



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

Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform

Biannual Flash News on Blue Economy

Welcome to the 9th 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.

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→ [Click here](#) to submit news and upcoming events for the next issue of the newsletter or to publish on the [Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform](#).

Latest News

1. UfM Grant Scheme for employment promotion Regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic

With the UfM Grant Scheme for employment promotion – Regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UfM is actively supporting non-profit organizations in the Mediterranean that work to give people opportunities in view of the COVID-19-induced economic crisis. It focuses on projects that enable people to find jobs, continue to gain a living and improve their work and living conditions. At the same time, UfM seeks to support projects that encourage entrepreneurship and improve the business climate for Micro-, Small and Medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) as crucial providers of employment in the Mediterranean region. Open to all sectors. [Learn more](#)



2. Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform new layout

The Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform, our hub for maritime and marine affairs in the Mediterranean has just been re-designed into a more user-friendly version. You can now easily find all the knowledge resources, community updates, news and events about Blue Economy in the Mediterranean. Visit the site and dive into all our resources. [Learn more](#)



3. 7th meeting of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy (15th September, Online)

The 7th WG aimed at recapping the state of art of the Ministerial process and the ongoing Blue Economy initiatives and activities; as well as to address the impacts of the COVID crisis on the specific blue economy sector/s and identify more precise concrete actions for the years to come. [Learn more](#)

4. BlueMED: Bluemed Preliminary Implementation Plan (June, 2020)

The BlueMed Research and Innovation Initiative is formally joined by 16 EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries and steered by the EuroMediterranean Group of Senior Officials BlueMed Working Group (GSO BlueMed WG), co-chaired by the European Commission and the co-chair of the Union of the Mediterranean (currently Jordan) and supported by the Secretariat of the Union of the Mediterranean. **Read the full Preliminary Implementation Plan [here](#).**



5. WestMED: Towards a Maritime Innovation Technologies Platform

WestMED Initiative organized a series of Hackathon type meetings amongst which Hackathon n4 discussed and assessed the potential for a Mediterranean-wide Maritime Innovation Technologies Platform (Med-MIT) or similar actions and/or projects that could allow for greater cooperation between clusters, research/technological centres, institutions and sectorial actors. [Learn more](#)



6. EUSAIR: Mediterranean Coast and Macro-regional Strategies Week 2020 (September, 2020).

The fifth Mediterranean Coast and Macro-Regional Strategies Week is one of the key events during Slovenia's Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). The event aimed to raise awareness about the sea, its coast and the natural and economic potential it boasts, and outlines the risks facing the sea and the coast as a result of natural phenomena and human activities. [Learn more](#)



7. European Green Deal – Research & Innovation Call – Currently Open - €1 billion investment in green and digital transition

The European Commission has launched a €1 billion call for research and innovation projects that respond to the climate crisis and help protect Europe's unique ecosystems and biodiversity. The projects funded under this call are expected to deliver results in ten different areas. The deadline for submissions is 26 January 2021, with selected projects expected to start in autumn 2021. [Learn more](#)



8. UfM: Reducing pressure on oceans and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy

The UfM participated in the EU International Ocean Governance Forum, launched by the European Commission in association with the European External Action Service to provide a platform for dialogue on ocean challenges and governance solutions. The International Ocean Governance (IOG) Forum took place online on 23-24 of April to further strengthen international ocean governance for the sustainable use of oceans and seas and the shift to the blue economy. With the participation of the UfM Deputy Secretary General, Isidro González Afonso and UfM Head of Sector, Alessandra Sensi, the core of the debate was the degradation of marine ecosystems and the related economic and social impacts of activities linked to the seas, like the supply of food and tourism. [Learn more](#)



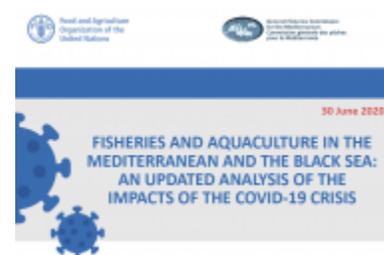
9. UfM: Strengthening collaboration to tackle pollution in the Mediterranean

The UfM strengthens collaborative efforts to address the impacts of pollution together with the UN Environment Program / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). The UfM participated at the UNEP 21st Meeting of the Members of the Steering Committee of Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development on 13-14 May 2020. The discussions focused on marine litter, biodiversity, marine protected areas and coastal management, as well as a proposal to make the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, an Emission Control Area for sulphur oxides emitted by oil fuel of ships. [Learn more](#)



10. Updated analysis of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Since early March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted business as usual around the world with severe consequences affecting most industries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region, not least of which, the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Two months after the [preliminary analysis](#) carried out by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, which covered the critical early phase of the crisis, from March to April 2020, the GFCM is publishing: Fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea An updated analysis of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. [Learn more](#)



11. INTERREG MED BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY gathers key stakeholders to transfer tools

On July 27th 2020, the Blue Growth Community (BGC) organised its 2nd Advisory Board meeting (on-line event) with a high participation -more than 120 registered persons and around 65 permanent attending participants- among the BGC members, MED Blue Growth projects and relevant stakeholders included. This on-line meeting was the occasion for updating the Community members on the project's progress, explaining the transferring process towards capitalisation of the BGC modular projects' outputs and the role of the Community in this process. Besides, BGC partners highlighted the importance of the "[marina-platform](#)", as an interactive space for working together and a powerful tool for the Advisory Board's activities. [Learn more](#)



12. INTERREG MED BLUE BIO MED: A project to promote better governance of blue bioeconomy innovation policies

BLUE BIO MED is one of the two strategic projects funded under Interreg MED Axis 4 on Governance (PANORAMED) recently launched that focus on blue bioeconomy. The project promotes the transformation of Mediterranean blue bioeconomy field toward sustainable development goals through innovation. It supports better governance of innovation policies bridging the transnational governance frameworks active in the Mediterranean area (i.e. UfM, UNEP-MAP, EUSAIR, WestMed, Bluemed Initiative, etc.) with the territorial – regional/national – policy making, assuming the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the common reference grid. CPMR will be highly involved in the project's communication activities, as coordinator of the related work package, with a focus on sharing information on blue bioeconomy. [Learn more](#)



13. Call for Ideas towards Start-Up Actions for a Plastic Free healthy Mediterranean Sea (PARADISE Call)

The call is aimed at Enabling Research in Plastics in a Circular Economy Context, it is intended to support applicant entities seeking to escalate the activities to explore new ideas, methods and innovations that can bring changes in the manufacturing/imports/distribution, consumption patterns and life cycle of



plastics. This will enable the participants to generate their ideas and carry out the necessary preparatory activities that may lead to an enhanced project proposal for Horizon Europe calls based on any actions they wish to carry out locally and may include activities overseas. [Learn more](#)

14. UNEP /MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat: Message on Mediterranean Coast Day. [Read the full message here](#)

Resources and Opportunities

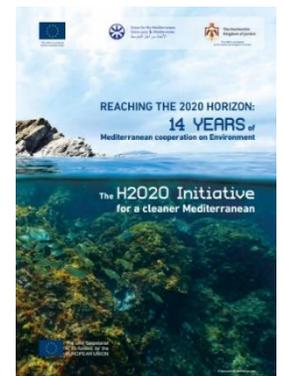
1. WEBINAR: Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ports and Maritime Transport in the Mediterranean Region

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the MEDports Association, hosted an online Webinar on the “Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ports and Maritime Transport in the Mediterranean Region” on 27 May 2020, from 10:00 to 13:00. The meeting brought together representatives from port authorities of the Mediterranean basin, shipping lines and other maritime-related transport companies, along with sectoral international and regional organisations, the European Commission and National transport administrations. [Learn more](#)



2. New publication: Reaching the 2020 Horizon: 14 years of Mediterranean cooperation on Environment.

The 'Horizon 2020 Initiative' (2007 - 2020) has been a joint effort to substantially reduce pollution in the Mediterranean by tackling the sources that are said to account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal solid waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution. The initial frame of action and scope progressively expanded since its mid-way point in 2014, to integrate approaches and actions in support of pollution prevention and the region's transition towards a green economy. This report focuses on this second phase of the H2020 Initiative. [Learn more](#)



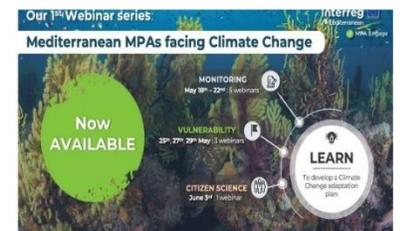
3. BLUEMED e-training course: Understanding and Acting for a Healthy Plastic Free Mediterranean Sea (16th June-21st July 2020, online)

The BlueMed Initiative delivered the e-training course on Understanding and acting for a healthy plastic free Mediterranean Sea, organized in the framework of the Pilot Action Healthy Plastic-free Mediterranean Sea. The course brought together experts working on Marine Litter and the Blue-economy in order to share knowledge, showcase best practices and suggest methods enabling more sustainable blue jobs in the framework of the circular economy strategy, taking into due consideration education for sustainable development and citizen science. The course is closed, but all the materials, including the recording of the live webinars, are available online. [Learn more](#)



4. 1st MPA-ENGAGE Webinar series

MPA-ENGAGE conducted their first webinar series course entitled "Mediterranean MPAs facing Climate Change". Over the course of three consecutive weeks, participants learned how to gather the key information needed to develop a climate change adaptation and mitigation action plan. All the webinar's materials are available online [Learn more](#)



5. Conference November 6th, 2020, online. Past, Present and Future of the Interreg MED Programme and Governance in the Mediterranean.

The Conference will bring together around 250 participants from all over the Mediterranean, representing local, regional and national public authorities and transnational networks who are working on the key themes of the Programme,



namely innovation (blue growth, green growth and social & creative), low carbon economy (renewable energy, efficient buildings and urban transport) and protection of natural and cultural resources (sustainable tourism and biodiversity protection). [Learn more](#)

6. 2020 Blue Economy Report: Blue sectors contribute to the recovery and pave way for EU Green Deal

The EU Blue Economy Report 2020 was published in June 2020. It provides an overview of the performance of the EU economic sectors related to oceans and the coastal environment. With a turnover of €750 billion in 2018, the EU blue economy is in good health. There were also 5 million people working in the blue economy sector in 2018, representing a significant increase of 11.6% compared to the year before. [Learn more](#)



7. Call for Applicants! | Advanced Master in Sustainable Blue Growth 2020-2021

The Master in Sustainable Blue Growth is established to bring scientific excellence and technological innovation at the centre of a number of Blue Growth initiatives. The Master is jointly organized by the University of Trieste and OGS to support the creation of stable and attractive blue career pathways throughout strengthening professional skills and enhancing competencies in fields related to sustainable blue growth. [Learn more](#)



8. EU Publication: Recommendations for positive interactions between offshore wind farms and fisheries.

[Learn more](#)

9. Study reveals how Maritime Spatial Planning benefits the Blue Economy.

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming events

1. [Med Annual Event: Past, present and future of the Interreg MED Programme and of Governance in the Mediterranean](#), 06 November 2020, Hybrid format (Online and in Paris, France)
2. [Circle the Med, The Mediterranean Hybrid Forum 2020](#), 09 – 13 November 2020, Online
3. [Towards sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean](#), 03 & 16 November 2020, Online
4. [Business2Sea 2020](#), 16-19, November 2020, Online
5. [INFODAY Blue Economy Window Call](#), 24 November 2020, Online
6. [Ocean Energy Europe 2020](#), 01 December 2020, Brussels, Belgium
7. [3rd edition of the Forum of Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\) in the Mediterranean](#), 01-05 February 2021, Online
8. [International Coastal Symposium 2021](#), 03 - 06 May 2021, Seville, Spain

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