



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative



# Overview of 2026 synergies with the WestMED Initiative

**Spanish Co-Presidency 2026**

- 2026 first year of Spanish WestMED Initiative Co-Presidency
- Spain will also be presiding the Atlantic Strategy

Spanish motto for both Strategies:

***“Building on synergies for sustainable oceans”***

**Synergies**, not only between **Sea Basin Strategies and Organizations (UfM)**, but also amongst different **blue economy sectors**, as well as various **stakeholder generations**, building intergenerational fairness.

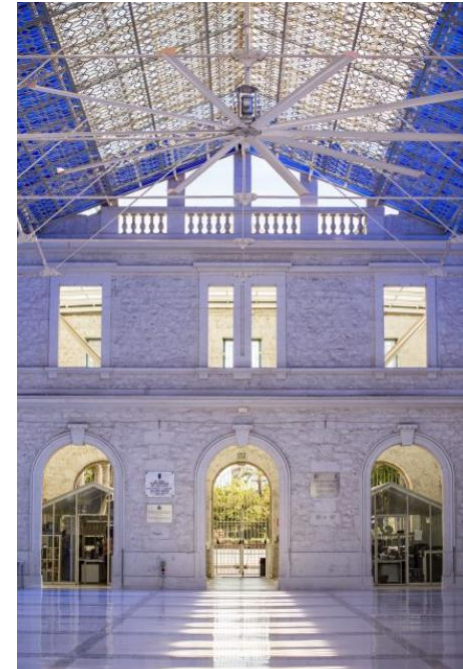
Boosted by:

- Parallel initiatives
- Youth participation
- Joint Stakeholders Conference

The Spanish Co-Presidency aims to:

- Launch the new **WestMED Technical Group on Blue Skills**, result of the initiative of the 2025 Tunisian and Portuguese co-presidencies.
- Initiate discussions for the launch of a **Marine Observation and Data Collection** community of practice, in parallel with the Atlantic Strategy. This is a new development, closely linked to the proposals of the EU Ocean Pact, which will be included in the Ocean Act planned by the end of 2026.
- Take advantage of the simultaneous presidency of the Atlantic Strategy and the co-presidency of WestMed, to **boost synergies**, bring together blue economy stakeholders and sectors and enhance cooperation between the two Sea Basin Strategies.

- **1st Steering Committee:** Online, 7th of April.
- **2nd Steering Committee:** Alicante, in person, 10th of June
- **Stakeholders' Conference:** Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, 15-16 of September. Joint Conference with Atlantic Strategy
- **3rd Steering Committee:** Proposal to have it also in person, **back to back** with the Conference. 15th of September.



- **1st Steering Committee:** Online, 7th of April.
- Presentation of Co-Presidency goals and expectations
- Launching of the WestMED TG on Blue Skills
- Update from DG MARE on the Pact for the Mediterranean: First Action Plan.
- Case study: Multi-stakeholder Cooperation for the Protection and Restoration of the Mar Menor (Murcia, Spain).

Tuesday, 7 April 2026	
10:00-10:15	Welcome remarks by the Co-Presidency (Spain and Tunisia) and DG MARE
10:15-11:15	Presentation of the Co-Presidency Goals and expectations for 2026 & WestMED – Atlantic Annual Conference 2026 (Spain and Tunisia) <i>Roundtable with countries (countries one by one)</i>
11:15-11:30	Case study: Multi-stakeholder Cooperation for the Protection and Restoration of the Mar Menor (Murcia, Spain).
11:30-11:45	Coffee break
11:45-12:00	Update from the Assistance Mechanism: Technical Groups, key events, projects supported and synergies. <i>Assistance Mechanism, Q&amp;As</i>
12:00-12:30	Launching of the ToR of WestMED TG on Blue Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of next steps, composition of the TG members and tentatively timetable (Assistance Mechanism)</li><li>• Reactions from countries</li></ul>
12:30-13:00	Update on the Pact for the Mediterranean and the European Ocean Pact: Positioning WestMED as an operational platform for strategic alignment ( DG MARE)  Joint feedback to the call for evidence on the European Ocean Act (Assistance Mechanism)

**Las Palmas de Gran Canaria**, Canary Islands, 15-16 of September:

- Insularity
- Blue Economy
- Coastal communities
- Outermost regions

**Joint Conference with Atlantic Strategy**: convergence of both strategies

**Two days Event**, with participation from different interreg programmes, Blue challenge, Blue Synergies, Plenary Sessions, stakeholders' Hackatons...