

WestMED Stakeholder Conference 2023

Draft Agenda

22 June 2023

Villa Arrigo, Naxxar (Malta)



Draft agenda

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09:00-09:30 **Registration**

09:30-10:00 **Welcome and opening remarks**

Setting the scene: The political/institutional framework for the development of sustainable blue economy in the WestMED

Official welcome: Malta

- WestMED Initiative Co-Presidency: main features and highlights (WestMED Initiative Co-Presidency: Malta and Mauritania)
 - UfM Roadmap towards implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy and Blue Mediterranean Partnership (UfM)
 - Commission report on the WestMED Implementation: key outcomes and recommendations for the future (DG MARE)
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10:00-11:30 **Building up on the success so far of WestMED's outcomes**

- **Offering a holistic overview of the existing projects contributing to WestMED's priorities**
 - **Blue skills and ocean literacy**
 - Network of Blue Schools: experience at Mediterranean level and replicability in southern countries
 - Upcoming developments in blue careers: EMFAF project Blue Careers call
 - Strengthening synergies with the Atlantic Strategy (Pillar II) to boost blue skills and ocean literacy in the western Mediterranean
 - **Blue tourism**
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- Building a regional framework to boost sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean (WestMED Co-Presidency)
 - Successful case study: EMFAF awarded flagship projects

11:30-12:00 **Coffee Break**

12:00-13:30 **Thematic parallel sessions**

Session 1: Green shipping

- Priorities and main highlights of the technical group
- Discussion about existing and upcoming funding opportunities
- Discussion about future projects' ideas

Session 2: Maritime Clusters

- Priorities and main highlights of the alliance
- Discussion about existing and upcoming funding opportunities
- Discussion about future projects' ideas

Session 3: Sustainable Aquaculture - AquaWEST

- Priorities and main highlights of the technical group
- Discussion about existing and upcoming opportunities
- Discussion about future projects' ideas

Session 4: Community of Practice on Marine Spatial Planning in the Med

- Priorities and main highlights of the Community of Practice
- Identify topics and possibilities for advancing a more regional/sea-basin MSP approach

13:30-14:30 **Network lunch**

14:30-15:30 **Continuation parallel sessions**

15:30-16:00 **Emerging findings from parallel sessions: What concrete opportunities for further cooperation have emerged?**

16:00-16:45 **Corridors for project impact cooperation (WestMED Initiative Project Awards)**

- Announcement of the winners of the 4 different project award categories
 - Pitching of the category winners to a selection panel with a focus on transferability/ replicability – to compete for the overall 2023 WestMED Initiative Award
 - Q&A with selection panel
 - Voting for the WestMED Initiative Project Award 2023
 - **Announcement of the best 2023 WestMED project award winner**
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16:45-17:00 **Final remarks and closing**

- DG MARE/CINEA
 - Maltese Co-Presidency
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