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

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**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 contributed to the generation of 15 innovative projects worth about 30 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, 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.

2018

**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.

**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 10 Priorities	Roadmap for Action 6 Priorities	Priority strengthening WestMED Supported Projects
<b>GOAL 1</b> 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	 
<b>GOAL 2</b> A smart and resilient blue economy	2.1 Strategic research and innovation		
	2.2 Maritime clusters development	Maritime cluster development	
	2.3 Skills development and circulation	Skills development and circulation	
	2.4 Sustainable consumption and production (maritime transport, ports, maritime and coastal tourism, marine aquaculture)	Sustainable consumption and production	
<b>GOAL 3</b> 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	Biodiversity and marine habitat conservation and restoration	
	3.4 Sustainable fisheries and coastal community development	Development of coastal communities and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture	      
<b>Projects covering all priorities (1-6):</b>			 

Project	Description	Topic	Countries	Funding Source	Total Project Costs
WestMoPoCo	 Preparedness for chemical spills response.	Emergency response	FR DZ IT MT MA ES TN MC	ECHO	868.000
Dive Safe	 Integrated system for scientific and environmental underwater surveys, with advanced health & safety features.	Cultural Heritage	IT MT TR GR IL	EMFF	1.428.000
FIUFRA	 Training for coastguard by EFCA.	Coast guard training	MA MR DZ TN LY ES FR PT MT IT	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 TN	EMFF	595.000
Afrimed	 Algal Forest Restoration In the MEDiterranean Sea.	Ecosystem Restoration	IT FR ES GR TN UK MA AL	EMFF	1.858.000
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 TR GR	H2020	8.399.000
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	448.000
SwitchMed Blue Economy strand	 Sustainable SME development on aquaculture and fisheries, by UNIDO.	Aquaculture and fisheries	MA TN IL DZ EG PS JO LB	ENI	1.000.000
Easy feed	 EASY FEED will validate the use of an innovative aquaculture organic feed formula.	Fisheries	ES PT	EMFF	675.000
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 PT	EMFF	1.043.000
DestiMED Plus	 DestiMED 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 GR AL TN MA US	INTERREG MED	3.076.000
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 HR UK FR BE CY	H2020	6.724.000
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 LY MR PT	EMFF	1.750.000
Assistance Mechanism	 Support WestMED Implementation	Support	MA DZ MT IT FR TN ES LY MR PT	EMFF	1.400.000
<b>Total</b>					<b>30.038.000</b>