

Maritime Clusters Aliance

Key summary points

Last update: December 2024

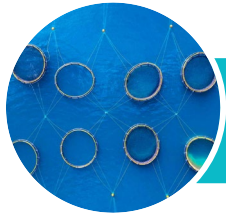
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Sustainable Aquaculture



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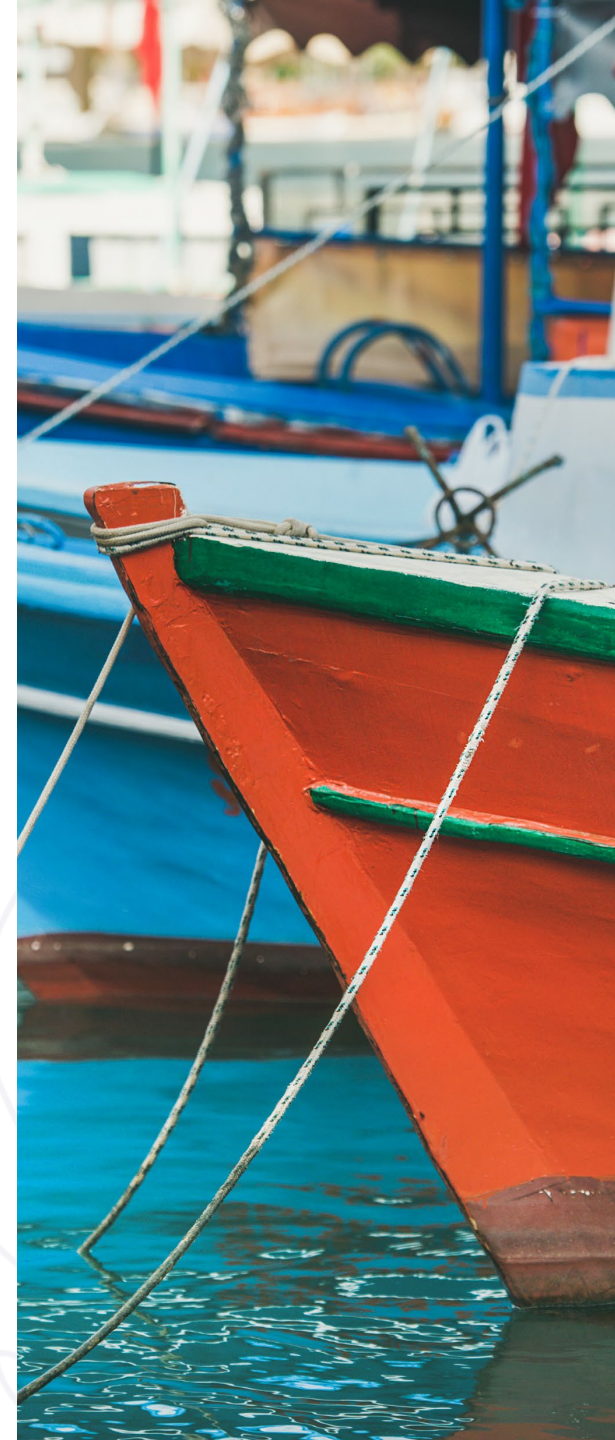


Sustainable tourism



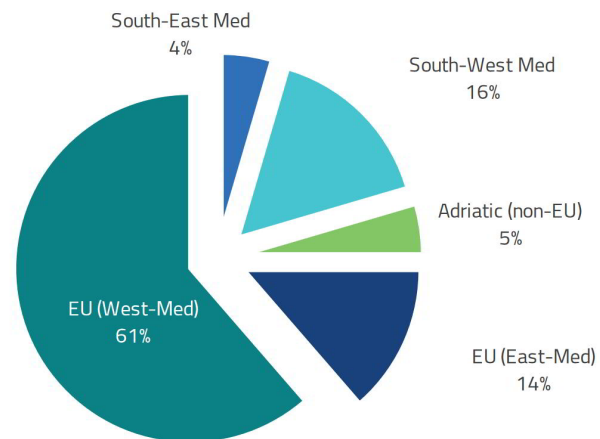
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Context (I)

- Maritime clusters play an essential role as brokers between EU regions and neighbouring countries in the Mediterranean.
- They are essential actors in aggregating local SMEs and large companies across a range of sectors in the blue economy, including through synergies with enterprises involved in in-land activities across complex value chains.
- The western Mediterranean has a wide number of maritime clusters active in coastal areas, with strong emerging practices across the southern shore.
- A clear opportunity exists for the WestMED Initiative to support a stronger alliance across the most active Maritime Clusters in the western Mediterranean, and beyond.



Context (II)

Clusters: innovation and skills for sustainable growth and jobs



Aim of the Technical Group

The key objectives of the Alliance are:

- **Cluster dialogue:** Support exchange of knowledge and practices across maritime and non-maritime clusters
- **South-South cooperation:** Boost the development of southern maritime clusters
- **North-South capacity building:** Upgrade cluster management skills
- **Provide a platform for private investments in innovative SMEs**



Structure of the Technical Group

Launched on the 1st of June 2021, with **8 national clusters in the western Mediterranean**, the Cluster Alliance is promoted and led by the involved clusters and supported by the WestMED Assistance Mechanism, respective NHs with a prominent role of the **Italian NH and the Cluster Maritime Tunisien**.

- Algeria, Ministère de la pêche et des productions halieutiques(MPPH);
- France–PoleMerMéditerranée (leading on ‘cluster dialogue’);
- Italy–BIG, Blue Italian Growth (leading on ‘north-south cooperation’);
- Italy–Federazione del Mare;
- Malta–Malta Maritime Forum;
- Portugal–Forum Oceano(leading on ‘investments in innovative SMEs’);
- Spain–Cluster Maritimo Espanol;
- Tunisia–CMT, ClusterMaritimeTunisien(leading on ‘north-south cooperation’).

The WestMED Maritime Clusters Alliance has progressively enlarged to other national, local and sectoral clusters: Algeria’sLeancubator, Greece’s Strategis Cluster, Italy’s DLTM, FVGMARE, COSVAP; Libyan Maritime Cluster, Mauritanian Maritime and Marine Cluster, Spain’s CMMA.



Key activities of the Technical Group (I)

1. **Support projects' ideas development, establishment of consortia and search of funding opportunities.**

3rd edition WestMED Hackathon, October 2024.

This hackathon was the occasion to investigate future developments for the WestMED Cluster Alliance, also involving clusters from the Eastern Mediterranean (WestMED Alliance+) and further foster the pivotal role for maritime clusters on promoting a sustainable, green and innovative blue economy.

Outcomes and emerged ideas:

- Clusters cooperation to foster uptake of digitalisation and data services across local value chains
- Cluster as a facilitator to incubate and accelerate/ scale-up local innovative solutions
- Possibly the two projects being merged into one, by building upon previous projects from the WestMED+ Cluster Alliance



Key activities of the Technical Group (II)

2. Support projects' ideas development and collaboration with funded projects

- The Maritime Cluster Alliance has supported several proposals that have received funds. For example: ERASMUS+ – MARMED and MAQUAM, COSME Euroclusters – MedBan, IKAT and ELBE Alliance, EMFAF Women in Blue Economy – WINBIG, EMFAF Maritime Clusters CALLMEBLUE and Green Marine MED, EMFAF Ports & Maritime Transport POWER4MED.
- Collaboration with funded projects. For example, on 14 October 2024, WestMED's National Hub Tunisia participated in a workshop organised by the Cluster Maritime Tunisian, titled 'Maritime clusters, catalysts for the development of the blue economy'. This workshop was part of the European CallMeBlue project, which aims to strengthen synergies between maritime clusters in the North and South and to promote regional maritime dynamics.



Key activities of the Technical Group (III)

3. Support to the creation of new Maritime Clusters within the WestMED seabasin

- Support to the creation of the Mauritanian Maritime Cluster (June, 2022)
- Support to the creation of the Libyan Maritime Cluster (September 2024)



LIBYAN MARITIME CLUSTER

Transforming visions into existence,

Stage 1
Identify Key Stakeholders

Stage 2
Conduct a Needs Assessment
Evaluate Feasibility

Stage 3
Lessons Learned from Successful
Maritime Clusters in the
Mediterranean Region.



Stage 4
Defining the Cluster's Vision and
Mission and a Strategic Plan

Stage 5
Forming of the General Assembly
of the founders and secure
approvals from relevant
authorities

Stage 6
Maritime cluster launch and
promotion

Key activities of the Technical Group (IV)

4. Strengthen collaboration and synergies among maritime clusters

- The WestMED Initiative facilitates cluster cooperation in the maritime sectors and will continue to support this through the WestMED Maritime Clusters Alliance. A clear opportunity exists for the WestMED Initiative to further help build stronger alliances between the most active Maritime Clusters in the western Mediterranean, and beyond.
- In June 2020, the Cluster Maritime Tunisie signed an MoU with the Italian national clusters, aiming at a closer cooperation, including the research activities.
- On June 9th 2023 in Rome, the president of the Mauritanian Marine and Maritime Cluster signed an MoU with the Italian national clusters, aiming at a closer cooperation, including the research activities.



Key activities of the Technical Group (V)

4. Strengthen collaboration and synergies among maritime clusters

- In February 2024, a new strategic agreement between Greek and Tunisian maritime clusters represents an official gateway to boost the blue economy between the western and eastern Mediterranean. The MoU is based on the principles of cooperation by strengthening and expanding networking opportunities between both clusters as well as collaborating in initiatives and alliances on innovation and internalisation of blue economy in a broader sense. The exchange of information, knowledge and collaborative innovation ideas, is another key pillar of this joint initiative.



Key activities of the Technical Group (VI)

4. Strengthen collaboration and synergies among maritime clusters

- In October 2024, an agreement was signed between the Algerian incubator 'Leancubator' and the Tunisian Maritime Cluster. The agreement provides for 'the creation of opportunities for Algerian players in the blue economy, through international cooperation, the exchange of expertise between the two countries and support for innovation between them, with joint projects to be launched in the coming months.'



Synergies

- European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP)
- European Clusters Alliance (ECA)
- Blue Invest
- ANIMA
- Union Africaine (UA)
- European Network of Maritime Clusters (ENMC)



Latest news of the Technical Group

- 20 October 2024. [Memorandum of understanding between the Algerian incubator 'Leancubator' and the Tunisian Maritime Cluster](#)
- 15 October 2024. [WestMED Tunisia presents maritime cluster actions during CallmeBlue event](#)
- 9 October 2024. [WestMED Hackathon 2024: Crafting Sustainable Blue Economy Projects](#)
- 8 October 2024. [Le cluster maritime libyen créé avec le soutien du cluster maritime tunisien](#)
- 29 September 2024. [WestMED Libya announces the country's first Maritime Cluster at the Omar Al-Mukhtar University, during 'Blue Economy Research & Innovation' workshop](#)
- 22 February 2024. [Tunisia and Greece join forces on the Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean](#)
- 1 July 2023. [WestMED Maritime Clusters Alliance presenting major achievements and developments at SeaFuture 2023](#)
- 2 October 2022. [Maritime Clusters take center stage at WestMED's National Event in Lisbon](#)



Thank you for your support!

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