



Smart Specialisation for a Sustainable Blue Economy, through cooperation

“Innovation camp on Strengthening innovation and smart specialisation for sustainability in the Adriatic and Ionian Macroregion”

8th EUSAIR FORUM

23-25 May 2023, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Blue economy in the EU (EU Blue Economy Report, 2022)

4.45
million
direct jobs



EUR 667.2
billion
annual
turnover



All sectoral and
cross-sectoral
economic activities
based
on or related to
oceans, seas and
coasts



Established
and
emerging
sectors



EU Sustainable Blue Economy Communication

- Adopted in May 2021
- Radical change in approach, from blue growth to sustainability



Blue dimension, or “maritime arm”, of the European Green Deal



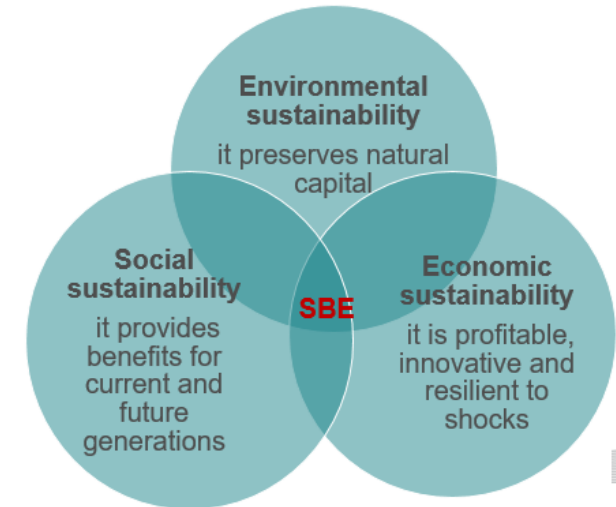
Applying to all maritime sectors/users, in all EU sea basins (and beyond)



Programming investments and developing synergies



Monitoring implementation and communicating results



Implementation: 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...

Implementation: recent initiatives & enablers

Fisheries and Oceans package, February 2023



Updated EU Maritime Security Strategy, March 2023

Cross-cutting enablers:
regional maritime cooperation, smart specialisation, etc.

EU Sea-basin and Macro-regional Strategies

WestMED Initiative

WESTMED
blue economy initiative

Atlantic Strategy

ATLANTIC STRATEGY
Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

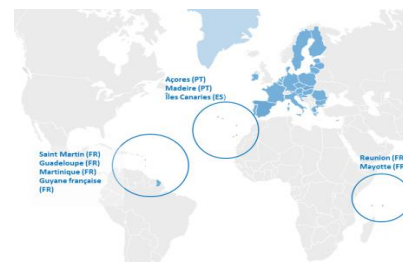
Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea

Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA)

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

OM regions



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



European Commission

Innovation - Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3)

Location-based approach involving all blue economy stakeholders in identification of sectors with competitive advantage to prioritize innovation investments



Key tool for implementing the EU Sustainable Blue Economy Communication

Enabler for new blue economy value chains, based on interregional innovation partnerships and projects

Mobilising Stakeholders:

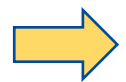
5 thematic workshops (May-July 2022):

With a 3fold overall objective

In line with the 3
pillars of S3

- Localisation
- Prioritisation
- Participation

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 hybrid 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”
- **Explore regulatory and business models for IMTA** (Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture).
- **Space + Investments:** identify areas to develop aquaculture
- 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

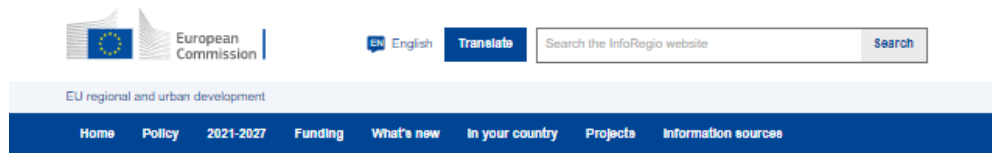
S3 Brokerage Workshops: Findings and highlights

Fishery:

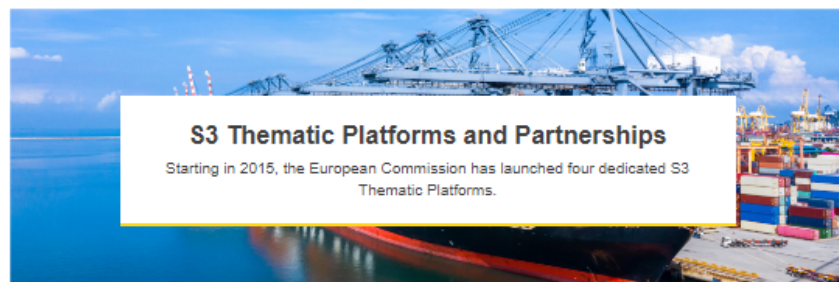


- **Social innovations:** Better governance; organisation of the fishing sector; involvement of fishermen in decision making and adoption of new ways of working; engagement of the young;
- **Innovations to reduce the environmental impact of fishing:**
- pollution & **marine litter decarbonisation** / 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.

S3 Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy



Regional Policy > Policy > Communities and Networks > S3 Community of Practice > Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms



About the Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

Starting in 2015, the European Commission has launched four dedicated S3 Thematic Platforms related to Agri-Food, Energy, Industrial Modernisation and since March 2022 a new platform on the Sustainable Blue Economy.

The **S3 Thematic Platforms** are joint initiatives between several Directorates-General of the European Commission (including Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), Energy (ENER), Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW), Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE), Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO), and Research and Innovation (RTD)) and since 2020 their management has been transferred from the Joint Research Centre to the DG Regional and Urban Policy. They are instruments to support the creation of a transnational and interregional **collaborative network of strategic Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs)**, promoting complementarity of regional funding for innovation in specific smart specialisation areas. The S3 Thematic Platforms are created as a result of regions' priorities in topical areas of their smart specialisation strategies in order to support regions to collaborate in shared smart specialisation areas.

Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs) bring together regions interested in initiating and exploring new value chains in specific priority areas based on a shared interest in their smart specialisation strategies. TSSPs target specific areas with high potential for technological, societal, and ecological return at regional and European level, underpinned by shared smart specialisation strategy priorities across committed regions, cluster organisations, businesses, and innovation actors as well as civil society. TSSPs are open to participation of regional authorities and/or quadruple helix actors with a mandate from their regional authority and have a smart specialisation strategy that has clear links to the topic.

TSSPs rely on regional commitment, through the participation of the regional authority, or other stakeholders from the quadruple helix with a mandate from the regional authority. Collaboration builds on a common interest and particular strength in the region with the ambition to look beyond regional borders for complementary expertise, new insights and explore opportunities for further advancement. Interregional collaboration can take the form of exchange of practices and experiences, alignment of policies, design of co-investment projects, among others. Regions involved in the TSSPs aim to strengthen core areas of expertise complementary to and in collaboration with other regions based on shared smart specialisation priorities. Outcomes of the TSSPs include the development of interregional investment projects, interregional collaboration projects, the alignment of smart specialisation strategies between various regions, among others.

Explore the thematic smart platforms



Agri-food



Energy



Industrial Modernisation



Sustainable Blue Economy

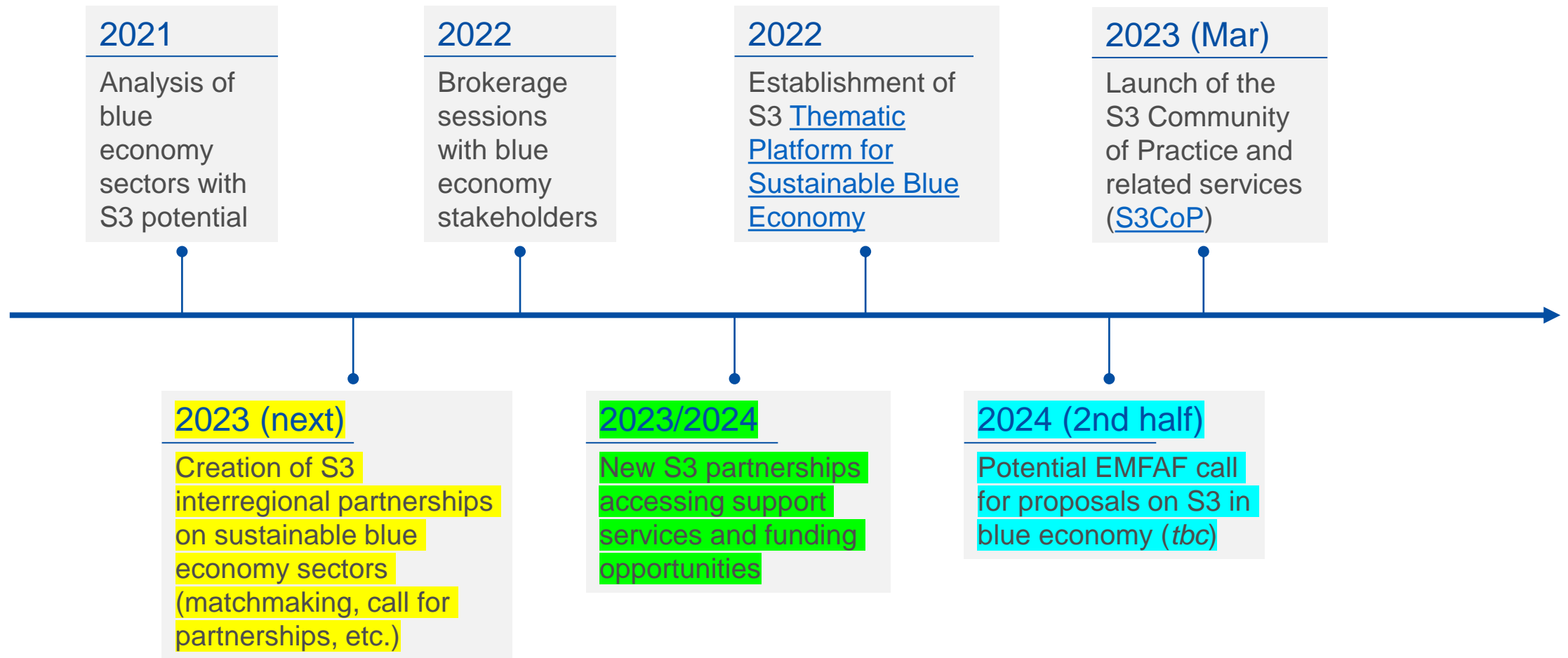
Interested in joining/forming a new partnership?

Regions with actors interested in building new partnerships can reach out to the S3 CoP Secretariat via partnerships@s3-cop.eu for more information.

FAQ about the Thematic S3 Platforms (TSSP) and the partnerships

- + What is a S3 thematic platform?
- + What is a Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership (TSSP)?
- + How can I get involved in a Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership (TSSP)?
- + What is the role of regions in Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs)?
- + What is the quadruple helix?
- + How does the EU support S3 Thematic Platforms and Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs)?

Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) for Blue Economy - our milestones



MARITIME REGIONAL COOPERATION SYNERGIES

European Maritime,
Fisheries and Aquaculture
Fund
EMFAF



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

BLUEINVEST

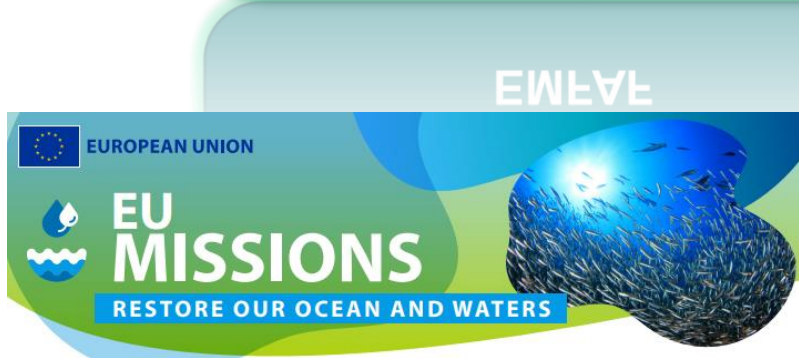


Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

Horizon Europe's blue arm of the Green Deal, uniting research and innovation efforts to aid the transition to a sustainable blue economy

5 intervention areas:

- Development and Validation of Ocean Digital Twin
- Blue generation marine structures
- Planning and managing sea-uses
- Blue Food' under a 'One Health' approach
- Enabling the green transition of 'Blue Food' production



Mission lighthouses:
sites to pilot, demonstrate,
develop and deploy the
Mission activities across
EU seas and river basins



**MEDITERRANEAN
LighthousePREVENT AND
ELIMINATE POLLUTION OF OUR
OCEAN, SEAS AND WATERS**

2 new topics for the Mediterranean

1. Sustainable transport and ports in the Mediterranean
2. **Maritime clusters as an innovative enabler for a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean**

Some S3 projects' examples



BLUEAIR



Blue Growth Smart Adriatic
Ionian S3



Strengthening
cooperation between
SMEs and R&D
Centers in the Adriatic
Ionian Region



Baltic Mussel Products
for Pet-foods

Funding opportunity !

A hand holding a glowing lightbulb with butterflies and icons around it. The background is a light gray. There are four butterflies: one yellow and black, one green and black, one brown and black, and one brown and black. There are four circular icons: a green one with a lightbulb and a gear, a teal one with a cloud and a network, an orange one with a Wi-Fi signal and a laptop, and a green one with a lightbulb and a gear.

**IPA ADRION
1st Call for
Proposals**

DDL 30 June

interreg  Co-funded by
the European Union

[IPA ADRION 1st Call for Proposals at the start – CALL OPEN – Interreg ADRION Programme \(adrioninterreg.eu\)](http://adrioninterreg.eu)

Thank you!

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