

(PRIORITY 4)**TOWARDS AN OBSERVING SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS**

Support marine and coastal observation to better understand the complex marine ecosystem and its functioning; to measure and assess its evolution under different stressors and manage resources sustainably; to provide essential information for decision-making; to identify risks and set-up a rapid response to hazards. Improve in parallel the accessibility to open multidisciplinary and high quality data for scientists and other key stakeholders involved in Blue Growth activities. Strengthen the collaboration with non-EU Mediterranean countries by promoting the use of existing data; sharing of new technologies; participating in joint monitoring of the marine environment and sharing the commitment for sustainable development.

Develop technologies towards an integrated Mediterranean observing system, capitalizing on existing networks and consortia, including European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, and national/regional/local infrastructures, in line with the overall European contribution to global observing systems, such as in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) approach.

Support long term and long-time series observing systems for climate change's impact evaluation.

Implement ICT, Big Data Analysis and Cloud Service Platforms to take advantage of multi-sectoral data management and sharing opportunities for the Mediterranean.

Develop appropriate systems to foster Citizen Science initiatives and protocols to complement environmental and ecosystem monitoring.

Strategic Action/1	Regional Task Force on Coastal Observing Systems for defining laboratories of reference; set-up a coordinated network of coastal multidisciplinary observing stations; reinforce the access to land-based facilities and strengthen Transnational Access calls to facilitate access for non-EU scientists
Indicative starting time	March 2021
Suggested timeframe	ttt
Proposed funding programmes and instrument	Cross-border cooperation Programme, Horizon Europe, EMFF, Interreg Med
Tentative budget	€€€

Strategic Action/2	Cooperation Programme for environmental data collection and sharing between marine economic sectors, environmental authorities, research sectors, and citizens
Indicative starting time	March 2021
Suggested timeframe	ttt
Proposed funding programmes and instrument	Interreg Med, Cross-border cooperation Programme, EMFF, HE
Tentative budget	€€€

Promotional Action/1	Mediterranean Conference on marine and coastal observation
Indicative starting time	Annual meeting, starting March 2021
Proposed instrument	Copernicus, JPI Oceans, EMFF, UNEP/MAP
Tentative budget	€ (for one meeting)