



## **Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### **Latest News**

1. *Sea Forum-Bizerte 2018;*
2. *BLUEMED Week;*
3. *Blue Economy call: €18.7 million available for funding;*
4. *Review of the implementation of the 2015 “Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy”- regional level and national contributions;*
5. *Virtual Knowledge Center: new name and new features;*
6. *4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WestMed Steering Committee;*
7. *Blue Sea Land Expo-thematic panel on marine litter;*
8. *UfM study on Maritime Clusters;*
9. *NEW publication on blue economy released;*

10. *Plan of Action to transform Mediterranean small-scale fisheries;*
11. *Towards sustainable transport in the Mediterranean;*
12. *IPCC - Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.*

## **Forthcoming events**

1. *Blue Economy Finance Principles initiative;*
2. *MED CO-EVOLVE and MedCoast4BG projects;*
3. *Maritime Spatial Planning workshop - SIMWESTMED project;*
4. *MED Blue Growth Community;*
5. *ODYSSEA Generating marine data and services to support decision-making in Northern Africa and the Mediterranean;*
6. *Sustainable Blue Economy Conference;*
7. *MED Biodiversity protection community;*
8. *FishForum2018;*
9. *Interreg MED Programme\_3rd call for project proposals;*
10. *Blue Invest in the Mediterranean 2019.*

## **Latest News**

1. The **Sea Forum - Bizerte 2018** is part of "La Saison Bleue", an ambitious project bringing together nearly 150 events in all areas highlighting the value of the Tunisian coastline. The Forum (Bizerte, 20-21 October) will offer two days of exchanges between experts and meetings with the general public. The first day will be dedicated to thematic workshops with experts and high level speakers from all over the Mediterranean basin on four main themes: maritime environment (environmental issues, coastal erosion, coastal development, marine pollution, energy resources); technologies and the sea (Big Data, Internet, robotics, biotechnologies, submarine cables); maritime professions (fishing, aquaculture, shipbuilding, maritime transport); maritime leisure and culture (ecotourism, yachting, heritage, archeology, sports practices). The second day will rotate around the plenary session, gathering high political figures, great witnesses and emblematic figures in the field of the environment and the world of the sea, during which a strategic study on Tunisia's blue economy will be presented. Local authorities from the Mediterranean basin will share the experiences of their cities and coastal regions. The concluding session of the Forum will be attended by the Secretary General of UfM, the Head of Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic.

For more information, Simond de Galbert [simond.de-galbert@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:simond.de-galbert@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

2. BLUEMED is the research and innovation initiative that offers a shared strategic framework for working towards a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea that is better known and valued. It is designed to tap the full potential of the marine and maritime sectors, structuring transnational cooperation to create new 'blue' jobs and to promote and improve social wellbeing, sustainable prosperity and the environmental status of the region and its surroundings. On 23-25 October 2018, the UfM Secretariat hosted the **BLUEMED Week** which rotated around four separate but coordinated events: the BLUEMED Steering Committee, the BLUEMED GSO Working Group, the Research Funders Workshop and the BLUEMED Platform meeting.

For more information, Alessandra Sensi [alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org)

3. The **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** has launched a new call of a total budget of €18,7 million. The call focuses on 3 topics: Blue Labs, Blue Careers and Blue Economy. Projects can receive up to 80% co-financing (65% for Blue Economy topic). The call opened for submissions on 23 October 2018 and applications can be submitted via the "Funding and opportunity Portal" until 31/01/2019.

More information on: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/blue-economy-call-187-million-available-funding>

4. The **1<sup>st</sup> UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy** was adopted in Brussels on 17 November 2015 by the 43 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). In order to assess the implementation of the recommendations and tasks enshrined in the Declaration, the UfM Secretariat run a review of the progress made at regional level. On the occasion of the latest UfM Blue Economy Working group meeting, the review was opened to national contributions in order to allow Member States sharing their policy/institutional developments and/or operational

actions (e.g. projects in the different blue economy sectors) which have contributed to the implementation of the Declaration. This exercise will also provide crucial inputs for the identification of emerging priorities and future actions setting the path towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy.

For more information, Alessandra Sensi  
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5. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UfM Blue Economy Working Group, it was decided to rename the Virtual Knowledge Center (VKC) in order to reflect better its objective to promote networking and information sharing on blue economy issues around the Mediterranean Sea Basin. In order to choose the new name, VKC users voted among four different options; the option with the most votes was **Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform** (<http://www.medblueeconomyplatform.org/>). Apart from the new name, the web site has been further improved with new features, such as: i) Messaging system: registered users can send and receive e-mail messages concerning news and/or events that have been uploaded so as to exchange views about, and eventually join forces on, blue economy issues of common interest; ii) Blue Economy Experts/Professional search function: registered users can look for blue economy experts/professionals by macro-themes and/or country; iii) Blue Economy Partners search function: registered users can look for organizations dealing with specific blue economy sectors in the various countries.

For more information, Alessandra Sensi  
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6. The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **WestMed Steering Committee** was held in Algiers on 3 October 2018. The main discussion points were the following: i) Draft version of the WestMed Declaration to be endorsed on the Ministerial meeting scheduled in Algiers on 4<sup>th</sup> December; ii) the Draft Road Map, including six shared priorities for action, projects preparation and funding (Maritime clusters development; Biodiversity and Marine Habitat Conservation; Sustainable Consumption and Production; Sustainable Fishery and coastal community development; Skill Development and

Circulation; Maritime Safety and response to marine pollution); iii) funding options for joint activities on the shared priorities through the EU Territorial Cooperation funds; iv) the EC presented the team of consultants who will be running the assistance mechanism for the WestMed, which will be made of central and national hubs that will work, and coordinate with, the current WestMed Focal Points.

For more information, Luca Marangoni  
[Luca.MARANGONI@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Luca.MARANGONI@ec.europa.eu) and Alessandra Sensi  
[alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org)

7. In the framework of the **Blue Sea Land Expo** (<https://www.bluesealand.eu/>), the UfM Secretariat organized the workshop “*Marine litter and biodiversity: Plastic Busters MPAs in action in the Mediterranean*” (Mazara del Vallo, 5 October 2018). The workshop focused on the Mediterranean answer to the global problem of marine litter and, as such, how national and regional stakeholders can work together, in their various capacities and in a coordinated manner, to address one of the most serious threat to the Mediterranean Sea.

For more information, Prof. Cristina Fossi [fossi@unisi.it](mailto:fossi@unisi.it)

8. Based on extensive literature and field experiences, the development of **maritime clusters** is viewed as a powerful tool to integrate sectoral policies, products and services enabling the growth of local economies through the internationalization of micro, small and medium enterprises and the strengthening and dissemination of knowledge and innovation. On this basis, the UfM Secretariat will launch a technical study to identify, collect, analyze and present case studies of maritime clusters active in the Mediterranean region as reliable snapshot of clustering of maritime sectors as well as of challenges and opportunities linked to their establishment, functioning and performance.

For more information, Alessandra Sensi  
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9. Within the project “Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy” a **new publication on blue economy** has been released “*Facilitating application procedures for Blue Economy project funding: Accessing Blue Economy Finance*”. It is a handbook conceived as a toolbox for key government and other stakeholders in ENI South (and partner) countries in their efforts to access blue economy finance. The publication can be downloaded on <http://www.med-vkc-blueconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/page-inicial15.pdf> .

For more information, Chris Mc Dougal  
[Chris.Mcdougall@atkinsglobal.com](mailto:Chris.Mcdougall@atkinsglobal.com)

10. On September 26-28, 2018, Fisheries Ministers from the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and the European Commission launched a **Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (RPOA-SSF)** to ensure a sustainable future for small-scale fisheries and the marine environment in the region. The adoption of the plan concluded a two-day High-Level Conference organized by GFCM-FAO in Malta, with the contribution of the EC, the Maltese Government and WWF. National authorities, fishers' groups and NGOs presented new sustainable ways to manage fishing activities in the world's most over-exploited region. To further promote the implementation of the Plan of Action, WWF, GFCM-FAO and other organizations also launched the “Friends of Small-Scale Fisheries” Platform. This will ensure the much-needed collaboration among key stakeholders to transform small-scale fisheries into a more competitive and sustainable sector.

For more information, Mauro Randone [mrandone@wwfmedpo.org](mailto:mrandone@wwfmedpo.org)

11. WWF France, on behalf of the EU funded PHAROS4MPAs project, co-signed a **Charter of Eco-responsibility for maritime transport activity** along with la Méridionale (French shipping company), French MPAs (Calanques National Park, Port-Cros National Park and the Natural Marine Park of Cap Corse and Agriate) and the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB). This charter aims at mitigating the ferries' impact on the marine wildlife when commuting between Marseille and Corsica - e.g. discards reduction, waste recovery, fuel consumption decrease, staff and passengers training on environmental issues. The PHAROS4MPAs project will use this

initial step towards more sustainable maritime transport activity as a positive case study for the global recommendations (to be issued in Spring 2019) on the necessary practical collaboration between Mediterranean MPAs and 8 maritime sectors, including maritime traffic.

For more information, Catherine Piante [cpiante@wwf.fr](mailto:cpiante@wwf.fr)

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12. The **Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C** was approved by the IPCC on 6 October 2018 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society, the IPCC says in the new assessment. The Special Report will be a key scientific input into the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December, when governments will review the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change. The Special Report states that risks associated with increases in drought frequency and magnitude in the Mediterranean region will be substantially larger at 2°C than at 1.5°C, and forecast that, above 1.5°C, expansion of desert and arid vegetation would occur in the Mediterranean biome causing changes unparalleled in the last 10,000 years.

For more information, <http://ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

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## Forthcoming events

1. The European Investment Bank together with the European Commission, WWF and the World Resources Institute has been taking forward the **Blue Economy Finance Principles initiative**, which will provide a framework to drive sustainable ocean-related finance, investment and insurance. At the forthcoming “Our Ocean Conference 2018” (Bali, 29-30 October 2018), the partners of the initiative will present the progress achieved, including a new decision-support tool for investors, during the side event ‘Blue Economy Finance Principles: from words to action’. The session will also introduce new signatories who will join the international coalition of financial institutions that voluntarily endorse the principles and thereby

demonstrate their support for healthy oceans in their investment decisions.

For more information, Alessandra Borrello [a.borrello@eib.org](mailto:a.borrello@eib.org)

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2. The Interreg **MED CO-EVOLVE** and **UfM labelled MedCoast4BG projects**, which aim to analyze and promote the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic coastal areas facing effects due to climate change, will organize a joint event on 29-31 October 2018 in Barcelona at the premises of the UfM Secretariat. It will include a training session on ICZM, climate change, sustainability indicators, participatory process, and Financial opportunities and economic instruments related topics; as well as a joint session to explore co-funding opportunities, joint actions and further pilot areas.

For more information, please see [HERE](#)

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3. The IMC-CPMR, together with PAP/RAC will organize a **Maritime Spatial Planning workshop** on 6-7 November 2018, in the Var County (France). This event will gather a group of practitioners of land and sea planning from the different case studies of the SIMWESTMED project, alongside with project partners. It will allow the project partners to fine tune their deliverables feeding from the exchange of experiences, enabling the local actors from Western EU neighbouring countries to meet and exchange on major challenges and needs. Possible recommendations and further steps to push forward a harmonized implementation of MSP in EU countries and the Mediterranean will be discussed in the view of the final conference scheduled in Venice in December.

For more information please visit: <https://simwestmed.eu>

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4. The **Blue Growth Community (Interreg MED)** will celebrate its mid-term conference on 22-23 November 2018 in Barcelona. This Conference will have a dual approach. On the one hand, to reflect on the sustainable dimension of Blue Growth, whether it be in terms of development, mitigation of issues, planning, or governance. On the other hand, to put into perspective the so far achieved results of all Blue Growth thematic



projects for a general peer reviewing meetings and discussion with all participants. The workshop will allow participants to discuss about the Blue Economy, to receive up-to-date information about the Blue Growth projects their main activities, goals and services.

For more information, <https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu>

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5. North Africa based **ODYSSEA project** partners will host a major consultative event within the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018). The event, tentatively set for 20-21 November, will showcase activities in North African and eastern Mediterranean countries as well as partnerships across the region that are being facilitated by the ODYSSEA project. This includes new observatories for in situ monitoring, which will strengthen access to data and information that is needed by governmental organizations and businesses for informed decision-making in the region.

For more information, Arslan CHIKHAOUI  
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6. Over 4,000 participants from around the world are expected to attend the **Sustainable Blue Economy Conference** in Nairobi (Kenya) on 26-28 November 2018. In the framework of the Conference, the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, the UfM Secretariat, PLAN BLEU and WWF will organize a workshop with key Mediterranean actors representing both the civil society and regional governance mechanisms, showcasing current and future initiatives aiming to achieve a sustainable blue economy while preserving ecosystems and biodiversity in the region.

For more information, Julien Le Tellier [julien.letellier@un.org](mailto:julien.letellier@un.org)

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7. The Mid-term workshop and public hearing of the **Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community** featured by the PANACeA project will take place on 4-5 December 2018 in Brussels. The preparatory workshop will gather 11 projects on biodiversity protection from the Interreg Med programme to present and support the transferability of their results to a

wider audience including external environmental actors, policy-makers and scientists. The second day, together with the SEArca Intergroup, a public hearing will discuss solutions to conserve biodiversity and increase the resilience of natural resources in the Mediterranean Sea. This event will encourage a stronger commitment of all stakeholders for a better understanding and application of an ecosystem-based management in the development and implementation of policies at all levels.

For more information: <https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu>

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8. In order to revert alarming trends in the status of Mediterranean and Black Sea fish stocks, in which roughly 90% of the scientifically assessed stocks are currently considered to be fished outside of safe biological limits, the demand for scientific and technical advice on fisheries management is ever increasing. The **Fish Forum 2018** will be held on 10-14 December 2018 at FAO headquarters in Rome (Italy) as a key activity towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries. It is the first event of its kind in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region, it will encompass oceanographic, social science and economic perspectives on fisheries research. It will therefore review leading work that has been carried out, while also addressing the pillars for the development of fisheries science.

For more information, <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/fishforum2018/en/>

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9. The **Interreg MED Programme** will open its 3rd call for project proposals at the beginning of November 2018. It will stay open until late January 2019. The budget allocation for this call is approximately 30M€ (ERDF + IPA). The call will be focusing on: 1) *Blue Growth*: focusing on maritime clusters; 2) *Sustainable Tourism*: focusing on insularity and low density areas; 3) *Biodiversity protection*: focusing on Marine Protected Areas. Project budgets will vary between 2,5M€ and 4M€. The application process will be conducted in two phases: only the projects that will pass the first phase will be entitled to go to the second one (estimated calendar: May-June 2019). The projects are expected to start their activity by November 2019. The publication of the Terms of Reference is foreseen after mid-October. The Joint Secretariat will hold an application seminar in late November, in Marseilles.

For more information on <https://interreg-med.eu/fund-my-project/calls/>

10. Following the successful Blue Invest event of May 2018 in Brussels, and within the context of its work on blue investment, the European Commission (DG MARE) is hosting the “**Blue Invest in the Mediterranean 2019**” event. It will take place on 24 January 2019 in Malta and will gather approximately 300 participants interested in the blue economy of the Mediterranean Sea basin. Following a similar approach to that of the May 2018 Blue Invest event, promoting investment in an innovative blue economy, the European Commission aims to mobilize private sector investment capital and lending. The blue economy has significant potential for sustainable growth and job creation, particularly around the Mediterranean Sea basin. Investment capital, both public and private, can play a significant role in developing this economic potential. Through this event, the Commission wants to increase the engagement of the financial community with the blue economy, and to stimulate investment interest in marine and maritime sectors. In addition, the event will indirectly support the implementation of cooperation initiatives amongst Mediterranean countries in the context of the UfM Blue Economy Forum, the WestMED Initiative, and the EUSAIR.

Read more: <https://blue-invest-mediterranean.b2match.io/home>.

For more information, [MARE-BLUE-INVEST@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-BLUE-INVEST@ec.europa.eu) or Christos Theophilou [Christos.THEOPHILOU@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Christos.THEOPHILOU@ec.europa.eu)

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