



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Quarterly Flash News on Blue Economy

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(English)



Welcome to the 1st issue of the online flash news on blue economy in the Mediterranean region!

You will find the most updated information related to the work of UfM and its partners to promote the blue economy in the Mediterranean region.

News:

1. *Our Ocean Conference 2017;*
2. *Western Mediterranean Initiative Workshop;*
3. *1st UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on blue economy.*
4. *Kick-off of the new Virtual Knowledge Center on blue economy;*
5. *Technical Assistance in the framework of the IMP-Med project;*
6. *Launch of the initiative "PANORAMED-the Mediterranean governance platform";*
7. *CRPM CIM General Assembly - Final Declaration;*
8. *WEBPORT platform in the framework of the NEMO project;*
9. *41st Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean;*
10. *17th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).*

1. On 5-6 October 2017 in Malta, at the heart of the Mediterranean, the European Union will host "**Our Ocean, an Ocean for Life**", the yearly appointment for leaders, public administrators and businesspeople from all over the globe to interact and find workable solutions for the planet's seas and oceans. *For the Agenda and more information <https://ourocean2017.org/>*

2. The **Western Mediterranean Initiative** (WestMED) aims to increase safety and security, promote sustainable blue growth and jobs, and preserve ecosystems and biodiversity in the western Mediterranean region. The 6th WestMED workshop amongst the concerned countries will be held on 9 October 2017 in Brussels. *More info on the initiative are available on its website: <http://www.westmed-initiative.eu/>*

3. The **1st UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy** will take place in Naples (Italy) on 29-30 November 2017 with the aim to promote regional dialogue among major blue economy stakeholders. The organization of **thematic workshops** proposed by the blue economy stakeholders will be at the core of the Conference. This two-day international and multi-stakeholder conference will gather governments' representatives, regional/local authorities, business sector, universities/training and education centers, international development agencies, international organizations, and civil society organizations active in marine and maritime issues.

4. The further development of the **Virtual Knowledge Center** (VKC) as blue economy networking platform and stakeholder register is under way (<http://www.med-vkc-blueeconomy.org/>). Based on the co-ownership of users, the new VKC will serve as regional networking mechanism on marine and maritime affairs in view of building the blue economy community of the Mediterranean region. Some aspects of new VKC were already presented at the 3rd Meeting of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy held in Brussels last July 2017 where attendees were invited to register as blue economy stakeholders. The upgraded VKC is expected to be fully operational at the end of October 2017. *For more information, please, contact Raffaele Mancini raffaele.mancini@ufmsecretariat.org*

5. The project Facility for **Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy**, led by Atkins, was launched in February 2016 by DGNEAR and DGMARE to enhance sectorial and cross-sectorial regional co-operation through policy dialogue and the exchange of best practices with existing networks of stakeholders in the Southern

Neighborhood. The purpose of the project is to strengthen regional frameworks for policy dialogue and the sharing of experience on Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and Blue Economy (BE), among beneficiary countries, the UfM and with the European Union, in the Mediterranean context. The Project will soon start providing National and Regional Technical Assistance to beneficiary countries on their identified BE priorities on the basis of ongoing **BE studies**, which will identify potentials to be developed at both a national level and through regional cooperation. Each study includes an assessment of the national maritime and coastal capital (natural, human, technical), and of the existing maritime and coastal activities, focusing on the national components and segments of the value chain. From this analysis, recommendations will be made to encourage sustainable management and exploitation of the national capital, further develop existing activities and promote emerging activities. *For more information, please, contact Dr. Lothar Schillak teamleader.imp@gmail.com*

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6. In June 2017, the participating States of the Interreg MED Programme approved the initiative called “**PANORAMED - Mediterranean governance platform**” with the aim to contribute to transnational joint policy schemes and solutions to shared challenges and growth opportunities for the Mediterranean, in key themes such as coastal and maritime tourism and maritime surveillance. Important Mediterranean players, initiatives and strategies are associated to the process, in order to explore and enhance complementarities and synergies towards shared governance and possibilities to align initiatives and funds. The initiative, doted of a 9M € budget, will run until spring 2022, ensuring a medium/long time perspective able to impact the strategic planning for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean basin. The initiative will be officially launched through a high level kick-off event that will take place in Seville (Spain) on 27 September 2017, being the lead partner the Spanish Ministry of Finance and Public Administration. *For additional information, please contact project officer in charge of MED programme Axis 4 on Mediterranean governance, Patrizia Busolini pbusolini@REGIONPACA.FR*

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7. The Mediterranean regions met in Naples, Italy, on 6-7 July at the Annual General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR). After two-day works, including a political seminar and several working groups dealing with blue economy, sustainable tourism and coastal protection, a **political declaration** was released addressing the main challenges faced by the regions and including specific recommendations. Section II and III of the declaration address in particular maritime issues with a focus on blue economy, as well as emerging initiatives and strategies that can strengthen Mediterranean cooperation and multilevel governance. *For more information, please, contact Davide Strangis Davide.Strangis@crpm.org*
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8. In Tricase (Lecce, Italy) on June 29-30, 2017 was held the event "A SEA OF DIALOGUE" organized by CIHEAM-Bari in the framework of the closing event of the current phase of the project NEMO, funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through the Directorate General for Development Cooperation and the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation. The event was an opportunity to present the **WEBPORT platform** (www.webport.cloud) a media facility for a dialogue among Mediterranean coastal communities. The platform hosts new practices and experiences, listens to the needs of communities and identifies concrete actions fostering collaboration and encouraging cooperation projects for development. *For more information, please contact Biagio Terlizzi diterlizzi@iamb.it*

9. On 16-20 October 2017, in Montenegro, the **41st Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)** will gather a high-number of representatives of countries, international and non-governmental organizations. The main thrust of this session will be advancing progress in the implementation of the GFCM mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of fisheries, consistent with UN SDG14, via new conservation and management measures. The session will promote efforts to support the MedFish4Ever Declaration thanks to key strategic actions foreseen in 2018, such as a High-Level Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries (9/2018) and the GFCM Forum on Fisheries Science (12/2018). *For more information, please contact Nicola Ferri Nicola.Ferri@fao.org*

10. On 4-6 July 2017, the Government of Greece, in collaboration with the Secretariat of UNEP/MAP, hosted in Athens the 17th meeting of the **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)**. It was a unique networking opportunity for global and regional processes and institutions, demonstrating that the implementation of the **MSSD 2016-2025** is set in motion through actions on visibility, monitoring, and capacity building. In particular, the MCSD welcomed the outcome of the pilot phase of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs), an innovative process for mutual improvement of national sustainable development structures and processes, tested with France, Montenegro and Morocco. The Meeting also acknowledged the main achievements under the guidance of the MCSD in 2016-2017, such as the development of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and the Science Policy Interface on Climate and Environmental Change. *For more information, please contact Julien Le Tellier julien.letellier@planbleu.org*

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