics (BLUEPOINT)

Funding Source: Interreg Atlantic Area Programme



BLUEPOINT project is an initiative to address the issue of marine plastic waste through sustainable and circular solutions. The project aims to create a multi-stakeholder ecosystem of intercooperation, innovation, entrepreneurship and internationalization that leverages the marine plastic value chain and emerging business opportunities to establish a replicable circular economy model in the Atlantic- region. This will reduce the environmental impact of marine plastic, create new business opportunities and lead the maritime sector towards a Blue Circular Economy.

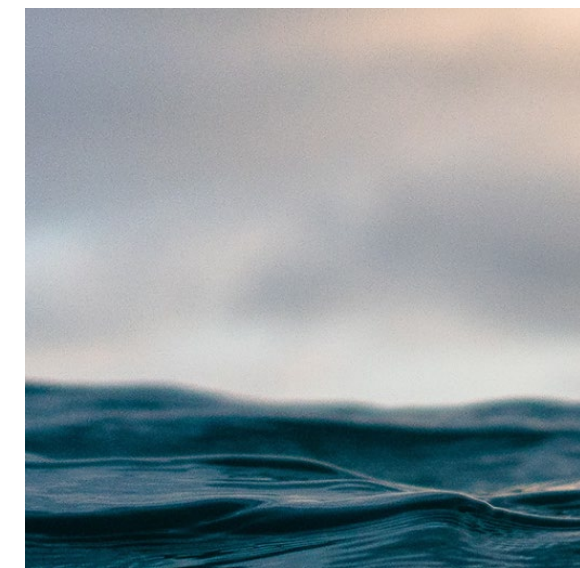
Expected Results

Create marketable solutions within the marine plastic value chain

Promote the creation of a new value chain based on marine plastic recycling and commercialization of marine plastic-based products models.

Develop technology solutions that cover needs within the marine plastic value chain, specifically related to globalisation, recovery, sorting and processing for the development of new marine plastic-based products.

Assist selected business opportunities in their acceleration through the assistance in the design of marketable products, market analysis and business models' exploitation.



2.4 Key results per Pillar along Good Practice Examples

International dimension, Research & Innovation (R&I)

Key findings

- 1 There is a need to strengthen internal cooperation and improve communication between science, education, and outreach efforts across All-Atlantic communities and working groups.
- 2 It is important that regional and local communities are involved in the monitoring and data collection process. Then, the collected and processed data should be used to develop and disseminate didactic materials for wider use in the community.
- 3 Identified good practices at all levels (local, national, regional etc.) need to be disseminated amongst partners and Member States in order to share knowledge, foster collaborations and support local and regional conversations aiming to build stronger relationships.

Synergies Identified

The international dimension, R&I has strong synergies with all AAP 2.0 Pillars since they give an international dimension to the AAP 2.0. R&I supports the AAP implementation by improving understanding of the changing Atlantic Ocean and its effects on coastal communities and by developing innovative solutions.

2.4 Key results per Pillar along Good Practice Examples

International dimension, Research & Innovation (R&I)



With a 2030 target, the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters" aims to protect and restore the health of the EU's ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments. The Mission's new approach will address the ocean and waters as one and play a key role in achieving climate neutrality and restoring nature. Cross-cutting enabling actions will support this objective, in particular broad public mobilisation and engagement and a digital ocean and water knowledge system, known as Digital Twin Ocean.

The Mission supports regional engagement and cooperation through area-based "lighthouses" in major sea/river basins: Atlantic-Arctic, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic-North Sea, and Danube-Black Sea. Mission lighthouses are sites to pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins. To gain initial traction and deliver results quickly, different lighthouses will pilot and lead on one of the Mission objectives, capitalising on established activities and programmes (R&I, space, maritime, environmental, regional etc.) and delivery models.

In particular, the Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse, is to pilot and lead the Mission objective: "protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity (marine)".

Selected projects, like BlueMissionAA, A-AAGORA, Climarest, Prep4Blue, OKEANO are working in the Atlantic region towards contributing to the Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030' objectives.

THE GOALS



Preservation & Restoration



RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



2.4 Key results per Pillar along Good Practice Examples

International dimension, Research & Innovation (R&I)



The All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) is the result of science diplomacy efforts involving countries from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. It builds upon the success of two existing cooperative agreements – the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation which was signed by the European Union, United States, and Canada in 2013;

During 2024, Canada hosted the 2024 All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) Forum at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Ontario, from 8 to 10 October 2024. This annual Forum brought together representatives from the Atlantic community, including AAORIA Partners (i.e. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, the European Union, Iceland, Morocco, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States). The 2024 Forum aimed to highlight opportunities for collaborative science including a focus on coordinating efforts on ocean observation and increasing our understanding of the relationship between ocean and climate to support coastal resilience. The 2024 Forum also showcased the scientific coordination taking place in the context of AAORIA to help address ocean challenges. AAORIA aims to be an open community and will continue to bring in new partners to advance the goals of the All-Atlantic Declaration.

AAORIA's has made significant progress with regards to international collaboration, including the launch of the Coastal Resilience Knowledge Hub to support vulnerable coastal communities, while other initiatives e.g. coastal resilience and ocean observation, emphasize on inclusivity and intergenerational engagement in alignment with the goals of the Atlantic Maritime Strategy.



ALL-ATLANTIC OCEAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ALLIANCE

Creating an All-Atlantic Ocean Community

2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

International dimension, Research & Innovation (R&I)

 For more information click [here](#)

Identified good practice example – A-AAGORA

Funding Source: Horizon Europe - Research and Innovation Programme



The project aims to demonstrate how coastal restoration with nature and people can effectively reduce pressures on coastal areas, strengthen coastal resilience and mitigate climate impact, by applying ecosystem-based management and nature-based solutions in its three demonstration sites (The Troms Arctic Archipelago, Norway; County Cork, Ireland and Centro Region, Portugal).

Expected Results

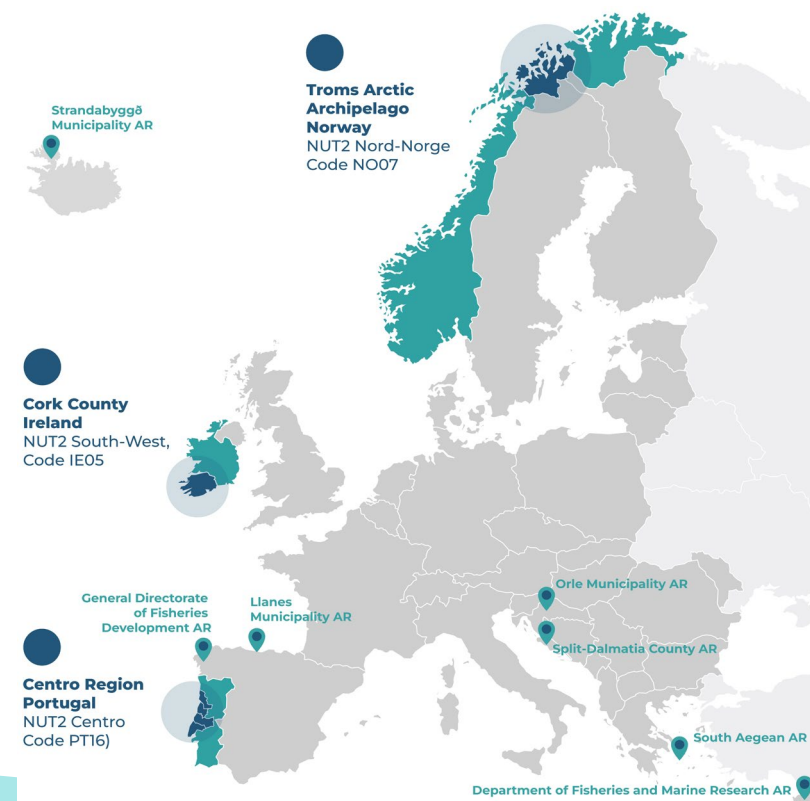
Carry out demonstration activities in 3 regions covering the Atlantic-Arctic basin

Develop an Atlantic-Arctic digital knowledge system to support transformative innovation processes.

Co-develop blueprints for the Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse

Co-identify areas and locations where the tested Nature Base Solutions are replicable

Provide innovative solutions to the market and foster deliberative democracy



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

International dimension, Research & Innovation (R&I)



Identified good practice example – OKEANO

Funding Source: Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Programme



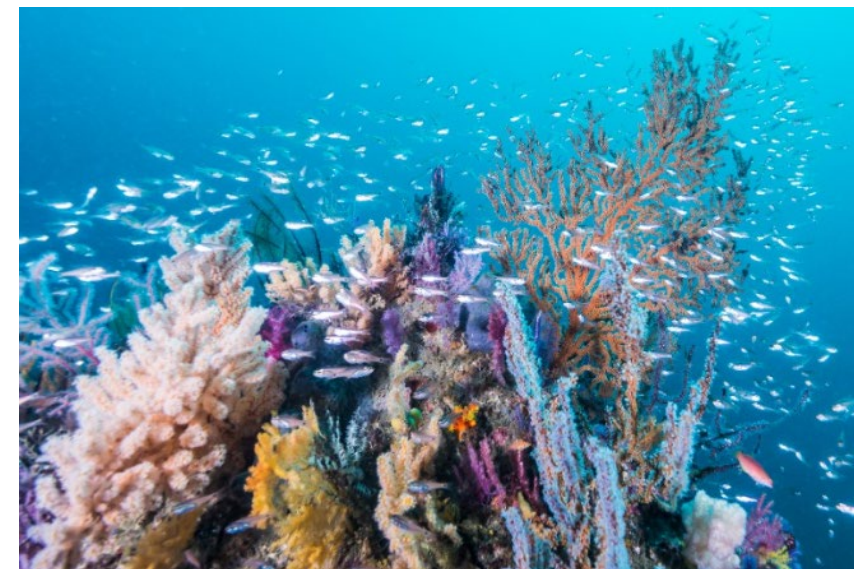
OKEANO will provide support to the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA), enabling delivery on the goals of the All-Atlantic Declaration and empowering an All-Atlantic Ocean community to sustainably manage the Atlantic Ocean. With objectives that reflect the Alliance motto 'Connecting-Cooperating-Acting', OKEANO will serve to scale and transition the Alliance to a long-term, sustainable and highly impactful international partnership, capable of delivering transformative science and innovation, and concrete benefits for Atlantic communities.

Expected Results

Provide coordination and support to the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance

Facilitate dialogue and cooperation at local, national, and international levels, to consolidate existing initiatives and to tackle socio-environmental issues in the Atlantic region

Provide professional support to the core activities of the AAORIA as well as advice on effective long-term governance frameworks and legacy, consolidate and strengthen existing initiatives aligned with the priorities of the All-Atlantic Declaration



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

International dimension, Research & Innovation (R&I)



Identified good practice example – Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)

Funding Source: Horizon Europe



The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) aims to design, steer and support a just and inclusive transition to a regenerative, resilient and sustainable blue economy. In this context, the EU-funded SBEP project will deliver solutions to strengthen EU and international science-policy interfaces in marine- and maritime-related domains of the EU Green Deal and Digital Europe strategies. It will further work to foster cooperation between European states to act and implement strategies that assist community growth and improve ocean health.

Expected Results

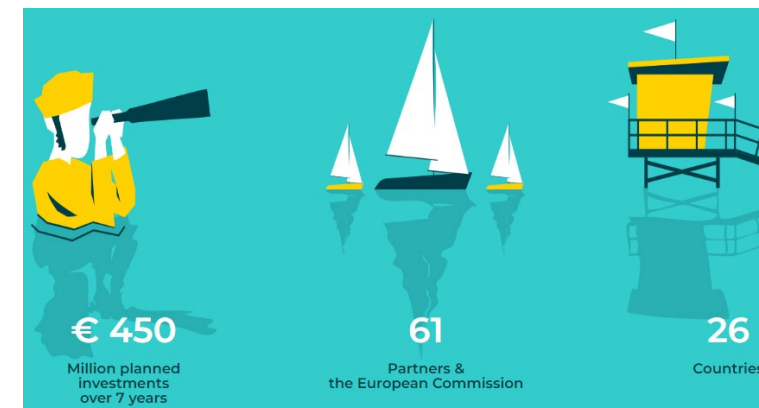
Roll-out impact pathways to catalyse the transformation of ocean economy value chains

Deliver ocean knowledge and impact-driven R&I solutions

Cooperate to respond to international, EU and national regulations, recommendations and policy strategies

Contribute to the social and digital transition by developing innovative governance frameworks that benefit coastal communities, including by reinforcing skills and enhance ocean observation capacity contributing to EOOS and GEOSS

Boost the transformation towards a climate-neutral, sustainable, productive and competitive blue economy



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

International dimension, Research & Innovation (R&I)



Identified good practice example – MARine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning leading to Ecosystem Services (MARBEFES)

Funding Source: Horizon Europe - Research and Innovation Programme



The overall aim of MARBEFES is to determine the links between biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, the resulting ecosystem services and societal goods and benefits, and to achieve ecological and socio-economic valuation through a validated set of innovative tools in a distributed toolbox to enhance policy and governance for the marine environment to secure its benefits for current and future generations. The MARBEFES tools are tested and implemented in 12 broad belt transects (BBTs) in the four main marine regions of the EU – Arctic, Baltic, Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Expected Results

Characterise marine biodiversity in selected areas in Europe and understand the links between ecological structure and functioning across biological organisation levels from the molecular, individual and population to the community and ecosystem

Establish biodiversity-ecosystem functioning-ecosystem service links for focal habitats and selected important or iconic species in a range of ecological and socio-economic contexts

Demonstrate how different European coastal ecosystems provide services, and societal goods and benefits, including cultural value, and clarify how this provision is dependent on healthy biodiversity

Foster biodiversity and human well-being by creating a toolbox for biodiversity and ecosystem valuation to support international and EU-level policy and decision making



2.4 Good Practice Examples per Pillar

International dimension, Research & Innovation (R&I)



Identified good practice example – BIOcean5D

Funding Source: Horizon Europe - Research and Innovation Programme



BIOcean5D

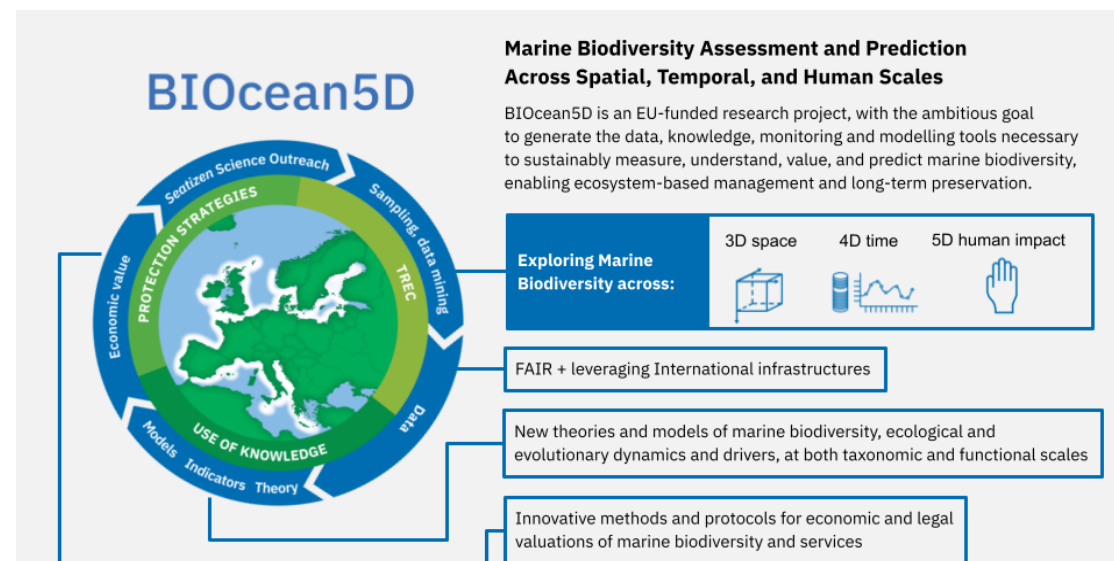
BIOcean5D is an interdisciplinary project has been designed to better understand the impact of human activity on Europe's seas and coastlines. The goal of BIOcean5D is to generate data, knowledge, theory, monitoring and modelling tools necessary to sustainably measure, understand, value, and predict marine biodiversity across the five dimensions of space, time, and human environmental pressures, enabling ecosystem-based management and long-term preservation. BIOcean5D unites major European centres in molecular and cell biology, marine biology, and sequencing, together with 31 partners from 11 countries, to build a suite of technologies, protocols, and models allowing holistic re-exploration of marine biodiversity, across multiple spatial and temporal scales.

Expected Results

Fill the marine biodiversity knowledge gap

Build a theoretical and modelling marine biodiversity framework

Explore the value of marine life and the services it provides, using new & existing tools and measurements



Source: BIOcean5D

2.5 Data on funding

Funding in the Atlantic Region

Period: Oct. 2023 – Oct. 2024

The information and data presented in this slide derive from the internal monitoring process and calculations of the Sea Basin Assistance mechanism/AAM. In particular, the data has been gathered in the context of the Maritime Datahub monthly mapping and updating task and concerns projects with a start date between October 2023 to October 2024. Please note that these numbers do not represent the EC contribution nor the funds allocated in their entirety, but only the sum of the ones identified by AAM so far.



17 projects* → **Approx. 34 million €**
EU Contribution**



Average contribution per project*** → **2,3 million €**

Atlantic Member State:
Ireland

EU funds allocated
> 10,2 million €

Atlantic Member State:
Portugal

EU funds allocated
> 2,9 million €

Atlantic Member State:
France

EU funds allocated
> 5,3 million €

Atlantic Member State:
Spain

EU funds allocated
> 15,6 million €

* This number refers only to the identified projects in the Maritime Datahub with a start date from October 2023 and October 2024

** This number represents the sum of the total EC contribution to identified projects in the Atlantic region, which also include non Atlantic MS (Italy, Norway, UK etc.). It is noted that in the cases where a project has more than one implementing partners/organisations, the origin of the coordination/leading party indicates also the Project's main country, where funds are allocated.

***This number represents the average funding received by a project based on the total amount identified from all funding sources/ programs monitored in the Maritime Datahub (EMFF, EMFAF, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, Interreg, National Funds etc.)

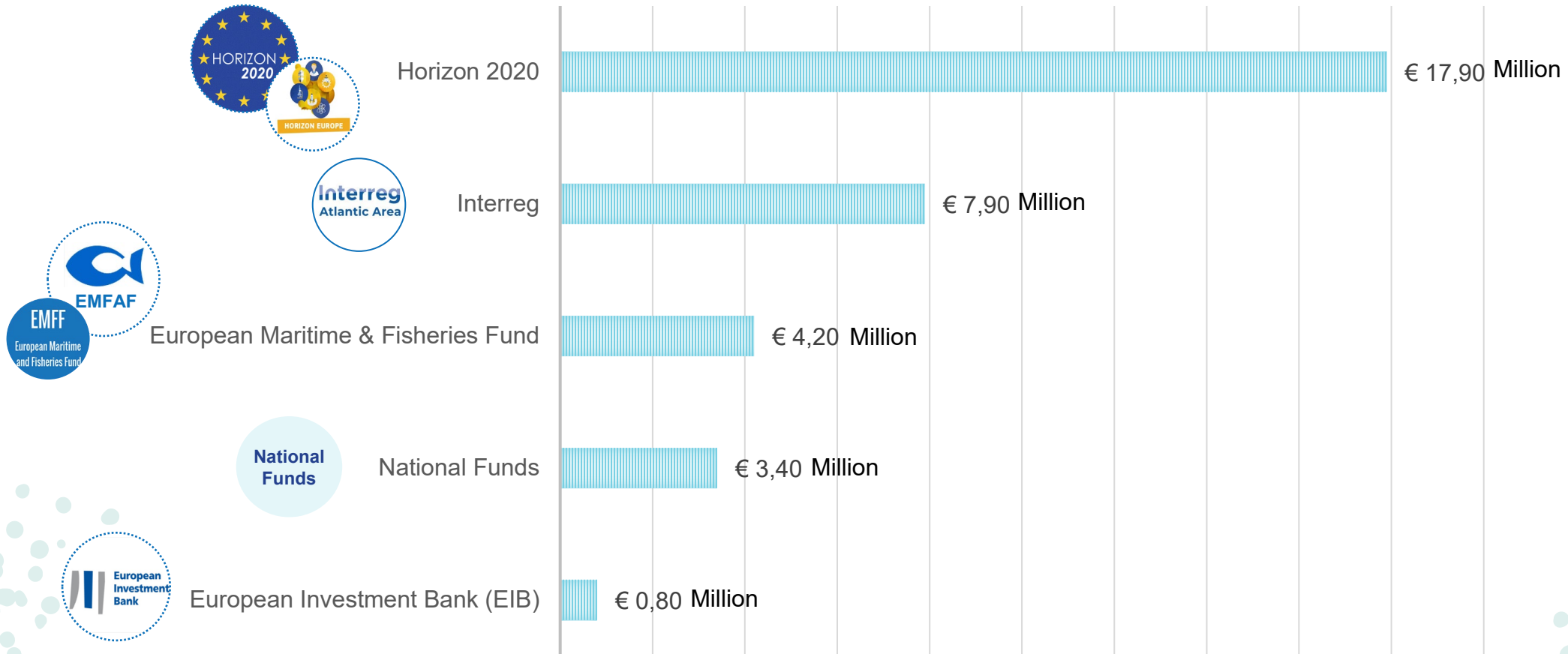
2.5 Data on funding

Funding in the Atlantic Region – Top 5 funding Instruments

Period: Oct. 2023 – Oct. 2024

The information and data presented in this slide derives from the internal monitoring process and calculations of the Sea Basin Assistance mechanism. The information has been gathered in the context of the Maritime Datahub mapping and updating task between October 2023 to October 2024.

For the purposes of this report, the top 5 funding instruments with the largest contribution in the projects mapped have been included below. However, it is noted that the AM also monitors other funding instruments such as Life Program, Erasmus+, EEA grants etc.



2.5 Data on funding

Period: 2023 – 2024

Funding per Topic and per Pillar



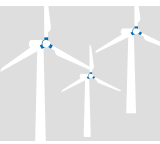

The information and data presented in this slide derive from the internal monitoring process and calculations of the Sea Basin Assistance mechanism/AAM. In particular, the data has been gathered in the context of the Maritime Datahub monthly mapping and updating task and concerns projects with a start date between October 2023 to October 2024. Please note that these numbers do not represent the EC contribution nor the funds allocated in their entirety, but only the sum of the ones identified by AAM so far.

Top 5 topics with the highest funding

EU Contribution (mil. €)

1	Marine Renewable Energy	13,3
2	Environment & climate change	6,3
3	Entrepreneurship	4,0
4	Ocean literacy	3,0
5	Marine & coastal heritage	2,7

Funding per Pillar of AAP 2.0

01	Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy	5,1 Million funding identified	
02	Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy	4,2 Million funding identified	
03	Marine Renewable Energy	14 Million funding identified	
04	Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts	10,9 Million funding identified	

3.

Conclusions and Recommendations



3.1 Key Recommendations per Pillar

Pillar I Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy

The recommendations on Pillar I priorities stem from the combined information that has been collected through roadmaps, reports and input from experts in workshops as well as through observations of the Atlantic Area by the Pillar I Coordinator's team.

Prioritised Actions for 2025



Stakeholder Engagement: Facilitating co-design processes involving port authorities, industry stakeholders, and representatives from the quadruple helix (academia, business, government, and civil society)



Cross-Pillar Integration: Ensuring synergies with other Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 Pillars, particularly with Pillar II (Blue skills and Ocean Literacy) and Pillar IV (Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts)



Funding and Investment: Identifying funding sources for the implementation of Pillar I roadmap within 2025 & collaboration with the European Commission to map investment needs for decarbonisation and prototype implementation.



Knowledge Sharing: Utilisation of the tool of webinars/seminars so as to disseminate identified state-of-the-art practices in decarbonisation, fostering an ecosystem of innovation and best practices.

3.1 Key Recommendations per Pillar

Pillar II Blue skills of the future and ocean literacy

The recommendations on Pillar III priorities stem from the combined information that has been collected through roadmaps, reports and input from experts in workshops as well as through observations of the Atlantic Area by the Pillar II Coordinator's team.

Prioritised Actions for 2025



Participatory approach: Active participation of a working group made up of representatives of organisations and networks involved, concerned or experts in ocean education and blue skills issues for the Pillar II roadmap.



Continuity and consistency of previous activities: Ensuring continuity and consistency with previous works of former Pillar II Coordinator and the previous task force group.



Synergetic and “out of the Atlantic Strategy box” approach: Promoting exchanges and develop collaborations across the Atlantic Strategy Sea-basin and beyond.



Collaboration and co-construction via projects: Encouraging the emergence of key European projects focusing on a cross-pillar approach based on exchanges between Pillar Coordinators, National Hubs and Associated Members to identify needs.

3.1 Key Recommendations per Pillar

Pillar III Marine Renewable Energy

The recommendations on Pillar III priorities stem from the combined information that has been collected through roadmaps, reports and input from experts in workshops as well as through observations of the Atlantic Area by the Pillar III Coordinator's team.

Prioritised Actions for 2025



Ensured communication and continuity of actions: Working towards continuing the actions initiated by the 2022-2024 task force and maintaining open and transparent communication channels between partner countries and stakeholders.



Collaboration with other Pillars and AAP 2.0 stakeholders: Ensuring a collaborative approach with Pillars and DG MARE in order to facilitate joint workshops organisation, evaluate the implications of funding gaps identified, and highlight potential collaborative solutions and synergies.



Discussion with researchers on MRE development: Extending invitations to researchers, so that they intervene during Pillar III task force meetings on the topics of their research, discuss any gaps in the current research, and make links between their works and floating wind technology.



Fostering Collaboration Between Atlantic Member States: Hosting an in-person workshop for the members of the Pillar III task force, in the context of European Maritime Day 2025 taking advantage of the strategic partners presence in the event to make new contacts and network, get visibility for Atlantic projects, ideas, activities and achievements and gain new insights into the evolving EU policy and funding landscape.

3.1 Key Recommendations per Pillar

Pillar IV Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts

The recommendations on Pillar IV priorities stem from the combined information that has been collected through roadmaps, reports and input from experts in workshops as well as through observations of the Atlantic Area by the Pillar IV Coordinator's team.

Prioritised Actions for 2025



Bottom-up approach: Supporting interactions with a broad universe of stakeholders, ranging from the base of the pyramid (coastal communities, fishermen associations, local associations, NGO's, SME, local authorities) all the way up to academia, regional, national, transnational and EU authorities and decision bodies.



Links with other EU initiatives: Fostering links with EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters, BlueMissionAA, Mission Adaptation to Climate Change and JPIOceans, while at the same time liaising with AAORIA stakeholders' community and actions as well as OSPAR.



Surveying /Mapping actions of major threats to each Atlantic country: Spreading out participative local workshops (4 during 2025) aiming to gather key actors of coastal communities, from different sectors of society, covering all the quadruple-helix societal ecosystem (Academia, Private sector (e.g. Business), Public sector (e.g. policy makers/official & governmental entities) and civil society).



Consolidating all previous efforts under Pillar IV: Addressing the appropriate actions with additional new effort contributions, including integrating the Pillar IV updated database into the Maritime Data Hub & Atlantic Strategy site, improving the "free-litter community" actions and launching additional events.

3.2 Next Steps

New Irish Presidency for the ASC

Following 2024 French Atlantic Strategy Committee (ASC) presidency, next year Ireland will hold the ASC presidency and be in charge of the organisation and overseeing of the AAP 2.0 activities in order to present innovative approaches and to increased visibility and community engagement.

New Pillar Coordinators and updated Pillar Roadmaps

In July 2024, a handover and transitional period began when the newly selected Pillar Coordinators for each AAP 2.0 Pillar began their first interactions with the ASC, AAM, and relevant Task forces. In parallel, the new Pillar Roadmaps were elaborated, planning the upcoming priorities and activities, which will start being implemented in late 2024 and continue in 2025.

Next year's Workshops/webinars

Following this year's National Events/Webinars and aiming to continue boosting synergies and collaborations, the AAM along with the Atlantic NHs has already started planning the next round of Pillar Workshops, which will share knowledge and/or produce outputs in order to reach the expected results of the AAP 2.0.

Assessing and Adapting AAP 2.0

Assessing the AAP 2.0 progress in order to consider its revision/adaptation with all the ongoing initiatives (Mission Ocean, Ocean pact etc.) to ensure its full operationalisation for the benefits of the all Atlantic communities.

Explore the creation of a Community of Practice on MSP

A proposal was made to create an informal Community of Practice on MSP in the Atlantic, similar to the WestMED model, to promote collaboration and implementation. The committee was invited to consider this idea for further discussion.



3.3 Conclusions for 2024

Cooperation Enhancement

The Atlantic Maritime Strategy (AMS) presents a significant and established opportunity for enhanced cooperation among its four member countries (IE, FR, PT, SP) and all stakeholders involved.

Local stakeholders and inclusivity

As discussed during the ASPC24, local authorities and stakeholders play a crucial role in relaying and implementing the AAP 2.0. This extensive approach aims to develop inclusivity, considering also both shores of the Atlantic and engaging more outermost regions, in alignment with the Atlantic Action Plan priorities and goals.

Synergies and collaboration

The ASPC24 was organised back-to-back (B2B) with 2 events of the Interreg Atlantic Area. This collaboration demonstrates that the synergies between AAP 2.0 and Interreg Atlantic Area are well-established and can be further developed for project initiatives, as showcased by the ASPC24 workshop/hackathon sessions organised.

Effort for internationalisation of the AAP 2.0

The future relationships of AAP 2.0 with other Atlantic countries was a key discussion point during 2024, led the French Presidency. Conversations during ASC meetings included constructive roundtables indicating a clear interest in maintaining strong ties and exploring new frameworks of collaboration with UK, Norway, and Iceland.

Cross-Sea Basin Dialogue

Based on the outcomes of the ASPC24 session focusing on cross-sea basin dialogue between the Atlantic, WestMED, Black Sea, and GNSBI, an open dialogue should be continued so as to enhance collaboration and synergies between Sea Basins. This ongoing dialogue is crucial for addressing the unique needs and priorities identified in each Sea Basin Strategy.

4.

Annex



4. Overall progress of AAP 2.0 goals

The recommendations on this page stem from the combined information that has been collected by the previous Pillar Coordinators between 2020-2024, EC reports and input from experts in workshops as well as through observations of the Atlantic Area by the Pillar I Coordinator's team. It is noted that PCs of 2024-2026 were elected during the 2nd semester of 2024 and are expected to start working in early 2025.

AAP 2.0 Goal	Description	Activities performed/started between 2020-2024
Goal 1: Ports as gateways for trade in the Atlantic*	Create a network of green ports by 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges for the green transition at Atlantic ports were identified through workshops performed between 2022-2024. Initial proposal for a Green Ports Network was developed as an outcome of Workshop 2 titled "Ports as gateways and hubs for the energy transition: Potential sources of energy and prototype's analysis – Presentation of results". Draft roadmap for a just transition in Atlantic ports, including digitalisation and entrepreneurship, was prepared by Pillar I taskforce.
	Launch an Atlantic strategy on liquefied natural gas	Alternative energy sources, such as LNG, were reviewed during Workshop 1 titled " <i>Ports as gateways and hubs for the energy transition: Potential sources of energy and prototype's analysis</i> " on new energy sources adapted to maritime fleets.
	Develop eco-incentive schemes to upgrade port infrastructure	Preliminary discussions in the Task Force addressed the need to incentivise pilot projects for improving port sustainability.

*Additional Activities under Goal 1 are ongoing and outcomes will be reported in later reporting periods.

4. Overall progress of AAP 2.0 goals

The recommendations on this page stem from the combined information that has been collected by the previous Pillar Coordinators between 2020-2024, EC reports and input from experts in workshops as well as through observations of the Atlantic Area by the Pillar I Coordinator's team. It is noted that PCs of 2024-2026 were elected during the 2nd semester of 2024 and are expected to start working in early 2025.

AAP 2.0 Goal	Description	Activities performed/started between 2020-2024
Goal 2: Ports as catalysts for business	Develop a blue accelerator scheme for Atlantic ports to help scale up innovative businesses	Engagement of 25 stakeholders in workshops to identify innovative solutions and promote entrepreneurship. Promotion of innovative ecosystems through prototype analysis during workshop 1 titled "Ports as gateways and hubs for the energy transition: Potential sources of energy and prototype's analysis".
	Share best practices, exchange ideas and tackle problems jointly	"Organization of open thematic workshops and in-person seminars to exchange best practices. Outcomes achieved were shared via webinars (organised in April 2024) and with the European Commission (meeting organised in May 2024)."
	Expand data collection beyond traditional (logistics) data	Inclusion of data related to energy transition, and economic, social, and legal impacts during Workshop 1 titled " <i>Ports as gateways and hubs for the energy transition: Potential sources of energy and prototype's analysis</i> ".
	Increase communication and availability of data on the economic potential of ports	Publication of workshop and seminar reports for stakeholders, including economic and innovation-related insights.

4. Overall progress of AAP 2.0 goals

The recommendations on this page stem from the combined information that has been collected by the previous Pillar Coordinators between 2020-2024, EC reports and input from experts in workshops as well as through observations of the Atlantic Area by the Pillar II Coordinator's team. It is noted that PCs of 2024-2026 were elected during the 2nd semester of 2024 and are expected to start working in early 2025.

AAP 2.0 Goal	Description	Activities performed/started between 2020-2024
Goal 3: Quality education, training and life-long learning	Identify blue skill gaps in the EU Atlantic area	Identification of current and foreseen skill gaps across the four AAP 2.0 Pillars based on discussions with stakeholders during workshops on how training centres are adjusting, with particular focus in marine renewable energies.
	Identify through peer learning best practices for matchmaking employers and jobseekers that serve as inspiration	Organisation of two workshops under Pillar II with the participation of academia, business and other stakeholders to discuss best practices for better dissemination of blue skills gaps and matchmaking of employees and jobseekers. Participation of PT National Hub in the WestMED Stakeholder Conference in the panel on Blue Skills and Ocean Literacy, highlighting the benefits of cooperation as a common theme across borders and Sea Basins.

*Additional Activities under Goal 3 are ongoing and outcomes will be reported in later reporting periods.

4. Overall progress of AAP 2.0 goals

The recommendations on this page stem from the combined information that has been collected by the previous Pillar Coordinators between 2020-2024, EC reports and input from experts in workshops as well as through observations of the Atlantic Area by the Pillar II Coordinator's team. It is noted that PCs of 2024-2026 were elected during the 2nd semester of 2024 and are expected to start working in early 2025.

AAP 2.0 Goal	Description	Activities performed/started between 2020-2024
Goal 4: Ocean literacy	Implement an ocean literacy component (dissemination) in relevant projects	Organisation of two workshops with the participation of academia, business and other stakeholders to discuss best practices for better dissemination of blue skills gaps and matchmaking of employees and jobseekers.
	Engage citizens in ocean-related actions in the EU Atlantic area	See actions performed under activity 3.

*Additional Activities under Goal 4 are ongoing and outcomes will be reported in later reporting periods.

4. Overall progress of AAP 2.0 goals

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AAP 2.0 Goal	Description	Activities performed/started between 2020-2024
Goal 5: The promotion of carbon neutrality through marine renewable energy	Set specific deployment objectives for marine renewable energy in the Atlantic regions taking into account their environmental impacts	Collaboration with a DG Energy for a study to examine the offshore energy potential of the Atlantic region. The study, undertaken by research institutes in the partner states, which included Pillar III task force members, aimed to assess the potential for offshore energy generation in the Atlantic, identify most suitable locations and options for connection to the grid, identify technical and regulatory constraints and made recommendations for future projects. The results of this commissioned work were delivered in December 2022. The Pillar III Task Force has coordinated the sharing of environmental data for MRE development gathered at national level, relevant to the Atlantic.
	Define best sites for marine renewable energy farms (including offshore wind) and adjacent ports across the Atlantic, taking into account potential impacts on the marine environment 3. Implement incentives for deployment of innovative renewable energy installations	See activities performed above.
	Pool together different marine renewable energy initiatives covering the EU Atlantic area, based on the philosophy and furthering the objectives of the Strategic Energy Technology plan (SET plan)	1) Documentation of evolving EU policy landscape was performed. 2) Collation of corresponding Atlantic countries' national targets and roadmaps was performed. 3) Pillar III examined existing initiatives for sharing of test site resources and exploring the potential for further cooperation in the partner countries, such that test facilities can be shared by any projects in the Atlantic region. The Task Force has collated information on existing funding and policy mechanisms in the MS.

4. Overall progress of AAP 2.0 goals

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AAP 2.0 Goal	Description	Activities performed/started between 2020-2024
Goal 5: The promotion of carbon neutrality through marine renewable energy	Develop public awareness using appropriate communication tools on marine renewable energy in the Atlantic	See activities under section 1 of Goal 5. Also, a webinar was organised with Pillar II addressing current and foreseen skill gaps for Marine Renewable Energy & aiming to discuss how to meet these. Attendees included Pillar II & III members, along with policy makers, industry and academia.
	Strengthen cooperation in the European ocean energy community	A workshop of Atlantic countries with representation from Norway was hosted to discuss respective policy basis and instruments to enable deployment of floating wind. The Task Force has identified existing collaborative funding mechanisms for MRE and propose new incentives to promote greater collaboration between partner countries in the Atlantic area - presentations have been made to regional offices. Also, Pillar III sent a letter to DG MARE highlighting gaps in funding with the goal of helping to inform key funding programmes for research and innovation and regional development such as Horizon Europe and Interreg with regard to MRE needs.

*Additional Activities under Goal 5 are ongoing and outcomes will be reported in later reporting periods.

4. Overall progress of AAP 2.0 goals

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AAP 2.0 Goal	Description	Activities performed/started between 2020-2024
Goal 6: Stronger coastal resilience	Demonstrate a comprehensive alert and observing system for increased storms and floods due to climate change	Establishment of an Atlantic map inventorying various alert and observing systems. Identification of managing contacts and dissemination of map and contacts to related entities.
	Develop synergies between existing EU infrastructures for coastal observation and protection, as well as for alert and monitoring and increase the development of ocean observatories	Update and Promotion of the 'Atlantic inventory' regarding alert and observing system.
	Develop test spaces, pilot areas to test methods of coastal protection and promote nature-based solutions	Although this activity is not fully achieved yet, the Pillar IV task force has gathered materials (such as publications, good practices and specific information (e.g. regulations) about NBS solutions.
	Create information campaigns for Atlantic coastal communities	A survey has been setup and sent through the Atlantic cities network

*Additional Activities under Goal 6 are ongoing and outcomes will be reported in later reporting periods.

4. Overall progress of AAP 2.0 goals

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AAP 2.0 Goal	Description	Activities performed/started between 2020-2024
Goal 7: The fight against marine pollution	Develop a pilot project of 'litter-free' coastal communities	Significant work has been carried out to create a 'litter-free' and in particular 'plastic-free' community. Coordinated by CETMAR, the Pillar IV taskforce has contacted most project leaders implementing some (recent or ongoing) activities related to plastic and ocean in the Atlantic area. Now that this collaborative framework is initiated, that should facilitate the engagement of key projects that tackle/d marine litter and had delivered or plan to deliver tangible and applicable outcomes that may help coastal communities and actors to prevent and/or reduce marine litter.
	Make use of available tools to identify major sources, pathways and hotspots of marine litter, as well as accidental or deliberate pollution	Pillar IV has initiated the development of a "Toolkit" for Litter-free Coastal Communities including references and facilitating the access to selected projects, resources, good practices, manuals and tools as well as examples of solutions that may help to achieve (or get closer to) the concept of free litter communities.

*Additional Activities under Goal 7 are ongoing and outcomes will be reported in later reporting periods.

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by the Atlantic Assistance Mechanism (AAM) in the context of the project Regional Maritime cooperation 'Sea Basins assistance mechanism for the Atlantic, Black Sea and Western Mediterranean (CINEA/EMFAF/2022-3.5.1/SI2.881692).

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