



Union for the Mediterranean  
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**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative



13<sup>th</sup> UfM Working Group on Blue Economy (Brussels - 14 March, 2023)

WestMED – Updates on activities and next steps

# Content

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# 1. New WestMED Co-Presidency (2023)

- In 2023, **Mauritania will co-chair the WestMED Steering Committee along with Malta** in accordance with the principle of rotation among the participating WestMED countries (France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Malta, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania).
- The Mauritanian Co-Presidency will keep supporting the six priorities agreed by the countries in 2018 on the common roadmap for the development of a sustainable blue economy.
- At national level, Mauritania has set ambitious targets on blue economy, which includes: the **promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, the development of a maritime cluster that brings together all the actors of the sea, development of maritime transport and development of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).**



## 2. Update on the technical/working groups



### Sustainable Aquaculture



### Maritime Clusters



### Maritime Spatial Planning

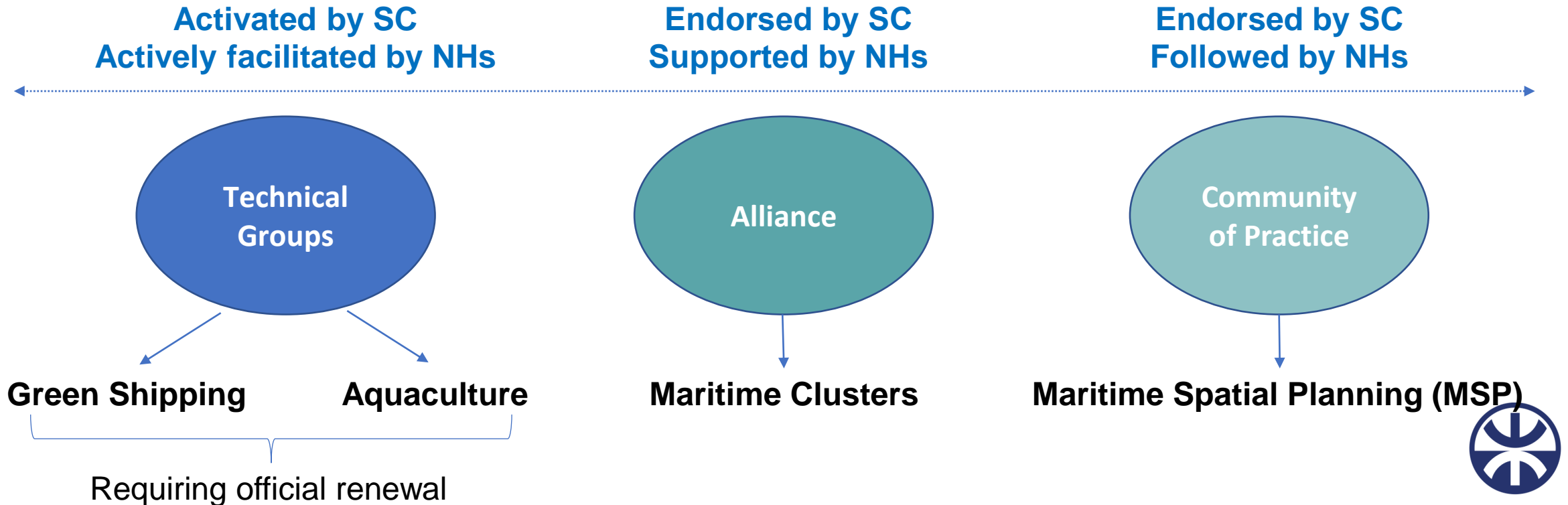


### Green Shipping And Ports



## 2. Update on the technical/working groups

**WestMED Support to regional stakeholders** ranges across different ‘tools’, starting with daily interaction of NHs with local/national stakeholders and exchanges for regional cooperation



## 2. Update on the technical/working groups



### Green Shipping And Ports



#### WestMED Technical Group (TG) on Green Shipping *Draft Action Plan – Final Version Agreed*

##### 1. Starting point: potential initiatives emerged from the TG meetings

Based on the two meetings held so far<sup>1</sup>, a number of possible actions were identified by the TG as essential steps towards the full uptake of Green Shipping in the western Mediterranean.

It was agreed that areas under sections A/B are transversal aspects, to be defined once the overall priorities for projects are further detailed and agreed. This document provides a further step in detailing other areas, as a basis for further engagement by the TG members.

Once the activities are clarified and agreed by the Technical Group, the WestMED Assistance Mechanism will then steer the process for the identification of relevant funds (Horizon Europe, INTERREG-MED, Motorways of the Sea, etc.) for the priority actions identified.

### Main Meetings

- **Apr 2020: Kick-off**
- Jun 2020: Initial work on project ideas
- Oct 2020: Approval of Action Plan for the TG
- Nov 2020: Project Concepts
- Mar 2021: Sub-groups being activated
- **May 2021: Renewal of TG (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)**
- Oct 2021: Further discussion of concepts
- Feb 2022: Plan for submission of projects
- Apr 2022: Horizon Europe Calls targeted
- Jun 2022: EU-Africa Partnership
- **Dec 2022 – January 2023: New EMFAF Calls**

### Action Plan

- Framework of action: **Common Vision**
- Feasibility Study: **Monitor Technological Chains**
- Pilot Action 1: **Ports as Energy Communities**
- Pilot Action 2: **Adapt Commercial Vessels**



## 2. Update on the technical/working groups

### Sustainable Aquaculture



#### Members and purposes

- **Southern experts** – areas of needs for joint actions
- **Northern experts** – good practices and cooperation
- **Observers** – support and financing availability

#### Main Meetings

- **Jun 2021:** Kick-off
- **Nov 2021:** “Action Fiches” by southern experts
- **Feb 2022:** Review of way forward (financing, fine-tuning)
- **Mar 2022:** Follow-up with all experts
- **June 2022:** Project hackathon (dedicated session)
- **October 2022:** Exchanges amongst partners
- **April 2023:** Possible deadline for the COST Action submission



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## 2. Update on the technical/working groups



### Maritime Clusters



#### Main features

- **June 2021: launched officially**
- **Maritime Clusters** – leading on a range of strategic actions
- **Geographical scope** – northern and western Med focus (but open to eastern clusters)

#### Main activities

- **Cluster dialogue:** leading of Pole Mer Méditerranée
- **Capacity building South-South:** leading of Cluster Maritime Tunisien
- **Capacity building North-South:** leading of Blue Italian Growth
- **Investment attraction:** leading of Forum Oceano



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## 2. Update on the technical/working groups



### Maritime Spatial Planning

The **Community of Practice on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)** for the Mediterranean has been launched on January 26, 2023 by CINEA and DG MARE.

**Main objective** of the MED-MSP-CoP is to establish a permanent communication and dialogue across borders between experts on MSP (i.e. planners, technical experts, researchers), and to exchange knowledge and relevant experiences in the region, so as to reach a shared perspective on topics of common interest on MSP and enhance the cooperation between the north and the south of the Mediterranean.



### 3. Recent developments in WestMED

WestMED shared **blue economy opportunities** with the aquaculture and fisheries sector at the Salon Halieutis in Morocco (02/03/2023)



**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative

European Commission

Rencontrez-nous au  
**Salon Halieutis 2023**  
2-5 février | Agadir, Maroc

rejoignez notre session  
**L'initiative WestMed: Opportunités pour renforcer l'économie bleue durable en Méditerranée occidentale**  
Jeudi, 2 février 2023 - 16:00-17:30

Pole International | Union Européenne  
Placement B51 B54

**Dr. Lahbib Latrac**  
WestMED Hub Maroc

**Dr. Mohamed Lemine Abdel Hamid**  
WestMED Hub Mauritanie



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### 3. Recent developments in WestMED

#### New WestMED partnership with the World Ocean Council (through the Memorandum of Understanding with UfM).

- a. The development of a strong relationship with the aim of establishing a durable mechanism of dialogue and cooperation, designating specific roles within the WestMED Assistance Mechanism (both at Central Team and National Hubs levels) to carry out the above mentioned cooperation.
- b. To support and participate in one another's events and activities, whenever they are interesting for the objectives of the Parties. This may include: dissemination and promotion, co-organisation, organisation of special sessions and other types of support such as proposal of topics and speakers, sponsorship etc.
- c. To enhance mutual co-operation by carrying out joint initiatives such as statements, events, trainings, seminars, conferences and other actions in order to work for the development of the region through the important role played by the private sectors in the Mediterranean region. In particular, on topics such as the promotion of the funding/investment opportunities, innovation, entrepreneurship, business opportunities, accelerator/incubators programmes, support to start ups, etc.
- d. To explore collaboration possibilities in the international cooperation projects fields.



The International Business Alliance  
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility



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## 3. Recent developments in WestMED

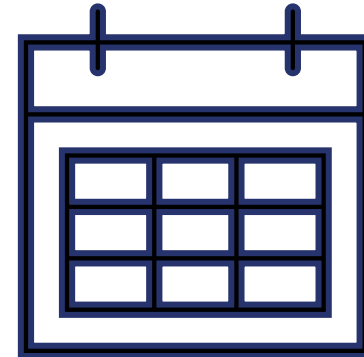
### Potential collaboration with EUSAIR

- Currently under the revision of the EUSAIR Action Plan.
- Collaboration with WestMED will require mandate/consensus reached on Thematic Steering Group for Pillar 1 - Blue Growth (TSG1) and/or Governing Board of the EUSAIR



## 4. Upcoming developments in the WestMED

1. WestMED Steering Committee meeting (15<sup>th</sup> March, Brussels)
2. Discussion and exchanges of views on the new Ministerial Declaration
3. WestMED High-level political event in June, 23<sup>rd</sup> , Malta.
4. WestMED Annual Stakeholders Conference in Malta, June, 22<sup>nd</sup>.



# 5. WestMED Key communication deliverables

**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative

The WestMED Initiative is one of the sea basin strategies that has been created to help public institutions, academia, local communities, small and medium sized companies and entrepreneurs from both sides of the Mediterranean, develop local and regional projects to strengthen the Sustainable Blue Economy

Algeria | France | Italy | Libya | Malta | Mauritania | Morocco | Portugal | Spain | Tunisia

**3 Goals**  
A Smart and Resilient Blue Economy | A Safer and more Secure Maritime Space | Improved Maritime Governance

**6 Selected Priorities**

<p><b>Maritime safety and the fight against marine pollution</b></p> <p>WestMED support   Example Awarded Project <b>TOMALI</b> Prevent Tourism Marine Litter in Northern Africa</p>	<p><b>Development of Coastal Communities and Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture</b></p> <p>WestMED support   Example Awarded Project <b>FIUFRA</b> Fight IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) Fishing by creating a regional academy</p>	<p><b>Biodiversity and Marine Habitat conservation and restoration</b></p> <p>WestMED support   Example Awarded Project <b>ARIBIOTECH</b> Process organic waste found in the marine environment to produce new products using blue biotechnology</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Consumption and Production</b></p> <p>WestMED support   Example Awarded Project <b>GALATEA</b> Focus on high potential Blue Growth domains: Smart Port, Smart Ship, Smart Shipyard, and Maritime Surveillance</p>	<p><b>Maritime Cluster development</b></p> <p>WestMED support   Example Awarded Project <b>MEDBAN</b> Build an innovative acceleration ecosystem based on Med Ports as Environmental, Social, Governmental Blue Economy hubs</p>	<p><b>Skills Development and Circulation</b></p> <p>WestMED support   Example Awarded Project <b>MARMED</b> Develop and implement Cluster Management Educational Programs and Training</p>

## WestMED Assistance Mechanism

**Supports** the implementation of the WestMED Initiative. It is governed by a Steering Committee, and supported by a Central Management Team and 9 National Hubs - including Libyan involvement.

**It helps:**

- Drive national and cross-border discussions with influential players from both shores on key thematic maritime topics across the western Mediterranean. Primarily via technical-/ working groups, resulting in priority setting, consortium building and joint project proposals.
- Assist stakeholders with the relevant tools to help develop projects (matchmaking, funding opportunities and proposal writing).

**2018-2022**

National Hub Algeria	National Hub France	National Hub Italy
National Hub Malta	National Hub Mauritania	National Hub Morocco
National Hub Portugal	National Hub Spain	National Hub Tunisia

National Hub experts and Members of the Central Management Team have been regularly invited as a guest speaker or panellist for related Blue Economy events

**Project Support**

**Thematic Drivers**

- Partner matchmaking
- Funding Opportunities
- Sustainable Tourism
- Blue Skills
- Maritime Clusters
- Green shipping
- Sustainable Aquaculture
- Project Proposals

INFOGRAPHIC:  
Visual document showcasing the WestMED Initiative's goals and achievements

Available to download at:

<https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/>



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# 5. WestMED Key communication deliverables

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:  
Short summary of activities carried out by the Assistance Mechanism in 4 years



Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia

## CORE TEAM Fully operational

A team of nearly 30 professionals has been fully operational since 2019 and includes the WestMED Central Team, 9 National Hubs and different expert pools relating to events, communication and calls for funding.

During this period of implementation, National Hubs roadmaps were produced and a tailored assessment has been carried out to step-up the Team's work - and further assist the WestMED maritime community and all stakeholders involved implement the 6 Roadmap priorities of the Initiative.



## GUIDANCE ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

To support stakeholders in project development and facilitate project ideas, the WestMED team is constantly screening and reviewing key funding sources available to any of the western Mediterranean countries.

These funding opportunities are issued by EU Programmes, Financial Institutions and Development agencies.

During the 4 years of the contract, 100+ financial opportunities have been mapped, reviewed and disseminated among stakeholders in the different countries.

The team has also established direct liaison with a number of public and private donors and programmes such as INTERACT, Interreg MED, EIB, EASME, UNDP, DG NEAR or ENI CBC MED.

Additionally, ongoing and future opportunities are matched with the WestMED priorities to support synergies between potential project partners among different countries. The National Hubs' role is key in this matchmaking process.

In this light, a training session has been provided aimed at southern stakeholders to foster cross-country sea basin consortia and project proposal development.

## 29 PROJECT IDEAS AWARDED



Through a balanced top-down and bottom-up project development approach, the WestMED Assistance Mechanism has provided consistent technical support to numerous organisations with a wide range of questions.

84 project ideas have been actively supported over the four years of our activity.

Out of these, 29 innovative Blue Economy projects supported by the Assistance Mechanism have been awarded in total **50.840.334 euro**. Some proposals (supported by the Assistance Mechanism) with requests for funding, are still pending.

## 100+ MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Core Team, along with the National Hubs, have been actively involved in the organisation of National Events, Roadshows as well as conferences, workshops and seminars to engage with stakeholders at all levels.

Most of the events have been organised online since the beginning of the sanitary crisis.

- **Stakeholder Conferences:** During the four-year contract two Stakeholder Conferences have been successfully organised in Algiers (2018) and [Rome \(2021\)](#).
- **Hackatons:** Two large scale hackatons were organised in Palermo (2019) and [Malta \(2022\)](#) with a focus on project development.
- **Roadshows:** 24 stakeholder meetings were held at the start of the Initiative in the different coastal regions of each country to launch and promote the WestMED initiative, its added value and implementation path.
- **National Events:** 18 National Events have been organised by the National Hubs: in 2020 (9) and in 2022 (9). Some of these generated national media attention.
- **'WestMED In My Country' campaign:** The National Events in 2022 were labeled 'WestMED In My Country', and focused on country-specific maritime topics. The conclusions from these 9 events were presented during the hackathon in Malta and can be viewed in its [summary report](#).
- **Co-organised events:** A range of events have been co-organised with partner organisations such as the UFM, Ascame, MSP Global and EIEAD (on the Blue Economy in Libya).



- **Partner events:** 345 Blue Economy events in the region, carried out by other organisations were attended to promote the WestMED Initiative. Frequently, WestMED's team members also acted as speakers and/or panellists.

## TECHNICAL-/ THEMATIC GROUPS

The **Green Shipping Technical Group (TG)** was the first of its kind being activated under the WestMED Assistance Mechanism. Substantial support has been provided since then for the concrete definition of project proposals with leading stakeholders.

Another Technical Group has been formed on **Sustainable Aquaculture (Aquawest)** to develop cooperation and knowledge sharing across the region with an upcoming focus on Cost Action calls.

For **clusters (Maritime Clusters Alliance)**, a working group has been created which has culminated in a roadmap to foster cooperation in the region and further development of clusters in the South.

Tailored support has also been provided in the areas of **sustainable tourism, blue skills, and marine spatial planning**. Also, for each WestMED country, a national dialogue has been activated under the steering role of each National Hub.

Available to download at:

<https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/>



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