



Union for the Mediterranean
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Quarterly Flash News on Blue Economy



Welcome to the 7th issue of the flash news on blue economy in the Mediterranean region!

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

Latest News

1. *BlueTourMed Conference on Tourism*
2. *High-level conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives*
3. *EurOCEAN 2019 conference*
4. *Sommet des deux rives (Summit of the Two Shores)*
5. *UfM Secretariat*
 - *Back to back to the BlueTourMed Conference on Tourism: UfM labelled MedCoast4BlueGrowth meeting*
 - *UfM Senior official Meeting*
 - *Kick-off Meeting MedCoast 4BG*
 - *6th meeting of the UfM Working Group on the Blue Economy*
6. *WESTMED*
 - *10 projects successfully submitted*
 - *The WestMED Steering Committee*
7. *CPMR's Intermediterranean Commission*
 - *CO-EVOLVE- Dissemination Event*
 - *Blue Growth Summer School on emerging technologies, trends and opportunities*
 - *InnoBlueGrowth Final Event & Report*
8. *BlueMED Initiative*
 - *BLUEMED CSA High-Level Research Infrastructures Stakeholders Conference*
 - *Forum de la Mer de Bizerte*
 - *BlueMed 4th Platforms meeting and Young Ambassadors training*
9. *UNEP/MAP holds a regional consultation with stakeholders as part of COP21 preparations*
10. *2019 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Info Day*
11. *Other news*
 - *Launch of the BlueInvest Platform*
 - *Study on MSP, prepared by the EU MSP Platform for DG MARE / EASME: Addressing conflicting spatial demands in MSP*
 - *Finalization of the Advanced Specialised Course in Sustainable Development of Coastal Communities*

Upcoming events

1. **Barcelona Convention - COP21**, 02-05 December 2019 in Naples
2. **BlueMed Pilot Action on Healthy Plastic-free Mediterranean Sea**, January 20 2020 in Venice
3. **BBI JU Stakeholder Forum 2019**, 04 December 2019 in Brussels
4. **BlueInvest Day 2020**, 04 February 2020 in Brussels
5. **2nd UfM Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy**, 10 – 11 March 2020 (TBC) in Barcelona
6. **International Coastal Symposium**, 20 – 23 April 2020 in Seville
7. **European Maritime Day**, 14 - 15 May 2020 in Cork
8. **2020 UN Ocean Conference**, 02 – 06 June 2020 in Lisbon
9. **2nd UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy** - (02 July 2020, in Malta)

Latest News

1. BlueTourMed Conference on Tourism (05 – 07 June 2019, Barcelona)

On the 5th – 7th of June 2019, the first edition of the Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Convention 2019 was held in Barcelona, bringing together 280 participants from 15 different countries, of which more than a half originated from countries other than Spain. 62,5% of these participants were representing regional and local public authorities, higher education and research institutions. It promoted as well the encounter of the territorial projects of this thematic community of the Interreg MED Programme with external actors and stakeholders of the tourism sector.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.medsustainabletourism2019.eu/2019/06/20/highlights-from-the-mediterranean-sustainable-tourism-convention-2019/>

2. High-level conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives (11-12 June 2019, Marrakech)

The MedFish4Ever Declaration, initiated by the European Commission and adopted in March 2017, created a new governance of the Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture, bringing, for the first time, joint political commitment of the riparian countries to implement a concrete roadmap in the coming 10 years. Two years down the road, on 11-12 June, a high-level conference under the umbrella of the FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) gathered the Mediterranean states in Marrakech to review progress and renew their commitment to live up to the promises of the Declaration, while looking into the future challenges that this region is facing in pursuing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

On the link below, you will find the presentations of the different sessions and panels
<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/MedFish4Ever/presentations/en/>

3. EurOCEAN 2019 conference (11-12 June 2019, Paris)

The EurOCEAN 2019 conference is an official contribution to the preparatory phase of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). It is an important initial step from the European marine science community to prepare for the UN Ocean Decade and to ensure that it aligns with the EU Framework Programmes.

Possible solutions exist to the challenges the ocean faces. However, these need to be aligned, implemented and enforced via holistic approaches, ensuring willingness, trust and co-creation by all stakeholders. The marine science community has the vital responsibility to ensure that ocean science is involved in the discussion to deliver appropriate answers to societal questions, to raise awareness of the intrinsic links we have with the ocean, and to inform and give courage to relevant decision-makers at all levels at the appropriate time.

For more detailed information, please visit:
<http://www.euroceanconferences.eu/sites/euroceanconferences.eu/files/public/res>

4. Sommet des deux rives (Summit of the Two Shores) (23-24 June 2019, Paris)

The Sommet des Deux Rives (Summit of the Two Shores) was held in Marseille on 23-24 June 2019. The Summit consisted of a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Western Mediterranean and a regional dialogue with prominent civil society representatives. This initiative seeks to foster a pragmatic regional socio-political exchange in order to showcase and launch specific projects in the region. The UfM was a key partner of the Summit in its role of platform for regional cooperation, bringing together all the European Union and Mediterranean countries. The UfM Secretary General, Nasser Kamel, had stressed earlier in an intervention in Marseille that “the best way to collectively strengthen our Mediterranean policy framework is to take advantage of existing institutions and relevant expertise established over the past few years to jointly build, hand in hand, a new dynamism capable of fulfilling all expectations and meeting all hopes”. In an effort to foster pragmatic regional dialogue in the context of the Summit of the Two Shores, the UfM organised a regional dialogue forum under the title “Shared views on key issues in the Mediterranean” on 22 and 23 May 2019 in Barcelona. This event sought to gather valuable insights of youth and civil society representatives as well as non-state actors from across the region on current challenges in the Mediterranean.

For more detailed information, please visit: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/sommet-des-deux-rives/>

5. UfM Secretariat

- **Back to back to the BlueTourMed Conference on Tourism: UfM labelled MedCoast4BlueGrowth meeting (5 – 7 June 2019, Barcelona)**

On the occasion of the Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Convention 2019 - organised by the Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism community- which took place on 5-7 June in Barcelona, CO-EVOLVE partners organised a series of conferences linked to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) labelled MedCoast4BG and the ENI CBC MED Co-Evolve4BG. The project, which just got financing from CBC, was presented on the 5th of June in Barcelona during an event organized at the UfM premises, back to back with the BlueTourMed Conference on Tourism.

For more information, please visit: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/the-ufm-participates-in-the-cprm-assembly-and-the-seminar-on-strengthening-cooperation-efforts-for-a-more-cohesive-inclusive-and-sustainable-mediterranean/>

- **UfM Senior official Meeting (18 July 2019, Brussels)**

On the 18th of July, the 43 UfM Member Countries gave the green light to the organization of a 2nd UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy, to be held in July 2020, to renew their political support on the blue economy agenda and support its further advancement in terms of political priorities, initiatives and projects.

For more information, please visit: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/som-july2019-brussels/>

- **Kick-off Meeting MedCoast 4BG (18-20 September 2019, Gammarth)**

CO-EVOLVE is an ongoing three-year Interreg MED project focusing on the sustainable development of maritime and coastal tourism that was launched in November 2016 and brings together 12 partners (public regional and local administrations, universities, research institutes, a foundation and the CPMR IMC). After the pre-kick off meeting held in Barcelona on 4 June 2019, the event in Tunis on 18-20 September served as a kick off meeting of the Co-Evolve4BG project. It consisted in a Vision Joint Workshop Co-Evolve4BG/CO-EVOLVE aiming to provide counselling to new Pilot Areas on how to transfer CO-EVOLVE's main results.

For more information, please visit: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/kick-off-meeting-medcoast/>

- **6th meeting of the UfM Working Group on the Blue Economy (20 November 2019, Brussels)**

The 6th meeting of the Working Group on the Blue Economy (BE WG) took place at the Centre des Conférences Albert Borschette (CCAB) in Brussels on 20 November. The Working Group is an integral part of the UfM Forum on Blue Economy, which is one of the deliverables of the UfM Ministerial Declaration of 17 November 2015 on Blue Economy. The 6th meeting of the UfM WG on Blue Economy:

- Presented the decision taken by the SOM in October 2019 confirming/approving the organization of a 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on the Blue Economy in 2020;
- Discussed and converged on the potential priorities of the related Ministerial Declaration;
- Wrapped up the latest advancements at regional level
- Discussed blue economy financing opportunities and financing principles, amongst other points.

The UfM Working group on Blue Economy was organized back-to-back with the **“Regional Seminar on Blue Skills/Careers/Jobs” on 19 November 2019**. The Seminar was sponsored by GIZ within the wider partnership with the UfM on Blue Economy. The seminar aimed at an interactive day of exchange on the problems and causes of mismatch between available skills and employment challenges in the blue economy sectors; possible tools to fill this gap/mismatch, showcasing successful policies and actions at regional, national and local level to address the challenges in the axis education-employment within the blue economy sector/s.

For more information, please visit: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/working-group-blue-economy-be-wg/>

6. WESTMED initiative

- **10 projects successfully submitted**

WestMED-supported promoters respond to calls with 10 new project proposals. In less than a year, the WestMED Assistance Mechanism has provided extensive assistance in drafting and submitting project proposals to different funding programmes to stakeholders.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.westmed-initiative.eu/10-projects-supported/>

- **The WestMED, Steering Committee, (23 October 2019, Rabat)**

On Wednesday 23 October, the WestMED Steering Committee (WMSC) met in Rabat, Morocco. The meeting served as an opportunity for the WMSC to evaluate the implementation of the initiative, as well as to reflect on the outcomes of the outgoing Franco-Moroccan co-presidency, and on introducing the future Italian-Moroccan co-presidency. The WMSC includes national coordinators from the relevant ministries from participating countries (France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Malta, Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia), the European Commission and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat, as well as observers from International Organizations and financial institutions. Their role is to ensure operational coordination, guidance and necessary support to ensure the initiative's expected results are achieved.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.westmed-initiative.eu/8-steering-committee/>

7. CPMR's Intermediterranean Commission

- **CO-EVOLVE- Dissemination Event (3-5 June 2019, Barcelona)**

CO-EVOLVE's EU Dissemination event aimed to take stock of the activities carried out so far by the project and share the main related outcomes (Syntheses of Threats and Enabling Factors to Sustainable Tourism; Sustainability toolkit; Strategic planning at pilot areas scale; conclusions of the pilot actions in the 12 pilot sites) as well as to present the planned transferring/capitalising activities in collaboration with MedCoast4BG (project labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean) and Co-Evolve4BG (ENI CBC MED project). CO-EVOLVE is an ongoing three-year Interreg MED project focusing on the sustainable development of maritime and coastal tourism that was launched in November 2016 and brings together 12 partners (public regional and local administrations, universities, research institutes, a foundation and the CPMR IMC).

For more information, please visit: <https://co-evolve.interreg-med.eu/news-events/news/detail/actualites/co-evolve-organises-its-dissemination-event-on-sustainable-tourism-in-barcelona/>

- **Blue Growth Summer School on emerging technologies, trends and opportunities (1-5 July 2019, Kotor)**

The Interreg MED Blue Growth Community, involving the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) and led by the InnoBlueGrowth project, organised the Blue Growth Community Summer School, entitled "Study Blue: Emerging technologies, trends & opportunities" from 1-5 July 2019 in Kotor (Montenegro).

This 5-day event during which the CPMR-IMC was actively involved, gathered key stakeholders related to the Blue Economy to share the experience and expertise of the Blue Growth Community. All experts, mentors, professors and participants who attended came from different countries of the Mediterranean region and the aim was to provide the participants with a general overview and a better understanding of the sector's state-of-the-art challenges and opportunities in an outstanding international context.

For more information, please visit: <https://cpmr-intermed.org/maritime/the-blue-growth-community-summer-school-study-blue-emerging-technologies-trends-opportunities/9148/>

- **InnoBlueGrowth Final Event & Report (19 - 20 September 2019, Brussels)**

The “Transition towards blue and green economies in the Mediterranean” event was a joint event organised by the Blue Growth and the Green Growth Communities Interreg Med. The event has represented a significant milestone as it marked the end of the first implementation period and bridges to the upcoming one. The Green and Blue Growth communities, are two of the 8 thematic communities which support the implementation of the Interreg Med strategy with their networks of: 14 projects working on sound and innovative management of natural resources and 6 projects working on sustainable blue economy matters respectively. Both innovative communities have been launched 3 years ago.

For more information on the event, please visit: <https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/news-events/news/detail/actualites/joining-forces-for-a-transition-toward-blue-and-green-economies-in-the-mediterranean/>

You can also access to the final report of the event with recommendations [here](#):

8. BlueMED Initiative

- **BLUEMED CSA High-Level Research Infrastructures Stakeholders Conference (13 – 14 June 2019, Paris)**

The BLUEMED High-Level Research Infrastructures Stakeholders Conference brought together the Mediterranean scientific community and high-level policy makers to enhance the dialogue on cooperation in the field of research infrastructures. The two-day event aimed at further strengthening marine and research innovation in the Mediterranean through the proposal of concrete actions to pave the way towards the implementation of BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda priorities.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.bluemed-initiative.eu/bluemed-csa-high-level-research-infrastructures-stakeholders-conference-13th-and-14th-june-2019-paris-france/>

- **Forum de la Mer de Bizerte (21 September 2019, Bizerte)**

The UfM co-organized the 2nd edition of the Forum de la Mer, held in Bizerte, in Tunisia the 20 and 21 September 2019, gathering political leaders, scientific communities, civil society actors, entrepreneurs and experts from the two shores of the Mediterranean, in order to share their expertise for a reasonable exploitation of the sea and the coast.

The Forum de la Mer provided this year the opportunity to exchange progress among countries of the region on the blue economy and environment dossiers.

The UfM organized a session on Blue Skills and highlighted the importance of the UfM flagship project of Lake Bizerte depollution program, as a concrete example how the regional cooperation can contribute to solve challenges that will contribute to efforts of Mediterranean depollution and job creation.

For more information, please visit: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/forum-de-la-mer-2019-2/>

- **BlueMed 4th Platforms meeting and Young Ambassadors training (15 – 18 October 2019, Barcelona)**

The Barcelona premises of the Union for the Mediterranean the past October 15-18 were the venues of two important BlueMed events: i) the 4th BlueMed Platforms meeting (Oct. 15-16) and ii) the Young Ambassadors training (Oct. 17-18). Both events, in different ways, contribute to realize the core mission of BlueMed: supporting the blue economy in the Mediterranean Basin through cooperation and knowledge sharing. The 4th Platforms meeting was centered around the discussion of the implementation plan of the SRIA and on the actions that will be propose to the Research Funders at a later stage in the project. The Young Ambassadors training was the first opportunity for the BlueMed Ambassadors, coming from the non-EU BlueMed member countries, to meet and be trained in both the scientific and communication aspects of their mandate.

For more information, please visit <http://www.bluedem-initiative.eu/bluedem-4th-platforms-meeting-and-young-ambassadors-training-15-18-october-2019-barcelona/>

9. UNEP/MAP holds a regional consultation with stakeholders as part of COP21 preparations (24-25 October 2019, Athens)

UNEP/MAP—Barcelona Convention Secretariat convened a regional consultation on the themes of COP21, the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP21). The consultation meeting took place on 24-25 October 2019 in Athens, Greece, and saw the participation of more than 20 representatives of several civil society and intergovernmental organizations working in the Mediterranean region. UNEP/MAP presented the main elements of the COP 21 Ministerial Declaration (Naples Declaration) and the milestones of the ongoing participatory process, which included an online consultation involving members of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD).

For more information, please visit: <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/unepmap-holds-regional-consultation-stakeholders-part-cop21-preparations>

10. 2019 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Info Day (25 November 2019, Brussels)

EMFF Info Day took place on 25 November 2019 at Albert Borschette Congress Center, in Brussels. A New blue economy call was presented in a series of presentations organised by EASME and the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission. The aim of the Info Day was to present funding opportunities under the 2019 “Blue Economy Window” call for proposals and to attract new applicants and potential beneficiaries. Participants also had the opportunity to take advantage of the match-making session to meet potential partners, stakeholders and other professionals in the field of blue economy.

For more detailed information, please visit: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/2019-european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-info-day>

11. Other news

- **Study on MSP, prepared by the EU MSP Platform for DG MARE / EASME: Addressing conflicting spatial demands in MSP**

This report presents the key findings of a study that was carried out in 2018 to explore the range of spatial conflicts experienced in MSP in Europe. The aim was to provide an overview of common types of spatial conflicts and solutions that have been found in various EU Member States, with particular focus on spatial conflict prevention and mitigation. This report looks at the different conflict potential of sectors, conflicting issues and stakeholder contexts, as well as different types of solutions and conditions for applying them. The study drew on conflicts described in the literature (e.g. past MSP projects) and input from planners and experts describing real-life examples of spatial conflicts. Its focus was on single cross-sectoral conflicts, bearing in mind that the term “conflict” may be contentious and that the respective sectors are not always in spatial conflict with each other. Various conflict cases between offshore wind farming, commercial fisheries, area-based maritime conservation, aquaculture, maritime tourism, maritime transport, defense, and cables and pipelines were identified for detailed consideration, either as likely to play a greater role in the future or to be faced by most countries at some stage of MSP.

You can access the publication here: http://www.medblueeconomyplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/addressing_conflicting_spatial_demands_in_MSP.pdf

- **Launch of the BlueInvest Platform**

The European Commission has launched on 13 September the Blue Invest Platform which aims to support investment readiness and access to finance for early-stage businesses, SMEs and scale-ups in the blue economy. The Blue Invest Platform provides the following services: BlueInvest Community, BlueInvest Readiness Assistance, BlueInvest Events, BlueInvest Academy and BlueInvest Pipeline.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.medblueeconomyplatform.org/vkc/news/launch-of-the-blueinvest-platform-dd50469efd/#gsc.tab=0>

- **Finalization of the Advanced Specialised Course in Sustainable Development of Coastal Communities**

The advanced course on the “Sustainable Development of Coastal Communities” launched by CIHEAM Bari last September, finalized last November 16. It was a new high-level specialised programme funded by the Italian Cooperation and implemented by CIHEAM Bari in close collaboration with FAO within the context of the Blue Hope Initiative.

The course of ten weeks' duration was held at the MARE Outpost – a branch office of CIHEAM Bari- in Tricase Porto (Le), where an integrated and inclusive growth process based on the concept of Port Museum is being implemented and is currently

recognized as a real international case study (www.portomuseotricase.org). The course participants have been this year 14 male and female officials from the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries of Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mozambique, Somalia, Tunisia.

For more detailed information on the course, please visit: http://www.iamb.it/education/lifelong_learning/sustainable_development_of_coastal_communities

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