

# Towards concrete “Blue” Actions in the Western Mediterranean



Stakeholder Conference  
Algiers, 3 December 2018









## Stakeholder conference Towards concrete “blue” actions in the western Mediterranean

The European Commission and the Co-Presidency of the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean are holding the **“Stakeholder conference: Towards concrete ‘blue’ actions in the western Mediterranean”**, which takes place on Monday 3 December 2018 in Algiers, Algeria.

The event aims to facilitate the exchange of project ideas and promote 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). This exchange will take place in the framework of 8 parallel sessions denominated Project Development Labs.

This Labs are moderated workshops involving selected practitioners across the Western Mediterranean (and beyond) with the purpose of creating strong partnerships and develop strategic projects ideas in relevant areas for the WestMED Initiative.

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 .

Please consult our website <http://www.westmed-initiative.eu/> for updated information.



## Plenary session

Interpretation: Arabic, English, French

08:45- 09:30

### Registration

09:30- 10:00

### Opening remarks

HE Mr. Abdelkader Bouazghi, Minister of Agriculture, Rural development and Fisheries, Algeria

HE Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs – Video Message

HE Mr. John O'Rourke, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Algeria

HE Mr. Ali Mokrani, Director of the Cooperation with the European Union and European Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria

*Moderator:* Mr. Taha Hammouche, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural development and Fisheries, WestMED Co-Presidency, Algeria

10:15- 12:00

### Paving the way for concrete action in the western Mediterranean

*Moderator:* Mr. Patrick Augier, Deputy Secretary General for the Sea, France (WestMED Co-Presidency)

- ***The WestMED Roadmap***

by Mr. Taha Hammouche, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural development and Fisheries, WestMED Co-Presidency, Algeria

#### **Catching opportunities:**

- ***The Blue Economy Call 2018***

by Ms. Anja Detant, Maritime and Fisheries Unit, EU Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, European Commission, and Mr. Luca Marangoni, Team Leader, Sea basin strategies and maritime cooperation at the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

- ***EU External Instruments for promoting sustainable investments in Neighbouring Countries***

by Ms. Serena Vitale, Delegation of the European Union to Algeria

## Plenary session

Interpretation: Arabic, English, French

- **ENI CBC Med Programme**

by Martin Heibel, Communication officer, Joint Managing Authority

- ***The BLUEMED Initiative: concrete opportunities to participate to the next calls***

by Mr. Andrea Barbanti, CNR-ISMAR, Ms. Margherita Cappelletto CNR, Italy, and Prof. Ferial Louanchi, BLUEMED Focal Point for Algeria

- **INTERREG programmes' calls**

by Ms. Mercedes Acitores, INTERACT

- ***INTERREG MED: concrete opportunities to participate to strategic projects on maritime surveillance and tourism***

by Mr. Michele Colavito, Senior Expert, Agency for Territorial Cohesion, Partner of PANORAMED

### **Rountable:**

Mr. Christos Economou, Head of Unit for Sea basin strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Mr. Miguel Garcia-Herraiz, Deputy Secretariat General, Union for the Mediterranean

Mr. Aomar Bourhim, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, WestMED National Coordinator for Morocco

Mr. Nicola Favia, Head of Office, Department for Cohesion Policy, Presidency of Italian Council of Ministers, WestMED National Coordinator for Italy

Mr. Taha Hammouche, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural development and Fisheries, WestMED Co-Presidency, Algeria

Mr Ruben Eiras, Director General of Maritime Policy, Ministry of the Sea, WestMED National Coordinator for Portugal

### **Questions and answers**

12:00- 13:30

[Lunch](#)

## Parallel sessions Project Development Labs

Working languages: English and/or French,  
*no interpretation provided*

The Project Labs are composed of two sessions: through the initial **'project pitching'** session project ideas are discussed, screened and fine-tuned, while the **'project planning'** session allows to define common follow-up actions to ensure the submission of relevant project proposal under the best suited EU financing streams.

During the final plenary session, rapporteurs or project promoters or moderators will present the project ideas that have been identified as priorities among participants in the Labs and sketch the actions foreseen.

13:30- 15:00

[Project Pitching Session](#)

15:00- 15:30

[Coffee break](#)

15:30- 16:30

[Project Planning Session](#)

## The Laboratories

### Lab 1: Maritime Cluster Development and Innovation to support Blue Economy

Maritime clusters are key to creating innovation, jobs and growth. They play a key role in generating the critical mass for economic activities currently not appealing to private investors, notably by developing new avenues for north-south cooperation and between 'traditional' and 'emerging' activities, and by identifying and building innovative value chains across the region. To do so, as well boosting the exchange of sectoral data and information is essential to support private and public decision makers in investments. Specific sectors for further exploration and exploitation can be targeted depending on the priorities and interest of respective partners, including biotechnologies, sustainable energy and multi-use platforms.

*Moderator* : Ms Ana Brito e Melo, Executive Director, WavEC, Portugal

*Rapporteur* : Mr Leonardo Manzari, WestMED Assistance Mechanism, Italian National Hub

## Lab 2: Blue Tourism, Biodiversity and Marine Habitat Conservation

Pollution at sea, water, soils and air are important vectors of marine habitat degradation and biodiversity loss, modifying ecosystem functions and consequently leading to the decline of the region's fauna and flora. Such challenges are also exacerbated by a growing negative impact of climate change on coastal regions. Implementation of innovative and sustainable consumption and production models and practices is essential for addressing such issues while ensuring new jobs and business opportunities. This is particularly the case for innovative and sustainable blue tourism – including coastal and maritime tourism and sustainable exploitation of cultural and natural heritage.

*Moderator* : Mr Christophe Avellan, Deputy Director, Pole Mer Méditerranée, France

*Rapporteur* : Mr Matteo Bocci, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

## Lab 3: Sustainable Fisheries and Coastal Community Development

The fisheries production of the western Mediterranean region accounts for more than half of the whole Mediterranean, with extreme diversity of exploited species and fishing techniques. There is no doubt that Mediterranean stocks are in peril and that their exploitation needs to be brought to sustainable levels before they are driven outside safe biological limits. Specific opportunities and threats must be assessed and addressed through the identification of joint actions and intervention techniques. Best practices for marketing fisheries products can be identified and circulated, while knowledge and resources can be provided to increase the added value of fisheries products and diversify economic activities in coastal communities.

*Moderator*: Mr Ferroukhi Si Ahmed, Former Algerian Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

*Rapporteur*: Ms Marta Pascual, WestMED Assistance Mechanism, Spanish National Hub

## Lab 4: Blue Skills Development

A vibrant Blue Economy requires to promote and facilitate skills circulation between the countries of the region, through training, awareness-raising and research activities aimed at society. Actions discussed aim at fostering the development of innovative maritime skills through a range of strategic actions to match demand and supply. They will also promote advanced training on sustainable blue growth, and incentives for networking and exchanges between maritime institutes and academies at regional and national level. It is also essential to raise awareness on a range of maritime professions and make them more attractive to young people, and to increase cooperation between maritime education institutes and industry.

*Moderator*: Mr Samir Grimes, WestMED Assistance Mechanism, Algerian National Hub

*Rapporteur*: Ms Elodie Nunes, Policy and Programme Officer, CRPM

## Lab 5: Maritime Safety and Response to Marine Pollution

Ensuring both safety of activities at sea and response to marine pollution is an essential prerequisite for the sustainable development of a range of relevant Blue Economy activities, as well as for the wellbeing and stability of the region. The dialogue aims at boosting concrete actions to: i) improve transport systems for smart, greener and safer mobility, ii) address major marine risks (marine submersion, oil spills etc.), marine pollution prevention and control; iii) develop effective maritime surveillance capacities in the region.

*Moderator* : Mr Patrick Augier, Deputy Secretary General for the Sea, Secrétariat de la Mer, France

*Rapporteur* : Mr Frédérick Herpers, WestMED Assistance Mechanism, French National Hub

## Lab 6: Eco-friendly Aquaculture

The promotion of innovative, sustainable and eco-friendly aquaculture practices is essential to ensure economic and job returns which are not impacting local ecosystems. To achieve this goal, it is essential to promote the diversification of aquaculture towards more value-added niches and the use of multitrophic marine farming systems which could be efficient and less intrusive for the ecosystem. The discussion will support the development of optimal strategies, technologies and practices (e.g. pilot farms, certification, and technological innovation and impact measurement).

*Moderator* : Mr Philippe Balma, Director General, Les Poissons du Soleil, France

*Rapporteur*: Rapporteur: Mr Alessio Bonaldo, Associate Professor, University of Bologna

## Lab 7: Marine Litter and Circular Economy

Marine litter has become a major pollution problem affecting all of the world seas. Increased levels of marine litter originate largely from land-based activities and results in negative impacts on human health, marine wildlife, marine ecological systems, beach quality, and navigational safety, as well as fishing and maritime industries. A number of actions have been implemented to address this issue across the Mediterranean, while stronger focus could be put on the adoption of the “circular economy” concept in relation to the Blue Economy.

*Moderator*: Mr. Miguel Garcia-Herraz, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Thanos Smanis, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

## Lab 8: Building capacities to fight IUU fishing

The main objective of the Lab is to identify cooperative projects to improve and deepen the fisheries control in the area in support of the MEDFISH4EVER declaration and the sustainability of the fisheries. In the framework of the above mentioned declaration, there is a commitment to develop a culture of compliance and eliminate IUU fishing. Main elements to get this goal requires the efficient and responsible action of flag States in coordination with Coastal, Port and market states to ensure an effective level playing field across the Mediterranean. There are joint initiatives established in the area following the adoption of Recommendations by the GFCM to improve control activities, as the Pilot Project established for the Strait of Sicily, and the good results achieved should impulse the deepen the cooperation and finding more joint initiatives to improve culture of compliance and level playing field in the area.



## Plenary session

Interpretation: Arabic, English, French

16:30- 17:45

### The way forward

#### **Chaired by:**

Mr. Taha Hammouche, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural development and Fisheries, WestMED Co-Presidency, Algeria

Mr Patrick Augier, Secretary General for the Sea, WestMED Co-Presidency, France

#### **Reporting from Project Development Labs**

#### **Final remarks**

Mr Christos Economou, Head of Unit for Sea basin strategies, maritime regional cooperation and maritime security Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Mr Michael Köhler, Director for Neighbourhood South, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, European Commission

Mr. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean


Mr. Vincent Bouvier, Secretary General for the Sea, France




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