

The blue economy in the Soča Valley, Slovenia

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



FACTS AND FIGURES

Fact box

- **Population:** 18 229 [1]
- **GDP:** EUR 2.6 billion [2]
- **Area:** 943 km² [3]

Note: GDP data for the Goriška region

Drivers for the blue economy



Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems



Adapt to climate change



Local leadership and commitment

Blue economy sectors

The Soča valley, a European valley crossed by the river Soča, is home to the seafood, water-based renewable energy and water-related tourism sectors of the blue economy below, with water-related tourism being particularly promoted in the valley.



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 the Soča valley relate to the disturbance of natural habitats and wildlife and the depletion of natural resources, with biodiversity loss being a moderate impact.

Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Soča Valley



Changing precipitation patterns and/or hydrological availability



Drought



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

[1] [3] Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (2021), www.stat.si/obcine/si/Region/Index/11 (accessed 16 March 2023)

[2] Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (2021), www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/10780 (accessed 16 March 2023)

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GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

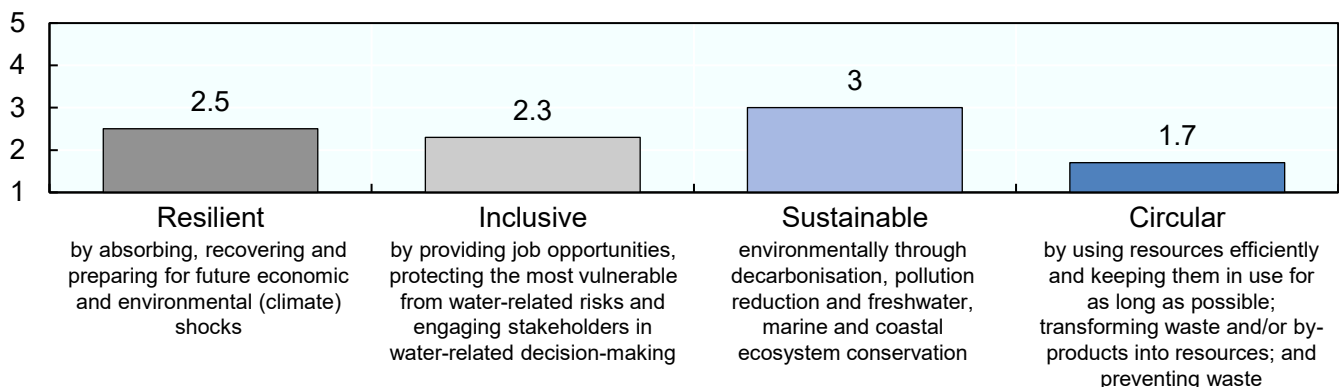
The [Soča Valley Development Centre](#) (PRC) facilitate the economic and territorial development of the Upper Posočje region. Different stakeholders, such as water sport agencies interest group (businesses), the Julian Alps tourism board, the Soča valley tourism board and several non-governmental organisations, are actively involved in the management of the valley's environment. On the other hand, over the last 20 years, a marble trout [conservation project](#) in the Soča river has prevented the extinction of the species by successfully reintroducing it into the river through a scientific process which brings both, the improvement of the ecosystem as well as an added value for local economy in terms of regards flyfishing.

Funding mechanisms

- Central government transfers of funds
- Local/regional funds

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

- Lack of political will

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Enhance resilience to climate change
- Preserve local culture and traditions linked to aquatic ecosystems