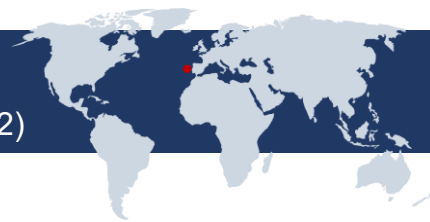


The blue economy in Barcelona, Spain

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



FACTS AND FIGURES

Fact box

- **Population:** 1 636 193 [1]
- **GDP:** EUR 84 billion [2]
- **Area:** 101.35 km² [3]

Drivers for the blue economy



Boost economic activity



Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems



International cooperation

Blue economy sectors

Barcelona, a European coastal city on the Mediterranean Sea flanked by the Besòs River and the Llobregat River, is home to all blue economy sectors bellow. According to an internal City Council study carried out in 2019, blue economy sectors represent 4.3% of GDP and 1.4% of employment. Port activities, fishing and marketing of marine products, maritime transport and cruises are the most valuable sectors of the blue economy in the city, representing most of the total turnover of EUR 3.8 million. In terms of employment, coastal tourism accounts for the largest share of all blue economy jobs, followed by fishing and marketing of marine products (18%).



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in Barcelona are related to greenhouse gas emissions, waste generation, soil pollution, pollution from plastics, and disruption of natural habitats. To achieve the commitments of the Barcelona Convention on the Mediterranean Sea, a sulphur emission control area (SECA) was implemented in the Port of Barcelona to reduce emissions by 50% between 2017 and 2030. On the other hand, heavy rainfall and coastal erosion – two of the main climate risks in Barcelona – are contributing to worsening coastal water quality.

Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Barcelona



Drought



Coastal erosion



Temperature-related hazards (e.g. heat or cold waves, wildfires)

[1] [3] Idescat (2022), www.idescat.cat/emex/?id=080193&lang=es (accessed 13 March 2023)

[2] Barcelona City Council (2021), www.ajuntament.barcelona.cat/barcelonaeconomia/ca/producte-interior-brut/producte-interior-brut/pib-anual-de-barcelona (accessed 13 March 2023)

The blue economy in Barcelona, Spain

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

Barcelona launched its strategy [Boosting the Blue Economy in 2021](#) with eight main lines of action that include a blue economy hub, employment and training, preservation of the local marine ecosystem, innovation, local and international promotion, sector development and public-private governance.

Funding mechanisms

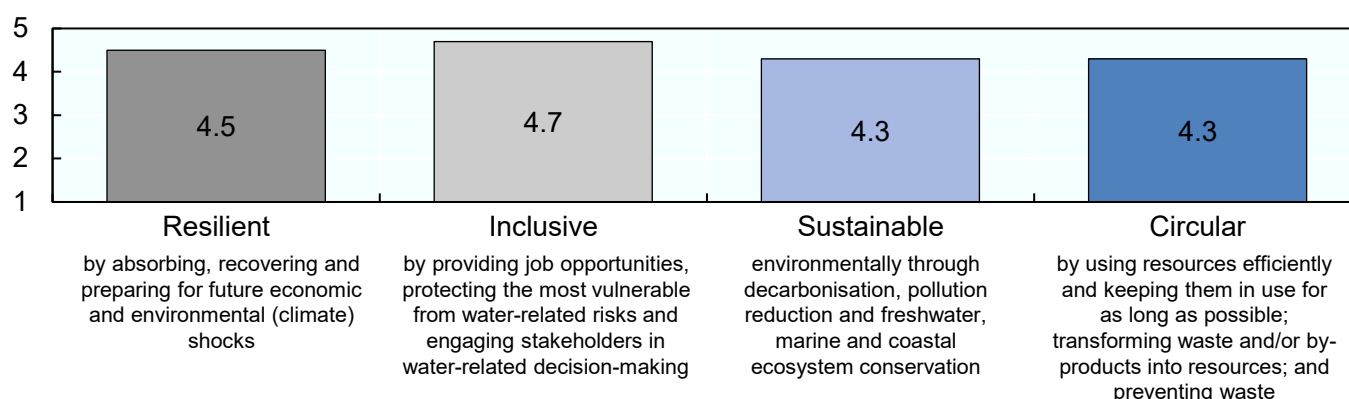
- Local/regional funds
- Private funding



Dedicated budget for the blue economy

THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY

(*)



Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

TOP CHALLENGES

- Technological challenges
- Lack of financial resources
- Financial risks for businesses

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Set up a formal initiative or strategy
- Enhance resilience to climate change
- Tackle pollution of water bodies
- Foster a science-policy dialogue
- Preserve and enhance local culture and traditions
- Foster collaboration between blue economy sectors and other sectors
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Protect the most vulnerable
- Channel public and private funds towards the blue economy
- Improve data collection on the blue economy