

The WestMED Assistance Mechanism Two Years of Cooperation

Executive Summary
December 1, 2020

Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia

CORE TEAM

Fully operational

A team of more than 29 professionals has been fully operational since 2019 and includes the WestMED Central Team, 9 National Hubs and different expert pools relating to events, communication and calls for funding

During this period of implementation, National Hubs roadmaps were produced and a tailored assessment has been carried out to step-up the Team's work.



GUIDANCE ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

To support stakeholders in project development and facilitate project ideas, the WestMED team is constantly screening and reviewing key funding sources available to any of the western Mediterranean countries. These funding opportunities are issued by EU Programmes, Financial Institutions and Development agencies .

During the first 2 years of the contract, 60+ financial opportunities have been mapped, reviewed and disseminated among stakeholders in different

countries. The team has also established direct liaison with a number of public and private donors and programmes such as INTERACT, Interreg MED, EIB, EASME, UNDP, DG NEAR or ENI CBC MED

Additionally, ongoing and future opportunities are matched with the WestMED priorities to support synergies between potential project partners among different countries. The National Hubs' role is key in this matchmaking process.



"Despite the challenging circumstances deriving from the sanitary crisis affecting all our countries and societies in 2020, the WestMED Initiative has managed to achieve significant progress and continued with its activities on project development support, stimulating the dialogue among stakeholders in the sub-sea-basin, promoting the Initiative in all concerned countries, intensifying its contacts with partners organisations and institutions, and, ultimately, becoming more creative on how to do things and build stronger links among the blue economy community." **JAVIER FERNÁNDEZ** PROJECT LEADER

14 PROJECT IDEAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED

Through a balanced top-down and bottom-up approach to project development, the WestMED has provided consistent technical support to numerous organisations with a wide range of questions.

14 project ideas were more actively supported and submitted to different Calls for Proposals.

Five of them were finally awarded. Some examples of awarded projects are [Blue Roses](#), [FIUUFRA](#) and [NewTechAqua](#).

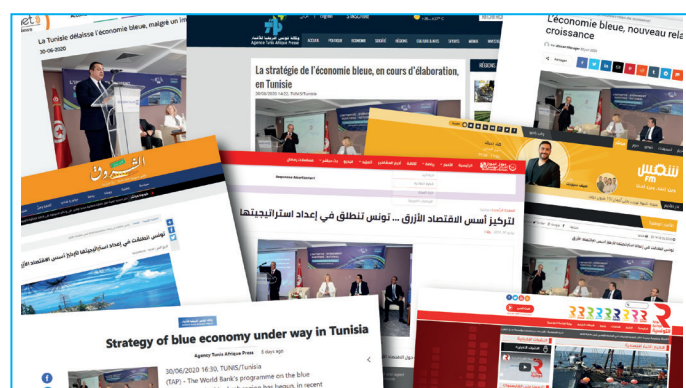


100+ MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Core Team, along with the National Hubs have been actively involved in the organization of National Events, as well as conferences, workshops and seminars to engage with stakeholders at all levels.

Due to the sanitary crisis, most of these events in the second year were held in an online format.

- **National Events:** National Events in the concerned countries were successfully designed and held during year 2 of the contract. Some of these generating national media attention.
- **Stakeholder Conference:** The first WestMED conference, “Towards Concrete Blue actions in the western Mediterranean”, was successfully organised in Algiers in December 2018.
- **Hackatons:** A large WestMED hackathon event on project development, “Blue Economy contribution to the Summit of the Two Shores”, was organised in Palermo in May 2019.



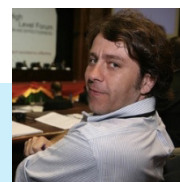
- **Roadshows:** Up to 24 stakeholder engagement and informative roadshows were organised in the various countries to promote the WestMED initiative, its implementation and added value.
- **Partner-events:** 107 events relevant to the Blue Economy in the region, but carried out by other organisations, were attended to promote the WestMED initiative.

GREEN SHIPPING TECHNICAL GROUP

Following the conclusions of the Steering Committee of Rabat in October 2019, the WestMED Assistance Mechanism worked to set up a Technical Group on “Sustainable Transport - Green Shipping”.

The kick-off meeting took place on 15 April 2020, and 3 meetings with relevant stakeholders have been held since then. National Groups in all concerned countries have been established and are coordinated by the National Hubs.

MATTEO BOCCI
DEPUTY PROJECT LEADER



“Shifting towards Green Shipping requires a paradigmatic shift in both supply and demand of sustainable and green energy for the sector. The Technical Group on Green Shipping set-up by the WestMED Assistance Mechanism has allowed us to steer concrete exchanges amongst relevant Port Authorities and Ministries in all the WestMED Countries across the region. And with significant efforts being made to identify strategic projects to be later funded.”

ENHANCING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

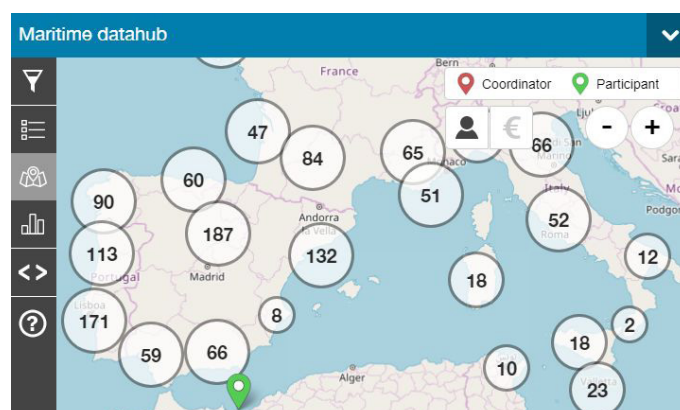
The Communications Team works hand-in-hand with the members of the Central Team and National Hubs. During the first two years of implementation, the team developed channels and materials and effectively disseminated content relevant to the WestMED initiative..

- **A dynamic and multilingual website:** The website <https://www.westmed-initiative.eu/> has become a main information reference in the Blue Economy sector in the western Mediterranean, offering updated information on events, funding opportunities, success stories, projects supported and policy developments relevant to the sub-sea-basin.
- **An embedded project DataHub:** The [Maritime DataHub](#) monitors and compiles thorough and up-to-date information about projects relevant to the WestMED initiative, disaggregated by topic, country and allocated funding. To date, 236 projects with over 580 partners involved are displayed.
- **Continuous flow of content on social media:** The Twitter account [@WestMEDStrat](#) reached the 800 followers mark thanks to the WestMED daily presence on this social network. The team provided coverage and specific promotion of events, campaigns and news of interest to the stakeholder community
- **Newsletter:** The WestMED [quarterly newsletter](#) targets stakeholders in a tailored manner with news, events, calls and interviews. To date, 8 newsletters (EN, FR) have been issued.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE SUPPORT

The western Mediterranean Steering Committee provides high-level stewardship for the implementation of the WestMED Initiative. The team has supported the organisation of all the meetings taken place since the Assistance Mechanism started its operation.

These 7 meetings took place in Algiers (3 October 2018), Paris (11 February 2019), Brussels (3 April 2019) and Palermo (13 May 2019), Rabat (October 2019), Brussels (February 2020), and Roma (online) (July 2020)



- **Animated video:** A short, visually engaging [video](#) was produced and disseminated focusing on the initiative's objectives and priorities.
- **A coordinated approach with the Atlantic Strategy** (for the cases of Portugal, Spain and France) will continue to be adopted with the ultimate objective of further developing the blue economy in all 3 countries.

WHAT'S NEXT IN YEAR 3

For the future, the team will continue performing its activities following the ToR, constantly adapting and tailoring them in view of the evolution of the sanitary crisis.

Among the activities envisaged for next year, we count with the organisation of the third large event of the Initiative (WestMED Stakeholder Conference) foreseen for early summer 2021, showcasing good practices and flagship projects, and paving the way for the future priorities of the Initiative.

The Assistance Mechanism will also continue supporting stakeholders in the development of those project ideas with proven added value for the region, nurture potentially more complex and strategic projects, and organising national workshops and events in the 9 concerned countries to actively engage with local communities towards the sustainable development of the blue economy in the sub-sea-basin.

Furthermore, the works of the Technical Group on Green Shipping involving national representatives of all concerned countries will also continue its course. the sustainable development of the blue economy in the sub-sea-basin. Furthermore, the works of the Technical Group on Green Shipping involving national representatives of all concerned countries will also continue its course.