

# WESTMED 2023

STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

Boosting the Sustainable Blue Economy

22 June | Malta

Villa Arrigo, Naxxar | 9:30-17:00

## Agenda

CINEA/EMFAF/2022-3.5.1/SI2.881692

**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative



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Simultaneous interpretation in English/French will be available during the plenary sessions of the conference

Times CET

09:00-09:30

## Registration

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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: Hon. Dr Aaron Farrugia, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects of Malta

- ▶ WestMED Initiative Co-Presidency: main features and highlights (WestMED Initiative Co-Presidency: Malta and Mauritania)
- ▶ Commission report on the WestMED Implementation: key outcomes and recommendations for the future (Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission)

10:00-11:30

## Building on the success of WestMED's outcomes so far

Moderator: Stephanie Vella (National Hub Malta)

- ▶ **UfM Roadmap towards the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy: next steps and way forward** (Adriana Salazar, UfM)
- ▶ **A parliamentary perspective of the blue economy in the Mediterranean** (Hon. Katya De Giovanni, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean - PAM)
- ▶ **Offering a holistic overview of the existing projects contributing to WestMED's priorities** (Marta Pascual, National Hub Spain)
- ▶ **Blue skills and ocean literacy**
  - BlueS Med: experience at Mediterranean level and replicability in southern countries (Alan Deidun, University of Malta)
  - Strengthening synergies with the Atlantic Strategy to boost blue skills and ocean literacy in the western Mediterranean (Frederico Ferreira, National Hub Portugal)
  - Fostering cooperation, best practices and training between north and south of the Mediterranean: the case of the e-FishMed project (Roberta Lupis, EFCA)
  - Strengthening Mediterranean policy makers capacity for innovative sustainable economy: Dialogue4Innovation project (Maria Garcies, CPMR)

## ► Sustainable Coastal and Maritime Tourism

- Building a regional framework to boost sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean (Leslie Vella, Deputy CEO Malta Tourism Authority)
- Strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the coastal and maritime tourism sector in the Western Mediterranean through flagship projects:
  - WeMED\_NaTOUR Travelling Aware of our Footprint (Claudia Iglesias Arriaran - X23)
  - Recovering, Experiencing and Boosting ecoTourism in the WestMed area - REBOOT MED project (Viviana Rizzuto, PRISM)
  - ECO-CRUISEING FU TOUR Sustainability on the Wave project (Marika Mazzi, X23)
- The Blue Tourism: innovation, digitization, entrepreneurship and sustainability. A case study in Almeria (Spain) and its replicability at the Mediterranean level (Adolfo Borrero Villalon, Sun&Blue Congress)

11:30-12:00

COFFEE BREAK



Be sure to visit the Corallo project exhibition



12:00-13:30

Thematic parallel sessions

### Session 1

#### Green shipping Technical Group (TG)

Moderator: Leonardo Manzari (National Hub Italy and TG coordinator)

Rapporteur: Stephanie Vella (National Hub Malta)

Description: The Green shipping Technical Group (TG) will further develop project ideas, by building upon the achievements so far and based on the priorities defined in the latest TG meetings. This includes the role of the TG on fostering re-structuring a Mediterranean supply chain for the shipbuilding industry, the steps ahead toward the WestMED Alliance of Energy Communities in Ports and the clusters of Maritime Transport operators along the main Mediterranean routes, as a way to tackle the main sustainability challenge through the concept of 'Connectivity'.

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

## Session 2

### Maritime Clusters Alliance

Moderator: Matteo Bocci (WestMED Deputy Team Leader)

Rapporteur: Frédérick Herpers (National Hub France)

Description: Maritime clusters are the backbone of support for uptake of knowledge and innovation for local blue economy businesses and other relevant players in innovation ecosystems. The WestMED Cluster Alliance has been very successful in supporting relevant projects and expanding the network of maritime clusters from northern to southern countries, with new cluster organisation under activation across North African Countries. The discussion will reflect on the achievements so far to identify effective next steps in the implementation of the Roadmap for Clusters Cooperation, as defined in 2022 - including as a way to engage with relevant regional bodies (African Union, etc). The World Ocean Council (WOC) will participate in the session presenting the project proposal GREEN MARINE MED.

- Priorities and main highlights of the alliance towards further expansion in the south and engagement with regional bodies
- Discussion about existing and upcoming funding opportunities to support such activities
- Discussion about future projects' ideas and next steps in the promotion of the Roadmap for Clusters Cooperation

## Session 3

### Sustainable Aquaculture Technical Group - AquaWest

Moderator: Samir Bachouche (National Hub Algeria and TG Coordinator)

Rapporteur: Raffaele Mancini (Blue Economy Expert)

Description: The AquaWest has promoted stronger cooperation amongst aquaculture actors across the region, and as a basis to put forward innovation opportunities and new project ideas. As part of those, the TG will further discuss the Cost Action proposal, as to set-up a valuable platform to exchange research opportunities and pilot actions across the two shores of the region. The experiences of Malta (AquaBioTech Group) and Tunisia (SwitchMED) will be shared.

- Priorities and main highlights of the technical group
- Discussion about existing and upcoming opportunities, including the COST Action proposal
- Sharing experiences among stakeholders and discussion on potential collaborations and partnerships
- Discussion about future project ideas

## Session 4

### Community of Practice (CoP) on Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean

Moderator: Emiliano Ramieri (Chair of the Community of Practice on MSP)

Rapporteur: Thanos Smanis (WestMED Synergies and Networking)  
& Cristina Cervera Núñez (MSP technician at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography - IEO, CSIC)

Description: The session will capitalize on the recent work done by the CoP on the screening of MSP-related projects and will discuss key priorities for MSP in the region. It will offer the opportunity to showcase how these projects are tackling the needs of the two main topics of interest for the CoP activity: (i) MSP supporting the extension, improved management and improved connection of Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures; (ii) MSP as key enabler for implementing the national Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) strategies and initiatives.

- Priorities and main highlights of the Community of Practice
- Identify topics and possibilities for advancing a more regional/sea-basin MSP approach
- WestMed pilot case studies of the three EMFAF MSP projects (REGINA, MSP-GREEN and REMAP).
- Outcomes of the subgroups and next steps

13:30-14:30

## NETWORK LUNCH

14:30-15:30

Parallel sessions continued

15:30-16:00

Main conference room

Findings from the thematic sessions:

*What concrete opportunities have emerged for further cooperation?*

Moderators: rapporteurs of the thematic sessions

16:00-16:45

## WestMED Initiative Project Awards

Moderator: Javier Fernández (Sea Basins Assistance Mechanism Team Leader)



Announcement of the winners of the 4 different project award categories (by the WestMED Co-Presidency)



Pitching of the category winners to a selection panel with a focus on transferability/ replicability – to compete for the overall 2023 WestMED Initiative Award



Voting for the WestMED Initiative Project Award 2023



Announcement of the best 2023 WestMED Project Award winner (Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission)

16:45-17:00

## Final remarks and closing

- ▶ DG MARE
- ▶ Maltese WestMED Co-Presidency