Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Dipartimento per le Politiche di Coesione

WESTMED
blue economy initiative

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WESTMED 2021
STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

Corridors to Sustainable Blue Development

SUMMARY NOTE (with video-links) | 9 November 2021

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ATTENDANCE

Participants

212

Average time online

3hr19m

Countries

22

In-Person (69)

Live-stream (143)

TYPOLOGY OF PARTICIPANTS

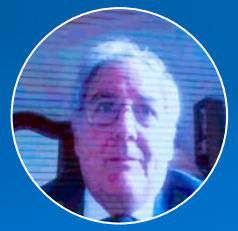
Welcome and Opening Remarks

“Ninety percent of the goods traded in the world are transported by sea, the Blue Economy sector can expect a renewed dynamism that will as well provide a powerful contribution to boosting exchanges in the scientific and technological sectors linked to the sea.
We have the responsibility to address this development on a sustainable way.”

MANLIO DI STEFANO
Undersecretary of State Italy

Watch the full video here (YouTube)

DANIELE BOSIO
Italian WestMED
Co-presidency



MASSIMO GERLI
Italian westMED
Co-presidency

ADEL OMAR
Libyan WestMED
Co-presidency

MOHAMMAD AL SHAKRAN
Jordan UfM
Co-presidency

“The WestMED initiative is an innovative cooperation mechanism with a far-reaching political dimension"

“The WestMED Stakeholders Conference 2021 is an important step to feed the UfM Roadmap toward the implementation of the Sustainable Blue Economy Ministerial Declaration priorities”

“The Sustainable Blue economy is at the heart of the EU Green Deal, which can only be achieved through innovation, digitalisation and educating youth in Ocean Literacy”

CORRIDORS FOR
enhanced cooperation and promotion of a sustainable Blue Economy

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ELODI NUNES
CPMR

SAMI EL IKLIL
FM6E Morocco

STEPHANIE VELLA
WestMED
Assistance Mechanism

TOURISM

This exchange was focused on **maritime and coastal tourism**, a pivotal area of activities for sustainable development and job creation across the Mediterranean.

The main points raised were the relevance of reflecting on the challenges faced by the sector before the pandemic in order to support a resilient and robust recovery. Paradoxically the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent socio-economic crisis that affected the sector so severely, also highlighted some avenues for sustainable recovery.

The mass-tourism model clearly was affected by restrictions in international mobility as well as security measures related to social distancing.

In turn, positive effects on proximity tourism and high-quality and safe offers gained a greater momentum in the past two years. An overall focus on sustainable tourism and small-scale/high-value/ niche offers is emerging for international operators, coupled with a clear potential for digital services in ensuring safe and real-time information to tourisms.

This said, the strong focus on ecosystem sustainability and protection should remain as apt of the “recovery strategies” in the future years, with an increase threat posed by digitalization and the negative effects it can provide at a global scale in terms of energy consumption and overall negative climate impacts.

Greening the digital offers and investing in fully sustainable infrastructure (with a critical role of smaller ports, harbours and green marinas) should be a further aspect to be monitored when it comes to the sustainability of future tourism services. The call for sustainable tourism in the WestMED should support such sustainable transition.

HOUSAM HAMZA
GFCM

MOHAMED SALAH AZAZA
INSTM Tunisia

AQUACULTURE

Another essential area for innovation and socio-economic impacts in that of sustainable aquaculture, which was the focus of the second round of exchanges.

Blue food farming is an emerging concept for the Mediterranean and the role of international organization such as FAO is pivotal in fostering sustainable business models and infrastructures in this critical sector.

It is clear that a great boost for sustainable production patterns could be provided by innovative models (such as the circular models for feeding, farming and waste recycling in the sector).

In order to ensure fully sustainable development of the sector across the Mediterranean, an extensive usage of new technologies is also extremely critical (food provisioning intelligent systems, non-intrusive caging, harvesting and feeding systems, alternatives to chemicals and antibiotics, etc.).

The work being pioneered by FAO-GFCM in the Black Sea can serve as an example for the Mediterranean, while a wide range of small-scale and highly sustainable local practices already exist in the Mediterranean and can be further capitalised across the region.

The growing appeal of sustainable aquaculture practices for impact investments internationally is positioning the sector as a promising “darling” for investment angels and private equity operators.

This opportunity is also a challenge as the sector is under great stress for demonstrating fast growth and financial returns for private investors. Such pressure, if not properly managed, could easily end up in lower caution for environmental and social externalities. All those reasons make the aquaculture sector still extremely vulnerable. The work of WestMED in supporting a sustainable aquaculture is therefore pivotal.

GIOVANNI SATTA
CIELI, University of Genoa

GABINO GONZÁLEZ
REMPEC

GREEN SHIPPING

A fully operational **green shipping** sector is a key objective for a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean, discuss in the third round of exchanges under this “corridor”. The level of financial investments available for this purpose, but public and private, are humongous and they are backed by strong political support at country, EU and Mediterranean level – as demonstrated by the work of REMPEC under the UNEP-MAP.

For this purpose, a range of technological and organizational challenges still remains to be addressed. The shipping sector is in fact on the most notable casualties of the COVID-19 pandemics, with an array of challenges to be faced for ensuring a resilient recovery in the years to come.

There is in fact room for greater spin-offs throughout the logistic chains, with a diversification of models and a more proactive approach towards short-scale models. But the biggest challenge for the sector is its full transition towards a near-zero pollution green model of transport.

Besides the unpredictability of the technological development in the area of green fuel for maritime shipping in the next 10 years (or even 5), the difficulty faced by the sector as a whole is the coordination amongst very diverse players involved in the “green shipping” fueling system.

Notably: Businesses operating in the local energy supply chains, Port Authorities acting as a hub for energy provision and consumption, as well as (importantly) shipping (and cruising) operators constituting a large portion of the demand. The work of the WestMED Working Group in this area is offering a significant platform for addressing such issues.

ARJEN UYTENDAAL
European Maritime
Clusters Network

EZZEDINE KACEM
Maritime
Cluster Tunisia

MARITIME CLUSTERS

An essential “cross-cutting” support towards a sustainable blue economy across the Mediterranean is offered by maritime clusters, as discussed in the fourth round of exchanges.

Covering a potentially wide range of economic maritime and marine activities, clusters are boosters for innovation and sustainable technology uptake for blue economy operators.

The European Maritime Cluster Network, for example, represents the EU clusters in the field of maritime transport by focusing on support to enabling transition solutions and very innovative projects while fostering regional dialogue.

Clusters are also increasingly, and importantly, acting as capable intermediaries between local value chains in the blue economy (transport, tourism, aquaculture, renewable energy, etc.) and international sources of financing – public and private.

In the context of an increasing political and market pressure, towards demonstrating the compliance of financing practices with the EU Taxonomy for financial sustainability, clusters increasingly act as ‘catalysts’.

On the one hand, in fact, marine clusters allow investors to access a wide range of small and micro innovative enterprises, while on the other hand they strengthen the capacity of local businesses and operators to gain greater visibility and access to valuable sources of financing to innovation.

Clusters can therefore become a pivotal actor in bridging investments with innovative busines practices across all blue economy activities. In this respect, the WestMED Cluster Alliance is providing an exemplificatory pilot for the entire region: in terms of supporting cluster dialogue across north and southern, and as a way to set the foundation for more operational cooperation and overall capacity of clusters.

ANDREA BARBANTI
National Research Council
of Italy, Institute
of Marine Sciences

SAMIR GRIMES
WestMED
Assistance Mechanism

RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND THE ROLE OF MSP

Some final exchanges were provided on other essential “cross-cutting” areas for the support of a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean: notably renewable energy and Marine Spatial Planning.

Both aspects are providing the foundations of a sustainable blue economy in the region, as it is impossible to imagine a fully sustainable maritime activity which is not fueled through renewable energy, while spatial planning is a pre-condition for a sustainable exploitation of maritime and coastal space – both are essential for the sector expansion.

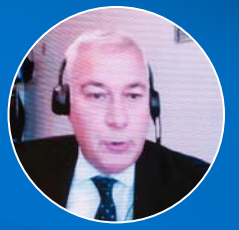
Offshore floating wind energy technologies are increasingly growing in terms of expected potentials for the Mediterranean region. But to some (smaller) extent, other marine renewable technologies (waves, etc.) are also emerging, particularly in relation to lower-power demand for smaller local activities (e.g. on-shore and local small-scale transport).

National MSP development is regulated by EU Directive in this area, while some relevant initiatives are ongoing in neighbouring countries (e.g. IOC-UNESCO).

The WestMED initiative was instrumental in fostering actions to showcase the pivotal role of ports as hubs for renewable energy, and essential actors in connecting the “energy communities” aimed at fueling a sustainable blue economy across the Mediterranean. Also, indirect support and facilitation was offered towards important initiatives related to MSP development in the EU and across the Mediterranean.

OLGA MASHKINA
EU4Ocean Coalition

BLANDINE POCQUET
French ministry of Foreign Affairs,
PAMEx Action Plan



DIMITRIS DIMITRIADIS
European Economic and Social Committee
External Relations section

SHARING INSIGHTS ON...

Ocean literacy in the Mediterranean Sea: “Bring the Blue and ocean literacy to major plans, investments and policies – including in Member States recovery plans and EU neighborhood policy”

PAMEx
The Mediterranean Sea: a Model Sea by 2030, which aims to reverse the dramatic loss of marine biodiversity via concrete & collective actions

The importance of Blue Economy (sea and land) SME’s as a backbone to all sectors and the need for better communication between all actors

CORRIDORS TO **innovation**

Delivered by Fabio Fava, Maria Cristina Pedicchio and Andreea Strachinescu, moderated by Frédérick Herpers

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FABIO FAVA
GSO of BlueMed Initiative and University of Bologna

MARIA CRISTINA PEDICCHIO
Ocean Mission Board member and ambassador

ANDREEA STRACHINESCU
DG MARE, Euopean Commission

The panelists reported ongoing activities and future actions related to research and innovation as key enablers for the Mediterranean and de facto for WestMED.

BLUEMED

This initative implements the Strategic RI Agenda working for a healthier and more productive Meditterranean sea. BLUEMED Initiative fosters integration of knowledge and efforts of Countries of the Mediterranean for a more sustainable blue growth in the area. It was launched and implemented by the EU MS of the area in close cooperation with the EU commission (DG RTD, DG MARE). It was then open to all Countries of the area interested in joining it.

The key environmental issues were recalled in particular and the need to tackle in particular marine litter. Some related BLUEMED pilot actions were presented which could interesting case studies to replicate in the WestMED. The BlueMed young Ambassadors in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria were presented. They are also WestMED promotors.

MISSION STARFISH 2030

The Mission Starfish 2030 was then presented by Mrs Pedicchio, Member of Mission Board. The Mission board has just submitted its proposals for EU to meet its international commitments related to the Oceans for 2030 (ie. UN SDGs, UN Decade of Ocean Science for sustainable development).

The threats on oceans were recalled in particular the unsustainability of the human activities, the climate change effects. To tackle them and address challenges such the inadequate governance, the lack of understanding and connection, the Mission has five overarching objectives for 2030: (i) Filling the knowledge and emotional gap, (ii) regenerating marine and freshwater ecosystems, (iii) zero pollution, (iv) decarbonising our ocean, and waters (v) revamping governance. These five objectives are mutually supportive and taken together, the Mission Starfish 2030 will enable the restoration of the water cycle as a whole. For each of the five objectives, a set of ambitious, concrete and measurable targets has been defined. They specifically address the actors, activities, tools and systems that all need to be called upon to reach each objective

These targets are considered the indispensable components of a holistic approach to systemic change. Several examples of cross cutting enablers were presented such citizen engagement and marine observation. Some WestMED and MED initiatives/actions were presented as good practices to be consider for the Mission implementation such as clusters cooperation, blue skills, public awareness.

EUROPEAN MISSIONS

EC/DG MARE presented the European Missions and in particular the one related to oceans called ' Restore our ocean and waters by 2030'. The objective of the Mission 'Restore our ocean and waters by 2030' is to provide a systemic approach for the restoration of our ocean, seas and waters by 2030 as recommended by the Mission Board in its Starfish report. The Mission is designed to deliver on the European Union's 2030 quantified and measurable targets for protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, for zero pollution, and for the decarbonisation and reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions towards climate-neutrality, within the EU's ocean, seas and waters

This Mission has specific objectives that are interlinked and mutually supportive:

- Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 with the following targets:
    - Protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's sea area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network.
    - Strictly protect at least 10% of the EU's sea area.
    - Restore at least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers.
    - Contribute to relevant upcoming marine nature restoration targets including degraded seabed habitats and coastal ecosystems.
- Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters, in line with the EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil with the following targets:
    - Reduce by at least 50% plastic litter at sea.
    - Reduce by at least 30% microplastics released into the environment.
    - Reduce by at least 50% nutrient losses, the use and risk of chemical pesticides.
- Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular, in line with the European Climate Law and the holistic vision enshrined in the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy with the following targets:
- Eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from maritime economic activities in the EU and sequester those emissions that cannot be avoided (net zero maritime emissions).
- Develop zero-carbon and low-impact aquaculture, and promote circular, low-carbon multi-purpose use of marine and water space.

The Mission will be implemented in two phases. In the first 'development and piloting' phase (2022-2025), foundations will be laid for the implementation of the three Mission objectives and enabling actions. In the second 'deployment and upscaling' phase (2026-2030), the solutions developed and piloted in the first phase to deliver on the Mission and European Green Deal objectives5 will be further deployed, replicated and scaled up through rounds of open calls for scale up actions.

In the 'development and piloting' phase the Mission will roll out 'lighthouses' in major European sea and river basins, as the Mission sites. Lighthouses will act as hubs and platforms for the development, demonstration and deployment of solutions to those challenges.

For the Mediterranean sea, the lighthouse will be focused on pollution reduction objectives. The lighthouse will connect and structure existing activities disseminate and upscale solutions.

Its initial focus will be on plastic pollution, other pollutions will be addressed subsequently. The lighthouse will be supported by Horizon Europe.

BLUEMED

As a conclusion, BLUEMED has been a key driver to strengthen the liaison between researchers and the young generations by raising awareness on the status of the Mediterranean sea and in particular regarding marine litter. The future Mission 2030 in Mediterranean in particular with the upcoming lighthouse will be a key driver to meet the objectives. Associated actions are to be considered with a strong coordination with WestMED to ensure a compliant sub seabasin contribution. Social and technical innovations will be pivotal to meet the ambitious objecitves which are vital to ensure the sustainability of the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean sea.

CORRIDORS FOR **investing in a sustainable Blue Economy**

Introduction by Leonardo Manzari (WestMED Assistance Mechanism)

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“We are entering a new financing period and new Interreg programmes are being built everywhere in Europe. Maritime cooperation will be needed and the new generation of Interreg programmes will continue to offer opportunities for maritime cooperation.

The videos show how manyfold Interreg maritime cooperation can be. For this purpose, the videos feature specific maritime cooperation projects and their results to make Interreg cooperation more tangible.

The videos are made available for the whole Interreg maritime community to promote Interreg (maritime) financing and the opportunities it provides.

PHILIPP SCHWARTZ
Interact

Watch the video (YouTube)

MERCEDES ACITORES
Interact

SOPHIE SCARVELES
Interreg Med

ALDO PULEO
Interreg Next Med

Interreg MED – INTERACT

The Euro-MED Programme 2021-27 has identified as main challenge, its contribution to the transition towards a climate-neutral and resilient society: fighting against global changes impact on Mediterranean resources, while ensuring a sustainable growth and the well-being of its citizens.

This ultimate goal brings together many actors in the Mediterranean, that only a coordination of all efforts can give hope in the real impact of the actions.

Thus, developing cooperation means and tools and making them last through liaising activities to answer this challenge is essential.

Following the frame of activities build under the Results Amplification Strategy, the Euro-MED Programme 2021-27 and the WestMED Initiative have come to agree that the territories would greatly benefit from coming together and taking coordinated actions when possible and relevant to better achieve the objectives set in the area:

- Increase of the Maritime Safety and Security, promotion of Sustainable Blue Economy and the preservation of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (WestMED focuses)
- Strengthening of an innovative sustainable economy, protection and restoration of the natural environment and heritage, promotion of green living areas and Enhancement of sustainable tourism (Interreg Euro-MED focuses)

Interreg IT FR

Promoted a bottom up and ex-ante approach of coordination between programs and at the same time contribution to/embedding of WestMed priorities into Mediterranean Interreg programs.

In this perspective Italy has already provided inputs for reflection during 2021 Programming Task Forces.

A proposal of at least one multi-program project, in the framework of the 2021-2027 programming period, with the involvement of two or more (ideally all) Interreg Programs in the Mediterranean area.). Where relevant, the inclusion of partners from the Southern shore could be an added value, even in programs whose eligible area is limited to the Northern shore.

“A multi-programme coordination mechanism involving WestMED and Interreg Programmes can really make a difference in the 2021-2027 period”

ANJA DETANT
CINEA

STEFANO DOTTO
DG NEAR

RUBEN EIRAS
Fórum Oceano

SPECIFIC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES...

CINEA's programmes: EMFAF Call focused on tourism recovery, BlueInvest Fund, LIFE Marine streams and Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe calls (Waterborne R&I)

Concrete opportunities to finance the Blue Economy in the WestMED, including: Small blue diamond @SwitchMed, with a 3 million specific component for blue economy and Small blue diamond Bilateral Algeria Blue Economy envelop

Portugal Blue European Investment Fund: an innovative national practice for BlueEconomy funding with high replicability potential in WestMED countries and beyond

The enhanced cooperation is of mutual interest, both for the Interreg Programmes and for the WestMed Initiative (Alignment between Programmes' Policy and specific objectives and the WestMed goals/flagships) in order to reinforce synergies and higher cooperation from the programming process to its implementation, to achieve more efficiency and effectiveness while using public funds, preserving the respective governance.

Working together, promoting common objectives and reinforcing synergies between programmes and initiatives leads to higher EU added value, stronger impact in the area, a better allocation of public resources and improves the capacities of the authorities and beneficiaries

ENRICO PETROCELLI
HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS OF CASSA DEPOSITI E PRESTITI (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK)

“We are very keen and engaged to work on mobilising public and private funds and play the role of catalysor as financial institution - also in the field of the Blue economy

We want to profit from your work, your initiatives to join forces and make sure we can provide a stronger financial support to all countries from westmed region in a more coordinated way”

CORRIDORS FOR
project impact cooperation
WestMED Initiative Project Awards

Award ceremony by Javier Fernández (WestMED Assistance Mechanism)

Click to download all presentation slides for this session (pdf)

This year's Conference included a dedicated session for the launching of the first edition of the WestMED Project Awards, with the objective to identify, showcase and honour exceptional projects in different areas which provide innovative and replicable solutions embodying the WestMED initiative's vision for the western Mediterranean.

Fifty-four highly interesting and valuable projects from both shores (North and South) entered the competition.

An independent selection panel composed of experts from the Union for the Mediterranean, INTERACT, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development nd the BlueMed Initiative supported the final selection of the 5 winners, which was formally endorsed by the WestMED Steering Committee.

Javier Fernandez, Project Leader of the WestMED Assistance Mechanism, moderated the session and Introduced the process in order to proceed with the 'recognition' of very good examples of regional cooperation and impact in the sub-sea-basin.

He also called the Co-Presidency to the stand and the four category winners were announced with the support of videos in all four categories.

Daniele Bosio and Monica Bellisario from the Italian Co-Presidency formally announced the results and handed-in physically the awards to the winners present in the room.

Once the results of the awards were unveiled, the Master of Ceremonies gave the floor, one by one, to the Category winners for the pitching session.

The 5 Project winners (five minutes each) promoted the key selling points of their projects to be awarded as the best of the best

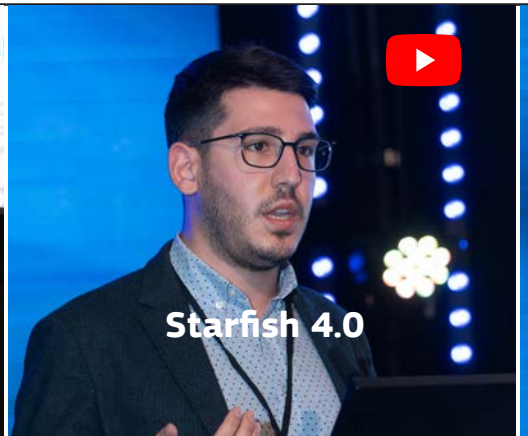
Once these presentations were delivered by the awarded projects' representatives, participants to the Conference voted using Slido for the 'Best of the best' WestMED project of the year 2021.

Blue Skills was the chosen project by the majority of the Conference's participants.

BlueSkills

Algeria Startup Challenge

BioVecQ


Starfish 4.0

Sicomar Plus

BEST PROJECT WINNER 2021

Biodiversity, Marine Habitat Conservation and Response to Marine Pollution

SICOMAR plus

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

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.

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2021
Best Project Category Award
WESTMED

Cooperation Agreements and Concluding Remarks

delivered by Said Chakif, Sophie Scarveles, Iglika Yakova and Daniele Bosio

The last session of the Conference included the presentation of the cooperation agreements with ASCAME - Association of Chambers of Commerce of the MED, and with the INTERREG EURO-MED PROGRAMME 2021-27.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) ASCAME

Said Chakif, (representative from ASCAME) and Daniele Bosio (representative of the WestMED Initiative) presented the MoU that has been agreed between both organisations.

The MoU has the aim of setting up a collaboration framework to promote blue economy, a safer maritime space and improve the maritime governance in the Mediterranean.

It includes four sets of activities:

1. The development of a strong institutional relationship with the aim of establishing a durable mechanism of dialogue and cooperation.
2. To support and participate in one another's events and activities, whenever they are interesting for the objectives of the Parties. This may include: dissemination and promotion, co-organisation, organisation of special sessions and other types of support such as proposal of topics and speakers, sponsorship etc.
3. To enhance mutual co-operation by carrying out joint initiatives such as statements, events, trainings, seminars, conferences and other actions in order to work for the development of the Mediterranean region through the important role played by the European, African and Mediterranean private sectors.
4. To explore collaboration possibilities in the international cooperation projects field.

INTERREG MED

The presentation of the MoU with ASCAME was followed by discussing and presenting the framework for liaising activities between Interreg Euro-MED Programme 2021-27 and WestMED Initiative.

The Euro-MED Programme 2021-27 has identified as main challenge, its contribution to the transition towards a climate-neutral and resilient society: fighting against global changes impact on Mediterranean resources, while ensuring a sustainable growth and the well-being of its citizens.

This ultimate goal brings together many actors in the Mediterranean and a single programme could not address it alone. Only a coordination of all efforts can give hope in the real impact of the actions. Thus, developing cooperation means and tools such as the discussed framework for liaising activities between Interreg Euro-MED Programme 2021-27 and WestMED Initiative is essential.

These liaising activities are aimed to build strong, long-term collaborative relationships. These are not just about networking activities, but about structured exchanges in a spirit of open cooperation to achieve shared goals.

In this sense, the Euro-MED Programme 2021-27 and the WestMED Assistance Mechanisms have come to agree that the territories would greatly benefit from coming together and taking coordinated actions to better achieve the objectives set in the area of the promotion of sustainable blue growth and the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Thus, the Interreg Euro-MED Programme and WestMED Initiative have agreed to implement a number of activities to:

- Facilitate the exploitation, sharing and reuse of knowledge, experiences and project results by Euro-MED projects or other programmes and promote the production of relevant work
- Encourage the transfer of practices and results to other actors and territories and their integration into local, regional, national and European policies and strategies (mainstream)
- Increase coordination between actors acting on the Mediterranean (multi-level, transnational) based on this knowledge, experience and results

Once these two cooperation agreements were presented:

Iglika Yakova, Deputy Head of Unit Sea Basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security DG MARE, and Daniele Bosio, Italian WestMED Co-Presidency Ali Shagrune, Lybian WestMED Co-Presidency took the floor to thank everybody for their participation to a very intense and interesting Conference that was the first to be organised by the WestMED Initiative in a hybrid format since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Italian Co-Presidency expressed their satisfaction after the two years of work of their Co-presidency and wished the best luck to the new incoming Maltese-Lybian Co-presidency which will start its activities in early 2022.

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STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

Corridors to Sustainable Blue Development

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@westmedstrat

The conference was organised by the WestMED Assistance Mechanism (Ecorys led consortium) and hosted by Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale and Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri Dipartimento per le Politiche di Coesione.
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