

WEBINAR ON AQUACULTURE

STRENGTHENING TIES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH SOUTHERN PARTNERS

The WestMED Assistance Mechanism is promoting a webinar on ways to support knowledge and technology transfer towards southern Mediterranean countries in the area of innovative and sustainable (small-scale) aquaculture. The idea behind it is to support greater uptake in the south of existing projects and practices, and discuss ways forward to use EU bilateral cooperation funding to support further developments with each (and across) southern countries.

Objectives of the initiative

The objective of the webinar is to investigate some pivotal areas for further project development and support the exchange between existing projects and funding opportunities in southern countries across the (western) Mediterranean. The specific objectives will be to identify way forwards so that existing streams funding in bilateral cooperation between the EU and southern countries could be mobilised to foster innovative and sustainable (small-scale) aquaculture.

Overall structure and dynamics foreseen

The webinar will be centred on the showcase of some relevant project initiatives, across different areas of challenges and opportunities for the sector – towards a fully sustainable and innovative aquaculture in the western Mediterranean. Priority will be given to the sectoral project directly supported by the WMAM but also other valuable regional projects – identified also in partnership with Plan Bleu, and Programmes (e.g. INTERREG MED, ENI CBC).

The presentations will suggest potentials for follow-up/capitalisation of such projects, so to address emerging/enduring challenges/opportunities for a fully sustainable and resilient aquaculture sector across the Mediterranean. An initial Draft Agenda is attached to this document – note that we still may add/revise some projects after exchanges with BlueMed.

Also note that we are also exploring the possibility to involve INTERREG MED and ENI CBC MED in the co-organisation, as well as Plan Bleu, GFCM and BlueMED.

DRAFT AGENDA

11 December 2020

Webinar organised by the WestMed Initiative

Building a fully sustainable Aquaculture Sector Strengthening ties with southern partners

13:30 – 14:00 **Opening of the Event**

Time allocated for participants to connect. Event starts at 14:00 sharp.

14:00 – 14:05 **Welcome and Introduction**

WestMED National Hubs (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), Chairs of the webinar

14:05 – 14:15 **Boosting sustainable Aquaculture in the southern Mediterranean**

Introductory remarks by Plan Bleu/GFCM/DG MARE (tbc)

Building a fully sustainable Aquaculture Sector : Learning from existing projects

14:15 – 14:45 **Diversification of products and new technologies**

- NewTechAqua¹: New technology Tools and Strategies for a Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative European Aquaculture. Andrea Bonaldo, Bologna University (Italy)
- BYTHOS²: Biotechnologies for Human Health and Blue Growth. AquaBioTech SME (Malta).
- HOLOSUD³: creation of a new halio-food sector in Occitania based on holoturia aquaculture, Groupe BARBA/Ifremer (France). *To be confirmed.*

14:45 – 15:00 *Q&A Session (with southern panelists and audience)*

15:00 – 15:30 **Small-scale production, circularity and safety**

- Aqua Food Living Lab⁴: Transborder (virtual) Living Lab for small-scale sustainable and innovative aquatic food (Italy)
- PERFORMFISH⁵: Integrating Innovative Approaches for Competitive and Sustainable Performance across Mediterranean Aquaculture Value Chain Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain). *To be confirmed.*
- SMILE⁶: Microalgae extract in aquaculture addressing consumers' needs for natural and safe ingredients, MICROPHYT (France). *To be confirmed.*

15:30 – 15:45 *Q&A Session (with southern panelists and audience)*

15:45 – 16:15 **Role of clusters in fostering sustainable innovation**

- ACUIPLUS⁷: Competitiveness and sustainability of the aquaculture value chain (Spain)

¹ <https://www.newtechaqua.eu>

² <http://www.bythos.eu/>

³ <https://www.polemermediterranee.com/Activites-Projets/Ressources-biologiques-marines/HOLOSUD>

⁴ Submitted under UfM Employment Grant Scheme

⁵ <http://performfish.eu/>

⁶ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/726799/it>

⁷ <https://www.acuiplus.org/en/el-cluster/#cluster>

16:15 – 16:30

16:30 – 16:45

- VALORMAR⁸: Technological development and development of skills in aquaculture companies (Portugal) *To be confirmed.*

Q&A Session (with southern panelists and audience)

BREAK

CAPITALISING THE EXPERIENCES IN THE SOUTH:

Opportunities ahead for southern partners

16:45– 17:15

‘Tour de table’ and discussion on southern opportunities

Southern stakeholders commenting the projects proposed, WestMED NHs to moderate the exchange through a set of pre-defined questions:

- What is the relevance of the presented practices for the southern Med?
- Do you foresee specific capitalisation projects to be generated?
- What other areas are critical for project development in the south Med?

6 participants selected in exchange with WestMED NHs as a mix of:

- Southern Experts/Research centres
- Southern Policymakers/Authorities
- EU Delegations/Bilateral Financing Programmes in the South

Project partners may interact in the exchange – moderated by WestMED.

In addition, some relevant members of EU funding can be invited, so to comment on the opportunities provided by future funding opportunities.

(INTERREG MED, ENI CBC MED, WWF Mediterranean, North Africa)

17:15 – 17:30

Wrap-up and Conclusion: consideration for the support of WestMED AM

Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia NHs

⁸ <https://valormar.pt/en/project/>