



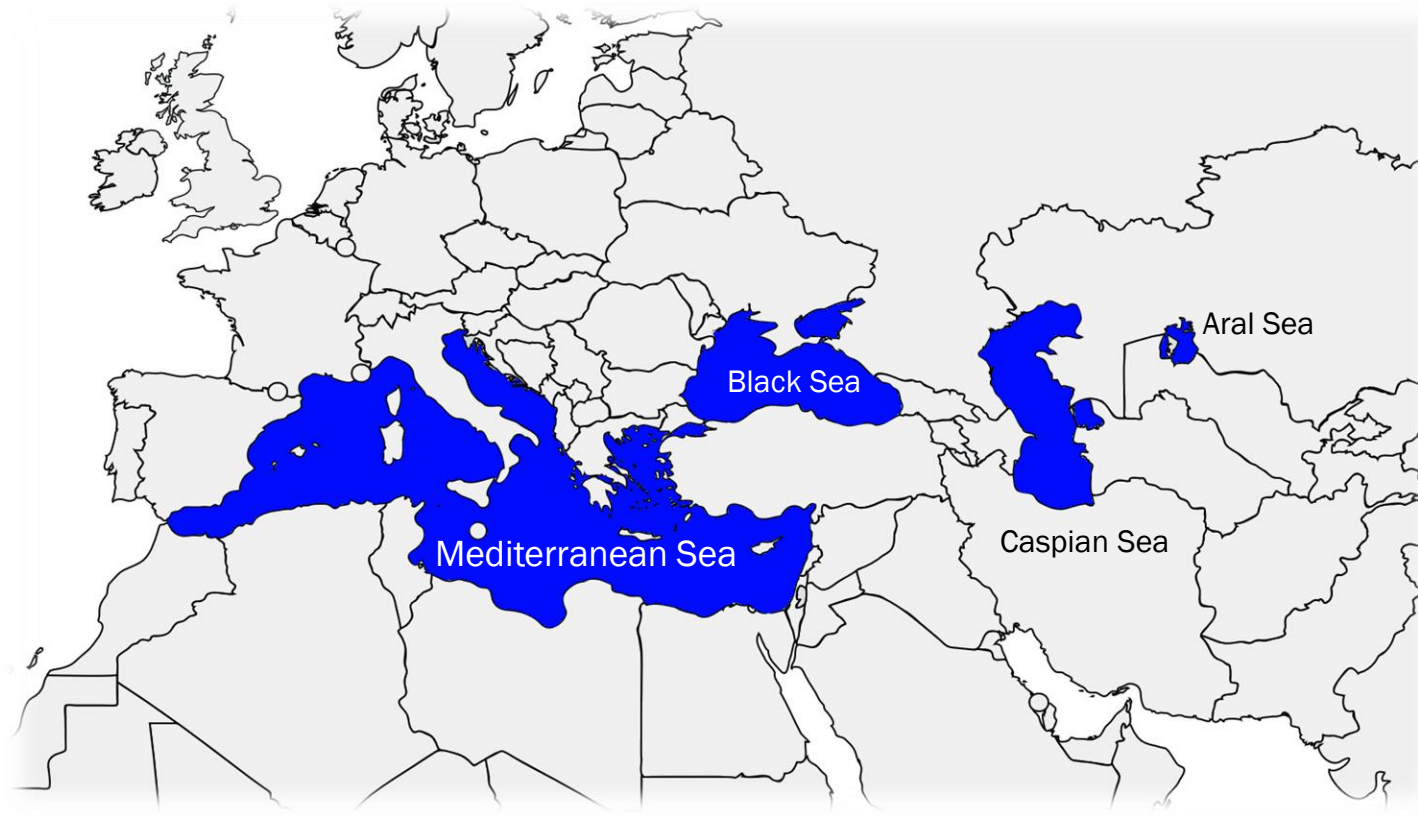
4-Seas Initiative

A project led by the regional networks SDSN Black Sea and SDSN Mediterranean and the national networks SDSN Greece, SDSN Italy, SDSN Spain, SDSN France, SDSN Turkey and SDSN Russia

“The sea is everything. It covers seven tenths of the terrestrial globe. Its breath is pure and healthy. It is an immense desert, where man is never lonely, for he feels life stirring on all sides. The sea is only the embodiment of a supernatural and wonderful existence. It is nothing but love and emotion; it is the Living Infinite.”

- JULES VERNE

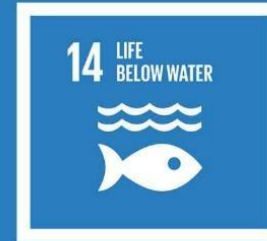
Why 4-Seas?



The project will first be developed in the regions of Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Aral Sea. Thus, 4-Seas 😊

Relevance to the SDGs

Sustainable use and conservation of the oceans, require effective strategies and management to combat the adverse effects of overfishing, growing ocean acidification and worsening coastal eutrophication.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

PURPOSE

IT IS A FACT, THAT...

- Oceans and seas cover 70% of the planet's surface
- They produce a large proportion of the oxygen in our atmosphere
- They are a major source of food proteins for over **1,000,000,000** people

BUT...

- They are increasingly affected by global changes, including climate change, while their already degraded marine ecosystems, are under persistent and growing risk of further damage from microbiological and chemical pollution and overexploitation.

PURPOSE

- The interactions between ocean and human health are numerous, complex and yet largely unknown to the major part of the public, the stakeholders and the scientific community.

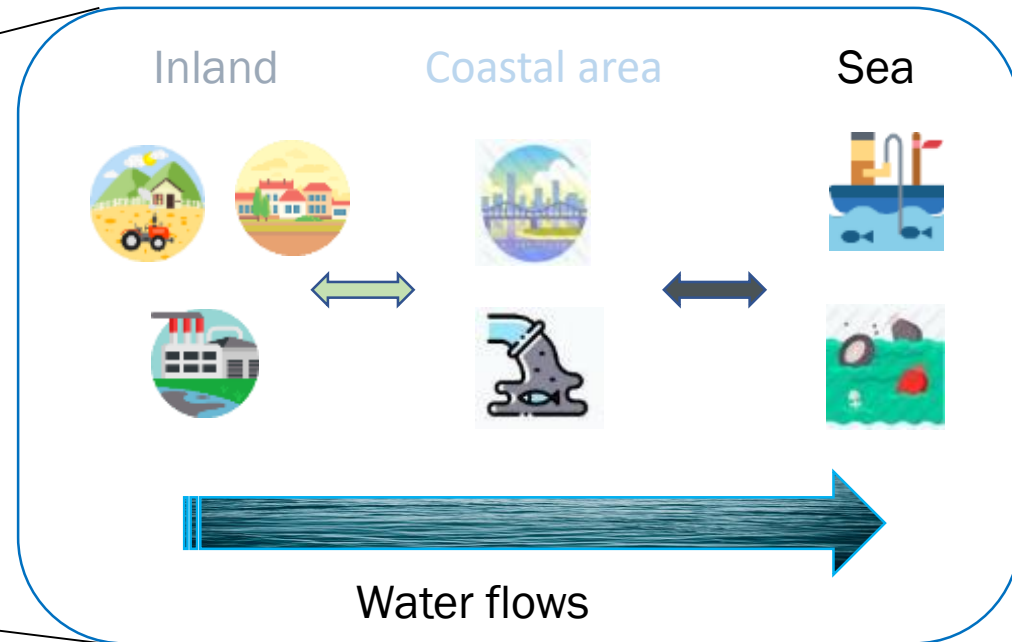
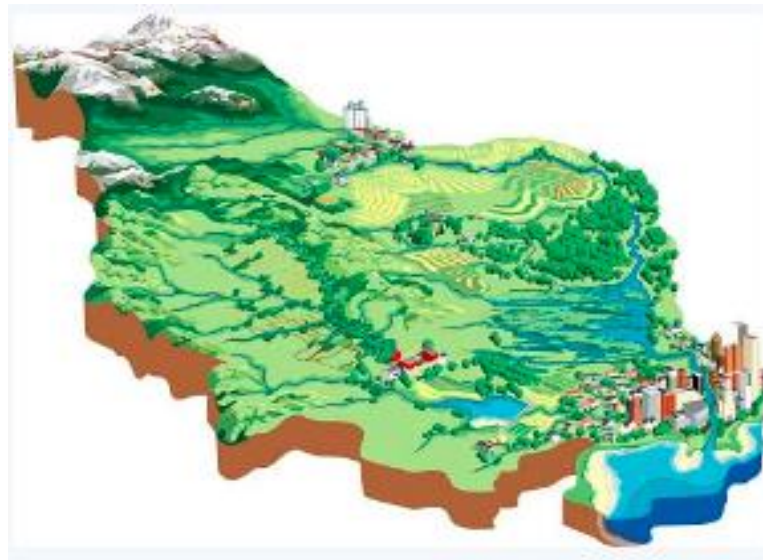


PURPOSE

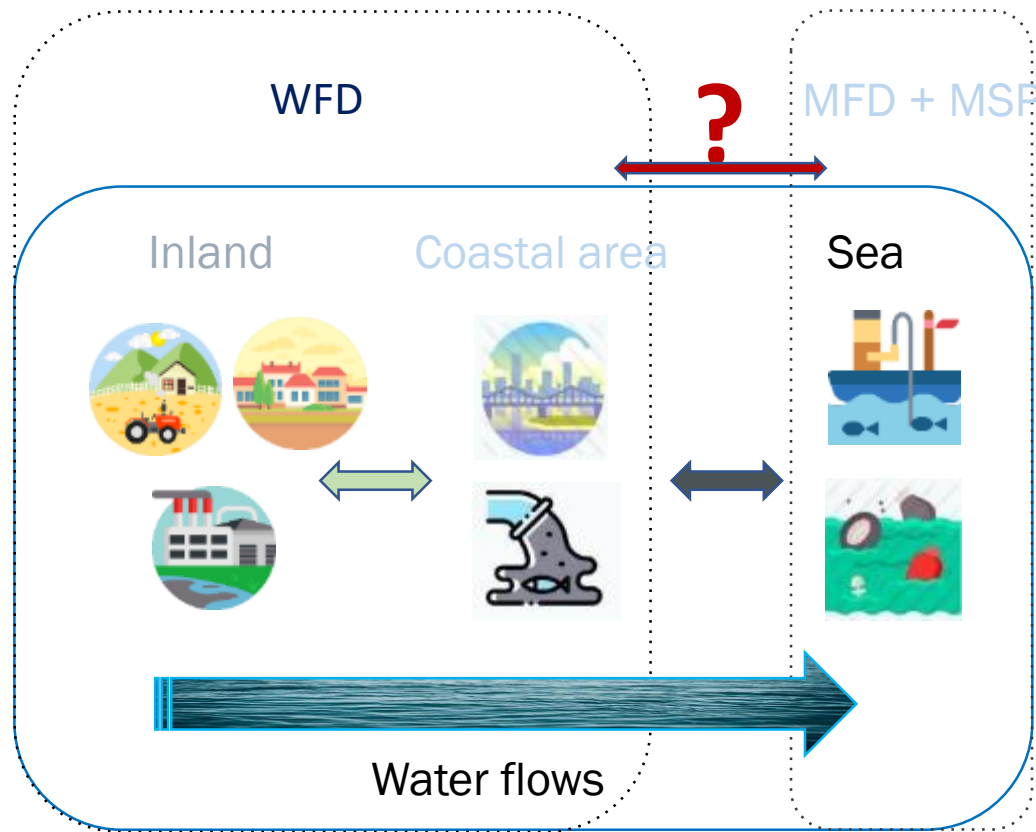
At a river basin scale, land-based ecosystems and coastal & sea ecosystems are directly linked through water flows. In the same way, land-based activities (agriculture, forestry, industries & urbanization) are directly impacting land ecosystems and coastal & sea ecosystems. Coastal & seas regions concentrate populations and economic activities but also environmental stresses & pollutions. On the other hand, rural hinterlands face depopulation and economic recession, while still environmentally impacting coastal regions.

PURPOSE

River Basin ecosystem

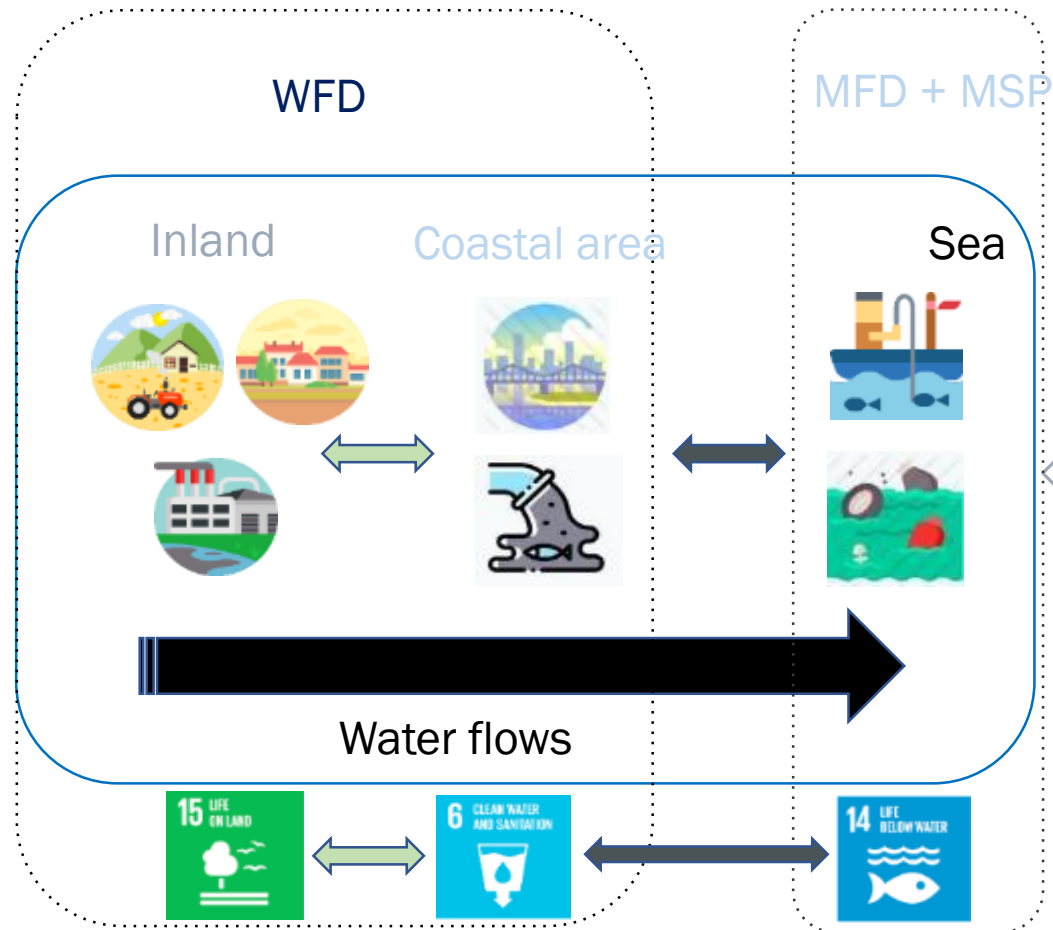


PURPOSE

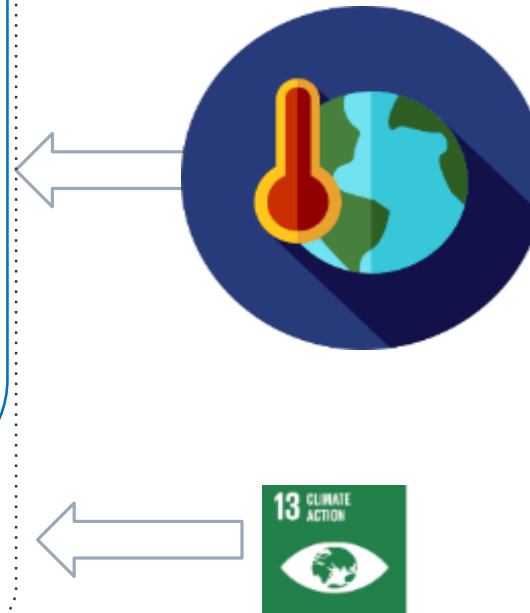


The EU Water Framework Directive seeks to reach the Good Environmental Status of rivers while the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive targets the Good Environmental Status of EU marine waters but the two legislations lack interconnections.

PURPOSE



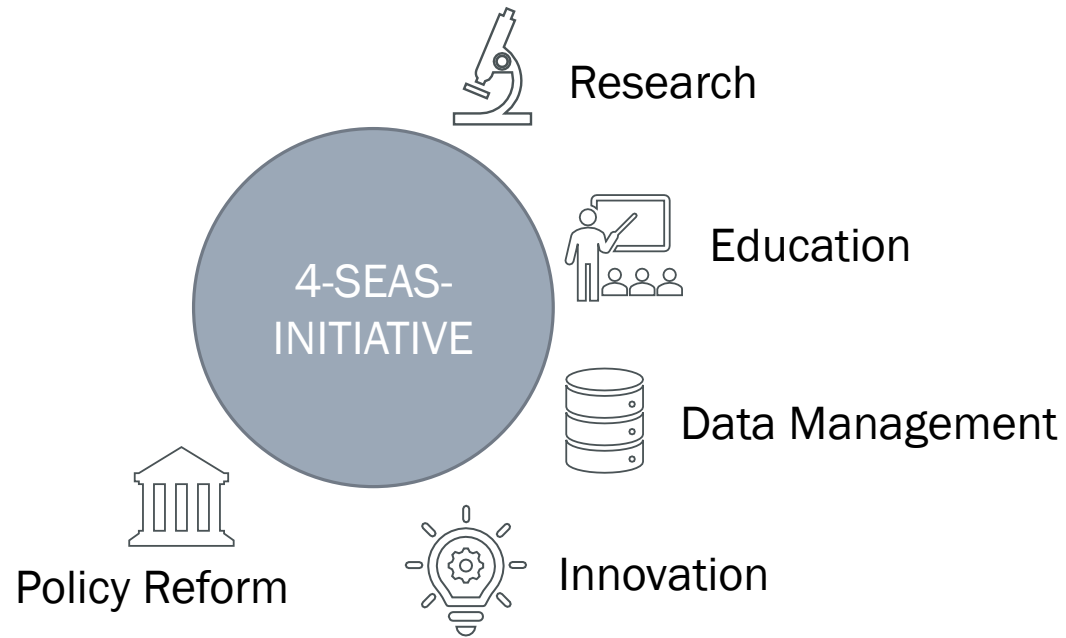
In a wider context the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set goals for sustainable use of freshwater (SDG 6), seas (SDG14), and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15) as well as taking urgent actions to combat climate change (SDG13).



PURPOSE

The purpose of the “4-SEAS-INITIATIVE” is to provide a **SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION PLAN** to protect oceans from degradation and to make the various benefits that the ocean can bring to health and wellbeing of populations explicit.

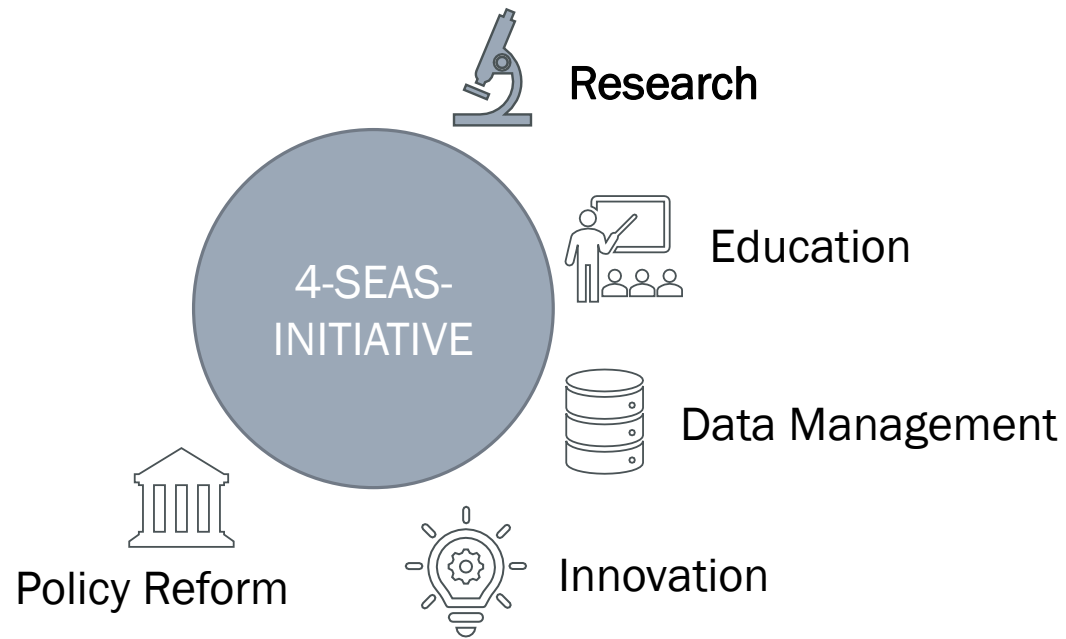
OBJECTIVES



The 4-SEAS-INITIATIVE will focus on 5 Objectives

- Research
- Education
- Data Management
- Innovation
- Policy Reform

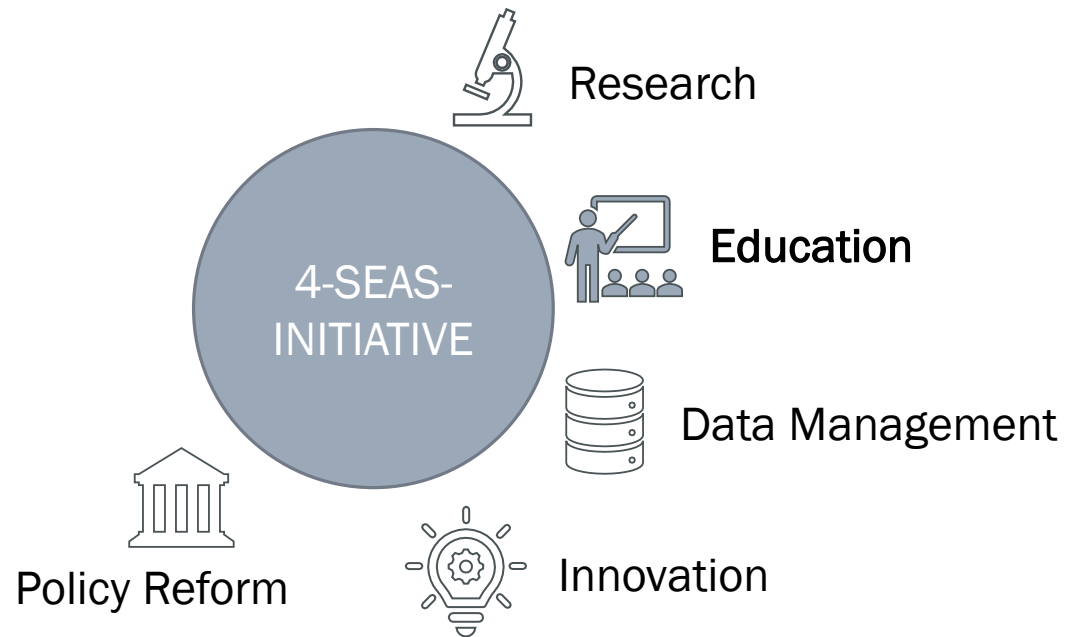
OBJECTIVES



The 4-SEAS-INITIATIVE plans to:

- Develop Sustainable Blue Growth Transformation Pathways in urban and rural areas that depend on the 4-seas
- Create networks of protected marine and coastal ecosystems of cultural and natural interest.

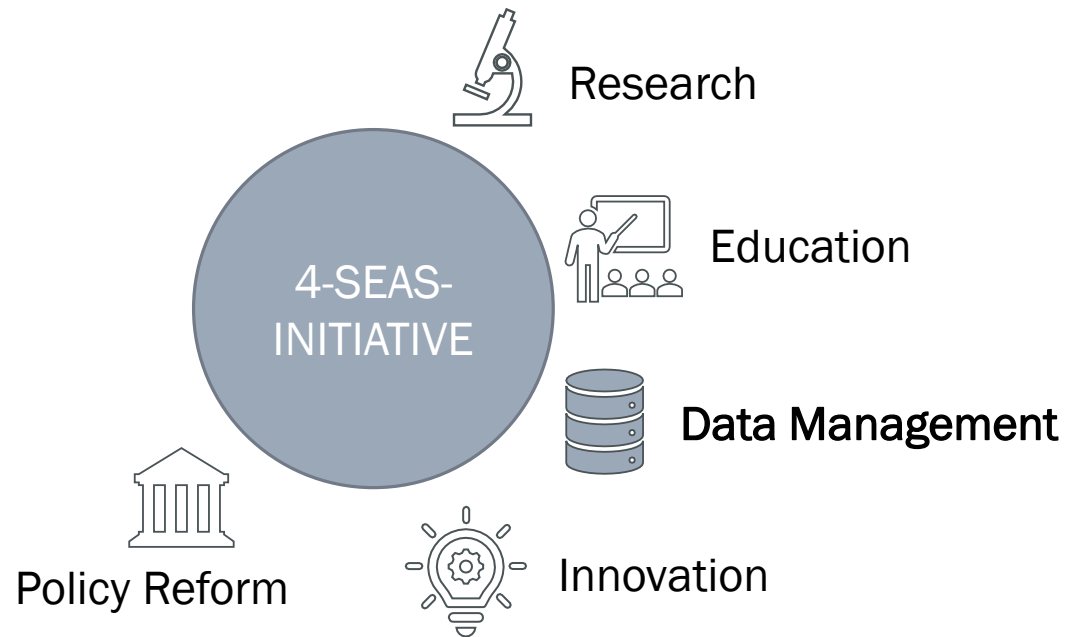
OBJECTIVES



The 4-SEAS-INITIATIVE plans to:

- Create educational programs with an emphasis on understanding and implementing the SDGs, enriching them with Euro-Asian intellectual tradition, in particular with Aristotle and Confucius.

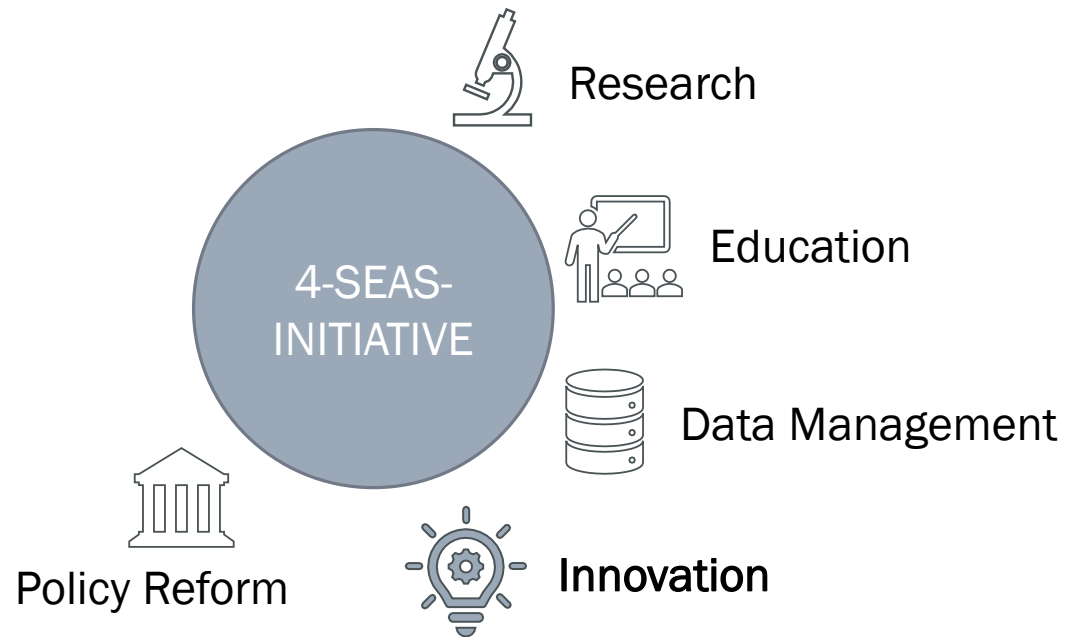
OBJECTIVES



The 4-SEAS-INITIATIVE plans to:

- Develop and support open access databases with the data, models, results and policy recommendations relevant to the Sustainability Transition of the 4-seas.

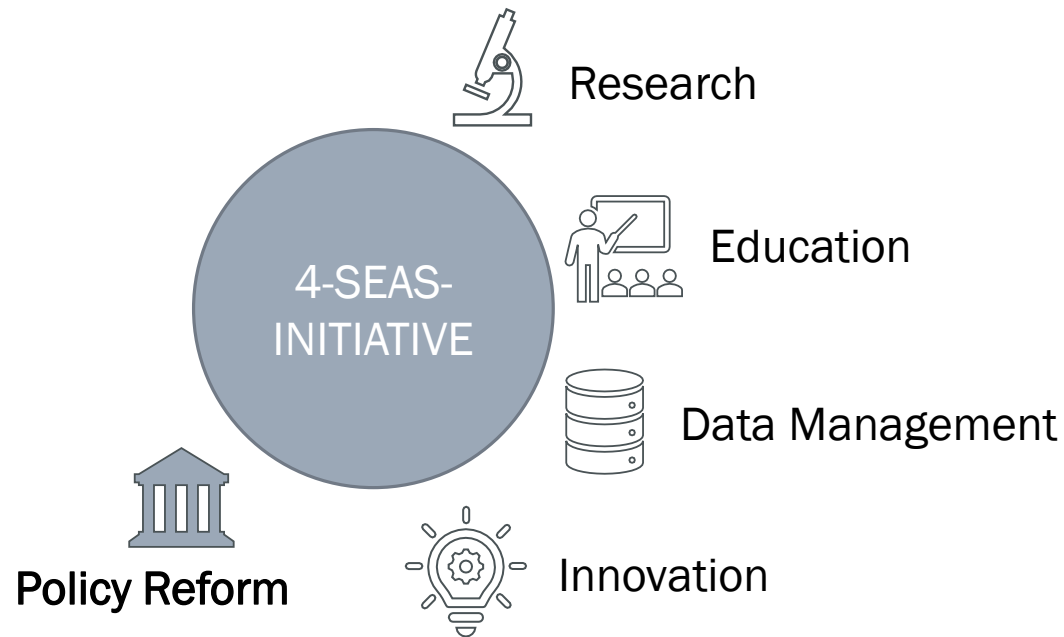
OBJECTIVES



The 4-SEAS-INITIATIVE plans to:

- Incubate and accelerate technological and social innovation for the sustainability transition in the region, combining the protection of the natural and cultural environment project through our collaboration with the Innovation Community and [EIT Climate KIC](#).

OBJECTIVES



The 4-SEAS-INITIATIVE plans to:

- Make policy recommendations for the support of sustainable blue growth in the region.
- Develop links between EU WFD, MSFD, Blue Growth Initiative, Agenda 2030 and other Policy Initiatives, by developing policy alternatives to support land-sea synergies in the implementation of the sustainability transition in the 4-Seas Project region.

INNOVATIVE APPROACH

A lot of research has been done regarding certain human activities and their impact on the oceans (health of marine ecosystems, coastal erosion etc). We plan on building a common database, which scientists can utilize to find the interlinkage between human and ocean health and better advise policy makers for the needed transformations. The project will help stakeholders understand how fragile marine ecosystems are and why implementing sustainable strategies is needed for the common good.

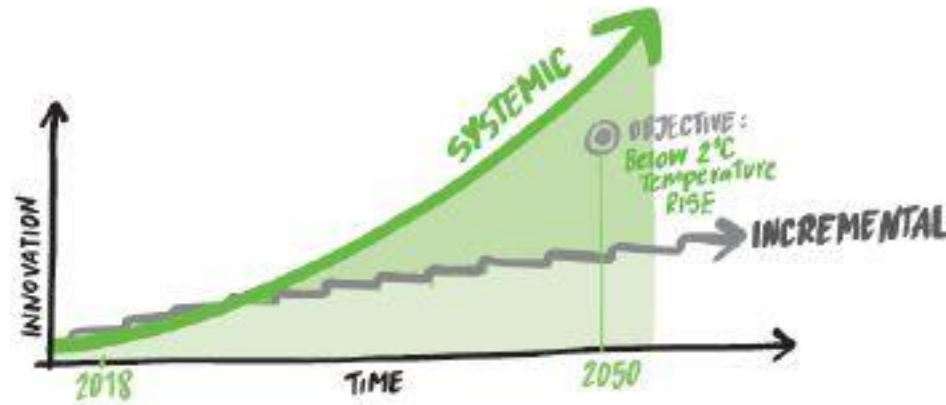
Following this direction, educational programs will be developed and deployed emphasizing on understanding and implementing the SDGs in human activities that directly affect sea life.

4-SEAS-INITIATIVE will also serve as an incubator of ideas to accelerate technological and social innovation for the sustainability transition in 4-Seas, combining the protection of the natural and cultural environment. Meaning, that a start-up or a spin-off that is willing to work on sustainability will be able to be guided through our project. Thus, the private and the public sector can both benefit by our Initiative.

Finally, 4-Seas is about long-term strategies and reforms. We will suggest feasible policy reforms, which will be based on Sustainability, by respecting the environment, the cultural background and the economy of each nation.

We seek to connect researchers, policy makers, private companies and the public by creating a platform of knowledge, by implementing educational programs and by making policy reform recommendations in order to help achieve sustainable growth in the region of the 4-Seas.

Systems Innovation approach



Continuing to work through gradual, incremental changes will not be enough. What is needed now is a fundamental transformation of economic, social and financial systems that will trigger exponential change in decarbonisation rates and strengthen climate resilience – what the IPCC report calls, “rapid, far- reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society”.



Scalability

4-Seas-Initiative is all about cooperation for a greater good.

If the project is successful, more SDS Networks can participate, thus more data will be collected, more people will be educated, more start-ups and spin-offs will emerge and incubate and finally, more policy reforms will take place.



Thank you for your time.

More information about the project can be found [here](#).

SDSN Black Sea, SDSN Mediterranean, SDSN Greece, SDSN Italy, SDSN Spain,
SDSN Turkey, SDSN France, SDSN Russia