



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



20th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy meeting
Brussels, 14 -15 October 2026

***Annual reporting by Ministerial priority:
Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial
Declaration on SBE – TUNISIA***

Country reporting template: aim and objectives

- This “country reporting template” has been created with the aim to gather data and information at national level to feed the **2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE Roadmap’s Monitoring, reporting and evaluation system**.
- As reflected in the [“Stand-alone document on the Monitoring system of the Roadmap / 2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE”](#) and its related Annex on [“Sector-specific indicators”](#), the process kick-starts every year with the **delivery of presentations by the countries** (UfM Focal Points on Blue Economy) in the context of the **Regional Platform on SBE meetings**.
- By filling in this template, countries’ crucial inputs will feed current and future updates of the Roadmap and contribute to analyse progress over time in the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration.
- Instructions to fill in this template are provided in the next slide.

How to fill in this template

- This template contains **one slide for projects and one for initiatives, including different sections for each of the SBE Ministerial Declaration Priorities** and related progress. Three open questions have also been included at the end of the document.
- For each of the sections, a simple **table** should be completed by the countries.
- Please fill in these tables to the best of your knowledge and feel free to enrich with **hyper-links** to key documents, publications, videos, etc. as needed.
- These presentations will be delivered orally by each Focal Point on the UfM Regional Platform Meeting, and should be submitted to the UfM Secretariat team **no later than 7th October 2026, end of day.**

Major updates on progress at national level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

Tunisia participated in the MSP Working Group established under the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention framework and coordinated by PAP/RAC, which contributed to the development of the regional Roadmap for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) 2028-2035

- The MSP Working Group supports UNEP/MAP and its Contracting Parties by:
- Facilitating regional dialogue, knowledge and best-practice exchange on MSP.
- Promoting coherent and compatible MSP processes across the Mediterranean.
- Integrating MSP with ICZM, climate and biodiversity policies.
- Strengthening synergies with regional strategies and international commitments, including the SDGs and CBD.
- Promoting ecosystem-based and adaptive MSP in line with the Barcelona Convention, ICZM Protocol and the Mediterranean MSP Conceptual Framework.

Objectives of the MSP Roadmap 2028-2035

The MSP Roadmap aims to:

- Strengthen the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) across the Mediterranean.
- Promote an ecosystem-based approach and sustainable use of marine space.
- Support the development of a sustainable blue economy.
- Enhance transboundary and regional cooperation.
- Improve coordination among maritime sectors and stakeholders.
- Integrate climate change, biodiversity protection and environmental objectives into maritime planning.
- Promote coherence between marine and coastal planning.



Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	• Review and strengthening of the legal framework for sustainable fisheries: Regulation of new fishing seasons • Promote aquaculture as a pillar of food security • Promote multi-trophic aquaculture • Establishment of Aquaculture Allocated Zones (AZAs) • Conservation of Marine Resources and Combating IUU Fishing: VMS, Artificial Reefs, and Strengthened Land- and Sea-Based Control and Monitoring
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	• All commercial ships have been adapted to comply with marpol Annex VI especially dealing with emission and limitation of Sox, • Launch of a study for the implementation of an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) at OMMP.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	On the occasion of the WestMED National Day, held on 12 May 2026 in Tunis, the Tunisian National Hub organised a conference dedicated to Coastal Sustainable Tourism. The event brought together public and private stakeholders involved in this sector to exchange experiences and best practices, strengthen cooperation, identify financing and investment opportunities, and promote sustainable coastal tourism. The discussions culminated in the development of a roadmap, which was subsequently shared with the WestMED Assistance Mechanism.
Marine Renewable Energies	Tunisia has a considerable offshore renewable energy potential, particularly in relation to offshore wind energy. However, no marine renewable energy project is currently under implementation in Tunisia. The development of such projects remains subject to further assessment of their technical and economic feasibility, competitiveness, environmental considerations and integration into the national energy system, taking into account the costs and competitiveness of alternative renewable energy sources. The Tunisian authorities are nevertheless monitoring technological developments and international experience in marine renewable energies, with a view to assessing future opportunities for the development of this sector where economically and technically viable.
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	• PRIMA – Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area: Tunisia participates as a funding country, supporting Tunisian research

Projects at national (and sub-national) level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Projects at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	• SWITCH-MED: Circular Economy in Tunisia • PATINER: Promoting Sustainable Multitrophic Aquaculture • Blu-Adapt: Marine Biological Invasions and Fisheries: Study, Damage Mitigation and Adaptation in the Context of Climate Change • PROGEPECT: Promoting Participatory and Inclusive Management of Coastal Fisheries in Tunisia • GREENMEDPORTS: Decarbonization of the Fisheries Sector and Establishment of a Green Port Label (Fishing Port) • MEDFISHTUN: Supporting the Sustainable Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources in Tunisia • Nemo Hout: Modernization of Artisanal Fisheries in Tunisia • ARIBiotech – Blue Biotechnology Research & Innovation Alliance for Marine Litter Recovery (Interreg NEXT Italy–Tunisia, 2022–2023): INSTM lead, DGRS partner; EU funding EUR 1.28 M; blue-biotech valorisation of marine waste, R&I alliances, pilot action and internships for 5 companies. • CercleBleu (Interreg NEXT Italy–Tunisia 2021–2027): cross-border innovation for management and valorisation of blue crab through sustainable fishing, conservation, processing and circular value chains (2025–2028). The Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is an associate partner in this project. • ReSEAlience – Sustainable valorisation of seaweeds and halophytes through biorefinery approaches for applications in aquaculture, agri-food and bio-based industries: Research project funded on the framework of the 2nd transnational call 2024 of the European Partnership on Sustainable Blue Economy (Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership – SBEP)
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	• A study on the Acquisition of Vessels Powered by Clean Energy by the Tunisian Navigation Company (CTN) has been conducted, • A study was made to provide passenger ships with shore-power supply at la Goulette Port.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	



Open questions

1 – Related to the priority on Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region: Is there any overarching blue economy strategy in your country? Or any process initiated leading to the elaboration of such a strategy?



Open questions

2 – Related to the priority on Sustainable investments in the blue economy: is there any national funding/financing scheme related to the blue economy (or any of its sectors) promoted by your country? If yes, please specify.



Open questions

3 - What are the main challenges, issues or bottlenecks for the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration in your country?

