



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



## ***Women in Blue Economy in the Mediterranean***

*22nd September 2021*

# Main achievements

## Blue Economy

- 2nd UfM Ministerial on Sustainable Blue Economy adopted (Feb 2021)
- UfM Blue Economy Working Group
- UfM Blue Economy Community: direct involvement and regular consultations
- Coordination of regional initiatives and actions on Blue economy in the region

### ***Support the Blue Economy regional agenda and portfolio***

- 2nd UfM Ministerial on Sustainable Blue Economy (February 2021)
- Well established UfM Blue Economy Working Group; 1/2 meetings per year;
- Direct involvement, support and assistance to regional initiatives such as Bluemed, Westmed, Panoramed;

### ***Promotion of partnerships, networking, information sharing among countries and stakeholders***

- Consolidated Stakeholders' Consultation mechanisms;
- Up and running Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform (MedBESP);
- Multiple partnerships in place

***Technical Assistances*** in key areas of cooperation;

***Publications*** - UfM report on 'Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean', Greening Blue Economy; Maritime Clusters etc.





***Mobilization and Matchmaking of funding (DG MARE/EASME; GIZ)***

# 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy

**NEWS:** UfM Ministers commit to strengthen the blue economy sector and promote sustainable growth in the Mediterranean



The 42 UfM countries intensify efforts on:

-  joint challenges in key blue economy sectors;
-  sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;
-  environmental degradation and climate impacts;
-  seizing emerging opportunities to create sustainable jobs

## UfM ministerial priorities

Governance and the future of sea basin strategies

**Marine research, innovation, skills, careers and employment**

Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports

Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

Coastal and maritime tourism

Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Marine renewable energy

Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities

Sustainable investment in the blue economy

# 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy

## Ministerial Priority: Marine research, innovation, skills, careers and employment

### Issues

- **Disparities in research and innovation** and their potential impact on the sustainable development of BE in the region
- **Mismatch between the skills of the labour force and the evolving needs of the industry**
- **Shortage of attractive jobs** in the sector

### Needs

- **Prioritize education, vocational training and scientific capacity** including **technology transfer** to anticipate transformative technological trends and promote just transitions
- **Working closely with the private sector** to promote innovation and address skills gaps
- **Stakeholders to work together** in sector-specific partnerships to promote **decent work and tailored training**

### Support

- **BLUEMED Initiative for Blue Jobs and Growth in the Mediterranean** region, as a key element for an integrative implementation of the Research and Innovation Agenda for the Mediterranean
- **Startup Europe Mediterranean (SEMED) initiative**, to connect all the actors of the innovation system and support the job creation and competitiveness of BE SMEs

# UfM Publication: Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean Region. 2021 Edition



Available in ENG, FR, AR.

Download it at:

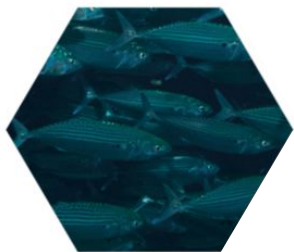
<https://medblueeconomyplatform.org/vkc/news/leaflets-full-reports-towards-a-sustainable-blue-economy-in-the-mediterranean-region-86e076de8d/>

# UfM Publication: Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean Region. 2021 Edition





# UfM Publication: Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean Region. 2021 Edition



## FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Trends

- ▶ Capture fisheries in the Mediterranean support approx 200,000 direct and 500,000 indirect jobs ( with a relative stagnation since 2016)
- ▶ Across the region, the workforce is aging, with close to half of all crew members over the age of 40, while only 17% are under the age of 25.
- ▶ Further added value and jobs creation with mariculture (blue biotechnologies, algae)

#### Skills

- ▶ Technical and professional skills needed in sustainable aquaculture/mariculture, design & planning; circular economy implementation
- ▶ Greater skills needed for policymakers to establish effective coastal zones dedicated to aquaculture in the Mediterranean
- ▶ Overall know-how of small-scale businesses should be improved (including their ability to engage with sustainable investors interested in the sector)

#### Youth & Women

- ▶ Attractiveness for youth and women with a wide variety of full-time, part-time and seasonal employment along the value chain where synergies can be found, for instance with fisheries
- ▶ Women also play an important role in aquaculture, with their key contribution being in both small-scale and industrial fisheries at the processing and marketing stage

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# MARITIME TRANSPORT AND PORTS

## EMPLOYMENT

### Trends

- ▶ Important source for green-jobs (especially for the young) with growth potentials between 5-10%
- ▶ Sector facing labour shortages (due to lack of highly qualified personnel and work conditions)

### Skills

- ▶ Skills shortages in foreign trade, environment and sustainability, digitalisation and port logistic operations
- ▶ Managerial ability to redefine just-in-time models and re-define the current supply chains and increase resilience of regional trade

### Youth & Women

- ▶ Both should benefit from the transition to a greener, smarter and more resilient mobility system
- ▶ Need to enhance opportunities for youth & women offering good social conditions and attractive jobs
- ▶ High employability of youth in Logistic Port Communities
- ▶ Need to increase the women representativeness in the sector



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## COASTAL AND MARITIME TOURISM

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Trends

- Important source for jobs.  
2.5 M jobs South Med in 2017  
and 4.9 M in 2019

#### Skills

- Need to foster sustainable  
partnerships among  
stakeholders to translate the  
sector's growth agenda into a  
comprehensive skills strategy  
and to take action to address  
sectorial skills needs

#### Youth & Women

- 54% of people employed in core  
tourism activities are women
- Youth unemployment  
opportunities exist (i.e. new  
technologies & innovation)

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# MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGIES

## EMPLOYMENT

### Trends

- Exponential increase in job creation across the different markets and technologies

### Skills

- Technical and professional skills needed in sustainable energy production sectors, eco-jobs, design & planning; energy policy analysis; energy economics and consulting; R&D, etc.

### Youth & Women

- Young professionals more keen to move to renewables sector's employment opportunities
- Various opportunities for digitalized and sustainable aware youth
- Yet, women continue to face barriers to recruitment and job retention in a still male-dominated energy industry

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# MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY

## EMPLOYMENT

### Trends

- ▶ New markets and applications of technologies (unmanned and autonomous systems, AI, big data, etc.)

### Skills

- ▶ Multidisciplinarity approach required (e.g. ICT, management, mathematics, sociology, law)
- ▶ Soft skills required for validation processes, integration of various data sources, new applications of the data, cross-sectoral integration knowledge...

### Youth & Women

- ▶ Various opportunities to newcomers (especially young)
- ▶ Still a male-driven sector with further efforts required to reduce gender gap

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**Cross-Cutting**

**Themes** in the

Mediterranean Sea

Marine Research  
& Innovation

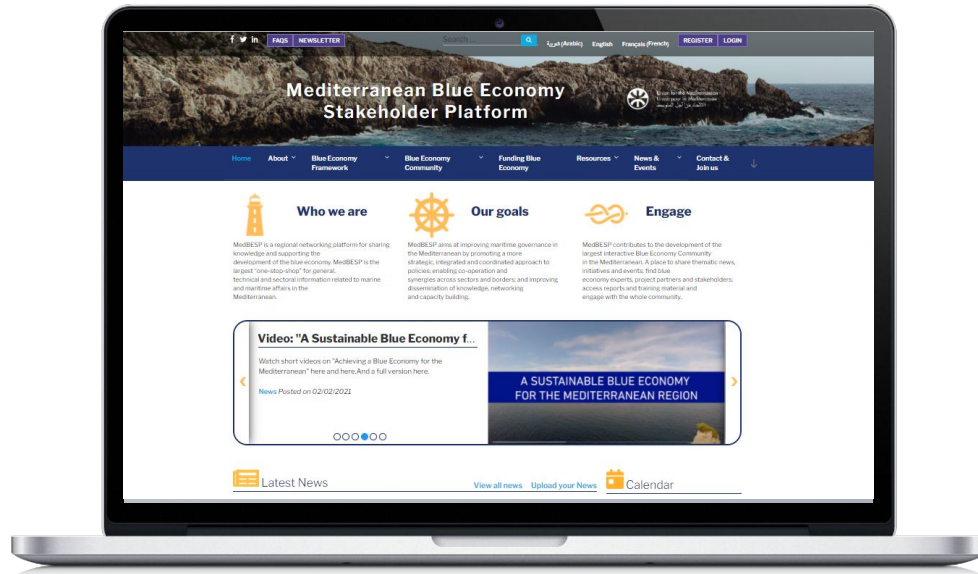
Marine litter

Maritime Skills, Careers  
and Employment

Governance and the future of sea  
basin strategies in the  
Mediterranean region

Sustainable Blue Economy as an  
opportunity: Financing sustainable returns

# Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform



- Managed by the UfM Secretariat
- To **facilitate contacts between existing education networks, exchange information** including pedagogic tools and serve as an interface for mobility programs
- MedBESP is the largest **“one-stop-shop” for general, technical and sectoral information** related to marine and maritime affairs in the Mediterranean.
- **Useful resources:** latest news, events, publications, training material, webinars, stakeholders database, bi-annual newsletters and, much more!

[www.medblueeconomyplatform.org/](http://www.medblueeconomyplatform.org/)







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[alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org)  
Head of Sector – Environment and Blue Economy  
Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

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