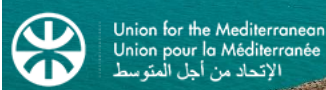


Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform

Biannual Newsletter on Sustainable Blue Economy



Welcome to the 19th issue of the biannual newsletter on Sustainable 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 SBE in the Mediterranean region.

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→ [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 Segment on SBE "Charting the Path towards a Sustainable Blue Economy: The Mediterranean Leading the Way" (10 June 2025 – UNOC-3 Med Day, Nice)

The UfM Segment on SBE within the Med Day of UNOC-3 took place on June 10 at the Centre Universitaire Méditerranéen (CUM) located within the Green Zone. The



Segment brought together UfM country representatives, experts, development agencies, funding programs, and multilateral banks to shed light on some of the key results, initiatives, innovations, and partnerships that have emerged from the joint Med process and constant collaboration on SBE over the years, ranging from funding mechanisms (the Blue Mediterranean Partnership (BMP) and the first package of SBE Investment Projects launched in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco); to key grant programmes such as INTERREG and EMFAF ; to the 3rd edition of the UfM flagship publication on '[Advancing towards SBE in the Med](#)'. During the Session, the third Vice-President of

the Government of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, H.E. Ms Sara Aagesen and EBRD formalized the Spanish contribution to the BMP (8M Eur), under the blessing of the UfM Secretary-General and the UfM EU and Jordan Co-Presidency on SBE.

The Segment was a testament to the UfM region's joint will to capture and mainstream the potential of SBE as a pillar of the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation itself and as a driving force, vector, and accelerator for Sustainable Development / the 'blue and green' transition across our shared basin, bringing a wide range of environmental, social, and economic benefits to citizens and ecosystems: from the decarbonization and greening of ports and maritime transport; to blue finance; to marine renewable energies; to sustainable maritime and coastal tourism; to sustainable food from the sea; to Maritime Spatial Planning; to blue skills and employment, to maritime clusters, etc. [Learn more.](#)

2.18th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy (15 -16 October 2025, Brussels)

Key points on the agenda of the 18th UfM Regional Platform on SBE included the presentation by the Commission of the European Ocean Pact, indicating also the commitment to support the development of a **blue economy sea-basin strategy on the Eastern Mediterranean**. At technical level, in the framework of the continued progress towards the implementation of the [2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE](#) and its related Roadmap, the [updated version of the Roadmap](#) was shared and presented to the members of the Regional



Platform. Tracking/measuring progress over time, the meeting also served as a valuable opportunity to present the results of the External Evaluation of the 2021 Ministerial, and for countries to report on progress achieved, under the agreed upon Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation system of the Roadmap/Ministerial. In addition to this, ongoing synergies with the WestMED Initiative and other key strategic partners, projects, programmes, and strategies across the region were also shared and discussed, including but not limited to: Interreg Euro-Med and Next-Med; the Mission Restore our Oceans / BlueMissionMed; S3 partnerships on SBE; the BBNJ; EUSAIR; the UfM-labelled Plastic Busters Initiative; the Mediterranean Blue Carbon Strategy (IUCN-Med); and key EMFAF/EU-funded projects including CallMeBlue on maritime clusters, and on maritime transport and ports. **The PPTs of the meeting are available [here](#).**

3. European Commission adopts Ocean Pact with €1 billion to protect marine life and strengthen blue economy

The ocean shapes our economies, our food systems, even the air we breathe. **To better protect our ocean, the Commission has adopted a European**



Ocean Pact, which will help to promote a thriving blue economy and support the well-being of people living in coastal areas. At the 2025 UN Ocean Summit, [President von der Leyen announced an investment of €1 billion to support ocean conservation, science and sustainable fishing](#). The Ocean Pact brings together EU ocean policies under one single and coordinated framework. It will do so through a collaborative approach between EU countries, regions, and stakeholders, including fishers, innovators, investors, scientists, and civil society. Highlighting the role of the UfM in contributing to advance the Sustainable Blue Economy in the Med, the Pact further foresees a reinforced support on SBE to the Eastern Mediterranean, with a dedicated structure similar to the WestMed Initiative: *“The Commission, in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean, will support the development of a sustainable blue economy sea-basin strategy on the Eastern Mediterranean, which currently lacks a dedicated structure for cooperation, based on the format of the WestMed Initiative and in cooperation with existing regional bodies”*. [Learn more.](#)

4. Pact for the Mediterranean – Once Sea, One Pact, One Future (16 October, Brussels)

The European Commission and the High Representative have set out a new ambitious strategy to strengthen EU relations with its Southern Mediterranean partners. The Pact for the Mediterranean will step up cooperation and economic ties between the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and beyond. It will contribute to building a **Common Mediterranean Space** that is connected, prosperous, resilient and secure. The Pact is built on the principles of **co-ownership, co-creation and joint responsibility**. It takes a practical approach, centred around concrete initiatives that will bring added value for people and economies on all shores of the Mediterranean. The goal is to create **mutual benefits** – from producing clean energy, to unlocking private investment. This will be achieved by mobilising regional projects that create opportunities for people and businesses alike, with a particular focus on youth, women, and small businesses. In addition, the Pact also provides an opportunity to further advance our cooperation on security, preparedness and migration management. Areas of common interest such as maritime security, Sustainable Blue Economy, and the resilience of our critical infrastructure are among the actions identified for stronger regional peace, integration, Sustainable Development, and cooperation. [Learn more.](#)



5. BBNJ Global ocean conservation treaty enters into force (19 September 2025, New York)

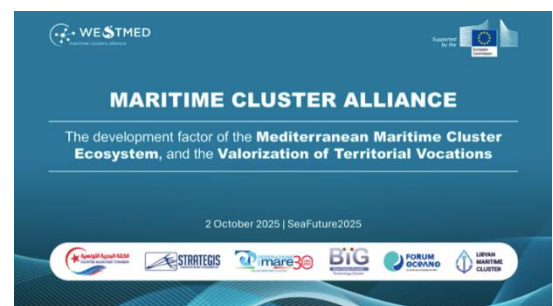
19 September 2025 marked a historic milestone for ocean conservation as the **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement** reached 60 ratifications, triggering its entry into force in early 2026. This landmark agreement, the result of over a decade of international collaboration, represents a transformative step toward safeguarding marine ecosystems and addressing the urgent threats posed by climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.



One significant development in marine conservation is the possibility for nations to establish large-scale marine protected areas (MPAs) on the high seas - a critical measure to meet the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's target of protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030. The treaty also foresees environmental impact assessments for economic activities in international waters, ensuring sustainable practices and minimising harm to fragile marine ecosystems. Crucially, the agreement prioritises equity and inclusion, with dedicated support for developing countries. Countries will receive support to implement the agreement, through strong capacity-building initiatives and marine technology transfer programs, including the EU backed €40 million **Global Ocean Programme**. An innovative benefit-sharing mechanism will also ensure fair access to marine genetic resources. The European Union and its Member States have played a central role in advancing this agreement, leading the BBNJ High Ambition Coalition — a coalition of over 40 nations committed to bold, science-based ocean protection. [Learn more.](#)

6. Side Event of the WestMED Maritime Clusters Alliance within the framework of Seafuture 2025 (2 October 2025, La Spezia and online)

In the framework of Seafuture 2025, UfMS took part on October 2nd 2025 to the Side Event of the WestMED Maritime Clusters Alliance held in person and online (*'Maritime Cluster Alliance The development factor of the Mediterranean Maritime Cluster Ecosystem, and the valorization of Territorial Vocation'*). The event presented a valuable opportunity to liaise with the Med maritime clusters ecosystem, in particular considering that maritime clusters were also featured within the 18th UfM Regional Platform on SBE. Indeed, the EC/CINEA-funded CallMeBlue project on Med maritime clusters



cooperation in the Med also counting with the support of the UfM, participated in and bridged between both meetings. SEAFUTURE, now in its 9th edition, is an international exhibition showcasing innovative technologies in maritime, defense, and dual-use sectors. Standing as a major event in the sector, focusing on the wide-ranging Blue Economy, SEAFUTURE also provides unrivalled access to the rapidly growing national and international markets, attracting specialist contractors, clients, national institutions, international delegations, companies, and stakeholders from around the world. [Learn more.](#)

7. ‘Paths that last – Collaborating for a sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean’ event jointly organized by the 8 Interreg Programmes associated to the Interreg Mediterranean Multi-programme Mechanism (MMM) coordination, focusing on Sustainable Tourism (25-26 June, Split, Croatia)

On 25-26 June (Split, Croatia), UfMS took part in the Paths That Last - Collaborating for sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean event organized jointly by all Interreg Programmes associated to the Interreg Mediterranean Multi-programme Mechanism (MMM) coordination. The event was the first large-scale event organized since the inception of the MMM in 2022. The aim of the MMM is to enhance synergies and common governance across Interreg programmes and to scale-up capitalization of results, particularly with a view towards the post-2027 agenda and to future dedicated calls. Indeed, the MMM represents approximately 1 billion Eur, 1/8th of the whole Interreg budget (8 billion Eur for the programming period 2021-2027, spanning 86 programmes).

In its pilot exercise, the MMM focuses on sustainable tourism, as key economic and strategic sector in the Med; with the potential to play a pivotal role as driver of the green and blue transition in and for the region; and given the strong multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the Med tourism sector, encompassing a wide range of value chains and industries. This diversity and range are particularly suited to a pilot exercise such as the MMM, aiming to bridge across Interreg programmes. Together with DG MARE / the UfM EU Co-Presidency on SBE and the Eusair Coordinator for Pillar 4 on Sustainable Tourism, UfMS took part in the panel discussion on ‘Mediterranean strategic and sectoral initiatives: How do they deal with Sustainable Tourism?’ aiming to put the spotlight on ‘initiatives, strategies, and approaches beyond Interreg that enhance synergies and governance for sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean for better policy coordination and impact. [Learn more.](#)



8. Africa Blue Summit (9-10 October, Tangier)

In the framework of the wider follow-up to UNOC-3, UfMS took part on 9-10 October 2025 to the Africa Blue Summit, hosted in Tangier. The main goal of the Summit was to present the "Sustainable Blue African Pact", an initiative of the Blue Africa Summit. The initiative, dedicated and supported by African states, is structured around four thematic colleges (Governance & Territories, Science & Education, Civil Society, and Blue Economy & Finance).

On October 9-10, UfMS took part in the Summit within the dedicated Roundtable on Strengthening Regional Cooperation. Indeed, the UfM/Mediterranean region’s process, collaboration/cooperation, and partnership on SBE as underpinned by the 2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE and its related Roadmap was brought to the forefront – for continued integration and convergence of efforts across the region – as pioneering process on SBE in the Med, integrating all Med African countries, standing as a model for other regions of the world, and emerging over the years as a solid pillar of the Mediterranean cooperation itself. Indeed, this approach was also at the core of the UfM-led Segment on SBE held within the Med Day of UNOC, in Nice, on 10 June. [Learn more.](#)



9. Launch of MIRAMAR and MEDPROACT (30 October, Barcelona, UfM Secretariat premises)

Scaling up the UfM-labelled Plastic Busters Initiative, labelled by the UfM already since 2016, which has built over the years a process and N-S cooperation success story to tackle the Marine Litter crisis in the Med, the Interreg Euro-Med and Interreg-Next Med-funded projects MIRAMAR and MEDPROACT were presented and launched on October 30 at UfM premises. Tackling the Med marine litter crisis from a multi-stressor perspective, including impacts on marine biodiversity and coastal communities, the meeting presented an important step forward in strengthening synergies between MIRAMAR/MEDPROACT and alliances at wider regional level, namely within the UfM framework. [Learn more.](#)



10. Sea Level Rise Conference 'Med Actions addressing Rising Seas' (16 September, Malta)

The Sea Level Rise (SLR) Conference/high-level technical meeting 'Med Actions addressing Rising Seas' was hosted by the government of Malta in collaboration with the UfM on September 16, 2025. The Conference was structured around three (3) thematic sessions focusing on Energy Critical Infrastructure and Early Warning Systems; Impacts on Water and Food Security; and on Sustainable Blue Economy. Each was followed by a brief general debate. Indeed, awareness on SLR in the Med is largely sectoral (agriculture, tourism industry, cultural heritage, etc.) with little coordinated action. While SLR poses significant threats to some SBE sectors (i.e. ports and coastal infrastructure), the UfM/Mediterranean partnership and cooperation on SBE is also an integral part of the 'solution' to tackle the climate crisis in the Med and to accelerate the transition towards more resilient, carbon-neutral, and circular economies, while also providing critical opportunities to improve the health of our shared marine and coastal ecosystems. [Learn more.](#)



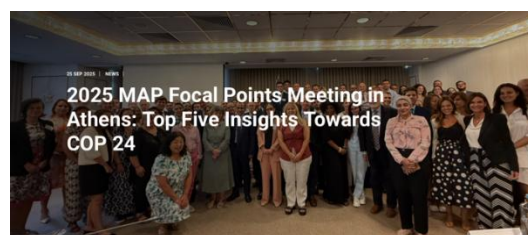
11. GREEN MARINE MED project on green shipping's Final Summits (2-3 July, Barcelona)

In the framework of the UfM's continued engagement with the WOC (World Ocean Council) and in the overall framework of the MoU in place between the UfM and WOC, UfMS took part in the EMFAF-funded GREEN MARINE MED project on green shipping's Final Summits, taking place in Barcelona on 2-3 July. [Learn more.](#)



12. 2025 MAP Focal Points Meeting in Athens: Top Five Insights Towards COP 24 (16-19 September)

The 2025 Meeting of the Focal Points of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the Barcelona Convention took place in Athens, Greece, from 16–19 September 2025. Delegates from 21 Contracting Parties, the European Union, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations including the UfM, and non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting, reviewed progress under the 2024–2025 biennium, and prepared for the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 24), to be held on 2–5 December 2025 in Cairo, Egypt. Throughout the four-day session, Focal Points reviewed reports on activities carried out under seven thematic programmes of work. Highlights included progress on reducing marine litter and hazardous substances, advances in biodiversity protection under the Post-2020 SAPBIO, and contributions from regional centres on climate resilience, blue economy initiatives, and environmental monitoring. [Learn more.](#)



13. Get ready for the 2025 Day of the Mediterranean

This year, the Day of the Mediterranean takes on special significance as it coincides with the [30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process](#). Both occasions will be marked on **28 November**, commemorating three decades of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. To honour this milestone, the 2025 Day of the Mediterranean will focus on **dialogue**, sparking the conversations we need today to shape a better tomorrow. **Be part of it!** Host or frame your activity under the Med Day - whether a conference, a cultural event, or a new cooperation initiative. Share it on the [official website](#), use the Med Day visuals, and place your initiative on the [Med Day Map](#). [Learn more.](#)



14. WestMED Steering Committee gathers to discuss progress and road ahead (9 April 2025, Brussels)

The WestMED Steering Committee meeting held on 9 April 2025 marked a significant moment of transition and collaboration among Mediterranean partners. The new co-presidency, now held by Tunisia and Portugal, was warmly welcomed, and gratitude extended to Mauritania for its previous leadership. The discussions emphasized the importance of keeping up the momentum with strategic initiatives like the Ocean Pact and a reinforced focus on blue skills, ocean literacy, and sustainable development. DG MARE highlighted past achievements, including 115 project ideas—45 of which secured funding totalling €71 million—underscoring the need for even greater ambition. [Learn more.](#)



15. Landmark agreement towards achieving net-zero emissions from global shipping by 2050 (11 April 2025, Brussels)

On April 11, 2025, the European Commission welcomed an agreement at the **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)**, as a meaningful step towards achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from global shipping by 2050. This is a historic deal in the fight against climate change, marking a significant advancement in reducing the environmental impact of the shipping industry on a global scale. While the agreement does not yet ensure the sector's full contribution to achieving the Paris Agreement goals, it constitutes a strong foundation for starting the required energy transition of shipping. The EU and its Member States played a key role in securing the deal and will remain actively engaged in the lead-up to its adoption in October 2025 and implementation in 2027. [Learn more.](#)



16. WestMED at GREEN MARINE MED Stakeholder event (23 April, Morocco)

The EMFAF project '[Green Marine Med](#)' is implementing a series of events across the Mediterranean, to engage stakeholders and exchange on planned activities. In this context, on 23 April 2025, a workshop was organized in Tanger, Morocco, titled: **South Mediterranean Sustainable Shipping – Innovation, collaboration and excellence**. Its main objective was to showcase the readiness of operators, both on behalf of infrastructures, shipowners and shipbuilders, as well as multilateral financial institutions to support capacity building, innovation efforts and investments towards decarbonising the maritime transport value chain, also in favour of southern shore countries. [Learn more here.](#)



17. EU pledges over €300 million in ocean conservation efforts at Our Ocean Conference (29 April 2025, Busan)

On April 29, 2025, at Our Ocean Conference in Busan, in the Republic of Korea, the European Union announced €301,485,000 in EU funding to support actions in the fields of the sustainable blue economy, marine pollution, marine protected areas, digital oceans, sustainable fisheries, and ocean and climate change. This year's conference, celebrating its 10th anniversary, showcased the accomplishments, and best practices stemming from the voluntary commitments made by the global ocean community over the past decade. Under the umbrella of 'Digital Oceans', the conference convened to explore the intersection of technology and ocean conservation, with a focus on the above six critical areas. [Learn more.](#)



18. BlueInvest Africa 2025 (15-16 October, Lomé)

BlueInvest Africa is the essential platform for **connecting innovative project leaders with private and public investors**. This event, held in Togo, presented a key opportunity to accelerates funding for sustainable solutions in ocean conservation, marine energy, fisheries and aquaculture and maritime transport. **The event focused on financing and sustainable development**, aligning with the **Global Gateway**, the European Union's initiative to foster responsible and sustainable investments between Africa and Europe. This edition offered a unique opportunity to create strategic partnerships, access new sources of funding, and accelerate sector growth. [Learn more.](#)

19. WestMED Success Story. Maritime Clusters – meet MedBAN, the Mediterranean Blue Acceleration Network

The European MedBAN project, short for **Mediterranean Blue Acceleration Network**, is an initiative to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the blue economy. It was co-funded by the European Union (Grant Agreement n° 101074763) through the Joint Cluster Initiatives (EUROCLUSTERS) for Europe's recovery (SMP-COSME-2021-CLUSTER) under the Single Market Programme with a total budget of 1.4 million euro. **The MedBAN project is therefore closely aligned with the Euroclusters' specific objectives** regarding networks, innovation, adoption of processes and technologies for the twin (digital & sustainable) transition, training for the up and re-skilling of the workforce and internationalisation of European SMEs. [Learn more.](#)



20. European Commission welcomes provisional agreement to reduce microplastic pollution (April 2025, Brussels)

The Commission welcomes the provisional agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the Commission's proposal to regulate and prevent microplastic pollution from plastic pellets, across the value chain, including during transport, notably at sea. The new Regulation will protect the environment while ensuring that European industries can continue to operate and expand sustainably. [Learn more.](#)

21. WestMED Project Awards 2025

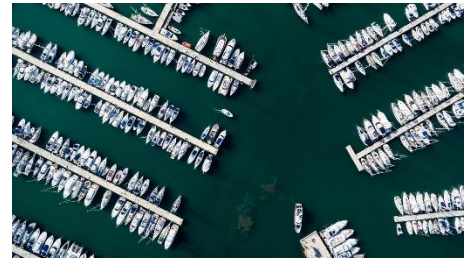
The WestMED Project Awards 2025 is an international project competition aimed to showcase and honour outstanding success stories, which provide innovative and replicable solutions embodying the **WestMED initiative's vision for the Western Mediterranean**. The **WestMED Steering Committee**, with support from the WestMED Assistance Mechanism, is organising this **2025 edition of the WestMED Project Awards**.

The winners will be announced during the [WestMED Stakeholders Conference on 28 November 2025 in Tunis, Tunisia](#). [Learn more.](#)



22. EU invests €2.8 billion in 94 transport projects to boost sustainable and connected mobility across Europe

The European Commission selected 94 transport projects to receive nearly **€2.8 billion** in EU grants under the **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**. By modernising railways, inland waterways and maritime routes across the [trans-European transport network \(TEN-T\)](#), the projects will not only help better connect European regions and cities – north to south, east to west, but also make the EU's internal market more competitive, and more resilient. [Learn more.](#)



23. Main outcomes of the implementation dialogue on maritime spatial planning (July 1, Brussels)

The implementation dialogue on maritime spatial planning (MSP) **took place on 1 July in Brussels**. Hosted by Costas Kadis, Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, the event brought together a broad range of stakeholders—business and industry representatives, civil society organisations, and public authorities. During the event, **attendees evaluated what aspects of the current MSP Directive (MSPD) are working well and identified areas for improvement**, considering the fast changes occurring in the marine environment. There was strong support for the MSPD as a crucial framework that offers consistent and flexible guidelines for maritime development. However, participants highlighted the need for better planning with nature and food production in mind and stronger protection for the environment. [Learn more.](#)



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24. Escola Europea to Mark 20 Years of Promoting Sustainable Transport in the Mediterranean

In October of 2026, the Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport **will celebrate its 20th anniversary - two decades dedicated to advancing sustainable logistics, education, and cooperation across the Mediterranean**. What began as a pioneering initiative in intermodal transport training has grown into **a recognised centre of excellence, connecting ports, institutions, companies, and communities** through its experiential learning approach and its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Founded in 2006 by the Ports of Barcelona, Rome, Genoa, and later on adding Palermo, together with the shipping lines Grimaldi Lines and Grandi Navi Veloci (GNV), the Escola has become a benchmark for experiential training in intermodal transport and sustainable logistics. [Learn more.](#)

25. EU welcomes entry into force of WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

The European Union welcomes the long-awaited entry into force of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, a major milestone after two decades of intense multilateral negotiations. This represents a significant step forward in the global effort to protect the world's ocean, as it aims to eliminate harmful fisheries subsidies, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and thriving ocean for future generations. Through binding and enforceable provisions, this landmark agreement is expected to significantly reduce overfishing, ensure sustainable fisheries and promote better practices for coastal communities worldwide. This is also among the key priorities of the [European Ocean Pact](#), which outlines the EU's commitment to protecting the ocean. [Learn more.](#)

26. GreenMED: Green Shipping Pathways Towards a Clean Energy Transition in the Mediterranean

In the busy ports and sea lanes of the Mediterranean, the impact of shipping on the environment is impossible to ignore. Ships burn large amounts of fuel, releasing emissions that contribute to climate change and pollute the air along the coastlines. This is a particular concern in the Mediterranean, where shipping is dense and the sea is semi-enclosed, trapping pollution near heavily populated shores. To address this, the GreenMED project is helping chart a new path forward. Thanks to support from the [European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund \(EMFAF\)](#), it is bringing partners from Greece, Spain, Cyprus, and Egypt to prepare the region's shipping industry for the energy transition. At the heart of the project is a new observatory — the **Mediterranean Sustainable**

Shipping Observatory, a decarbonisation hub for the Eastern and wider Mediterranean region. This is collecting data, building knowledge, and engaging stakeholders to support cleaner solutions in ports and at sea.

[Learn more.](#)

27. EU invests €116 million in 13 projects to restore ocean and waters

A new wave of projects has secured funding under the latest EU Mission Ocean and Waters calls. With a total budget of €116 million, the 13 projects selected will deliver a wide variety of benefits to the ocean and waters in the EU and beyond, as well as the communities that rely on them. The projects will be implemented across various sea basins, including the Black Sea, Danube River, Baltic and North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Atlantic and Arctic regions. The projects involve SMEs, research organisations, local authorities, schools, and businesses. With this significant investment, the EU is taking a major step towards restoring the health of the ocean and waters

– a key priority under the [European Ocean Pact](#) - and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. [Learn more.](#)



Resources and Opportunities

1. Updated UfM Roadmap to set the path towards the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy (September 2025)

The 2nd UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy adopted by the 43 member countries of the UfM on February 2nd 2021 was widely welcomed as an ambitious political and technical Declaration, with an expanded scope in terms of joint areas of cooperation, shared principles, and common actions to ensure the long-term Sustainable Development of the sectors and activities of the Med SBE. Providing the framework for its operationalization, the UfM Ministerial Declaration was further backed by a clear and concrete implementation framework – a Roadmap – agreed by the UfM Co-Presidency, the UfM Secretariat, and countries of the UfM.

In line with the 2021 Ministerial Declaration, the Roadmap provides an overview and analysis of the joint needs, gaps, and opportunities for future support, funding and implementation – to be launched and scaled-up from the short to the long term – for each of the 10 ministerial priorities. The updated Roadmap, as of September 2025 is available on MedBESP, the Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform managed by the UfM Secretariat. **Access the Roadmap [here](#).**



2. European Commission publishes 2025 report on EU blue economy

The EU Blue Economy report presents the economic performance of the EU blue economy sectors and provides estimations of their economic performance. This year's edition shows that the EU blue economy is on an upward trajectory, having generally recovered from the COVID-19 crisis. In 2022, it directly employed 4.82 million people, generated nearly €890 billion in turnover and accounted for €250.7 billion in gross value added (GVA). Estimates suggest that the EU blue economy sectors continued to grow in 2023, contributing €263 billion to the EU GVA and employing 4.88 million persons. The 2025 edition of the report puts special focus on the energy transition in EU maritime transport and the fishing fleet, as well as the potential of nature-based solutions against the impacts of climate change in EU coastal areas. [Learn more here.](#) And **access the full report [here](#).**



3. Mediterranean Blue Carbon Strategy (IUCN-Med)

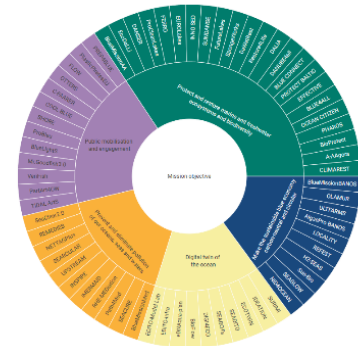
The Mediterranean blue carbon strategy aims to establish a comprehensive framework for the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of blue carbon ecosystems, such as *Posidonia oceanica* meadows and other seagrasses. These ecosystems are vital for climate change mitigation, carbon storage, and providing essential services like biodiversity, coastal protection, and sustainable livelihoods. The strategy outlines a roadmap from 2025 to 2030 to safeguard the Mediterranean's natural heritage by integrating scientific, economic, and community efforts. Key objectives include: Protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems; Long-term research and knowledge promotion; Development of certification and financing schemes for blue carbon projects; and encouraging community participation and supportive public policies. [Learn more.](#)



4. First Monitoring Assessment of the Mission Restore our Oceans

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has developed a **dynamic monitoring framework** to track and assess the progress of the EU Mission activities in achieving **objectives and targets of relevant EU policies**. The indicators are developed in collaboration with the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries department of the European Commission (DG MARE) and is accompanied by Policy Briefs and Monitoring Assessments. The monitoring framework includes **quantitative and qualitative indicators** that help track progress towards **10 targets** across **3 objectives** of the EU Mission Ocean and Waters. Additional information on the method and guiding principles of the monitoring framework can be found in the [Policy Brief 1/2025: Monitoring of the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”](#) (May 2025). [Explore the First Monitoring Assessment here.](#) [Learn more here.](#)

Figure 1: overview of Horizon Europe projects funded under the Mission Ocean and Waters work programmes 2021-23 and their correlation to the objectives of the Mission



5. SBEP's Third Joint Transnational Call for R&I Funding

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, a **European partnership under the European Commission’s Research & Innovation Framework Programme Horizon Europe**, is pleased to pre-announce its **third Joint Transnational Call**. This third call is co-branded by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a means of stimulating new initiatives in co-designed and co-delivered knowledge and solutions for a sustainable ocean economy as part of the Ocean Decade Action Framework. This co-funded call was officially launched on 15 September 2025. **Applicants will have up to 17 November 2025 (15:00 CEST) to submit their pre-proposals.** A first evaluation of pre-proposals will be organised and **the deadline to submit full proposals is foreseen for 17 June 2026.** [Learn more.](#)



6. Join the Med Platform - Promoting Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean Region

[Join the Med](#) is a knowledge hub dedicated to addressing sustainable tourism issues in the Mediterranean. Its primary goal is to identify practical tools, methods and solutions that promote and advance sustainability in the tourism sector. By highlighting sustainable tourism practices and offering policy-oriented insights, the platform supports a more responsible and resilient tourism model. Designed as a dynamic and interactive platform, Join the Med features engaging



visualizations and synthesizes contributions by mapping pilot activities, key actors and collaborative synergies. It serves as a collaborative space where knowledge is synthesized to drive sustainable outcomes. Explore the platform and connect with others working toward sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean. You can also visit the Join the Med initiative in our Blue Economy Community section [here](#). [Learn more](#).

7. Funding opportunities for innovative projects in the Sustainable Blue Economy sectors

The *Funding Opportunities* section on the Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform (MedBESP) provides comprehensive information on open calls and funding opportunities for initiatives related to the blue economy. Explore the Funding Opportunities [here](#) and stay tuned for more!



Upcoming events

1. [Tomorrow.Blue Economy World Congress \(Smart Ports, SOS, BlueFIN\)](#) (04 - 06 November 2025, Barcelona – Spain)
2. [International Symposium on Coastal Resilience](#) (04 - 05 November 2025, Palma, Balearic Islands – Spain)
3. [BlueMissionMed \(CSA Project, Mediterranean Lighthouse of the EU Mission Restore Our Oceans\) Mediterranean Lighthouse Bootcamp](#) (04 - 07 November 2025, Rimini – Italy)
4. [EuroGO-SHIP Final Event](#) (05 November 2025, Brussels – Belgium)
5. [Interreg Euro-Med WEGOCOOP Improving Wetland Governance through Community of Practice](#) (05 - 06 November 2025, Marseille – France)
6. [Ecomondo 2025 Beacon Conference “Blue Horizons: Trans-Mediterranean Cluster Collaboration for Innovation in Energy, Clean Tech, and Bioeconomy”](#) (06 November 2025, Rimini – Italy)
7. [UNFCCC COP30](#) (10 - 21 November 2025, Belem – Brazil)
8. [Brokerage Event | SBEP’s 3rd Joint Transnational Call](#) (13 November 2025, Online)
9. [Save the Date: World Conference on Marine Biodiversity 2026](#) (17- 20 November 2026, Bruges – Belgium)
10. [3rd annual forum of the Sustainable Tourism Mission, Interreg Euro-Med](#) (18 November 2025, Varna – Bulgaria)
11. [5th EU Blue Parks Community Workshop](#) (19 November 2025, Online)
12. [3rd ‘Sun & Blue’ Blue Tourism Innovation Congress](#) (19 - 20 November 2025, Almeria – Spain)
13. [BRIDGE Black Sea Final Conference](#) (25 November 2025, Brussels & Online – Belgium)
14. [3rd International TouMali Conference](#) (26 - 27 November 2025, Hammam Sousse, Tunisia)
15. [UfM Regional Forum](#) (28 November 2025, Barcelona – Spain)
16. [WestMED Stakeholder Conference 2025](#) (28 November 2025, Tunis – Tunisia)
17. [24th meeting of the CoP of the Barcelona Convention COP](#) (01 - 05 December 2025, Cairo – Egypt)
18. [3rd Edition of the MedTalks](#) (16 December 2025, online)
19. [Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership’s Second Symposium](#) (February 11 2026, Bucharest – Rumania)

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