

2 December 2021



# WESTMED

blue economy initiative

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## News

### **Major knowledge transfer during the 3rd WestMED Stakeholders Conference invigorates sustainable blue growth in the western Mediterranean**

On November 9 2021, the 3rd WestMED Stakeholder Conference took place in Rome, Italy. Co-organised with the Italian ministry of Foreign affairs, this event attracted close to 300 registrations and featured 30 experts covering the latest policy, funding and sectoral developments.



#### **Five exemplary projects awarded**

For the first time, the WestMED Project Awards were handed out. Fifty-four highly interesting and valuable projects from both shores (North and South) entered the competition.

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**Sicomar Plus was awarded in the category 'Biodiversity,**

## Marine Habitat Conservation and Response to Marine Pollution

SICOMAR plus is a cross border cooperation project funded under the 2014-2020 France – Italy Maritime Programme. The project objectives are fully aligned with the scope of the present Category, addressing the challenge of maritime safety, with an interesting focus on the collisions with cetatians, and the quality of cross-border marine environment.



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## BiovecQ was awarded in the category 'Sustainable Consumption and Production'

BIOVecQ is led by a Tunisian organisation (INSTM) that promotes bilateral cooperation between Italian and Tunisian research centres on the topic of blue biotechnology, showing North-South cooperation. The project is highly relevant and is considered to have a substantial potential impact, especially in economically deprived areas.



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## Starfish 4.0 was awarded in the category 'Sustainable Fisheries, Aquaculture and Coastal Community Development'

This project focusses on small-scale fisheries (SSF) in three Mediterranean countries (France, Mauritania and Greece). It offers innovative solutions for the modernization and digitalization of the sector, which are considered to have a high impact potential due to their special focus on the end users, leading to high levels of impact and effectiveness.



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## BlueSkills was awarded in the category 'Skills Development and Circulation'

BlueSkills is a flagship project bringing together all WestMED countries (including Libya) and with a North-South balance. Its main goal is to promote blue jobs and responsible growth through capacity development and enhancement. The project provides an innovative approach rooting on filling the gap between demand and supply of labour in the Blue Economy

**BLUESKILLS**

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## Algeria Startup Challenge was also awarded in the category 'Skill Development and Circulation'

This is a highly relevant, innovative and impactful project aiming to support Algerian startups in the field of aquaculture, environmental protection, etc. The project has had very important national impact with over 185 participating projects and 24 supported startups, with a focus on youth.



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