



Communication on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU

Implications for skills

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What is the blue economy?



The blue economy in the EU

All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts.

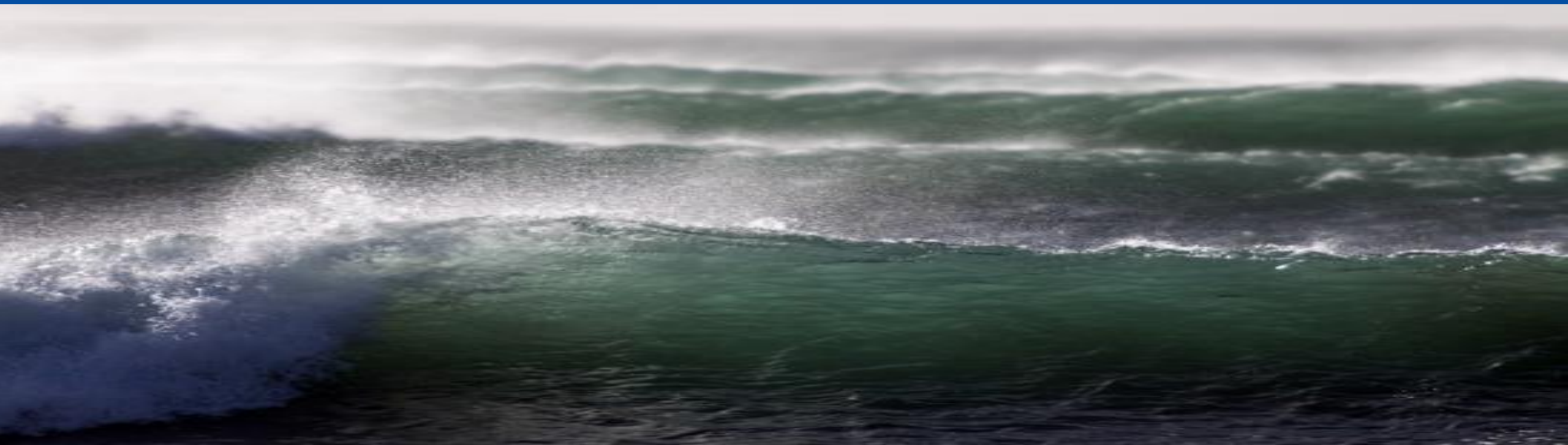
The blue economy covers a wide range of interlinked sectors, both established and emerging.



4,5M direct jobs

[Link to the 2021 blue economy report](#)

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



A new context

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.

What do we mean by sustainable blue economy?

Sustainable blue economy is at the intersection of 3 concepts:



Transforming the 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...

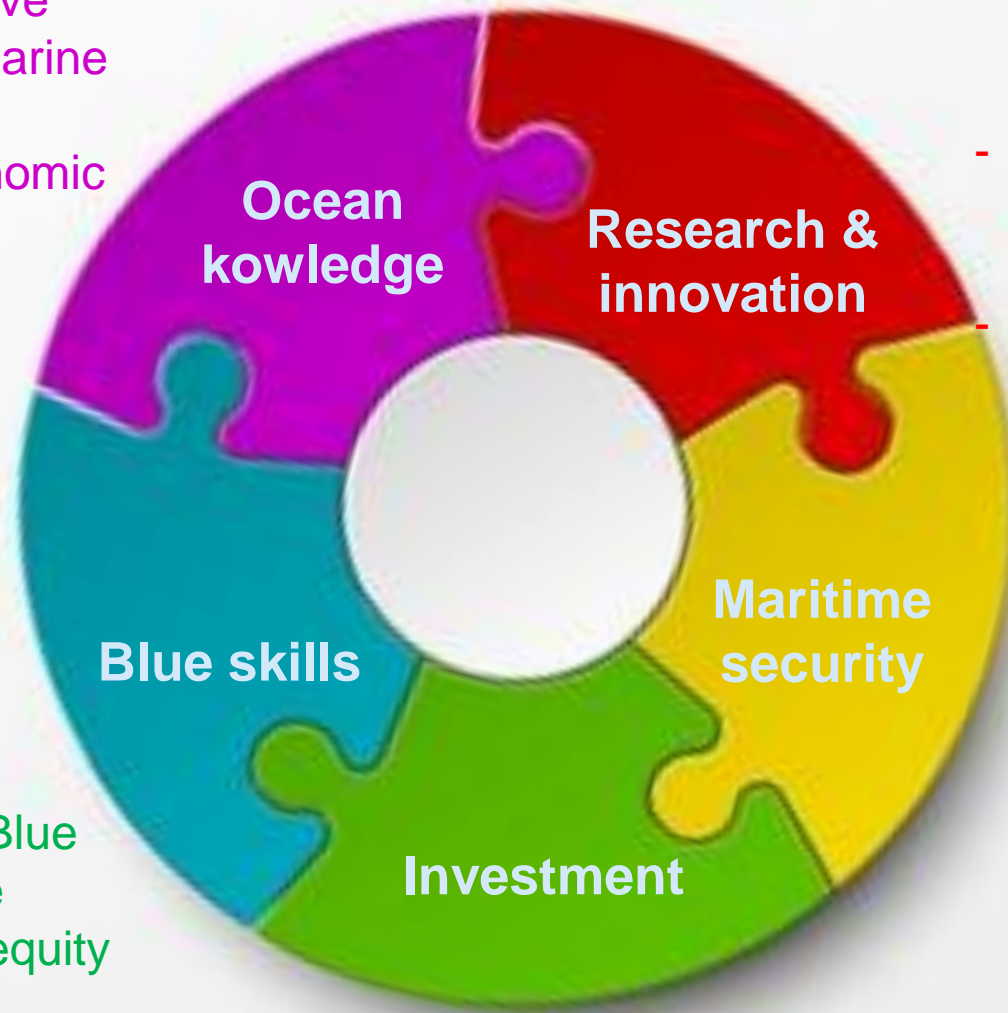
Circularity

- 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...

For examples: [Euronews ocean videos](#)

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



- European partnership for a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive blue economy
- Candidate mission « Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters »
- Smart specialisation
- EU maritime security strategy
- Coastguard cooperation
- CISE operational phase

SKILLS:

- ERASMUS: Blueprint on Maritime technologies, MATES project → extract skilling strategy for offshore renewables sector and shipbuilding / **INPUT** in the relevant **Pact for Skill** for offshore renewables!
 - New skills-related action: delve into appropriate skilling for other blue economy sectors / EMFAF
 - Blue Careers – new dedicated Call under EMFAF in 2022, to tackle skills and career development in the blue economy
- seek how to accommodate digital skills in the blue economy; inform MSs and ESF managing authorities to consider an accent/focus/support on blue activities/skills
- emphasise this blue aspect in the Erasmus+ / new Blueprint and other skills-related calls too

Breaking silos and 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.



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#Be Green. Go Blue!



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