

9 NOVEMBER 2021 - CAGLIARI, ITALY

# WESTMED PROJECT AWARDS | 2021



**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative

Supported  
by the



## INTRODUCTION

The WestMED Steering Committee, with support from the WestMED Assistance Mechanism, is organising the first edition of the WestMED Project Awards in 2021.

This international project competition aims to showcase and honour outstanding success stories, which are clearly aligned with the western Mediterranean Framework for Action priorities and are comprised under the WestMED initiative's geographic area.

The WestMED Project Awards will identify exceptional projects in different areas which provide innovative and replicable solutions embodying the WestMED initiative's vision for the western Mediterranean.

## WESTMED PROJECT AWARDS CATEGORIES

Based on the western Mediterranean Roadmap priorities<sup>1</sup>, awards will be aligned to the following categories:

1. **BIODIVERSITY, MARINE HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION** (including pollution control at sea and land-based level, protection of coastal and marine ecosystems and combating coastal erosion and habitat degradation, maritime safety and governance of the sea)
2. **SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION** (including coastal and maritime tourism, sustainable maritime transport, marine renewable energies, innovation -e.g. blue bio-technology- and support for entrepreneurship, creation of maritime clusters)
3. **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND COASTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** (including sustainable aquaculture development, environmentally friendly fishing practices and fleets and upgrading of the production chain)
4. **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND CIRCULATION** (including training and education on maritime issues, networks of maritime research and scientific information sharing)

The WestMED Project Awards will be granted to 4 projects (1 winner per each of the categories listed above).

Applicants are invited to select two categories: a **primary award category**, which should be the most aligned with the project's scope, and a **secondary award category**, to take account of any other category that they believe their project has a direct or indirect impact to.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.westmed-initiative.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/EN-Declaration-and-roadmap.pdf>


## HOW TO APPLY

A dedicated online application form shall be made available, and may be submitted via a dedicated mailbox (e.g. [awards@westmed-initiative.eu](mailto:awards@westmed-initiative.eu) )

Applications shall be submitted in English or in French.

Applicants will have access to additional information, and support for the submission of their candidacy will be provided by the WestMED Assistance Mechanism Central Team, specifically through a dedicated web-based “Contact us” form. Information requests will be filtered by the Central Team and transferred to National Hubs if necessary.

## TIMELINE

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- Launch of the Awards & application forms on line → 27 July 2021
  - Closing of the online application process → 27 September 2021
  - Evaluation process → October 2021
  - Selection of Award winners → End of October 2021
  - Inform Award winners of results → End of October 2021
  - WestMED Project Award Ceremony → 9 November 2021

## PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, projects must:

- **Be delivered within the Western Mediterranean geographical area**
- Have been initiated and/or completed during the **36 months** prior to the announcement of this call

Applications should be put forward by individuals or organisations who are project managers or partners of the concerned project.

These may include professionals, entrepreneurs, organisations, centres of excellence/research institutions, maritime clusters, associations and NGOs from one of the countries which form part of the region namely: Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Eligible nominations will be assessed against the following set of criteria:

- **Project relevance** with the award categories selected in the application, taking into consideration the WestMED Framework for Action, the Roadmap priorities and the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy, adopted in February 2021<sup>2</sup>.
- **Level of innovation** of the project, measured in terms of results and working methods.
- **Impact** or potential impact (social, environmental, economical).
- **Transnational component and involvement of partners from the north and southern shores.**
- **Potential for replicability and transferability** of the project's results across the western Mediterranean sub-sea basin.

The assessment of nominations will be carried out by the **WestMED Project Awards Jury**, composed of 3 qualified experts appointed *ad-hoc* for the evaluation of applications (the selection of the jury will be done during the months of September and early October). Their decision on each of the categories shall be endorsed by members of the WestMED Steering Committee, including National Coordinators and European Commission representatives.

To support and facilitate the process, **the WestMED Assistance Mechanism Central Team will conduct a preliminary assessment of proposals** against the evaluation criteria (see above). The results of this preliminary evaluation (a shortlist) will serve as guide for the jury but does not represent a formal selection of the award winners. The selection of the winners will ultimately be decided by the WestMED Project Awards Jury.

After being selected, awarded projects will be invited to attend the WestMED Mediterranean Project Awards Ceremony, to take place during the WestMED Stakeholder Conference. They will be informed in advance of their selection but asked not to make it public until the end of the Conference. That way, it can be festively disclosed during the day itself.

During the Project Awards Ceremony, once the announcement of the 4 awarded projects has taken place, a pitching competition session will be held amongst them. The procedure for this pitching competition will be as follows:

- 4 awarded project's representatives will give a 5-minute speech presenting the highlights of their project in front of the audience, who will be allowed to pose 2-3 questions per project.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.westmed-initiative.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Declaration-UfM-Blue-Economy2021-EN-1.pdf>

- A dynamic, live voting session will then be enabled, both for on-site and virtual attendees.
- Based on the audience's decision, a "winner of winners" will be announced on-site and receive a special award (see section below).

## THE AWARDS TROPHY

The 4 awarded projects will be invited to receive the 2021 WestMED Project Award at the Ceremony to take place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> WestMED Stakeholder Conference (Italy, November 2021). All travel and accommodation expenses shall be covered by the Assistance Mechanism for the WestMED Initiative.

During the Award Ceremony, an engraved trophy and a certificate will be offered to the winners. Additionally, the award winners will receive promotional support through the Assistance mechanism's digital-based communication channels (website and social media). A special edition of the WestMED Newsletter shall be prepared to give visibility to winning projects. Finally, a 30 seconds animated video will be offered, to be produced for each winning project, which can be used for promotional purposes.

The special prize for the "*winner of winners*" shall consist of an additional certificate and a 60-second video. Furthermore, a dedicated "hackathon" session will be organised for the winner at a later stage for the (further) capitalisation of the project, to present and discuss possible future partnerships in the region through the support of the WMAM.