



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



Supporting effective waste management for sustainable maritime/coastal tourism
and ecosystem protection:
UfM policy approach and agenda – Focus on plastic pollution & ML

Marrakech, 8–9 November 2023

The UfM at a glance

Mission to enhance **cooperation, dialogue, integration, stability, and sustainable development at regional level** through the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impacts on the citizens of the region



43 Members

27 EU members and 16 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Their Senior Officials meet regularly to oversee and coordinate the activities of the UfM.

2 Co-Presidents

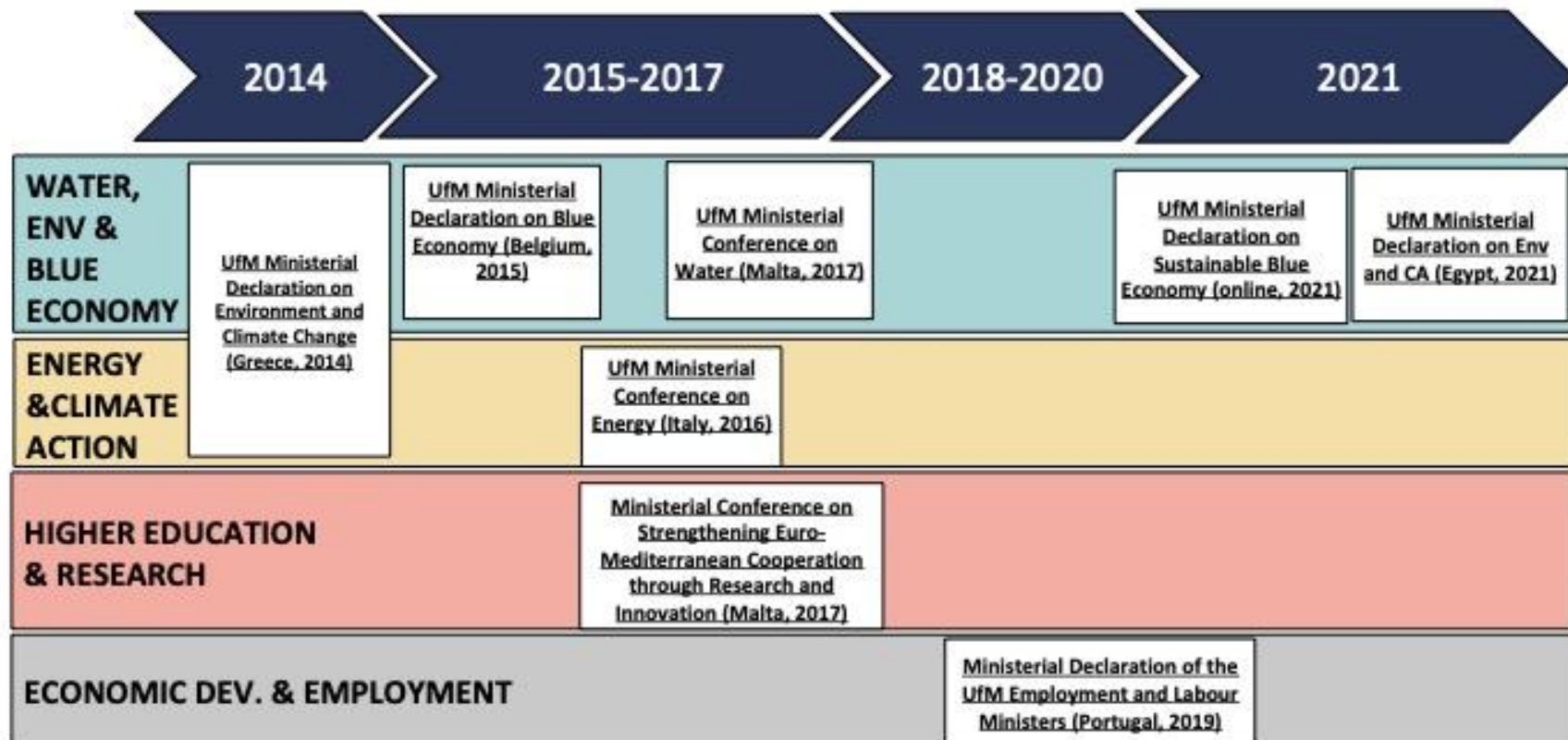
The EU and Jordan have assumed the Northern and Southern co-presidency since 2012, embodying the UfM principle of co-ownership.

1 Secretariat

Based in Barcelona, the Secretariat is the operational platform of the UfM.



UfM key milestones in a nutshell



A white seabird, possibly a booby, is shown in flight over a dark blue ocean. The bird has a long, pointed beak and is carrying a tangled red fishing net in its mouth. The net is draped over the bird's body and extends behind it. The background is a deep blue, suggesting the open sea.

UfM Ministerial on Sustainable Blue Economy
(February 2021)

**UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate
Action** (October 2021)



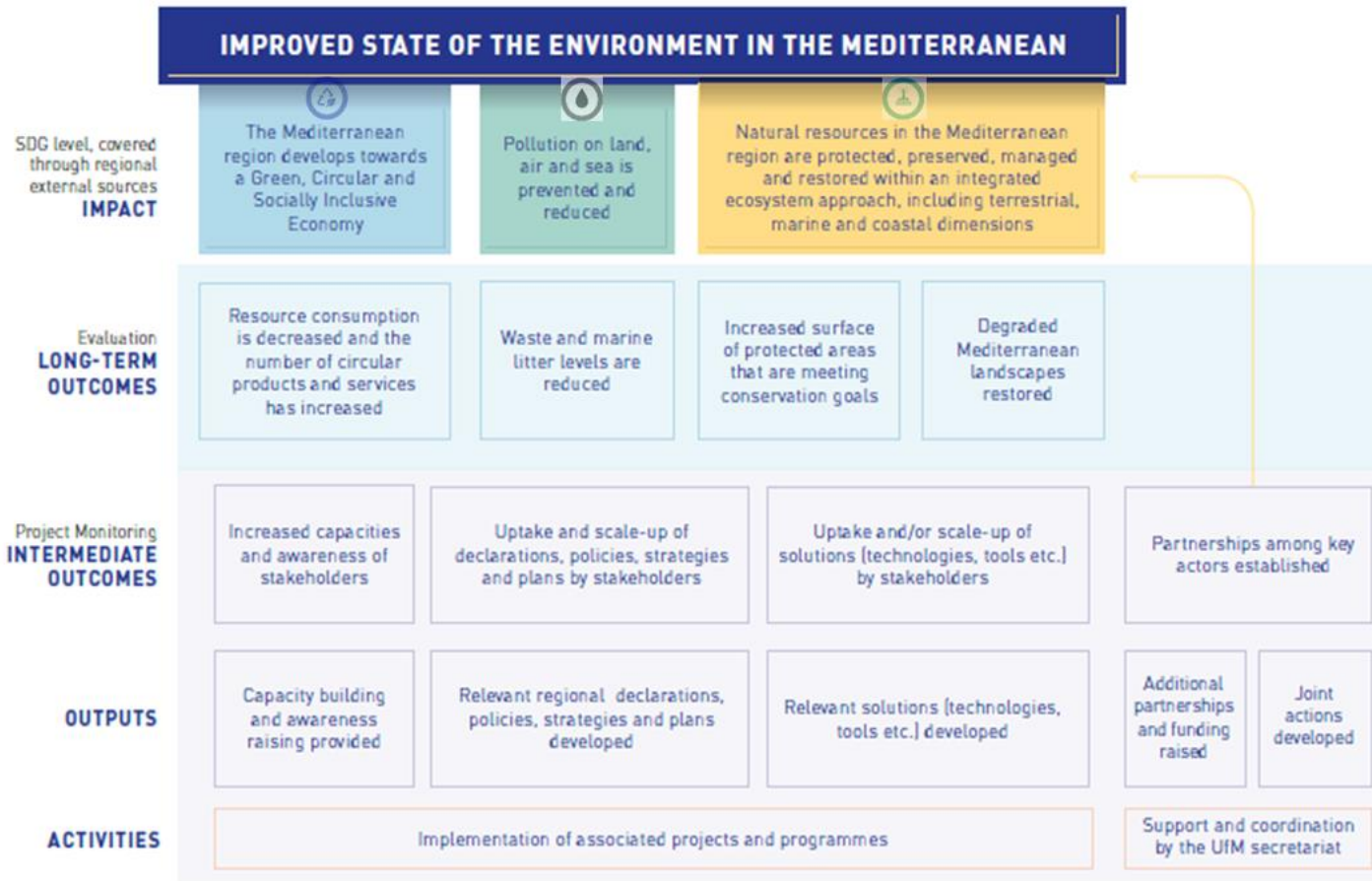
2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Action

The **UfM 2030 GreenerMed Agenda** provides a regional structured framework which, based on the coordination of existing and future programmes and projects, creates political and operational convergence around **the three main joint axes of work** of the 43 UfM Member countries.

Baseline Assessment of 2030GreenerMed Agenda, elaborated with data for the year 2020, to provide a reference point based on which advancements towards the achievement of the agenda's objectives by 2030 can be tracked over time.



Theory of Change



UFM DIRECT INVOLVEMENT

AXIS



Support the transition towards a **Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy**, based on sustainable consumption and production practices and nature-based solutions.

KEY ACTION

KA1.1 Support Sustainable Consumption and Production
KA1.2 Increase Resource Efficiency
KA1.3 Adopt innovative solutions along the entire value chain (across sectors and industries, urban and rural)
KA1.4 Promote changes in business practices, trade, public policy
KA1.5 Promote changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles
KA1.6 Engage all stakeholders (private, public and society/consumer level) and raise awareness

PROJECTS

138 regional projects



Main Actions/Sectors Covered by UfM (with dedicated financial/technical/political assistance/s)

Green, circular economy at large; Plastic value chain; Sustainable Food systems; Sustainable Tourism; ad hoc support to other areas; Education for Sustainable Development, sustainable consumption, behaviours and lifestyles; etc.

UFM DIRECT INVOLVEMENT

AXIS



Prevent and reduce
pollution on land,
air, and sea.

KEY ACTION

KA2.1 Strengthen mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction from different sources through application of a source-to-sea/ridge-to-reef approach
KA2.2 Put a particular focus on plastic pollution and marine litter as well as other inorganic and organic pollution sources
KA2.3 Facilitate investments in infrastructure
KA2.4 Reduce chemical pollution
KA2.5 Improve soil quality
KA2.6 Reduce and control air pollution
KA2.7 Reduce landfilled waste

PROJECTS

41 regional projects



Main Actions/Sectors Covered by UfM ((with dedicated financial/technical/political assistance/s)

Pollution at large with a focus on prevention aspects; Plastic pollution/Marine litter; Organic waste; Fertilisers and Pesticides; emissions; Soil quality (landscape restoration); water energy food environment nexus; green and blue finance; etc.

UFM DIRECT INVOLVEMENT

AXIS



Protect, preserve, manage, and restore natural resources in the Mediterranean region within an integrated ecosystem approach, including terrestrial, marine, and coastal dimensions.

KEY ACTION

KA3.1 Support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity
KA3.2 Promote the sustainable management of landscapes, seascapes and coastal areas in the Mediterranean
KA3.3 Promote an integrated ecosystem-based approach to managing terrestrial, coastal and marine natural resources
KA3.4 Focus on safeguarding/improving key ecosystem functions and services (in protected and productive areas)
KA3.5 Promote transboundary cooperation
KA3.6 Mainstream biodiversity in key sectors
KA3.7 Protect on-farm biodiversity in agro-ecosystems
KA3.8 Promote Disaster Risk Reduction with a special focus on extreme events including droughts and floods, and forest fires
KA3.9 Promote nature-based solutions

PROJECTS

90 regional projects



Main Actions/Sectors Covered by UfM ((with dedicated financial/technical/political assistance/s)

Biodiversity at large; Restoration (in finance); Wetlands; Protected Areas, with a focus on marine; Landscape restoration/Forestry

GreenerMed Agenda and main axes

Thematic Area 1:

Support the transition towards a Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy based on SCP practices and NBS

Thematic Area 2:

Prevent and reduce pollution on land, sea and air

Thematic Area 3:

Protect, preserve, manage and restore biodiversity and natural resources in the Med region within an integrated ecosystem approach, including terrestrial, marine and coastal dimensions

ML impact on economic sectors
ML monitoring and mitigation
ML within a circular economy approach
Land – sea interface
ML impacts on biodiversity



Plastic Busters Initiative

North + South

- ✓ Labelled by the UfM in 2016
- ✓ 3 financing rounds supporting the overall process

PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs, Interreg Med-financed

(Italy, France, Spain, Greece,
Albania, Croatia, Slovenia)

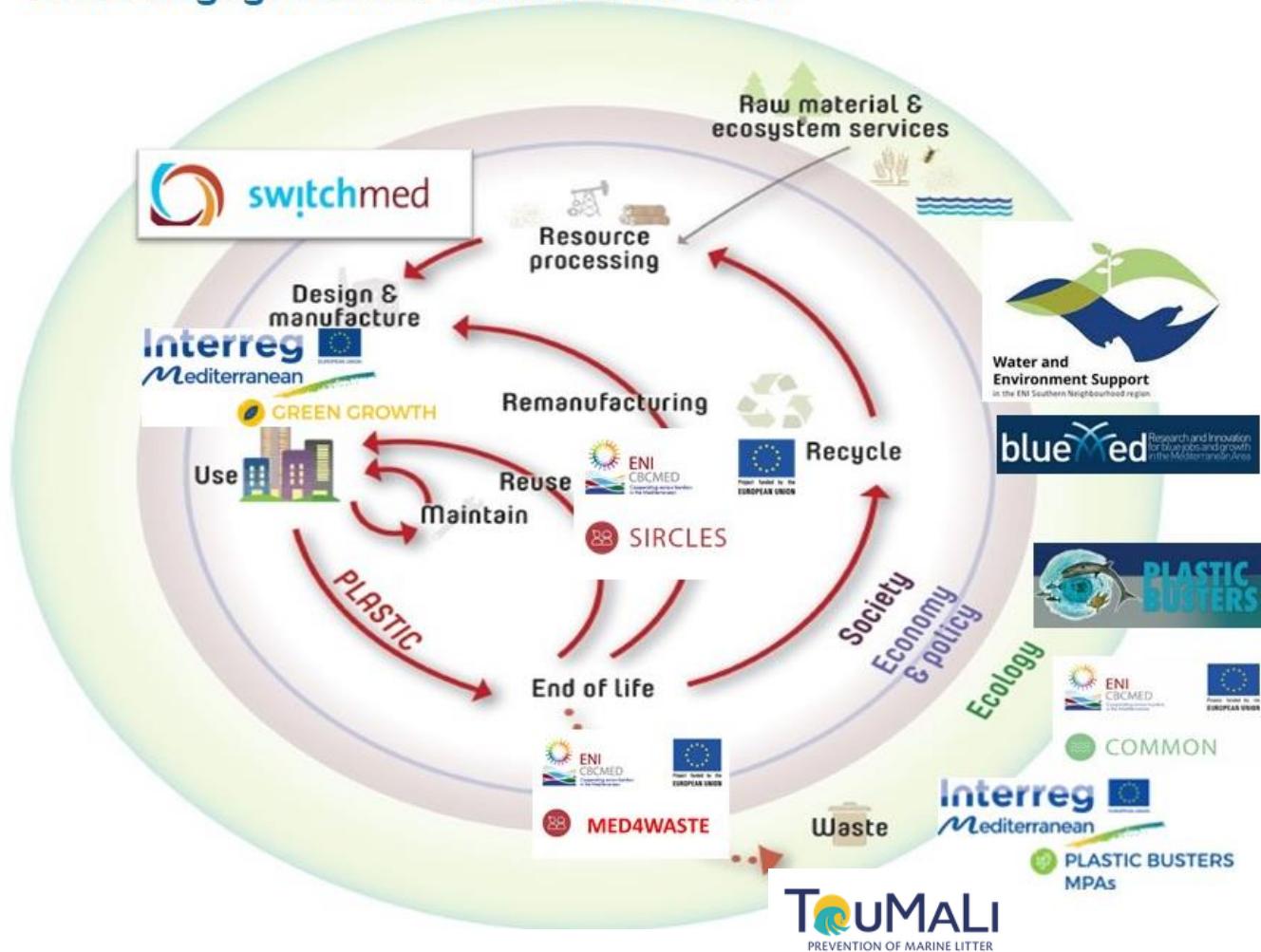
"COMMON" CBC-financed

CAPITALIZATIO N PB CAP CBC-financed (2022)

(Egypt, Greece, Italy,
Jordan, Lebanon, Spain
and Tunisia)



UfM's engagement to tackle Marine Litter



LITTER-FREE IS THE WAY TO BE

ACTIONS FOR A HEALTHY MEDITERRANEAN



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THE ISSUE AT STAKE

Marine litter — and marine plastic pollution in particular — is a major threat due to its significant environmental, economic, social, political and cultural implications. Marine litter negatively impacts **coastal and marine ecosystems** and the **services** they provide, ultimately affecting **people's livelihoods** and **well-being**. Marine plastic pollution is not just an oceans' pollution issue. It is an air pollution and climate issue too as plastic — admittedly an indispensable material of today's

societies — contributes to greenhouse gas emissions at every stage of its lifecycle, from its production to its refining and up to the way it is managed as a waste product.

Plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea poses a threat to **countries' wellbeing, economic resilience** and **environmental sustainability**, with potential effects on human health yet to be fully understood.

as estimated in 2015, are at the level of over **260,000 tonnes** per year or **730 tonnes per day**, depending on the coastal population, which may vary depending on the country, representing more than 2% of the total inputs in the world's oceans (UNEP/MAP, 2015).

The root causes of marine litter in the Mediterranean are the same as anywhere else in the world: a complex combination of **production and consumption patterns, irresponsible behavior of individuals and economic sectors**, weak enforcement and/or **lack of policy and legislative frameworks**, poor solid waste management practices, **misconceptions** related to possible solutions, fragmented understanding of the problem due to the lack of fit-for-purpose data.

Overall, the Mediterranean economy is still marked by a linear system, which over-exploits natural resources, causes pollution and thus undermines fragile ecosystems: in a region considered a biodiversity hotspot, waste prevention and reduction through upstream solutions are urgently needed.

Circular economy is a unique opportunity for Mediterranean countries to 'build back better' after the current COVID-19 crisis and to improve

the resilience of the economic system. It also constitutes a lever to help achieve the UN 2030 Agenda and several of its SDGs.

Within this context, **PLASTIC BUSTERS** is continuously and concretely consolidating and advancing actions towards a litter-free Mediterranean.



The Mediterranean basin is **particularly vulnerable** to pressures from its densely populated coasts, highly developed tourism, and heavy maritime traffic (30 percent of the world maritime traffic); a vulnerability exacerbated by the low renewal rate of its waters and the structural lack of proper waste management systems and infrastructure (from collection to recycling) in most surrounding

countries. Litter items found on Mediterranean beaches appear to originate primarily from recreational and tourism related activities, and poor municipal waste management practices.

It is widely acknowledged that the Mediterranean Sea is one of the most affected seas by marine litter worldwide. Inputs of plastics into the sea,



PLASTIC BUSTERS

Connection with key regional frameworks on marine litter as well as with related processes and projects

UNION FOR MEDITERRANEAN

UfM Ministerial(s) on Sustainable Blue Economy, February 2021, and related UfM Working Group >

MED Blue Economy Platform >

UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Action >

'GreenerMed Agenda', October 2021, and related UfM Working Group >

BARCELONA CONVENTION

Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean >

Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea (IMAP) >

Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean >

Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring Marine Litter >

EUROPEAN UNION

Marine Strategy Framework Directive >

Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy >

Green deal >

Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (SUP Directive) >

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Technical Group on Marine Litter >

PLASTIC BUSTERS INITIATIVE

ACTION 1 ASSESSMENT VIA HARMONISED MONITORING APPROACHES

Addressing data gaps and needs with regards to marine litter, to complement existing assessments carried out in the region as well as the further development and practical implementation of harmonized monitoring approaches in line with the related advances made at Barcelona Convention and EU levels.

ACTION 2 DEMO ACTIONS FOR TESTING PREVENTION & MITIGATION MEASURES

Developing and coordinating the implementation of demonstration projects showcasing actions to prevent, reduce and mitigate marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea, based on the measures provided by the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, the EU MSFD Programmes of Measures, the EU SUPs Directive, etc.

The **Plastic Busters Initiative** kick-started in 2013 to address some of the scientific and policy gaps existing at the time in the Mediterranean region. Since then, improvements have been implemented on the science-policy interface, with Plastic Busters contributing to the regional policy context as well as being informed by it. Born under the umbrella of **SDSN Mediterranean** (United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network), the Initiative provides a **concrete opportunity** to like-minded projects dealing with marine litter issues to **get together** and **fully explore** the potential for synergies towards ensuring aligned and synchronized marine litter activities across the Mediterranean. The Plastic Busters Initiative strives to push forward a shared common objective: to **effectively tackle the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean** by addressing its entire management cycle, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation, thus contributing to evidence- and science-based support to governance.

Led by the **University of Siena** (scientific Coordinator Prof. Maria Cristina Fossi), and implemented by a consortium of 15 Partners from around the Mediterranean, the Plastic Busters Initiative works in four key areas of intervention:

ACTION 3 GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

Strengthening the science-policy interface by providing fit-for-purpose marine litter data; recommendations for a comprehensive and harmonized marine litter monitoring strategy; concrete showcases and guidelines for operationalizing best practice marine litter measures; capacity building of institutional actors on marine litter related issues, etc.

ACTION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING & AWARENESS RAISING

Designing and coordinating the implementation of awareness raising campaigns and education for sustainable development programmes, tailor-made to the needs of different stakeholders, including the educational community.

PLASTIC BUSTERS INITIATIVE >

UfM labelling of Plastic Busters

PROJECTS WHICH ARE PART OF THE PLASTIC BUSTERS INITIATIVE

Interreg Med — Plastic Busters MPAs >

ENI CBC MED — COMMON >

ENI CBC MED —
Plastic Busters CAP >

PROJECTS WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED/LINKED TO THE PLASTIC BUSTERS INITIATIVE

EU Water and Environment
Support (WES) >

Interreg Med Green
Growth Community >

Interreg Med Blue
Growth Community >

SwitchMed >

OTHER RELEVANT PROCESSES ASSOCIATED LINKED TO PLASTIC BUSTERS

EU Mission for Oceans, seas and waters >

BLUEMED >

WESTMED >

EUSAIR >

Interreg Euro-Med
Strategic Framework >

ENI CBC MED
Strategic Framework >

WES-MED.EU

Towards a sustainable Mediterranean

- Green/Circular Economy, report and training
- Waste management (repository, video, Med4Waste, etc) and marine litter
- Education for Sustainable Development (UNECE Ministerial on ENV, Cyprus 2022)
- Aarhus Convention
- More

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTENT

Want to be a Champion of Plastic Pollution Prevention in the Mediterranean?

Propose a Plastic Pollution Prevention action/solution and if you can deliver on your commitment by the summer of 2024 ... become one.

APPLY NOW!

DEADLINE: 31 JULY 2023 (12 MIDNIGHT EET)



Mediterranean “Champions” of plastic pollution prevention – Call for Expressions of Intent

Want to be a “Champion” of plastic pollution prevention in the Mediterranean?

Propose your Plastic Pollution Prevention action or solution and if you deliver on your commitment by August 2024 gain the title! For more information:

https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/re-8-reg-regional-activity-on-mediterranean-champions-of-plastic-pollution-prevention/ [...]



Best practices in achieving waste reduction in the Mediterranean



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Water and Environment Support
in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region



Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention



The UfM Secretariat is co-funded by the EUROPEAN UNION



Sweden
Sverige



This project is funded by the European Union

Mission Restore our Ocean by 2030



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- ✓ Decarbonise the Blue Economy
- ✓ Prevent marine pollution
- ✓ Protect and restore marine ecosystems

- ✓ Investments
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Public mobilisation

MED Lighthouse

Initial focus on ML

- ✓ **Reduce plastic litter at sea by at least 50%**
- ✓ Reduce microplastics released into the ENV by at least 30%
- ✓ Reduce by at least 50% nutrient losses, the use and risks of chemical pesticides



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS





✓ **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

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

Description

Short/mid-term priority areas (stronger support)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Achieve a better governance for a sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in cooperation with Interreg EURO MED projects, WTO, CPRM, etc | <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) + |
| 2. Scale-up good practices on sustainable food value-chains in cooperation with FAO/GFCM | <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 |
| 3. Webinar to promote a proper planning of marine renewables zones/licensing, within the multi-use (MU) approaches to ecosystem-based MSP | <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)

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



UfM at upcoming meetings and events relevant to Sustainable Blue Economy

- Final Conference, UfM-labelled Plastic Busters Cap project (Aqaba, 17 October - *Postponed*)
- Blue Sea Land International Blue Economy Expo (Mazara del Vallo, 18-22 October)
- Final Conference, UfM-labelled Co-Evolve4BG project (Tunis, 25-26 October)
- WestMED Initiative Steering Committee (online, 27 October)
- ECOMONDO 2023, Planning the Marine Space for and SBE in the Med workshop (Rimini, November 8)
- UfM-labelled TouMaLi project 2nd International Conference (Marrakesh, 8-9 November)
- 7th UfM Task Force on Environment (Brussels, 15-16 November)
- UfM Regional Forum (Barcelona, 27 November)
- S3 Forum for Practitioners (Barcelona, 28 November)
- COP 28 (30 Nov.-12 Dec.)
- 2nd UfM Stakeholder Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy (Athens, 19-21 February 2024)
- Joint event – EU Sea Basin Strategies for the Western Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Black Sea
- 2024 UNESCO Decade of Ocean Science for SD Conference (Barcelona, 10-12 April)
- 9th Our Ocean Conference (15-17 April, Athens)
- European Maritime Day (Denmark, 30-31 May)
- UNEP/MAP CoP (Slovenia, 4-8 December)
- 37th Americas Cup Barcelona (Barcelona, August-October)



Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform



<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-environment-agenda/>

UfM WEBINAR: Financing Innovation Ecosystems

The UfM webinar on Financing Innovation Ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy, taking place on January 12, 2023. [Read more.](#)



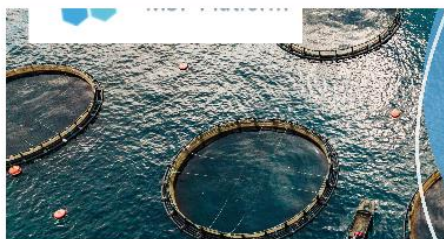
<https://medblueeconomyplatform.org/>



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Calendar



Discover the **European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform**: Find out how this information and communication gateway offers support to all EU Member States in their efforts to implement MSP, as a key enabler and tool to ensure the most sustainable and productive multi-use of the sea space.

[Learn more about how all European MSP](#)

The European MSP Platform

April 2023						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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30 GreenerMed

Timeli



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Thank you!

Merci !

شكراً