

CMA Regional Stakeholders Conference

#BlackSeaAgenda2021

22 November 2021

Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea *2021 Turkish Coordination*

Regional Stakeholders Conference
*Towards CMA projects for a resilient and
sustainable blue economy in the Black Sea*

Hackathon Goal 3





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Sustainable investment in the blue economy

PROJECT CONCEPT 3A

Encouraging business hubs, business labs and accelerators for a sustainable and innovative blue economy across the Black Sea

OBJECTIVE

Boost innovation and the uptake of state-of-the-art technologies and business models, for businesses and other blue economy operators across the Black Sea.

RATIONALE

The Black Sea blue economy has significant potential for development focused on local value and job creation. However, the region currently remains highly dependent on traditional and existing sectors. These sectors require modernization, while emerging sectors should be further supported.

Added value can be created by the adaptation of business models in mature sectors as well as further investment in innovation, technologies and the provision of services. This will generate greater income and high-quality jobs at local level within the Black Sea. Moreover, support for marine and maritime research and innovation can create synergies and increase economic benefit. In order to fully seize the opportunities and contribute to growth and jobs, the projects and initiatives should include the private sector, SMEs and start-ups.

MAIN TASKS

- Promotion of 'maritime business networks' and **business ecosystem support** in the Black Sea at national and regional level;
- Support blue economy businesses to **identify and upscale innovative practices**;
- **Facilitate access to finance** to support 'business-model innovation';
- Dissemination of innovation potential for **greater awareness among businesses and society**.

PROJECT CONCEPT 3B

Supporting existing maritime clusters, or newly created innovation clusters, to improve regional cooperation

OBJECTIVE

Support the **creation of sectoral clusters and further development of existing ones** as an essential tool to foster sustainable blue economy innovation and business support.

RATIONALE

Added value in the blue economy can be created by supporting businesses, especially SMEs, through the formation of networks/clusters; enhancing connections between research and market communities to support innovation and knowledge transfer or to stimulate synergies between them. Such initiatives eventually boost business ideas and projects with high returns on investments across the region, thus further attracting private investors.

Maritime clusters are increasingly important **tools to support sustainable innovation, capacity building and access to finance for blue economy** stakeholders - their role should be strengthened to further contribute to growth and jobs.

MAIN TASKS

- **Map and screen the most relevant embryonic and emerging clusters** in the Black Sea – both in the maritime field as well as in other sectors with a high potential for emerging blue economy activities;
- Identify areas of gaps and possibilities for the **set-up of innovative maritime clusters (emerging topics, critical value-chains, etc.)** and synergies needed to make those a reality;
- Provide an **overall platform for clusters** (maritime and non-maritime) to exchange views, discuss innovation possibilities and foster networking in the region – including for access to investments.