



Union for the Mediterranean  
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# ROADMAP TO SET THE PATH TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2021 UFM MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Advanced Draft Roadmap

**UfM Blue Economy Working Group**

23 March 2022



# Structure of the presentation

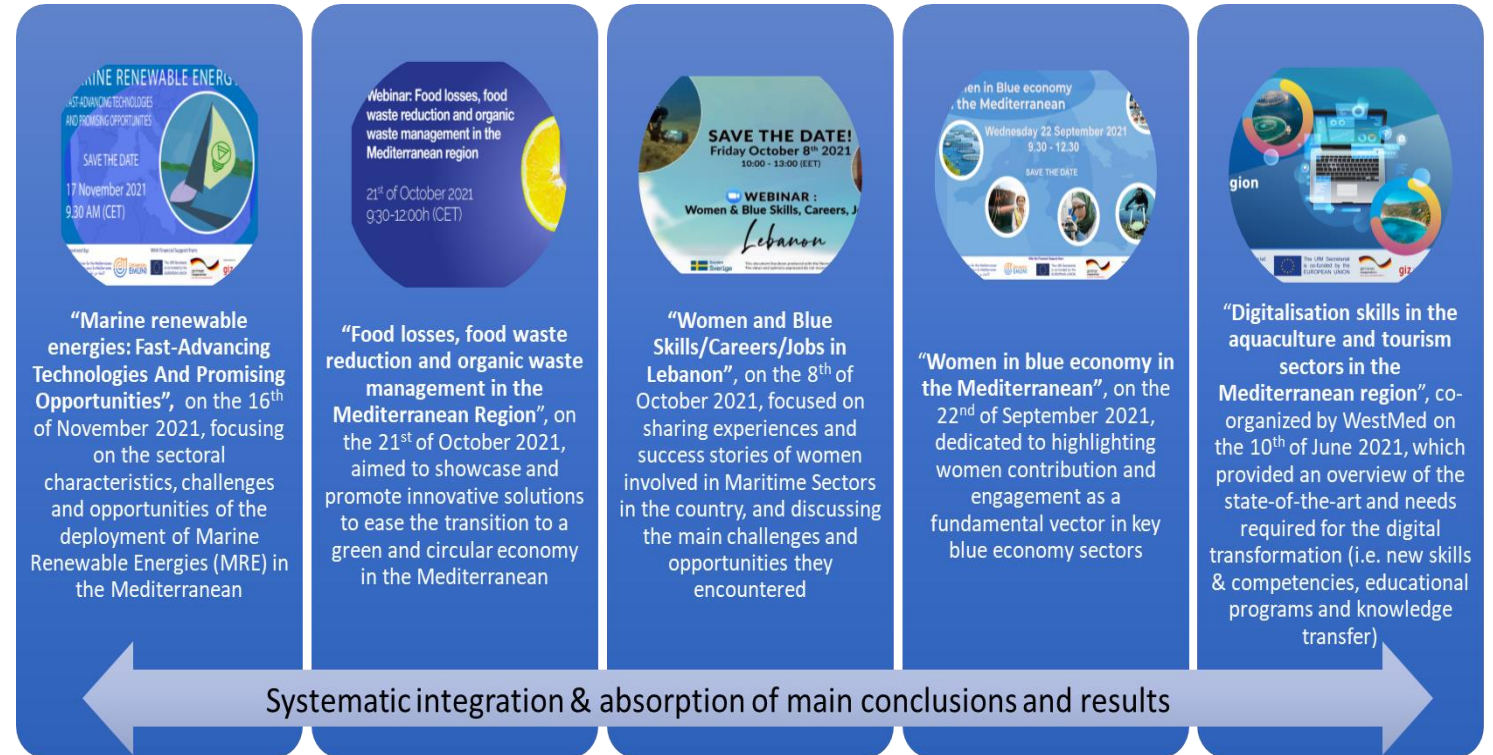
- *Rationale and objectives*
- *Sources of information used*
- *Logic of analysis provided*
- *Grouping of UfM MD priorities*
- *Steps followed in the preparation*
- *Structure proposed for the UfM Roadmap*
- *Draft actions suggested for exchanges with the WG (The information provided in this presentation and the submitted draft Roadmap are proposed as a basis for discussion in the WG)*

# Rationale and objectives

- The task is to *support the elaboration of a regional Roadmap to address needs, gaps and opportunities to be tackled for the future implementation (follow-up, programming, funding, programmes/projects, etc.) of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, in full consultation with countries and key stakeholders.*
- The Roadmap shall be the result of a **thorough and well-structured analysis** of existing needs and gaps in each of the 10 priority areas of the 2021 Ministerial Declaration, **building on existing frameworks and initiatives** in the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy policy framework.
- Help setting up main steps in terms of Roadmap implementation, including **providing support in the identification and preparation of max 3 regional projects/actions/set of activities.**

# Key sources of information

- A **synthetic overview** of the state of the art per sector and cross-cutting priority was accomplished, through the **review of over 360 actions**, including the mapping of a wide array of initiatives, policies, programmes and projects existing in the region, which constitutes the basis for the gaps and needs analysis conducted
- This was completed with the review of key documents (grey literature), with a special focus on the UfM report **“Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region 2021 Edition”** published in July 2021, as well as the results of the series of **UfM webinars** conducted in 2021.




# Logic of the analysis provided


As a first step, a **large database of over 360 relevant initiatives** has been compiled. The database includes relevant regional, subregional and international/transnational initiatives including policy frameworks, projects, etc.) covering each priority area identified in the UfM Ministerial Declaration;



As a second step, building on this broad set of information, a **qualitative review has been provided** by matching each collected initiative with the relevant call for action identified by the UfM Ministerial Declaration and the type of support being provided – i.e. offering regional or subregional policy framework for actions or a specific contribution in terms of support to cooperation amongst stakeholders, R&I advancements, capitalisation of previous initiatives, etc.;



As a third substantial step, the **state of the art in the implementation** of each priority and call for actions as formulated in the UfM Ministerial Declaration has been assessed, including **areas where greater support** is possibly needed and areas where good efforts should be continued.



As the result from this analytical groundwork, the main **potential avenues for future cooperation** (pathways, processes and actions) in implementing the UfM Ministerial Declaration have been sketched, as a basis for further discussion and endorsement by the UfM Working Group on the Blue Economy. Such avenues for cooperation provide the **basis for a number of concrete initiatives** that can be launched, scaled-up and promoted in the short, medium and longer term by the UfM Secretariat in partnership with relevant regional actors across the Mediterranean sea basin.

# Grouping of UfM Ministerial Declaration priorities

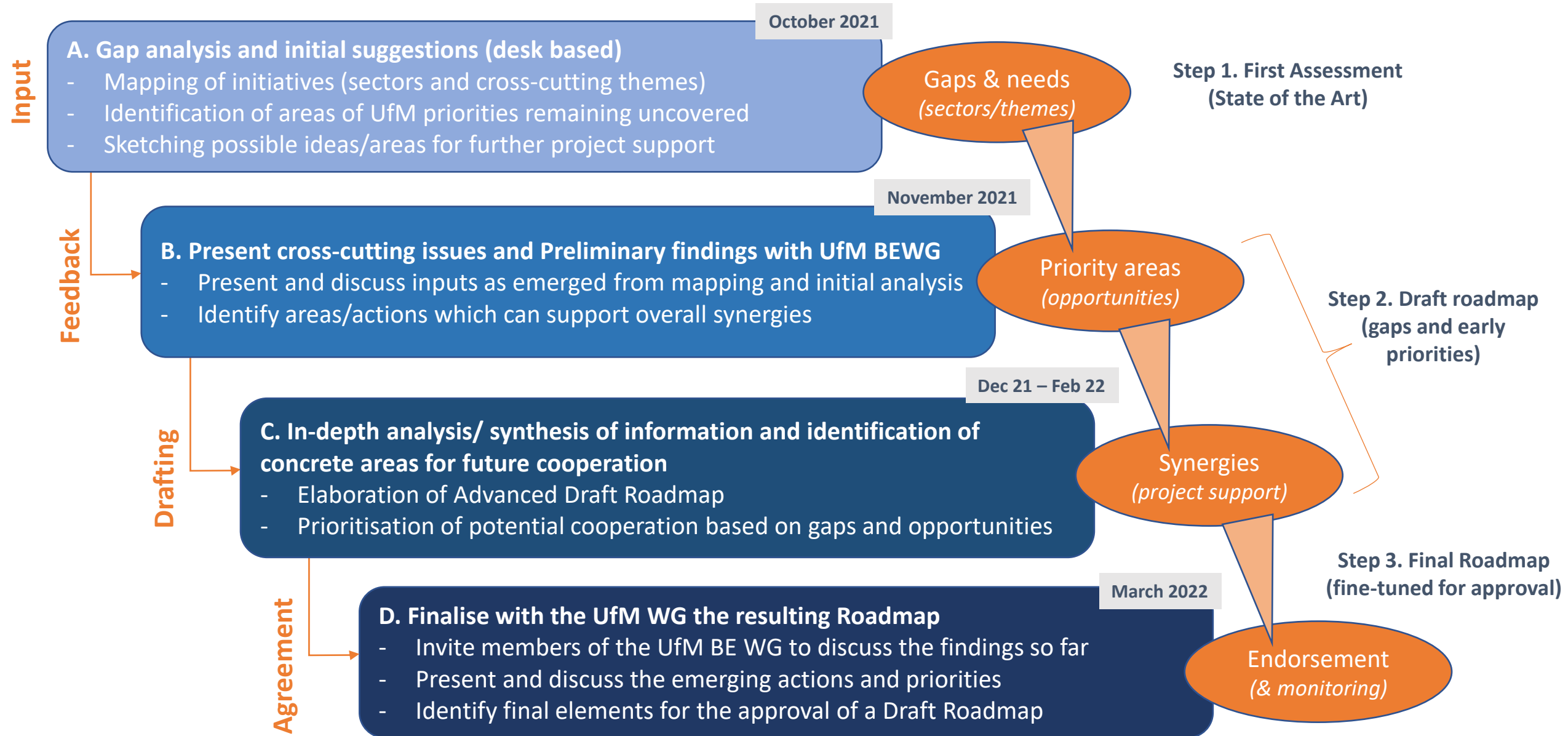
## Sectoral priorities

- *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*
- *Marine renewable energies*
- *Maritime safety and security*

## Cross-cutting priorities

- *Governance and the future of sea basin strategies (enabler)*
- *Sustainable investment in the blue economy (enabler)*
- *Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment (tool)*
- *Maritime Spatial Planning, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (tool)*

# Steps in the preparation of the Roadmap



# Structure of the Advanced Draft Roadmap

1

Introduction: objectives of the document, the rationale and the outcomes expected to guide the midterm implementation of the UfM Declaration

2

Assessment of the UfM Ministerial Declaration: Sectoral Priorities

3

Assessment of the UfM Ministerial Declaration: Cross-cutting Priorities

4

Provisions for the monitoring system

5

Overview of shortlisted actions for a concrete follow-up



# Example of proposed action: structure and details

## Priority: Maritime and Coastal Tourism

	UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
1	<p>Promote fiscal and investment policies to support sustainable coastal and marine tourism</p> <p>Promote the digitalization of the sector</p> <p>Promoting the diversification of the tourism offer, encouraging experience-based and sustainable tourism as well as associating the hinterland</p>	<p>A larger amount of public grants covers tourism although mainly on the northern shore, with a wide number of good practices/projects being supported.</p> <p>Access to finance nevertheless remain an issue for micro-SMEs to access innovation, technology towards digitalisation and sustainable diversification.</p> <p>Local/national development agencies are active in supporting sustainable tourism enterprises across the Mediterranean although often focus more on inland/city tourism than coastal/maritime (particularly for the southern shore).</p>	<p><b>Systematic involvement and exchange between successful projects/initiatives in tourism diversification/digitalisation and local/national Development Agencies / Investment Banks across the region.</b></p> <p>The exchange would enable to identify ‘corridors’ and ‘priorities of intervention’ for the sector to fully innovate (digitalise and diversify) as a guidance for banks to support local micro/SMEs – on the basis of national and local strategies – and with a strong emphasis on youth and women entrepreneurship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify relevant local/national Development Agencies, including regional ones (e.g. African Development Bank)</li> <li>• Engage with relevant successful tourism project/initiatives in the Mediterranean (so to get a clear view of priority needs and financial support for the sector)</li> <li>• Set-up an exchange of ideas/success cases to raise awareness of Development Agencies (webinars, workshops, etc.)</li> <li>• Identify priority innovation/technologies and bottlenecks in their access to micro-SMEs to be addressed</li> </ul>

# Proposed actions for implementing the Roadmap (sectors) – basis for UfM WG discussion

- Tourism > **Financing tourism diversification/digitalisation**
- Ports & Transport > **Transformative innovation for small-scale ports**
- Ports & Transport > **Fostering ports as ‘hubs’ of clean and renewable energy**
- Renewables > **MSP for a proper planning of marine renewables zones/licensing**
- Renewables > **Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) / Twinning**
- Fisheries & Aquaculture > **Scale-up good practices on sustainable food value-chains**
- Fisheries & Aquaculture > **Principal Areas (fisheries), Allocated Zones (aquaculture)**
- Litter > **Foster ability of ports in adopting fully circular models**
- Safety & Security > **Mediterranean Maritime Safety and Security Academy (MedCGFF)**

# Proposed actions for implementing the Roadmap (cross-cutting) – basis for UfM WG discussion

- Innovation, skills, careers, jobs > **Cluster alliance to address the sector and investors**
- Innovation, skills, careers, jobs > **Scale-up innovation practices across the seabasin**
- Innovation, skills, careers, jobs > **Expand existing socio-economic observatories**
- Innovation, skills, careers, jobs > **Continuation of webinars (e.g. Ocean Literacy?)**
- Innovation, skills, careers, jobs > **Support Sustainable Smart Specialisation Strategies**
- MSP & ICZM > **Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) multi-stakeholder working group**

# Suggested grouping of actions for implementing the Roadmap (sectors) – Basis for UfM WG discussion

## **Small ports, marinas diversification**

Transformative innovation for small-scale ports  
Fostering ports as 'hubs' of clean and renewable energy  
Foster ability of ports in adopting fully circular model

## **MSP as sector enabler**

MSP for a proper planning of marine renewables zones/licensing  
Principal Areas (fisheries), Allocated Zones (aquaculture)  
Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) multi-stakeholder working group

## **Smart specialisation and local valuechains innovation**

Support Sustainable Smart Specialisation Strategies  
scale-up good practices on sustainable food value-chains  
Financing tourism diversification/digitalisation  
Cluster alliance to address the sector and investors  
Scale-up innovation practices across the seabasin

# **Suggested grouping of actions for implementing the Roadmap (sectors) – basis for UfM WG discussion**

## **Cross-cutting topics**

Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) / Twinning  
Expand existing socio-economic observatories  
Continuation of webinars (e.g. Ocean Literacy?)

## **Possible link to Coastguard Services**

Mediterranean Maritime Safety and Security Academy

# Next steps...

## Roadmap

Intended as a 'living' document to be presented in June

Green light by the WG members

Working Group members to provide further feedback within this week

## Concrete actions

Countries identify preference on topics

Thematic experts to be nominated based on relevant interests

Dedicated discussion to be held among experts during 2022

# **Backup slides**

**Further details of proposed actions:  
inputs to be used in support of Q&A**

## Priority: Maritime and Coastal Tourism

UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
<p><b>1</b> Promote fiscal and investment policies to support sustainable coastal and marine tourism</p> <p>Promote the digitalization of the sector</p> <p>Promoting the diversification of the tourism offer, encouraging experience-based and sustainable tourism as well as associating the hinterland</p>	<p>A larger amount of public grants covers tourism although mainly on the northern shore, with a wide number of good practices/projects being supported.</p> <p>Access to finance nevertheless remain an issue for micro-SMEs to access innovation, technology towards digitalisation and sustainable diversification.</p> <p>Local/national development agencies are active in supporting sustainable tourism enterprises across the Mediterranean although often focus more on inland/city tourism than coastal/maritime (particularly for the southern shore).</p>	<p><b>Systematic involvement and exchange between successful projects/initiatives in tourism diversification/digitalisation and local/national Development Agencies / Investment Banks across the region.</b></p> <p>The exchange would enable to identify ‘corridors’ and ‘priorities of intervention’ for the sector to fully innovate (digitalise and diversify) as a guidance for banks to support local micro/SMEs – on the basis of national and local strategies – and with a strong emphasis on youth and women entrepreneurship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify relevant local/national Development Agencies, including regional ones (e.g. African Development Bank)</li> <li>• Engage with relevant successful tourism project/initiatives in the Mediterranean (so to get a clear view of priority needs and financial support for the sector)</li> <li>• Set-up an exchange of ideas/success cases to raise awareness of Development Agencies (webinars, workshops, etc.)</li> <li>• Identify priority innovation/technologies and bottlenecks in their access to micro-SMEs to be addressed</li> </ul>



## Priority: Fisheries and Aquaculture

UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
<p><b>2</b> Comply with the recommendations adopted by the GFCM with the view to sustainably manage key stocks in the region and develop sustainable aquaculture</p>	<p>Aquaculture growth is a means for ensuring the sustainability of regional fisheries stock, while developing fully sustainable food cycles.</p> <p>In this context, to achieve sustainable food cycles, it is essential to ensure the full sustainability of aquaculture practices, while promoting circular innovation and diversification of food value chains across the Mediterranean.</p> <p>A central role in this process is being played by the SFS-MED Platform, which is now at a pivotal point in time in defining the actors involved and outlining a clear timeline and key milestones to ensure implementation in future years, building on the 2021 UN Food Summit, the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Mediterranean Diet in September 2022, in Italy; and the PRIMA Community of Practice on WEFE.</p> <p>Importantly, other sub-regional initiatives could be capitalized across the Mediterranean (e.g. WestMED AquaWest Technical Group), as a way to enhance the innovation capacity and diversification of value chains across the region.</p>	<p><b>Scale-up good practices on sustainable food value-chains.</b></p> <p>Continue the work done under the topic of Sustainable Food Systems (particularly through the SFS-MED Platform), with a focus on finalizing national pathways and start their implementation.</p> <p>Address other good regional practices (e.g. WestMED AquaWest Technical Group, EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism, SwitchMED) in involving both southern and northern experts and practitioners in the sector, towards a fully circular and sustainable food cycle – and the main role of sustainable aquaculture in innovative food value-chains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure linkages with regional relevant actions (SFS-MED, WestMED TG on Sustainable Aquaculture, Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism, etc.)</li> <li>• Identify living labs for relevant coastal cities as to promote multi-stakeholder exchanges to identifying areas for sustainable/circular innovation across local food chains</li> <li>• Discuss hot topics for sustainable food chains are identified, while main challenges for adoptions at local level are identified with concrete actions</li> <li>• Support twinning and other actions to implement innovative, circular and fully sustainable food systems</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> Establishment and strengthening of marine protected areas and fisheries restricted areas</p> <p>Comply with the recommendations adopted by the GFCM with the view to sustainably manage key stocks in the region and develop sustainable aquaculture</p> <p>Further support to the GFCM’s Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (RPOA-SSF) as a vital political commitment to strengthen and support sustainable SSF in the region as well as their resilience to shocks</p>	<p>MSP is an essential crosscutting tool to ensure sustainable development of the blue economy. Under the multi-use perspective of MSP spatial limitation and planning for aquaculture sustainable development plays a crucial role.</p> <p>In particular, identification of Allocation Zones is essential for a clear spatial planning and requires in-depth analysis. This is therefore an area of pivotal importance.</p> <p>In this context, some very specific tools, expertise and skill-sets are still largely lacking across the Mediterranean and are required in light of a sustainable development for the sector. This is a propaedeutic activity also towards the support to sustainable food-value chain (as proposed in the action above).</p>	<p><b>Principal Areas for Fisheries and Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs).</b></p> <p>In the context of the development of national Marine Spatial Planning strategies, prioritise the identification of Principal Areas for Fisheries and Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs) at country level in the Mediterranean basin and increase their number by 2024.</p> <p>This could be done through a dedicated series of exchanges of practices and sharing of good practices amongst competent authorities and key stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with responsible of national activities for MSP, as well as relevant local operators in the sector</li> <li>• Allow for exchange of experiences and practices towards the need of proper planning and MSP as a way to also ensure sustainable economic return for companies and attract sustainable investments (i.e. through a stable policy framework)</li> <li>• Draft and disseminate operational guidance material to support practitioners – by building on good examples previously identified</li> </ul>

## Priority: Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and jobs

UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
<p><b>4</b> The establishment of blue economy clusters – including transnational ones, the strengthening of existing clusters, and increased cooperation between national clusters in the Mediterranean</p> <p>Research and innovation investments at all levels to address key challenges of the region, provide tailor-made solutions for society at large, create new and sustainable business opportunities in the blue economy; and work closely with the private sector promotion of the Startup Europe Mediterranean (SEMED) initiative, aiming, in partnership with BLUEMED, to connect all the actors of the innovation system in the Mediterranean area as well as other instruments and initiatives to support the sustainable development, job creation and competitiveness of Blue economy SMEs</p>	<p>Maritime clusters act as catalysts for sustainable innovation, access to finance and overall technological development of the blue economy across the Mediterranean.</p> <p>As reported in a recent UfM study, although clusters in the sector have been growing and consolidating throughout the past decade, there is still room for support and reinforcement.</p> <p>A wide range of alliances and networking initiatives, including through sub/regional projects exist in this respect and could be further capitalised. As a result, greater awareness and understanding of the role of cluster may allow for more effective local activities.</p>	<p><b>Mediterranean cluster alliance (s) to address sectoral needs and raise its profile towards sustainable investors.</b></p> <p>Provide further support towards southern clusters, mostly at an early stage of development and often not yet fully active, so they can grow in number and size and be able to better engage with other regional counterparts.</p> <p>Build upon existing initiatives (WestMED Cluster Alliance) and projects (e.g. MISTRAL, BlueSkills, Culture &amp; Creative Industry) which are aiming at the same cooperation purpose across the region – with the ambition to channel investments towards innovation of business models and business ecosystems across the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Bring greater awareness on the role of maritime clusters in south-east countries so to accelerate their establishment.</p> <p>Promoting the development of existing clusters such as the Algerian or the Tunisian Maritime Clusters (or Maghreb cluster) to grow and become mature in order to be able to scale-up to become regional.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify relevant initiatives at regional, subregional and international levels</li> <li>Provide a platform for sharing experiences and opportunities amongst the initiatives</li> <li>Identify specific means to further support the development of maritime clusters on the southern shore</li> <li>Monitor advancements and increasingly expand the reach of the network and its ambition</li> </ul>
<p><b>5</b> Research and innovation investments at all levels to address key challenges of the region, provide tailor-made solutions for society at large, create new and sustainable business opportunities in the blue economy; and work closely with the private sector</p> <p>Collaborate in the relevant international I to adapt training and education requirements for maritime-related professions, stakeholders to work together in sector-specific partnerships to develop and implement strategies to address skill gaps and promote decent work and tailored training for blue economy sectors</p>	<p>Although not directly referred to in the UfM Ministerial Declaration, Ocean Literacy is a growing concept with high relevance to address the calls for action referred to in this section (left).</p> <p>Ocean Literacy is in fact reportedly contributing to overall awareness of challenges and opportunities offered by the sea (careers, jobs, skills, marine litter, etc.) and calls for a full engagement of all parties involved in the sustainable management of our ocean and seas (hence linking to fostering sustainable innovation and inclusion of blue economy actors).</p> <p>Put ocean literacy high on the Mediterranean policy agenda would be a strong contribution by the UfM to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>	<p><b>Capitalise existing practices and scale them up across the Mediterranean countries.</b></p> <p>Further support of EU4Ocean Coalition for Ocean Literacy, by building on this experience to capitalize and extend towards the whole Mediterranean Sea basin, including Southern countries.</p> <p>Capitalize on the achievements of this project (Platform for organisations and individuals engaged in Ocean Literacy initiatives, a European Youth Forum for the Ocean and a Network of European Blue Schools, WG on Healthy and Clean Ocean) as well as the achievements of BlueSkills project.m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Either supporting the extension of the platform or ensuring an observe” membership for the UfM so to strengthen/support ongoing actions.</li> </ul>

## Priority: Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and jobs

UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
<p><b>6</b> Invest in socioeconomic observatories and provide scientific evidence to support integrated approaches to the development of the sustainable blue economy</p>	<p>There are low number of socioeconomic observatories in the Mediterranean, both at the regional and subregional level. There is a good coverage of marine observatories focused on biodiversity and coastal data (such as the Copernicus Marine Service, the European Marine Observation and Data network) but very few in the socioeconomic field.</p> <p>The main non-national socioeconomic observatory is Plan Bleu that acts as the Mediterranean Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development.</p> <p>In addition, there is also a gap on the South Mediterranean Sea basin where very few initiatives on this field can be found.</p>	<p><b>Capitalise and support existing initiatives, with a special focus on the South Mediterranean Sea basin.</b></p> <p>Further support on socioeconomic observatories, particularly transnational ones, but also capitalising from successful initiatives at benefit of the whole region.</p> <p>Through continuously gathering data and its analysis, the region can foresee major socioeconomic needs and be prepared to meet these demands and avoid significant imbalances such as the current labour mismatch.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of relevant stakeholders and authorities willing to lead the process</li> <li>• Stock taking exercise of state of the art with regards to the data availability to support the development of the sustainable blue economy</li> <li>• Development of the project following the logical framework approach )</li> </ul>
<p><b>7</b> The UfM countries to collaborate in the relevant international fora to adapt training and education requirements for maritime-related professions, stakeholders to work together in sector-specific partnerships to develop and implement strategies to address skill gaps and promote decent work and tailored training for blue economy sectors</p>	<p>A variety of strategies and tools for blue career development are already in place in the form of transnational projects promoting the development of skills (BlueSkills), internship mobility between Mediterranean countries (HOMERe) or the integration of young people (MedNc). These seek to address the mismatch between the education <i>curricula</i> and the skillsets needed by the market as well as to promote skills and employment in specific sectors.</p> <p>The UfM has an important role regarding enhancing skills for better employability. Among the actions developed, in June 2021 a series of webinars on skills promotion were held.</p>	<p><b>Ensuring the continuation of the series of UfM webinars on Blue Skills, careers and jobs held in 2021 and capitalise on the European Year Youth 2022.</b></p> <p>For example, the experience of the digitalisation webinar, could be continued and the “Women and Blue Skills/Careers/Jobs” webinar could be replicated in other SEMED countries with a similar focus on gender; but also “Digitalisation skills in the aquaculture and tourism sectors in the Mediterranean region” and “Women in blue economy in the Mediterranean” UfM webinars.</p> <p>Moreover, capitalising on the European Year of Youth 2022, a new (cycle of) webinar(s) could be organised with a focus on the upskilling and reskilling of young students and workers according to the needs of key Blue Economy sectors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an ad hoc working group to facilitate the continuation of the series of webinars on the topic</li> <li>• Analysis of similar type of events around the topic to assess potential synergies</li> <li>• Preparation of a detailed planning for the organisation of the webinars</li> <li>• Agenda design and conceptualization</li> <li>• Upholding of the events</li> <li>• Ensure communication and outreach, ex-ante, during and after the webinars</li> </ul>

## Priority: Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and jobs

UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
<p><b>8</b> Research and innovation investments at all levels to address key challenges of the region, provide tailor-made solutions for society at large, create new and sustainable business opportunities in the blue economy; and work closely with the private sector</p>	<p>Smart Specialisation, as a place-based and innovative approach to innovation, was conceived as a "Ma"e in EU" concept associated to the European cohesion policy. Under this umbrella, it has triggered the development of more than 120 Smart Specialisation Strategies among European Union (EU) regions and Member States in recent years.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the European roots of Smart Specialisation have gradually grown beyond EU borders. Smart Specialisation has started inspiring, at different levels, several countries and regions belonging to the European Enlargement Policy, the European Neighbourhood Policy and more widely.</p> <p>The approach should be further expanded and shared across the whole Mediterranean Sea basin, by capitalizing on ongoing experiences in the EU but also in other non-EU Countries (5+5 dialogue).</p>	<p><b>Support Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) across the Mediterranean Sea basin.</b></p> <p>S3 is an advanced process within EU Mediterranean countries but also some EU Neighbouring countries are discussing the approach and piloting in their own regions.</p> <p>The example from north could help and be transferred to south Mediterranean countries and would favour the identification of specific needs and innovations potentials to be promoted, as to reflect the specificities of the local value-chains across the sea basin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify interested Countries and institutional actors in the south</li> <li>• Provide a platform for sharing experiences and opportunities amongst EU and southern actors</li> <li>• Identify specific means to further support the development of Smart Specialisation Strategies on the southern shore</li> <li>• Foster a view on how the Innovation Integrated Investment (I3) Instrument could be used to strengthen north-south and south-south cooperation</li> <li>• Monitor advancements and increasingly expand the reach of the network and its ambition</li> </ul>

## Priority: Marine Litter

UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
<p><b>9</b> Improve port reception facilities to ensure proper collection and recycling of waste coming from all maritime activities</p>	<p>Port reception facilities are being addressed only by the cooperation agreement between the UNEP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection. No project has been identified tackling this issue.</p> <p>At the same time, relevant successful initiatives supporting circular models and reduction of plastics exist (Plastic Busters CAP, Plastic Busters MPAs).</p> <p>Stronger support could be needed to further capitalise those practices and strengthen the ability of port reception facility in introducing circular models.</p>	<p><b>Foster ability of Ports in adopting fully circular models – with a strong focus on supporting and sharing good practices for adoptions in southern countries.</b></p> <p>Circularity is one of the key concepts related to marine litter and the mapping has shown a limited number of projects related to circularity, in different value chains.</p> <p>It is particularly important to advance and build on existing efforts and ensure that the countries be involved even through different but interlinked, coordinated projects at regional level, maintaining a land-sea dimension.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify a sample of interested Port Authorities</li> <li>• Discuss with relevant regional/national projects on actions needed</li> <li>• Set-up an action plan for implementation</li> </ul>

## Priority: Marine Renewable Energies

	UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
10	<p>Offshore operations for renewable energy production to be carried out by taking safety precautions and considering environmental impacts</p> <p>The enhancement of relevant regulatory frameworks and facilitation of licensing process while preserving adequate assessment and public consultation prior to installing MRE infrastructure</p>	<p>An increasing pressure is put on the ability of local relevant institutions in speeding up and simplifying the licensing processes for marine renewable energy technologies/practices – with an EU consultation currently ongoing on this matter.</p> <p>At the same time, the licensing process would have to reflect upon a number of environmental challenges, as well as the need to carefully plan the zones dedicated to MREs practices in order to manage potential risks and conflict with other usages of the marine space.</p> <p>The overall increasing interest in offshore technologies in the Mediterranean requires a thorough adoption of good practices, both in administrative capability and the use of MSP as an ‘enabling tool’ for sustainable MRE deployment regionally.</p>	<p><b>Multi-use (MU) approaches to ecosystem-based MSP to allow for a proper planning of marine renewables zones/licensing.</b></p> <p>Build on the upscaled interest of marine renewables (offshore wind, wave and solar) across the MED, the 2021 UfM Ministerial on Energy and the upcoming EU guidance on permitting for renewables (onshore/offshore).</p> <p>Reflect on challenges and opportunities for marine renewable energy support as emerged from regional initiatives (Blue Deal, MISTRAL, MAESTRALE, PELAGOS).</p> <p>Foster the conceptualisation and development of MSP as an essential prerequisite for maritime zoning for renewable energy deployment, also by capitalising on existing knowledge and good practices, such as MARIBE, MERMAID or TROPOS.</p> <p>Include land-see interaction with regards to existing other inland renewable resources and grid connectivity requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify Permission Agencies across Mediterranean countries (selected numbers)</li> <li>Identify successful/advanced practices/initiatives in using MSP as a basis for MRE licensing (as emerging from local experiences and sub/regional initiatives)</li> <li>Define additional guidelines/initiatives to disseminate and uptake such good practices</li> <li>Monitor advancements and increasingly expand the reach of the network and its ambition – to support sustainable uptake of renewable energy across the Mediterranean</li> </ul>
11	<p>Cooperation on research and innovation towards the development of technologies capable of fully exploiting the potential of MRE sources of the Mediterranean, including combining different marine activities in the same marine space</p>	<p>The sector is still emerging in the Mediterranean region, with a smaller number of initiatives as compared to other sectoral priorities.</p> <p>An acceleration of initiatives at national/local scale is observed (mostly in EU Med countries), particularly but not only ‘offshore’.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there seems to be a gap on multi-country projects on MRE in the Mediterranean sea basin, and very especially in the southern countries.</p>	<p><b>Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) or Twinning schemes between the most MRE-advanced EU countries and Mediterranean countries, in order to promote technology, know-how and good practices transfer</b></p> <p>Given that the topic is quickly catching up in the Med, and since northern EU countries are amongst the most advanced in the world in terms of MRE Development (North Sea, Baltic Sea and Atlantic), further exchange and cooperation is needed, bearing in mind the specificities of the various sea basins.</p> <p>This knowledge transfer may be focused not only on technological aspects related to the deployment of MRE, but also on the existing evidence of environmental impacts of offshore and other types of blue energy, as well as on proven strategies to foster its social acceptance and co-existence with other maritime uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and select 5-10 best practices, preferably but not only in northern-EU countries</li> <li>Identify and engage national/regional authorities and stakeholders to take part in the transfer exercise.</li> <li>Set up the “transfer teams”, pairing model and learning regions.</li> <li>Tailored design of the transfer process according to the specificities of learning regions (including study visits, training activities, workshops, conferences, etc.)</li> </ul>

## Priority: Maritime Ports and Transports

	UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
12	Mediterranean countries to actively cooperate and participate in the implementation of joint projects in the provision of clean energy and technology	<p>Mediterranean countries increasingly collaborate through a range of networks and relevant innovation projects.</p> <p>Nevertheless, such collaboration is often benefitting mid- to large-scale ports linked to relevant maritime transport routes across the Mediterranean.</p> <p>A gap and an opportunity exist in jointly addressing the needs of smaller-scale ports across north and south of the Mediterranean, as to accelerate transformative innovation towards greater sustainability, resilience and socio-economic profitability.</p>	<p><b>Acceleration of transformative innovation for smaller-scale Mediterranean ports.</b></p> <p>Build upon and adapt from other experience on acceleration of uptake of innovative technologies and business models by focussing on small-scale Mediterranean ports. Setting up a platform for sharing needs, opportunities and investment potentials for green and sustainable innovation for small ports.</p> <p>Provide viable options to improve the potential of innovation and diversification through clean energy and technology through such Mediterranean platform. This would also include a broader support towards diversification of business models in small ports (link to maritime tourism, aquaculture and fisheries in an energy-efficient approach).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the relevant interested ports to be engaged with (e.g. through MedCities and/or other similar regional/sectoral networks)</li> <li>Finetune and adapt 'acceleration' models including through examples from other seabasin (e.g. AspBAM in the Atlantic)</li> <li>Set-up an action plan for the identification and addressing of main needs, challenges and opportunities for diversification</li> <li>Implement a dedicated platform to allow for knowledge exchanges, sharing of practices and attraction of finance/investments</li> </ul>
13	Strengthening expertise and boosting investments in infrastructure taking duly into account the specific needs and priorities of Mediterranean countries; including investments on the provision of Onshore Power Supply and energy saving technologies for ports activities as well as on the development of alternative fuels, and transitional fuels as appropriate, and technical and operational energy efficiency for ships	<p>A considerable number of projects in the north have been identified dealing with. Several projects have been funded by the EU, with a growing role of alternative energy technologies and means (electrification, hydrogen, etc.).</p> <p>The role of ports as 'energy hubs' is essential as they offer a potential infrastructure for greater uptake of renewable energy (on and off-shore) and link with marine and inland transport activities.</p> <p>Southern ports would benefit from greater access to innovative experiences being provided as a way to strengthen Mediterranean south-south and north-south cooperation in this area.</p>	<p><b>Expand current initiatives in fostering ports as 'hubs' of clean and renewable energy.</b></p> <p>Boost the uptake of innovative technologies and full digitalisation to promote smart ports, effective onshore power supply for the decarbonisation of maritime transport, and the roll-out of single-window maritime systems across all regional operators.</p> <p>Expand to the whole Mediterranean the experience of the WestMED initiative's Technical Group on Sustainable Transport and Green Shipping and in particular the action for green ports in the western Mediterranean to act as a network of 'energy communities'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with the WestMED TG on Green Shipping and identify potentials for further expansion of their actions across the whole Mediterranean</li> <li>Monitor advancement and disseminate progresses (e.g. project submissions)</li> </ul>

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## Priority: Maritime Safety and Security

	UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
14	<p>Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MedCGFF) to develop training activities</p> <p>Further facilitate exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance, training and best practices</p>	<p>Increasing cooperation has emerged across Coast Guard Functions and further support on sharing know how and capacity would allow for more effective actions.</p> <p>A possible role of EMSA could be possibly discussed in fostering greater expertise. Also, greater connections between existing sub/regional initiatives and good practices should be capitalised.</p>	<p><b>Mediterranean Maritime Safety and Security Academy operated by the MedCGFF Secretariat.</b></p> <p>With a flexible and virtual approach, promote the set-up of a Mediterranean Maritime Safety and Security Academy operated by the MedCGFF Secretariat, targeted at maritime safety officials, both civil and military.</p> <p>This Academy may capitalise on the experience of the European Coast Guard Functions Training Network (ECGF) or the 5+5 Defence College, and shall especially consider gender equality by focussing on increasing the number of female trainees recruited.</p>	<p>UfM could advocate for the set-up of such initiative and foster exchanges/webinars on this matter.</p>

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## Priority: Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

	UfM call(s) for action	Status based on analysis	Action proposed for discussion	Concrete steps
15	<p>Welcome the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on Maritime Spatial Planning in the western Mediterranean and invite all UfM member countries to further use Maritime Spatial Planning in support of the development of the sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean, including by addressing Land-Sea Interactions, as appropriate</p>	<p>Overall frameworks exist at Mediterranean level through the recognition of MSP and ICZM as part of the Barcelona Convention and related protocols, making therefore binding to develop and make full use of such tools.</p> <p>In order to foster the knowledge creation on how to design and conduct MSPs, many projects have been deployed or are on-going within Europe and with Mediterranean neighbouring countries</p> <p>The ambition is nevertheless not only to share experience and foster transfer and knowledge creation, but also to foster coherence among the various MSP attempts within the sea-basin</p>	<p><b>Establishment of a UfM Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) multi-stakeholder informal working group</b></p> <p>This group may count on a strong involvement of IOC-UNESCO and involve relevant regional stakeholders.</p> <p>The group may provide a suitable forum for further transfer and knowledge creation (building on MSP MED, MSPGlobal and other initiatives). Additionally, it may facilitate result capitalisation on relevant multi-use projects and initiatives, with a focus on increasing policy coherence and harmonization at regional level.</p> <p>The initial focus of the group may be on the integration of marine renewable energy in national MSP plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and engagement of key stakeholders in the Med</li> <li>• Series of webinars/workshops on marine renewable energy with a focus on MSP (building on the MSP-Global and WestMED joint webinars on MSP for aquaculture and tourism)</li> </ul>

*\* Please bear in mind that several follow-up actions related to this cross-cutting priority are also included in relevant sectoral priorities*