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Editorial

Welcome to the WestMED Initiative!

On behalf of the whole WestMED Assistance Mechanism Team, I am really happy to announce the publication of our inaugural issue of the WestMED Maritime Initiative Newsletter.

Time goes by rather quickly, and the Assistance Mechanism has been running for a year now, supporting public and private organisations and their members, research institutions and universities, institutional and private investors, as well as promoters and other stakeholders that wish to be involved in the development of strategic initiatives in the western Mediterranean sub-sea basin.

We have also been actively supporting the work of the WestMED Steering Committee, which has already met on eight occasions since the beginning of the Initiative, on both the north and south shores of the sub-sea-basin. You can find more information on the last meeting in the news section below.

The Assistance Mechanism is composed of a central project team, and a regional/national support team of professionals on site: the National Hubs. Our colleagues based in the participating countries are working at full swing, and are very much looking forward to hearing your ideas on potential and future blue economy projects or initiatives, so we can help you to take them to the next level or find suitable funding. The “Roadshows” section of this newsletter is dedicated to their latest stories.

If you wish to get in touch with us, obtain information on our activities (including the two stakeholder conferences organised in Algiers and Palermo so far), keep up to date with upcoming events that might interest you, or learn about initiatives and projects relevant for your ‘blue’ field of activity, please have a look at our website at westmed-initiative.eu

That’s all from my side for now, I wish you happy reading, and please do get in touch with us or our National Hubs and the rest of the team – we are eager to hear from you!

Javier Fernandez

Project Leader

News

The WestMED Initiative – Your portal to blue growth opportunities in the western Mediterranean

Don't know what the WestMED Initiative is about? Check out our video.

[More](#)

The WestMED Steering Committee met in Rabat

The 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Initiative for the Sustainable Development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean (WMSC) took place in Rabat, Morocco on the 23 October 2019, reflecting on the Franco-Moroccan co-presidency and introducing the future Italian-Moroccan co-presidency.

[More](#)

10 projects successfully submitted

In less than a year, the WestMED Assistance Mechanism has provided extensive assistance in drafting and submitting project proposals to different fundings programmes to stakeholder. Here is what we do and what have done so far.

[More](#)

Roadshows

Opportunities of the Blue Economy presented in Catalonia

Last 10 October, together with the Spanish Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and the Regional Government of Catalonia, the WestMED National Hub Spain organised in Barcelona the second roadshow to discuss the Blue Economy in Catalonia. (in Spanish)

[More](#)

WestMED brings together Algerian blue economy stakeholders

A roadshow organised by the WestMED Algeria took place on the 8 November back-back to the Salon International de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture (SIPA 2019) in Oran. (in French)

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The National Hub meets with the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality

On 30 August, Stephanie Vella met with the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality to discuss the priorities of the WestMED initiative and how these priorities could possible feed into discussions on the next programming period.

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The WestMED Initiative at the Forum de la Mer 2019

The Tunisian National Hub joined the "Forum de la Mer" in Bizerte on the 21 September. He presented the WestMED Initiative, its objectives and roadmap to a crowd of decision and policy makers, mayors, and hundreds of stakeholders. (in French)

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Events

OuestMED | Atelier national OuestMED | 2 décembre | Sète

Le premier atelier national OuestMED France aura lieu le 2 décembre 2019 à Sète dans le cadre de la semaine de la Mer en Occitanie. Son thème principal sera « l'innovation dans le domaine clé de la protection et la restauration du milieu marin. »

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2019 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Info Day | 25 November | Brussels

New blue economy call will be presented in a series of presentations organised by EASME and the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission. The aim of the Info Day is to present funding opportunities under the 2019 “Blue Economy Window” call for proposals and to attract new applicants and potential beneficiaries.

[More](#)

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