



Regional cooperation for a sustainable blue economy, in the concept of Smart Specialization

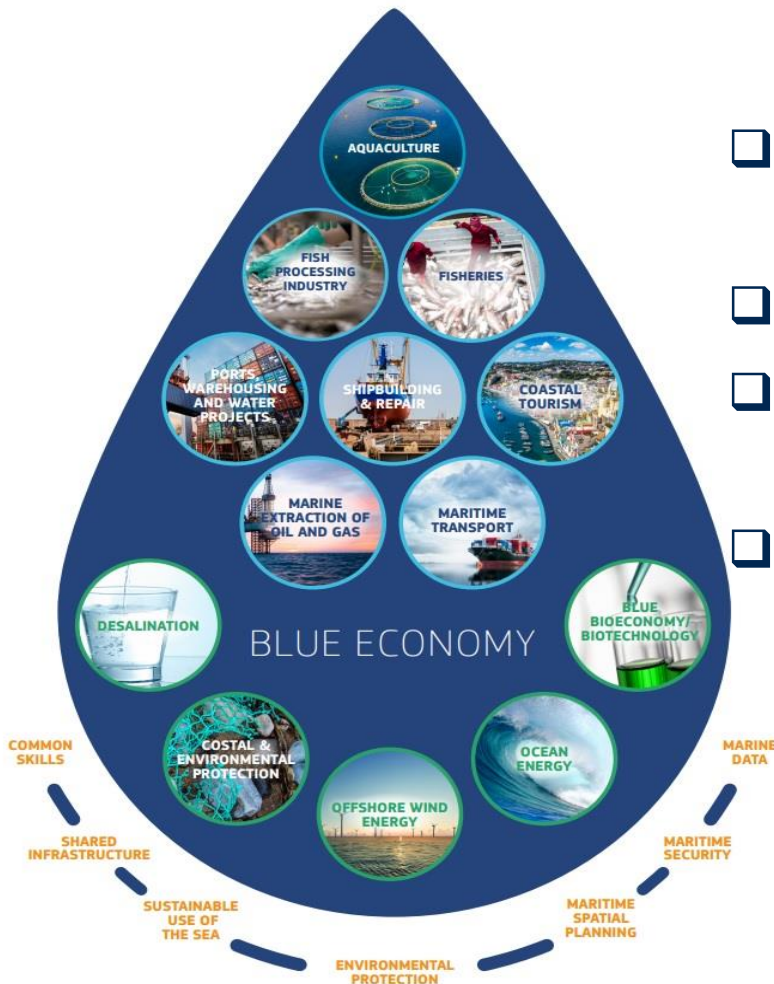
iWATERMAP Interreg EU High Level Event ,

Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 15th November 2022

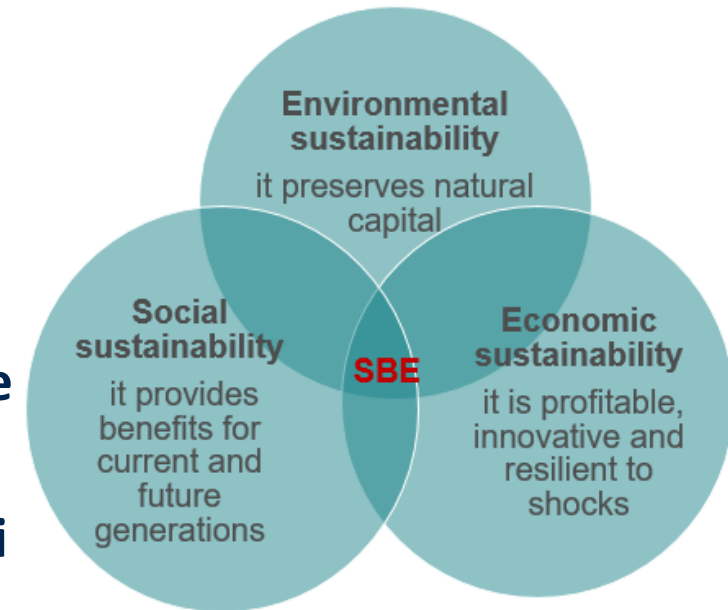
*Dr ELENI HATZIYANNI
DG MARE, European Commission*

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**

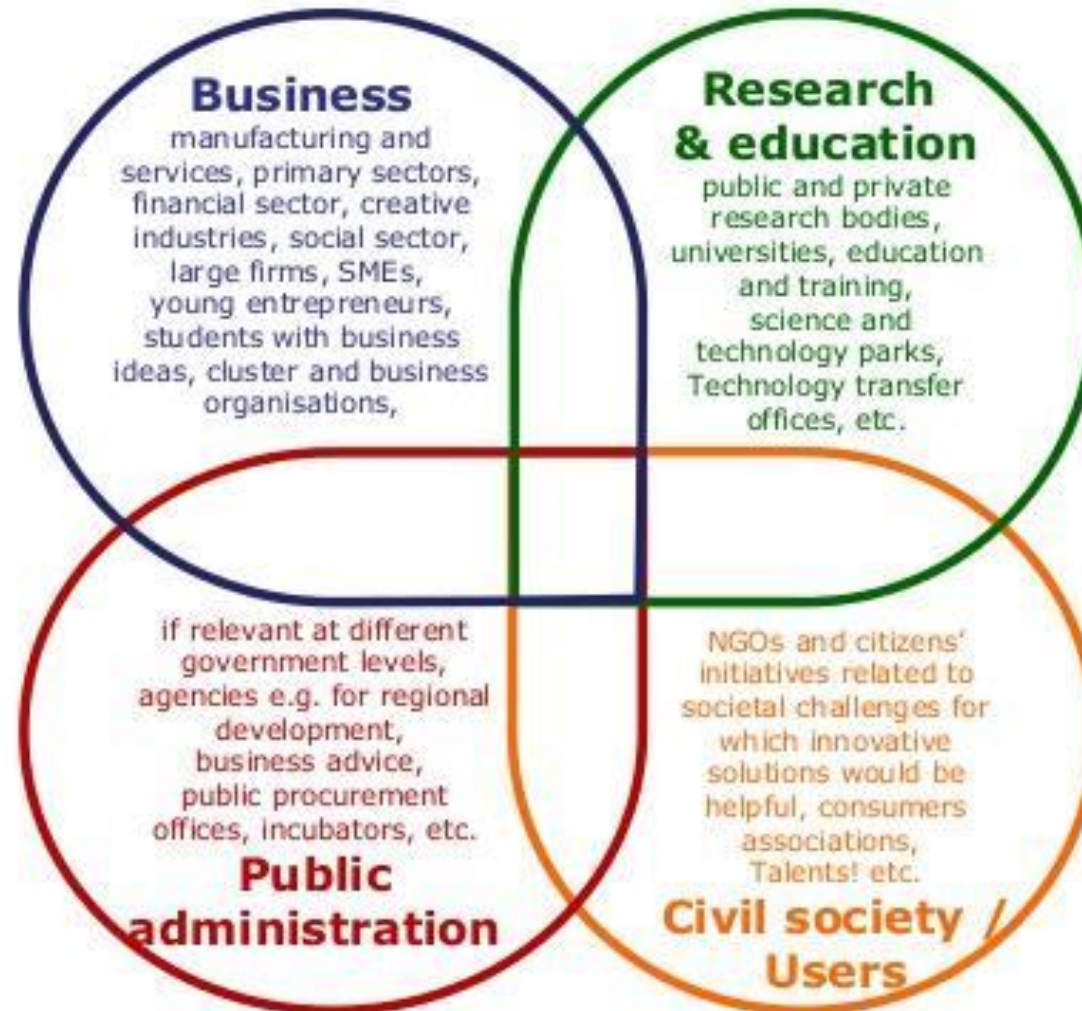


Introduced as a concept in 2017

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



Regional cooperation is essential in promoting the sustainable blue economy

Sea Basin Strategies

Atlantic Maritime Strategy:

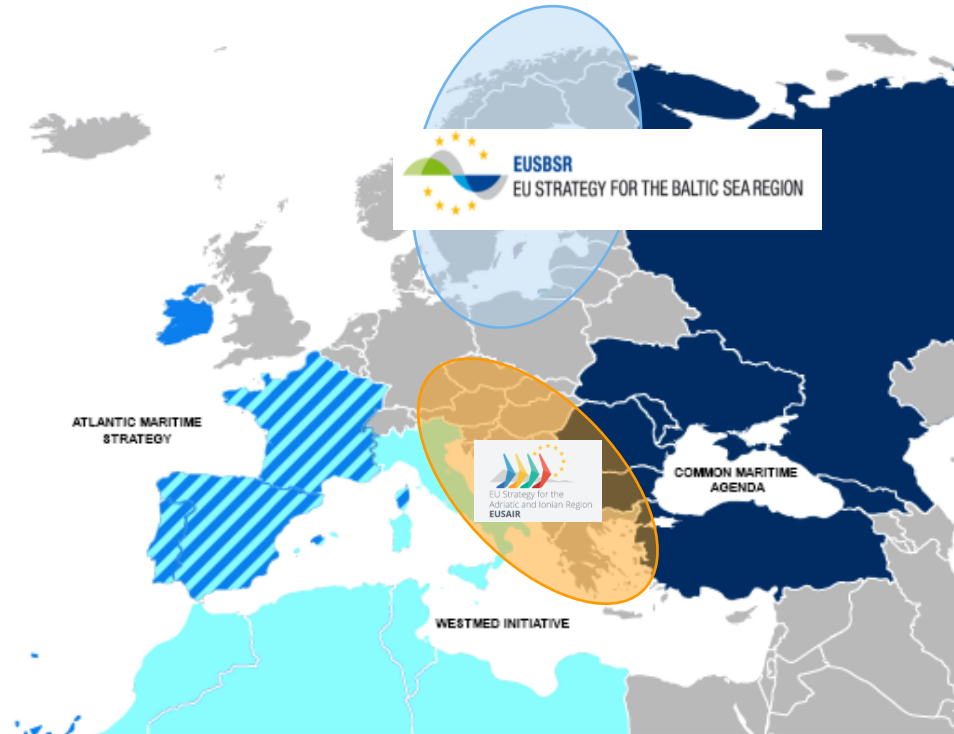
- France
- Ireland
- Portugal
- Spain

Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea:

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

West Mediterranean Initiative:

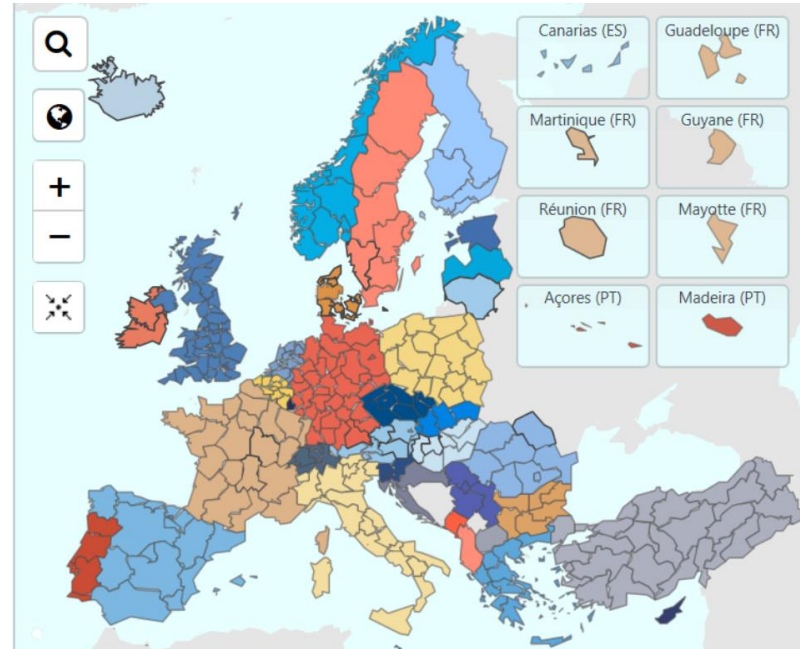
- Algeria
- France
- Italy
- Libya
- Malta
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Portugal
- Spain
- Tunisia



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



Synergies: Opportunities for the Regions



European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund EMFAF



- Regional Operational Programmes
- National Programmes
- (ERDF, ESF, EMFAF)
- BLUEINVEST I and II
- Blending instrument with InvestEU and EIF/EIB finance
- HORIZON EUROPE and the EU Missions
- Interregional Investment Instrument (I3)
- INTERREG, LIFE.....



Mobilising Stakeholders: 5 thematic workshops (May-July 2022): With a 3fold 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.

➔ **A follow up event on 25th October 2022**
back to back with CPMR GA and EUSAIR Pillar 1 Conference

S3 Brokerage Workshops: Findings and highlights

Blue Biotechnologies:



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

- **algae as a contributor for sustainable food**
- There is willing to upscale both the existing industry **on microalgae**
- **Bio products from invasive species**
- **Bioplastics** and farming waste materials_ circularity
- **Aquaculture to go hand to hand with blue biotechnology/research facilities.**

S3 Brokerage Workshops: Findings and highlights

Marine Renewable Energies:

- **Clusters**
- **Certification Services**
- Lower the **costs of floating platforms** and **deep water** foundations
- **Corrosion** in waters
- **Climatology** – Meteorological assessment
- **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).
- **explore on regulatory and business models for IMTA** (Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture).
- **Space + Investments:** 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.
- **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;
- **Innovations to reduce the environmental impact of fishing:**
- pollution & marine litter decarbonisation / electric engines; use of biodegradable materials; circular economy;
- **Marketing and product innovation:** short circuits; traceability; product quality; use of under-utilised and/or invasive species; health and biotechnology
- **Data and digitalisation;** robotics; vessel monitoring systems; better use of data.

29th March 2022: Steering Committee meeting of the S3 thematic platforms:

The S3 SBE thematic platform:has been formally launched

Since then:

- we have continued working **in cooperation with DG REGIO**
- **smart specialisation community of practice** in progress:
 - **management of the three existing S3 platforms**
 - **the operational setup of the S3 Sustainable Blue Economy thematic platform.**
 - Working on the **elements considered for the development of the platform**

Thank You!



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