



Union for the Mediterranean
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Quarterly Flash News on Blue Economy

(French version)



Welcome to the 5th 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.

Arabic version of this issue will be distributed shortly

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Forthcoming events

1. **MARINA, final conference**
 2. **UfM Blue Economy working group**
 3. **Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism Community - 2nd on-site Capitalisation Workshop**
 4. **Kick off of the EU funded SwitchMed II programme**
 5. **3rd GSO BLUEMED Working Group meeting**
 6. **UfM Task Force on Environment**
 7. **CO-EVOLVE and MedCoast4BG - Med Coasts for Blue Growth**
 8. **InnoBlueGrowth, Strengthening the Science-Practice-Policy interface in Blue Growth**
 9. **PANCeA, Ecosystem-based responses to Mediterranean biodiversity challenges**
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 11. **High-level conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives**
 12. **BLUEMED CSA High-Level Research Infrastructures Stakeholders Conference**
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Latest News

1. 3rd Edition of the Blue eco forum 2018 held in Barcelona

The third edition of the Blue eco forum was held on November 16th in Barcelona, Spain, with the objectives of reflecting, debating and showing good practices for the integration of the ecosystem approach in the maritime spatial planning of tourism in the Levantino-Balear region. State and Autonomous Communities institutional representatives, together with experts from different disciplines discuss the role of Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management as tools for tourism sustainability governance. They highlight the importance of integrating coastal-maritime planning and introducing ecosystem carrying capacity to manage recreational uses of the sea and maritime tourism transport.

More information on: <http://www.global-ecoforum.org/blue-eco-forum-18/>

2. Global High-Level Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy & the Mediterranean side event

In the framework of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2018), the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat and Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Centre (UN Environment/MAP) joined efforts with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative to organize a joint side-event entitled "The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: the Model of the Mediterranean". Held on 28 November 2018, the side event was opened by the Director of the Ecosystem Division (UN Environment), Ms. Monika Mac Devette, who also facilitated the discussion.

To know more about the key points discussed in the conference, please read [here](#)

3. WESTMED

- Stakeholder Conference: Towards concrete 'blue' actions in the western Mediterranean (December 3rd 2018, Algiers)

The European Commission and the Co-Presidency of the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean held the "Stakeholder conference: Towards concrete 'blue' actions in the western Mediterranean", which took place on December 3rd 2018 in Algiers (Algeria). The event facilitated the exchange of project ideas and promoted concrete project development among stakeholders in the region operating in the maritime sector (businesses, researchers, institutes, national and local authorities belonging to the western Mediterranean Countries). The project ideas, concrete proposals and potential partnerships discussed will benefit of the support put in place by the Assistance Mechanism set up by the European Commission to boost the implementation of the WestMED Initiative.

More information on: <http://www.westmed-initiative.eu/>

- **Declaration Algiers (December 4th 2018, Algiers)**

Ministers of the Western Mediterranean countries, at the presence of the European Commission and the Union for the Mediterranean, have adopted a declaration to strengthen maritime regional cooperation under the WestMED initiative. This initiative promotes the sustainable blue economy in the Western Mediterranean, and involves 10 countries from in and outside of the EU (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia). The 10 countries agreed on a common roadmap for the development of a sustainable blue economy in the sub-basin to generate growth, create jobs and provide a better living environment for Mediterranean populations, while preserving the Mediterranean ecosystem.

Please read the declaration [here](#)

- **WESTMED 5th Steering Committee (February 11th 2019, Paris)**

Following the success of the Algiers conference that enabled the ministers and representatives of the 10 countries to adopt the Algiers declaration endorsing the roadmap of the initiative, the members of the WestMED held the 5th Steering Committee meeting on February 11th, 2019 in Paris.

For more information, please contact Alessandra Sensi
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4. FISH FORUM, (December 10th 2018, Rome)

- **First Forum on fisheries science in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea**

More than 450 experts and scientists from 45 countries as well as from several international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders gathered at FAO headquarters, in Rome, from 10 to 14 December 2018 to discuss the state of the art of fisheries science in the region and identify research priorities for the coming decade. This event, organized by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, was the first of this kind for the region, encompassing oceanographic, social science and economic perspectives on fisheries research.

Please read the main conclusions of the forum [here](#)

- **The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries Report released**

The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries (SoMFi 2018), published by FAO-GFCM, was launched on December 11th. This report provides a comprehensive overview of recent trends in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries showcasing information on fishing activities, socio-economic impacts, marine resources and efforts to sustainably exploit fisheries.

The publication can be downloaded [here](#)

- **UfM Side Event on the BLUEMED Initiative at the 2018 Fish Forum**

The side event, organized by the UfM at the Forum on Fisheries Fish Forum 2018 on December 13th 2018, promoted, through a focus on the BLUEMED Initiative, the enhanced coordination of research and innovation activities as a key tool to support the sustainable management and use of the marine and maritime sectors in the Mediterranean Sea.

For more information, please contact Alessandra Sensi
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5. “Blue Invest in the Mediterranean 2019” (January 24th 2019, Malta)

UfM Secretariat participated at the Blue invest conference in the Mediterranean organized by the EU, a match-making event intended to bring together innovators and the financial community to sustainably develop the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean Sea basin, while protecting its marine resources. EC specifically presented the event as a contribution to the implementation of cooperation initiatives amongst Mediterranean countries in the context of the UfM Blue Economy Forum and the WestMED Initiative.

For more information, please contact Alessandra Sensi
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6. CPMR’s Intermediterranean Commission

- **CPMR’s Intermediterranean Commission sets MITOMED+’s Capitalisation activities**

The MITOMED+ project’s 12th project meeting was held in Girona (Spain) on 24/25 January. The project partners met at the University of Girona to take stock of actions to date and discuss the project’s progress and continuity. The project partners presented the ongoing activities in their own territory, which are being finalised. The indicators and platform guidelines were also further tested to avoid any misunderstanding and ensure the platform’s quality for wider replication. The CPMR’s Intermediterranean Commission (IMC), coordinator of the Capitalisation work package, shared its draft capitalisation plan to discuss the upcoming activities and get feedback from the partnership.

For more information, please read [here](#)

- **CPMR’s Intermediterranean Commission seals the Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance**

The CPMR’s Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) has given its full backing to key plans for a territorial alliance aimed at developing a long-term strategy to build a sustainable future for all citizens in the Mediterranean. The ‘Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance Joint Declaration’ was signed by political representatives from five Mediterranean organisations – including the IMC, the Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée (EPM), MedCities, Latin Arc, and the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion – at a major international seminar on ‘The Future of the Mediterranean Region after 2020’, held in Barcelona on 4 February being co-organized by the Catalan Government, the EPM and the IMC and attended by more than 200 participants.

For more information, please read [here](#)

7. Launch of the MSP Project DGMARE-UNESCO (February 12th 2019, Paris)

The conference on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) organized by IOC-UNESCO was held in the evening of 11th and 12th of February in Paris. MSP global is a joint initiative of IOC-UNESCO and the Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission in the context of the Joint Roadmap to accelerate Marine Spatial Planning worldwide and co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

For more information, please contact Alessandra Sensi alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org

8. International Conference “Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean: Observatories and Knowledge Networks” (February 14th 2019, Lisbon)

With the discussion on the role of observatories and knowledge networks in promoting innovation for a sustainable ocean in the background, this international conference, held in Lisbon, was an opportunity to highlight the key results from the OECD Ocean Economy project on “Fostering Innovation in the Ocean Economy: Promoting sustainable seas and oceans with innovation”. The event brought together decision-makers from the public and private sectors, and representatives ministries, industry and international organizations. The key findings from the forthcoming OECD publication, Rethinking Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, were presented during the event.

Forthcoming events

1. **MARINA, final conference**, 12 – 13 March in Boulogne sur Mer.
2. **UfM Blue Economy working group**, confirmed, 25 March in Brussels.
3. **Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism Community - 2nd on-site Capitalisation Workshop**, 27 – 28 March in Split
4. **Kick off of the EU funded SwitchMed II programme** on sustainable consumption and production will take place on 3 and 4 April in Vienna.
5. **3rd GSO BLUEMED Working Group meeting**, 4 April, in Brussels
6. **UfM Task Force on Environment** back to back with the final meeting of the SWIM – H2020 Support Mechanism, on 9 April in Brussels.
7. **CO-EVOLVE and MedCoast4BG - Med Coasts for Blue Growth** joint event, on 9 April in Montpellier.
8. **InnoBlueGrowth, Strengthening the Science-Practice-Policy interface in Blue Growth**, 16 – 17 April 2019 in Marseilles.
9. **PANCeA, Ecosystem-based responses to Mediterranean biodiversity challenges**, capitalization event on 6 and 7 May in Rome.
10. **BleuTourMed - MED Sustainable Tourism Forum**, 5 and 6 June in Barcelona.
11. **High-level conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives**, on 11 – 12 June in Marrakech.
12. **BLUEMED CSA High-Level Research Infrastructures Stakeholders Conference**, 13 and 14 June in Paris.

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