



Tapping the potential of the sustainable blue economy in the Western Mediterranean

Existing Cooperation Frameworks: The WestMED Initiative

7 November 2022



The Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean

The WestMED Initiative

An innovative cooperation instrument between nations, regions and **stakeholders** of the western Mediterranean to facilitate the blue economy

COUNTRIES

ALGERIA

FRANCE

ITALY

LIBYA

MALTA

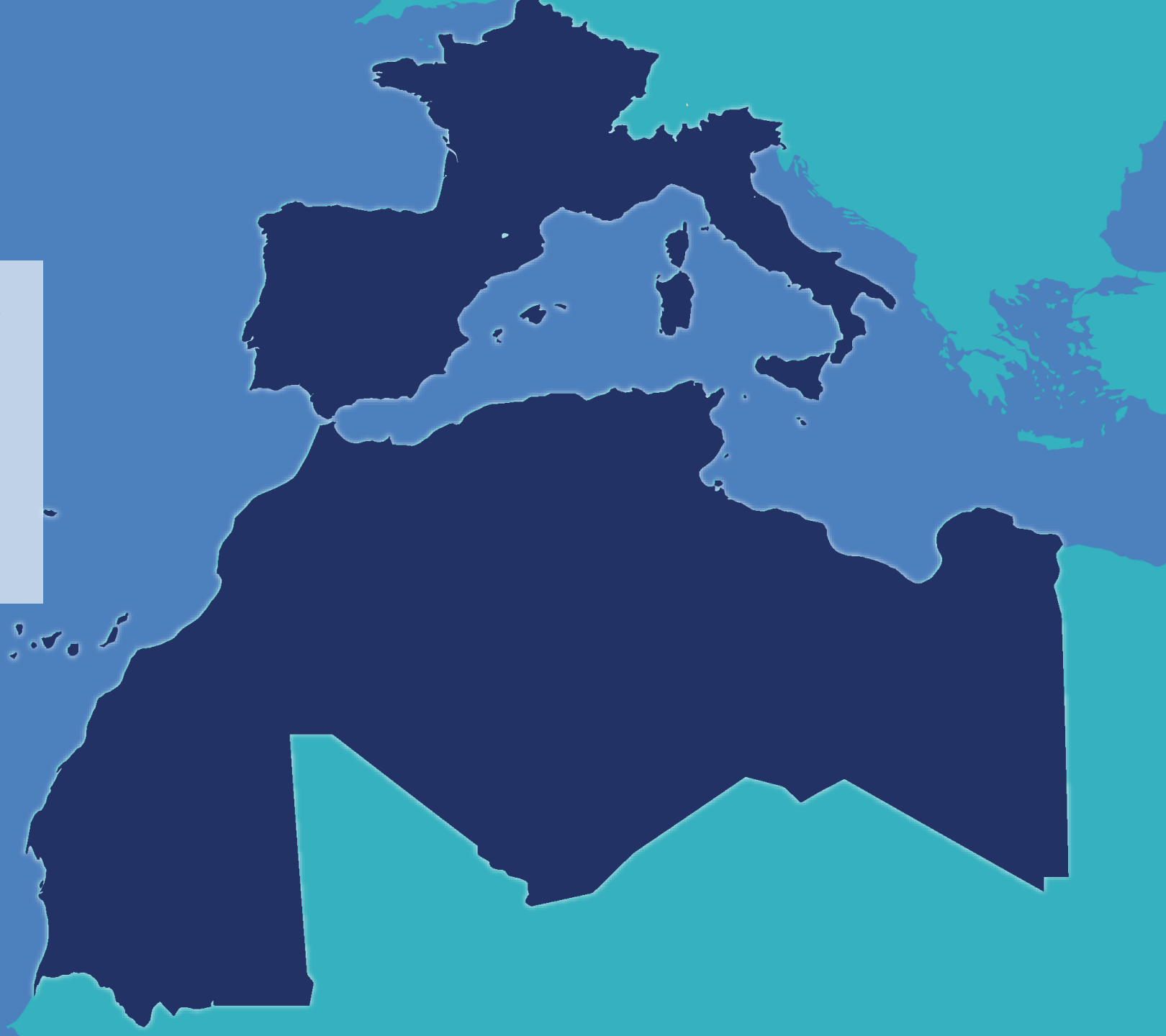
MAURITANIA

MOROCCO

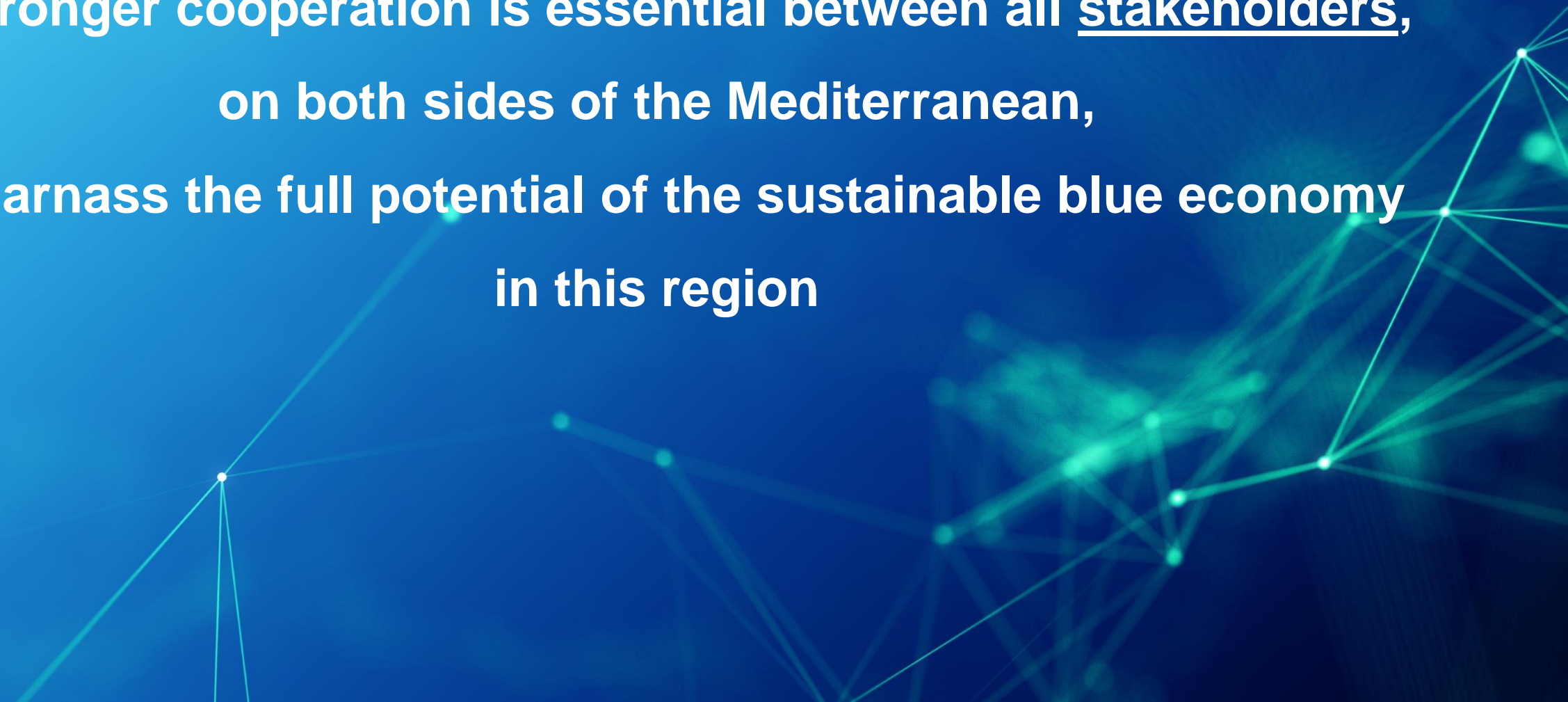
PORTUGAL

SPAIN

TUNISIA



**A stronger cooperation is essential between all stakeholders,
on both sides of the Mediterranean,
to harness the full potential of the sustainable blue economy
in this region**

An abstract graphic on the right side of the slide, consisting of a network of interconnected nodes and lines. The nodes are small white dots, and the lines are thin, light blue lines. The overall effect is a complex, web-like structure that suggests connectivity and collaboration.

INITIATIVE CONCEPTION

Operational Implementation through
9 National Hubs and Central Support Team

Adoption of the **Roadmap with 6 priorities** by the regional ministerial meeting

Formation of the **WestMED Assistance Mechanism**

2017

Adoption and endorsement of the **Framework for Action and Communication** by the European Commission and the Council of the EU (in cooperation with the UfM)

2018

2019

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**



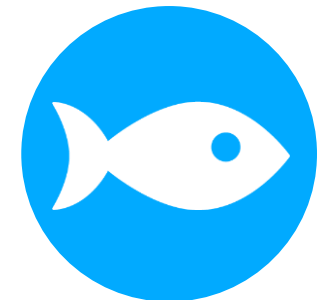
**Maritime clusters
and networks**



**Skills development
and circulation**



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



**Fisheries and
Aquaculture**

WestMED

Initiative

Assistance Mechanism and stakeholder driven projects that contribute to the development of a sustainable blue economy in the WestMED region

WestMED

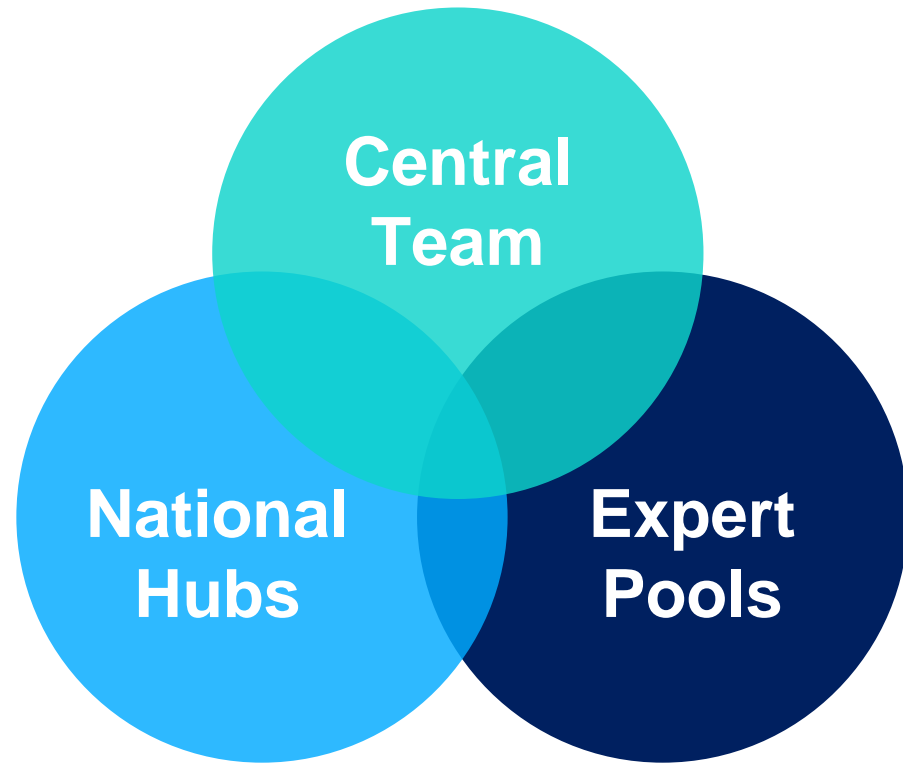
Assistance Mechanism

Operational Management (support) structure to facilitate implementation of the Initiative



Behind the
Assistance
Mechanism you can
find our team....

TEAM



29+ Experts



9 NATIONAL HUBS

- Mauritania**
- Dedah Babou
 - Mohamed Lemine Abdel Hamid

Mauritania

- Morocco**
- Mohamed Malouli Idrissi
 - Ayman Jghab

Morocco

- Portugal**
- Ruben Eiras
 - Frederico Pinto Ferreira

Portugal

- Spain**
- Marta Pascual
 - Irene Alonso

Spain

- Algeria**
- Samir Grimes
 - Samir Bachouce

Algeria

- Tunisia**
- Salem Miladi
 - Slim Jerbia

Tunisia

- Malta**
- Gordon Cordina
 - Stephanie Vella

Malta

- Italy**
- Leonardo Manzari
 - Laura Parducci

Italy

- France**
- Frédérick Herpers
 - Colin Ruel

France

Libya

Coming soon...

Libya

What we do....

Ensure permanent availability of the Assistance Mechanism at a national level

Liaise with relevant stakeholders, private sector, academia, national/regional authorities... cooperation

Identify and promote funding opportunities for projects in accordance with the roadmap & national priorities.

Assist and participate in the organization of national and international events (e.g. hackathons)

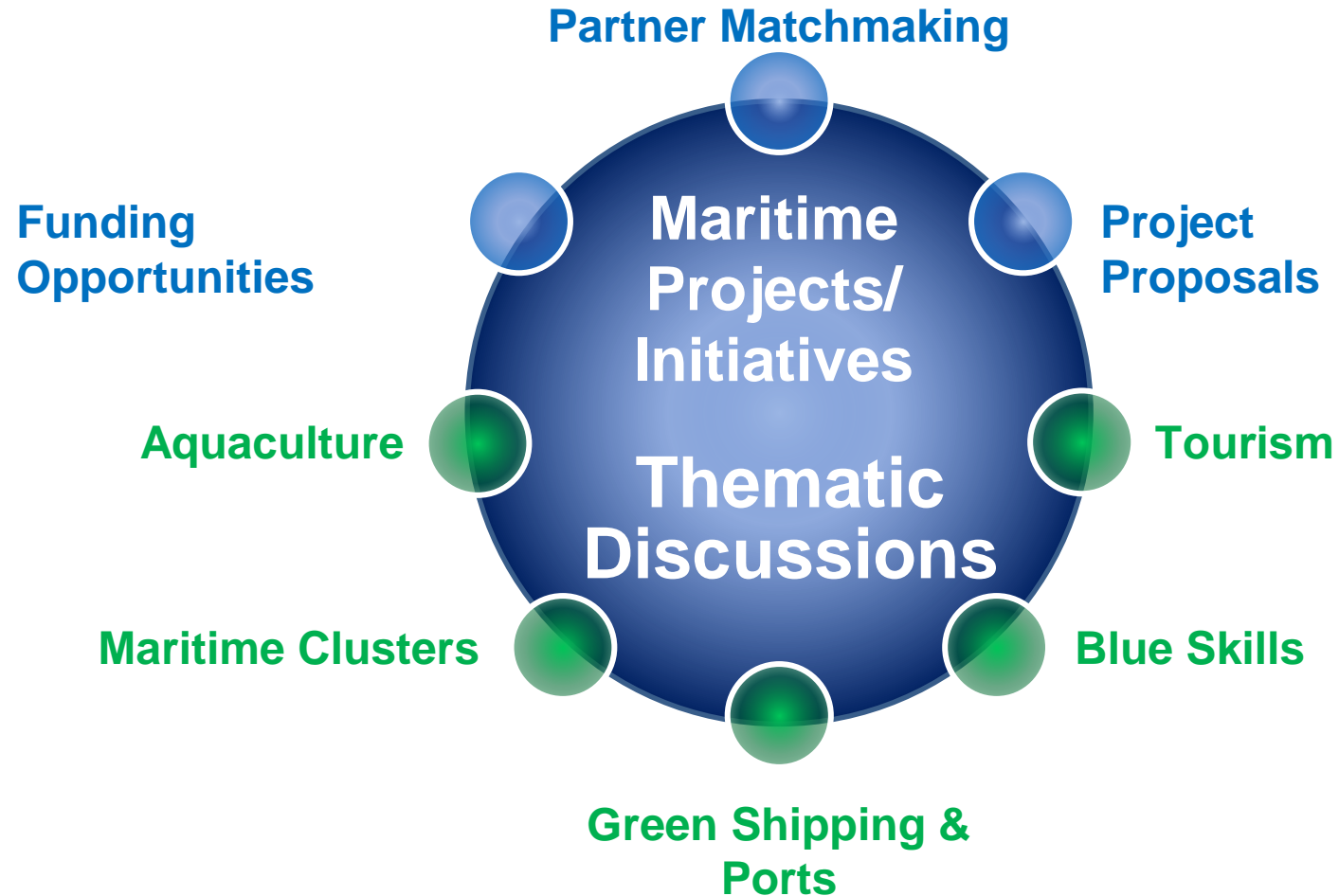
Network to support the development of the initiative (roadshows, conference presence)

Collect information on business development opportunities, public funding and **private investment opportunities**. (incl. info for EASME maritime datahub)

Advise and assist stakeholders in setting up projects and feasibility studies and find partners across the National Hub Network

Bring technical expertise to the preparation of project-proposals for grants/ calls

Key thematic areas of our current work...



After the description of what the WestMED is actually doing, then allow me to provide you with a quick overview of some illustrative outcomes and achievements....

On-going technical and working groups

- **TG Green Shipping**
- TG Aquaculture
- Clusters Alliance

GREEN SHIPPING

Technical Group



Green Shipping TG (Technical Group)

Main Meetings

- **Apr 2020: Kick-off**
- Jun 2020: Initial work on project ideas
- Oct 2020: Approval of Action Plan for the TG
- Nov 2020: Project Concepts
- Mar 2021: Sub-groups being activated
- **May 2021: Renewal of TG (2nd Year)**
- Oct 2021: Further discussion of concepts
- Feb 2022: Plan for submission of projects
- **Apr 2022: Horizon Europe Calls targeted**
- **Jun 2022: EU-Africa Partnership...**

Action Plan

- Framework of action: **Common Vision**
- Feasibility Study: **Monitor Technological Chains**
- Pilot Action 1: **Ports as Energy Communities**
- Pilot Action 2: **Adapt Commercial Vessels**



WestMED Technical Group (TG) on Green Shipping *Draft Action Plan – Final Version Agreed*

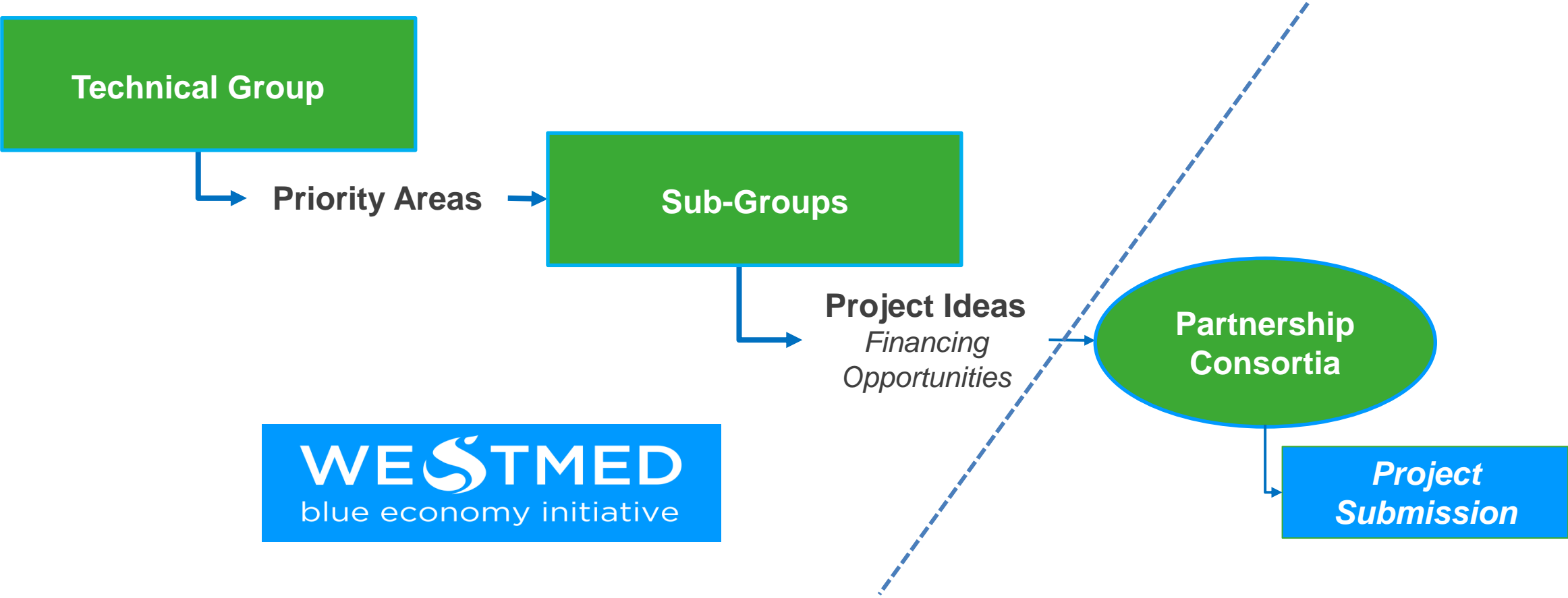
1. Starting point: potential initiatives emerged from the TG meetings

Based on the two meetings held so far¹, a number of possible actions were identified by the TG as essential steps towards the full uptake of Green Shipping in the western Mediterranean.

It was agreed that areas under sections A/B are transversal aspects, to be defined once the overall priorities for projects are further detailed and agreed. This document provides a further step in detailing other areas, as a basis for further engagement by the TG members.

Once the activities are clarified and agreed by the Technical Group, the WestMED Assistance Mechanism will then steer the process for the identification of relevant funds (Horizon Europe, INTERREG-MED, Motorways of the Sea, etc.) for the priority actions identified.

Approach: 'Green Shipping' Technical Group



Focus on implementing the identified project 'concepts'

Feasibility Study Assessment and country feasibility

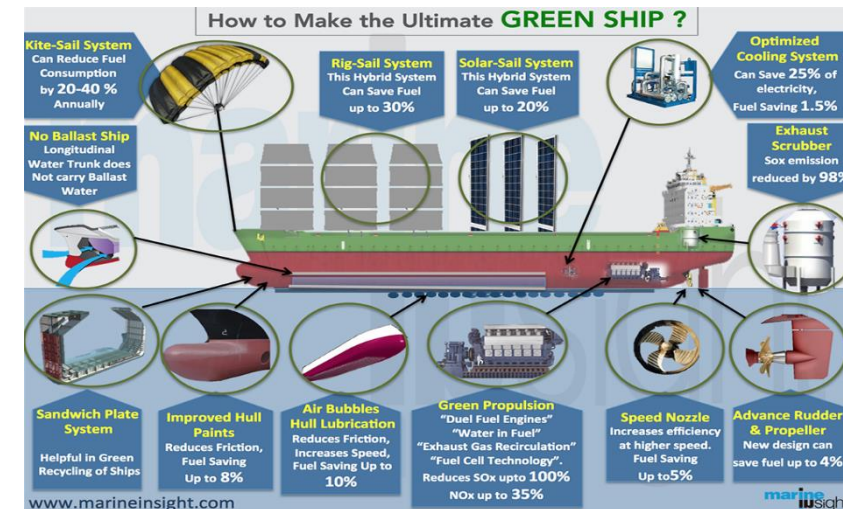
Analyse the foreseen trends in energy consumption, practices and opportunities for strategic development of the infrastructure to boost sustainable sources for green shipping

Pilot Action 1 Network of ports as energy communities (hubs)

Western Mediterranean ports can play a leading role in piloting the transformation of green ports into active 'energy communities' (by accelerating the transition from LNG towards a wider choice of alternative fuels/technologies, including hydrogen, electrification, etc.)

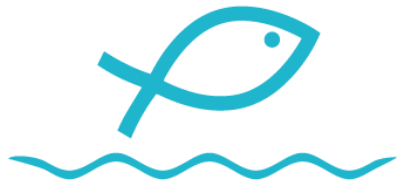
Pilot Action 2: Adaptation of commercial vessels

Support to commercial vessels (including local small-scale ferries and service vessels) in accelerating their transition to sustainable energy – from LNG towards a wider choice of alternative fuels/technologies (hydrogen, electrification)



Update on on-going technical and working groups

- TG Green Shipping
- **TG Aquaculture**
- Clusters Alliance



AquaWest

Accelerating Sustainable Aquaculture



Promoting and accelerating cooperation

across the western Mediterranean

to generate innovative solutions **for sustainable aquaculture.**



Members and purposes

- **Southern experts** – areas of needs for joint actions
- **Northern experts** – good practices and cooperation
- **Observers** – support and financing availability

Main Meetings

- **Jun 2021:** Kick-off
- **Nov 2021:** “Action Fiches” by southern experts
- **Feb 2022:** Review of way forward (financing, fine-tuning)
- **Mar 2022:** Follow-up with all experts
- **June 2022:** Project hackathon (dedicated session)
- **End of 2022:** Possible deadline for submission



Identify **PRIORITY CHALLENGES** hampering sustainable aquaculture value chain, in particular:

- *Research Challenges*
- *Innovation / Technological Challenges*
- *Governance Challenge*
- *Networking Challenges*
- *Market Challenges*



Propose **SOLUTIONS** to such **PRIORITY CHALLENGES**



More information: COST OPEN CALL – SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, SELECTION AND APPROVAL (SES4) GUIDELINES

Update on on-going technical and working groups

- TG Green Shipping
- TG Aquaculture
- **Clusters Alliance**

WestMED Maritime Clusters Alliance

Accelerating Cooperation and joint actions by maritime clusters in the western Mediterranean



WestMED Cluster Alliance

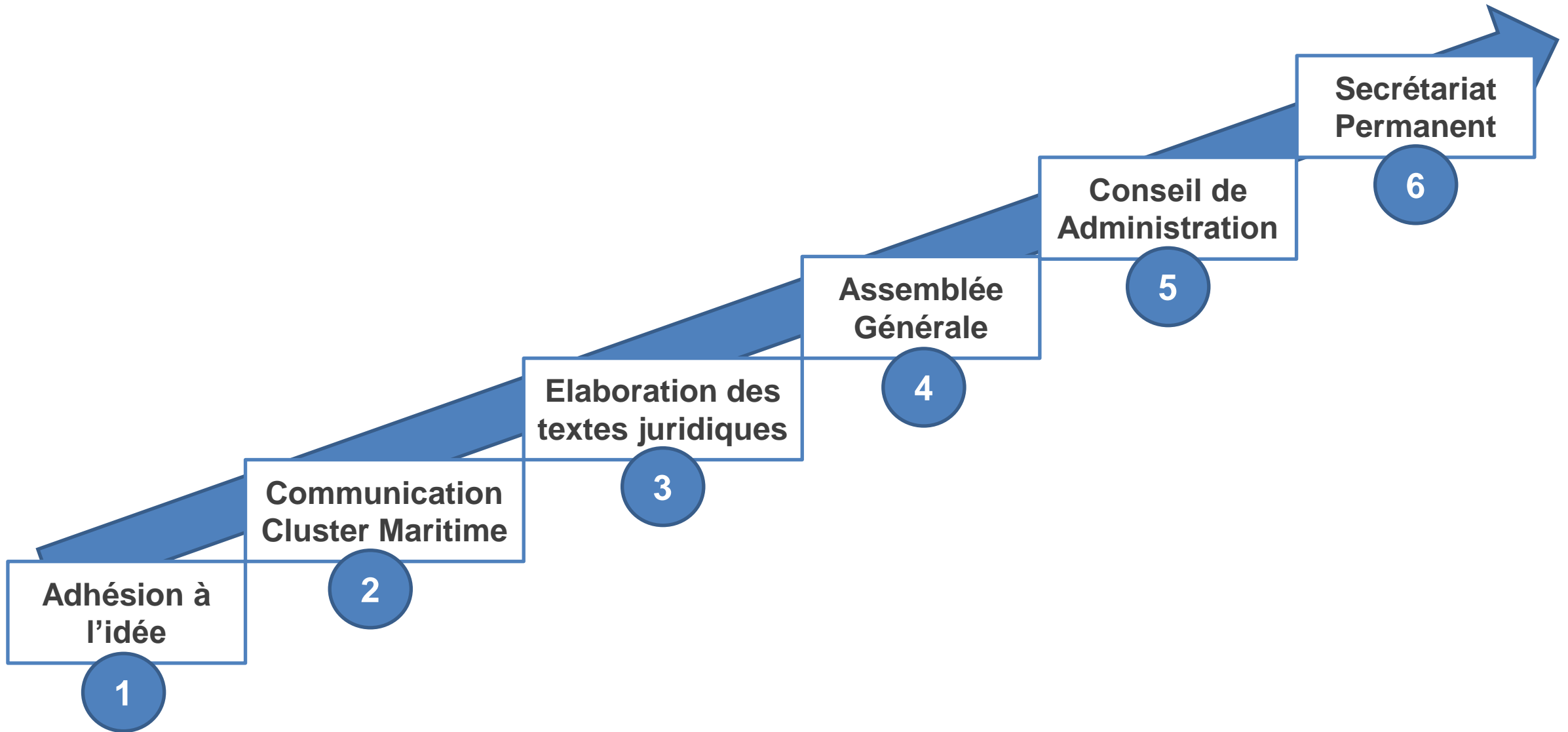
Main features

- **June 2021: launched officially**
- **Maritime Clusters** – leading on a range of strategic actions
- **Geographical scope** – northern and western Med focus (but open to eastern clusters)

Main activities

- **Cluster dialogue:** leading of Pole Mer Mediterranée
- **Capacity building South-South:** leading of Cluster Maritime Tunisien
- **Capacity building North-South:** leading of Blue Italian Growth
- **Investment attraction:** leading of Forum Oceano

Cluster Maritime Mauritanien: mise en place



Project Development - So far ...



Cluster Management Training

Leader **Formare (IT)**

Partners Cluster BIG (IT)
(TBC) Forum Oceano (PT)
 Maritime Malta (MT)
 Strategis ICT (EL)
 Others ...
 Southern associates ...

MedBAN – Med Blue Accelerator Network

Leader **Forum Oceano (PT)**

Partners Federazione del Sistema Marittimo Italiano (Federazione
 del Mare) (IT)
 Cluster Tecnologico Nazionale Blue Italian Growth (IT)
 STRATEGIS - Maritime Center of Excellence (GR)
 CLUSTER MARÍTIMO DE LAS ILLES BALEARS (SP)
 TOULON VAR TECHNOLOGIES (FR)
 MAGELLAN (PT)
 Southern Associates ...



MedBAN Mediterranean Blue Accelerator Network

WEST MED CLUSTERS
ALLIANCE

Set-up the system in support to SMEs

- Analysis and mapping of the critical elements and innovation needs
- Identify the common challenges of the MedBAN's
- Structure the MedBAN's investors network

Pilot concrete actions to scale-up innovation ecosystems

- Organize the MedBAN's mentors and experts network
- Create the MedBAN's startups community (pitching session for attracting 80 start-up's)
- Implement MedBAN's acceleration scheme (launching a call for attracting 300 start-up's)



Hackathon '22

Example: BLUE SKILLS

Main ideas

- **Project 1:** Development of a platform to address the identification of gaps in blue skills. The platform would bring together government authorities, private sector and educational providers which have offered or are offering solutions to address gaps. The platform would not only facilitate solutions but also allow for the identification of opportunities. The platform would also allow for showcasing of a number of funded projects which have addressed blue skills. The platform could also be extended to other sea basin strategies.
- **Project 2:** Addressing skills for traditional and artisanal sectors such as fishing: The project would focus on:
 - Recognition of skills
 - Upskilling
 - Development of skills which support diversification
 - Supporting greening and digital skills



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Dipartimento per le Politiche di Coesione

WESTMED
blue economy initiative

Supported
by the



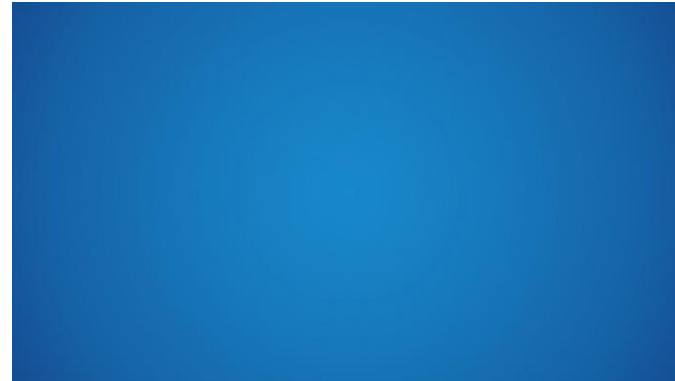
WESTMED 2021

STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

Awarded projects

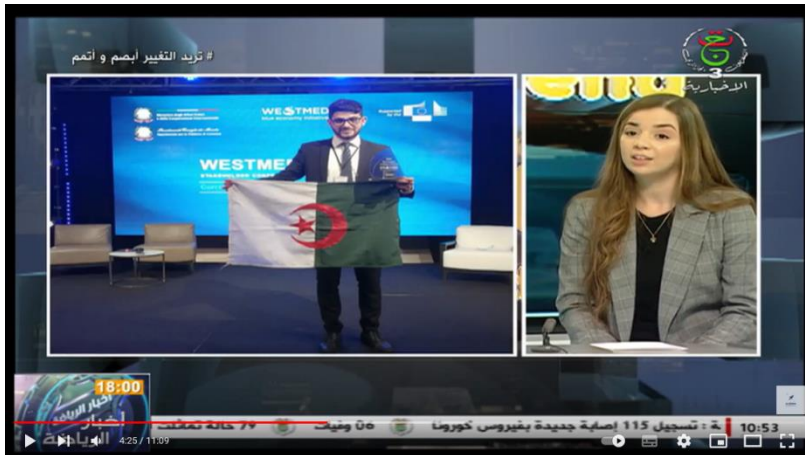


BLUESKILLS



Maximising outreach (Examples of WestMED on media...)

Algeria Startup Challenge
National public television Algeria
(ENTV)



Interview 'Morning Talk'
Ziad Nesrine

WestMED Assistance Mechanism
National commercial radio IFM –
Tunisia / live stream youtube



Interview 'L'univers Marin'
Salem Miladi

WestMED Assistance Mechanism
Télévision de Mauritanie



News item National Event '22
Mohamed Lemine

WESTMED 

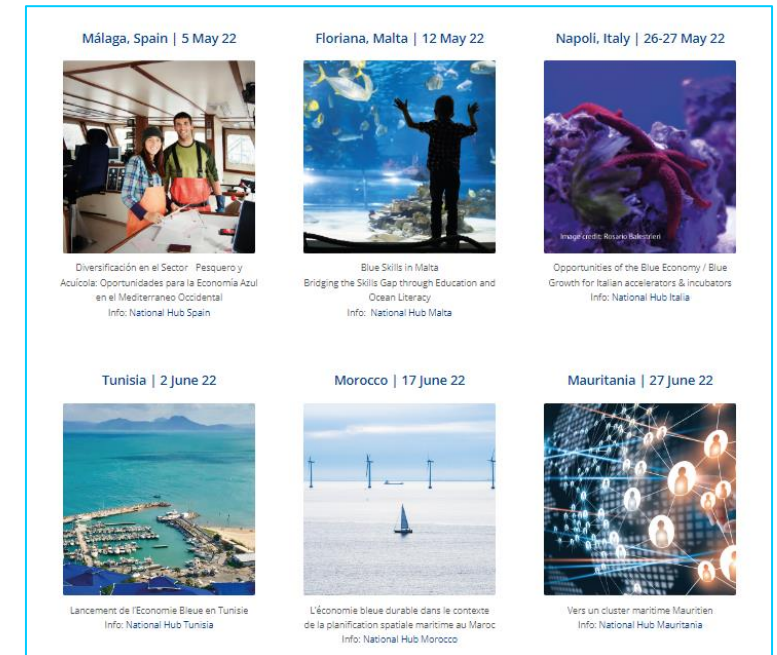
In my country

Spreading the word of the WestMED throughout the region...

'WestMED In My Country' Campaign

A series of 9 in-person events in all WestMED participating countries, culminating in the WestMED Hackathon '22

- Tailored campaign branding (design of a dedicated logo and visual identity, claim, social media hashtag [#WestMEDInMyCountry](#)...)
- Creation of an overview page for the campaign on the WestMED website (<https://www.westmed-initiative.eu/westmed-in-my-country/>) with links to individual national event pages containing all necessary information
- Carefully designed agendas and uniform registration forms on EU Survey
- Regular Twitter updates on each event with calls-to-action (also through DG MARE and CINEA accounts)



'WestMED In My Country' Campaign

- Practical Support for the NH's with banners and other communication materials
- Two WestMED Newsflash mailings to newsletter subscribers (one on the National Events, one on the Hackathon)
- UfM MEDBLUE Stakeholder Platform newsflash mailing/ prominent spot homepage
- Promoting information through the various WestMED Technical and working groups



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westmedstrat

