WHY

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

WHAT

"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
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.

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.

**MISSION**

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

**CHALLENGES**
- 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.

**GOALS**

**ACTIONS**

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.