



# LIFE4MECA

A WAKE UP CALL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

## SUPPORTING MARITIME EMISSION CONTROL AREAS

### COORDINATOR

**Autorità di Sistema Portuale del  
Mar Tirreno Settentrionale**  
 Porti di Livorno – Piombino – Portoferro – Rio Marina – Cava – Capraia

### PROJECT PARTNERS

 **ISTITUTO DI INGEGNERIA DEL MARE**  
INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERING

 **GREEN  
GLOBAL FUTURE**

 **SDG4MED**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

This project is funded under the LIFE programme, the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action (Grant Agreement LIFE20 PRE/IT/000002).

# BACKGROUND

LIFE4MECA comes from the outcomes of the LIFE4MEDECA project that, from 2021 to 2023, built consensus and awareness on the establishment of a low emission maritime zones in the Mediterranean (Emission Control Area - ECA), which is an International Maritime Organization (IMO) tool designed to reduce atmospheric pollutants from ships.

As a LIFE preparatory project, LIFE4MEDECA supported the development and implementation of a specific policy and legislation targeting the reducing of maritime shipping pollution. Therefore, LIFE4MEDECA helped the establishment of the ECA by addressing knowledge gaps, sharing expertise and raising awareness among Med Countries.

As some MED countries have not ratified yet the related IMO conventions, they require support both in preparing for the implementation of the Mediterranean SECA, entered into force on 1 May 2025, and in helping their maritime and oil industries adapt to the upcoming changes.

As a key legacy of the LIFE4MEDECA project, the ECA4MED Knowledge Center was established to support capacity building in Mediterranean countries for the implementation, governance, financing, and enforcement of the MEDECA.



Shipping emissions lead to pollution deposition, ocean acidification and harm to marine wildlife.

## The establishment of the ECA will result in:



**-82%**



**-64%**



**-36%**



**↘**

**2,900/4,300**



**€19/€29bn**



**Reduced risk of a heavy fuel oil spill**

Reduction in sulphur emissions

Reduction in particulate matter emissions

Reduction in black carbon emissions

Significant cuts in nitrogen oxides by 2050

Premature deaths avoided between 2030-2050

Savings in public health expenditure 2030-2050

# LIFE4MECA PROJECT

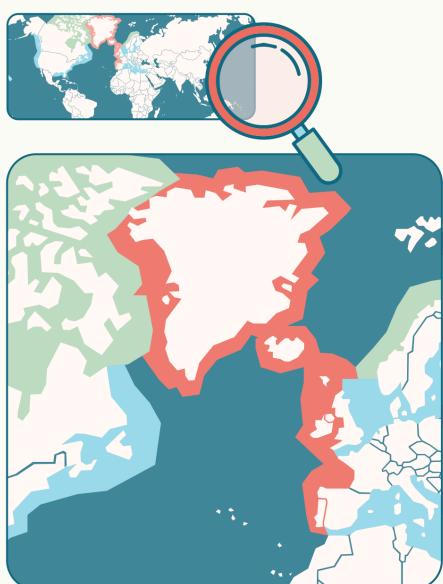


LIFE4MECA is the follow-up of the LIFE4MEDECA project and it aims to support the implementation of Emission Control Area for sulphur oxides (SECA) in the Mediterranean Sea, the establishment of an ECA nitrogen oxides (NECA) in the Mediterranean Sea and support the upcoming North East Atlantic SECA and NECA.

## HOW

To meet such challenges, the LIFE4MECA project will:

- provide the “core” expertise of its co-beneficiaries - complemented, if necessary, by external experts - to deal with non-EU countries and may include Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia for the MED SECA and Morocco in the contest of a new South East Atlantic ECA;
- carry out targeted consultations with its wide group of Stakeholders which, built on the LIFE4MEDECA STG, is geographically enlarged to the Atlantic;
- provide, through its properly staffed “Technical Secretariat”, a continuous flow of information within stakeholders to support capacity building, enlargement of the LIFE4MEDECA’s knowledge centre and networking with other LIFE projects.



**IT IS VITAL THAT THE PROPOSED NORTH EAST ATLANTIC ECA IS ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT:**

<b>193 million</b> <b>148</b> <b>over 1,500</b> <b>17</b>	 people live in the coastal zone of the proposed North East Atlantic ECA
 UNESCO World Heritage sites in the region	
 marine protected areas	
 important marine mammal habitats	

# OBJECTIVES



**OBJ01** Supporting ratification of MARPOL Annex VI among North African Countries and investigate how the issue of ECA substandard ships from non-EU countries can be addressed, e.g. by having fewer inspections when calling in EU ports.



**OBJ02** Provide technical support to the development of Atlantic- SECA scenarios and exchange best practice for the Atlantic ECA also in coordination with UNEP MAP (REMPEC) and IMO.



**OBJ03** Provide expertise to the MED ECA Countries.



**OBJ04** Map and facilitate access to existing financial incentive mechanisms also through coordination for cooperation and enforcement, including Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Transport, other authorities responsible for maritime shipping and other relevant authorities.



**OBJ05** Build upon results of LIFE4MEDECA (ending in 2023), SAFEMED V and WESTMED Initiative to create synergies/complementarity. Use the experience in the development of the existing ECAs to support the Atlantic ECA.



**OBJ06** Set up structures for supporting legislative governance, transfer of best practice and/or dialogue with industry (i.e. vessel owners and operators, ports).



**OBJ07** Identify further needs through communication and dialogue.



# PLANNED OUTPUTS

- 3 project annual fact sheets and policy briefs
- 1 overview document mapping ATLECA needs and one strategy document on sub-standard ships
- 6 capacity building sessions for MED countries in need of technical assistance
- 2 ATLECA roadmaps respectively for technical support and access to finance
- 6 air quality measurements campaigns and related awareness rising local workshops
- ECA Knowledge Center
- MECA coordination structure for cooperation and enforcement
- LIFE4MECA legacy plan
- Networking with at least 20 relevant project promoted by LIFE, WESTMED and/or the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030
- 3 workshops with Stakeholders for dissemination of interim project results

## WP1 - Project management and coordination

### PHASE 1

**WP2**  
**Preparatory actions**

- Substandard ships
- ATLECA assessment
- Knowledge gathering
- IMO, EMSA

### PHASE 2

**WP3**  
**Capacity building & support**

- Expertise to MEDECA
- ATLECA scenarios
- Access to finance
- IMO, EMSA

### PHASE 3

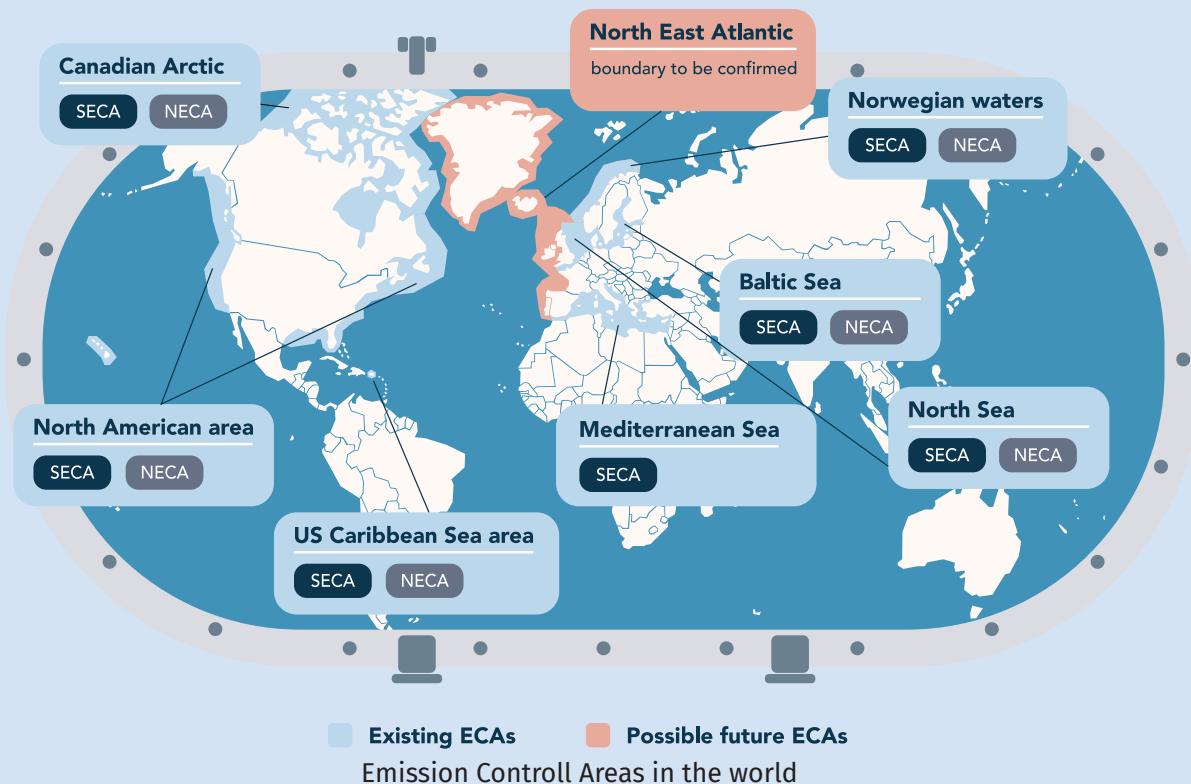
**WP4**  
**Sustainability, replication and exploitation of LIFE4MEDECA + results**

## WP5 - Dissemination, communication, stakeholders & networking

# KNOWLEDGE CENTER

The **ECA4MED KNOWLEDGE CENTER** aims to support capacity building in Mediterranean and Atlantic countries for the implementation, governance, financing and enforcement of the MEDEC and ATLECA.

This support covers legal, technical and financial aspects and is provided through documents, seminars, courses, interviews, information on projects, initiatives, policies, regulations, funding agencies.



# ECA4MED

EXPERIENCE FROM OTHER ECAs

MEDECA PRELIMINARY STUDIES & MEASUREMENTS

THE ATLANTIC EMISSION CONTROL AREA IMPLEMENTATION

MEDECA ENFORCEMENT

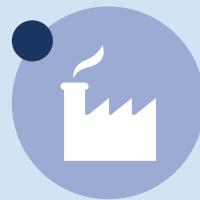
SCENARIOS



ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY



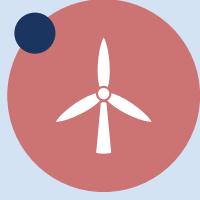
BIODIVERSITY  
PROTECTED



SCRUBBERS  
AND PORT RECEPTION  
FACILITIES



NECA COMPLIANT  
MED FISHING BOATS



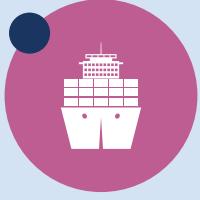
ALTERNATIVE  
FUELS



LNG AND BIO-LNG



SECA 2030  
SHORT SEA SHIPPING



SECA 2030  
DEEP SEA SHIPPING



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**PROJECT'S BUDGET 775.039,52**

**LIFE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTION 697.535,57 EUROS**

**PROJECT DURATION 01/03/2024 – 28/02/2027**

#### COORDINATOR



[life4medeca.com/life4meca/](http://life4medeca.com/life4meca/)



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