

30 JUNE
2022

WESTMED
HACKATHON '22

MALTA



WestMED Hackathon '22

Organised by the WestMED Assistance Mechanism and the Maltese Co-presidency

Salini Resort Hotel, Malta

In-person | plenary sessions streamed online

AGENDA

08:45 | Registration

09:30 | Welcome and opening remarks

Setting the scene and introducing the day ahead

- Official welcome: Lucienne Meilak, National Coordinator (WestMED Co-presidency)
- Manuel Pleguezuelo Alonso Policy officer, Sea-basin Strategies and Maritime Regional Cooperation Unit, DG MARE
- Main takeaways from the Conference on Sustainable Finance, Alessandra Sensi, UfM Secretariat
- Introducing the day ahead: dynamics for the Hackathon, Matteo Bocci, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

10:00 | Plenary Session 1

Concluding the 'WestMED in my country' campaign and pitching of project ideas

Concluding the campaign.

Learning about the results of the WestMED in my country National Events: what's at stake in the region? What have we learnt? Some insights on the Libyan situation and activity done there

- Introduction by Javier Fernandez, Project Leader, WestMED Assistance Mechanism (5 mins)
- Main take-aways by WestMED National Hubs (5 mins each)

Projects pitching session

- Introduction and moderation by Matteo Bocci, WestMED Assistance Mechanism Central Team
- Brief introduction of the project ideas to be discussed by project ideas promoters and WestMED National Hubs

11:45 | Coffee Break



12:00 HACKATHONS (PART 1)

Six parallel hackathon sessions consisting of:

- five Project Development Labs, each focused on a project in a specific field
- one MSP Cooperation Development Lab, focused on stimulating the sea basin approach

Project Development Labs

1. Aquaculture

A focus on a further definition of the proposal emerging from the WestMED Technical Group for a COST Action (deadline October 2022) to accelerate the uptake of innovative and circular models in sustainable aquaculture across the Mediterranean (both north and south shores). This is to be achieved through the (i) sharing of good practices, (ii) support to SMEs for uptake of such practices and (iii) identification of innovation opportunities across the aquaculture value-chains (feeding, harvesting, processing, monitoring, diversification, commercialisation, support services, etc.).

Moderator: Samir Bachouche WestMED National Hub Algeria

2. Tourism

A focus on sharing the potential for capitalisation and synergies amongst regional projects, towards a “leveraging-up” of current practices in sustainable tourism (operators and policymakers) across the Mediterranean. Amongst the project invited to discuss this topic will be the two newly launched EMFAF projects plus other projects supported by the WestMED through time and aimed at further capitalisation (BlueRoSES, Herti Data, etc.)

Moderators: Marta Pascual and Annabel Vella WestMED National Hubs Spain and Malta

3. Transport and Ports

Building on the work promoted through the WestMED Technical Group, this hackathon will focus on the smaller-scale ports and their need to receive support towards greater sustainability and identification of innovative business models for greater local added-value (quality jobs, sustainable growth and environmental sustainability) – the approach to be discussed might focus on the potential for greater diversification of local services and strategies towards emerging niches (tourism, green marinas, small-scale charters, etc.)

Moderator: Leonardo Manzari, WestMED National Hub Italy

4. Maritime Clusters

Building on the several streams of work promoted under the WestMED Cluster Alliance, including the recently awarded MedBAN project, the discussion will allow identifying areas for greater support towards southern countries, including the acceleration of cluster development in Algeria and Morocco – also building on the outcome of the dedicated event on cluster support promoted by the WestMED in Mauritania, with the participation of international clusters and supported by the Tunisian Cluster

Moderators: Ezzedine Kacem (Tunisian Maritime Cluster) & Lidia Rossi (Cluster BIG)

5. Blue Skills

This session will allow practitioners to reflect on the main needs and future direction in supporting blue skills, to identify areas for cross-fertilisation and capitalisation of regional projects in this area, including the Blue Skills project which has been awarded as “Best WestMED Project” in 2021.

Moderators: Stephanie Vella, Salem Miladi, WestMED National Hubs Malta and Tunisia



MSP Cooperation Development Lab

This hackathon session aims to bring together major actors/initiatives from across the Mediterranean, to allow knowledge sharing and discuss the state of the art of MSP practices on both shores of the seabasin.

The event is the occasion of establishing and reinforcing relationships and channels for cooperation in addressing maritime topics at a transboundary level. The involved initiatives/bodies/projects will have the occasion to exchange overviews of EU and national MSP advancements and approaches, and support transboundary cooperation.

It is essential to improve the efficiency of planning and management of coastal and marine resources and activities, facilitating the decision-making processes, focusing on harmonization of MSP procedures of EU MS and non European Countries in the Mediterranean.

The transboundary methodological components of MSP are necessary to overcome barriers and obstacles for its implementation (e.g. conceptual barriers, institutional barriers) focusing on ideas on how to foster collaboration and use MSP as an enabler for Blue Economy.

The event should strengthen cooperation in the sub sea basin, with regards to marine and maritime management strategies and approaches. Sharing of knowledge is expected to help harmonise management practices, cross-border cooperation and collaboration in MSP. The proposed structure of the Lab has three main axes:

1. Bring ongoing initiatives together in a structured exchange to avoid duplication/parallel activities
2. Capitalise on best practices in the region
3. Set up of a Working Group or Technical Group to meet periodically to exchange on the main criticalities/issues and concerns for the correct implementation of transboundary MSP and brainstorm on possible mechanisms, instruments and planning measures for the identified areas.

Moderator: Thanos Smanis Frédérick Herpers, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

13:30 LUNCH BREAK

14:30 HACKATHONS (PART 2)

Continuation of the parallel Hackathon discussions and networking



16:00 Tea Break

16:15 Plenary Session 2 Main outcomes Hackathon sessions and project ideas discussed

Reporting on the outcomes of the Hackathons and next steps agreed

Moderator: Matteo Bocci, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

16:45 Final remarks and closing

- Ali Shagrune, Lucienne Meilak Libyan and Maltese National Coordinators (WestMED Co-presidency)
- Manuel Pleguezuelo Alonso, Policy officer, Sea-basin Strategies and Maritime Regional Cooperation Unit, DG MARE