

Regional Science Dialogues for Peace  
and Sustainable Development  
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## Special Session Proposal

### Maritime Regions: Europe Hot Spots

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### Abstract

Maritime regions have a high level of vulnerability related to factors such as environmental challenges or narrow resource base. Blue Growth is seen as an innovative way to develop a range of maritime activities that are often dependent on each other, e.g. by relying on common skills and shared infrastructure. It adds that, since 2021, the European Commission aims to integrate ocean policy into the new economic policy, in order to ensure that the so-called 'blue economy' plays a major role in the implementation of the EU Green Deal. This signifies that the dualism between environmental protection and economy is no longer of use. Economic activities at sea and in coastal areas need to reduce their impacts on the marine environment, and value chains need to transform themselves to contribute to climate neutrality, zero pollution, waste prevention, marine biodiversity, coastal resilience and responsible food systems.

Regions will be able to engage in the sustainable blue economy thanks to EU funds like the [EMFAF](#), the ERDF or the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for Energy program.

The Special Session would be part of the Jean Monnet Centre (OCEANID+) activity plan (2022-25) on 'Sustainable Blue Europe' and includes topics as varied as: (i) future of the Integrated Maritime Policy; (ii) evaluation of the EU Sea Basins strategies, namely that of the Atlantic; (iii) European maritime clusters cooperation and networks; (iv) maritime regions' development and territorial imbalances throughout the European space; (v) reconciliation between economic growth and environmental protection; (vi) prospects for the EU's key marine and maritime sectors; (vii) coastal zone management; (viii) peripheral maritime regions and islands specific problems; (ix) cooperation with non-European maritime regions.