

1. INTRODUCTION

The **Atlas of the Macaronesia** purpose is to afford users an information platform with maps, statistical data, and other complementary information that encourages users to learn about maritime scenarios, to view them and form opinions about them.

The progressive “maritimisation” of both the economy and geopolitics have geographical and political consequences of great and undoubted interest, as major geopolitical scenarios are being created in areas previously regarded as having only minor importance, whereas other more traditional and well-known areas are undergoing constant change and adjustment.

Being the object of the document to carry out a planning exercise for a specific maritime space (Macaronesia), knowing the territorial dimension of the political-jurisdictional, administrative and socio-economic aspects that shape the occupation and use of this medium constitutes the main objective of the atlas. It should also be emphasized that the atlas does not present the results of such a planning exercise, but must be understood as a support to improve knowledge of the space that is intended to be managed.

This is important for public administrations and authorities, which can create the scenarios as a mean and procedure for the recognition, definition and delimitation of geographical areas considered relevant to the EU's interests and where situations of conflict can occur that demand a participation of the European or State institutions.