



A budget for the Atlantic Action Plan implementation within the EMFF

Proposals from the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission

March 2016

What is the Atlantic Arc Commission?

The Atlantic Arc Commission is one of the six Geographical Commissions of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR). Established in 1989 in Faro (Portugal), the Atlantic Arc Commission is a network that currently brings together 19 Regions situated along the Atlantic seaboard of the European Union (EU).



The Atlantic Arc Commission has a twofold objective. Firstly, it acts as an **advocate for its members** with the EU and Member States to promote an ambitious vision of the European project based on solidarity. The Atlantic Arc Commission thus calls for a **sustainable and balanced development** of the Atlantic territories. Secondly, its working groups offer an ideal context in which to exchange best practice, define joint positions and develop cooperation projects in association with cities, socio-professional actors, universities and other private stakeholders from within the Atlantic area, on issues such as transport, marine renewable energies, fisheries, innovation, etc. Since June 2012, the Presidency of the Atlantic Arc Commission has been held by Cantabria (ES).

www.arcatlantique.org - www.crpm.org

Context:

The CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission has been campaigning for an Atlantic Strategy since 2009, when the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was launched. In 2011, this request resulted in the publication of the European Commission's Communication "[Developing a Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Ocean Area](#)". An Atlantic Forum was established to exchange with stakeholders and prepare an Action Plan for this Strategy. The Atlantic Arc Commission was entirely mobilised to contribute to the preparation of this Action plan. A position paper entitled "[Contribution from the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission to the European Commission's call for suggestions concerning the priorities of the Atlantic Strategy Action Plan](#)" was unanimously adopted by the Atlantic Arc Commission Political Bureau in Nantes in February 2013. The "[Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic area](#)" was then adopted by the European Commission in May 2013.

Before the beginning of the 2014-2020 programming period, the Atlantic Arc Commission insisted on the necessity to have a specific budget to implement this Action Plan. The proposal was made to DG Mare which was about to manage direct funding for the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) via the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Following the official request of the institutional Atlantic Strategy Group (gathering the EU institutions, Atlantic Member States and observers such as the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission), this specific budget will finally be granted within the 2017 DG Mare work programme. **The present document is a contribution from the member Regions of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission to align the future EMFF call(s) for proposals to financing needs identified in the Atlantic territories.**

Priority 1: Promote entrepreneurship and innovation

MRE Experimentation

- Support the development of pilot projects on new technologies in marine renewable energy (tidal energy, wave energy, salinity gradients, etc) (in relation with NER 400)
- Harmonized mapping of MRE resources along the Atlantic Coastline so as to identify potential sites for offshore installations in the Atlantic (in relation with MSP directive implementation)

Network of actors

- Creation of a transnational Atlantic cooperation network on MRE (Networking between Clusters, Regions, economic agencies and development agencies on ocean energies)

NAUTICAL SECTOR

- Development of an Atlantic nautical sector that is strong, creates jobs and is anchored in sustainable development:
 - * Support for **business development** (innovation, export, corporate structuring)
 - * creation of a genuine **Atlantic destination** for nautical tourism (expanding nautical product lines)
 - * Introduction of promotional tools for tourism development
 - * Contribution to the development of the culture and the maritime identity of the populations (accessibility, career promotion, organisation of the sector, training)
 - * Strengthening of the maritime image and attractiveness (broadcasting of major nautical events, business know-how, sports)
 - * support internationalisation of EU Atlantic nautical sector

FISHERIES - AQUACULTURE

- Feasibility studies/ exchange of best practices on the co-existence of different offshore activities (fisheries, MRE, etc) in collaboration with the actors concerned
- Training on new marine cultures and new production methods (e.g. sustainable development of oyster farming and seaweed farming for food purposes)
- Help with the implementation of the eco-system approach on fisheries in order to improve resource management (including the calculation of fishing quotas) and to take greater consideration of their socio-economic impact

Priority 2: Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment

ANTI- POLLUTION MEASURES

- Development of monitoring systems for the Atlantic area (ships and pollution) & research work on floating waste (origin, collection, treatment, recovery)
- Limiting the spread of invasive alien species linked to ballast water management and implement a transnational coordination programme to develop common guidelines for ballast water management
- Investigation into the source of the increase in the concentration of pollutants in sediments and in the flesh of marine species used for human consumption and its potential impact on aquaculture marine systems // Cooperation on oyster and shellfish mortality through the establishment of reinforced partnerships between scientists and professionals // combating toxin-producing anthropogenic phytoplankton contaminants // study the impact of pollution by loss of containers

PREVENTING AND MANAGING DISASTERS

- Implementation of management and medical response systems to emergency situations and disasters (capitalisation of Arcopol projects)
- Management/prevention of coastal risk linked to climate change (ANCORIM approach)

MONITORING ECOSYSTEMS

- Studies on the cumulative impact of maritime activities (MRE, transport, aquaculture, algae culture, fisheries, etc.) on the coastal environment
 - Network of Atlantic Marine Protected Area (MPA): tool to ensure the sustainability of fisheries in the Atlantic
- Sharing experiences on MPA management and identification of areas requiring special protection (capitalization on MAIA project)
 - Environmental impact assessment of the mining of underwater minerals

MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF FISHERIES RESOURCES

- Adjusting the load capacity of a support for the development of aquaculture, or vice versa, the best estimate of aquaculture production in a given environment, without altering the environmental conditions
- Integrated and detailed use (across the Atlantic basin) of statistical and administrative information available on fishing (including small-scale fishing) and aquaculture

Priority 4: Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development

ATLANTIC TOURISM AND CULTURE

- Development of maritime tourism and promotion of the Atlantic as a “green” and sustainable tourist destination
- Economic and tourism conservation and promotion of the material and immaterial Atlantic maritime heritage (traditional boats, lighthouses, former shipyards, salt-producing areas, small heritage ports, traditional maritime skills, marine gastronomy, maritime literature and music, etc)
 - Protection, preservation and showcasing of megalithic heritage sites and defence of the landscapes of the Atlantic Region

DEVELOPING NAUTICAL ACTIVITIES

- Supporting innovation in the nautical sector: development of the nautical sector of the future in the Atlantic area: new practices, boats and support for activities, services, ports, nautical bases and sites, etc (cf. Point 2, “Nautical Sector”) cf. “nautical sector” in Priority 1.
- Evaluation and development of sport fishing / surfing as new business opportunity for new socially inclusive growth in coastal areas

Cross cutting issues

Education and Training

- Development of maritime and nautical education of young people from the Atlantic areas: establish programmes aimed at schools to raise awareness, for sailing in open waters and an environmental watch for young people
- Atlantic Maritime Carrers: exchange between Maritime Universities / Training centers: support e a “blue carrier” approach for the Atlantic (exchanges of teachers, students, creation of Master classes, summer classes, etc.): improving training and recognition for maritime professions in order to develop the attractiveness of maritime careers, develop an Atlantic European mobility for students in the maritime sector
- Bringing together industries and research and educational institutions located in different regions through cooperation platforms/virtual groups – creation of universities curricula aligned to the needs of the industrial sector
 - Heightening public awareness on the conservation of marine and coastal areas