



EU Algae Initiative

Latest developments and next steps

Market Advisory Council
30 March 2023

Lorenzo Paliotta
Junior Professional | Blue Bioeconomy Policy Officer
DG MARE – European Commission



What can algae do for you?



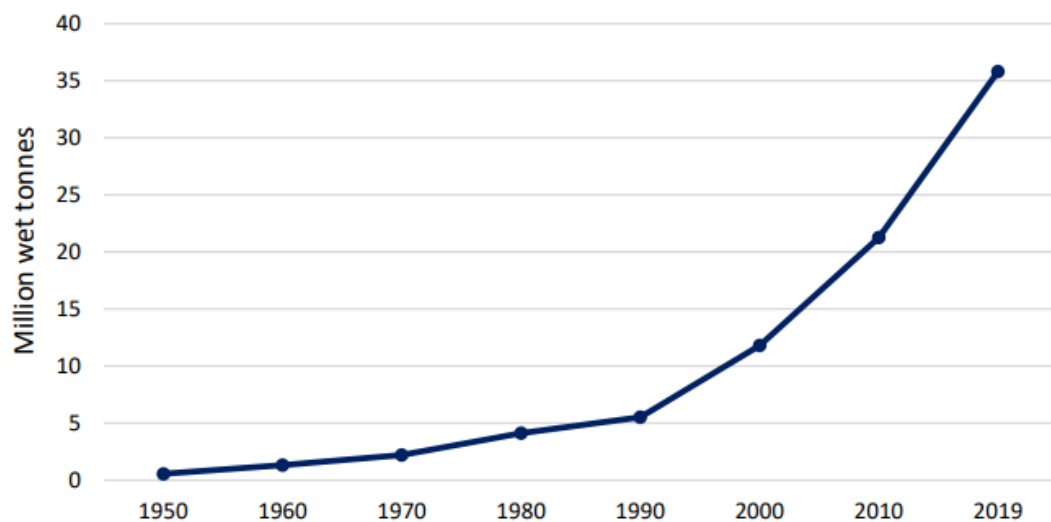


Blue Bioeconomy Report 2022

- >1/3 of companies worldwide, but still many non-commercial startups.
- Latest developments of algae cultivation systems.
- Sargassum commercialisation.
- Seaweed as blue carbon.
- Seaweed farming as a motor for regional economies.

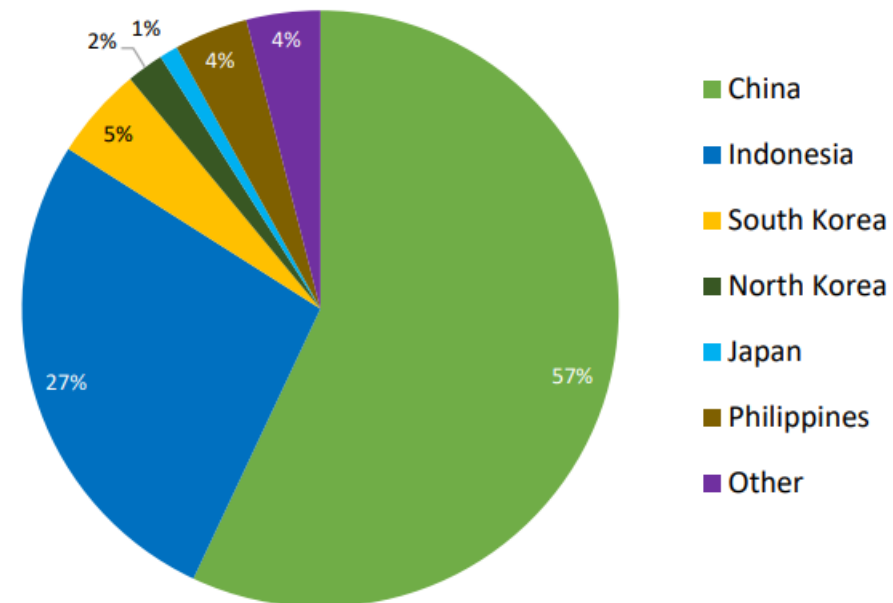
Global algae production

Figure 17: Global algae production, 1950 - 2019



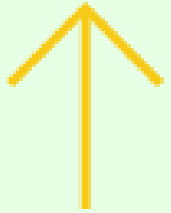
Source: [FAO](#)

Figure 18: Global seaweed production shares by main producing countries, 2020



Source: [FAO](#)

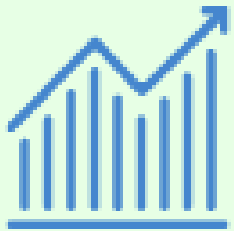
European demand for algae and algae-based products



EU demand for seaweed may reach up to **EUR 9 billion in 2030**
(\triangleq 3.000% increase in best case scenario)



EU is a top importer worldwide of seaweed products:
EUR 554 million in 2016



Market for chlorella will accelerate with an annual growth rate of 6.4% to 2025

Market for spirulina will accelerate with an annual growth rate of 8.7% to 2025



Growing human population worldwide

75 million vegans and vegetarians in Europe

Ageing population and increasingly health-conscious consumers

What is happening already?

- Algae related funding calls: Horizon Europe, Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking, EMFAF, EIT Climate-Kic, EIT Food
- Algae business support mechanisms: BlueInvest, Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism
- Ocean literacy and awareness raising: EU4Ocean coalition, Taste the Ocean campaign



Studies to support the European Green Deal
Shellfish and algae (2022 – 2023/4) : assessing the potential of shellfish and algae to recycle nutrients

Algae and Climate (2022 – 2023): examines costs, impact and benefits of scaling up production of marine algae through aquaculture in the EU

#TasteTheOcean

is a campaign from the EU with top chefs across Europe to encourage consumers to buy and enjoy sustainable fish and seafood.

The EU Algae Initiative – How did we get there?

Problems

- High production costs
- Low-scale production
- Limited knowledge of risks and environmental impacts of algae cultivation
- Fragmented governance framework

Objectives

Unlocking EU algae potential:

- Increasing sustainable production, safe consumption and innovative use of algae products
- Upscaling regenerative algae cultivation
- Developing and mainstreaming the markets for food and non-food algae applications

Action areas

1. The improvement of governance framework and legislation
2. Supporting the improvement of business environment
3. Closing knowledge, data, technological and innovation gaps
4. Increasing social awareness and acceptance

The EU algae initiative was announced mid-November 2022



Virginijus Sinkevičius • 1er

European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries at European ...

1 sem. •

Pioneering eu initiative just out!

We present 23 actions to boost the Algae sector in Europe.



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 15.11.2022
COM(2022) 592 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector

{SWD(2022) 361 final}



The EU Algae Initiative

23 actions aimed at:

1. improving the **governance framework and legislation**,
2. improving the **business environment**,
3. closing **knowledge, research, technological and innovation gaps**, and
4. increasing **social awareness and market acceptance**.

To be piloted in a coordinated way, in close collaboration with Member States and relevant stakeholders.



The EU Algae Initiative – examples of market-related actions

- To examine the algae market and propose market-stimulating mechanisms to support and promote the transfer of technology from research to market.
- To develop specific guidance to promote replacing fish-based feed with algae-based feed.
- To enhance targeted support for innovative SMEs and projects in the algae sector through the scaled-up activities of the BlueInvest Platform.
- To launch a fact-based EU-wide and/or, where relevant, regional or local communication campaign(s) to promote the variety of applications and benefits of algae-based products



EU4Algae

EU4Algae

- Launched in February 2022
- European algae stakeholder forum (some 717 members today)
- Website and online community

EU4Algae & Algae Initiative

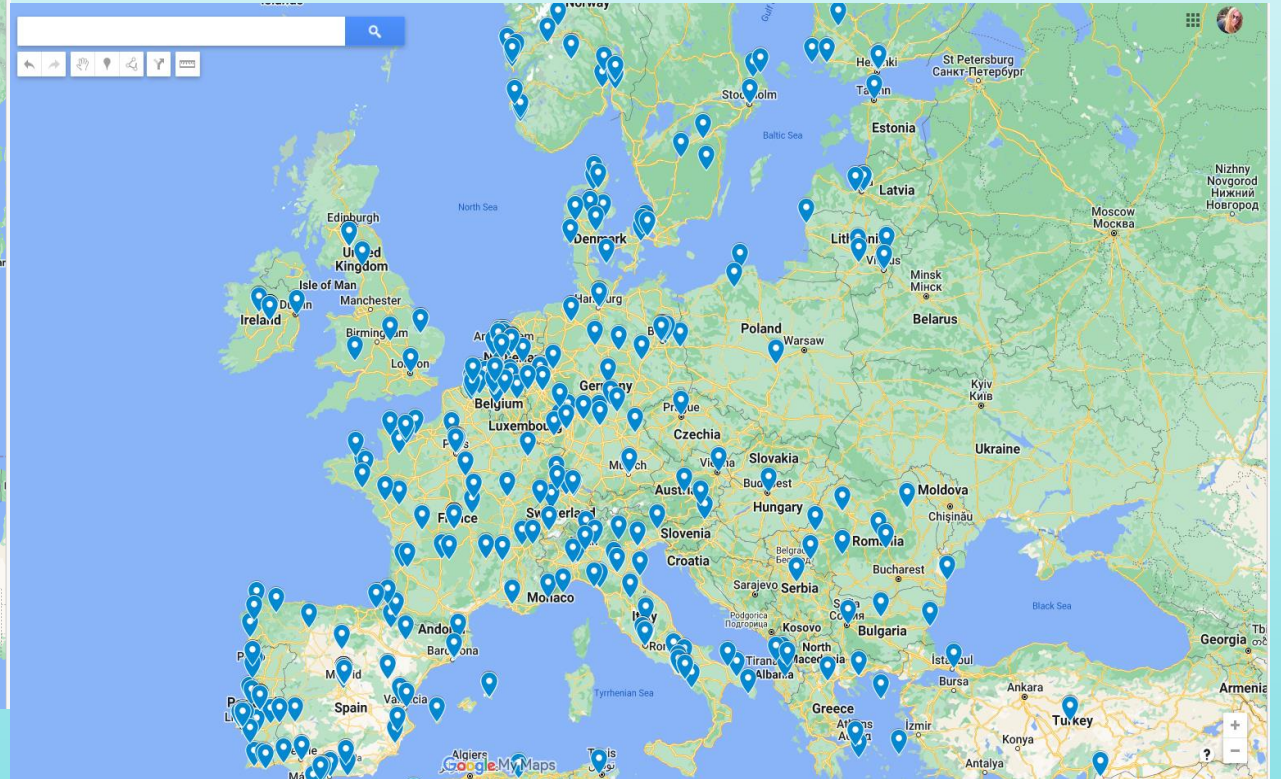
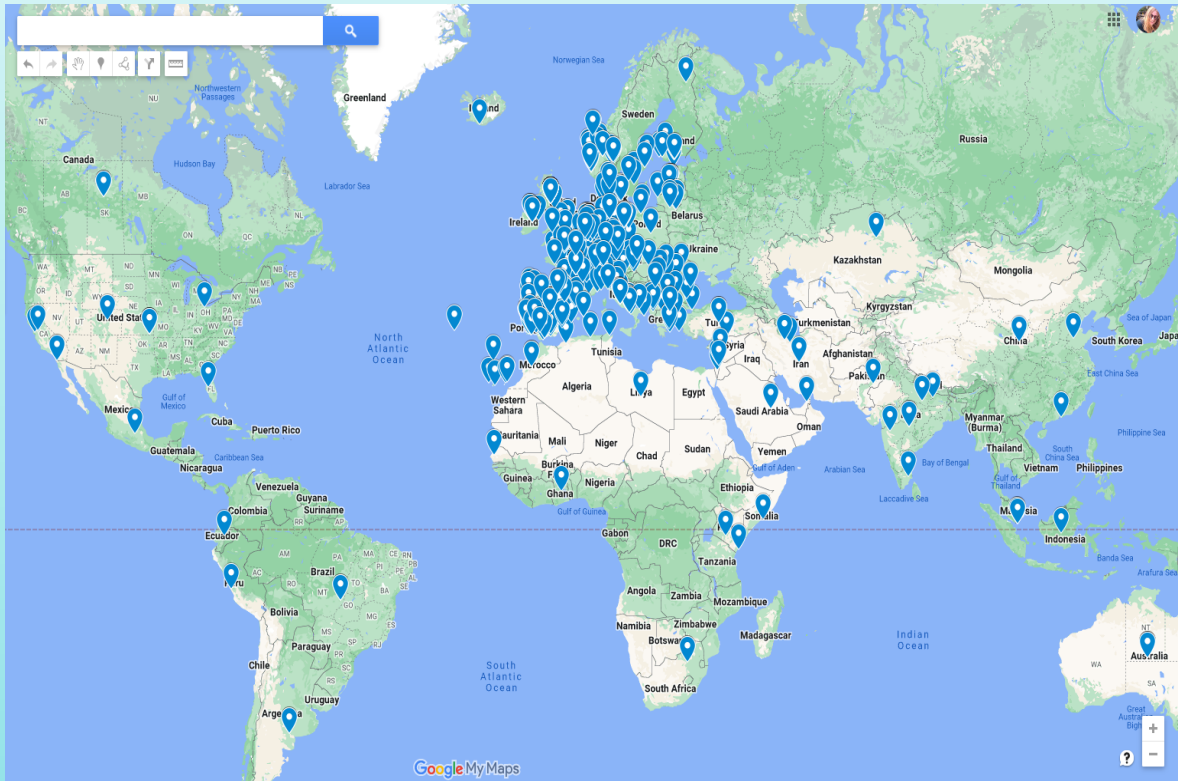
- Complementary
- Capitalize on well-established collaborative environment
- EU4Algae co-created deliverables will specifically contribute to the implementation of the following actions of the Initiative: Actions 6, 8-C and 14.



EU4Algae registered members

Currently there are more than 700 members registered and participating in WG discussions

To join: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1727>



Implementation of Action 9: Funding pilot project's) to support reorientation of fishers' careers to regenerative ocean farming

EMFAF 2022 Flagship for Baltic Sea

OBJECTIVE: Reorienting fishers to ocean regeneration activities

SCOPE

- Knowledge creation and sharing, and identification of skills and training for regenerative ocean farming;
- Access to space and water, (marine protected areas);
- Permitting and authorisation processes (installation of regenerative ocean farms);
- Demonstration activities for setting and operating regenerative ocean farming.

Baltic Sea (Topic 6): **EUR 600 000**
Co-funding: **80%**
Partners: **Min 3 - from 2 EU MSs**

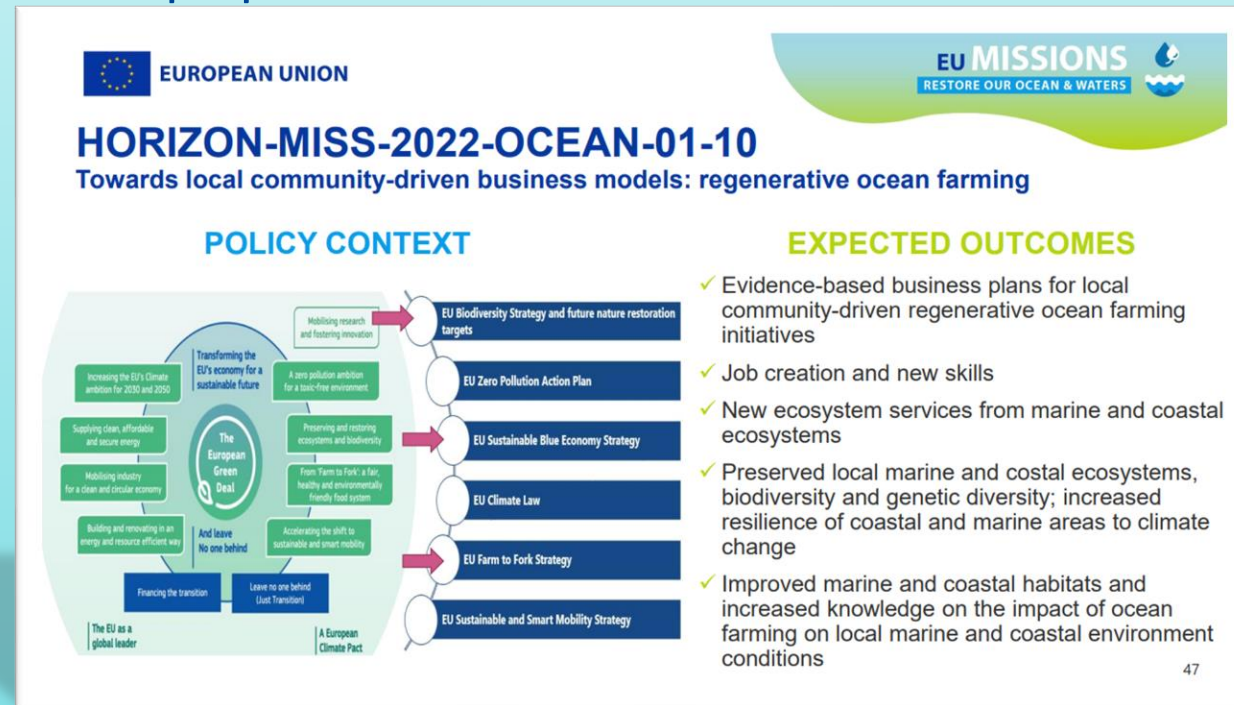


EMFAF Flagship for Baltic Sea:

- €600.000
- Application phase closed on 31/01/2023
- One excellent proposal received

Horizon Europe call on regenerative ocean farming:

- €3.000.000
- Application phase closed on 27/09/2022
- 3 proposals received



EP and EESC feedback on EU Algae initiative

DG MARE attended 2 committee meetings.
The adoption is foreseen for **13 April**.



European Parliament
2019-2024

Committee on Fisheries

2023/2547(RSP)

6.3.2023

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B9-0000/2023
pursuant to Rule 136(5) of the Rules of Procedure
Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector
(2023/2547(RSP))



European Economic
and Social Committee

NAT/882
EU algae initiative

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OPINION

Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European
Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Towards a Strong and
Sustainable EU Algae Sector

[COM(2022) 592 final]

Rapporteur: **Zsolt KÜKEDI**

Adoption in EP plenary scheduled
for **27-28 March**.

Next Steps

- The Commission is coordinating the implementation of the 23 actions with member states, the industry (notably via the EU4Algae forum) and any other relevant stakeholder (external as well as internal).
- Awareness & communication: **1st EU Algae Awareness Summit**, 5-7 October 2023, Paris (cf. next slides).



1st EU Algae Awareness Summit



What?

- EU co-funded event to raise algae awareness.

Why?

- Public authorities not sufficiently *algae-aware*.
- To **inspire them** for change by sharing good practices and success stories.

Who?

- Commission in cooperation with Safe Seaweed Coalition and French Authorities.

Where?

- Maison de l'Océan, Paris (cf. left picture)

When?

- 5-7 October 2023.

Thank you and do not hesitate to contact us #BeGreenGoBlue

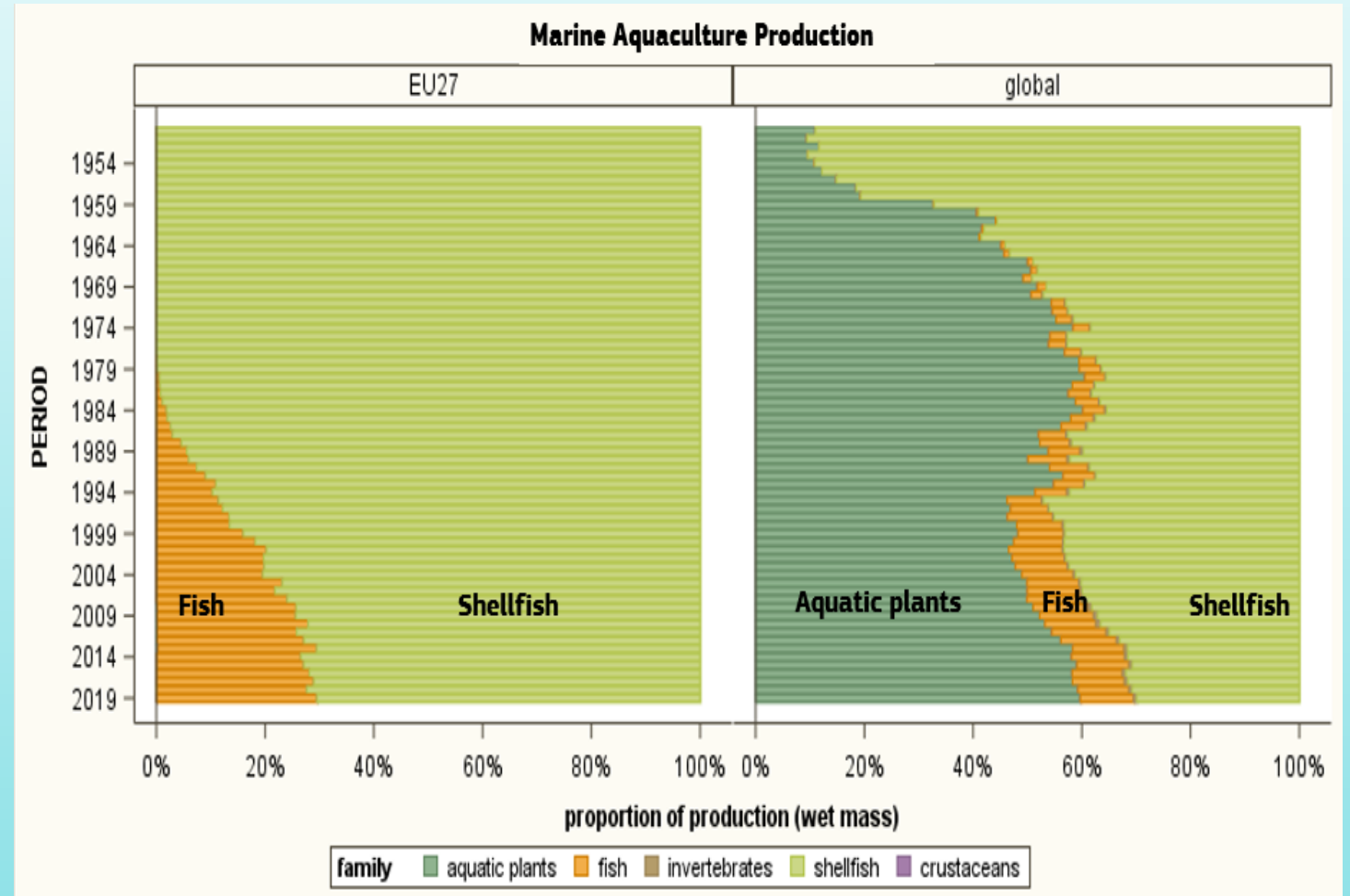
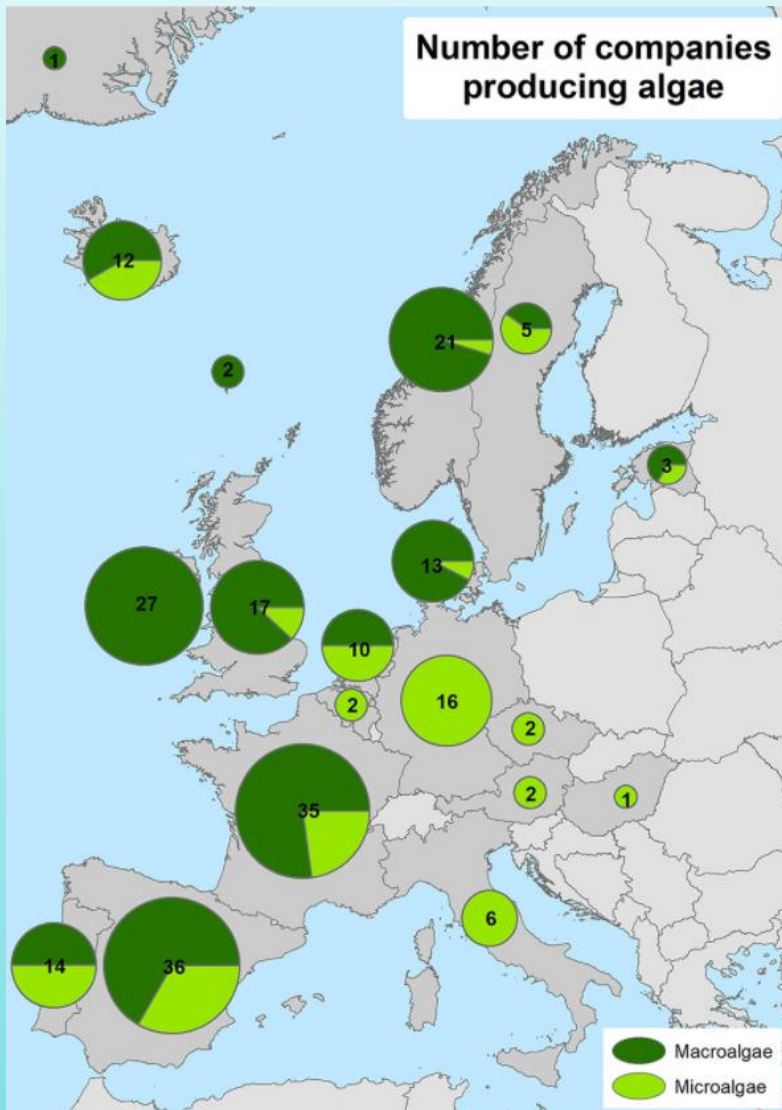


© European Union 2023

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. Fotolia.com; Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. iStock.com

Algae sector in Europe



Upcoming studies to support the implementation of the Initiative

Study to support EU Sustainable Algae Industry (DG MARE WP 2023)

- Study intended to contribute to the implementation of 5 actions of the initiative. It will notably address the role of algae in climate change mitigation (including as blue carbon sinks), the recycling of algae nutrients to be used as biofertilizers, etc.



New Algae farmers' toolkit (DG MARE WP 2023)

- Some desk research which has resulted in the drafting of a memo, which will then feed into the future terms of reference by the end of 2023.



A study within the Fisheries Research Framework contract

- Objective is to get more reliable data on iodine content and heavy metals contaminants in seaweed and on safe consumption levels (Action 15).



Synergies with EU Aquaculture guidelines and Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 12.5.2021

COM(2021) 236 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL,
THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONS EMPTY

Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030

{SWD(2021) 102 final}

Algae and Aquaculture:

- DG MARE is working on how to best ensure complementarities between EU Algae initiative and **EU Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines**.
- In line with Action 12, algae sector knowledge has been already integrated into the **EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism** (by Q3 2023).



EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism

Browse through our guidance documents

#EMFAF