



Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform

Biannual Newsletter on Sustainable Blue Economy



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

Welcome to the 20th 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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Latest News

1. 19th UfM Regional Platform on SBE and back-to-back Working Session on the Blue Economy Sea-basin strategy in the Eastern Mediterranean (21 - 22 April 2026)

On 21-22 April, 2026, UfM countries, Observers and experts gathered together at the UfM Secretariat premises in Barcelona, Spain, for the 19th meeting of the [UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy](#). UfM countries and Mediterranean SBE stakeholders gathered together in order to continue to set the path towards the implementation of the [2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE](#) and [its related Roadmap](#), focusing on (among other key agenda items): Updates on the implementation of the [EU Ocean Pact](#) and [Med Pact](#); Joint ongoing and emerging initiatives including ongoing synergies with WestMED and the first meeting towards the Blue Economy Sea-basin strategy for the Eastern Mediterranean; funding opportunities including the BMP; and thematic spotlights on UfM SBE Ministerial priorities including sustainable food from the Sea, and Sustainable Tourism. [Learn more.](#)



2. Blue Mediterranean Partnership 5th Steering Committee Meeting (20 April 2026)

UfM countries – including Jordan, Morocco, and Egypt, as beneficiary countries – and IFIs gathered in Barcelona on 20 April for the 5th Steering Committee of the Blue Mediterranean Partnership (BMP). As multilateral Fund and cooperation framework supporting Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) projects in Mediterranean countries, the BMP is up and running with first investment projects moving forward and focusing on key priorities including marine ecosystem regeneration and Marine Renewable Energies. The programme included updates on projects both approved and in the pipeline. [Learn more.](#)



3. IUCN, MedPAN, UfM Webinar on Marine & Coastal Ecosystem Restoration in the Med (27 Jan 2026, online)

The UfM, together with IUCN and MedPAN, co-organised on January 27 a [webinar on restoring marine and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean](#), bringing together policymakers, researchers, and regional stakeholders to address the region's growing climate and biodiversity challenges. The Mediterranean is warming 20% faster than the global average, and significant habitat loss — including half of natural wetlands and a third of posidonia meadows over the past 50 years — makes restoration increasingly urgent. Discussions focused on passive and active restoration, nature-based solutions, and key habitats such as coastal wetlands, seagrass meadows, and Marine Protected Areas. Participants agreed on the need for coordinated regional action, connecting international and national frameworks to turn high-level commitments into real outcomes. Alessandra Sensi, UfM Head of Sector on Environment, Green and Blue Economy, underlined the importance of maintaining these exchanges and pointed to the UfM Working Group on Environment and the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy as key spaces to drive the dialogue forward. [Learn more.](#)



4. MED Talks 3rd Edition (16 December 2025 - Online)

Since December 2023, Interreg Euro-MED Programme together with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have been co-organising the annual 'MedTalks' to strengthen dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean. Once more, this online event offered a valuable opportunity for dialogue, exchange, and sharing of solutions with key Mediterranean. The meeting gathered and fostered capitalization among successful labelled Interreg Euro-MED projects by disseminating results and best practices achieved and improving collaborations between Euro-Mediterranean programmes and key stakeholders. The 3rd edition focused on the main advancements and transfers made by 8 Governance Projects - 88 Thematic projects supported by under the Interreg Euro-MED Programme into the four Missions: strengthening an innovative sustainable economy, protecting the natural environment and heritage, promoting green living areas, and enhancing sustainable tourism. [Learn more.](#)



5. UfM Foreign Ministers reaffirm commitment and adopt a new Strategic Vision on the 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process (28 November 2025, Barcelona - Spain)

Representatives from the 43 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) convened in Barcelona for the 10th Regional Forum, reaffirming their commitment to tackle shared challenges



and deepen Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. The ministerial meeting was co-chaired by Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, and Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan, with the participation of H.E. Nasser Kamel, UfM Secretary General, and Dubravka Šuica, European Commissioner for the Mediterranean. It was hosted by José Manuel Albares, Minister of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation of Spain. UfM Ministers approved a new Strategic Vision for the organisation, focused on connecting people, economies and countries. At the margins of the Forum the EU Pact for the Mediterranean secured political support from EU Member States and their Southern Mediterranean partners. UfM Ministers endorsed the designation of Córdoba (Spain) and Saida (Lebanon) as 2027 Mediterranean Capitals of Culture and Dialogue. [Learn more.](#)

6. 2nd Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) Symposium - Full Sail Ahead Towards the Sustainable Blue Economy & SBEP Foresight workshop – From Policy to Practice: Updating the Strategic R&I Agenda (11-12 February 2026, Bucharest – Romania)

On 11 February 2026, the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership hosted the second edition of its biennial Symposium in Bucharest, Romania. The event marked the midpoint of the Partnership’s journey and served to reflect on achievements, showcase R&I projects, and shape the next steps for Europe’s sustainable blue economy. The Partnership’s 2nd Symposium brought together over 100 participants, including co-funded projects, policymakers, industry representatives, funding organisations, and members of the Black Sea community. Panel discussions, cultural elements, and dedicated spaces for research and innovation projects highlighted both achievements and opportunities for collaboration. On 12 February UfMS took part in the SBEP Foresight Workshop aiming to frame, collect inputs, and support convergence towards the final update of the SBEP ‘Strategic and Research Implementation Agenda’ (SRIA), due to run until 2029. [Learn more](#)



7. Webinar: Launch of the Mediterranean Wetland Outlook 3 Report (MWO-3) and of the Mediterranean Wetlands Geoportal (19 March 2026 - online)

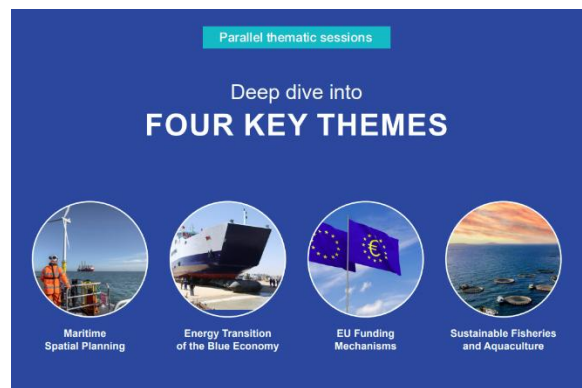
On 19 March, the Union for the Mediterranean, in partnership with MedWet, Tour du Valat, and the Mediterranean Wetland Observatory, co-organised a webinar dedicated to the launch of the third edition of the [Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook \(MWO-3\)](#) and Mediterranean Wetlands Geoportal. The event gathered over 100 participants and featured opening remarks by Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. MWO-3 provides an overview of the state and trends of wetlands across the Mediterranean and marks a new milestone, building on two previous editions. It has been developed by the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO) in the framework of MedWet, in close collaboration with a broad network of scientific and technical

A promotional graphic for a webinar. It features logos for MedWet, Tour du Valat, and the Mediterranean Wetland Observatory. The text reads: "The Mediterranean Wetland Outlook 3 (MWO-3) and the Mediterranean Wetlands Geoportal. Sharing the findings of MWO-3, an overview of the status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands, and an introduction to the Mediterranean Wetlands Geoportal." Below this are circular portraits of speakers: Chris Robinson (MedWet), Alexandra Seres (Tour du Valat), Dr. Rosanna Mariani (Commission of Academies), and two others. At the bottom, it says "JOIN US March 19th, 2026 10:00 - 11:30 CET" and includes a QR code labeled "SCAN". On the right side, there is a landscape image of a wetland area with water and a cloudy sky.

partners across the 27 countries of MedWet and beyond. MWO-3 draws on a structured analysis using 18 DPSIR indicators (Drivers – Pressures – State – Impacts – Responses). [Learn more.](#)

8. WestMED Stakeholder Conference 2025 (28 November 2025, Tunis - Tunisia)

The 5th WestMED Stakeholder Conference, held in Tunis on November 28, 2025, gathered over 200 participants from 14 countries to advance sustainable blue economy cooperation in the Western Mediterranean. Key topics included maritime clusters, aquaculture, blue skills, and energy transition. The event also hosted the 3rd WestMED Project Awards, recognizing innovative regional initiatives. Participants left with stronger networks and clearer paths for cross-border collaboration. The conference report is available for download and captures the key insights and outcomes from the event, including presentations by the five WestMED Project Award winners. [Learn more.](#)



9. Building climate resilience together: Mediterranean Pavilion at COP30 in Brazil (10 – 21 November 2025, Belem - Brazil)

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) hosted the Mediterranean Pavilion at the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), providing a joint platform for regional dialogue, advocacy, and partnership on climate action across the Euro-Mediterranean region. Held in collaboration with partner institutions and countries, the Pavilion showcased collective efforts to address the climate crisis through cooperation, innovation, and sustainable investment. It highlighted the Mediterranean as one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable regions — and as a living laboratory for solutions connecting Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Throughout COP30, the Pavilion featured ministerial exchanges, expert discussions, and side events focusing on adaptation, resilience, renewable energy, water security, sustainable finance, and youth engagement. By bringing Mediterranean priorities to the global stage, the UfM aimed to strengthen regional cooperation within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. [Learn more.](#)



10. Blue milestone: EU and partners boost Mediterranean Sea protection at COP24 (01–05 December 2025, Cairo – Egypt)

At COP24 in Cairo, the participating countries, including EU Member States, committed to continuing their work together to protect and preserve the Mediterranean Sea. The adopted decisions set the path towards strengthening EU marine environmental policy, boosting efforts to achieve healthy seas and promoting an integrated approach that recognises the links between land, sea, wildlife, and people. UfM Secretary-General H.E. Nasser Kamel took part in the Plenary, with UfMS joining several Side Events, including on coordinated technical and scientific support for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in the Mediterranean region; the Launch the 100MPA MedAlliance; on Mediterranean coastal and marine restoration; on restoring Mediterranean wetlands and forests; and on youth, skills, and maritime decarbonization. [Learn more.](#)



11. WEGOCOOP Final Conference and First Mediterranean Forum on Wetland Contracts (5-6 November, Marseille - France)

On November 5-6, the WEGOCOOP project organized in Marseille the First Mediterranean Forum on Wetland Contracts, within the Final Conference of the Interreg Euro-MED WEGOCOOP project, hosted by the MedWet Secretariat – the Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Mediterranean – with the active contribution of all project partners. The Forum brought together representatives from institutions, research bodies, regional organizations including the UfM, local authorities, NGOs, and wetland managers from across the Mediterranean.

The event aimed at fostering dialogue, sharing best practices, and strengthening cooperation on participatory approaches to wetland governance, and on wetland contracts acknowledged as tried-and-tested tools for Mediterranean Wetland conservation and sustainable management, with potential for scaling-up in the South and East of the region. [Learn more.](#)



12. Sun&Blue Congress 2025 strengthens European cooperation in tourism and the blue economy (19 – 20 November 2025 – Almeria, Spain)

The third edition brought together representatives from 37 countries and hosted 11 side events, nearly half of them international in scope, confirming the congress’s growing global projection. Sun&Blue 2025 convened one of the largest concentrations of European institutions linked to tourism and the blue economy. Among the participating EU bodies were the European Commission (through CINEA, DG MARE and DG MOVE), the Interreg MED, Interreg NEXT MED, WestMED Initiative, and the Community4Tourism platform, along with European networks such as EMODnet, Interact Programme, Plan Bleu, and organisations such as IUCN. [Learn more.](#)



13. Spain Assumes WestMED Co Presidency with a Vision of Synergies among Sea Basins (January 2026)

From January 2026 until the end of 2027, Spain will hold the co-presidency of the WestMED Initiative for a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation. This co-presidency will be shared with Tunisia in 2026, and with Algeria in 2027. European policies for the Mediterranean regional area have received a strong boost during 2025, representing a turning point for maritime governance in the region, while generating great opportunities. The Third United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, and the recent Mediterranean and Ocean Pacts presented by European Commission, which share both vision and objectives with the WestMED Initiative when it comes to the development of a sustainable blue economy, the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity and the support to the coastal communities. [Learn more.](#)



14. European Ocean Board convenes for first meeting – Supporting the implementation of the Ocean Pact (31 March 2026, Brussels)

The European Commission has launched the European Ocean Board as a high-level expert group supporting the implementation of the European Ocean Pact, chaired by Commissioner Costas Kadis and bringing together 28 members from academia, industry, NGOs and youth organisations. The Board advises on key priorities such as ocean health, the blue economy, maritime security, research and international governance, while fostering dialogue and policy coherence across stakeholders. It held its [first meeting on 31 March](#) to define priorities and shape its work programme, complementing existing platforms like advisory councils and the European Blue Forum. [Learn more.](#)



15. Circular economy in tourism takes center stage in Varna (18 November 2025, Varna - Bulgaria)

Over 70 participants partners of the Thematic Projects and local and regional institutions in Varna actively engaged in the 3rd Joint Annual Forum of the Sustainable Tourism Mission Including Sustainable Tourism Policy Labs. Varna (Bulgaria) hosted the 3rd Joint Annual Forum of the Sustainable Tourism Mission, bringing together key stakeholders from across the Euro-MED region. The event, organized by the Interreg Euro-MED Dialogue4Tourism and Community4Tourism Projects, focused on fostering a circular economy in tourism, promoting sustainability, and enhancing regional cooperation. [Learn more.](#)



16. Highlights from the Horizon Europe 2026-2027 Work Programme InfoDay on Mission Ocean and Waters (21 January, 2026)

On 21 January, the European Commission presented the 2026 priorities under the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 at the Mission ‘Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030.’ InfoDay. The Work Programme launches the Mission’s sixth round of funding calls, with a total indicative budget of EUR 244 million, including EUR 120 million dedicated to the 2026 topics. Since 2021, 80 Horizon Europe Mission Ocean and Waters projects have received funding, delivering practical solutions to safeguard and restore Europe’s seas and waters.

The session highlighted that the 2026-2027 Work Programme targets the Mission’s deployment and upscaling phase (2026–2030), replicating proven solutions to advance Mission Ocean and European Green Deal objectives. It aims to adapt innovations to new local contexts, speed up the innovation cycle of ocean and water technologies, and leverage funding from EU, national and philanthropic sources. [Learn more.](#)



17. Fishing vessel engine power - new Commission guidance for monitoring and control

The European Commission has published two technical guidance documents to support EU countries in improving their systems for monitoring and controlling the engine power of fishing vessels. Engine power of fishing vessels is one of the measures used to control fishing effort and to determine the size of European fishing fleets, in order to ensure the sustainable management of marine resources. Reliable registered power values are crucial for effective fishing effort management. Both guidance documents address shortcomings identified in the 2019 Commission study on engine



power verification and also respond to EU countries' requests for technical support. They aim to foster sustainable fishing practices and provide support to EU countries for the upcoming implementation of the new continuous engine power monitoring systems, which will become mandatory in January 2028 following the revision of the fisheries Control Regulation. [Learn more.](#)

18. EU leads efforts to harmonise fishing rules across Mediterranean and Black Seas countries

The European Union is taking strong action to protect our seas and ensure fair fishing practices in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, following important progress made at last week's annual session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in Málaga. For the first time, the GFCM agreed to introduce a mechanism to monitor and ensure compliance with regional fisheries measures. If regional measures are not respected, the GFCM will require Mediterranean and Black Seas countries to address the identified deficiencies. [Learn more.](#)



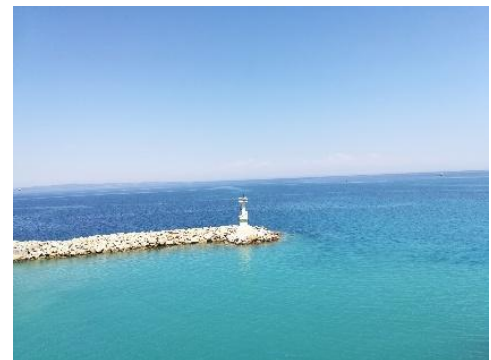
Seas countries to address the identified

19. EU Member States set new limits on seafloor litter to fight marine pollution

The EU has set its first official limits on seafloor litter. In areas monitored by trawl surveys, litter must not increase over time; in visually monitored areas, the limit is one item per 1,000 square metres, focusing on waters up to 200 metres deep. Marine litter, especially plastic, threatens wildlife, coastal tourism, fisheries, and human health. Until now, data came mainly from fishing nets, which was unreliable and hard to compare across Europe, making new visual and image-based monitoring methods essential. To comply with the new thresholds, Member States need to implement appropriate measures in their marine strategies, required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). [Learn more.](#)

20. BlueMissionMed: valorising difference and unlocking potential in the Mediterranean basin

Despite covering less than 1% of the global ocean, the Mediterranean hosts 15% of world maritime traffic, 20% of gross marine product, and 7.5% of global marine biodiversity — making it both economically vital and ecologically significant, yet heavily polluted. The BlueMissionMed initiative has spent three years translating the EU's Mission Ocean goals into concrete regional action, focusing on ecosystem restoration, pollution prevention, and a circular blue economy. As it wraps up in December, its strongest legacy lies in pollution prevention, aligned with EU targets to cut plastic litter at sea by 50% and microplastics by 30% by 2030. [Learn more.](#)



21. High Seas Treaty enters into force: A milestone for ocean conservation

The High Seas Treaty, formally known as the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), enters into force on 17 January 2026. The European Union and its Member States are celebrating this significant milestone in ocean conservation and sustainable use of Ocean. This landmark agreement provides a framework for the common governance of about half of our planet's surface and 95% of the ocean's volume, representing the largest habitat on our planet. The agreement will make it possible to: establish marine protected areas (MPAs) in the high seas; regulate the exploitation of marine genetic resources; assess the environmental impact of current and future human activities; support developing countries



through capacity-building and marine technology transfer programmes The Agreement has so far been ratified by 81 Parties, including the EU and 16 of its Member States, and signed by 145 countries. [Learn more.](#)

22. WestMED at High-Level Event Celebrating Two Decades of EU-Tunisia Partnership Through Interreg

On 28 January 2026, Tunis hosted a high-level event celebrating this 20-year milestone and marking the launch of new Interreg projects. The gathering brought together more than 350 participants, including officials from Tunisian and EU institutions, ambassadors and project leaders, underlining the importance of the cooperation for both sides. [Learn more.](#)



23. A deep dive across the European Ocean Days 2026

From 2 to 6 March, the European Ocean Days brought together policymakers, scientists, investors, youth representatives and industry leaders in Brussels for its third, and arguably most impactful, edition. Against the backdrop of a year packed with critical milestones and challenges for EU fisheries and maritime affairs, the event was more than just a gathering. It was a moment to pay tribute to our ocean, reflect on how far we've come with the Ocean Pact, share views during various stakeholders' consultations, and confront the vast horizon of work still ahead, preparing the ground from planning to action. [Learn more.](#)



24. President von der Leyen launches OceanEye and calls for an international alliance to reinforce global ocean observation and protection (March 2, 2026)

On March 2nd 2026, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, called for an International Alliance to reinforce and expand ocean monitoring and observation. The Alliance will support OceanEye, the European Ocean observation initiative, with the aim to enhance global ocean observation efforts and collaboration. President von der Leyen has also announced the EU contribution of €50 million from Horizon Europe to the International Alliance for 2026-2027. The European Ocean observation initiative "OceanEye" was first announced by President von der Leyen, along with Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadi, during the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference. Building on the [European Digital Twin of the Ocean](#) (EDITO) and [Copernicus' marine programme](#), OceanEye aims to lay the foundation for Europe's sovereign and cutting-edge ocean observation technology infrastructure supporting international efforts in ocean observation and protection. [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 (March 2026)

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 March 2026 is available on [MedBESP](#), [the Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform](#) managed by the UfM Secretariat. [Access the Roadmap here.](#)



2. UNIDO–WTCA Blue Economy Global Call

On **20 April, 2026**, the UNIDO–WTCA Blue Economy Global Call will officially open for applications. UNIDO, in collaboration with the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) is launching the UNIDO–WTCA Blue Economy Global Call 2026, a major international initiative designed to identify and accelerate innovative solutions that can drive sustainable growth across the Blue Economy. UNIDO and WTCA aim to mobilize innovators from around the world who are ready to contribute to a more resilient and inclusive future for oceans, seas, and coastal communities.



Through this international competition, applicants are invited to present ready-to-deploy technologies and business models in six thematic areas. The initiative is open to enterprises of all sizes, startups, research institutions, NGOs, and public–private partnerships, with the requirement that proposed solutions demonstrate a potential for scalability and long-term sustainability.

Winners will benefit from a dedicated acceleration program under the joint UNIDO–WTCA framework, giving them access to tailored technical support, global business networks, international visibility, mentoring, and opportunities for pilot implementation in partner countries.

Applications will be accepted starting from the 20th of April to the 19th of June 2026 via the official platform at www.itpo-rome.unido.org/GlobalCall2026, or alternatively by email to itpoitaly.globalcall2026@unido.org. For more information visit: <https://itpo-rome.unido.org/index.php>

3. Navigating sustainable and circular business support in the Mediterranean: A regional outlook (March 2026)

The publication provides an overview and reflection at the Mediterranean regional level on the role of Business Support Organisations (BSOs) in promoting ecosystems that foster the emergence of just and circular enterprises. It features contributions from approximately fifteen BSOs and other national and regional actors, including the UfM. Articles are grouped around three main axes: the first and most numerous focuses directly on analysing the role of BSOs, their networking, sharing experiences, lessons learned, and reflections at both national and regional levels. A second section addresses the essential issue of access to finance and investment for circular ventures. Finally, the third thematic section covers topics related to public supporting policies for the creation of sustainable enterprises. In addition to these three sections, a fourth one includes testimonials from entrepreneurs and companies about the support received from BSOs. [Learn more.](#)



4. UfM Launches updated Policy Brief under UfM-labelled Plastic Busters Initiative

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) released the updated Edition Policy Brief “Litter-Free Is the Way to Be: Actions for a Healthy Mediterranean”, developed under the UfM-labelled Plastic Busters Initiative on process. As one of the Mediterranean’s flagship science-policy efforts, the Plastic Busters Initiative works to protect marine biodiversity, prevent and mitigate marine litter pollution, and strengthen the science–policy interface across the region. The updated brief provides an evidence-based overview of the growing challenge of marine litter — noting that the Mediterranean is “among the most affected seas globally” — and highlights the urgent need for integrated, cross-sectoral, and long-term action. [Learn more.](#)



5. EU Ports Strategy (4 March, 2026)

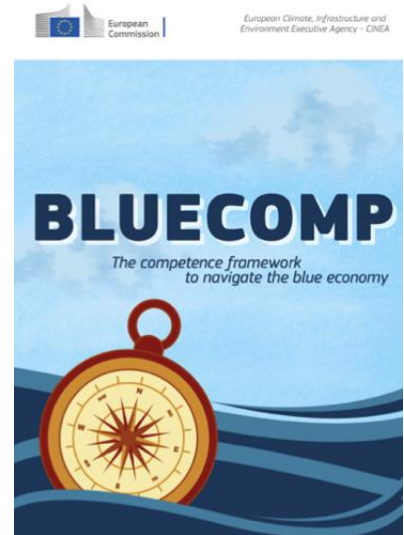
The European Commission adopted on March 4 2026 the EU Ports Strategy, a comprehensive framework to step up the competitiveness, resilience, security and sustainability of Europe’s ports. Ports are a cornerstone of the EU economy, handling around 74% of external trade, 3.4 billion tonnes of goods and nearly 395 million passengers annually. They also support more than 423,000 direct jobs. As strategic gateways, ports underpin Europe’s trade, security and clean energy transition, while promoting growth, quality jobs and territorial cohesion for islands, coastal, arctic and outermost regions. However, as ports evolve into multi-functional industrial hubs, they must expand capacity, decarbonise, digitalise, and reinforce security – simultaneously and at scale. Bolstering EU ports will secure Europe’s strategic autonomy and critical supply chains, accelerate the clean energy transition and sustain global leadership in waterborne transport – while helping the EU achieve climate neutrality by 2050. [Read more here](#) and [access the Strategy here.](#)



6. Study to Support and Design Skills Development in the Blue Economy

The blue economy is a key driver of sustainable economic growth, innovation, and employment across the European Union. Encompassing a wide range of activities – from established sectors such as coastal tourism, maritime transport and fisheries, to emerging industries including offshore renewable energy and blue biotechnology – the blue economy supports the EU's ambitions under the European Green Deal and contributes to advancing the digital and green transitions.

In response to evolving labour market dynamics and the need for ensuring a skilled and adaptable workforce, the European Commission launched this study with the objective of **mapping the current skills landscape, identifying future needs, and proposing actionable recommendations to address skills gaps and mismatches across blue economy sectors**. In line with the European Ocean Pact, it seeks to shape the EU's vision for a sustainable and inclusive blue economy, ensuring that its workforce remains at the forefront of global maritime innovation and leadership. The study also aims to contribute to the objectives of the Pact for Skills and the broader Union of Skills initiative. [Learn more here.](#)



7. GES4SEAS project's Massive Open Online Courses

The GES4SEAS project has a series of educational Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). So far, the MOOCs have covered the following topics: 'healthy seas for healthy human societies' (MOOC1), 'cumulative pressures in the marine environment' (MOOC2), 'good environmental status and how it can affect your health/life' (MOOC 3), 'tipping points: why it is best not to reach them' (MOOC4). You can learn more on how to access the MOOCs and the project's resources [here](#).



8. Report of the latest MSPglobal Online Conference

On 4 September 2025, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries hosted the MSPglobal Online Conference: 2.0 Closing & 3.0 Kick-off. The conference provided an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of MSPglobal 2.0 and to look ahead to the next project phase: MSPglobal 3.0.

Highlights included the launch of the new MSPglobal Rapid Assessment Methodology and several new MSP sources, such as the guides on the biodiversity inclusive principle and the climate-smart principle, as well as new data toolboxes on spatial data infrastructures and ocean observations. Two volumes on engaging the offshore wind sector were also released. **You can download the event report [here](#).**



9. New online course: Linking Science, Technology and Policy for the Blue Economy

This Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) was developed within the framework of the H2020 [BRIDGE-BS](#) project - of which EMB was a [partner](#) - which focused on advancing knowledge, innovation, and sustainable solutions for the Black Sea. BRIDGE-BS addressed the region's key environmental challenges and opportunities through advanced marine research, smart observation technologies, ecosystem resilience studies, science policy dialogue, and the Digital Twin Ocean Demonstrator.

Building on these activities, the MOOC provides Early Career Ocean Professionals and a broad range of stakeholders with access to scientific foundations, practical approaches, and policy-relevant insights. Designed as a stepping stone toward future graduate-level education in the region, the course introduces scientific methods and technological tools used to assess and mitigate multiple stressors, strengthen marine ecosystem health, and support the transformation of Blue Economy sectors. **You can find out more and access the course [here](#).**



For additional information on Funding Opportunities, kindly visit:

<https://medblueeconomyplatform.org/funding-opportunities/calls/>

Upcoming events

1. [Cyprus EU Presidency Ocean Conference: “Riding the Wave from Ocean Science to Policy & Ocean R&D to Market”](#) (11-12 May 2026, Ammochostos (Ayia Napa) - Cyprus)
2. [UfM Labelled Governance Projects - A new Pact for a Sustainable Mediterranean Future & ISE Mission](#) (19-21 May 2026, Athens - Greece)
3. [11th EuroGOOS International Conference](#) (18-20 May 2026, Larnaca - Cyprus)
4. [European Maritime Day 2026](#) (21-22 May 2026, Limassol – Cyprus)
5. [SBEP Workshop - How the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework can support a truly “blue” transition](#) (22 May 2026, Limassol – Cyprus)
6. [Towards an Acoustically Sound Ocean](#) (25-29 May 2026, Barcelona – Spain)
7. [European MSP Week](#) (1-5 June, Brussels – Belgium)
8. [Waves of Change Forum: AI for Ocean and Coastal Territories](#) (01-03 June 2026, Biarritz – France)
9. [2nd Blue Economy Symposium; From coast to coast – Shaping the region’s blue future](#) (10-11 June, Aqaba – Jordan)
10. [11 Our Ocean Conference; Our Ocean, our heritage, our future](#) (16-18 June, Mombasa - Kenya)
11. [III MED Interreg Euro-Med ST Mission: Sustainable Tourism Convention](#) (18-19 June, Barcelona - Spain)
12. [2026 Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days](#) (01-02 July 2026, Brussels – Belgium)
13. [59th European Marine Biology Symposium](#) (07-10 July 2026, Peniche – Portugal)
14. [Economist Impact – 2nd Annual Regional Ocean Summit](#) (9-10 September, Aqaba - Jordan)
15. [International conference on Ocean energy](#) (05-07 October 2026, The Hague – Netherlands)
16. [International marine science and technology week](#) (06-08 October 2026, Brest – France)
17. [UNFCCC COP31](#) (09-20 November, Antalya – Türkiye)
18. [7th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity](#), (November 17-20 2026, Bruges - Belgium)
19. [AlgaEurope 2026](#), (December 08-11 2026, Valletta – Malta)
20. [IV Congress on Blue Tourism and Economy 2027 edition](#) (24-25 February 2027, Almeria – Spain)
21. [Interreg Euro-MED Mid-Term Event](#) (25-26 November, 2026 Marseille - France)
22. [Ocean Decade Conference 2027](#), (07-09 April 07 2027, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

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