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Editorial

To introduce this edition of the WestMED Newsletter, we decided to interview Marta Pascual, from the Spanish National Hub.

The Blue Economy in Spain has great potential for development in the next few years



Marta, tell us a bit about yourself and your background – how did you come to your current role?

“Before my current role with the WestMED Initiative, I participated in the [European Maritime Spatial Planning \(MSP\) Platform](#), and worked as Senior Associate Expert for the European Commission and Ecorys on matters related to MSP for Blue Growth and the Blue Economy. I hold a PhD in Maritime Spatial Planning, and am currently a Guest Researcher at the [Basque Centre for Climate Change](#) (BC3), where I’m working on the development of marine ecosystem service models with their semantic-modelling platform which uses artificial intelligence (ARIES). I have over 11 years experience in the application and implementation of various European environmental and maritime directives, as well as research experience in various lines of spatial analysis and coastal research applied to maritime policies.”

How is the Spanish National Hub working towards the Blue Economy in Spain?

“The main goal of the WestMED Assistance Mechanism is to set the scene of Blue Economy in Spain, make its work visible by Blue Economy agents in the country, and assist them in their project proposals to EU funding calls. With this in mind, the Spanish National Hub organised 5 ‘Roadshows’ in [Andalucía](#), [Catalonia](#), [Valencia](#), [Murcia](#) and the Balearic Islands. Roadshows are meetings between regional stakeholders, intended to promote their understanding of the experience, goals, and needs of Blue Economy Agents in Spain. As well as this, the Spanish National Hub will be organising the first Blue Economy National Event of the WestMED Initiative in June 2020.”

How do you think the Blue Economy will develop in Spain?

“The Blue Economy in Spain has great potential for development in the next few years. This is due to Spain’s experience and expertise on the subject – it is already incorporating the Blue Economy into its regional economic and development plans. As such, I believe that in this context, Spain is well positioned to contribute social, economic and environmental benefits to the

Western Mediterranean region, if the Blue Economy indeed develops in a sustainable manner. The WestMED Initiative can serve as an important regional initiative to promote sustainable growth in Spain, as well as in all Western Mediterranean Countries.”

Registrations to WestMED Hackathons Barcelona are open!

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News

L’initiative OuestMED se déplace à Euromaritime 2020

L’équipe du hub national France a organisé un événement national le 05 février lors du salon Euromaritime à Marseille, en collaboration avec les Énergies de la Mer.

[More](#)

The Algeria National Hub joins the WestMED stand at Euromaritime

The Algeria National Hub presented the Blue Economy stakes and strategy for Algeria at the WestMED side event at the Euromaritime 2020.

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Accord du Ministre des pêches pour l’organisation de l’atelier national en début de l’année 2020

Lors d'une audience accordée au Responsable du Hub National, le Ministre des Pêches a donné son accord pour organiser l'atelier national sous son haut patronage et y inviter tous les ministres concernés (environnement, hydrocarbures et mines, équipement et transport, etc.).

[More](#)

Cogestion des pêcheries côtières et valorisation des produits halieutiques en Tunisie

Le hub national Tunisie a assisté le 30 janvier 2020 à un atelier sur la cogestion des pêcheries côtières et valorisation des produits halieutiques. Cet atelier est organisé par la Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture et l'Agence Internationale de Coopération Japonaise.

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Roadshows

Oportunidades de la Economía Azul en Murcia: el cuarto roadshow WestMED España

El pasado 30 de Enero de 2020, se celebró en Cartagena el evento 'Oportunidades de la Economía Azul en la Región de Murcia', cuarto roadshow que el Mecanismo de Asistencia de la Iniciativa WestMED ha organizado en España.

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Portugal National Hub gets regional stakeholders onboard

Fórum Oceano, the Portuguese National Hub, organised, in collaboration with the Regional Coordination and Development Commissions of Alentejo and Algarve, a series of meetings to bring together the regional stakeholders.

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Events

UfM Regional Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy | Barcelona | 10-11 March

The CoPresidency and Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) would like to invite you to attend to the 2nd UfM Regional Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy on 10th and 11th March 2020 in Barcelona (Spain). The Conference will take place at the Palau de Pedralbes.

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Rota do nautico | 12 de março | Lisboa

Mais uma vez, uma colaboração estreita entre a Fórum Oceano, o Turismo de Portugal e as Entidades Regionais de Turismo, a Rede das Estações Náuticas de Portugal estará presente na BTL – Bolsa de Turismo de Lisboa, no dia 12 de março.

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Conference on Blue Growth | 1-2 April 2020 | Chania

The Conference on Blue Growth offers the opportunity to debate the importance of a sustainable blue economy to deliver in the fields of the Blue Growth Pillar of the EUSAIR macro-regional Strategy.

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