

## Thematic parallel session 1:

### Maritime Spatial Planning (CoP MSP MED and MEDIGREEN)

Time: 14:30-16:00 CET

Online registrations: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mNVdirsWSu2bktWVVK-tJw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mNVdirsWSu2bktWVVK-tJw)

#### Facilitators:

- **Thanos Smanis (WestMED/CoP)**
- **Cristina Cervera (MEDIGREEN/CoP)**

The week leading up to the 5<sup>th</sup> WestMED Stakeholder Conference has created a momentum for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean. On 25 November, PAP/RAC will deliver a national training for Tunisian institutions, refreshing the MSP–ICZM nexus and its role in shaping a resilient blue economy. On 26 November, MEDIGREEN presents its first outputs, offering practical tools and insights for planning and managing key maritime sectors—fisheries, aquaculture, offshore renewables, and nature protection—against Tunisia’s priorities. On 27 November, the MED-MSP-CoP convenes experts from across the basin to test these findings and advance thematic working group inputs toward sector position papers. Building directly on this sequence, the 28 November session on MSP, organised as part of the WestMED stakeholder conference, is designed to enhance regional dialogue and lift the discussion from national practice to a shared regional approach for MSP implementation.

Why a regional approach? Mediterranean ecosystems, shipping lanes, fish stocks, energy corridors and biodiversity do not stop at borders; neither do cumulative impacts or data gaps. A regional approach can accelerate coherence in methodologies, data interoperability, conflict-resolution practices and permitting pathways; reduce duplication; and create economies of scale for capacity building. It also helps align MSP with the WestMED Initiative’s priorities—sustainable aquaculture, green shipping and ports, maritime clusters, sustainable tourism, blue skills and ocean literacy—so that sectoral investments are planned with fewer conflicts, clearer trade-offs and more durable benefits for communities and nature.

This 90-minute session will bring authorities, practitioners and industry to one table to (i) brief participants on the Position paper for advancing MSP in the Mediterranean and its 2030 Roadmap, developed as part of the Barcelona Convention Working Group on MSP and presented by PAP/RAC—highlighting its technical assistance offer, capacity-building streams and practical toolkits for ICZM–MSP integration; (ii) synthesize the most actionable outcomes from the MEDIGREEN workshop and the MED-MSP-CoP regional deliberations; and (iii) collectively discuss challenges and recommendations for a coherent, basin-wide MSP pathway. Following short opening remarks, PAP/RAC will outline how the proposed roadmap can support countries to manage coastal zones sustainably, mitigate climate risks and enable a competitive blue economy. Then MEDIGREEN will further explore its ready-to-use outputs and the CoP’s evidence across fisheries, aquaculture, nature protection and offshore renewables—flagging common bottlenecks (e.g., spatial conflicts near ports and MPAs, data standards, transboundary coordination) and immediate opportunities (e.g., pilots, twinning, targeted training).

The core of the session is a moderated discussion with interventions from public authorities, ports and shipping, fisheries and aquaculture actors, MPA managers, tourism and cluster organisations, and skills/ocean literacy networks, all related to MSP and how it can become a useful tool for sustainable blue economy. The dialogue will focus on what must be done regionally in the next years, considering initiatives and policies like the Ocean and Mediterranean Pact, to turn principles into practice: where joint guidance or harmonised methodologies are most needed; how to structure cross-border pilot protected areas; which data/services should be prioritised for shared access; and how to link national uptake to WestMED work plans and the MED-MSP-CoP's forthcoming position papers.

Based on the inputs delivered by PAP/RAC , MEDIGREEN and the MED-MSP-CoP and the guided discussion with the participants, the session will deliver three tangible outputs: a concise list of shared challenges that cut across borders and sectors; key elements to act upon, in order to steer MSP implementation in the region (including proposals for pilots, twinning and training cohorts); and how PAP/RAC, MEDIGREEN and the MED-MSP-CoP could play a role in supporting them.