



Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

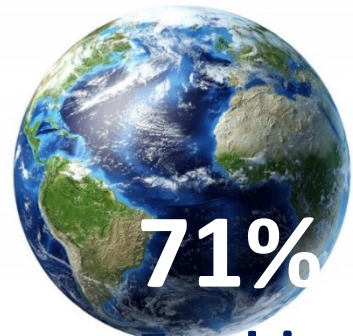
“Unlocking the potential of Ports and Harbours in preventing and reducing the effects of Marine Litter”

BlueMed – Pilot Action on a Healthy and Plastic-free Med Sea

14th September 2021, Venice

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DG MARE, European Commission

Some figures to start...

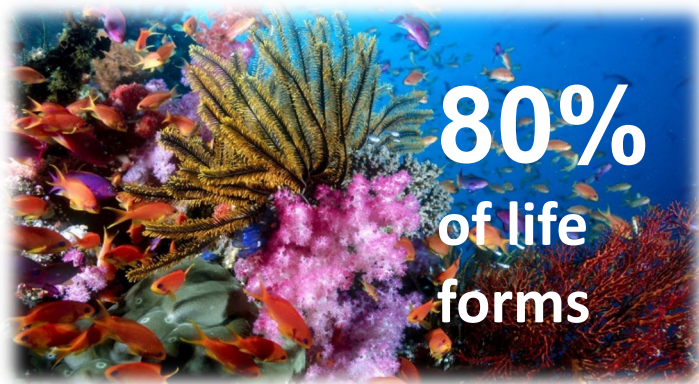


71%

Earth's
surface

EU Coastline 55,000 km

**40% Population in
coastal areas**



80%

of life
forms



**1/4 human emissions
absorbed by oceans**

1 €

trillion

**expected turnover from
the EU's ocean economy
by 2030 (OECD)**



European
Commission

The Blue Economy in the EU



All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts.

The blue economy covers a wide range of interlinked sectors, both established and emerging.

Table 1 EU Blue Economy established sectors, main indicators, 2018

Indicator	EU Blue Economy 2018
Turnover	€650 billion
Gross value added	€176 billion
Gross profit	€68 billion
Employment	4.5 million
Net investment in tangible goods	€6.4 billion
Net investment ratio	3.6%
Average annual salary	€24 020

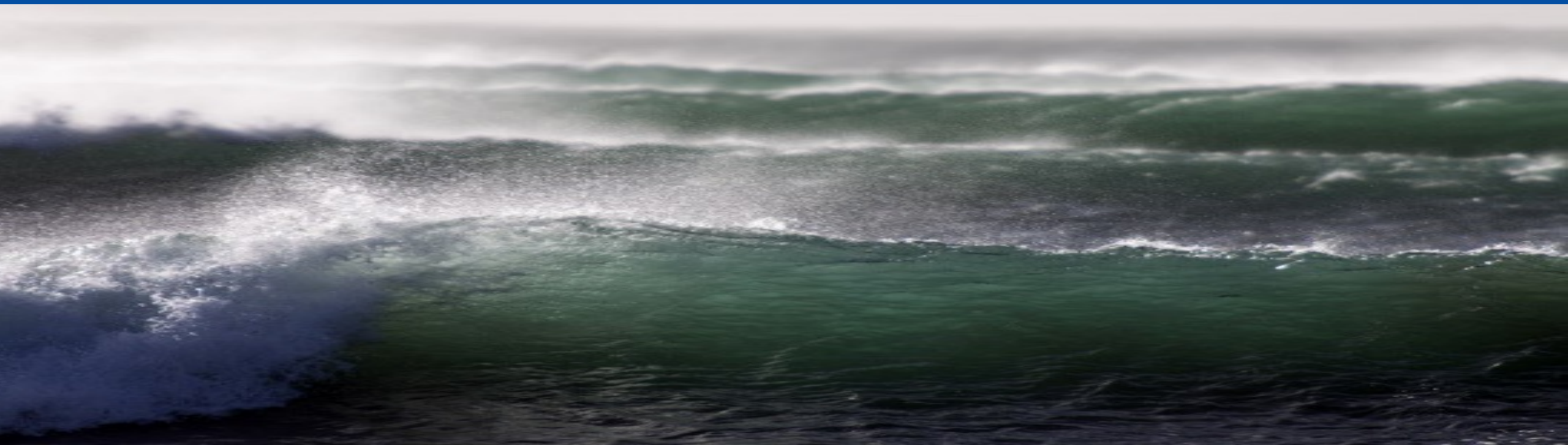


The blue economy in the Mediterranean

- the largest sea basin in terms of GVA
- **€65.5 billion** or 37% of the EU Blue Economy GVA) where 46% of the Blue Economy employment is located (**2.06 million employees**)
- **key sector : Coastal tourism** (€39 billion GVA and 1.52 million jobs) followed by Maritime transport, Living resources and Port activities (with €7 billion of GVA each).

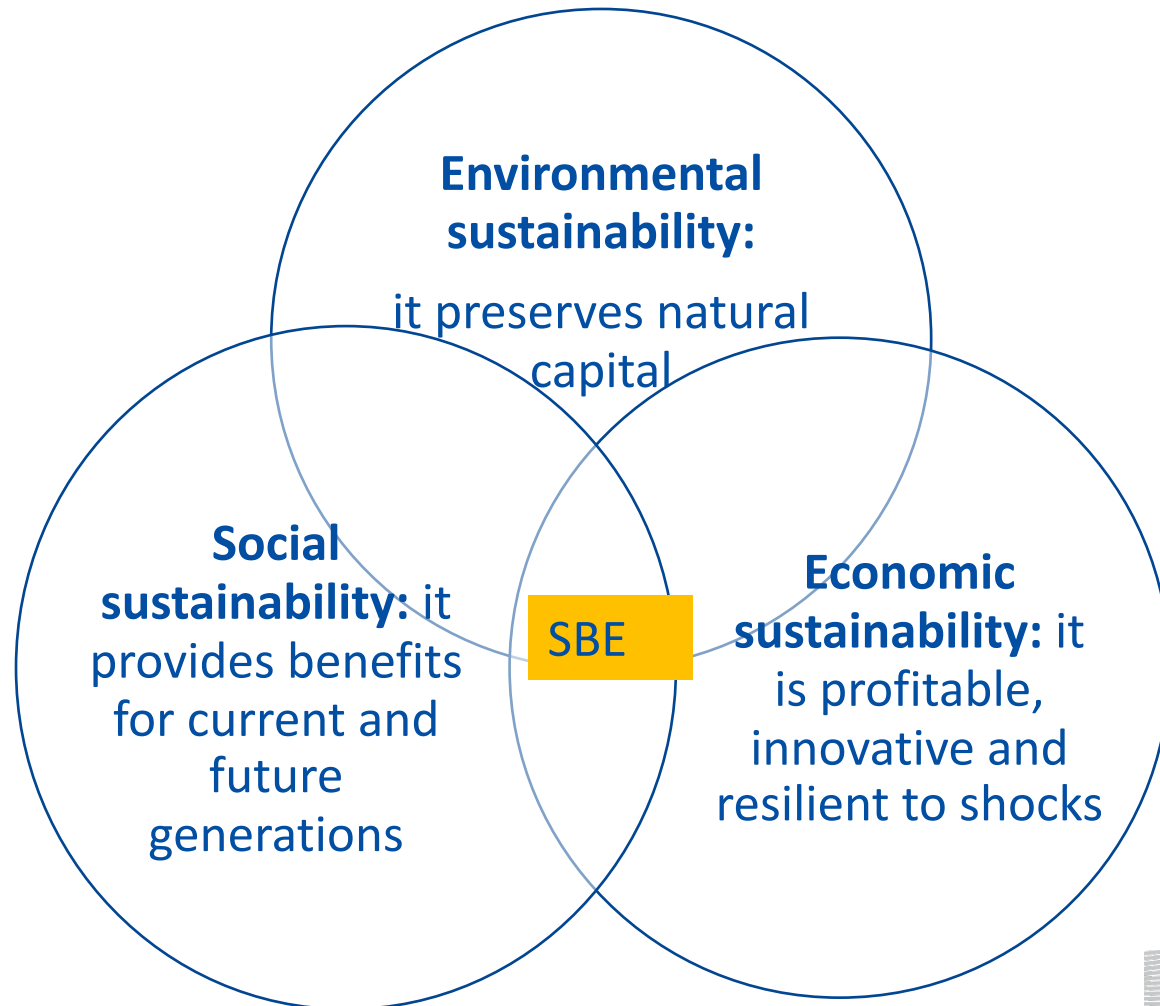


Why do we need a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU?



What do we mean by sustainable blue economy?

**Sustainable
blue economy
is at the
intersection of
3 concepts:**



17.5.21 COM(2021) 240: A new Approach for the Sustainable Blue Economy - A new conte

1. The **2030 Agenda** and the **European Green Deal** call for a sustainable transformation of the EU's economy and the blue economy is no exception;
2. « **There is no green without blue** »: the blue economy is part of the solution; we need to look at oceans to achieve the EGD objectives;
3. Transitioning to sustainable blue economy can contribute to the **recovery** of the sectors affected by the COVID crisis and bring more resilience;
4. Such a major shift call for joint efforts **across the different blue economy sectors** and **across the EU**





What is the communication about?



Setting a coherent and coordinated vision for blue economy

- **The Communication:**

- identifies concrete desirable transformations in the different sectors of the Blue economy that could guide public and private initiatives;
- sets directions in which the Commission proposes to intensify efforts, mobilizing all its policies and instruments;
- complements the other important initiatives of the Commission - such as the smart mobility strategy, the zero pollution action plan, the strategy for plastic and so on – by proposing a holistic approach.

Transforming blue economy value chains

Decarbonisation

- Explore the full potential of offshore renewable energy
- Transition to zero emission vessels
- Transform ports in hubs for sustainable development
- Etc...

Biodiversity and coastal resilience

- Protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems
- Invest in nature- based solutions
- Value natural capital by promoting sustainable tourism
- Etc...

Responsible food systems

- Meet the CFP sustainability standards
- Implement the strategic aquaculture guidelines
- Invest in macro and micro algae
- Etc...

Circularity

- Get rid of macro-plastics
- Invest in circular design of fishing gears
- Develop recycling facilities for ships, recreational boats, offshore platforms and wind farms
- Etc...

Let's focus more on plastic

New Approach for the Sustainable Blue Economy

Our maritime space is used rationally and effectively,

No macro-plastic will end up in our seas. Other sources of pollution will be reduced

- Develop recycling facilities for ships, recreational boats, offshore platforms and wind farms

Blue economy value chains lead by example and enter into full circularity investing in the circular models.

The seabasin and macroregional approach

- UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy

- WestMed Initiative is supporting fighting against pollution

- EUSAIR Flagships: a concrete framework for cooperation

- BlueMed Pilot Action

Enhancing the Single Use Plastic Directive

- The Directive promotes circular approaches that give priority to sustainable and non-toxic re-usable products and re-use systems

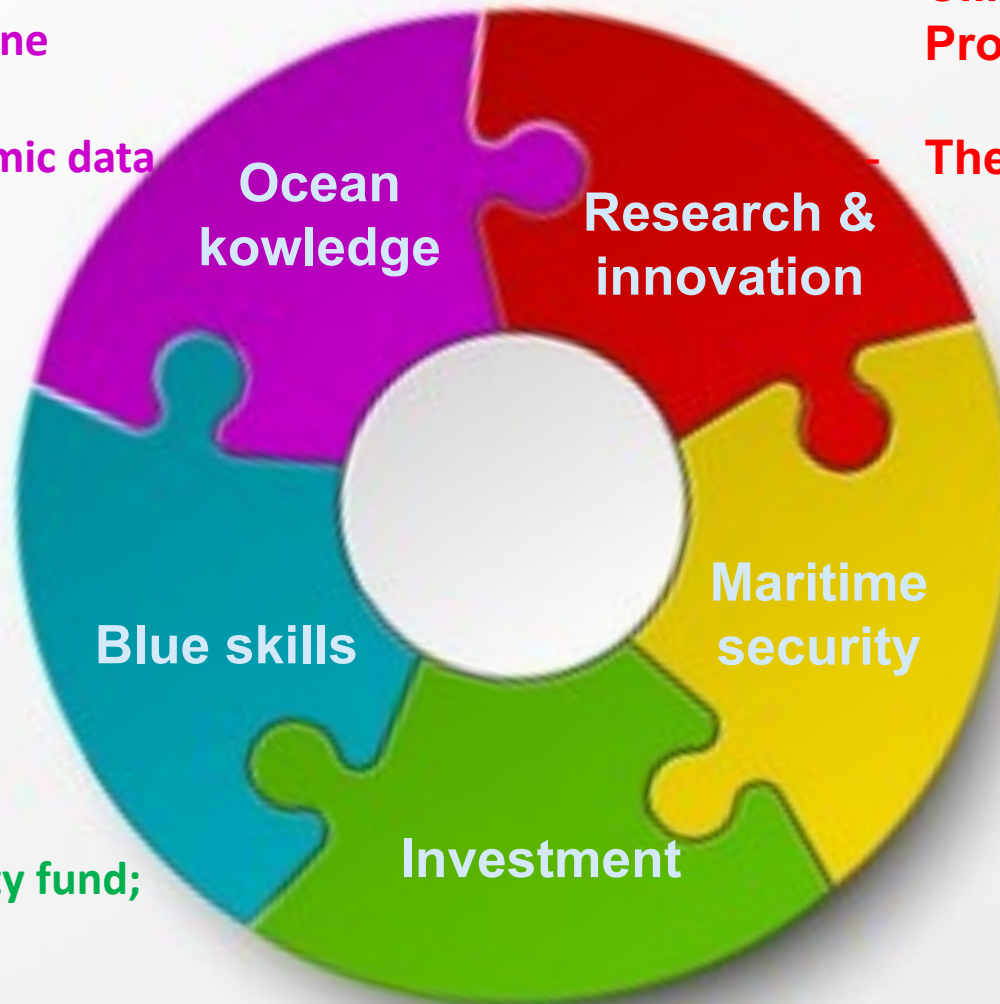
The Commission adopted another two important decisions : to develop a standard for the circular design of fishing gear containing plastic and on the reporting of fishing gear containing plastic and of waste fishing gear collected at sea.

Setting the right conditions

- Ocean observation initiative
- Expanded Copernicus marine service
- Blue observatory on economic data

- Skills partnerships
- Dedicated calls for proposal on blue careers and women in blue economy
- Working conditions (ILO/IMO)

- Taxonomy / Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative
- BlueInvest Platform and equity fund; EIB /EIF
- ESIF (incl. EMFAF) and RRF



- Horizon Europe “Restore our ocean and waters by 2030”
- European Partnership for a Climate Neutral, Sustainable and Productive Blue Economy
- The Mediterranean Lighthouse

- EU **maritime** security strategy
- Coastguard cooperation
- CISE operational phase

Joining forces

- Maritime Spatial Planning: preventing conflicts, exploring synergies and reconciling nature conservation and economic development;
- Sea basin strategies and BE strategies for outermost regions: taking into account regional specificities and cross-border challenges;
- Ocean literacy: raising public awareness and empowering EU citizens.



#EU4OCEAN

From Blue Growth to Sustainable Blue Economy

- ❑ *EMFAF will play a key role*
- ❑ *coupled with other EU funds such as Horizon Europe as well as NDICI for the cooperation with Southern Neighbourhood.*
- ❑ **BlueMed Pilot : a Bridge to the new Horizon Mission and especially with the Mediterranean Lighthouse**
- ❑ **We should try to take all the benefits and opportunities arising by the new Horizon Mission and especially the Mediterranean Lighthouse**
- ❑ **We will thus create a multiplier that will allow us to work together for a healthy, sustainable, productive Mediterranean Sea.**

#Be Green. Go Blue!



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