

8 June 2020

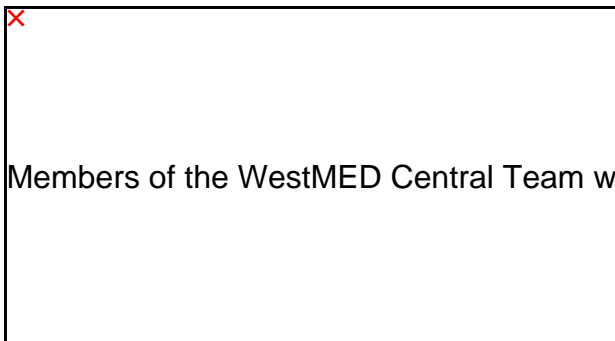
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## Editorial

Leonardo Manzari, Italian National Hub, answered to our questions.

### Editorial

## MSP and ICZM have become the “new frontier” for the Blue Economy in Italy



***Leonardo (third from left), tell us a bit about yourself and your background – how did you come to your current role?***

Since the very beginning of my professional path in the field of internationalization, economic co-operation, entrepreneurship, business development, I have been assisting clusters, consortia, entrepreneurial associations and networks, SMEs, large industrial companies such as Farm Mechanization Cluster of Emilia Romagna Region (CESMA), Industrial/Municipal Vehicles, Railway Technologies in Puglia, and Maritime Technologies in Liguria.

In the sector of Blue Economy, I am co-organizer since 2014 of SEAFUTURE, in co-operation with DLTM-Ligurian Cluster of Maritime Technologies-, Consorzio Tecnomar, Italian Navy and Chamber of Commerce of La Spezia. In 2018 I became a founding partner of Italian Blue Growth srl, now one of the 12 clusters included by the government, in the national strategy for development.

***How is the Italian National Hub working towards the Blue Economy in Italy?***

As Italian National Hub (NH), I work in strict co-operation with National Coordinators and WestMED co-Presidents for 2020-2021 and assist stakeholders in partnering with counterparts to submit funded project proposals.

Through thematic platforms, my goals are to find synergies and new opportunities and present credible and reliable Italian partners to subsea-basin counterparts, but also to establish a fruitful and informal dialogue with policy makers and EU, national, regional institutions. Following a similar approach, I suggested the creation of the first Technical Group on Sustainable Maritime Transport within the WestMED Assistance Mechanism.

The organisation and participation to networking events play a key role to reach these goals. Our National Event will take place online on the 25 and 26 June.

***How do you think the Blue Economy will develop in Italy?***

Italy and almost 8000 km coasts, including larger islands and smaller archipelagos. The Blue Economy represents one of the main directions for the development of the country and its local communities. Beside the need to identify new sustainable models for traditional activities like fishing, aquaculture, coastal tourism, shipbuilding and repair, MSP and ICZM have become the “new frontier” for the Blue Economy in Italy. That has an immediate impact on its pivotal role for Sustainable Transport between the Mediterranean Basin and continental Europe.

Introducing MSP and ICZM to local public administrations and private stakeholders means improving development plans, but also fostering compliant and virtuous behaviours of all actors, towards the integration among territories, marine spaces and coastal zones.

From the technological perspective, the development of Blue Economy in Italy will pass through the continuous osmosis of experiences, models, practices, technologies and systems with all competence environments (with clusters, as key players), who have the curiosity to verify their “blue” applications.

## News

### **WestMED : Towards a Maritime Innovation Technologies Platform**

The WestMED Initiative organized on the 16 April a Hackathon to discuss and assess the potential for a Mediterranean-wide Maritime Innovation Technologies Platform (Med-MIT) or similar actions and/or projects that could allow for greater cooperation between clusters, research/technological centres, institutions and sectorial actors.

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### **The ENI CBC MED Programme funds 22 new projects to drive cooperation forward across the Mediterranean**

The Joint Monitoring Committee, decision-making body of the ENI CBC Med Programme, has approved 22 projects under the call for strategic projects out of the 198 proposals submitted. The projects, worth €78.8 million, have the ambition to produce long-lasting and far-reaching effects, fostering significant change in key thematic fields through synergies with the main EU, national and regional policies in the Mediterranean region.

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### **Addressing the Covid-19 impact in Mediterranean MPAs**

The coronavirus outbreak is causing an unprecedented global health emergency and a global economic slowdown. Across the globe, MPA communities are sharing challenges and approaches on how to address the virus impact on MPA planning and management. The MedPAN network would like you to share your approaches, so that they can benefit others, and has thus prepared a short questionnaire.

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## **100 experts gathered by the UfM to contribute to the future of the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean**

More than 100 experts and representatives from international organisations participated in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) online consultation on the future of the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region. Taking into account the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, they provided more than 350 recommendations in key sectors such as governance, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, renewable energies, marine litter, blue jobs and safety and surveillance.

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## **Covid-19: European Commission approves €20 million Portuguese credit line scheme to support fishery and aquaculture sectors**

The European Commission has approved a Portuguese scheme to support the Portuguese fishery and aquaculture sector, through the provision of loans worth up to €20 million at subsidised interest rates to small and medium-sized enterprises struggling with the Covid-19 Pandemic effects.

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## **Calls**

### **The EMFF launches two calls: One dedicated to the Atlantic ports of tomorrow and one to boost Maritime Spatial Planning**

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## Events

### Innovative land- and sea-based transport for a greener Europe | 9 June | Online

This is a joint event for the Interreg Thematic networks of Sustainable Transport, Knowledge of the Seas and Climate change. Jointly we aim at seeing how Interreg interact and support EU Policies in these fields and how we can work across programmes and thematics. The joint event takes place on 9 June. The TO7 Sustainable transport network will meet online the day after, 10 June.

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## Publications

### Commission publishes first annual EU report on CO2 emissions from maritime transport

The European Commission has published the first annual report on CO2 emissions from maritime transport. The report analyses the CO2 emissions and energy efficiency information of all the ships over 5,000 gross tonnage, which performed maritime transport activities related to the European Economic Area (EEA) in 2018.

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