Basin profile

The blue economy in Júcar Basin, Spain
Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)

FACTS AND FIGURES

Fact box

- **Population**: 5.6 million [1]
- **GDP**: N/A
- **Area**: 42 735 km² [2]

Drivers for the blue economy

Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems

Adapt to climate change

Boost economic activity

Blue economy sectors

The Júcar Basin, which crosses five Spanish regions including Aragon, Castilla La Mancha, Valencian Community, and a small part of Catalonia and the Region of Murcia, is home to all blue economy sectors below. The Valencian Community, which is made up of the three provinces of Valencia, Alicante and Castellon, accounts for 50% of the of the basin's surface. According to a study carried out by the Valencian Community in 2019, the blue economy employed 276 723 workers, representing 16% of the region's total employed population. The provinces of Alicante and Valencia account for 45 and 43% of blue economy employment in the region respectively, concentrating most of the region's workers linked to the maritime goods transport sector. Tourism is the biggest employer within the blue economy, providing more than 271 000 jobs, followed by maritime transport of goods and related activities (1 972 jobs), maritime passenger transport (1 907), fisheries (1 389) and aquaculture (435).

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 impact of blue economy sectors in Júcar Basin relates to the depletion of freshwater resources due to freshwater abstraction. Land pollution, disturbance of natural habitats and wildlife and waste generation are other important impacts. The basin faces extreme weather patterns of rains and drought, which requires coordinating efforts across the administrations involved.

Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Júcar Basin

Water stress

Drought

Changing precipitation patterns and/or hydrological availability

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[1] Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar (2022) Población, available at: www.chj.es/es-es/medioambiente/cuencahidrografica/Paginas/CaracteristicasSocioeconomicas.aspx#población
[2] Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar (n.d.) Presentación de la cuenca, available at: https://www.chj.es/es-es/medioambiente/cuencahidrografica/Paginas/Presentaci%C3%B3ndelacuenca.aspx

The blue economy in Júcar Basin, Spain
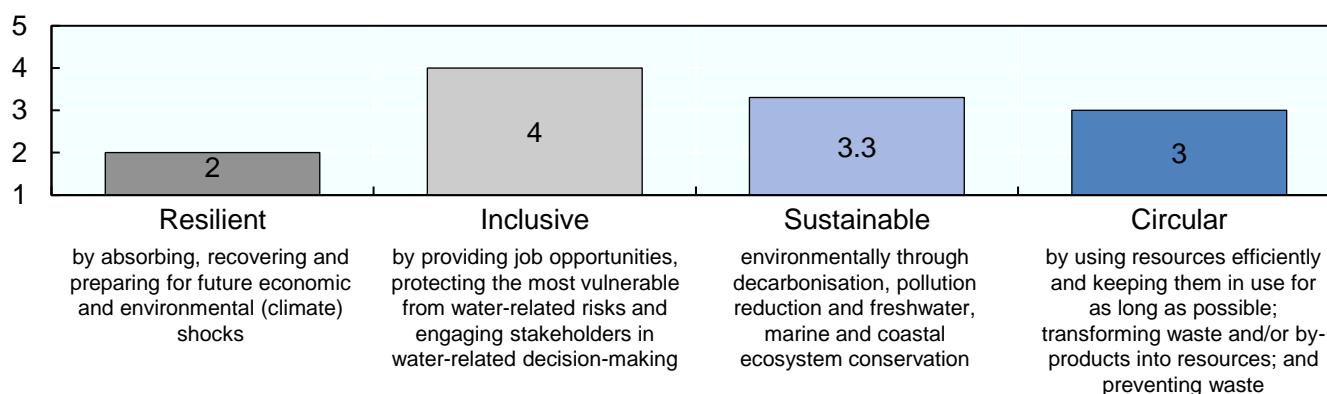Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)

GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

The governance of the blue economy in the Júcar Basin is based on the activities led by the national Ministry of Ecological Transition and for the Demographic Challenge and local and regional administrations. At regional level, the Blue Economy Study in the Community of Valencia (2017) aimed to assess the state of the blue economy at regional level and provide guidelines for the implementation of a strategy. Additionally, the Deep Demonstration project in the Port of Valencia, co-funded by Climate-KIC and the European Union, is a climate innovation initiative that aims to help the port achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Funding mechanisms

- International transfers of funds
- Central government transfers of funds
- Local/regional funds
- Central government loans and loan guarantees
- Subnational government loans and loan guarantees
- Central government revenue foregone
- Subnational government revenue foregone
- Blended finance
- Private funding

THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY
(*)

Resilient	Inclusive	Sustainable	Circular
2	4	3.3	3
by absorbing, recovering and preparing for future economic and environmental (climate) shocks	by providing job opportunities, protecting the most vulnerable from water-related risks and engaging stakeholders in water-related decision-making	environmentally through decarbonisation, pollution reduction and freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystem conservation	by using resources efficiently and keeping them in use for as long as possible; transforming waste and/or by-products into resources; and preventing waste

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 a clear and holistic strategy for the blue economy at city/region level
- Lack of engagement with the private sector and civil society
- Financial risks for businesses

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Tackle the pollution of water bodies
- Preserve and enhance local culture and traditions
- Foster collaboration to leverage synergies between blue economy sectors and other sectors