

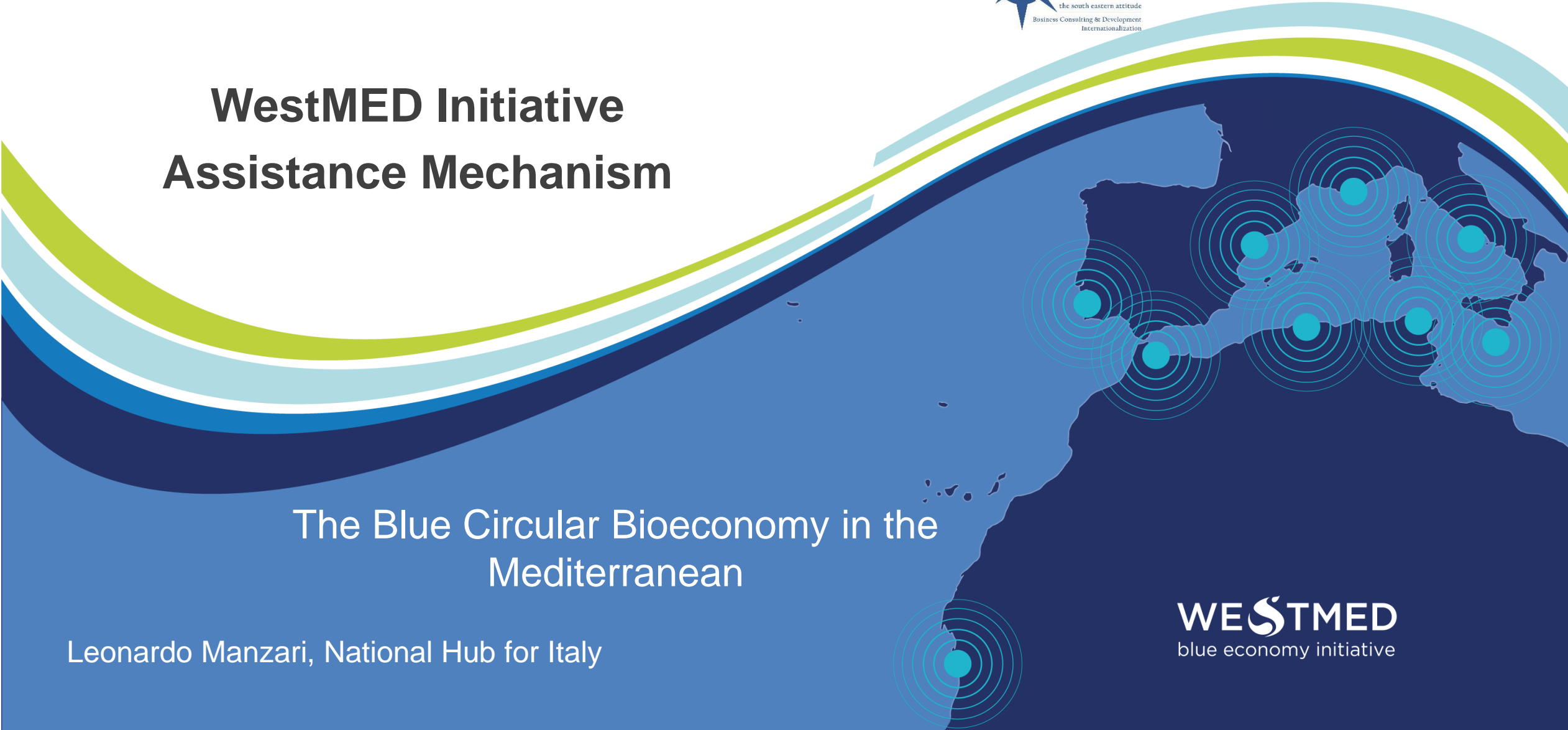


WestMED Initiative Assistance Mechanism

The Blue Circular Bioeconomy in the
Mediterranean

Leonardo Manzari, National Hub for Italy

WESTMED
blue economy initiative



WestMED Strategic Initiative

Contribute to the development of a sustainable blue economy in the western Mediterranean region

ALGERIA

FRANCE

ITALY

LIBYA

MALTA

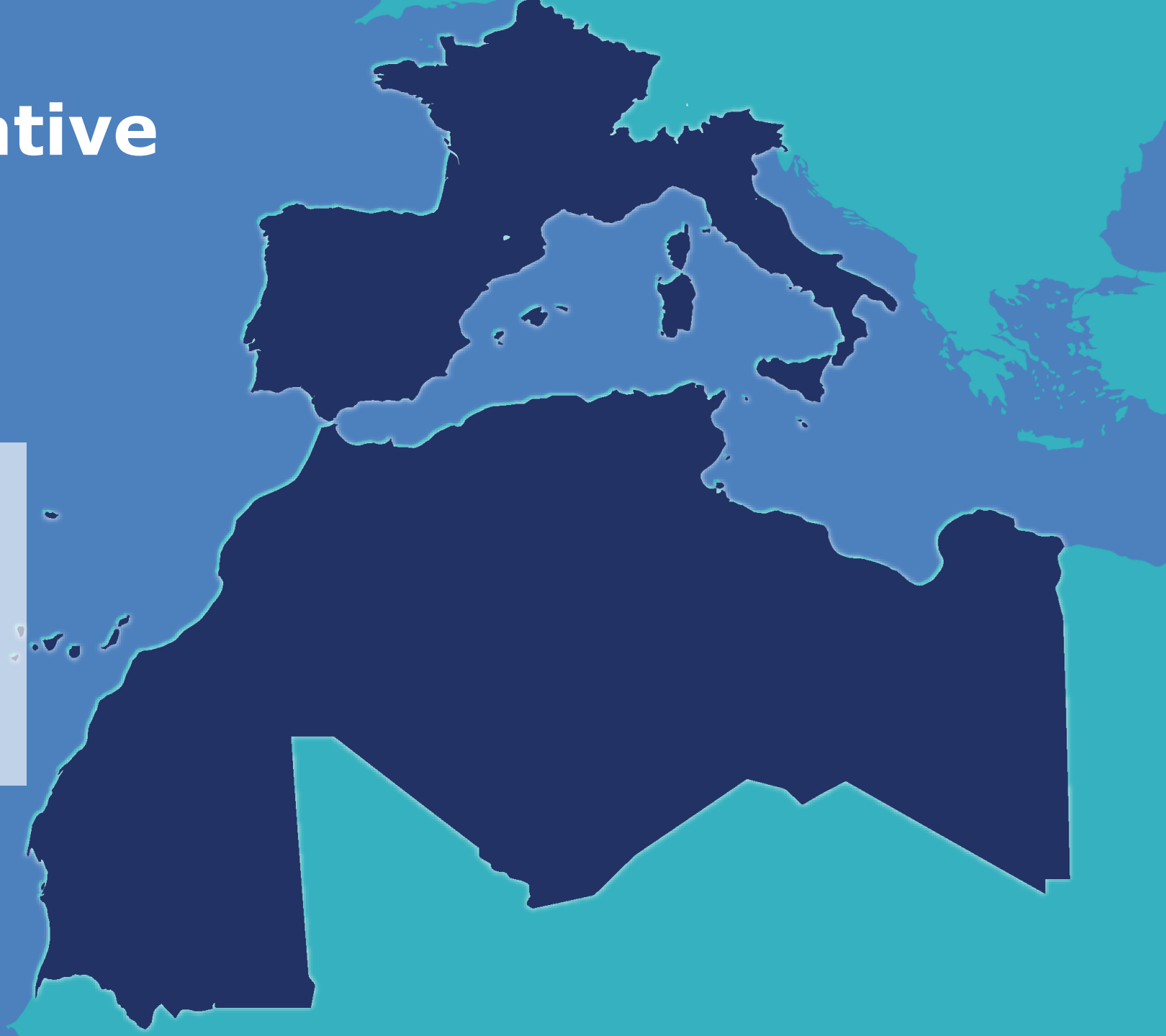
MAURITANIA

MOROCCO

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

TUNISIA



Objectives



**A safer and more
secure maritime space**



**A smart and resilient
blue economy**



**A better governance
of the sea**

Priorities



**Maritime safety
and security**



**Environment,
biodiversity and
climate change**



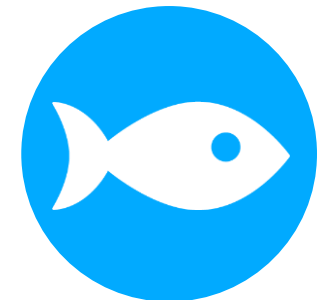
**Maritime clusters
and networks**



**Skills development
and circulation**

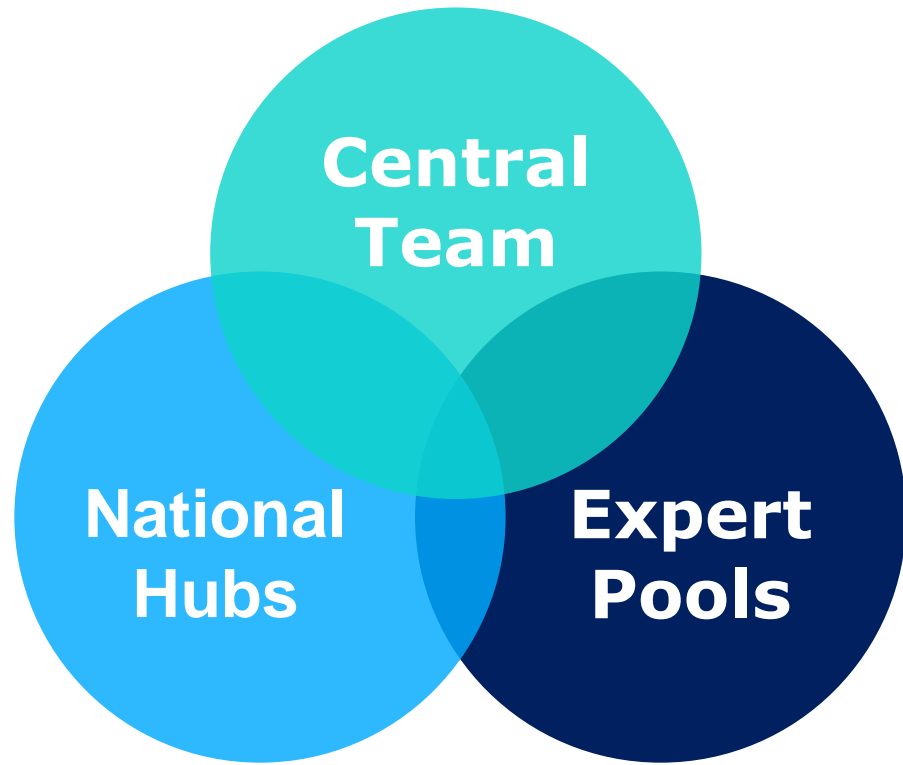


**Sustainable tourism,
transport and fight
against pollution**



**Fisheries and
Aquaculture**

Assistance Mechanism



29+ Experts



Your 29⁺ expert team

Portugal

Rui Manuel Azevedo
Pereira da Silva
Frederico Manta

Morocco

Mohamed Malouli Idrissi
Ayman Jghab

Algeria

Samir Grimes
Samir Bachouche

Tunisia

Salem Miladi
Slim Jerbia

Libya

N/A

Mauritania

Dedah Babou
Mohamed Lemine Tarbiya

France

Frédéric Herpers
Colin Rue

Italy

Leonardo Manzari
Laura Parducci

Malta

Gordon Cordina
Stephanie Vella

National Hubs

Areas of support of the WMAM



Project development

Provide clear guidance and pro-active project development support to local stakeholders.



Funding opportunities

Ensure sound monitoring of funding/ financing opportunities to support project ideas and development.



Communication strategy

Implement an effective and comprehensive communication strategy for the WestMED Initiative.



Outreach

Improve outreach of the Framework for Action through effective engagement activities.



Governance structure

Improve governance structure by offering operational, logistical and administrative support to the (WMSC) and the Technical Groups that may be created within the WMSC.



Interface Med-VKC

Establish effective interface with existing Virtual Knowledge Centre (VKC).

The Blue Circular Bioeconomy in the Mediterranean

The challenge of sustainability of fishery and aquaculture supply chain is common to the whole Basin, by its nature

Awareness at institutional level, just like at level of public opinion has exploited its potential to impact on policy making, but.....many countries have to tackle high rate unemployment, increase of productivity and climate change effects, already in the short term

The climate change is speeding up all processes towards a more responsible use of natural resources, preservation of marine wealth, circularity.

Therefore, the importance to adopt good practices across the whole Basin is key to properly respond to such global problems, with an inclusive approach, through capacity building actions too.

The Blue Circular Bioeconomy in the Mediterranean

- **The Assistance Mechanism has therefore worked in this direction, in the following way:**
 - supporting partnerships to prepare project proposals and submit them under EU funded calls;**
- **-fostering the establishment of thematic/sectoral Technical Groups and Working Groups;**
 - promoting the adoption of the WestMED Priorities by managing authorities of the EU funded programmes related to the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean.**

The Blue Circular Bioeconomy in the Mediterranean

In detail, the WestMED Assistance Mechanism has:

-supported more than 80 project proposals, many of them with the thematic of Blue Bio at the core of the activities;

-established Technical Groups on Sustainable Maritime Transport (“Green Shipping”) and on Aquaculture (“Aquawest”), and the Maritime Clusters Alliance, assisting them in the identification of common priorities, definition of possible pilot projects, stakeholders engagement, composition of partnerships, identification of the suitable EU funding call(s), support in the preparation of the project proposal;

-achieved the adoption of the WestMED Priorities by EMFAF, INTERREG EUROMED, NEXT MED, INTERREG ITA-FRA.

The Blue Circular Bioeconomy in the Mediterranean

Along the Technical Assistance activity, the following factors have shown to be decisive for a positive impact at Mediterranean level:

-a network of Research Institutes, developing R&I projects, initiatives, etc;

-the existence of local organized aggregations of stakeholders, able to adopt the R&I outcomes and transform them into “real life” applications;

-the faster scale-up of the good practice, if the transfer from R&I to its application is assisted by an Acceleration Programme, connected with public or private funding mechanisms (EU funded programmes, VCs, investment funds).

SUPPORTED PROJECTS

More than 80 project proposals supported by the WestMED Assistance Mechanism

Italian NH has supported 33 project proposals (5 under evaluation) for a total budget of Euro 60,4 mln

Out of 33, 15 project proposals approved for a total budget of Euro 25,2 mln (11 mln in evaluation)

Thanks to the TA to the Partnership btw ITA&TUN national clusters, 13 projects have involved Tunisian partners



The Santa Giulia – Oristano GNL project



Online meetings

The Blue Circular Bioeconomy in the Mediterranean

Some successful examples of approved projects:

[HORIZON 2020 NewTechAqua, https://www.newtechaqua.eu/](https://www.newtechaqua.eu/)

[CT Italie-Tunisie ARIBiotech, https://www.italietunisie.eu/projets/les-projets/aribiotech/](https://www.italietunisie.eu/projets/les-projets/aribiotech/)

[INTERREG MED B Blue, https://b-blue.interreg-med.eu/](https://b-blue.interreg-med.eu/)

[INTERREG MED Blue Bio Med, https://blue-bio-med.interreg-med.eu/](https://blue-bio-med.interreg-med.eu/)

[Med Innovation Alliance for Sustainable Blue Bioeconomy, www.marina-platform.eu](http://www.marina-platform.eu)

[DG MARE-EFCA FIUUFRA Fighting IUU Fishing Regional Academy, https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020.WestMED-projectfichefiuufra.pdf](https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020.WestMED-projectfichefiuufra.pdf)

WESTMED ALLIANCE OF MARITIME CLUSTERS

Coordination Group of National Hubs: IT, FR, PT, TU

WestMED Alliance Maritime Clusters

Capacity building
North-South
and South-South

Arab
Maghreb
Maritime
Cluster

Blue Economy Business
and Innovation
Accelerator -
Investment Attraction

Cross-sectoral cluster
matchmaking



The Santa Giulia – Oristano GNL project



Online meetings

Technical Group

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT & GREEN SHIPPING

National Groups of stakeholders coordinated by the National Hubs



WestMED countries National delegates

Technical Group on

Sustainable Transport Green Shipping

Medium
Term
Scenarios

Common
Initiatives

Cross
Border
Projects



The Santa Giulia – Oristano GNL project



Online meetings

Technical Group

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT & GREEN SHIPPING

Technical Group on

Sustainable Transport Green Shipping

Feasibility Study:

Boosting Green Shipping: maximising investments in sustainable energy;

Pilot Action 1.

Network of WestMED Maritime Ports as Energy Communities;

Pilot Action 2.

Boost adaptation of WestMED commercial vessels (ferries and service).



The Santa Giulia – Oristano GNL project



Online meetings

EXPECTED RESULTS

Identify concrete projects for sharing best practices

Main expected achievement is to identify concrete actions to support exchange of existing practices across the region and support southern skills and capacities

Identify ways to finance activities in the South

Build on existing national programs in southern countries to support the exchange of practices in the region (and finance the identified projects), as a basis for further identification of regional financing (public and private)

Set-up dedicated sub-regional consortia and platforms

To support cross-regional exchange of practices, partnerships and actions for the sector's innovation and sustainability

Contribute to the Aquaculture Work Group in the Mediterranean

Provide strategic and operational inputs on the challenges, needs and opportunities for the sector in the western Mediterranean (Mediterranean consultation led by Plan Bleu)

Countries	Members	Organisations	Type
Algeria	Milla Toufik Ferhane Djamilia Lourguioui Hichem	Centre Recherche Pêche et l'Aquaculture Centre Recherche Pêche et l'Aquaculture École Nationale Supérieure Sciences de la Mer	Research
France	Philippe Balma Wilfried Sanchez Thierry Laugier	Poissons du soleil Ifremer Sète Ifremer Sète	Business Research Research
Italy	Alessio Bonaldo Roberto Ugolini Giuseppe Palma	University of Bologna CIHEAM-IAM Bari ASSOITTICA ITALIA	Research Research Business
Libya	Eng Abdulhakim Elmahdi Eng Ali Shagrune	Aquaculture Department WestMED National Coordinator	Public body
Malta	Alan Deidun George Mantas	International Ocean Institute Aquabiotech Business Development	Research Business
Mauritania	Mamadou Adama Diop Brahim Mahfoud	Aquaculture professional Director of Pisciculture and inland fisheries	
Morocco	Mansouri Mohamed Amine Idhalla Mohamed Chadli Hosni	Agence National Développement d'Aquaculture Institut National de Recherche Halieutique Chambre de pêche maritime Méditerranée	Public body Research Business
Portugal	Pedro Pousão	S2AQUA – CoLab	Research
Spain	Aurelio Ortega Juan Manuel Aldana Julián García Baena	IEO Área de Acuicultura REMA- APROMAR SG Acuicultura	Research Business Public bodies
Tunisia	Azaza Mohammed Naoufel Romdhane Abir Ben Jeddou	Institut National Sciences et Technologies de la Mer Gouvernance Secteur privé	Research Public body Business

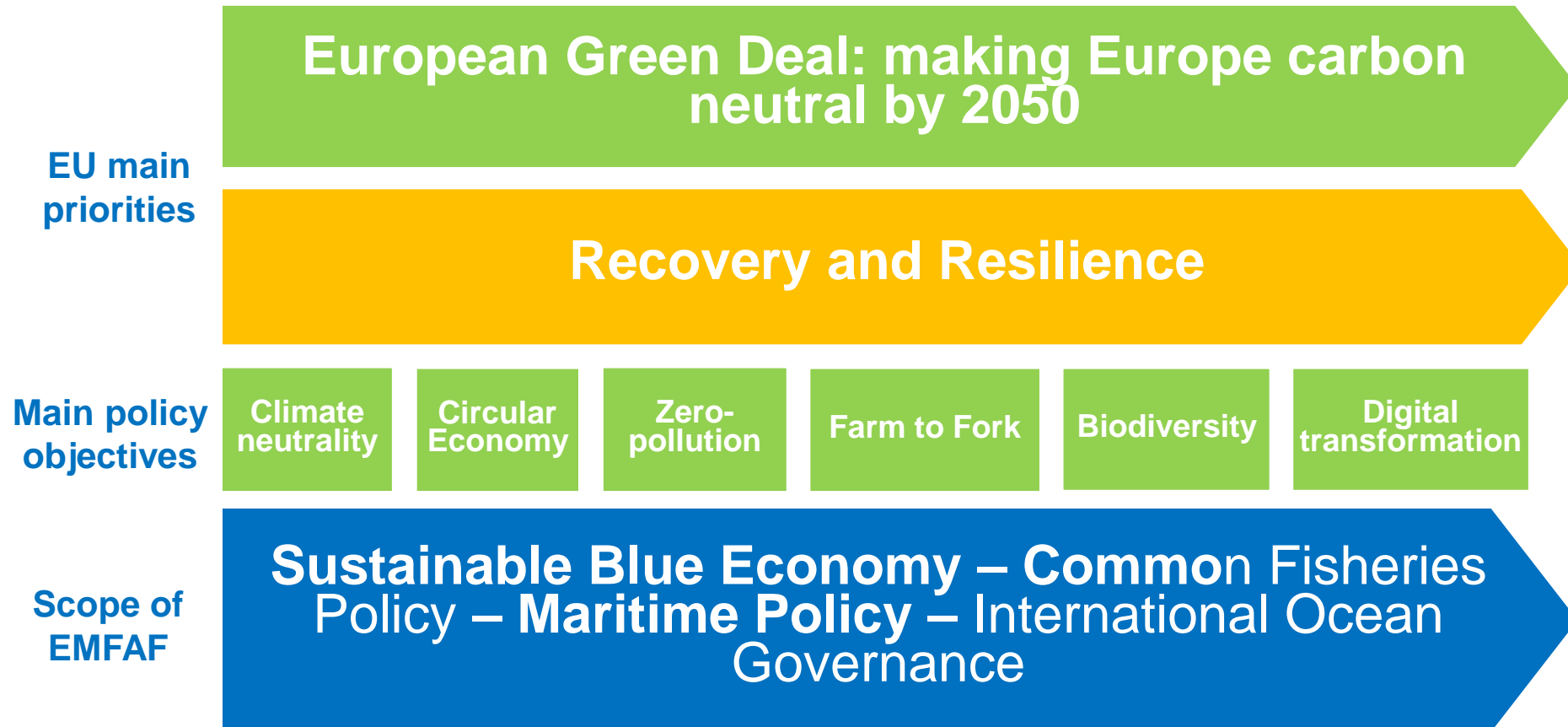
REGIONAL OBSERVERS

Organisation	Participant	Role in the organisation
FAO/GFCM	Valerio Crespi Pilar Hernandez	Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division GFCM Secretariat
UfM	Alessandra Sensi	Head of Sector – Environment and Blue Economy
IERREG MED / INTERREG NEXT	Maria Groueva Antonio Puleo	Project officer Interreg MED
Italian Development Cooperation	Alessia Tribuiani Vittoria Longato	Resp. Economic Development
French Expertise	Mathilde De Williencourt	Head of Agricultural Development
Plan Bleu	Céline Dubreuil	Programme Director
IUCN	Chiara Danelutti	Ecosystem resilience and spatial planning manager
WWF	Mauro Randone	Regional projects manager
MedPAN	Marie Romani	Coordinator
MARE	Emilia Gargallo-González Lorella de la Cruz Iglesias	Aquaculture

EU Delegations are also contacted and invited to attend as observers

European Maritime Fisheries Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

Overarching Policy Context



Priorities of EMFAF

- Sustainable fisheries, restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources
- Sustainable aquaculture activities, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products
- Strengthening international ocean governance
- Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, fishing and aquaculture communities

HORIZON EUROPE

SIX STEPS TO PARTICIPATE IN HORIZON EUROPE

1

FIND A SUITABLE CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Check out the European Commission's [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

2

SEARCH FOR A PROJECT PARTNER (if required)

Review partnership and other eligibility requirements of a call. Publish your partner search request or offer, select a topic on the Search Funding and Tenders page. Get more help [here](#). Use the [Partner Search](#) to find an organisation.

3

CREATE AN EU LOGIN ACCOUNT

To access the Portal [register](#) and get your account. This will allow you to participate in a call for proposals or tenders with eSubmission.

4

REGISTER YOUR ORGANISATION

Your organisation will need a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC) as a unique Identifier of your organisation. Your organisation may already be registered. Check [here](#) or register.

5

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

Together with your consortium partners, select your topic and go to the Submission Service section of the topic page. Make sure that you select the correct type of action before you start drafting your proposal. The link to the submission system is available if the status of the call is 'open'. A login with your EU Login account is required.

6

FOLLOW UP ON YOUR PROPOSAL

An evaluation committee with independent experts reviews the proposals. Following the evaluation, applicants receive a letter informing them about the outcome of their proposal and an evaluation report generally no later than 6 months after the call deadline.



Cluster3

Improved underwater detection and control capabilities to protect maritime areas and sea harbours

HORIZON-CL3-2022-BM-01-01

(Deadline 23/11/2022)

Cluster5

Development of algal and renewable fuels of non-biological origin

HORIZON-CL5-2022-D3-03-07

(Deadline 10/01/2023)

The central importance of Blue Skills development and circulation

Considering that the **North-South and South-South** synergies are at the core of the WestMED Initiative and its Assistance Mechanism, the focus on Blue Skills is the most urgent priority to ensure a common action towards **Sustainability, Circularity, Climate Change, Bio-economy**, etc., through **specialization, entrepreneurship and employability opportunities** on the territories.

In a framework of capacity building initiatives, Blue Skills represent the first area of co-operation required by southern shore countries, whose educational system offers a large potential of modernization and development.

The demographic dynamics and the consolidated role of remote learning modes, are increasing the importance of local characteristics and specificities, which can only be experienced on the territories. This model may become the suitable way to develop a detailed knowledge on local species and marine ecosystem.

The central importance of Blue Skills development and circulation

- 
- Fostering **networking in a common system of competence and specialization hubs** across the Western Mediterranean, avoiding overlaps, and encouraging development of **complementarity** of wider and deeper knowledges, also on local eco-systems;
 - Adopt **the best practices of education-work (permanent and temporary) exchanges** as a way to enrich and update continuously the ecosystem with the most modern contents;
 - **Reducing brain-drain from southern countries**, as a result of supporting the birth and establishment of local entrepreneurship and employment initiatives, with international view and skills, to ensure countries with suitable capacities.
 - **Availing on/Optimizing the existing EU and non-EU platforms and networks** of universities, research institutes, technological centers, laboratories. Building on proven positives experiences **and services**.



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Dipartimento delle Politiche di Coesione

WESTMED
blue economy initiative

Supported
by the



WESTMED STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE - 2021

300 registrations | 30 speakers | 5 project winners



BEST PROJECT WINNER 2021
Biodiversity, Marine Habitat
Conservation

and Response to Marine Pollution

SICOMAR plus The logo for SICOMAR plus, featuring the word "SICOMAR" in blue and "plus" in a smaller blue font below it, with a stylized blue wave graphic behind the "O" in "SICOMAR".

SICOMAR plus is a cross border cooperation project funded under the 2014-2020 France – Italy Maritime Programme.

The project objectives are fully aligned with the scope of the present Category, addressing the challenge of maritime safety, with an interesting focus on the collisions with cetatians, and the quality of cross-border marine environment.



BEST PROJECT WINNER 2021

Sustainable Consumption and Production

BIOVecQ



BIOVecQ is led by a Tunisian organisation (INSTM) that promotes bilateral cooperation between Italian and Tunisian research centres on the topic of blue biotechnology, showing North-South cooperation.

The project is highly relevant and is considered to have a substantial potential impact, especially in economically deprived areas."



BEST PROJECT WINNER 2021

Sustainable Fisheries, Aquaculture
and Coastal Community Development

STARFISH 4.0 **starfish**

This project focusses on small-scale fisheries (SSF) in three Mediterranean countries (France, Mauritania and Greece).

It offers innovative solutions for the modernization and digitalization of the sector, which are considered to have a high impact potential due to their special focus on the end users, leading to high levels of impact and effectiveness



BEST PROJECT WINNER 2021

Skill Development and Circulation

BLUESKILLS

BlueSKILLS is a flagship project bringing together all WestMED countries (including Libya) and with a North-South balance. Its main goal is to promote blue jobs and responsible growth through capacity development and enhancement.

The project provides an innovative approach rooting on filling the gap between demand and supply of labour in the Blue Economy



BEST PROJECT WINNER 2021

Skill Development and
Circulation

Algeria Startup Challenge



This is a highly relevant, innovative and impactful project aiming to support Algerian startups in the field of aquaculture, environmental protection, etc.

The project has had very important national impact with over 185 participating projects and 24 supported startups, with a focus on youth.

NATIONAL HUB - ITALY



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www.westmed-initiative.eu/italy



WestMed_Italy



www.linkedin.com/company/westmed-national-hub-for-italy



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**Leonardo
Manzari**

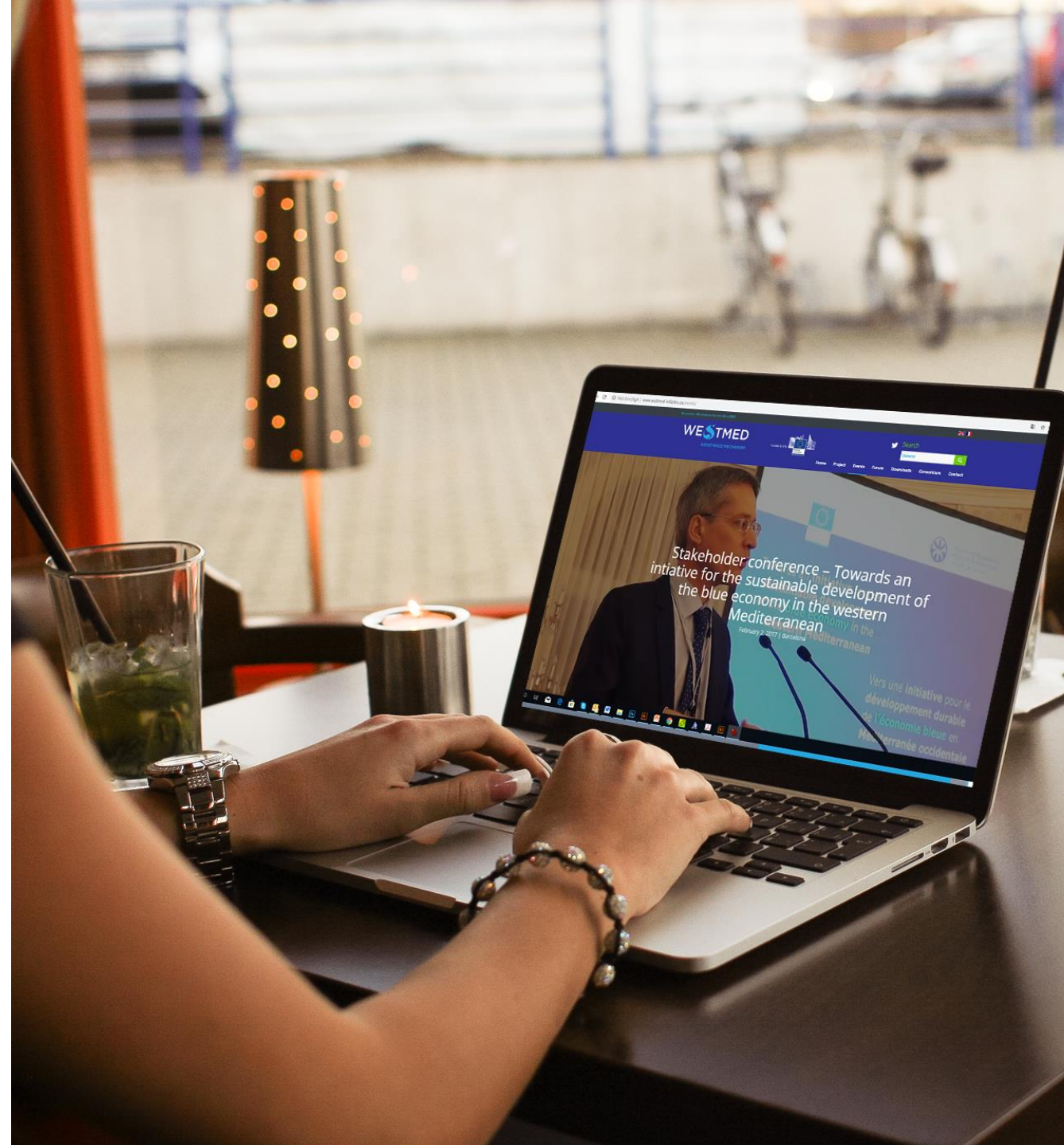
Online presence



www.westmed-initiative.eu



@WestMedStrat



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Your Portal to Blue Growth opportunities
in the western Mediterranean



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