Fifth meeting of the ARLEM Commission

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Report on Blue Economy

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Blue Economy

• Despite the lack of a formal definition, here, Blue Economy is referred to the following sectors:

  • Coastal tourism (including related urban development and infrastructure, as well as recreational activities and sports).
  • Food, health and ecosystem services (fisheries, aquaculture, cosmetics).
  • Energy (oil, gas, renewable energy) and raw materials (salt extraction, marine aggregates extraction).
  • Transport (incl. shipbuilding and maritime monitoring and surveillance).
  • Environmental monitoring and protection of maritime areas.
Blue Economy (key figures in 2016)

- Turnover: +7.2% (with respect to 2009).
- Gross value added Blue Economy: EUR 203.61 billion (+9.7%).
- Employment: 5.3 million (+2%).
- Net investment: EUR 22.2 billion (+71.7%).
- Average annual salaries: EUR 28.3 thousand (+14.2%).
- Blue Economy represents 1.3% of total EU GDP (2016).
Barriers and opportunities

Opportunities are huge, since marine ecosystems covers about 71% of earth surface. Blue economy can be at the same time a great opportunity for occupation and economic development and a great aid for environmental protection.

Main barriers can be classified in three categories:

a) **Data management** (numerous and dispersed sources of information, databases and data sets; gaps in broadly available data).

b) **Governance and regulation** of Blue Economy (Lack of capacity and resources to manage databases at LRA level; lack of smart decision-making process).

c) **Finance** (huge investment are required for national, regional and local actions).
Reverse pathway guidelines

- Clear and common targets for renewables in the Mediterranean basin
- Ban of gas & oil exploration and extraction from the Mediterranean by 2030.
- Clear targets for circular economy (resource efficiency)
- Common target on coastal and marine protection
Proposed actions

Definition of vision for “reverse pathway”

Definition of common standards and indicators for Blue Economy

Use economic incentives to enable the transition

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Thanks for your attention!