



**OCEAN
HEALTH:**

**MONEY
WELL
SPENT**

OCEAN HEALTH: MONEY WELL SPENT

MARITIME POLICY, OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND THE BLUE ECONOMY -

A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT PART OF THE EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND

October 2018

As we approach the end of this financial period and debate the shape of the next one, here is an overview of what is being done with the share of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund that is not divided up among EU countries but is devoted **directly** to the Integrated Maritime Policy, to ocean governance and to the blue economy. This share amounts to **€292 million** for the period 2014-2020 - roughly 4.5% of the overall European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (€6.4 billion)* - and has been devoted to the most pressing issues (both environmental and economic) that our seas are facing today.

* The total amount in direct management is €647 million, divided between fisheries (55%) and maritime policy (45%).



IF WE DON'T DO IT, NO ONE WILL

Alongside the 7% used for public outreach, evaluations and studies, as much as 93% of the IMP money under direct European Commission management (or **€272 million** of the total estimated 2014-2020) is going straight to operators on the ground: through grants, services and assistance mechanisms it supports investments and operations carried out by businesses, research institutes, training academies, NGOs and public authorities, whether national or local. This kind of support implies an indispensable investment in trans-national, Europe-wide cooperation and networking with stakeholders - work that EU institutions are uniquely placed to support. In other words, if we don't do it, nobody will - and yet it is a pre-requisite to a healthy ocean economy. There lies, we believe, the added value of the EU's direct funding.

IT HAS PAID OFF, TOO

Though the life span of the current European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is not over yet, the results are already there. Read on to discover the striking progress made for instance on maritime spatial planning, marine knowledge and sea-basin strategies. At the same time, other issues have emerged with urgency, and should have prominence in the next programming period (2021-2027):

- **Marine Litter:** a plastic-free sea that offers the opportunity to create jobs in cleaning up, preventing and recycling plastic and in new products and services.

- **Investment in Blue Innovation:** a tailor-made support and a facilitated access to financial markets that helps blue start-ups and SMEs to scale up.
- **Global Ocean Governance:** the European Union must fulfil its commitments under its own agenda for sustainably managed oceans and under the Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG14 "Life Below Water") by 2030.

MOVING ON TO THE NEXT CHALLENGE

Our challenge is clear: as of 2021 we will have to maintain and strengthen the level of maritime cooperation achieved so far and at the same time turn to these pressing, complex problems with method and precision. It is work that cannot be postponed any longer and it is work that requires additional resources. For this reason we ask that the next EMFF be adequately provided for, so that it can continue to make a difference.



OCEAN HEALTH: THE RESULTS IN A NUTSHELL

Result #1 - The Space Network

We have built a unique, Europe-wide network of maritime spatial plans – not just through a directive, but also through cooperation.

..... Page 5

Result #2 - The Coastguard Network

We have built a network of European coastguards and are interlinking maritime authorities for more safety and security – and against marine pollution, illegal fishing, arms and drug smuggling, human trafficking.

..... Page 6

Result #3 - Marine Knowledge for All

With 150 partners we have built a unique data base of marine data. The new knowledge has a wide spectrum of applications in science, business and innovation – at a fraction of the cost of similar, satellite-based observation systems.

..... Page 7

Result #4 - Sea-basin cooperation

Through our assistance mechanisms we have enabled the countries around each sea basin to develop thousands of new projects in a collaborative way.

..... Page 8

Result #5 - A Healthier Marine environment

We are working to maintain biodiversity.

..... Page 9

Result #6 - Leading Blue Growth

Our support to promising industries has produced amazing new projects that open the way for a sustainable blue economy.

..... Page 10

Result #7 - The Jobs of the Future

We have built a Europe-wide maritime skills platform and piloted new learning processes to trigger new maritime skills and qualifications.

..... Page 12

Result #8 - Citizens outreach

We have put the blue economy on the map.

..... Page 13

Result #9 - The Global Commitment

We have put ocean health on the map.

..... Page 14

RESULT THE SPACE NETWORK

(15% OF THE BUDGET)*

WE HAVE BUILT A UNIQUE, EUROPE-WIDE NETWORK OF MARITIME SPATIAL PLANS – NOT JUST THROUGH A DIRECTIVE, BUT ALSO THROUGH COOPERATION

#1

Competition for maritime space – for transport, fishing, aquaculture, renewable energy equipment and other uses – requires that we manage our waters more coherently. Maritime Spatial Planning works across borders and sectors to ensure that human activities at sea take place in a mutually complementary and compatible way, as well as safely and sustainably.

The last four years have seen 14 actions on Maritime Spatial Planning, for an overall budget of €29 million.

1. The better part of this amount (€22 million) was devoted to helping Member States implement the MSP Directive coherently across sea basins: grants were awarded to international consortia covering the States and the sea basins in question to improve cross-border cooperation as well as data collection and sharing, assessment, monitoring, evaluation etc. Good examples of such projects are [SIMCelt](#) from the UK, Ireland and France; [MARSPLAN](#) for the Black sea, and [BALTICSCOPE](#) for the Baltic Sea region. Two important projects are also encouraging maritime special planning in outermost regions: [MARSP](#), covering Macaronesia, and [Ocean Metiss](#), covering the Western Indian Ocean.
2. With €4.5 million we established the [European MSP Platform](#), an assistance mechanism for the benefit of all EU countries providing a website, technical documents, studies, workshops and conferences and allowing for the exchange of practices between countries. The Platform has since set up a network of expert teams per sea basin providing a Q&A guidance and information service to stakeholders.
3. To share Europe's experience and leadership on MSP, we have been working with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, organising inter alia the 2nd international conference on the subject (Paris, 2017). We funded a study (€530,000) collecting international best practices on MSP. We are now preparing joint EU-UNESCO-IOC guidelines on trans-boundary MSP cooperation and to that aim we are financing an International Forum of MSP practitioners (€300,000) and two cross-border pilot projects in the Western Mediterranean (EU and non EU States) and in the South-Eastern Pacific (€1.4 million).

* The percentages in each chapter title and most of the figures in this paper refer to the amounts spent until the end of 2018.

RESULT THE COASTGUARD NETWORK

(10% OF THE BUDGET)*

#2

WE HAVE BUILT A NETWORK OF EUROPEAN COASTGUARDS AND ARE INTERLINKING MARITIME AUTHORITIES FOR MORE SAFETY AND SECURITY – AND AGAINST MARINE POLLUTION, ILLEGAL FISHING, ARMS AND DRUG SMUGGLING, HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We all depend on safe, secure and clean seas and oceans for prosperity and peace. Adequate maritime security allows us to maintain the rule of law in areas beyond national jurisdiction. To increase cooperative surveillance across borders and across sectors and create synergies between control activities, we have been granting direct support to two parallel strands.

1. Cooperation between coastguards: with roughly €2.7 million, since 2014 we have been funding the exchange of practices between 360+ EU national authorities performing coastguard functions and have promoted cooperation initiatives with

partner countries in the Mediterranean. We have funded the European Coastguard Functions Forum, the Mediterranean Coastguard Functions Forum, and their work to establish a set of standard professional qualifications for coastguards.

2. The Common Information-Sharing Environment: CISE (€17 million) is laying the ground for the various EU maritime surveillance authorities to share information in real time, drastically reducing reaction time for search and rescue and policing operations. It also supports interoperability and exchange across sectors (coast guard, navy, police, fisheries, environmental inspectorate etc.) within individual countries. Testing, technical support and evaluation are equally being financed.

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RESULT MARINE KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL

#3

(25.5% OF THE BUDGET)*

WITH 150 PARTNERS WE HAVE BUILT A UNIQUE DATA BASE OF MARINE DATA. THE NEW KNOWLEDGE HAS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF APPLICATIONS IN SCIENCE, BUSINESS AND INNOVATION – AT A FRACTION OF THE COST OF SIMILAR, SATELLITE-BASED OBSERVATION SYSTEMS

Better marine knowledge improves our understanding of how the seas behave and benefits industry, public authorities and researchers at the same time. But national data do not tell us all we need to know about the seas as a global system connected by shifting winds, currents and migrating species; analysis at supranational level is essential. The Commission has driven the integration of different national and local systems into a coherent whole for the benefit of all.

16 actions are being carried out for a total expenditure of €48.6 million.

1. The lion's share of this amount (€36.7 million) goes to [EMODNet](#), a data base which has produced a complete seabed map of European waters, with resolution and coverage progressively improving. See [movie](#) and [Annual Report 2017](#). There is ample evidence that EMODNet is already increasing productivity and that it is opening up opportunities for businesses that were unthinkable before; it has reached at least 40,000 users so far; and it is now identifying industry's priorities for improvements in usability and coverage.

Meetings and hackathons bringing together EMODNet stakeholders have been regularly every year since 2014, and an ongoing

external evaluation of EMODNet has cost so far €200,000. EMODNet's secretariat has absorbed €700,000, and lately its responsibilities were expanded to include the [European Atlas of the Seas](#) and the [European Earth Ocean Observation System](#) (€1.4 million).

2. The [European Atlas of the Seas](#) is an easy to use and interactive web-based atlas on the coasts and seas within and around Europe. A number of interactive maps describe various natural and socio-economic features of the marine and coastal regions of Europe, providing general information and statistics. The Atlas is proving extremely popular with schools, aquaria and other user groups all over Europe. The cost is €150,000 per year.
3. In terms of direct field work, in 2015 the EMFF gave €3.9 million as Europe's contribution to the international [Argo floats](#) (measuring devices which float at different sea depths and give new insights into how the deeper ocean absorbs heat from global warming). A contract greatly improved the quality of coastal mapping (2014, €1.1 million), while another drove forward high-resolution seabed mapping (2015, €5.1 million). We commissioned a study on the costs and benefits of earth and ocean observation which, though relatively inexpensive (€59,000), could have big international resonance for ocean governance.

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RESULT SEA-BASIN COOPERATION

(6% OF THE BUDGET)*

#4

THROUGH OUR ASSISTANCE MECHANISMS WE HAVE ENABLED THE COUNTRIES AROUND EACH SEA BASIN TO DEVELOP THOUSANDS OF NEW PROJECTS IN A COLLABORATIVE WAY

Our sea-basin strategies have had the dual effect of inducing effective cooperation between maritime regions and stakeholders all around Europe's coasts, and of channelling large chunks of EU public funds towards common objectives (e.g. European Regional Development Fund, Horizon 2020, European Neighbourhood Instrument, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance). The impact at sea basin level is now one of the award criteria of all Blue Economy calls. Moreover, by mainstreaming ocean health objectives into all initiatives, the EMFF has been able to trigger unprecedented volumes of public investment in favour of sustainability: 1200 maritime projects worth €6 billion in the Atlantic; marine R&I investment worth €54 million in the Mediterranean; and 13 cooperation projects worth €41.5 million in the Baltic.

The EMFF in itself has achieved the following results so far:

1. Two sea-basin strategies established for the Atlantic and the Western Mediterranean, supported via their respective Assistance Mechanisms (€4.3 million).
2. Several actions undertaken in the Mediterranean (€5 million), including grants and the setting up of a 'Virtual knowledge centre'.
3. A maritime agenda developed and a stakeholder platform launched on technology investment to increase maritime uptake by the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (€287,000).
4. A facility set up to support regional dialogue in the Black Sea and pave the way for strategic and structured cooperation on the blue economy in the near future (€1 million).
5. A network of training academies for the maritime professions established in the Eastern Mediterranean; a network of maritime clusters created between Adriatic-Ionian and Black Sea partners (€560,000).
6. An Outermost Region Forum set up; Blue Economy calls extended to the ORs' partners (€295,000).

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RESULT A HEALTHIER MARINE ENVIRONMENT

#5

(11.5% OF THE BUDGET)*

WE ARE WORKING TO MAINTAIN BIODIVERSITY

The EMFF serves several environmental objectives related to the protection of marine biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. It also contributes to the EU's objective of achieving good environmental status of our waters by 2020.

To this aim, part of its direct management budget is transferred to DG ENV, which devotes it to the implementation of both the Integrated Maritime Policy and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Over the years, the projects generated by DG MARE and DG ENV's grants have been increasing our understanding of habitats and ecosystems and our appreciation of man-made impacts on the marine environment. They have also facilitated coordination among Member States for better coherence of intervention on each marine region.

1. Marine Strategy Framework Directive: between 2014 and 2018 we allocated just below €20 million to support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (€29 million estimated by 2020).

Of these, about €13 million is financing projects that improve our understanding of marine ecosystems and of the impacts of man-made stressors. Two examples for the Baltic, for instance, are [Baltic Boost](#) and [Spice](#); for the Mediterranean [ActionMed](#), [MedCis](#), [Quietmed](#); and [IDEM](#).

Via procurement actions, the remaining €7 million is being used to facilitate coordination between EU countries and help Bulgaria, Romania and the Mediterranean Member States implement the Directive, as well as to perform studies on issues such as integrating the Directive into the licensing procedures for offshore activities, measures to combat marine litter and underwater noise; mapping and assessing marine ecosystem services, etc.

- 2. Ecosystem-based approach:** with €1.5 million, the EMFF is supporting the restoration of degraded coastal and marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean through public/private partnerships involving both EU and third-country partners.
- 3. Marine Litter:** as mentioned above, marine litter is contemplated in various ongoing grants: the Blue Labs call; the Blue Economy call where around €2 million are going to finance 4 new projects fighting marine litter; and the grants managed by DG ENV (see for instance project [Indicit](#) (Indicator Impact Turtles)).

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RESULT LEADING BLUE GROWTH

(20% OF THE BUDGET)*

#6

OUR SUPPORT TO PROMISING INDUSTRIES HAS PRODUCED AMAZING NEW PROJECTS THAT OPEN THE WAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Through stakeholder dialogues, grants, economic studies and easier access to capital the EMFF is piloting innovation in the blue economy.

- 1. Renewable energy:** €2.3 million have gone into establishing a joint research/industry Ocean Energy Forum (2014), performing a market study on investment prospects (2016), and determining the environmental impact of wave and tidal devices (2017). A recent study (worth €60,000) revealed that the EU invested over EUR 3 billion (public and private) in the last 10 years in ocean energy and has a strong pipeline of projects to move to an industrial phase in the decade to come. With Horizon 2020 we have helped set up financing platforms such as the [InnovFin Energy Demo Project](#) and targeted support for innovating SMEs; supported 17 technology development projects (generating a total investment of some €270 million euros); and are helping European regions to invest in technological developments, test centres and port infrastructures.
- 2. Bio-economy:** a new stakeholder forum (€1.2 million) will produce a pipeline of 5 to 15 blue bio-economy products or services which are ready or show potential for investment, and a roadmap to bring the pipeline to fruition – the ultimate goal being that of reducing our reliance on non-renewable resources.
- 3. Tourism:** €3.8 million have gone into maritime tourism, for a fact-finding study on coastal and maritime tourism (2014) and to promote dialogue between cruise operators and destinations; several grants have been awarded to create underwater cultural heritage routes (2015, spurring for instance the [UCRCA](#) project, the [NIRD](#) project and the [ATAS](#) project), to promote EU destinations to third countries such as China (2017 and 2018), and to create transboundary nautical routes with an innovative character (2016, e.g. the [Tuna Route](#), the [Meltemi Route](#), the [WAOH Route](#), [ChannelSail](#) and [From Greece to Magna Graecia](#)).
- 4. Innovation for Healthy Oceans:** the Blue Labs grant (€6.7 million) has financed partnerships between researchers and businessmen to tackle specific ocean health problems. As a result, a low-cost, eco-friendly solution to oil spills is now offered by [SpilLess](#), while the [LitterDrone](#) project allows to identify and classify all kinds of beach litter.
- 5. Blue Economy Innovation and Access to Capital:** since 2016 the EMFF has been piloting innovation in the Blue Economy. The Blue Technology and demonstrator grants (€18.7 million) are encouraging public-private partnerships to support the transfer of new technologies and research results into commercial applications. Among the most notable results, the projects

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[INvertebrateIT](#) and [NeSSIE](#). To help the many innovative blue businesses in Europe to get access to capital and grow, we have been exploring the idea of creating a blue economy investment platform for public and private funds and banks. The first step was a series of studies (€700,000) to identify financing needs and potential markets of blue economy projects, possible

funding sources (especially EFSI), as well as a pipeline of market-ready innovation projects. A second step is an assistance mechanism on 'access to finance' (€4.7 million), whereby on one hand companies receive personalized advice on how to tap into investor funds and on the other data is collected on investment and projects.



RESULT THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE

#7

(5% OF THE BUDGET)*

WE HAVE BUILT A EUROPE-WIDE MARITIME SKILLS PLATFORM AND PILOTED NEW LEARNING PROCESSES TO TRIGGER NEW MARITIME SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Today's blue economy features a complex ramification of modern goods and services that rest on a technologically advanced and innovation-oriented industry. Sectors like offshore wind, ocean energy, shipbuilding or marine biotechnology offer highly specialized niches of employment and are in search of suitable personnel. Matching this demand with an adequate offer will be key to maintaining the industry's competitive edge.

1. That is why, as part of the [New Skills Agenda](#), the Commission has created a new cooperation platform between several key stakeholders called [Blueprint for skills cooperation](#). Direct funding is also going into encouraging cooperation between the education and the business worlds, which need to talk to each other more and multiply learning opportunities and out-of-classroom experiences for students.
2. The **Blue Careers** grant, worth €9 million in total, is opening up new vocational training offers. Examples of the 7 ongoing projects are [CETBC](#), [Blue Smart](#), and a new [blue bio-technology Master's degree](#).
3. Other grants aim at restoring the image of maritime professions and raising the public appeal of careers at sea: see an example

at the [Career Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea](#).

4. We have also financed and published a unique inventory of real-life innovative approaches that tackle the skills issues from different angles and increase cooperation between [business and education](#), expand [ocean literacy](#) and create new opportunities for [life-long learning and mobility](#).



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RESULT CITIZENS OUTREACH

(5% OF THE BUDGET)*

WE HAVE PUT THE BLUE ECONOMY ON THE MAP

#8

Ocean health is more and more under public scrutiny today, and an ever more discerning public demands action on the part of politicians. Communicating our initiatives and involving civil society in full transparency remains essential. That is why we use a small part of the direct management budget to finance independent studies and evaluations and to organise events that improve the visibility of the integrated maritime policy. Some examples:

1. The annual European Maritime Day;
2. Various events devoted to specific sea basins or regions (e.g. Baltic blue economy workshops);
3. Business-oriented initiatives such as the Business and Science Forum, the Blue Economy Business Awards, and the new (2018) Blue Invest matchmaking event between investors and maritime businesses with an innovative idea.
4. Study on the direct economic benefits of marine protected areas and space protection measures: €281,000.
5. Blue Indicators (IT tool to extract and process ESTAT data in an automated rather than manual way): €330,000 (plus €115,000 in 2019).
6. Blue Growth scoping study collecting accurate and replicable data on the blue economy: €425,000.
7. Blue Economy Report: 2018 issue with internal resources only, €400,000 as of 2019.
8. Study on 'Realising the potential of the Outermost Regions for sustainable Blue Growth (2015, €295,000).
9. Study on the economic impact of MSP and study on the ecosystems-based approaches to MSP (each €500,000).
10. Finally we plan to study the feasibility for establishing a Blue Economy Observatory (expanding data collection to emerging sectors and to private sources): €200,000 as from 2019.

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RESULT THE GLOBAL COMMITMENT

#9

WE HAVE PUT OCEAN HEALTH ON THE MAP

In recent years, thanks among others to its “**International Ocean Governance Agenda for the Future of Our Oceans**”, the EU has imparted an undeniable thrust to ocean health awareness on the global arena. We are now riding this momentum by working on several front in parallel.

1. The **Our Ocean conference** organised by the Commission in 2017 mobilised the international community on ocean conservation and obtained over 400 commitments worth more than €7 billion from 112 countries. 100 of these are from the corporate sector. Participants also announced the creation of new marine protected areas spanning more than 2.5 million km². To be able to track the progress on commitments and make it transparent to the public, the Commission has developed an online tracking mechanism (€250.000).
2. We have commissioned the World Bank to devise a **Blue Economy Development Framework** to assist the transition of coastal states towards sustainable blue economies, helping them to develop evidence-based investment and policy reform plans for their resources. Commission contribution from EMFF: €1 million (plus €1 million from DEVCO).
3. With a view to use **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements** as a way to support the implementation of the

Sustainable Development Goals, we have financed a study (€250,000) that identified 52 national and 5 regional capacity development projects in 13 third-countries in the Central East Atlantic and the Indian Ocean.

4. For **marine minerals**, €1.5 million have gone into assisting the International Seabed Authority to set up a framework for deep-sea mining in the mid-Atlantic Ridge (2017). The Authority is developing a legal framework and an “International Mining Code”, and our support will yield a network of sites to be protected as unique marine ecosystems against potentially disruptive human activity.
5. Within the EU’s policy for a safe, stable, sustainable and prosperous **Arctic**, the EMFF has financed the Arctic Stakeholder Conference in Brussels in 2018, with focus on the sustainable development of the Arctic from the perspective of the indigenous people, as well as a workshop “Indigenous economic development in the European Arctic”, aiming at developing policy recommendations that improve economic outcomes for indigenous people.

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BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS PER MAIN RESULT CATEGORY

Main results	2014-2018		2019-2020		Total 2014-2020	
	(€)	(%)	(€)	(%)	(€)	(%)
1. The Space Network (Maritime Spatial Planning)	28,942,760	15.06%	9,150,000	9.14%	38,092,760	13.03%
2. The Coastguard Network (Security & CISE)	19,698,000	10.25%	9,820,000	9.81%	29,518,000	10.10%
3. Marine Knowledge for All (EMODNET)	48,590,000	25.28%	15,470,000	15.46%	64,060,000	21.92%
4. Sea-Basin Cooperation	11,511,000	5.99%	3,150,000	3.15%	14,661,000	5.02%
5. A Healthier Marine Environment (ecosystems/MSFD/ marine litter)	22,137,262	11.52%	9,610,000	9.60%	31,747,262	10.86%
6. Leading Blue Growth	38,754,000	20.17%	46,045,000	46.01%	84,799,000	29.02%
7. The Jobs of the Future	8,952,000	4.66%	0	0.00%	8,952,000	3.06%
8. Citizens Outreach	9,491,220	4.94%	5,395,000	5.39%	14,886,220	5.09%
9. Global Commitment (International Ocean Governance)	4,100,000	2.13%	1,430,000	1.43%	5,530,000	1.89%
Total	192,176,242	100.00%	100,070,000	100.00%	292,246,242	100.00%

