



Interreg
Mediterranean



BLUE GROWTH

Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

DEVELOPING BLUE GROWTH POTENTIAL

@BlueGrowthCommunity



Acronym: Blue Growth

Project Title: Blue Growth Community - Capitalization & Communication project for Blue Economy Innovation in the Mediterranean

Priority Axis 1: Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth

Specific Objective: 1.1 To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area

<https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu>

Work Package: 5 – Capitalising

Activity: 5.5 – Strategic Liaising – Lobbying, advocacy and sustainable partnerships

Deliverable: 5.5.4 – Fora participation – Recommendations to the Regional Operational Programmes (focus to the Maritime Greek Regions)

Partner in Charge:

NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS – School of Naval Architecture and
Marine Engineering

Distribution: Public

Type of deliverable: Report / Recommendations

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Context

During the 3rd reporting period (January 2021 – June 2021), the Blue Growth Community, through its Greek partner, the School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), has carried out several meetings addressed to Greek regions and other relevant stakeholders, in order to promote the transferring process of the main results and tools of the MED Blue Growth Community modular projects in Greece.

In the above context, a consultation document to Greek Regions was prepared. This was a joint initiative, organized by NTUA and the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research - HCMR (partner of the MISTRAL Interreg MED project and of the Bluemed CSA Horizon 2020). It was the occasion to deliver a common document with a series of recommendations and good practices on the Blue Economy experiences, including outcomes of the MED Blue Growth projects. Among the different topics addressed, the issues of fisheries, aquaculture, marine renewable energies, blue biotechnology coastal and maritime tourism, monitoring and management planning of the marine environment and funding schemes for the blue economy were presented.

The consultation document was prepared and adapted to each of the 12 Greek maritime regions separately. At the end, there were produced 12 documents (in Greek) addressed to the following regions: Attica, Central Greece, Central Macedonia, Crete, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Epirus, Ionian Islands, North Aegean, Peloponnese, South Aegean, Thessaly and Western Greece.

Following, one can find the translation in English of the main recommendations and good practices coming only from the Interreg MED BGC's projects. This translation was prepared, in order to be potentially adapted and addressed to other Mediterranean Regions as well.

BGC's Recommendations for the Mediterranean Maritime Regions

Introduction

The current document presents the recommendations of the **BLUE GROWTH Interreg Mediterranean Horizontal Project**, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

During its first phase, the [BLUE GROWTH](#) project paved the way for a strong “Blue Growth Community” in the Mediterranean and it is now in its capitalization phase, setting as a main target a sustainable socioeconomic development in the area, through innovative investments in blue economy. The project has undertaken the task to coordinate the communication and capitalization activities of the modular projects of the Community, which deal with various thematic, such as the marine renewable energies, the coastal and maritime tourism, the maritime surveillance, the blue economy, etc. The main objective of the project is to support involved actors in national and local level in adopting the technical results of the modular projects and use them during the policy making process – in a governance scale – and to urge other actors such as SMEs, research, NGOs, etc. to benefit from the use of these results for further development of the blue economy in the Mediterranean area.

The objectives of the project include:

- The support of common and harmonized research and innovation strategies, local/regional/national projects and activities in the blue economy sector in the MED area
- The interconnection with the RIS3 strategies that will foster the blue growth in coastal areas and islands
- The enhancement of the competitiveness and productivity of European companies in the sector of maritime economy, through the development, diffusion and integration of knowledge and innovation in existing and emerging production systems and value chains, according the needs and the capacity of each Region.

It is recommended to specialize the priorities and activities of RIS3 considering interventions for fisheries and maritime aquaculture, marine renewable energies, ICT, tourism and circular economy, respecting the guidance of the relevant directions and strategies that are related to sustainable and blue growth in order to highlight the innovation capacity existing in the maritime and coastal economic activities.

The following table includes recommendations and additional activities that can be funded by the Regions in the context of the next period of Operational Programmes 2021-2027, in order to develop innovative products and services in the sector of blue economy as well as to establish competitive communities.

Recommendations

Fisheries

- Promote circular economy practices among all actors involved in the fisheries sector and implement circularity assessment tools. [1]
- Promote funding opportunities related to Fisheries Control on artisanal fisheries in protected areas and awareness actions for sustainable aquacultures to increase demand. [2]

Maritime Aquaculture

- Promote public awareness activities (e.g. living labs) and activities towards the development of sustainable maritime aquaculture. [3]
- Use of marine environmental monitoring devices or fisheries devices for example, in the aquaculture market, in order to monitor the production and living parameters of fish in the production areas so as to allow fish producers to better plan and monitor their farms. [4]
- Promote circular economy practices among all actors involved in the maritime aquaculture sector and implement circularity assessment tools. [1]

Marine Renewable Energies (MRE)

- Development and use of technological tools to support MSP, e.g. GIS for data management and decision making. [6, 1613]
- Minimize potential spatial conflicts with other maritime activities, by promoting multi-use platforms (MUP) to enhance synergies with other sectors, as aquaculture. [6]
- Support of research and innovation and promotion of cost-effective deployment of MREs, through the modelling and experimental assessment of new/alternative technologies, materials, energy storage solutions, big data management systems, etc. [6]
- Organization of Blue Energy Labs, in the context of which, the energy potential, the suggested MRE technologies, the expected cost, the socioeconomic aspects will be analyzed for specific locations, while the suggested infrastructure will be visualized with virtual tools. [7, 14, 15]
- Educational activities in schools for the promotion of MRE and the potential for the creation of jobs in the blue economy sectors. Public awareness activities. [13]
- Support of the MRE investors through the development and offering of innovative funding tools, e.g. blue crowdfunding. [8]
- Development of “one-stop-shops” to facilitate and accelerate the administrative processes, with a single organization responsible for providing guidance through the administrative, planning and consenting process. [6]
- Ensure the grid connection: adapting the existing grids to the specificities of MREs, using smart grids to preserve the balance between power supply and demand, focusing on the interconnection of islands. [5, 6]

Maritime and Coastal Tourism

- Application of new business models that follow multi-dimensional approaches (for activities related to recreational boating, etc.) and consider socioeconomic and environmental aspects (3 Pillars of sustainability). [9]
- Promotion of innovative technologies and services related to “smart marinas” and small/medium ports for improving the ports’ ecosystem management and their environmental quality (e.g. use of RES, residuals and effluents reduction methods, supply of virtual services and contribution to maritime surveillance). [10, 12]
- Creation of educational schemes for the boosting of skills and jobs creation in the sector of recreational boating. [12]

Maritime Surveillance

- Supporting the cooperation in Maritime Surveillance sectors among the different relevant actors of the quadruple helix; In particular, we recommend the synergies between the Regions and the relevant to the Maritime Surveillance actors towards the exchange of knowledge and innovation. [2]
- Foster the Dual-Use technology on Maritime Surveillance, creating occasions of cooperation among civilian and military authorities through calls for projects. [2]
- Supporting the creation of networks with Regions and relevant actors sharing know-how and expertise on Dual Use. [2]

Funding tools for the Blue Growth sectors

- Supporting of start-up SMEs in all Blue Growth sectors, through a combination scheme of funding (vouchers) and technological guidance and support by organizations acting as Knowledge Providers. [11]
- Supporting of start-ups & SMEs in the sector of Blue Growth, through crowdfunding mechanisms. [8]
- Use of civic crowdfunding for public interest blue projects in the region. [8]

References

1. [Interreg MED - BLUEfasma modular project - tools](#)
2. [Interreg MED - PROteuS modular project - Policy Recommendations for Integrated Maritime Surveillance](#)
3. [Interreg MED - BLUEfasma modular project](#) - BLUEfasma Living Labs
4. [Interreg MED - PROTEUS modular project - Mainstreaming of PROTEUS model to other BLUE Growth sectors](#)
5. [Interreg MED - MAESTRALE modular project - White Paper on Blue Energy development on small islands](#)
6. [Interreg MED - PELAGOS modular project - Blue Energy Action Plan in MED](#)
7. [Interreg MED - BLUE DEAL modular project - BLUE DEAL Labs](#)
8. [Interreg MED - BLUE CROWDFUNDING modular project](#)
9. [Interreg MED - i-Blue modular project](#)
10. [Interreg MED - Psamides modular project](#)
11. [Interreg MED - 4helix+ modular project](#)
12. [Interreg MED - Blue Growth horizontal project - Policy Paper](#)

Good practices

13. [Interreg MED - MAESTRALE modular project - Transferring activities involving students](#)

14. [Interreg MED - BLUE DEAL modular project - Malta's BLUE DEAL Lab](#)

15. [Interreg MED - BLUE DEAL modular project - Albania BLUE DEAL Lab](#)

16. [Interreg MED - MAESTRALE modular project - Web-gis](#)

Links

News (BGC's website) - THE BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY CARRIES OUT TRANSFERRING ACTIVITIES IN GREEK REGIONS

https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/index.php?id=1304&no_cache=1&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=9730&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=326bc9dc535987eaf77188ea73c1baf2

About us / Main Results (BGC's website) - RECOMMENDATIONS

<https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/index.php?id=13341>

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