

Fostering synergies with cooperative frameworks



Med 5+5

Tapping the Potential of the Sustainable Blue
Economy in the Western Mediterranean



WESTMED
blue economy initiative

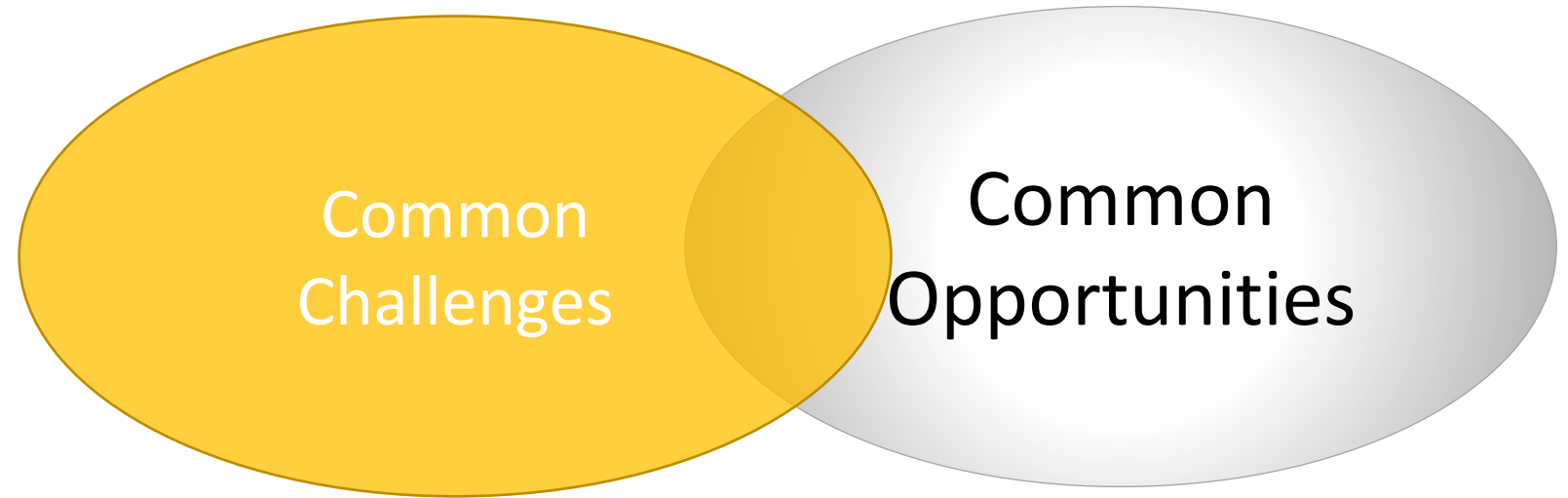
Challenges experiences in the Mediterranean Region

Environmental

Economical

Social and
Cultural

Health and
Nutritional



WESTMED Initiative

OBJECTIVES of the WESTMED



**A safer and more secure
maritime space**



**A smart and resilient
blue economy**



**A better governance
of the sea**

WESTMED INITIATIVE

Relevant Stakeholder Theme Discussions

- ▶ **Sustainable Aquaculture**
- ▶ **Maritime Clusters**
- ▶ **Sustainable Maritime Transport**
- ▶ **Sustainable Tourism**
- ▶ **Blue Skills and Ocean Literacy**

Focus: To continue to develop concrete measures and mechanisms to help promote the Blue Economy vision and boost the competitiveness and sustainability of the Mediterranean.

Technical Group

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT & GREEN SHIPPING

Whilst Maritime transport is one of the most energy efficient forms of transport, it still responsible for over a tenth of transport CO2 emissions.

Early movers in the shipping industry have already taken steps to invest in green solutions, including by using alternative cleaner fuels, innovative propulsion power and increasing the energy efficiency of their ships. It is important to recognise and incentivize such efforts that further stimulate innovation.

The Aim of the Technical Group is to establish cooperation within the Mediterranean for the research and deployment of innovative solutions for clean maritime transport.



Project Development:



Feasibility study: Green Shipping by maximising investments in LNG and beyond



Pilot action 1: network of WestMED Maritime Ports as Energy Communities



Pilot action 2: adaptation of WestMED commercial vessels (ferries and service)

Aquaculture could meet up to two-thirds of global seafood consumption by 2030 but practices can have a significant impact on the environment and aquatic biodiversity. So there is a need for sustainable development in aquaculture, which has the potential to address the challenges aquaculture facing today.

The Westmed Technical Group aims to promote and accelerate existing cooperation at the Western Mediterranean level to support the deployment of innovative solutions for the development of economically and socially sustainable and resilient aquaculture

- **Bring together a group of national experts from each WestMED country** from the aquaculture sector, to facilitate dialogue between national and regional economic actors,
- **Identify, share and valorise the best practices** of sustainable aquaculture through the exchange and transfer of knowledge
- **Identify funding and strategic projects** which can be implemented across the region.
- **Promote the establishment of scientific partnerships** between aquaculture research centres and companies in the South

MARITIME CLUSTERS ALLIANCE

Maritime Clusters promote the uptake of innovation, knowledge, skills as well as access to finance – which is not easily attainable particularly for SMEs.

In aquaculture alone, the sector consists of around 15,000 enterprises, mainly small businesses or micro-enterprises in coastal and rural areas.

Source: UFM Maritime Clusters in the Mediterranean Region 2019

The aim of the Maritime Cluster Alliance is to address some of the persistent bottlenecks that prevent full cluster cooperation across the two shores of the Western Mediterranean.

Capacity building and policy dialogue North-South and South-South

Investment attraction and acceleration (Forum Oceano)

Cross-sectoral cluster matchmaking (Pole Mer)

Establishment of the Arab Maghreb Maritime Cluster (CMT)

Agreements with relevant financing actors – EIB/EIF, AdB, National Promotional Banks and Cooperation Development Agencies, etc.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Tourism is one of the largest sectors generating income across the Mediterranean.

Impact of COVID-19 on the sector – Efforts are focused to building and strengthening the resilience of the sector through effective and efficient governance systems at the local and international level.

The aim of the Sustainable Tourism Working Group is to create synergies with and between key stakeholders in the tourism sector of the WestMED Initiative with a focus on sustainability.

The potential for capitalisation and synergies amongst regional projects, towards a “leveraging-up” of current practices in sustainable tourism (operators and policymakers) across the Mediterranean.

Working towards the development of project for common methodology and tools for the creation of a sustainable tourism observatory across the West Med region.

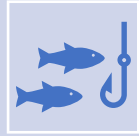
Development of Coastal tourism

BLUE SKILLS AND OCEAN LITERACY

SKILLS: Our coasts and seas have the potential to deliver sustainable growth and jobs in the coming years. This will only be possible if we invest in new, blue skills and career development.

OCEAN LITERACY : Understanding how we influence the ocean and how the ocean influences us.

To promote and popularise the Ocean Literacy concept and enhance countries' skills and expertise in this field, through training, exchanges, awareness-raising and research activities aimed at society, on maritime and marine environmental issues specifically and the blue economy more generally.



Addressing skills shortages in traditional and artisanal sectors such as fishing.



Bridging skills gaps and capacity building requirements.



Focus Ocean Literacy on marine litter

Concluding Remarks

- **The Mediterranean region is fast becoming a centre for research and innovation in the areas of renewable energy, aquaculture, marine resources and biotechnology, thus offers an immense wealth of opportunities.**
- **Synergies not only across countries but also across sectors and sea basins need to be adequately exploited.**
- **Solutions cannot also be singular but must comprise multi-sectoral action that cuts across international, national, regional and local levels whilst engaging society to ensure that no one is left behind.**



MORE INFORMATION



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**BLUE GROWTH
OPPORTUNITIES**

in the **Western Mediterranean**

WESTMED
blue economy initiative

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