



# Smart Specialization Strategies for a Sustainable Blue Economy

*Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional Strategies Week*

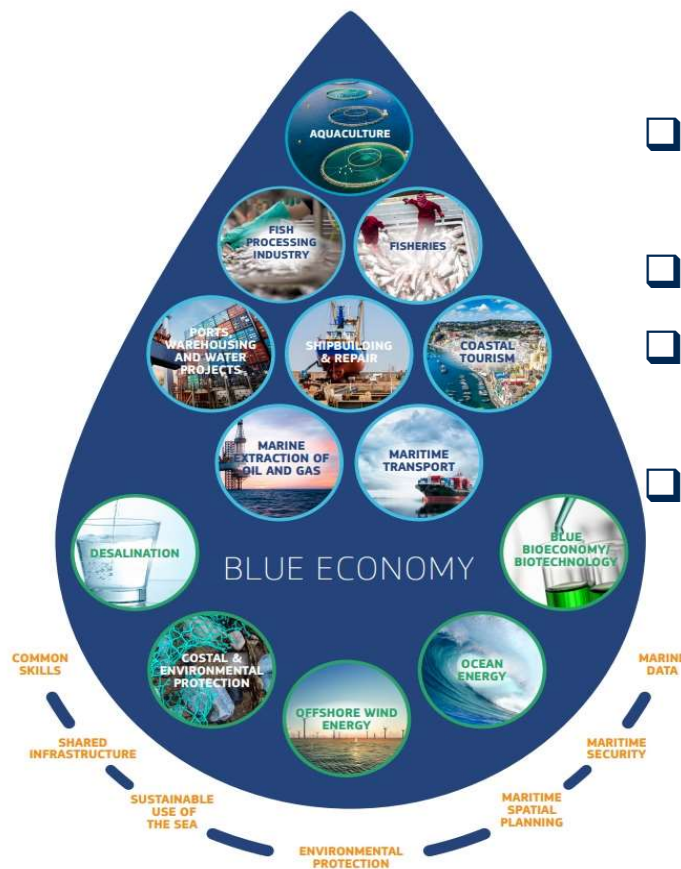
*Innovation for Sustainable Blue Economy*

*23 September 2022, Izola Slovenia*

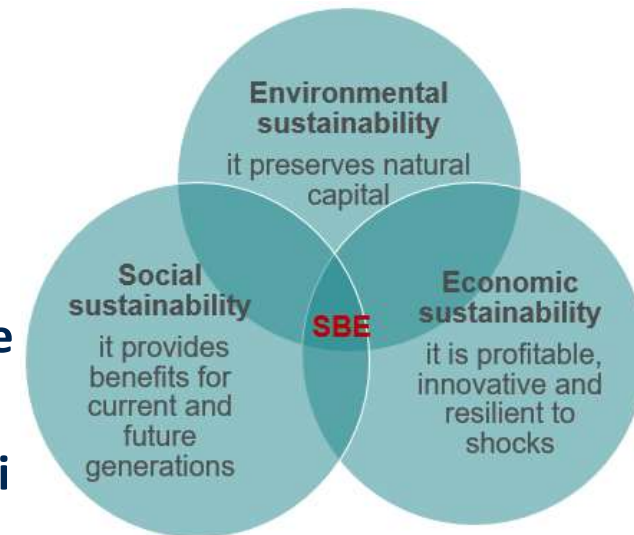
*Dr ELENI HATZIYANNI  
DG MARE, European Commission*

# New approach for a **sustainable blue economy** in the EU

Enormous Blue Economy **growth potential still untapped**  
Opportunities to be exploited in a **sustainable way**



- ❑ **2030 Agenda**  
**European Green Deal**
- ❑ **There is no green without blue**
- ❑ Support **recovery** and more **sustainable resilient socio economic models**
- ❑ **Need for a reinforced multi level/multi sector governance and cooperation**



# Regional cooperation is essential in promoting the sustainable blue economy

## Sea Basin Strategies

### Atlantic Maritime Strategy:

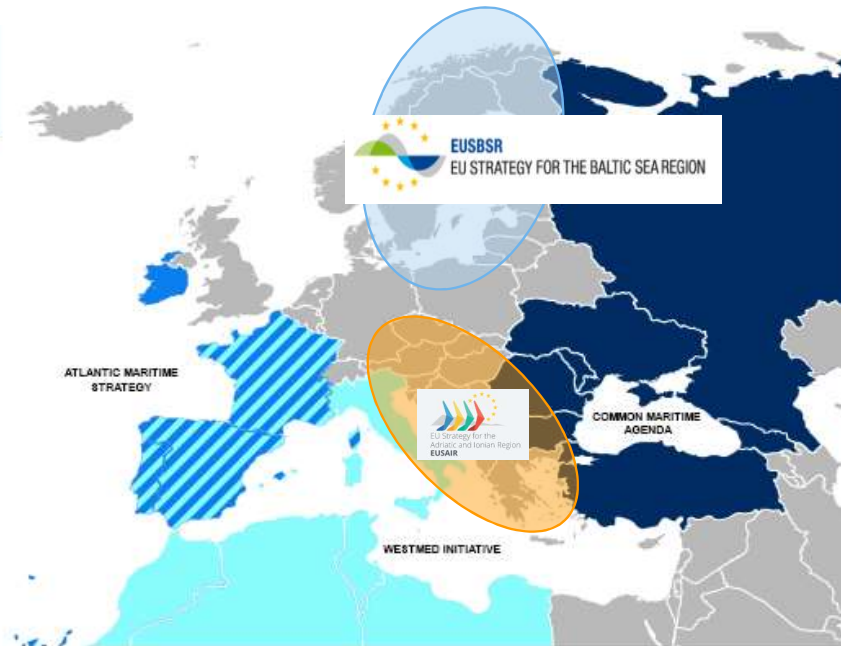
- France
- Ireland
- Portugal
- Spain

### Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea:

- Bulgaria
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Romania
- Russia
- Turkey
- Ukraine

### West Mediterranean Initiative:

- Algeria
- France
- Italy
- Libya
- Malta
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Portugal
- Spain
- Tunisia



Countries around AI area are cooperating well through the **EU Strategy for Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR)**



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

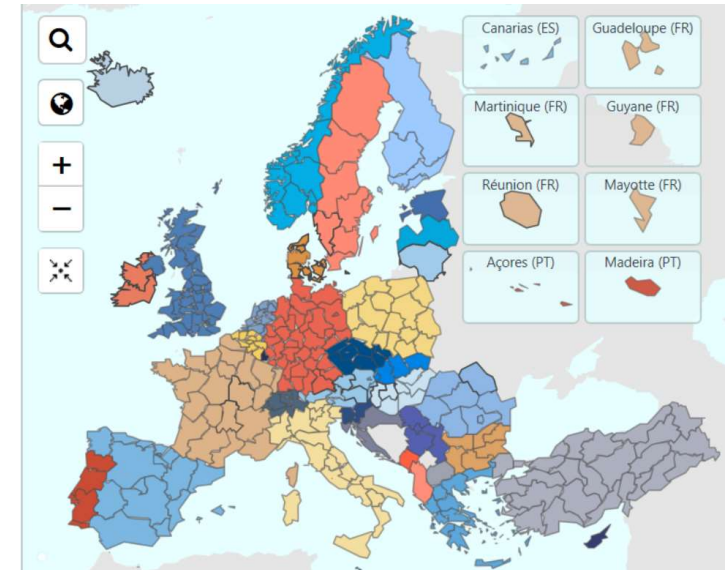


# Synergies

## BLUEINVEST



European Maritime, Fisheries  
and Aquaculture Fund  
EMFAF



- Regional Operational Programmes
- National Programmes
- (ERDF, ESF, EMFAF)
- BLUEINVEST
- HORIZON EUROPE
- Interregional Investment Instrument (I3)
- INTERREG, LIFE.....

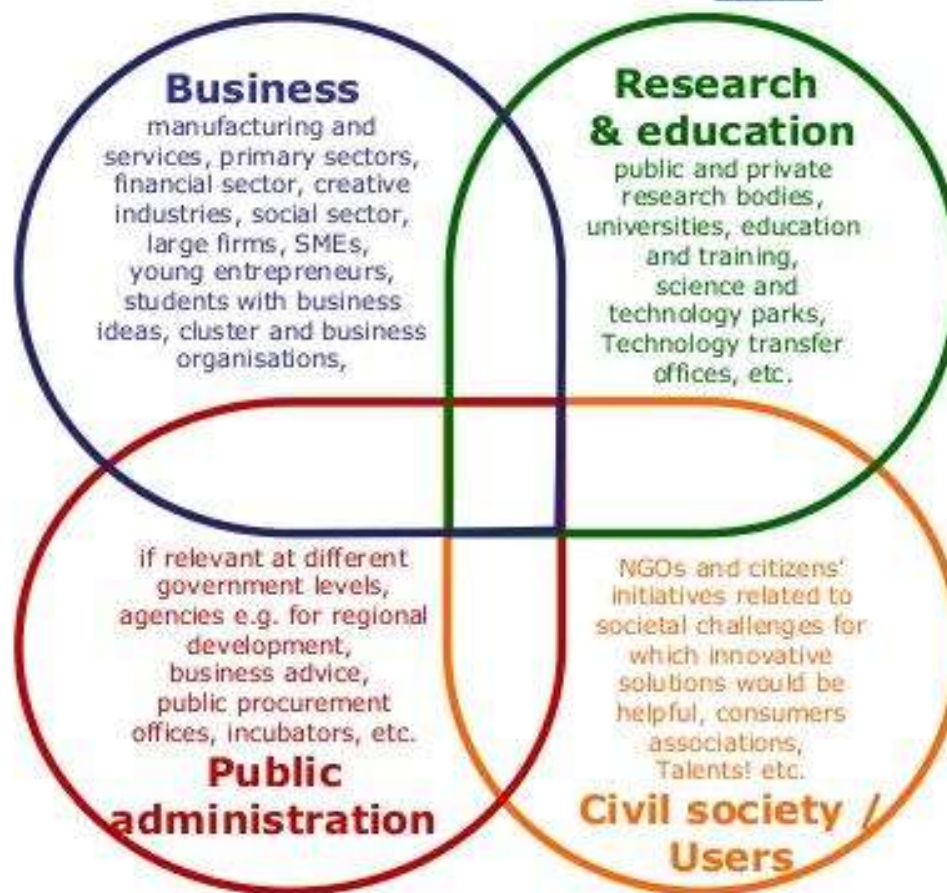


Introduced as a concept in 2017

## Smart Specialization Strategies

and

## The quadruple helix model



## How to start entrepreneurial discovery process

Kick-start with consultation in quadruple helix:

Detect potential boundary-spanners between different stakeholder / interest groups, new innovative entrepreneurs, hidden champions, or persons with a potential for this is one of the aims of this first step. ...

See [new annex III of RIS3 Guide](#)

## S3 – Inter territorial cooperation and platforms



Open to: regional and national administrations of EU, candidate, neighbouring countries and to any other non-EU third country national or regional administration that wish to be involved and participate in the S3 Platform.

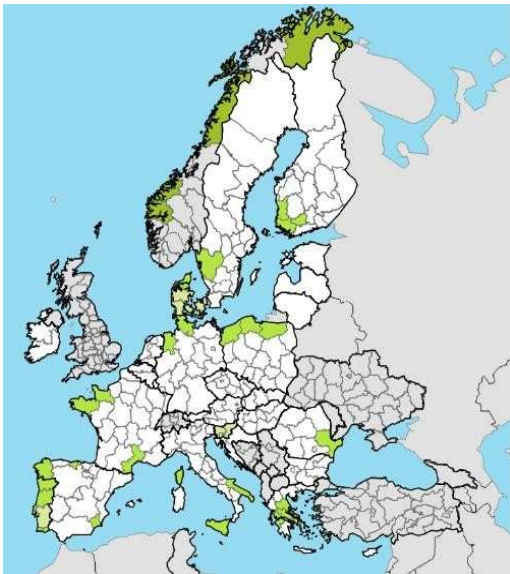
*Inter territorial cooperation*

### S3 Thematic Platforms

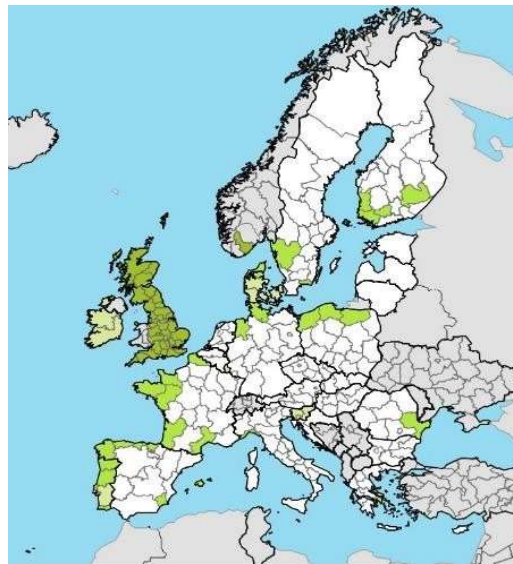
Joint initiatives that encourage **regions and their innovation actors** across the EU to build strategic partnerships, promoting complementarity of regional funding for innovation in specific smart specialisation areas



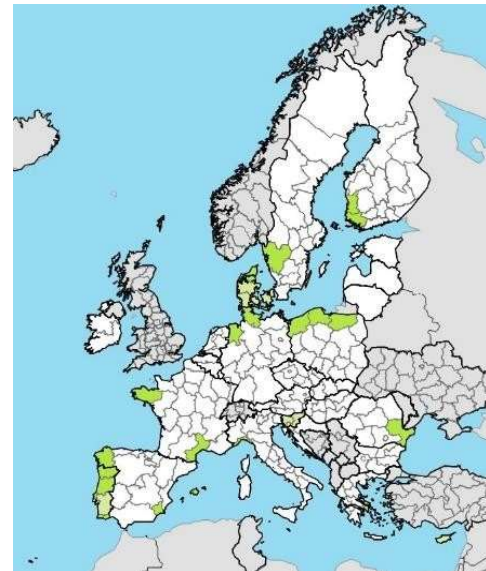
# Regions with Blue economy priorities included in their smart specialisations strategies in the programming period 2014-2020



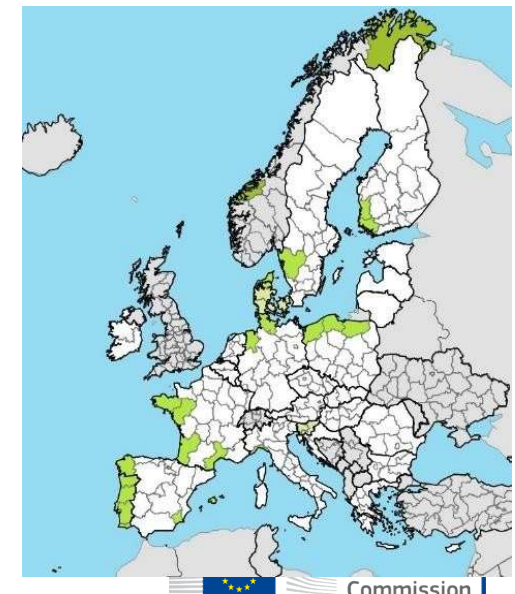
Fisheries/Aquaculture



Marine renewable energies



Coastal and maritime tourism



Blue biotechnology

# A new S3 Thematic Interregional platform on Sustainable Blue Economy

## Promoting innovation and investments in interregional partnerships and value chains

Implementation of the  
Communication on Sustainable  
Blue Economy

Provide an **interactive and participatory environment** to support S3 implementation also through interregional cooperation/partnerships



BlueInvest, EMFAF, PAs, sea basin and macro regional strategies, Horizon Europe Mission Ocean, and lighthouse projects, Blue Forum



## S3 and Blue Economy. Brokerage Workshops

When	Where	Co organiser	Event	BE sector
9 May	Barcelona Spain	CPMR and EU4Algae EMFAF project	BlueFasma Interreg MED Capitization event and SwitchMed	Blue biotechnology
10 May	Santander Spain	Atlantic sea basin strategy	Pillar III Marine Renewable Energies Event	Marine Renewable energies
15 June	Helsingborg Sweden	CPMR and Skåne Region	CPMR Political Bureau	Coastal and Maritime Tourism
21 June	Brussels Belgium	EATip	EATip General Assembly	Aquaculture
1 July	Brussels Belgium	FAME-NET	-	Fishery

## S3 Brokerage Workshops: With a threefold overall objective

1. **inform and mobilise blue economy stakeholders** on the opportunities of setting up S3 interregional partnerships, in particular in the framework of the new Interregional Innovation Investments ERDF instrument and related open call
2. with a broader perspective, **promote blue economy interregional value chains and related cooperation**
3. **identify stakeholders' needs** in order to fine-tune the services of the S3 platform for sustainable blue economy.

## S3 Brokerage Workshops: Findings and highlights

### Blue Biotechnologies:

Bluebiotechnology : very promising blue economy sector with a significant innovation potential

- Social awareness of **algae utility namely as a contributor for sustainable food** and feed is yet a reality. Several comprehensive communication campaigns are already on going with tangible outputs.
- There is willing to upscale both the existing industry **on microalgae and** the potential of microalgae
- **Bio products from invasive species**
- **Bioplastics** and farming waste materials\_ circularity
- **Aquaculture to go hand to hand with blue biotechnology/research facilities.** They may contribute to successfully transfer technical knowledge to firms with interest to provide algae product

# S3 Brokerage Workshops: Findings and highlights

## Marine Renewable Energies:

- **Clusters**
- **Certification Services**
- **Power Transfer and Conversion**
- Lower the **costs of floating platforms** and **deep water** foundations
- **Public acceptance** and engagement, more information
- **Corrosion** in waters
- **Climatology** – Meteorological assessment
- **Structural reliability**
- **O&M-** Operations and Maintenance optimisation
- MREs and **ports**
- **Digital twins** options
- **Skills** - Skilling and upskilling
- Testing and demonstration **in real environments**
- **Environmental issues**

## S3 Brokerage Workshops: Findings and highlights

### Coastal and Maritime Tourism:

- **Circularity** in Tourism
- **Digitalization** – digital transformation
- **Data indicators**-use on decision making
- **Ecotourism**-innovative packages for protected areas
- Sustainable **Nautical Tourism** (cruise and yachting) **Fishing Tourism**
- **Sustainable Mobility** in Tourism
- **Seasonality**-elongation of tourism period
- **Skills**, upgrade and reskilling. **New skills for new alternative forms of tourism** and **sanitary protocols** in tourism destinations, accommodation

## S3 Brokerage Workshops: Findings and highlights

### Aquaculture:

- **New types of energy** in Aquaculture can be considered as it is about lowering carbon footprint.
- **Aquaponics** is another area to explore as it provides a “basket of products” (fish + cucumber/tomatoes).
- A good topic would be to **explore on regulatory and business models for IMTA** (Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture).
- **Social license** was also a topic stressed by the participants due its importance for Aquaculture
- **Space + Investments:** A toll is needed to identify areas to develop aquaculture (technology to monitor)
- For **Mussel farming we need more collaboration to research on the “plastic”** that is already existent in the material used.
- Aquaculture need **more technology to use blockchain and improve traceability**
- **Consider including frog farming** in the aquaculture sector activities

## S3 Brokerage Workshops: Findings and highlights

### Fishery:

- **Social innovations:** Better governance; organisation of the fishing sector; involvement of fishermen
- in decision making and adoption of new ways of working; engagement of the young; linkage of fisheries with other sectors
- **Innovations to reduce the environmental impact of fishing:** more selective gear; combatting pollution & marine litter; connected fishing gear; decarbonisation / electric engines; use of biodegradable materials; circular economy; integrated multi-trophic aquaculture.
- **Marketing and product innovation:** short circuits; traceability; product quality; use of under-utilised and/or invasive species; health and biotechnology
- **Data and digitalisation:** digitalisation of SSCF (all along the fisheries value chain); sensor technology
- for vessels; robotics; vessel monitoring systems; better use of data.

# SAVE THE DATE

## Follow up event on Smart Specialization Strategies and Sustainable Blue Economy

To take place in Agios Nikolaos Crete Greece, **25<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

*Registrations so far: 187 (85 to join in person)*

*Back to back with:*



**24 October 2022**

*Swimming forward!*

### Conference on **Blue Growth**

Blue technologies - Fisheries - Marine services





# Thank you!



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