



Union for the Mediterranean
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Biannual Flash News on Blue Economy



**Welcome to the 8th issue of the biannual 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. Barcelona Convention - COP21

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP21) concluded their twenty-first meeting (COP21) in Naples, Italy, on 5 December 2019. Ministers and senior officials representing all Contracting Parties – 21 Mediterranean States and the European Union – attended the meeting convened by the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP). [Learn more](#)

2. BlueMed Pilot Action on Healthy Plastic-free Mediterranean Sea

Following the special event at Ecomondo in November 2019, the BlueMed Pilot Action “Plastic-free for a healthy Mediterranean Sea” took place in Venice on January 21st. Mediterranean countries’ experts and stakeholders continued the cross-border coordination to tackle the threat of plastic litter, stepping from exchanging and learning good practices to scale-up operational actions. [Learn more](#)

3. BlueInvest Day 2020

BlueInvest Day 2020 took place on 4 February 2020 bringing together innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, corporates and enablers in the Blue Economy, with the objective of generating concrete business opportunities and visibility for your business. The event was an opportunity to connect entrepreneurs, captains of industry, impact investors and high-level representatives from government and the public sector. [Learn more](#)

4. First Annual Assembly of the Blue Growth Community

The Blue Growth Community organized its First Annual Assembly with a significant participation of the new associated projects and many interested regions in Blue Economy. The past 4th and 5th February 2020, the Blue Growth Community, represented by the core members of the MED Blue Growth projects, the Blue Growth associated partners, as well as other relevant stakeholders, gathered in Montpellier (France). [Learn more](#)

5. CPMR Intermediterranean Commission: Second implementation phase of the MED Sustainable Tourism Community

The kick-off meeting of the new MED Sustainable Tourism Community, held in 3-4 March 2020 in Salou (Spain), marked the launch of the second implementation phase of the Interreg MED Horizontal Project. It brought together representatives of most of the 22 Interreg MED projects dealing with sustainable tourism, involving around 300

organisations including public authorities, universities, NGOs, international organisations and private companies. [Learn more](#)

6. 2020 UfM Regional Stakeholder Consultation on Blue Economy and WESTMED Online meetings

Due to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Europe, the UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy, scheduled for the 10-11 March 2020 in Barcelona, did not take place as well as the back-to-back WESTMED Hackathons. Therefore, the UfM Co-Presidency and the Secretariat launched an online consultation with the UFM Blue Economy Community at large on the main topics under discussion for the upcoming 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Blue Economy - date to be confirmed. The many and valuable Inputs received from stakeholders are available in EN and FR [here](#).

To remain informed on the work of the UfM in the field of Blue Economy, please contact: blueeconomy@ufmsecretariat.org

The WESTMED Hackathons are taking place as online meetings, for further information please contact events@westmed-initiative.eu

7. UNEP/MAP: IMAP- MPA PROJECT: A New Drive to Strengthen Integrated Monitoring and Biodiversity Conservation in the Mediterranean

A new project implemented by the Mediterranean Action Plan of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) and funded by the European Union went underway in March 2020 with the two-pronged aim of strengthening national capabilities in integrated monitoring of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and enhancing the management of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean region. The kick-off and Steering Committee meeting took place on 10 March 2020 in Tunis and saw the participation of representatives of Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, UNEP/MAP—represented by the Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centre on Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC)—and the European Commission Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). [Learn more](#)

8. UNEP/MAP: Online Meeting examines Roadmap for Conservation of Mediterranean Biodiversity in the Post-2020 Era

The Advisory Committee of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of the Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO) held an online meeting on 2 April 2020 to examine the roadmap for the elaboration of a post-2020 SAPBIO in the context of preparations for the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). [Learn more](#)

9. Covid-19 Update: International Ocean Governance Forum- Thematic Working Group webinars

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the format of the International Ocean Governance (IOG) Forum was changed, originally scheduled for 22-24 April in Brussels. Ocean governance cannot wait for viruses to stop from spreading. To do justice to the importance of the subject, the meeting was not canceled or postponed but partially moved to a digital format. [Learn more](#)

10. Covid-19 Update: General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Meetings

In connection with the COVID-19 situation, all scheduled and below listed GFCM meetings will be postponed until further notice:

- Benchmark assessment for round sardinella 4-9 May 2020 in Rome
- Subregional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean 4-9 May 2020 in Rome
- Working group on VMS and related control systems (WGVMS), 12-13 May 2020 in Larnaca
- Working group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (WGIUU), 13-14 May 2020 in Larnaca
- Fourteenth session of the Compliance Committee (CoC), 15 May 2020 in Larnaca
- Subregional Committee for the Adriatic Sea, including a session on the establishment of Adriatic FRAs, 26-28 May 2020 in Split
- Data Preparation meeting for Black Sea anchovy 6-10 July 2020 in Trabzon
- SGSABS benchmark session for Black Sea anchovy, 13-17 July 2020 in Trabzon
- SGSABS, including meeting on the estimation of biological reference points for Black Sea fish stocks, 20-24 July 2020 in Trabzon

In addition, the following events will be also postponed until further notice:

- Intersessional meeting on the strategy post-2020, 9-10 June 2020 in Algiers
- Twenty-second session of the SAC, including a side event for the validation of data on the characterization of SSF 30 June - 3 July 2020, in Rome

For further information, please follow the [GFCM website](#)

11. Coronavirus: European Commission helps Member States support local fishing and aquaculture communities

DG MARE has published an information note to give guidance to EU Member States outlining existing tools and instruments to support their local communities. Fisheries and aquaculture have been hit particularly hard by significant market disruptions, including from mandatory restaurant closures. The information note provides details to Member States about support measures that are available immediately and that can be used without delay. There are a number of options, both under the current rules of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the newly adopted Temporary Framework for State aid. [Learn more](#)

12. EU global response to coronavirus: supporting partner countries

The coronavirus pandemic is a global crisis. It can only be solved at global level. A strong European response in support of our partners is the only way to put an end to the spread of the virus and to avoid spillover effects on social stability and security in our partner countries. The EU will lead efforts in the G7 and G20, in coordination with the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF and other multilateral institutions, to promote a strong and coordinated multilateral response to this global pandemic. [Learn more](#)

Resources and Opportunities

1. GFCM Mapping of small-scale fisheries (SSF) initiatives: interactive online tool launched

A new interactive online tool to map initiatives and projects addressing small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region has been developed by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), in collaboration with the Friends of SSF partner organizations: the WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, the Black Sea Advisory Council (BISAC), CIHEAM-Bari, the Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) and the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC). [Learn more](#)

2. BlueGeneration job portal launched to attract new generation into blue economy careers

The BlueGeneration project launched in February 2020 and funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment is a flagship job portal at www.bluegeneration.careers. Companies across the Blue Economy can advertise open positions and training opportunities free of charge to thousands of young Europeans. The portal is being promoted to thousands of young people across Europe through school visits and promotional activities. It focuses on young people between the ages of 15 and 29 with the aim to attract them and start a career in the Blue Economy. [Learn more](#)

3. Capacity4MSP - Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers

Funded by the Interreg Programm, the project Capacity4MSP will create a practically oriented and interactive collaboration platform for MSP stakeholders, decision- and policy makers that will inform, support and enhance on-going MSP efforts by capitalising on the outcomes of various transnational MSP projects and national MSP processes. [Learn more](#)

4. EConcrete Webinar: Blue is the new Green - Ecological Enhancement of Coastal and Marine Infrastructure

The online seminar, which took place on April 21st, shed light on an emerging approach for planning, design and retrofitting of hard structures to create multifunctional Blue-Green Infrastructure using environmentally sensitive designs and

construction technologies that enhance their ability to provide rich and diverse urban marine environments. [See the webinar recording here](#)

5. Innovation Strategic Projects Open Call for Proposals

This call takes place under the framework of Interreg MED Programme Axis 4 - Governance and is open from 10 March to 10 June at noon (CET) only for public authorities or equivalent. On this occasion, the strategic projects will be focused on Innovation in blue economy. Partners from the southern shore of the Mediterranean are welcomed as associated partners. [Learn more](#)

6. Report: Safeguarding Marine Protected Areas in the Growing Mediterranean Blue Economy: Recommendations for Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)

This report, produced within the PHAROS4MPAs project, provides a practical reference guide to facilitate the collaboration among public authorities, marine protected areas (MPAs) managers and the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) sector to achieve a participatory approach in the MPA management. Numerous case studies show that sustainable SSF can be successful in MPAs. [Learn more](#)

7. Blue economy in the Mediterranean: Case studies, lessons and perspectives

The objective of this PLAN BLEU - UN Environment/MAP Regional Activity Centre paper is to assess and highlight the current weight and various opportunities provided by the blue economy in the Mediterranean in support of sustainable development and to showcase a range of concrete examples and good practices of how blue economy works in the region. [Learn more](#)

Upcoming events

1. [European Maritime Day](#), 14 - 15 May 2020 (TBC) in Cork
2. [EUBlueDeal Conference](#), October 2020 (TBC)
3. [2020 UN Ocean Conference](#), 02 – 06 June 2020 (TBC) in Lisbon
4. [2nd UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy](#) – (date TBC)
5. [The Mediterranean: scientific expertise for decision-makers](#), 2 - 4 September 2020 in Marseille
6. [Malta Maritime Summit 2020](#), 5 - 9 October 2020 in Malta
7. [Ocean Hackathon](#), 9 - 11 October 2020 in Brest
8. [7th EMB Forum - Big Data in Marine Science](#), 23 October 2020, in Brussels
9. [Offshore Energy Exhibition and Conference \(OEEC\) 2020](#), 26 October 2020, in Amsterdam

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