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MARITIME COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TWO YEARS ON....

January 1, 2020

WESTMED
blue economy initiative

Two years after its inception, the initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean (WestMED in short) has generated 15 innovative projects worth about 24 million euro.

Grouping ten Western Mediterranean countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Spain, Portugal and Tunisia), the WestMED initiative has been building bridges between Southern Europe and North Africa and strengthening relations between the region's countries.

Bound by good governance principles, the partners have been exploring opportunities to generate blue growth and blue job opportunities and have been initiating a number of new sustainable concepts for the sub-region.

For the future, the initiative promises even closer cooperation in an effort to raise the Mediterranean people's standard of living while protecting the Mediterranean Sea from pollutants and unregulated human activities.



For more information visit: <https://www.westmed-initiative.eu>

TIMELINE OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

2017

La Valetta, 19 April 2017

Under the Maltese Presidency of the European Council, the European Commission adopts the Communication on the “Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean”.

Naples, 30 November 2017

At an informal ministerial meeting, the ten Western Mediterranean countries approve system of governance and management of the WestMED initiative. Over the course of the following year, the Steering Committee starts carrying out regular meetings, in partnership with the European Commission and the UfM Secretariat, with a view to carrying out the projects identified under the WestMED initiative and ensuring their effectiveness.

Brussels, 1 October 2018

The European Commission establishes a WestMED Assistance Mechanism to support the initiative’s implementation and the work of its Steering Committee.

2018

Brussels, 26 June 2017

The Council Conclusions on Blue Growth endorse the contents of the Communication, welcome its Framework for Action and invite the countries involved, the European Commission, and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) to take the Initiative forward in coherence, complementarity and coordination with all the other existing initiatives taking place in the region.

Algiers, 3–4 December 2018

At the stakeholder conference “Towards concrete Blue Actions in the western Mediterranean”, 8 parallel sessions facilitate the exchange of project ideas and promote concrete project development among maritime stakeholders in the region. On the following day, the second Ministerial meeting on the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean adopts the roadmap for the WestMED Initiative and identifies six priorities for action by the participating countries:

- maritime safety and the fight against marine pollution,
- maritime cluster development,
- skills development and circulation,
- sustainable consumption and production,
- biodiversity and marine habitat conservation and restoration,
- development of coastal communities and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

2019

Palermo, 14 May 2019











WestMED Hackathons: working sessions involving selected practitioners across the Western Mediterranean and beyond that aim at taking existing project ideas to the next level, strengthening project partnerships and developing the project concepts in line with the available funding opportunities for the region.
















WestMED region

9 National Hubs, WestMED Roadshows, Project Support

Series of meetings taking place in all countries involved to promote the implementation of the Initiative’s Framework for Action, increase visibility, engage with stakeholders and facilitate future projects around the six priorities included in the Roadmap.

GOALS, PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS SO FAR

	Framework for Action (Ffa) 10 Priorities	Roadmap for Action 6 Priorities	Priority strengthening WestMED Supported Projects
GOAL 1 A safer and more secure maritime space	1.1 Coastguard functions cooperation (training, capacity building, search and rescue) 1.2 Maritime safety and response to marine pollution rescue	Maritime safety and the fight against marine pollution	 Mediterranean Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation  FIUFRA
GOAL 2 A smart and resilient blue economy	2.1 Strategic research and innovation 2.2 Maritime clusters development 2.3 Skills development and circulation 2.4 Sustainable consumption and production (maritime transport, ports, maritime and coastal tourism, marine aquaculture)	Maritime cluster development Skills development and circulation Sustainable consumption and production	  DEEP BLUE
GOAL 3 A better governance of the sea	3.1 Spatial Planning and coastal management 3.2 Marine and maritime knowledge 3.3 Biodiversity and marine habitat conservation 3.4 Sustainable fisheries and coastal community development	Biodiversity and marine habitat conservation and restoration Development of coastal communities and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture	    Blue RoSES DestiMED Plus NewTechAqua
Projects covering all priorities (1-6):  			

Project		Description	Topic	Countries	Funding Source	Total Project Costs
WestMoPoCo		Preparedness for chemical spills response	Emergency response	FR DZ IT MT MA, TN UK FI	ECHO	858.000
Dive Safe		Integrated system for scientific and environmental underwater surveys, with advanced health & safety features	Cultural Heritage	IT MT TR GR	EMFF	1.430.000
FIUFRA		Training for coastguard by EFCA	Coast guard training	MA, MR, DZ, TN, LY	EMFF	150.000
CMES WestMed		CMES-WestMed will create a shared methodology for developing training programmes for seafarers and implement three pilot training courses, including a teachers' mobility programme.	Cluster	IT FR TN	EMFF	624.000
Deep Blue		DEEP BLUE will promote collaboration between marine and maritime education, research, and training centres to strengthen relevant skills and increase capacity building for blue career development.	Training	ES IT FR TN	EMFF	594.000
Afrimed		Algal Forest Restoration In the MEDiterranean Sea	Ecosystem Restoration	IT FR ES GR TN MA AL	EMFF	1.860.000
ODYSSEA		Operate and demonstrate an interoperable and cost-effective platform that fully integrates networks of observing and forecasting systems across the Mediterranean basin, addressing both the open sea and the coastal zone	R&I and marine knowledge	MA DZ IT FR TN ES EG PT, IL, UK, DE, NL, TK, GR	H2020	4.283.000
Ensamble		ENSAMBLE will promote twinning activities among local coastal communities, and other relevant stakeholders, for the sustainable development of the fishing sector.	CLLD cooperation	IT FR TN	EMFF	478.000
SWITCH-MED Blue Economy strand		Sustainable SME development on aquaculture and fisheries, by UNIDO	Aquaculture and fisheries	MA, TN	ENI	1.000.000
Easy feed		EASY FEED will validate the use of an innovative aquaculture organic feed formula	Fisheries	ES, PT	EMFF	710.000
Blue RoSES		Developing innovative services that seek to adapt marinas and leisure boat design to changing customer demand. By integrating robotics and IoT, these new services will result in creating job opportunities and new business models. Customers will be enabled to visit underwater sites by piloting a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) from a leisure boat, ground control room or web app.	Tourism	IT, ES, GR, NO, MA, TN, DZ, MR	EMFF	900.000
DestiMED Plus		DestimeMED Plus aims to promote integrated planning on coastal tourism, where regional policymakers apply holistic policies that link tourism with conservation by putting in practice a concrete ICZM approach for ecotourism products in Med Protected Areas.	Tourism	IT, ES, FR, HR, EL, UK, AL	INTERREG MED	3.300.000
NewTechAqua		Expanding and diversifying European and Mediterranean aquaculture production of fin-fish, molluscs and micro-algae by developing and validating technologically-advanced, resilient and sustainable applications. A substantial involvement of the industry is essential for the project.	Aquaculture	IT, ES, GR, NO, MA, TN, DZ, MR	H2020	6.000.000
MSPglobal IOC-UNESCO		Evaluate the implementation of local, national and regional policies that affect the coastal and marine and provide political guidance on MSP	MSP	MA DZ MT IT FR TN ES	EMFF	875.000
Assistance Mechanism		Support WestMED Implementation	Support	MA DZ MT IT FR TN ES LY MR PT	EMFF	1.400.000
Total						24.462.000