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Editorial

Samir Grimes, Algerian National Hub, answered to our questions.

Algeria's National Blue Economy Strategy will serve as a roadmap over the next 10 years

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

Before my current role at the National Hub Algeria of the WestMED Initiative, I had the opportunity to intervene on various projects which aimed to increase the potential of the Blue Economy in the countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, as well as the development of a pilot plan for Integrated Management of Coastal Areas (GIZC) and Maritime Space Planning (PEM) in Algeria (IMP Med-EU - Regional policy dialogue mechanism on maritime policy and climate change).

In addition to this, I am currently part of the expert group that is developing the National Blue Economy Strategy (SNEB 2030), I teach Integrated Coastal Area Management at the National Higher School of Marine Science and Coastal Planning, I have over 25 years of teaching and research experience, and over 20 years in management in the context of the protection of maritime spaces. Since 2018, I have also been working as a trainer in the Mediterranean MedOpen Programme on the GIZC for PAPRAC (Barcelona Convention).

How is the Algerian National Hub working and contributing to the Blue Economy?

The main role of the National Hub is to give visibility to the WestMED Initiative and to anything related to the development of the Blue Economy (programs, projects, calls for projects, consortia, project ideas, workshops and conferences, etc.) in the Euro-Mediterranean area. As a National Hub, I connect the Initiative and the Algerian authorities on issues related to the blue economy and related topics (PMS, GIZC, etc.). The National Hub works closely with the National Coordinator of the WestMED initiative in Algeria, which is the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

The National Hub contributed to the preparation, organisation and reporting of 2 roadshows on the blue economy and 4 meetings of the Algerian National Committee for the Blue Economy. The National Hub also contributed to the organisation of idea labs (Algiers) and hackathons (Palermo), as well as an event dedicated to the Blue Economy organized by the French and Italian National Hubs.

What are the future outlook and challenges of the Blue Economy in Algeria?

The future of the Blue Economy in Algeria is guaranteed. It provides a real alternative to the country's dependence on hydrocarbon export revenues. Significant growth margins and "niches" can be identified in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and related activities, particularly in agri-food and fisheries and aquaculture product processing. Potential for sustainable seaside tourism, shipbuilding and repair, marine biotechnology and conservation of key marine habitats, as well as services, can also provide a solid foundation for the development of Algeria's Blue Economy.

Algeria's National Blue Economy Strategy, which is in its final phase (SNEB-2030), is a roadmap for the next ten years. This strategy identifies the

needs, axes, activities and priority actions to be implemented in order to build an integrated and sustainable maritime economy, which is beneficial for all, as well as the cross-border dimensions of the Blue Economy. The SNEB-2030 was inspired by the WestMED initiative, and the ideas and goals explored at the various multilevel events, stakeholders, ministers, and steering committees were involved.

News

Coronavirus: European Commission helps Member States support local fishing and aquaculture communities through EU and national funds

In response to the severe economic impact of the coronavirus crisis on the fishing and aquaculture sectors, DG MARE has published an information note to give guidance to EU Member States outlining existing tools and instruments to support their local communities.



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[More](#)

Portuguese stakeholders contribute to feed in the cooperation process in the western Mediterranean

The Portuguese National Hub promoted the WestMED Initiative National Event on the 27 February, in Lisbon during an event entitled “Journey for Interregional Cooperation between Atlantic and the Western Mediterranean”.

[More](#)

National Hub gathers Italian stakeholders in a LNG working group

A working group on Sustainable Transport and Alternative Fuels has met in March 2020 for the first time on the initiative of the Italian National Hub.

[More](#)

Le Hub national débat d'une stratégie de croissance bleue pour la Tunisie

Le webinar qui a eu lieu le 29 mars 2020 a été l'occasion pour le Hub national Tunisie d'évoquer les besoins d'une stratégie pour l'économie bleue.

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Publications

Maritime cooperation in the western Mediterranean two years on...

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

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Open calls

Check the open calls related to Blue Economy!

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