



Change the mindset for growing blue, envisioning the Mediterranean as a spot for innovation via the implementation of joint actions.

Research and Innovation initiative for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean area

blueMed



## WHAT

The Mediterranean Sea has no match as regards **biodiversity** and the links between **human activities and environmental** characteristics. A **unique asset** of natural and cultural value, the area is changing fast in response to **natural and anthropogenic pressures**. Climate change, maritime traffic and pollution, overexploitation of fish stocks and invasions of alien species are among the stressors threatening the ecosystems that provide **major local opportunities** for blue growth and jobs, from fisheries to tourism.

The BLUEMED Initiative addresses research and innovation through a **multidisciplinary approach**, linking economy, environment and humans. This implies continuous engagement of diverse communities with markedly different interests and objectives and even languages, in a delicate equilibrium.

**"BLUEMED strength comes from cooperation of hundreds of stakeholders from different countries working on a diversity of issues. This is the beauty of the BLUEMED initiative...and its challenge."**

*Sigi Gruber, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation*

*Omar Amawi, Higher Council for Science and Technology of Jordan*

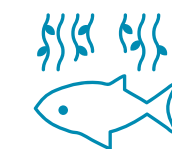
*Chairs of the BLUEMED Initiative Working Group, Euro-Mediterranean Group of Senior Officials*

**"We acknowledge the importance of developing and promoting a shared vision of the Mediterranean Sea as a common resource, so as to promote security, safety and prosperity of present and future generations, via the BLUEMED Initiative."**

*Valletta Declaration on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation  
Valletta, Malta, 4 May 2017*



## WHY



of endemic species, a biodiversity hotspot

28%



WORLD'S SECOND largest market for cruise ships



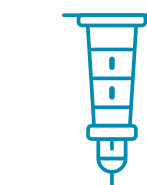
of global sea-borne trade by volume

30%



people living on coasts, doubling during the tourist season

150 mln



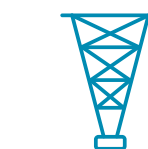
ports and terminals

450



UNESCO sites  
236 Marine Protected Areas

400



of worldwide sea-borne oil traffic

25%

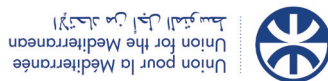


and environmental healthy life

CULTURE OF FOOD



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Union pour la Méditerranée  
Union for the Mediterranean  
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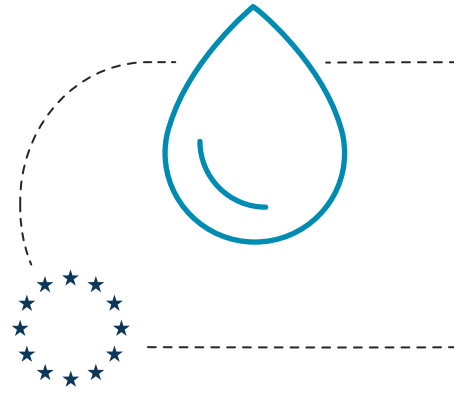


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# enVISIONing

A paradigmatic change towards a shared future in the Mediterranean area.



The geo-political complexity of the Mediterranean area, whose countries from three different continents strongly depend on blue activities, challenges the sustainability of the marine environment. Multiple stakeholders with diverse and often contrasting interests compete for the use of the same resource and space.

For ensuring a sustainable future, it is crucial to:

- ~ **reduce the fragmentation** and facilitating the cooperation between people;
- ~ engaging EU and non-EU countries;
- ~ **coordinate planning and programming** of relevant research and innovation activities;
- ~ **connect research investments** and public policies at regional, national, European, and Mediterranean level;
- ~ **advocate public understanding** of the value of the **blue economy**.

# MISSION

Designing a shared research and innovation pattern fostering the blue growth in the Mediterranean area, the BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

The BLUEMED SRIA is a living document resulting from a consultation process at national level, open to inputs emerging from the debate within the marine and maritime community in all countries. It aims to identify, highlight and address strategic priorities of societal relevance in the Mediterranean area.

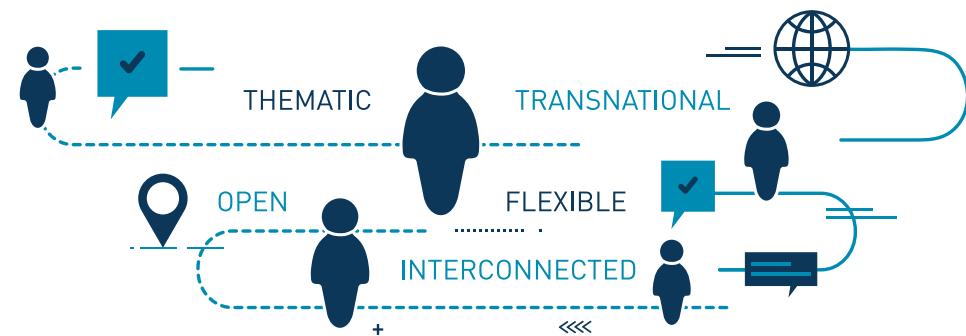


The **BLUEMED SRIA** targets relevant research and innovation players and public and private stakeholders.

# HOW

Identify needs of marine and maritime communities and align relevant programmes; increase the accessibility of opportunities for blue growth, funding and facilities for all stakeholders at all levels; develop joint actions.

## THE BLUEMED PLATFORMS, WHERE SYNERGIES HAPPEN

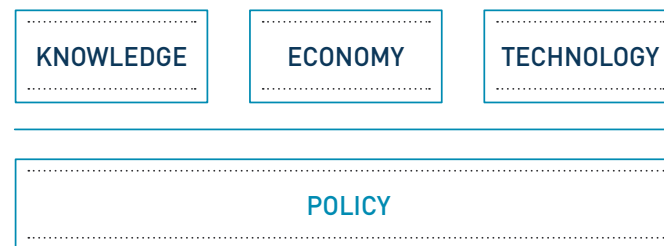


The platforms are operative fora where country representatives, the **BLUEMED national pivots**, meet and interact. They convey messages, address needs and priorities of their communities, ensuring broad consultation and constant dialogue at national and Mediterranean level. Thus maintaining and further developing virtuous relationships among research, industry, policy, and society, and with the environment.

## COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTION FOR THE BLUEMED INITIATIVE

The BLUEMED project supports the implementation of the BLUEMED Initiative with the following actions:

- ~ 1 SRIA consolidated through cooperation;
- ~ 1 Implementation Plan sketching economy driven blue growth trajectories;
- ~ 4 Platforms on knowledge, economy, technology, and policy;
- ~ 1 Operational Network of Research & Innovation funders and committers;
- ~ 3 to 5 Start-up actions;
- ~ n+1 people in the Community;
- ~ n+1 relevant projects and initiatives connected;
- ~ 5 Ambassadors.



# WHEN

- May 2014** ○ BLUEMED Initiative set-up in the framework of the EU Blue Growth Strategy
- December 2014** ○ BLUEMED Vision Document endorsed at the Competitiveness Council
- October 2015** ○ Venice declaration launching the BLUEMED SRIA
- November 2015** ○ Union for Mediterranean Declaration on the blue economy adopted, non-EU countries invited to join the BLUEMED Initiative
- October 2016** ○ BLUEMED Coordination and Support Action begins to support the BLUEMED Initiative
- April 2017** ○ BLUEMED high-level conference "A Basin of Research and Innovation for sustainable growth". First update of the BLUEMED SRIA
- May 2017** ○ Valletta Declaration on strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation through Research and Innovation
- February 2018** ○ Group of Senior Officials BLUEMED Working Group established as initiative's steering body
- July 2019** ○ Research Infrastructures Roadmap, Data Policies and Accessibility Plan and Blue Careers Plan
- September 2020** ○ Implementation Plan

FISHERIES  
 TRANSPORT  
 SCIENTISTS  
 OBSERVING SYSTEMS  
**TOURISM**  
 CLIMATE CHANGE AQUACULTURE  
**OFF-SHORE PLATFORMS**  
**MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING**  
 PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES  
 NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE  
**RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES**  
 TECHNOLOGY CLUSTERS COASTAL HAZARDS  
**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**  
 TRAINING AND MOBILITY  
 DECISION MAKERS **ENERGY**  
**BLUE BIOTECHNOLOGIES**  
**BLUE CAREERS**  
 DATA SHIPBUILDING  
 CITIZENS