

What does the EU do to support the algae sector?

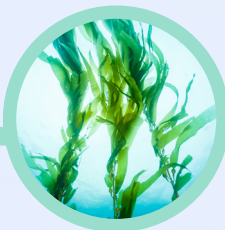


EU Algae initiative

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

- To inspire & inform
- Collaborate
- Share best practices (licensing procedure, access to marine space)

Algae strategies

Maritime Spatial Plans

What does the EU do to support the algae sector?



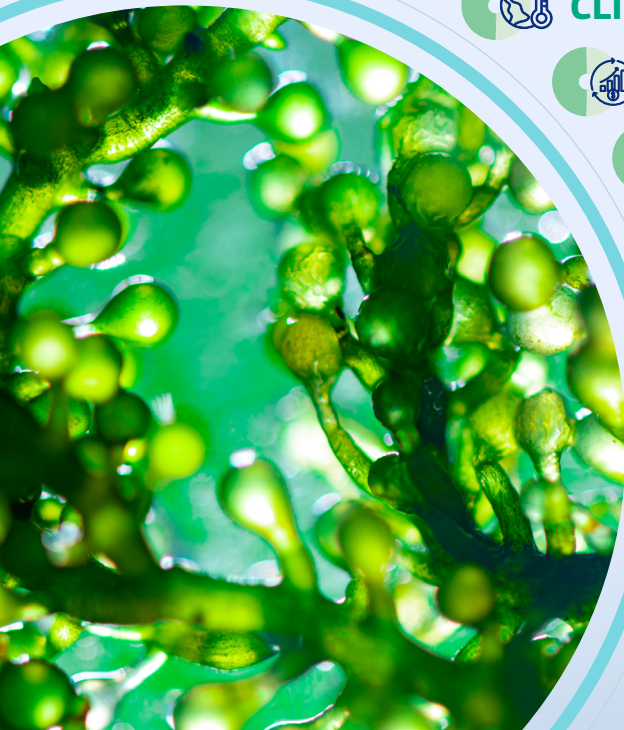
Research, innovation and investments

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** - BlueInvest
-  **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**.



Research, innovation and investments

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.

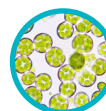


- AlgaeService for LIFE harvested algae and cyanobacteria from water bodies in Lithuania and Poland. The material has multiple uses in several industries.

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.



Research, innovation and investments

European Maritime Fisheries (and Aquaculture) Fund



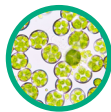
⦿ **ULVA FARM** developed highly resistant sea lettuce sporelings to overcome harsh ocean conditions, unlocking the production of low-cost, high-quality sea lettuce at scale.



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



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



⦿ **BlueInvest**, 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

- › EU Algae Initiative – **Commission Communication COM(2022) 592 final “Towards a strong and Sustainable EU Algae sector”, 15.11.2022. Questions and Answers on EU Algae Initiative (15/11/2022)**
- › **Blue bioeconomy forum - Roadmap for the blue bioeconomy** – predecessor of the EU Algae Initiative
- › **EU4Algae** – EU-funded collaborative European Algae Stakeholder Platform
- › **Sustainable Blue Economy** – refers to algae as a viable sustainable alternative for food and feed. **European Blue Forum, Maritime Spatial Planning 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.
- › **BlueInvest** – the first ever **BlueInvest 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
- › Periodic DG MARE reports: **EU Blue economy annual reports 2018-2021, EU blue economy report 2022, EU Blue economy report 2023, Blue Bioeconomy Report (EUMOFA – Dec. 2020), EU Blue Bioeconomy report 2022 (EUMOFA – Jan 2023)**
- › **An overview of the algae industry in Europe - JRC Report** - EU algae companies, cultivated species, etc.

