

Energy transition, climate change and risk management

12 June 2024 - 14:00-15:30

Main topic to debate was **how Macro-regional and Sea Basin Strategies can contribute to the policy objectives towards a fully carbon neutral EU by 2050, to tackle coastal resilience and risk management**. Likewise, the discussions intended to tackle the state of the art on data collection and analysis at regional level, as well as identification of homogeneous indicators on the impacts of climate change.

Around 50 participants attended the workshop, with a participatory approach and exchanges with the audience.

Alessandro Pititto (COGEA-contractor for the BE Observatory) moderated the session.

JRC (Mr. Antonio Borriello) presented the joint work (JRC-MARE) since 2018 for the annual Blue Economy Report (sources, structure, differences for the traditional and innovative-emerging sectors), and since 2022 the Blue Economy Observatory. He raised the challenge still to be solved to find a suitable methodology for a further analysis of Blue Economy Sectors at sea basin level, beyond the analysis per country. There are only a few data geolocated but limited to some sectors or subsectors.

This question was also raised in the plenary session on synergies between all these territorial cooperation strategies, the need to add a section on regional analysis in the next edition of the Blue Economy report.

The rest of the speakers presented best practices/initiatives from some of the different geographical areas:

- **WestMED Initiative**, Mr Matteo Bocci (Sea Basin Strategies Assistance Mechanism) presented the technical group on green shipping and ports, some projects -EMFAF and HE on the topic, the challenges of cooperation with non-EU countries towards common standards and bring together ports and ship operators.
- **Atlantic Strategy**, Mr Gerardo Gonzalez, Head of the Division of Works and Blue Economy of the Port Authority of Vigo Pilar, and coordinator of Atlantic Strategy Pilar 1 presented the Blue Economy Strategy of the Port of Vigo, as a comprehensive exercise with permanent working groups and 4 areas of intervention, commenting on a tool for calculate carbon foot print for ports, and the role of ports at the forefront of the climate action, the relevance of the collaboration pub-pri; the need to a bottom up approach towards the policymakers, and to use prototypes to explore possibilities within this energy transition.
- **Black Sea**, Ms Laura Boicenco, coordinator of ANEMONE (INTERREG Black Sea Programme) project, National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” (NIMRD), Romania. She presented regional cooperation at the level of Black Sea, in the implementation of the MSFD strategy (highlighting that it’s not only EU partners). She focused specially on the loss of biodiversity, chemical pollution, the issue of

overfishing and the need of further interactions land (rivers)-sea because of the impact of eutrophication. Also mentioned the need to link citizen science in bringing useful data.

- **Baltic Sea**, Mr Torfi Johannesson, special advisor on the EUSBSR objective “Save the Sea” and the sub-objectives “Clear Water” and “Rich and healthy wildlife; presented the experience from the Baltic Sea Region Strategy on how Macro Regional Strategies can support collaboration on sustainable blue bioeconomy. He referred to the role of fishers given the serious environmental state of the marine ecosystems; the impact of the geopolitical situation with Russia; the variety of players -sectors and industries, impacts on food security and the cross-sector approach.
- **Alpine Strategy**, Mr Sylvain Guetaz, coordinator of the Alpine Strategy Action group 2 on Circular Economy and Bioeconomy - Hydrogen energy. The only one representing a strategy without maritime component. He focused on the impact of climate change (eg. rise of temperatures) on mountain areas and particularly on energy, tourism and water resource management.

With the support of SLIDO, the audience also recognized:

- Main challenges / needs for energy transition: funding / political will / regulation.
- Major potential/solutions for energy transition: energy saving / hydrogen and wind /reduce consumption, nuclear power.
- Major challenges for risk management and coastal resilience: governance /unclear responsibilities / climate adaptation.
- Role of regional cooperation (MR and SB Strategies): sharing best practices / knowledge / planning / funding alignment.