



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Quarterly Flash News on Blue Economy

Issue N° 3, 19 July 2018



Welcome to the 3rd issue of the flash news on blue economy in the Mediterranean region!

You will find the most updated information related to the work of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and its partners to promote the blue economy in the Mediterranean region.

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Forthcoming events

1. *The 4th Meeting of the WestMed Steering Committee*
 2. *Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy and Blue Economy: workshops and seminars*
 3. *Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy and Blue Economy: new website*
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Latest News

1. The UfM Working Group on the Blue Economy is a technical group of representatives designated by UfM countries and co-chaired by the two UfM co-Presidencies, focusing on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy. The 4th Meeting of the **UfM Working Group on the Blue Economy** (Brussels, 26 April 2018) was the opportunity to discuss, among other things, the outcomes of the 1st UfM Stakeholder Conference on the Blue Economy (Naples, 29-30 November 2017) and the latest advancements in implementing the Ministerial Declaration on the Blue Economy at regional (e.g. WestMed and BLUEMED Initiative, the Virtual Knowledge Centre, etc.) and national level. As to the latter, "national overviews" will be prepared on voluntary basis to integrate and complement the "Review of the implementation of the Ministerial declaration on Blue Economy" made at regional level whose first draft was distributed as working document prior the meeting. For more information, [Alessandra Sensi \[alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org\]\(mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org\)](mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org)

2. The 2nd Meeting of the **WestMED Steering Committee** was held on 25 April 2018 in Brussels. The meeting discussed the actions proposed by the participating countries to agree upon a few shared priority areas for cooperation and, as a result, to identify some concrete project proposals at regional scale. The meeting was also the opportunity to discuss a project proposal by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, supported by the European Commission/EASME, related to maritime spatial planning in the Western Mediterranean. For more information, [Alessandra Sensi \[alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org\]\(mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org\)](mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org)

3. The 3rd Meeting of the **WestMED Steering Committee** was held on 28 June 2018 in Marseille. The meeting focused on the following items: i) possible use of, or synergies with, the Virtual Knowledge Center (VKC); ii) information from the European Commission on the 2021-2027 programming period for European funds; iii) the BLUEMED initiative and potential complementarities with the West MED initiative; iv) presentation of the consolidated table and discussions on common priorities - discussions on a medium and long term strategy; v) next Stakeholder Conference and Ministerial Conference. For more information, alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org

4. In 2017 and 2018, the project "Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy and Blue Economy" financed by the European Commission-DG NEAR and thematically steered by DG MARE, elaborated, with the support of international experts, a series of **national blue economy studies**, assessing the status of the blue economy in Algeria, Egypt Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The studies provide a comprehensive description of the blue economy in each of these countries, identify the national potential to further strengthen and develop their blue

economies and provide clear recommendations for future activities with respect to their specific situation. These blue economy studies, along with consultations with the national focal points for blue economy, formed the basis for Technical Assistance Plans prepared by the project. These TA plans will allow the countries to seek financing from various sources in order to develop their priority sectors/actions within the blue economy. For more information, Dr. Lothar Schillak teamleader.imp@gmail.com

5. The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission participates in three Interreg MED and one UfM labelled project, directly in line with its **Political Agenda on Sustainable Tourism** approved in February this year. CO-EVOLVE project already produced preliminary analyses as well as planning and sustainability tools. The methodology developed is now being tested in 7 pilot areas and is contributing to the UfM labelled project MEDCOAST4BG, which will extend it to the southern and eastern rims of the Mediterranean. These projects will meet in Barcelona on 29-31 October and organize specific trainings for local and regional authorities. MITOMED+ partners met last April in Malaga with relevant stakeholders to present its 2 main pilot actions - System of tourism data indicators and Green Beach model - and discuss their transfer to other Mediterranean touristic destinations. HERIT-DATA, focusing on the conservation of cultural heritage in coastal areas affected by mass tourism and aiming to develop, test and transfer related knowledge and solutions based on open data (Models, Strategy, data platform, applications, etc.), kicked off in Florence, Italy, on 15 May. For more information, Davide Strangis Davide.Strangis@crpm.org

6. The training on an '**Integrated Territorial Development (ITD) approach to the delivery of public services in the Mediterranean,**' organized by the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission last April 2017 in Casablanca (in the framework of the Strategic Partnership PLATFORMA-EC), focused on the transversality of ITD to public policies and on local and regional authorities of Morocco and Tunisia as principal beneficiaries. Relevant experiences to ITD linked to the Blue Growth were presented, among which: Bologna Charter, the projects CO-EVOLVE, MITOMED+, Med Coast 4 Blue Growth, CAPDEL, or Plan Littoral 21. The manual for the training included key information on methodologies for ITD (including Integrated Coastal Zone Management) as well as on the emerging strategies and initiatives in the Mediterranean (WestMED, EUSAIR, BLUEMED). The training proposed practical exercises based on multi-level governance role plays. One of the main activities aimed to improve understanding of the link between climate change and development as part of developing an integrated multilevel territorial strategy for maritime territories. This training is thought to be adapted and replicated over various Mediterranean territories. For more information, Elodie Nunes elodie.nunes@crpm.org

7. "There simply will be **no green without blue**. In other words, to meet the Paris targets and Sustainable Development Goals, we need to establish an economy that is blue in the same sense that the economy on land should be green," confirmed Jonathan Taylor,

Vice-President in charge of Climate Action and Environment at the European Investment Bank.¹ Owned by the 28 Member states, the EU Bank, is committed to do more to protect our oceans and support the blue economy. It's financing helps to reduce the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States to a changing climate, supports efforts to reduce marine pollution and encourages innovation essential for a sustainable blue economy. For more information, Alessandra Borrello a.borrello@eib.org

8. The overall objective of **Plastic Busters MPAs** UfM labelled project is to contribute to maintain biodiversity and preserve natural ecosystems in pelagic and coastal MPAs, by defining and implementing a harmonized approach against marine litter (ML). This integrated project entails actions that address the whole management cycle of ML, pressures and impacts and networking between and among pelagic and coastal MPAs located in Italy, France, Spain, Croatia, Albania and Greece. Plastic Busters MPAs is the first project at basin scale where EU and IPA countries join forces to tackle marine litter via a coordinated approach acting to: (I) diagnose the ML impacts on biodiversity in MPAs, including the identification of "ML hotspots", (II) define and test tailor-made surveillance, prevention and mitigation measures in MPAs, and (III) develop a common strategy for Interreg Med regions towards the conservation of biodiversity in Med MPAs. A joint governance plan will be defined through a participatory approach and the concretized commitment of Med MPAs (MoUs) to implement it, will result in an increased surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status. For more information, Alessandra Sensi alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org

9. The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) has launched the "**TransLogMED**" project at the first Mediterranean Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics, held on 8-9 May in Ismailia (Egypt), under the auspices of H.E. Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of Egypt and in the presence of H.E. Eng. Sherif Ismail, Prime Minister of Egypt, and in partnership with the Suez Canal Authority, the Egyptian Ministry of Transport and the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME). The "TransLogMED" regional project will contribute to fostering regional integration and to a more efficient Euro-Mediterranean transport and logistics sector by promoting sustainable transport connectivity chains, door-to-door logistics, intermodal solutions as well as enhancing the competencies of ports, logistics operators and transport administrations through training and networking programmes. For more information, Francesc Carbonell francesc.carbonell@ufmsecretariat.org

10. The Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development was awarded a MedPAN small grant to implement the project "Creating Bridges of

¹ <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2017/2017-312-no-green-without-blue-more-needed-to-tackle-ocean-acidification-and-to-support-the-blue-economy-eu-bank-vice-president-tells-cop23.htm>

Collaborations over the Adriatic Sea, while Adapting the Successful Experiences from Torre Guaceto MPA in Karaburun-Sazani MPA for Sustainable Fisheries Development". The project will be implemented from May 2018 till April 2019 by the Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in collaboration with Flag Pine and Consorzio di Gestione di Torre Guaceto. The general aim is to improve **the small-scale fisheries management** close to the Karaburun-Sazani MPA, under the guidance of researchers and experienced MPA managers from Torre Guaceto MPA. Among others, the project will organize capacity building activities on the sustainable management of MPAs and fisheries and on how to adapt and replicate the fisheries monitoring system used in Torre Guaceto MPA in the Karaburun-Sazani MPA context. For more information, Rigers Bakiu bakiurigers@gmail.com

11. The economic situation with the falling of oil price has accelerated Algeria's economic transition process and has identified **blue economy as a "springboard" for this transition**. The development of renewable energies, the emergence of a biotechnology pole based on marine capital and the reshaping of oceanographic scientific research should be included in this framework. The declaration made by Algeria of its exclusive economic zone, the establishment of a database on marine biodiversity and a hub on "big data" related to blue economy also confirm this choice. For more information, Samir Grimes samirgrimes@yahoo.fr

12. More than 130 participants gathered in Paris on 5 June 2018 on the occasion of the **40th anniversary of the Blue Plan**. Experts, decision makers, representatives of national, European and Mediterranean institutions and members of the civil society reviewed forty years of reflections and actions for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region. On this occasion, the Blue Plan announced the launch of MED 2050, a new foresight study in the horizon 2050, to mobilize decision-makers and stakeholders beyond geographical and institutional boundaries. The work, which will be conducted in the next four years, will build on dialogues, partnerships and shared visions concerning the paths to follow (approaches, investments, etc.) for a desirable future of the Mediterranean basin. The participants interested in this project are invited to register in future exchanges: <http://planbleu.org/fr/eform/submit/r-seau-de-prospective-prospective>. For more information, Jean-Pierre GIRAUD jpgiraud@planbleu.org

13. On 7-8 June 2018, the World Oceans Day hosted the first edition of the **Africa Blue Economy Forum (ABEF)**. Recognizing Blue Economy as a major source of wealth and prosperity for the continent, the forum brought together government officials as well as high-level experts, investors, businesses, policy leaders, international organizations, civil society, public institutions and other opinion leaders to highlight and debate on the wide range of opportunities emerging from Africa's aquatic and marine spaces. For more information, <https://www.abef2018.com/>

14. The **Vasco de Gama Summer School 2018** was organized by the University of Bari Aldo Moro, in collaboration with the CPMR and its Intermediterranean Commission. It was funded by the EU's Cohesion Action Plan funds, and managed by Apulia Region and Confindustria Taranto. The Summer School took place in Taranto (Italy) on 2-6 July and focused on "Safety: Navigation & Environment." The course, delivered in English, was open to 33 participants (bachelor's degree students, master's degree students, PhD students, Post-Doctoral researchers and undergraduates) interested in European and Mediterranean policies in the matter of multi-modal carriage, port logistics and environmental challenges. For more information, <http://www.uniba.it/didattica/corsi-universitari-di-formazione-finalizzata/summer-winter-school/summer-school/2017-2018/vascodagama>

15. The Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) was established as one of six priorities of the UfM in 2008; the issue of blue growth has recently become one of the key areas of its strategic orientation. The objective of the **2018 summer school** was to introduce the participants to the significance of blue growth for the Euro-Mediterranean region and thereby impact their future careers or studies. The themes of the sessions were mostly related to the priorities of blue growth as relevant for the entire region. The summer school was held in Piran (Slovenia) and Trieste (Italy) on 11-27 June. It was a combination of distance learning sessions (10 hours), face-to-face sessions (58 hours) and field trips. For more information, <http://www.emuni.si/en/education/emuni-summer-school-2018>

16. The BLUEMED CSA Consortium announced **the opening of its Call for Strategic Start-up Actions on Blue Growth in the Mediterranean**. The Call was open to entities who are willing to partner up with at least three other organizations from different countries, including one non-EU country and one private enterprise, to conduct a series of meetings leading up to a feasibility, foresight or pilot study on topics that are crucial to the future of Blue Growth in the Mediterranean, driven by the BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. A forward-looking, innovative and multidisciplinary approach was required. Each selected partnership will receive up to 32,000 Euros to cover the costs of the organization of three workshops/meetings leading to the drafting of the studies. For more information, startupactions@bluemed-project.eu

Forthcoming events

1. The 4th Meeting of the **WestMed Steering Committee** will be held on 3 October 2018 in Algiers (Algeria). The meeting will have as priorities the adoption of the document summarizing the common priorities identified by the 10 countries and, on the other hand, the discussion on the draft Ministerial declaration of the Conference scheduled in December in Algiers. For more information, Marco.Nobile@ec.europa.eu and Koen.Eeman@ec.europa.eu

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2. The project "Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy and Blue Economy" financed by the European Commission (DG NEAR and thematically steered by DG MARE), will execute, in its third project year, several **workshops and seminars as well as technical assistance** activities for the partner ENI South countries Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The next workshop will be on "Port development" in July 2018 in Bremerhaven. A regional seminar marine litter, open to all UfM countries is planned for autumn 2018. For more information, Dr. Lothar Schillak teamleader.imp@gmail.com

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3. In 2017 the project "Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy and Blue Economy" financed by the European Commission (DG NEAR) commissioned the development of a **new project website** as component part of the Virtual Knowledge Center (VKC) <http://www.med-vkc-blueeconomy.org/>, managed by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The new website is expected to be completed in mid-2018. The project website will appear on the front page of the VKC/UfM website. Apart from general information the project website provides information on the progress of the project, schedules project events, provides detailed information on major project subjects such as Maritime Spatial Planning and Coastal Marine Aquaculture and offers a download of project documents. For more information, Dr. Lothar Schillak teamleader.imp@gmail.com

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