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Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 Ministerial: Reflection on mid to longer-term priority areas & next steps

14th UfM Working Group on Blue Economy
Barcelona, 11 October 2023



✓ Blue Economy Roadmap

10 Ministerial priorities

Governance & the future of sea basin strategies

Marine research, innovation, skills, careers & employment

Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries & aquaculture

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

Interactions between ML & the blue economy

Coastal & maritime tourism

MSP & ICZM

MRE

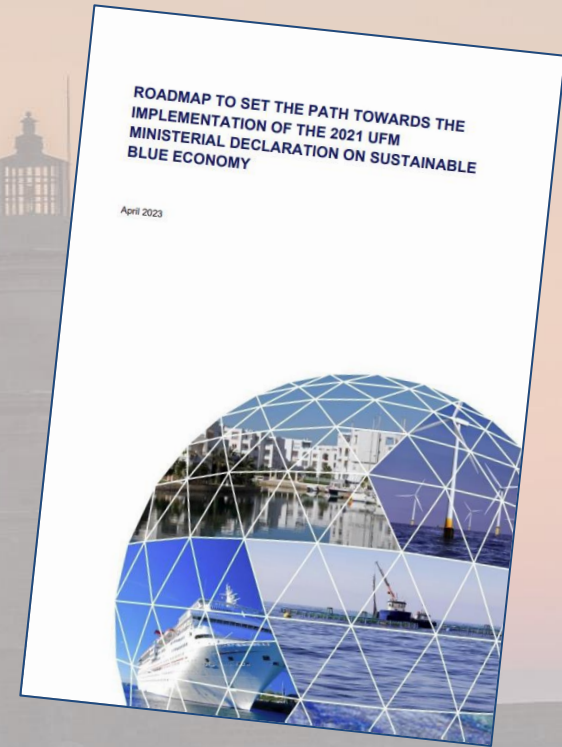
Maritime safety & security of BE activities

Sustainable investment in the BE

UfM Blue Economy Roadmap

Following the adoption of the **2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE**, UfM Co-Presidency, Secretariat, and UfM countries agreed to elaborate a Roadmap for the implementation of the Ministerial

- ✓ **Landmark document** in the region
- ✓ Overview and analysis of the **joint needs, gaps and opportunities for future support, funding, and implementation by Ministerial thematic priority** + Sketching out of ongoing initiatives, programmes and projects
- ✓ Potential avenues for future cooperation (promising pathways, processes and actions) that can be launched and scaled-up in the **short, medium, and longer term**
- ✓ Easy to handle **Results-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation System**



<https://medblueeconomyplatform.org>

Implementation of the Roadmap, Short-term

Cross-cutting support

Support to blue skills, training and capacity building

Training for project submission under relevant EU Programmes
Twinning/Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)
Expand existing socio-economic observatories
Continuation of webinars (e.g. Ocean Literacy?)
Maritime renewable energy for a 'greener' blue economy
Maritime safety/security / CB Exchange of information/expertise

Small-ports and 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

Innovation ecosystems for blue economy value-chains

- 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 sea basin

MSP as a sustainable blue economy 'enabler'

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

Progress in the implementation of the short-term priority actions

Capacity Building on project proposal development

On October 25th, 2022, in Aqaba, a **Capacity Building session on project proposal development** was organised by the UfM Secretariat and delivered in the framework of the 12th UfM Blue Economy Working Group, and in a hybrid modality in order to allow wider participation of relevant blue economy stakeholders from various Mediterranean countries

Innovation ecosystems for blue economy value-chains

The webinar “**Financing Innovation Ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy: Local actors, opportunities, and challenges**” was held on January 30th, 2023. This UfM webinar aimed at shedding a light on the different actors, their experiences, and specific roles that contribute to supporting the development of innovation ecosystems in and for the sustainable blue economy across various Mediterranean countries.

Small-ports and marinas diversification Maritime Clusters

Support was provided for **project consortia to engage with east MED stakeholders**, so as to further support the ability of local small ports, harbours and marinas to act as ‘innovation hubs’ for a sustainable diversification of local business ecosystems, as well as develop maritime clusters across the southern shore of the Mediterranean.

Under the ‘flagship’ call of the European Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 26 proposals were received by CINEA, including support to “sustainable ports and transport” in the Mediterranean (Topic 3).

MSP as a sustainable blue economy ‘enabler’

On January 26th, 2023, CINEA and DG MARE officially **launched a Mediterranean MSP Community of Practice** during a kick-off meeting in Brussels where the experts discussed the structure and the action plan for next year.

In the context of the existing EU policy framework and the broader political will to advance the MSP process in the Mediterranean, the establishment of this enlarged MSP Community of Practice/expertise would build on the work of the WestMed Initiative. This would also entail ensuring the appropriate flow of information between the enlarged MSP Community of Practice and the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy.

***Implementation of the Roadmap:
New set of proposed actions to be prioritized in the mid-term***



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UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration Priority	Shortlisted actions for Roadmap implementation	Coverage by ongoing actions	Future support/ Follow up
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	Innovation ecosystems for blue economy value-chains (including Mediterranean cluster alliance(s), accelerators, incubators, etc. to address sectoral needs and raise its profile towards sustainable investors)		
	Capacity building related to the Maritime Transport Action Plan (training of seafarers; training on dangerous goods, etc)		
	Ensuring the continuation of the series of UfM webinars on Blue Skills, Careers and Jobs		
	Support Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) across the Mediterranean Sea basin		
Sustainable food from the sea: Fisheries and Aquaculture	Scale-up good practices on sustainable food value-chains		
	Principal Areas for Fisheries and Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs)		
Sustainable, climate-neutral, and zero-pollution maritime transports and ports	Foster ability of ports in adopting fully circular models		
	Acceleration of transformative innovation for smaller-scale Mediterranean ports		
	Expand current initiatives in fostering ports as ‘hubs’ of clean and renewable energy.		
Marine litter and the blue economy	Harmonized monitoring system; mitigation measures adapted to local needs		
Sustainable Coastal and Maritime Tourism	Systematic involvement and exchange between successful projects/initiatives		
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Establishment of a Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) multi-stakeholder informal Working Group		
Marine renewable energies	Webinar to stimulate Multi-use (MU) approaches to ecosystem-based MSP to allow for a proper planning of marine renewables zones/licensing		
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	Mediterranean Maritime Safety and Security Academy operated by the MedCGFF Secretariat; link with New Transport Action Plan – ex. <i>joint contingency planning, risk management, conflict prevention, crisis response and crisis management, particularly between the EU and Southern Neighbourhood countries; technical assistance in the field of port security audit; surveillance systems through the installation of modern safety equipment, regional communication and coordination systems</i>		
Sustainable Investment in the Blue Economy	Financing Innovation Ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy: Local actors, opportunities, and challenges; Blue Mediterranean Partnership; MoU with WOC;		

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Sustainable food from the sea: Fisheries and Aquaculture	<p>Scale-up good practices on sustainable food value-chains</p> <p>Principal Areas for Fisheries and Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs)</p>		
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Sustainable Investment in the Blue Economy	<p>Financing Innovation Ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy: Local actors, opportunities, and challenges</p>		

Potential follow-up/prioritisation of activities in 2023/24

Description

Short/mid-term priority areas (stronger support)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Achieve a better governance for a sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in cooperation with Interreg EURO MED projects, WTO, CPRM, etc</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New projects related to Interreg EUROMED Mission 4 - Enhancing sustainable tourism, STC and GOV4MED, will aim at amplifying and increasing impact of the projects' results, transferring them into the practices and mainstreaming them into public policies related to this mission (thematic groups; observatories; mentoring and twinning; policy labs; etc) + |
| <p>2. Scale-up good practices on sustainable food value-chains in cooperation with FAO/GFCM</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the work done under the topic of Sustainable Food Systems with a focus on food from the sea (particularly through the SFS-MED Platform, moving around the FAO/CIHEAM/UFM/PRIMA/One Planet partnership), supporting/complementing regional webinars and/or supporting the finalization of national pathways and start their implementation • 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 |
| <p>3. Webinar to promote a proper planning of marine renewables zones/licensing, within the multi-use (MU) approaches to ecosystem-based MSP</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate discussions on Marine Renewable Energies planning in the context of the MSP Community of Practice through webinar/s. |

Complementary support to the implementation of the UfM Ministerial on ENV and Climate Change: Research and Innovation; Transport, with a focus on the Plan on Transport, with a focus on Maritime Transport, where appropriate

EX. support among the key priorities of the Declaration and Action Plan (i.e. Training and certification of seafarers; training of all stakeholders in ports and ships involved in dangerous goods, in accordance with existing national and international provisions; improvements in port efficiency; the work towards sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime ports; the provision and use of services and tools in the field of maritime

safety and security; cooperation at IMO, full decarbonisation by 2050 and the entry into force by 2025 of a Mediterranean Emission Control Area...)

Follow-up/ capitalisation of ongoing actions (softer support)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>5. Acceleration of transformative innovation/diversification for smaller-scale Mediterranean ports</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue supporting stakeholders in the development of project ideas under existing funding opportunities |
| <p>6. Follow up, accompany and support the newly established Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) multi-stakeholder and informal Community of Practice</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the identification, instruction and engagement of additional experts from the wider Med, facilitate discussions, report on advancements |
| <p>7. Support to innovation ecosystems for blue economy value-chains, including Mediterranean cluster alliance(s), incubators, accelerators, etc</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the creation and/or consolidation of new/existing maritime-related clusters as key actors to stimulate cooperation, innovative approaches and access to funding and financing schemes |

Results-based Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation System

Implementation arrangements

Straight-forward Results-based MRE system to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap towards the implementation of the Ministerial

- ✓ **Yearly updates by the countries by Ministerial priority**, summarizing main achievements at national level (*policies, strategies, initiatives, programs, projects, etc.*) – **Annual baseline to visualize progress over time (First Reporting exercise by the countries: 14th BE WG; 14 March 2023, Brussels; Integrated into the Roadmap)**
- ✓ Feeding on the above and in order to minimize reporting burden, the **Roadmap will be updated every 2 years** (2023 & 2025), including results and process indicators by Ministerial priority
- ✓ **Mid-term external evaluation** (tentatively 2025) in the context of the preparation of the next Ministerial Declaration
 - ✓ Scope and focus of the evaluation will be agreed based on the inputs received by the yearly updates and the biannual national reports on progress

Investing in a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

UfM Conference on Blue Finance - June 22nd 2022, Barcelona World Trade Center

Financial institutions, banks (multilateral and national), private investors and UfM country and industry representatives

Main outcomes

- ✓ Encouraging investments in and funding of Blue Economy projects and initiatives in the Med region
- ✓ Providing an overview of viable investment opportunities + access to finance
- ✓ Exchanging on the enabling conditions required to attract investments on SBE in the Med
- ✓ Discussing the viability of specific projects/initiatives (matchmaking sessions) + Common language
- ✓ Contribute to **better aligning and mobilising financial flows towards the SBE sectors and activities prioritised by the countries of the UfM**
- ✓ Drawing in the participation of **national and local banks**
- ✓ Sharing successful experiences and cases from different regions





Sustainable investments in the Med Blue Economy Next steps

NEWS: UfM WEBINAR: Financing Innovation Ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy



UfM Photo Database



2023 Key milestones, Recap

- ✓ CB Webinar on Financing Innovation Ecosystems for the Med SBE (30 Jan.)
 - ✓ UfM-WOC MoU (March)
 - ✓ MRE System of the Roadmap/Ministerial: First reporting exercise by the countries
 - ✓ First meeting of the BMP (14 March)
 - ✓ Regional dialogue & Roadmap/Ministerial implementation: Engagement in relevant regional/sub-regional processes, initiatives, meetings...
 - ✓ WestMED Ministerial and Stakeholder Conference (June)
- *13th UfM SBE Working Group (14 March)

Upcoming milestones

- ✓ Technical Assistance for the implementation of the Roadmap in process

NEWS: UfM WEBINAR: Financing Innovation Ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy





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Thank you!

Merci !

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