



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 12th issue of the flash news on blue economy in the Mediterranean region!

Explore 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.

April 2022 | Issue no. 12

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

→ Read our [Quick user and onboarding guide](#) to get the most out of MedBESP.

Latest News

1. UfM Member States united in strong commitments to face the climate and environmental emergencies

Ministers from the 42 Member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) gathered in Cairo on October 4th, 2021, for the **2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate action** under the UfM Co-Presidency of Jordan and the EU. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to urgently tackle the multiple climate and environmental challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region and to reflect the highest possible ambition by accelerating the transition towards fair, resilient, sustainable, climate-neutral, and resource-efficient green economies. A parallel side event on [Biological Diversity, Ecosystem Restoration and Food Systems - Protecting and restoring at the core of the shift towards Green, Blue, Circular Economy](#) also took place (October 4, in Cairo and online), aiming to highlight and promote high-level political and operational efforts towards ecosystem restoration and the conservation of biological diversity, with a special focus on food systems, considering food from the sea, and taking into account the wider shift towards green, blue, circular economy at Euro-Mediterranean level. [Learn more](#)



2. New strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has adopted its new 2030 Strategy for the Mediterranean and Black Sea at the end of the 44th annual session on 6 November 2021. An agreement was also reached on an ambitious package of measures translating strategy into concrete actions. [Learn more](#)



3. WestMED Stakeholder Conference 2021 - Corridors to Sustainable Blue Development

On November 9, 2021, the 3rd WestMED Stakeholder Conference took place in Rome, Italy. Co-organised with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this event attracted close to 300 participants and featured 30 experts covering the latest policy, funding and sectoral developments. [Learn more](#)



4. 9th Meeting of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy

The 9th meeting of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy took place online on November 18, 2021. Preliminary advancements on the technical assistance to draft the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy were shared. The working group was also the occasion for the EC to present the Mission Restore our oceans and waters by 2030 and its Mediterranean Lighthouse on Marine Pollution with an initial focus on marine litter. [Learn more](#)

5. Co-Evolve4BG involves local stakeholders in a participatory workshop held in Djerba, Tunisia, to better identify pathways for sustainable tourism

The UfM supported a participatory workshop, which took place in Djerba (Tunisia) on 17 December 2021, in the context of the UfM-labelled project 'Co-evolution of human activities and Mediterranean natural systems for sustainable tourism and Blue Growth in the Mediterranean' (Co-Evolve4BG). The event was organized by the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM; Co-Evolve4BG Lead Beneficiary) and was composed of three main sessions. [Learn more](#)



was organized by the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM; Co-Evolve4BG Lead Beneficiary) and was composed of three main sessions.

6. 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Outcome Documents

The 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22) took place on 7-10 December 2021 in Antalya, Turkey. COP 22 offered an inclusive platform for renewed commitment in the Mediterranean and sent a clear signal that UNEP/MAP is ready to act effectively and in a timely manner to support the region in building back greener with strong environmental objectives. [Learn more](#)



7. The Blue Growth Community presents Concrete Solutions and Real Opportunities for Investments in the Blue Economy Sector

On November 18th, 2021, the Blue Growth Community organized its mid-term conference under the framework of the 4th edition of the Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders (MedaWeek Barcelona). MedaWeek is one of the most iconic economic conferences for the Mediterranean business sector. On this occasion, the Blue Growth Community presented the main results from the MED Blue Growth projects to the private sector. [Learn more](#)



8. Launch of the UfM/CPMR Handbook on Shared methods and tools to relaunch a sustainable post COVID-19 tourism model and UfM/CPMR-IMC Capacity-Building Session

The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism met online on 15 December 2021. The meeting was completed by a [Capacity-building exercise for sustainable tourism implementation in the Mediterranean](#) co-organised by CPMR-IMC and the UfM, where participants took part in a concrete exercise to



identify practical proposals aimed at triggering development processes for sustainable tourism through multi-level governance cooperation. The meeting was also the opportunity to present and operationalize the UfM/CPMR Operational Handbook on [‘Social and economic regeneration of the Mediterranean after the crisis: shared methods and tools for relaunching a sustainable post COVID-19 tourism model’](#). [Learn more](#)

9. MED Sustainable Tourism Days

The MED Sustainable Tourism Days, organized by the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) in collaboration with the BEST MED and DestiMED PLUS projects took place in Rome on 14-17 December 2021 and proposed a wide set of events to discuss recent experiences and future perspectives on sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean, with the aim of contributing to a smarter and greener recovery of the tourism sector. [Learn more](#)



10. EU Missions: Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030

The European Commission launched the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030, with the goal of restoring the health of one of our most precious common goods, our ocean and waters, by the end of the decade. The Mission will deliver on the European Green Deal by restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, preventing and eliminating pollution, and making the blue economy carbon-neutral and circular. [Learn more here](#) and [here \(Mission Info Days recordings\)](#)



11. Plastic Busters CAP project kick-off and press conference. ‘Combating marine litter in the Mediterranean through an integrated and strategic management approach’

The new project 'Plastic Busters CAP: Fostering knowledge transfer to tackle marine litter in the Mediterranean by integrating EbA into ICZM' kicked off online on 26 January, 2022. The project was conceived under the umbrella of the [UfM-labelled “Plastic Busters Initiative”](#) and [SDSN MED \(Sustainable Development Solutions Network Mediterranean\)](#) led by the [University of Siena \(Italy\)](#). [Learn more](#)



12. European Commission and IOC UNESCO join forces for stronger ocean literacy in Europe

Great news from the world of ocean literacy: as of the 1st February, 2022, the EC Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) and the [Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission](#) of UNESCO launched a partnership in support of the [EU4Ocean coalition](#), the EU-wide ocean literacy initiative set up by the European Commission. [Learn more](#)



13. Brest One Ocean Summit: The One Planet Summit for the Ocean

In an effort to mobilize the international community to take tangible action to mitigate the multiple environmental challenges facing our oceans and seas, the One Ocean Summit took place in Brest, France, on 9-11 February 2022. The Summit was held in the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, with the support of the United Nations, and with the goal of raising the collective level of ambition of the international community on marine issues and to translate our shared responsibility to the ocean into tangible commitments.

See the [Recording](#) and [Commitments](#)

14. Workshop on 'Working together towards a Mediterranean Lighthouse for the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters' (1-2 March 2022; UfM Secretariat)

Organized jointly by the European Commission (DG RTD, DG MARE, DG ENV), the UfM (WEBE and HER Divisions), the UfM Jordan Co-Presidency, and the BlueMed Pilot team, and building on the experience of the BlueMed Pilot Initiative on



Plastic pollution towards the Mediterranean Lighthouse on Marine Pollution of the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030, the workshop aimed at: bridging BlueMed with the Mission; linking more directly with the 2021 UfM Blue Economy and Environment Ministerials as well as the upcoming UfM R&I Ministerial; gathering Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders while facilitating dialogue and progress; and highlighting what has been achieved at Mediterranean level through complementary initiatives and projects. The workshop brought together the BlueMed, and UfM Blue Economy and Environment Working Groups for the first time. [Learn more](#)

15. 10th Meeting of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy

The meeting (23 March, 2022; Brussels and online) was chaired by the UfM Jordan and EU Co-Presidency with the support of the UfM Secretariat and aimed at: (i) Exchanging on the draft Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy; (ii) Sharing the



calendar of key events in 2022, including the Conference on Blue Finance taking place in Barcelona on 22nd June (EC Conference in collaboration with the UfM); (iii) Discussing updates and synergies on ongoing activities related to sustainable aspects of the blue economy in the Mediterranean (including the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 and its Mediterranean Lighthouse, the capitalization phase of the Plastic Busters Initiative, coastal wetlands, MSP, and sustainable tourism post COVID-19); (iv) Presenting upcoming opportunities in the context of ENI CBC Med, 2021-2027 Interreg NEXT, CINEA, and Interreg EURO-MED and its Governance axis. [Learn more](#)

16. BlueInvest Day 2022

The annual BlueInvest Day (March 28, 2022; Brussels and online) brought together Blue Economy innovators, entrepreneurs, investors and enablers, with the goal of generating concrete business opportunities and visibility for businesses. BlueInvest aims to boost innovation and investment in sustainable technologies for the blue economy, by supporting readiness and access to finance for early-stage businesses, SMEs and scale-ups. It is enabled by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. [Learn more](#)

17. UfM work on Blue Economy published on the PANORAMA Solutions for a Healthy Planet platform

The UfM's work on Blue Economy has been published on PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet, a partnership initiative created to document and promote examples of inspiring, replicable solutions across a range of conservation and sustainable development topics, enabling cross-sectoral learning and inspiration. [Learn more](#)



18. Discover newly endorsed Decade Actions

The **2021-2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** has endorsed ninety-four new Decade Actions across all ocean basins, building global momentum for ocean knowledge-based solutions ahead of

major upcoming global summits on climate and biodiversity. To find out more, follow this [link](#). This information is available on the newly revamped Ocean Decade website. [Learn more](#)



Resources and Opportunities

1. Interreg Euro-MED 2021-2027 first call for Governance projects

Interreg Euro-MED 2021-2027 launched a first call for governance projects on 24 February, 2022. Offering the possibility to partners outside the European Union to be associated to projects, to share their expertise on common issues in the Mediterranean, and to benefit from the fruits of this collaboration, this call seeks to finance 4 Thematic Community Projects and 4 Institutional Dialogue projects for a duration of 7 years. **A second call for thematic projects will be open as of June 2022** to propose concrete solutions in all the missions of the programme. [Learn more here](#)

2. UfM/CPMR Operational Handbook on 'Social and economic regeneration of the Mediterranean after the crisis: shared methods and tools for relaunching a sustainable post COVID-19 tourism model'

In [this Handbook](#), representatives of International Organizations, countries, and European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and projects share the results of positive experiences in the concrete implementation of pilot initiatives to enhance sustainable tourism supply chains at local and basin level and identify communication channels to promote a closer connection between the levels of government and civil society. Ultimately, this publication aims to demonstrate that the ongoing crisis is to be considered as an opportunity for more resilient and sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean. [Learn more](#)



3. Calling young entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean - DEADLINE EXTENDED until 15 August 2022

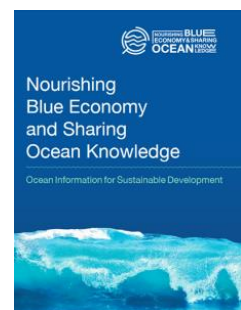
The UfM is once again proud to support the ARLEM Award for Young Local Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean. Registrations are now open for the 2022 prize for entrepreneurial enterprises boosting local communities in the Southern Mediterranean, awarded by the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM). [Learn more](#)



ARLEM Award 2022 - Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean

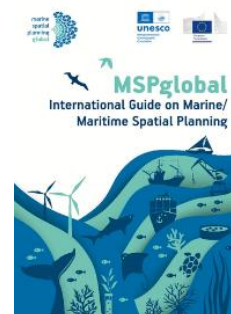
4. Policy Brief 'Nourishing Blue Economy and Sharing Ocean Knowledge'

Ten innovative EU projects to build ocean observation systems that provide input for evidence-based management of the ocean and the Blue Economy have joined forces in the cluster 'Nourishing Blue Economy and Sharing Ocean Knowledge'. Under the lead of the [EuroSea project](#), the group published a joint policy brief listing recommendations for sustainable ocean observation and management. This cooperation is supported by the EU Horizon Results Booster, enabling the group to achieve a higher societal impact. The policy brief was presented to the European Commission on 15 October 2021. [Learn more](#)



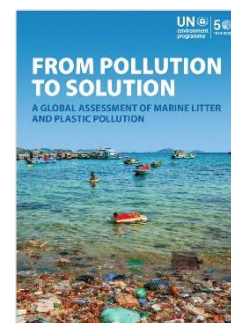
5. MSPglobal: international guide on marine/maritime spatial planning

The MSPglobal International Guide on Maritime Spatial Planning was officially launched during the final conference of the joint IOC-UNESCO/DG MARE MSPglobal Initiative, which took place on Tuesday 5 October 2021. Jointly produced by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the European Commission, the 'MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning' covers a diverse range of topics, case studies, and actions. [Learn more](#)



6. From Pollution to Solution: a global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution

[From Pollution to Solution: a global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution](#) reveals the impact of marine litter and plastic pollution on the environment and their effects on the health of ecosystems, wildlife and humans. It also highlights that while we have the know-how, we need political will and urgent action by governments to tackle the mounting crisis. The report has informed discussions at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) of 28 February – 2 March 2022, where countries came together to decide a way forward for global cooperation on the world's most pressing environmental challenges. [Read the report](#)



7. UNEP MAP Young Person's Guide to the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention

Aimed at ocean literacy practitioners, educators and young readers aged 11-17, this guide offers a simplified introduction to the legal framework that UNEP/MAP and the [Contracting Parties](#) to the Barcelona Convention have established and gradually upgraded, covering a [wide range of themes](#) pertaining to the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment as well as sustainable development. [Learn more](#)

8. Publication of "EC Ocean Observation 18 June 2021 Event Report"

Organised by EC DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, (Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment), and co-organised by the [EMODnet Secretariat](#), the European Marine Board Secretariat, [EuroGOOS](#) and the [Copernicus Marine Service](#), in collaboration with the wider community, this event aimed at identifying how to accelerate the deployment of more efficient and effective ocean observation technology, and exploring gaps and requirements in ocean observation. [Learn more](#)



9. MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGIES Webinar: Recording and Presentations available

The webinar 'MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGIES: Fast-Advancing Technologies And Promising Opportunities', organized by the Union for the Mediterranean and EMUNI took place on Wednesday, 17th of November 2021. Building on the most recent findings of a [comprehensive UfM report \(2021\) on Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region](#) and through selected presentations and interventions, the event focused on the sectoral characteristics, challenges and opportunities of the deployment of Marine Renewable Energies (MRE). [Learn more](#)



10. Updated Guide on EU funding for tourism

This online guide highlights the wide range of funding programmes financed by the new EU budget (2021-2027 multiannual financial framework), and Next Generation EU.



These resources and guide will support the move towards a more digital, sustainable, and inclusive EU. [Learn more and access the guide](#)

11. Waterborne Transport Workshop On 7 February 2022 - H2020 Outcomes

On 7 February 2022 together with the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), STEERER organized the workshop 'Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation delivering smart, green, safe and competitive waterborne transport' with 20 speakers and more than 300 participants attending the event online and in Brussels. [Access the presentations, video & brochure](#)



12. BLUE BIO MED issues a report on Blue Bioeconomy Technology and Market Forecast

This BLUE BIO MED report provides relevant information on patenting, market landscape, and contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Euro-Mediterranean area of three broad fields of interest within the blue bioeconomy sector : fisheries and aquaculture, blue biotechnology, and blue sustainable development. [Learn more](#)

13. BLUE DEAL - Ask your citizen on Blue Energy (December 7, 2021)

The UfM participated in the hybrid event 'Ask you citizen on Blue Energy' organized in the framework of the BLUE DEAL project dedicated to the capitalization of Blue Energy. The main aim of the event was to present and discuss the results of a survey conducted in 9 pilot areas on citizen's opinions on blue energy and blue energy projects/infrastructure. With the overarching goal of creating a favorable environment for blue economy investments and sustainable development in the Mediterranean economy, the project aims to increase transnational activity of innovative BE clusters and networks; develop links and synergies between SMEs, public authorities, knowledge institutions, and civil society; and establish transnational and regional Blue Deal Alliances. Access the [event recording](#) and learn more about the [conclusions of the surveys](#).

Upcoming events

1. [UN COP 15 Biodiversity Conference](#), 25 April - 08 May 2022, Kunming – China
2. ['WestMed in my country' events](#), May-September 2022 – 9 locations
3. [Conference on Fostering a Circular Blue Economy in the Mediterranean](#), 10-11 May 2022, Barcelona - Spain and online
4. **WestMED Initiative and Malta Maritime Forum event on Blue Skills in Malta: 'Bridging the Skills Gap through Education and Ocean Literacy'**, 12 May 2022 – Floriana - Malta
5. [European Maritime Day](#), 19 - 20 May 2022, Ravenna – Italy
6. [11th meeting of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy](#), 21 June 2022 (afternoon), Barcelona - Spain
7. [Conference on Blue Finance 'Investing in Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean'](#) (EC Conference in collaboration with the UfM), 22 June 2022, Barcelona – Spain
8. [UN OCEAN CONFERENCE](#), 27 June - 01 July 2022, Lisbon – Portugal
9. [Sea Tech Week 2022](#), 26 - 30 September 2022, Brest – France
10. [Aquaculture Europe 22](#), 27 - 30 September 2022, Rimini – Italy
11. [3rd Mediterranean Diet World Conference](#), 28-30 September 2022, Bari – Italy
12. **2022 Mediterranean Coastguard Functions Forum**, 29 September - 01 October 2022 (TBD), Naples – Italy
13. [4th Marine Imaging Workshop](#), 03 - 07 October 2022, Brest – France
14. [UN Climate Change Conference 2022 \(UNFCCC COP 27\)](#), 7-18 November 2022, Sharm El Sheikh – Egypt

15. [14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands \(COP14\)](#), 21-29 November 2022, Wuhan – China
16. [CommOCEAN Conference](#) (5th International Marine Science Communication Conference), 30 November - 01 December 2022, Online and Sète – France

To know how your data will be protected, you can read our privacy policy on [our website](#)

You are receiving this email because your information is in our database. You can unsubscribe from this list by clicking [here](#).

The present flash news is financially supported by the European Union through the CINEA grant MED IN BLUE, and in collaboration with the IMP MED Facility and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission (CPMR-IMC).

