

Atlantic Smart Ports Blue Acceleration Network

AN ACCELERATION SERVICES PLATFORM FOR GENERATING
STARTUPS POOLS AND MOBILISE FINANCING FOR SMART PORTS
THAT OPERATE AS BLUE ECONOMY HUBS

Atlantic Smart Ports Blue Acceleration Network

Context

Winner proposal to the call from DG Mare-EASME «Cross-sectoral development of innovative port clusters in the Atlantic: Developing a blue accelerator scheme for Atlantic ports», which has two main objectives:

The establishment of a network/partnership between at least two EU Atlantic ports in two different EU Member States;

The development of a blue accelerator scheme for Atlantic ports to stimulate innovative businesses in an innovation ecosystem to foster a sustainable blue economy in line with the European Green Deal.

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Context

The proposal is related to the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 from DG Mare, European Commission:

The first of the 4 pillars of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 is «Ports As Gateways And Hubs For The Blue Economy». This pillar has two main goals, that are interconnected and mutually reinforce each other, which are the following:

Goal 1: Ports as gateways for trade in the Atlantic

Goal 2: Ports as catalysts for business

The Goal 2 mentions specifically an action to «develop a blue accelerator scheme for Atlantic ports to help scale up innovative businesses».

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Context: what is stated in the AAP 2.0

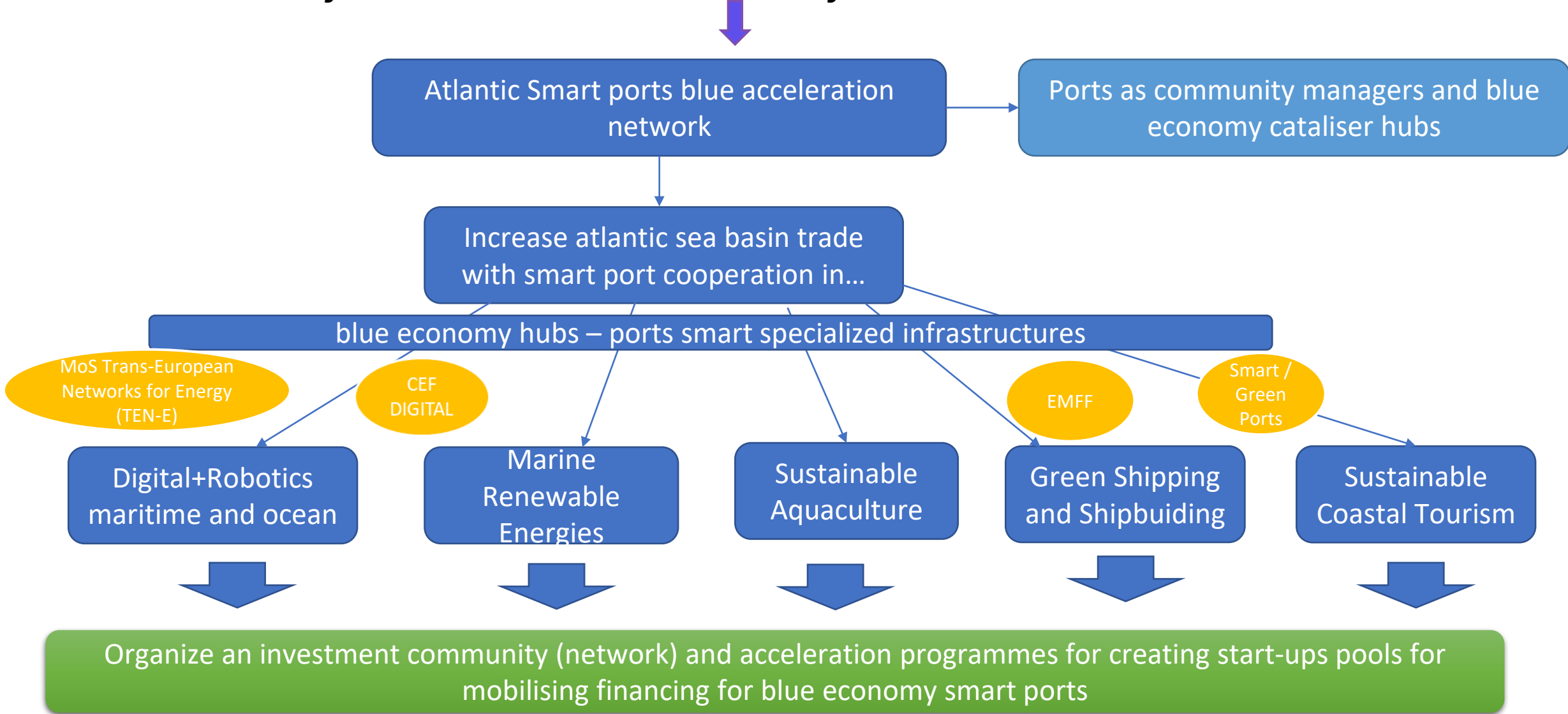
Pillar 1 Ports As Gateways And Hubs For The Blue Economy:

Coastal tourism, aquaculture, shipbuilding, as well as growing industries like marine renewables are centred on or closely interlinked with the activity of ports, thus ports can play a major role in their development.

This entails an evolution of the governance mechanisms of ports, including the role of port operators - from landlords for logistical enterprises towards playing the more active role of a community manager ('community builders') and catalyst for blue business.

On the other hand, ports must cooperate with each other to mobilise financing for specialised smart infrastructures that will increase sea-basin trade and also the growth of new blue businesses (aquaculture, marine renewables, etc.) adjacent to ports activities.

Pillar 1 Ports As Gateways And Hubs For The Blue Economy



Main concept of the «Atlantic Smart Port Blue Acceleration Network»

There is a need and an opportunity for EU Atlantic Ports to diversify the revenue sources of their **business model**, by acting not only in the core areas of cargo and passenger handling, but also being the **main playground / ecosystem for the development of new blue businesses and of a sustainable ocean economy**.

There is a need for an acceleration services platform that enables this policy and business need and opportunity

The Atlantic Smart Ports Blue Acceleration Network aims at launching the building blocks that will found a dynamic acceleration services platform for EU Atlantic ports to work as **blue economy hubs**, thus diversifying their business models and revenue sources

Atlantic Smart Port Blue Acceleration Network: the consortium full partners

The Accelerators:

Beta-i (project leader) (PT)

Kaleido (SP)

GCE Ocean Technology (NO)

PORT XL (NL)

NOAH Blue Consortium (FR)

Global Accelerator Network (USA)

The Blue Clusters:

Irish Maritime
Development Office (IE)

Fórum Oceano (**project
co-leader**) (PT)

Cluster Marítimo de
Canarias (SP)

The Policy, Business & Finance Entities:

Eurotran Conseil (FR)

Ocean Assets Institute (CH)

World Ocean Council (USA)

Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of
Europe (FR)

Magellan (PT)

Atlantic Smart Port Blue Acceleration Network: the consortium

The Atlantic Smart Ports Blue Acceleration Network (AspBAN) consortium has the support of a large and representative pool of **123 strategic partners and a total universe of 391 ports:**

41 ports and **5** ports associations – where 23 belong to the 4 Atlantic Strategy Group member countries; AspBAN also has Port of Rotterdam as strategic partner as well as International Port and Harbours Association, the world's largest port association

15 investment funds

27 companies

18 blue accelerators&clusters

6 business associations

11 policy entities



High Support from United Nations:
UN Secretary General Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, issued a letter of support to our consortium



High Support from Portugal's Minister of State, Economy and Digital Transition:
Pedro Siza Vieira, Minister of State, Economy and Digital Transition, 2nd in ranking in Portugal's government, issued a letter of support to our consortium

Atlantic Smart Port Blue Acceleration Network: 5 main goals

1. Attract 450 startups for the Acceleration program
2. Achieve a final pool of 30 innovative start-up solutions that will develop pilots in 30 Atlantic ports (22 of Atlantic Strategy Group member countries and 8 from other Atlantic maritime basins)
3. Attract 6M€ in direct private investment for the final pool of startups
4. Mobilize 5billion€ of potential private investment (among the 15 investment funds, Dubai Ports World (the world's largest port operator) is an AspBAN's strategic partner, which has a private fund of 4,5B USD for investing in ports and maritime infrastructures)
5. Achieve a reduction of at least 100.000 tons of CO2 in the operations of the 30 ports

Atlantic Smart Port Blue Acceleration Network: 6 main Deliverables

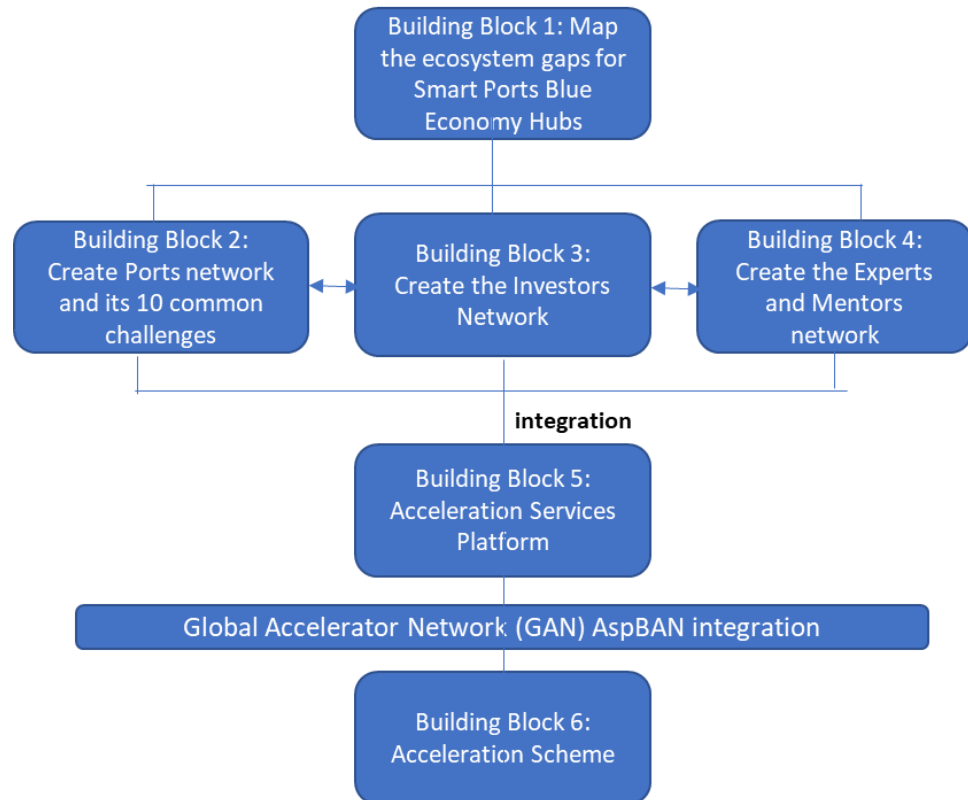
1. An organized innovation ecosystem in the Atlantic space for developing blue economy business opportunities
2. A physical and digital platform of acceleration and innovation services for Atlantic ports to develop their blue economy business opportunities
3. An investment opportunities roadmap for developing blue economy business opportunities in the Atlantic Ports, with a model that can be replicated in other geographies
4. An investment community specialized in developing blue economy business opportunities in ports
5. An identification of smart and green infrastructures in Atlantic Ports necessary for developing blue economy business opportunities

Main concept of the «Atlantic Smart Port Blue Acceleration Network»

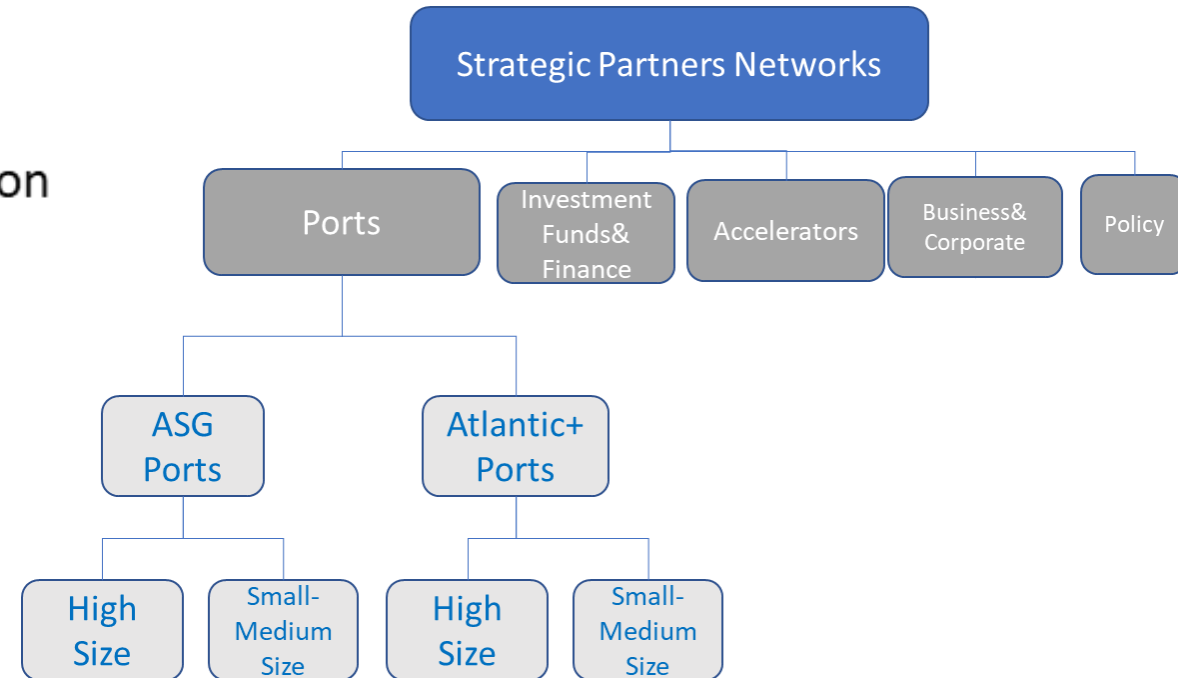
In this way, the logic behind the «Atlantic Smart Port Blue Acceleration Network» is to deploy, from start, a representative and diverse open innovation, acceleration and investment ecosystem/network with the participation of **Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Canada, USA, Italy, Mauritania, Morocco, Colombia, India and China** in an open innovation approach, with partners distributed by 6 core stakeholder groups:

1. Ports
2. Blue Accelerators
3. Blue Clusters
4. Industry
5. Investors and Finance
6. Policy Entities

Main concept of the «Atlantic Smart Port Blue Acceleration Network»



Open Innovation Dynamics



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