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ABOUT THE PROJECT

MOSES project which started in 2018, seeks to understand and quantify the sustainability dimension of Blue Growth with respect to the potential environmental impacts of key strategic marine sectors, and will result in the development of integrated marine sustainability assessment toolkits and sustainable transition plans using case studies.

The project will quantify blue growth for key marine sectors and develop a common methodology for the quantitative assessment of sectoral pressures on the marine environment and the vulnerability of marine and coastal areas. The methodology will contribute to the joint implementation of integrated

marine industry sustainability assessment toolkits across the Atlantic region. The outputs will assist regional authorities and policy makers in monitoring progress vis-à-vis the Atlantic Action Plan.

MEET THE PARTNERS

MOSES is an EU multinational research project involving eight partners representing the five member states of the Atlantic Area. The multinational partners of MOSES (universities, marine research institutions, and regional bodies) include representatives from France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.



DELIVERABLES

The main output of this project is to understand and quantify the sustainability dimension of Blue Growth with respect to the potential environmental impact of key strategic marine sectors, such as marine and coastal tourism.

A NUMBER OF OUTPUTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR PROJECT WEBSITE:

Work Package: Estimate the size and growth of key marine sectors using MARNET framework

Deliverable: Produce a structured database of indicators at different spatial scales across the different regions of the European Atlantic Arc. This database will be comparable in both the geographical scales used and the indicators across all partner regions.

[View the Web map](#)

Work Package: Identify and assess

sectoral pressures on the marine environment

Deliverable: Develop a method to assess the maritime sectors' pressures on the marine environment

[Read the Operational instrument based on indices to assess the marine sectors activities' direct impacts on the marine environment](#)

Work Package: Identify and assess vulnerability of coastal areas/features to sectoral pressures

Deliverables: Database of indicators from external sources such as MSFD initial assessments, the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF), the EEA and Eurostat among others. Information from WP5 will also feed into this database.

[Read the Data gathering and compilation of indicators Database description document](#)

NUTS3 rankings on a number of vectors and a final Index. Likely candidates for vectors include marine spills risk, port

impacts, protected coastal areas, water quality, etc

[Read the Data processing and construction of synthetic index Results and rankings document](#)

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SECOND MOSES POLICY DECISION FORUM PDF

On 16th October 2019 the 2nd MOSES Policy Decision Forum (PDF) took place at the Titanic Hotel, Belfast. PDFs are part of MOSES WP3 and intend to deliberate, reflect upon and inform the work carried out in the project.

The theme of the 2nd PDF was "Sustainable ports and tourism". About 40 key experts and stakeholders from business, policy making and academia mostly from Ireland and UK participated, representing these two sectors.

The first two sessions consisted of presentations from project partners and guest speakers about various ports/shipping and tourism initiatives and case studies that demonstrate the state of the art and the key challenges towards the contribution of these two sectors to Sustainable Blue Growth (SBG).

Fruitful discussions based on questions raised by the audience linked the first two sessions with a third session which intended to engage

the guests in an interactive exercise where they were asked to state whether they were optimistic, neutral or skeptical about the potential of these sectors to achieve SBG and the role that MOSES could play in it.

A neutral to slightly negative potential perception emerged for the tourism sector, highlighting the "high demand for ecofriendly activities at a unique physical and cultural environment" and the "existence of branding and accreditation of most destinations" as main positive factors balanced by the "increasing coastal change due to erosion and climate change and the lack of policies to address them" as well as the "low accessibility of the tourist destination due to lack of available/appropriate transportation, infrastructure and accommodation" as negative factors.

Regarding the Ports and Shipping sector, "smart technology that supports sustainability" and "strong policy for sustainability from EU and IMO" emerged as main positive factors slightly overcoming "the lack of land use and marine spatial planning that would bring efficiency, infrastructure and capacity" as main negative factor.

Projects such as MOSES are important for the promotion of SBG but their usefulness and effectiveness must be assessed for the impact they have beyond the projects' duration. Stakeholder participation in developing project outputs such as action plans with best practices and guidelines and methodological frameworks for overcoming barriers towards SBG, is of high importance and the PDF in Belfast has been very positive in that sense.

