WestMED Initiative in a nutshell

Highlights 2026

WESTMED blue economy initiative

Supported by the European Commission

FIRST

First joint Atlantic-WestMED Stakeholder Conference to build on the synergies between both sea basins, and further strengthen cooperation - between EU and non-EU participating countries (15-16 September 2026).

Boosting the **Sustainable Blue Economy** in the Western Mediterranean

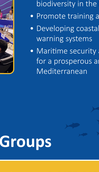
The WestMED Initiative's main objective is to promote the potential of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean region while preserving marine ecosystems and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Its objectives are fully in line with the global commitments for sustainable development and fully integrated in the European Commission's political priorities - notably the EU Ocean Pact, the Pact for the Mediterranean, the European Green Deal and Mediterranean framework (Union for the Mediterranean-UfM).

10 Countries with National hubs

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

5 Thematic/ Technical Groups

1. AquaWest (Aquaculture)
2. Maritime Clusters Alliance
3. Green Shipping and Ports
4. MED-MSP Community of Practice
5. Sustainable Tourism
6. Blue Skills

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

In 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 by exchanging best practices, organising joint thematic events, and enabling more coordinated policy feedback.

ATLANTIC STRATEGY Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan | Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea

Main figures

2026 key data (Oct '25 - Oct '26)

34 Project ideas supported	**4** Steering Committee Meetings organised
+ 140 Events featuring WestMED speakers	**+ 33.5 K** Visits to the website
595 Posts on the website and X (Twitter)	**1986** Followers on X (Twitter)
+ 94.6 K Impressions on X (Twitter)	**1109** Newsletter Subscribers

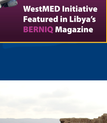
Since the launch of the WestMED Assistance Mechanism in 2018...

275 project ideas supported with **78 projects awarded funding** worth **122.8 Million Euro**

28 non-WestMED countries participate(d) in the project consortia that were successfully established and supported by the WestMED Assistance Mechanism. With organisations from a.o. Norway, Finland, the UK, Germany, Netherlands, Greece, Türkiye, Croatia, Albania, Cyprus, Jordan, and Egypt also benefitting.

Some highlights

National TV Blue Economy event Morocco — Watch



National radio Interview WestMED Tunisia — Watch

Blue challenge WestMED-Interreg youth programme — Read more

Portugal-Italy Business Mission in Rome/ Genoa — Read more

Inflight

WestMED Initiative Featured in Libya's BERNIQ Magazine

Complementarities with

Union for the Mediterranean · Interreg Euro-MED · Co-funded by the European Union · Interreg NEXT MED · Co-funded by the European Union · Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership · Smart Specialisation Strategy

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