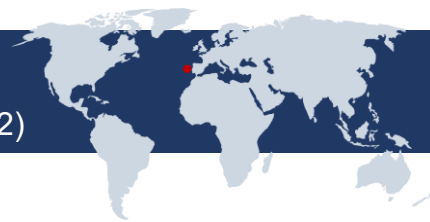


## The blue economy in Gijón, Spain

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Fact box

- **Population:** 267 706 [1]
- **GDP:** EUR 5.2 billion [2]
- **Area:** 182 km<sup>2</sup> [3]

#### Drivers for the blue economy



Boost economic activity



Create jobs



Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems

### Blue economy sectors

Gijón, a European coastal city on the Cantabrian Sea flanked by the Piles River, is home to most blue economy sectors below, aside from water-based renewable energies. According to a [2019 City Council study](#), the blue economy accounts for 13% of gross value added (GVA) and 14% of jobs in Gijón. Coastal tourism and port activities are the most valuable sectors of the blue economy in the city, representing 59% and 22% of blue economy GVA in Gijón. Fishing and aquaculture and shipbuilding and repair are also important sectors, accounting for 8% and 7% respectively of blue economy GVA in Gijón.



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

### BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impact of blue economy sectors in Gijón is related to air pollution. Other important impacts are related to water pollution, pollution from plastics and waste generation.

#### Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Gijón



Sea level rise



Flood



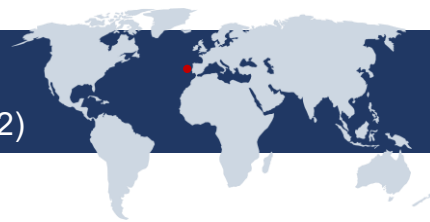
Wind-related hazards (e.g. storms, tornadoes, hurricanes)

[1] [3] SADEI (2022), [www.sadei.es/habitantes/enlaces-directos/nomenclator\\_23\\_1\\_ap.html](http://www.sadei.es/habitantes/enlaces-directos/nomenclator_23_1_ap.html) (accessed 15 March 2023)

[2] Calculated with GVA of Gijon (SADEI (2016), [www.sadei.es/sadei/cuentas-regionales-de-asturias/contabilidad-regional\\_268\\_1\\_ap.html?f=04\\_02\\_04\\_04\\$\\$0402040416.px](http://www.sadei.es/sadei/cuentas-regionales-de-asturias/contabilidad-regional_268_1_ap.html?f=04_02_04_04$$0402040416.px)) and GDP of the Principado de Asturias (INE (2016), [www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica\\_C&cid=1254736167628&menu=resultados&idp=1254735576581](http://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736167628&menu=resultados&idp=1254735576581))

## The blue economy in Gijón, Spain

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



### GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

In 2021, the Municipality of Gijón launched the [Blue Gijón assessment study](#), *Gijón Azul*, to assess the state of play of the blue economy at the local level and provide guidelines for the implementation of a strategy. The study estimates the blue economy's contribution to municipal GVA, employment (in terms of full-time equivalents) and the number of businesses within the blue economy.



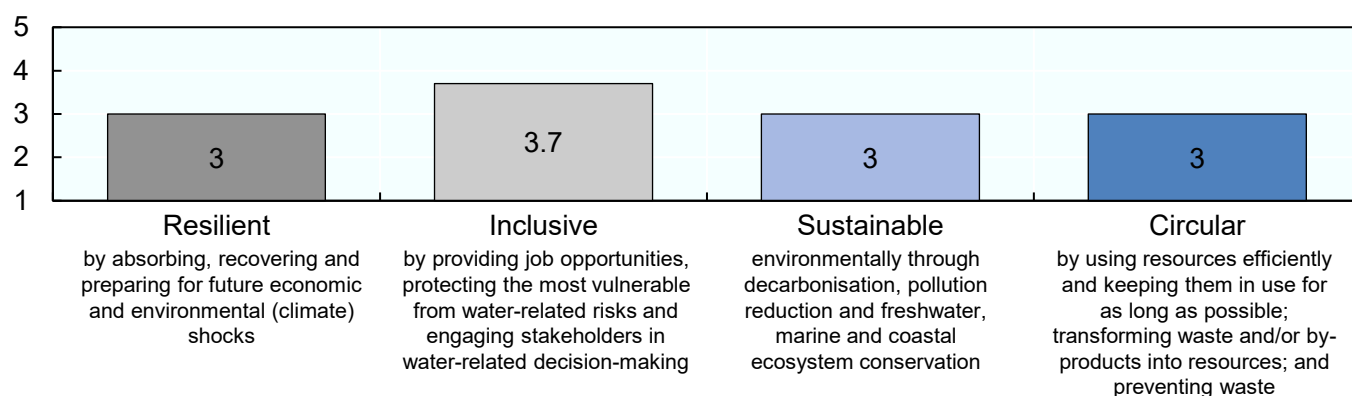
Dedicated budget for the blue economy

#### Funding mechanisms

- Central government transfers of funds
- Local/regional funds

### THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY

(\*)



(\*) Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

### TOP CHALLENGES

- Technological challenges
- Unclear allocation of roles and responsibilities
- Lack of a clear and holistic strategy
- Lack of financial resources

### FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Set up a formal strategy
- Foster decarbonisation
- Promote material efficiency and circularity
- Enhance resilience to climate change
- Tackle pollution of water bodies
- Boost technology use and uptake
- Foster a science-policy dialogue
- Preserve local culture and traditions linked to aquatic ecosystems
- Foster collaboration between blue economy sectors and others
- Improve the regulatory environment
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Protect the most vulnerable from negative impacts
- Channel public and private funds towards the blue economy
- Improve data collection on the blue economy