What does the EU do to support the algae sector?

**EU Algae initiative**

To unlock the algae potential in the EU, 23 policy actions are implemented by the Commission in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Focus areas:
- Improving governance and legislation
- Creating business support mechanisms
- Raising awareness
- Driving research, knowledge, and innovation

**European Algae Stakeholder Platform (EU4Algae)**

- Share business-related information
- Access funding calls and events
- Collaborative space for algae stakeholders
- Share best practices
- 7 industry-relevant working groups

**Working together with EU national authorities**

- Bioeconomy strategies
- Aquaculture strategies
- Maritime Spatial Plans

- To inspire & inform
- Collaborate
- Share best practices (licensing procedure, access to marine space)
What does the EU do to support the algae sector?

**Research, innovation and investments**
EU funding and investments are instrumental for the emerging algae sector to derisk investments. More than 850 projects have been funded. Funding allocation from EU funds will continue.

**Synergies with other Commission policies and initiatives**

- **ENVIRONMENT** - Marine and water protection, waste and nutrients management, etc.
- **CLIMATE** - Blue carbon, carbon farming, sustainable carbon cycles
- **BLUE ECONOMY** - Blue bioeconomy, Sea basin strategies, EU4Ocean, EMODnet
- **FINANCE** - BluInvest
- **RESEARCH** - Mission Ocean
- **AGRICULTURE** - Land-based cultivation, organic regulation
- **HEALTH** - Contaminants, iodine content in algae
- **INDUSTRY** - Plant biostimulants
- **COMMON FISHERIES POLICY** - Common market organisation
Synergies with other Commission policies and initiatives

The EU Algae Initiative provides a landscape of existing EU regulations and policies relevant to the EU algae sector and new policies are emerging. Each policy initiative contributes individually to the development of the EU algae sector. And the Commission has a central role to play to ensure a more coordinated and systemic approach in supplementing the existing framework with additional policy actions, e.g. simultaneously using different levers to boost the development of a regenerative EU algae sector. Please see below some of the relevant EU policy initiatives.
EU4Algae has gathered 850+ algae-related EU funded projects that can be found here. Other funding availabilities can be found in the funding guide on the aquaculture assistance mechanism website.

**LIFE Programme**
- **Algaecan** demonstrated how solar-powered algal treatment of wastewater from fruit and vegetable processing can create products for biofertilisers, animal feed and bioplastics.
- **AlgaeService** for LIFE harvested algae and cyanobacteria from water bodies in Lithuania and Poland. The material has multiple uses in several industries.

**Horizon 2020**
- **SABANA** developed a large-scale microalgae-based biorefinery using marine water and wastewater nutrients to produce biostimulants, biopesticides, feed additives, biofertilisers and aquafeed.
- **MAGNIFICENT** turned microalgae biomass into valuable ingredients for food, aquafeed and cosmetics applications.
- **REALM** aims to revolutionise microalgae production while fostering circular agriculture and a more sustainable aquaculture.
- **CIRCALGAE** aims to develop a ground-breaking exploitation system where the algae industrial waste streams will be further valorised, in a more sustainable and circular approach.
- **SeaMark** will use new breeding technologies within EU seaweed crop genetics to increase biomass yield. The goal is to upscale circular ocean cultivation and land-based integrated multi-trophic aquaculture systems, as well as to develop novel processing.
European Maritime Fisheries (and Aquaculture) Fund

- **ULVA FARM** developed highly resistant sea lettuce sporelings to overcome harsh ocean conditions, unlocking the production of low-cost, high-quality sea lettuce at scale.

- **COOL BLUE BALTIC** will provide concrete examples of ecosystem restoration, viable business models and social innovation through regenerative ocean farming.

- **SEAFOOD ALTERNATIVE** aims at creating an original seafood line based on non-animal compounds.

- **BluelInvest**, enabled by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, boosts innovation and investment in sustainable technologies for the blue economy by supporting access to finance for early-stage businesses, SMEs and scale-ups.

EU Mission ‘Restore our oceans and waters’

- **AlgaeProBANOS** aims at accelerating the development of sustainable and innovative algae-based products in the Baltic and North Sea, to make the EU a world leader in algae product development, and to support coastal societies and local economies.
Other relevant references

- Blue bioeconomy forum - Roadmap for the blue bioeconomy – predecessor of the EU Algae Initiative
- EU4Algae – EU-funded collaborative European Algae Stakeholder Platform
- EU Blue Bioeconomy and Biotechnologies – emerging sectors of Blue Economy. Algae is considered as most notable sector of the EU Blue Bioeconomy.
- Fisheries and aquaculture (seaweed harvesting from wild is partly subject to fisheries rules, while seaweed cultivation is part of aquaculture): Common Fisheries Policy, Common market organisation
- EU Aquaculture as open method of EU coordination: EU Sustainable aquaculture guidelines; Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism
- EU Maritime Spatial Planning Platform – algae is part of multiple maritime space projects.
- EU Mission Restore our ocean and waters aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments – multiple algae projects funded.
- Algae-related EU-funded projects compilations: (1) EU4Algae (850 + projects) Airtable; (2) EMFAF algae projects cluster story, (3) H2020 algae projects analysis, (4) BlueBio Co-fund Algae Factsheets.pdf
- 1st EU Algae Awareness Summit, 5-7 October 2023, Paris, France. News blog and Post-summit movie
- EMODnet – European marine data observation network – data on Algae production facilities, chlorophyll distribution in open sea, etc.
- BluelInvest – the first ever BluelInvest algae e-pitching session was organised 11 October 2023.
- EU4Ocean – ocean literacy platform collaborates with EU4Algae to raise awareness about algae.
- EU-funded algae-related Euronews Oceans episodes: Can microalgae tackle plastic pollution?, How farming seaweed is good for people and planet, Microalgae - potential cures for disease, Will seaweed save the world?
- Algae biomass – Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy
- An overview of the algae industry in Europe - JRC Report - EU algae companies, cultivated species, etc.