

STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE
Towards concrete 'blue' actions in the western Mediterranean
Monday 03rd of December 2018

Hotel El Aurassi

2, Boulevard Frantz Fanon, Alger Centre, Algeria

DRAFT PROGRAMME (V.1)

8:45-09:30 Registration

Plenary session (*Working languages: EN - FR - AR*)

09:30-10:00 **Opening remarks by:**

HE Mr. Abdelkader Bouazghi, Minister of Agriculture, Rural development and Fisheries, Algeria

HE Mr. John O'Rourke, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Algeria

HE Mr. Ali Mokrani, Director of the cooperation with the European Union and European Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria

- Moderator: Mr. Taha Hammouche, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Algeria (WestMED Co-Presidency)

10:15-12:00 **Paving the way for concrete action in the western Mediterranean**

- Moderator: Mr. Patrick Augier, deputy Secretary General for the Sea, France (WestMED Co-Presidency)

The WestMED Roadmap, by Mr. Taha Hammouche, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Algeria (WestMED Co-Presidency)



Catching opportunities:

- The Blue Economy Call 2018
by Ms Anja Detant, Maritime and Fisheries Unit, EU Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises, European Commission
- The External Investment Platform
by XXXXX, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, European Commission
- The BLUEMED Initiative
by Andrea Barbanti, CNR-ISMAR
- INTERREG programmes' calls
by Ms Mercedes Acitores, INTERACT
- INTERREG MED strategic approach to enhance governance in the Mediterranean: PANORAMED and Axis 4 strategic projects
by Mr Michele Colavito, Senior Expert, Agency for Territorial Cohesion, Partner of PANORAMED

Roundtable:

- Mr Christos Economou, Head of Unit for Sea basin strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- Mr Miguel García-Herraiz, Deputy Secretariat General, Union for the Mediterranean
- Mr Aomar Bourhim, WestMED National Coordinator for Morocco, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Mr Nicola Favia, Head of Office, Department for Cohesion Policy, Presidency of Italian Council of Ministers, WestMED National Coordinator for Italy (TBC)
- Mr xxxx, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (TBC)
- Mr. Taha Hammouche, Directorate General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Algeria (WestMED Co-Presidency)
- Mr Ruben Eiras, Director General of Maritime Policy, Ministry of the Sea, WestMED National Coordinator for Portugal

Q&A from the public

12:00-13:30 Lunch

Parallel sessions – Project Development Labs

(Working languages: EN and/or FR, without interpretation)

The project development Labs are moderated workshops involving selected practitioners across the western Mediterranean (and beyond) with the purpose of creating strong partnerships and develop strategic projects ideas in relevant areas for the WestMED Initiative. Participants are invited to opt for one Lab at the online registration. Direct contact with them will be made by the Assistance Mechanism prior to the Conference, so to ensure a well-grounded participation and ensure strong match-making deals during the event. The Project Labs are composed of two sessions: through the initial 'project pitching' session project ideas are discussed, screened and fine-tuned, while the 'project planning' session allows to define common follow-up actions to ensure the submission of relevant project proposal under the best suited EU financing streams. During the final plenary session, rapporteurs or project promoters or moderators will present the project ideas that have been identified as priorities among participants in the Labs and sketch the actions foreseen.

13:30-15:00 Project Pitching Session

- Prior to the event: each rapporteur contacts the participants subscribed to each 'lab' to collect the project ideas and prepare a summary to be distributed to the Lab's participants.
- Moderators start the roundtable by presenting an overview of the proposed projects: Title, Description, WestMED priority, Leader, Partners requested, Possible Funding Mechanism(s)
- Participants raise questions on the project (if needed) to be responded by each project leader
- As a result of the discussion the project ideas may be adapted, expanded and/or further developed if necessary
- Moderators then ask participants to 'vote' for each project, for example by applying a 'yellow' (mild interest) or 'green' (strong interest) button to be applied on a chart already prepared by each rapporteur
- Moderators then score the projects based on the votes and the timeline of submission for the relevant funds

NB: When a lab is focusing only on a specific project (e.g. one single proposal or a pre-identified group of interested partners), the above pitching session can be skipped and the participants can already start a project planning session.

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:30 Project Planning Session

- ‘Next steps’ for the projects preparation to the relevant funds identified are discussed – one by one, based on the result of the scoring
- Each project responsible briefly highlights the main steps foreseen – based on exchanges with moderators during the coffee break
- Moderators coordinate the exchange on roles and timelines for each project with other interested partners
- Rapporteur supports the drafting of an overall work-plan and a “resume” slide for the project
- Ideally a LinkedIn group is created for the follow-up of each project – or other tools to be agreed

Lab 1: Maritime Cluster Development and Innovation to support Blue Economy

Maritime clusters are key to creating innovation, jobs and growth. They play a key role in generating the critical mass for economic activities currently not appealing to private investors, notably by developing new avenues for north-south cooperation and between ‘traditional’ and ‘emerging’ activities, and by identifying and building innovative value chains across the region. To do so as well boosting the exchange of sectoral data and information is essential to support private and public decision makers in investments. Specific sectors for further exploration and exploitation can be targeted depending on the priorities and interest of respective partners, including biotechnologies, sustainable energy and multi-use platforms.

Project ideas to be discussed in this “lab” may include:

- Joint actions if fostering common blue-biotechnology clusters (Interreg Med or H2020 Innosup)
- Demonstration activities to boost the uptake of innovative technologies (Interreg Med)
- Expanding to the southern shore the successful experience in accelerating technological transfer for smart, green and safe mobility – Sea Future Forum, Neptune Accelerator (H2020 Innosup call 2019)
- Promotion of cooperation amongst maritime logistic clusters (EMFF Blue Lab)
- Setting the framework for a common monitoring observatory for the Blue Economy (Interreg Med – ENI South)

Moderator: Ana Brito e Melo, Executive Director, WavEC, Portugal (tbc)

Rapporteur: Frédéric Herpers or Leonardo Manzari (Assistance Mechanism)

Lab 2: Blue Tourism, Biodiversity and Marine Habitat Conservation

Pollution at sea, water, soils and air, are important vectors of marine habitat degradation and biodiversity loss, modifying ecosystem functions and consequently leading to the decline of the region's fauna and flora. Such challenges are also exacerbated by a growing negative impact of climate change on coastal regions. Implementation of innovative and sustainable consumption and production models and practices is essential for addressing such issues while ensuring new jobs and business opportunities. This is particularly the case for innovative and sustainable blue tourism – including coastal and maritime tourism and sustainable exploitation of cultural and natural heritage.

Project ideas to be discussed in this lab may include:

- Use strategic territorial planning as a tool for blue tourism destinations (sharing successful experiences and practices amongst the northern and southern shores – the Med-Coast Project and ENI South)
- Bridge tourism innovation and climate adaptation to boost competitiveness and sustainability (opportunities for project investments – Interreg MED and the Panoramed project)
- Sustainable touristic routes and Marine Protected Areas: product/service innovation (capitalisation on an array of existing projects through project ideas for the EMFF Blue Labs – marinas and boat design)
- Promoting skills and competencies: planning, adaptation, innovation management (related to Lab 4)

Moderator: Patrick Baraona or Christophe Avellan (Pole Mer Med France)

Rapporteur: Matteo Bocci (Assistance Mechanism)

Lab 3: Sustainable Fisheries and Coastal Community Development

The fisheries production of the western Mediterranean region accounts for more than half of the whole Mediterranean, with extreme diversity of exploited species and fishing techniques. There is no doubt that Mediterranean stocks are in peril and that their exploitation needs to be brought to sustainable levels before they are driven outside safe biological limits. Specific opportunities and threats must be assessed and addressed through the identification of joint actions and intervention techniques. Best practices for marketing fisheries products can be identified and circulated, while knowledge and resources can be provided to increase the added value of fisheries products and diversify economic activities in coastal communities

Project ideas to be discussed in this lab may include:

- Innovative approaches to strengthen the cooperation between industry and education in order to bridge the gap between skills 'offer and demand (EMFF Blue Careers).
- Foster awareness of local fishing species and dialogue/cooperation amongst fishermen/women, primary schools and local restoration (primary school classes by local fisheries – EMFF Blue Careers; EMFF Blue Economy Innovation; ESF)

- Gender empowerment and North/South exchanges of successful practices (ENI South)
- Encouraging development, poverty reduction and territorial and social cohesion through fisheries (ENI South)
- Added value for local sustainable fisheries (EMFF Blue Economy Innovation)
- Eco-innovative and resource- efficient solutions, new business models (H2020 Innosup call 2019)
- Biodiversity Protection and MPAs for sustainable fisheries (synergies with Lab 2; Interreg Med Axis 3- Biodiversity Protection)

Moderator: M. Ferroukhi Si Ahmed (Ancien Ministre algérien, de l'agriculture et de la pêche)

Rapporteur: Marta Pascual (Spanish National Hub)

Lab 4: Blue Skills Development

A vibrant Blue Economy requires to promote and facilitate skills circulation between the countries of the region, through training, awareness-raising and research activities aimed at society. Actions discussed aim at fostering the development of innovative maritime skills through a range of strategic actions to match demand and supply. They will also promote advanced training on sustainable blue growth, and incentives for networking and exchanges between maritime institutes and academies at regional and national level. It is also essential to raise awareness on a range of maritime professions and make them more attractive to young people, and to increase cooperation between maritime education institutes and industry.

Project ideas to be discussed in this lab may include:

- Blue Skill Cluster building on a number of successful sectoral/local practices and in cooperation with local Chambers of Commerce – possibly expanded to relevant actors in the East Med as well? (EMFF Blue Careers project)
- Building on inputs from other Labs specially from Labs 2 and 3.

Moderator: Zacharias Siokouros (MARINEM)/ Samir Grimes (Algerian National Hub)

Rapporteur: Elodie Nunes (CRPM)

Lab 5: Maritime Safety and Response to Marine Pollution

Ensuring both safety of activities at sea and response to marine pollution is an essential prerequisite for the sustainable development of a range of relevant Blue Economy activities, as well as for the wellbeing and stability of the region. The dialogue aims at boosting concrete actions to: i) improve transport systems for smart, greener and safer mobility, ii) address major marine risks (marine submersion, oil spills etc.), marine pollution prevention and control; iii) develop effective maritime surveillance capacities in the region.

Project ideas to be discussed in this lab may include:

- Development/foster maritime highways in the South (ENI CBC South)
- Demonstration and pilot on maritime balloons to provide low costs solutions for Maritime surveillance (EMFF Blue Economy Innovation – as a follow up of H2020 project)
- Stronger governance in maritime surveillance, taking into account the proposals from PANORAMED and the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MCGFF) for enhanced collective maritime safety and security across the Mediterranean (Interreg Med, PANORAMED Project)
- Collaboration with REMPEC will be fostered in pollution control and response and enforcement of HNS protocols (West MOPoCo project)

Moderator: Patrick Augier, Deputy Secretary General for the Sea, France

Rapporteur: Leonardo Manzari or Frédérick Herpers (Assistance Mechanism)

Lab 6: Eco-friendly Aquaculture

The promotion of innovative, sustainable and eco-friendly aquaculture practices is essential to ensure economic and job returns which are not impacting local ecosystems. To achieve this goal, it is essential to promote the diversification of aquaculture towards more value-added niches and the use of multitrophic marine farming systems which could be efficient and less intrusive for the ecosystem. The discussion will support the development of optimal strategies, technologies and practices (e.g. pilot farms, certification, and technological innovation and impact measurement).

Project ideas to be discussed in this lab may include:

- Aquaculture cluster/platform (EMFF Blue Lab; Interreg Med Axis 1- Innovation; synergies with Lab 1)
- Promote the diversification of aquaculture and the use of integrated multitrophic marine farming systems (EMFF Blue Economy Innovation; H2020 Innosup call 2019; H2020 RIA)
- Develop common technical standards across countries (H2020 Blue Growth 2018-2020- IA; EMFF Blue Lab; Interreg Med Axis 1- Innovation)

- Digitising and transforming Sustainable European Aquaculture industry and services 4.0 (H2020 Blue Growth 2018-2020- IA)
- Capacity building for promoting sustainable and certified aquaculture farms (EMFF Blue Careers)

Moderator: Mohammed Idrissi (INRH – MO NH) or Aomar Bourhim, Administrator for Maritime Affairs, Strategy and Cooperation Department, Ministry for Maritime Fisheries, Morocco.

Rapporteur: Alessio Bonaldo, University of Bologna.

Lab 7: Marine Litter and Circular Economy

Marine litter has become a major pollution problem affecting all of the world seas. Increased levels of marine litter originate largely from land-based activities and results in negative impacts on human health, marine wildlife, marine ecological systems, beach quality, and navigational safety, as well as fishing and maritime industries. A number of actions have been implemented to address this issue across the Mediterranean, while stronger focus could be put on the adoption of the “circular economy” concept in relation to the Blue Economy.

Project ideas to be discussed in this lab may include:

- Plastic management and recycling (*Interreg*)
- Marine litter (EMFF)
- Expansion of Plastic Busters to the South Med (*Interreg*, other donors)

Moderator: Miguel García-Herráiz, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

Rapporteur: Thanos Smanis (Assistance Mechanism)

Lab 8: Training on Fisheries Control (to be developed)

Plenary session: The way forward (Working languages: EN - FR - AR)

16:30-17:45 Chaired by:

- Mr. Taha Hammouche, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Algeria (WestMED Co-Presidency)
- Mr Patrick Augier, deputy Secretary General for the Sea, France (WestMED Co-Presidency)

Reporting from Project Development Labs (*Rapporteurs from the 8 Labs*)
5 minutes each: 40 minutes in total.

Final remarks by

- Mr Christos Economou, Head of Unit for Sea basin strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- Mr Michael Köhler, Director for Southern Mediterranean, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, European Commission
- Mr. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean
- Mr. Vincent Bouvier, Secretary General for the Sea, France

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