



**CPMR
CRPM**

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MARITIME INVESTMENTS: OVERVIEW OF THE CPMR'S ACTION

This Paper presents an overview of the current initiatives, on the issue of maritime investments, that involve the CPMR (including its Geographical Commissions).

These initiatives involve the analysis of the Regions' use of ESI funds in the maritime field (I), as well as actions to stimulate and coordinate maritime investments supported by the Regions at European and sea basin level (II).

In addition to their own objectives, these initiatives help to develop a reflection on how the Regions help ensure that European funds are used efficiently in the maritime field.

I. CURRENT ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENT SUPPORTED BY THE REGIONS

The CPMR is currently conducting three types of analysis:

I.1. ANALYSIS OF THE MARITIME DIMENSION OF SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGIES (S3)

As announced during the CPMR General Assembly in Umeå (September 2014), the CPMR carried out an analysis of the maritime dimension of S3. The results of this analysis are presented in the form of an [interactive map](#). The data collected demonstrates that:

- A significant number of Regions have selected blue growth as a priority of their S3;
- The S3 support economic approaches that involve various maritime sectors and which are found in several regions.

These elements underwent a first [analysis](#) in November 2015, which will soon be followed by a more detailed analysis. They were shared with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission during a [workshop](#) held in Las Palmas (Canary Islands) in October 2015. Discussions on these aspects were also held with the European Commission (in the context of the [Blue.invest](#) Conference held in September 2015), the European Parliament (during the [Conference](#) of the SEArca Intergroup on 20 April 2016), and a number of maritime organisations.

Several on-going projects that involve the CPMR (see below) help to further develop the data and analysis on S3 and blue growth. For example, in the project on S3 and blue growth currently being carried out by the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission in collaboration with Technopolis Belgium, for the Swedish Institute.

I.2. ANALYSIS OF THE MARITIME DIMENSION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF THE ESI FUNDS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMFF

In parallel to the maritime dimension of S3, the CPMR pays attention to investments that are effectively supported through the Operational Programmes of the ESI funds. The [analysis](#) of November 2015 presented some data for some Regions and will be completed at the next CPMR General Assembly.

The CPMR is continuing its work on this issue, focusing in particular on:

- The implementation of the ERDF and ESF Operational Programmes, in connection with the Regions covered by the mapping of the maritime dimension of S3;
- The implementation of Interreg programmes: this particular point is being analysed in the context of several on-going projects. For example, the "Coastal Mapping" project (see below), in the framework of which an analysis is underway of the available funding for coastal data through several Interreg programmes in Europe;
- The implementation of the EMFF in the field of fisheries, which will result in a specific initiative in the coming months.

I.3. ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUNCKER PLAN AND REGIONAL POLICY FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE MARITIME DOMAIN

The implementation of the Juncker Plan (ESIF) and of Cohesion Policy financial instruments in the maritime domain raises very important issues for the future, which were discussed during the [seminar](#) organised in Haarlem in February 2016 by the CPMR in partnership with the Dutch Presidency of the European Union. The seminar helped to highlight the value of the financial instruments as well as the fact that the ESIF cannot fully replace Cohesion Policy, and that there is a limit to the effectiveness of financial instruments.

The CPMR will continue to pay particular attention to maritime projects funded by the Juncker plan (in connection with the monitoring carried out by DG MARE), and the use of Regional Policy financial instruments. On this last point, a CPMR study of financial instruments, the results of which are expected from July 2016, is underway and will include a maritime strand.

II. THEMATIC ACTIONS TO BOOST MARITIME INVESTMENT IN THE REGIONS

The Regions are increasingly involved in cooperation that aims to coordinate their strategies and investment tools in the maritime field. This cooperation is co-financed by various existing European programmes (primarily Interreg, but also Horizon 2020 (particularly through ERA-NET)) or new programmes (e.g. on-going "Blue technology" calls, under the EMFF). They are also to be supported through the JRC's S3 platforms (in particular energy platforms and industrial modernisation).

All involve targeting the desired economic objectives, based either on a new and broad analysis of the value chains of the maritime economy (this approach, for example, inspires the Vanguard approach and the work of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission) or on cooperation with already networked maritime stakeholders on research or economic issues (this approach is, for example, followed by the CPMR in the field of blue biotechnologies and coastal data - see below).

The CPMR combines these approaches at European and sea basin level.

II.1. THEMATIC ACTION AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

At this stage, the CPMR is active on three specific issues:

➤ Blue Biotechnologies

[Collaboration](#) was established between the CPMR and the EMBRC, a network of European biological stations that specialise in blue biotechnologies. The EMBRC is the only European ESFRI infrastructure in the field of blue biotechnologies, and brings together major research centres that are of extreme importance in Europe. This collaboration continues through the "EMBRC PP2" project, supported by Horizon 2020, and in the framework of this the CPMR is working on the support given to blue biotechnologies by the Regions through their smart specialisation strategies and ESI funds. This project will result in a [seminar](#) organised by the CPMR on 21 June 2016 in Bilbao, which will involve regions from several sea basins (Baltic Sea, North Sea, Atlantic, Mediterranean) and scientific organisations that are members of the EMBRC to discuss the effective mobilisation of ESI funds in the field of blue biotechnologies. This discussion will be an opportunity to address the initiatives to be taken up.

➤ **Energy-Industry**

In this area, the CPMR is involved in the networking of the Regions' S3 concerning the LeaderSHIP 2020 objectives further to the work of the Maritime Industries for Blue Growth Working Group, and ad-hoc actions to be undertaken in connection with the members of maritime organisations such as Ocean Energy Europe, Wind-Europe and Sea-Europe. For example, the CPMR is part of the Strategic Advisory Board of the technology platform ETIP Ocean, established by Ocean Energy Europe, just selected in the framework of Horizon 2020.

➤ **Coastal data**

The CPMR's work in this area will be carried out primarily through the "Coastal Mapping" project supported by DG MARE, which involves the CPMR together with the hydrographic services of the Member States. The project, which started in June 2015, assesses the current availability of digital coastal maps in the EU and develops standards and an algorithm for the acquisition of data accessible through EMODnet. In this context, the CPMR is working in particular on the connection between these objectives and the use of EU funds at regional level, including in particular the S3 and ESI funds. The results and the networking activities of the Regions involved will be discussed during a Conference with the Committee of the Regions during the 2016 Open Days, then during a targeted working meeting in December 2016 and a seminar in February 2017.

In parallel, the CPMR is involved in other initiatives relating to these issues at sea basin level. Several initiatives are currently being developed, especially through European projects, in connection with the Bologna Charter, which supports the networking of coastal observatories, or in conjunction with the Atlantic Arc Commission's Innovation Group.

II.2. ACTIONS BY MARITIME BASIN

II.2.1. Baltic Sea

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is currently implementing a project on the maritime economy in the Baltic Sea. This project, funded by the Swedish Institute, is being carried out with Technopolis Belgium and will result in analyses and proposals focusing on the value chains of the blue economy in the Baltic Sea, the link between these value chains and investment supported by the Regions, and on the possibilities of transnational cooperation. This work will also enable discussions to be held with the Submariner network in the Baltic Sea. The results will be presented during the next Annual Summit of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and will contribute to the implementation of the Masterplan for maritime technologies in the Baltic Sea.

II.2.2. North Sea

The next stage of the preparatory action for the development of a strategy in the North Sea, launched by the Parliament following discussions with the CPMR North Sea Commission, will consist of a workshop, to be held in The Hague (Netherlands) on 20 and 21 June 2016. The North Sea Commission's contribution to this stage mainly builds on specific work on maritime investments in connection with the mapping and a task force of the Regions.

II.2.3. Atlantic

The implementation of the Action Plan for the Atlantic Strategy depends on the mobilisation of ESI funds through the Regions. This is addressed by several initiatives of the Atlantic Arc Commission, through projects that are currently under development.

II.2.4. Mediterranean

The work of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) on maritime investment builds on the experience of the capitalisation and dissemination project [Marina-Med](#), co-financed by the MED programme. This project, which helped capitalise on the results of 13 maritime projects (on maritime clusters, tourism, environment, sustainable maritime transport etc.) funded by this programme, provides a working basis on which collaborations are further developed between regions on maritime investment.

With this in mind, the IMC is currently developing several other projects with the Regions and other relevant stakeholders within the basin. These projects will be directly useful to contribute to the development of the political and technical process where the IMC and its Regions are actively involved, including in particular:

- The implementation of macro-regional and sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean. The issue of maritime investment is important in the IMC's contribution to the preparation of a strategy for the West Mediterranean (open to the south). It will also be important in the context of the implementation of the EUSAIR strategy, in which maritime issues are central, as well as any other strategy or initiative to coordinate policies and financial instruments that could start in the future;
- The collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean, which invited the Intermediterranean Commission to participate as a Permanent Observer in its Working Group on the blue economy (which includes the 43 UfM States and the EC) as well as strengthened cooperation with the UfM Secretariat to support the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on the same subject

II.2.5. Black Sea

Following its General Assembly in May 2016, the CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission is developing cooperation projects relating to the issue of maritime investment, with particular focus on the policy area of tourism.