

WestMED Initiative in a nutshell

Highlights 2023

WESTMED
blue economy initiative

Supported by the
European Commission

Boosting the Sustainable Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean

The WestMED Initiative main objective is to promote the potential of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean area while preserving marine ecosystems and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Its aims are fully in line with the global commitments for sustainable development and fully integrated in the European Commission's political priorities for 2019-2024, notably the European Green Deal and Mediterranean framework (Union for the Mediterranean-UfM)

10 Countries with National hubs/ Centres



3 Goals



A safer and more secure maritime space

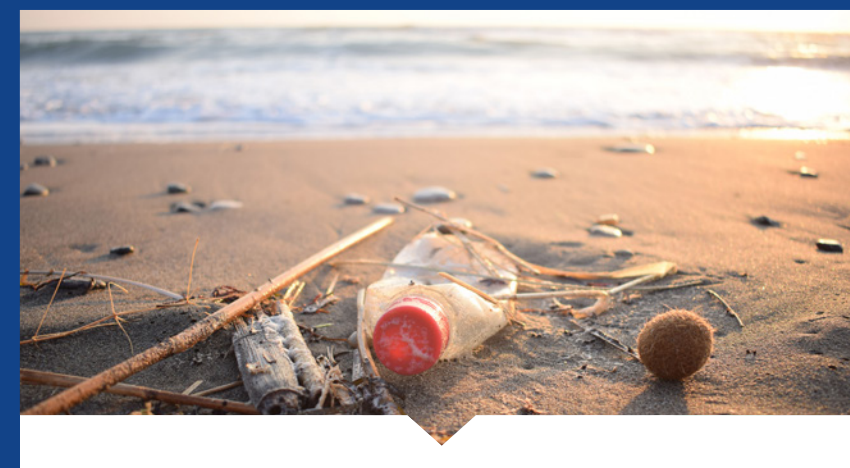


A smart and resilient blue economy



Improved maritime governance

6 Priorities



Maritime safety and the fight against marine pollution



Development of Coastal Communities and Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture



Biodiversity and Marine Habitat conservation and restoration



Sustainable Consumption and Production



Maritime Cluster development



Skills Development and Circulation

Priorities Streamlined with the 2023 WestMED Ministerial Declaration, adding



- Decarbonisation of the Blue Economy, and importantly boosting the Marine Renewable Energy Sectors
- Stepping up efforts to tackle air and marine pollution
- Increasing ambition for preserving marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean
- Promote training and technology transfer
- Developing coastal resilience solutions and early warning systems
- Maritime security and surveillance as a pre-condition for a prosperous and sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean

4 Thematic/ Technical Groups

1. AquaWest (Aquaculture)
2. Maritime Clusters Alliance
3. Green shipping and Ports
4. MED-MSP Community of Practice

Governance

The WestMED Assistance Mechanism supports the implementation of the WestMED Initiative. It is governed by a Steering Committee, supported by a Central Management Team and 10 National Hubs/ Centres.

It helps:

Drive national and cross-border discussions with influential public and private organisations from both shores of the Mediterranean, on key thematic maritime topics across the western Mediterranean.

Assist stakeholders with the relevant tools to help develop projects by finding project partners, identifying EU and non-EU funding opportunities and concrete proposal writing.

JOINT EU SEA BASIN ASSISTANCE MECHANISM

As of November 2022, the WestMED Assistance Mechanism became part of a joint Assistance Mechanism, together with the Atlantic Action Plan and the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea.

This, to further strengthen cross-sea basin synergies and enable more coordinated policy feedback.

ATLANTIC STRATEGY Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan

Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea

Main figures

2023 highlights

35

Project-ideas supported

4

Steering Committee Meetings organised

260

Posts on the website and X (Twitter)

5

Projects awarded as excellent examples

+ 50

WestMED branded events-incl stakeholder/ministerial conference

+ 24.300

Visits to the website

Social Media

1513

Followers X (Twitter)

798

Newsletter subscribers

Success Stories

Blue Skills with We Are Blue Schools

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Tourism with 3 EMFAF FLAGSHIP projects

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Green shipping with Marinehound

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Complementarities with



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