



Coordination and Support Action

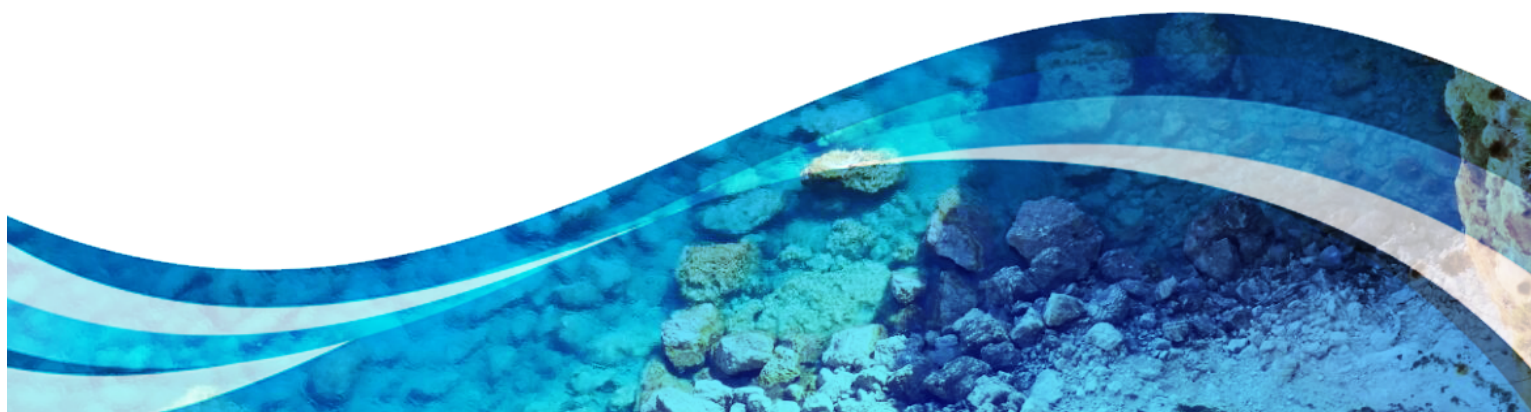
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Research and innovation for the Blue Growth in Italy and in the Mediterranean

The proposal for an Italian agenda – second meeting with national stakeholders

Rome, 31 July 2018



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Introduction

Last 31st July in the premises of the National Research Council (CNR) of Italy in Rome, around 80 people took part to the second BLUEMED meeting with national stakeholders. The following is a report presenting the main points discussed during the meeting and the round table.

Participants represented different sectors and disciplines as from the table below.

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|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| CNR | INGV (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia) | ENEA (Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile) | INFN-LNS (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare - Lab. Nazionali del Sud) | OGS (Istituto nazionale di oceanografia e di geofisica sperimentale) | ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale) | SZN (Stazione zoologica Anton Dohrn) | |
| REM | Autorità Gestione Mar Tirreno | IZSUM (Istituto Zoonofittico Sperimentale dell'Umbria e delle Marche) | e-GEOS | CMCC (Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici) | EMSO ERIC (European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and water-column Observing European Research Infrastructure Consortium) | Consorzio Biotechno-Mares | MilanFoodLaw |
| UniBO | UniGE | UniRoma3 | UNISI | UniTU | UniTUS | UniUD | Uni IUAV Venezia |
| Dip. Politiche di Coesione (Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri) | Min. Difesa | MAECI (Ministero degli affari esteri e della cooperazione internazionale) | MEF (Ministero dell'economia e delle finanze) | MATTM (Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio e del mare) | MIPAAF (Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari, forestali e del turismo) | MISE (Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico) | MIT (Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti) |
| MIUR (Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca) | Peacedevelopment | Halieus | FederPesca | Legacoop Agroalimentare | GSE (Gestore Servizi Energetici) | ENI | Enel Green Power |
| Nicetechnology S.r.l. | Studio Severini | C.I.R.S.P.E. S.c.ar.l. | NISEA Soc. Coop. | Vdv S.r.l. | Rosetti Mario S.p.a. | Consyllo S.r.l. | ... |

The meeting was also followed via streaming.

Slot 1 – The BLUEMED Initiative, the BLUEMED CSA and the SRIA 2018 (Fabio Fava, *GSO BLUEMED WG*; Fabio Trincardi, *CNR, BLUEMED CSA Coordinator*)

Fabio Fava, Italian delegate to the [BLUEMED Group of Senior Officials](#), illustrated the **BLUEMED Initiative**, since its genesis during the Italian Presidency of the EU Council, to its mission of implementing the [Valletta Declaration](#) and up to the appointments of delegates from Mediterranean countries within the frame of the Group of Senior Officials BLUEMED Working Group (GSO BLUEMED WG). One of the Initiative's objectives is to promote cooperation/joint actions with the two sub-regional MED Initiatives, "EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region" ([EUSAIR](#), [DGREGIO](#)) and the "Western Mediterranean Initiative" of EU Commission ([WESTMED](#), [DGMARE](#)), and it is being fulfilled through the participation of Fabio Fava to the board of both the Initiatives that in turn actively participate with their representatives the BLUEMED Policy Platform. Furthermore, facilitating and promoting the adoption of the BLUEMED [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA) by the bordering Mediterranean countries, liaising with relevant public and private organisations and programmes management authorities and disseminating BLUEMED achievements in high-level policy events and towards major framework programmes for research and innovation are part of the BLUEMED Initiative mission.

In order to assess the state of the collaboration around the Mediterranean basin, the policy and R&I needs to foster sustainable blue growth in the region and the next activities to meet the local challenges, and to start collecting inputs for SRIA from non-EU Med countries, [National Consultation Days](#) have been carried out last July in Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt.

A relevant budget has been dedicated to Blue-Growth under H2020, with particular reference to the *Societal Challenges* pillar, mainly under SC2 (Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy), but also SC3 (Secure, clean and efficient energy), SC4 (Smart, green and integrated transport) and SC5 (Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials).

With a proposed €100 billion budget, the next EU Framework Programme, Horizon Europe, will have a mission-oriented approach, with potential funding sources for Blue-Growth under Pillar 2 - Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness – Clusters on Climate, Energy and Mobility (€15 Bln total budget) and Food and Natural Resources (€10 Bln total budget).

The [BLUEMED CSA](#) Coordinator, Fabio Trincardi, presented the BLUEMED CSA project results so far. In the framework of the *BLUEMED –Research and Innovation initiative for blue jobs & growth in the Mediterranean Area*, the BLUEMED CSA, with a 4 years duration and a €2.998.00 budget, gathers the effort of 11 partners from 9 EU countries in order to support the implementation of the BLUEMED Initiative.

In the first two years of activities, the scene has been set in order to promote the alignment of Programmes and Strategies and pooling of resources and investments, actively including in the process also non-EU countries bordering the Med basin. [Four platforms](#), i.e. working groups, on Knowledge, Technology, Economy and Policy joined by the relevant stakeholders at EU level and undergoing a process of enlargement to non-EU countries in the Med basin, are actively working to consolidate the SRIA and determine its Implementation Plan.

Meanwhile, the 2018 update of the [SRIA](#), including the input of EU countries stakeholders has been published. Following a first, preliminary analysis of strategies and priorities, resulting in the [“Non-EU stakeholders: analysis of R&D strategy/policy/programme and priorities”](#) report, and the BLUEMED Tour in non-EU countries, the next update process has been enlarged to the whole basin.

Pan Mediterranean dialogue is being facilitated by the delegates to the Group of Senior Officials BLUEMED Working Group, with several initiatives and milestones already reached and the forthcoming BLUEMED platforms works, meetings (the first in Barcelona, 23-25 October 2018, in the framework of the [BLUEMED Week](#), one in July 2019 and one in July 2020) and the support to the identification of the BLUEMED Ambassadors as awareness multipliers (2019).

Synergies with other regional strategies and Initiatives like the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region EUSAIR and the WESTMED, “Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative for the Western Mediterranean”, are being promoted through a constant and structured technical interaction.

A call for Strategic [Start-up Actions](#) (SuAs) on Blue Growth has been launched in April 2018, aimed at financing feasibility, foresight or pilot studies on topics relevant for the BLUEMED SRIA. The selected SuAs will be awarded up to €32.000 that will cover the costs of meetings/workshops as tool to lead to the publication of draft studies.

Finally, a glimpse on BLUEMED CSA future activities, with particular reference to the updated version of the SRIA and the implementation plan has been given.



Slot 2 – Italian proposals in the perspective of next EC Framework Programme “Horizon Europe” (Luca Moretti, *CNR Liaison Office in Brussels*)

Luca Moretti from the CNR Liaison Office in Brussels, illustrated the structure and functioning of the EC Framework Programmes, that act not only as financing source for research and innovation, but also as a political instrument behind which wider long-term strategies lie.

After an overview of the last Work Programme, he presented the 9th Framework Programme, **Horizon Europe**. With a proposed budget of €100 billion for 7 years, it is the most ambitious programme so far. The objectives are to reinforce the scientific basis of the EU, the capacity for innovation, competitiveness and employment and realise the citizens’ priorities. Horizon Europe is structured in three Pillars: Open Science, Global Challenges and Open Innovation. It is mission-oriented, targeting specific global challenges, this meaning that it will set defined goals, with specific targets and it will work to achieve them in a set time. Dissemination, communication and stakeholder involvement will be given more and more importance. National and joint international positions papers and requests of amendment to the proposed FP9 have been prepared. As emerging from the Position Paper on mission oriented approach “[MISSION EUROPE 2030](#)”, released by CNR in May 2018, the most relevant mission in the perspective of Blue Growth and declinable in different areas is “Resilient Europe”: risk assessment map and intervention options for safe management and investments by 2030.

Slot 3 – The Italian Technological Cluster BIG (Blue Italian Growth) (Roberto Cimino, *President of CNT-BIG*)

Roberto Cimino, President of the [Italian Technology Cluster BIG](#) (Blue Italian Growth) presented the role and objective of the **CTN-BIG**. In line with the main international, European and national development strategies, its mission is to create a national community of public-private stakeholders in the context of the blue marine economy, to promote an innovation-driven blue growth, by fuelling private-public research partnership and to favour the integration of existing infrastructures and skills.

Its goal is to coordinate national stakeholders in order to prepare technology roadmaps and scenarios, align and integrate regional and national roadmaps with European and Mediterranean ones, support informed policies with policy makers, support decision-making on the allocation of industrial R&I funds and promote the integration of research infrastructures and foster internationalization.

The main development trajectories that have been identified are: (i) Marine Habitats and Coastal Zone; (ii) Blue Biotechnologies; (iii) Blue Renewable Energy; (iv) Abiotic Marine Resources; (v) Biotic Marine Resources; (vi) Shipbuilding and Marine Robotics. In parallel, the cross-cutting issues of Skill and Jobs, Research Infrastructures and Sustainable Marine Exploitation will be considered.

The 3-years **Strategic Implementation Plan of the Cluster** will identify BIG activities in order to prepare and update the technology roadmaps to develop the Blue Economy and support their implementation, also through the involvement of the BIG community and network.

Slot 4 – The Italian White Paper (Maurizio Ribera d'Alcalà, *SZN, Italian National Pivot for the Knowledge Platform*)

Maurizio Ribera introduced to the audience the document “The [BLUEMED Italian White Paper](#): an overview of relevance, obstacles and proposals of the key sectors for a Blue Growth”. Stemming from the interaction and the engagement of the Italian scientific community and relevant marine and maritime stakeholders with the contribution and **endorsement** of key relevant **Ministries**, namely the Ministry of Education, University and Research - MIUR, Economic Development – MISE (whose representative is the Italian Pivot within the Economy Platform), Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies - MIPAAFT, Infrastructure and Transport - MIT, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - MAE, Economy and Finances - MEF, Cultural Heritage and Activities - MIBAC and Defence, the document illustrates the Italian position on Blue Growth, recognising that effective steps towards a “blue” economy can only be achieved by transcending sectorial priorities, enhancing dialogue between communities that usually do not talk to each other, but instead should coexist and even develop synergies. The White Paper focuses on the identification of how the most relevant R&I challenges for Blue Growth can be more efficiently tackled. Starting from a detailed analysis of relevant activities and objectives for each of the main marine and maritime socio-economic drivers (food, transport, tourism, chemicals and materials, energy, security, ecosystem health), gaps and barriers to Blue Growth are identified and different approaches to overcome them are suggested. Cross-cutting

high-level priorities as well as **pragmatic actions** for research and innovation to be shared at national and Mediterranean levels are proposed.

Round table

Following the presentations, a round table with relevant policy makers and representatives of the Italian Ministries, moderated by Alba L'Astorina, has been held. The discussion focused on the collaboration between the academia and research sector with Delegates from the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), leading the BLUEMED Initiative, the Ministry of Economic Development (MISE), which is represented in the BLUEMED Policy Platform, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and of Tourism (MIPAAFT), the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MIT), the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (MIBAC).

BLUEMED recognizes the necessity of a strength cooperation among stakeholders in order to overcome fragmentation of competences and interests. First steps in this direction are the both the SRIA, which is the result of consultations that involved many actors at the national and international level, and the Italian White Paper, which was written with the contribution of all ministries present at the round table. Starting from this "piece of road so far done", can we try to enter a more operative phase? If so, which aspects of SRIA or of WP should be strengthened and which critical issues are to be faced in order for the WP to become an operational guidance document? What actions / strategies in place or in the pipeline will contribute to the development of the blue economy in Italy and the Mediterranean? How to flow into guidelines, directives, strategies?

MIUR delegate, Domenico De Martinis, highlighted the role of the BLUEMED to address R&I needs of the Mediterranean region, as relevant not only for the EU Med member states but for all EU. A success story made possible by the overcome of single priorities into common ones. Beyond research needs, economic, political and security issues need to be duly taken into consideration to tackle bottlenecks. The Italian delegation to the relevant G7 working group addressed the need to better consider the seas vs the oceans.

The role of **MISE**, represented by Marina Sacco, on Blue Growth activities, such as the management of offshore platform decommissioning, has increased starting from 2014, in parallel with the activation of relevant networks e.g. Clypea on off-shore security. In the next years, it will be important to make research results transferred into the regulations as part of the active policies.

MIPAAFT delegate, Riccardo Rigillo, highlighted the relevance of this initiative, in particular if we consider that the context has changed for different causes, including natural as climate change and political as the exit of US from the Area. Italy is in a central position in the Mediterranean and thus has to play a coordination role, from policy to research. Maritime consciousness has to raise not only at the level of application of EU Directives but in understanding the relevance of the sustainability of resources for the economy, the energy efficiency, coordination and share of good practices. Aquaculture is a sector with extremely good job opportunities. At FAO level, small scale fisheries and artisanal fisheries are under attention. In the framework of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Italy led a

conference on sanitary, ecosysteem approach and the governance. Strengthens is there but more attention has to be given to the enforcement of some laws.

The **MIT**, represented by **Ciro Tuccillo** of the Coast Guard - Port Authorities, also considered the White Paper necessary since in reports in written form the state of the art and the needs of the Italian Blue Growth. At policy level, the regulation scenario, e.g. on maritime protection needs to be adequate. Integration with all initiatives is key to bring to actions for blue economy. Coasts guards contributed in particular on safety and security issues.

MIBAC delegate **Alessandra Priante** announced first that tourism related activities have since recently been moved under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies. Valuing the methodologies implemented, transversal working groups, research is the fil rouge able to keep together different sectors. Sustainability is crucial for the cultural heritage; an asset whose governance mechanism has to be properly addressed in particular considering that tourism generates the 13% of the GDP. As tourism target, the Sea (and its biodiversity) will be a priority in the upcoming strategies. These will face over-tourism as a global phenomenon that needs to be related to the scarcity of resources and thus adequately managed, at first by filling the knowledge gaps.

DIFESA delegate **Carmelo Romeo** illustrated the many active collaborations of the Ministry on the Sea sectors, as addressed by the national plan on military research, as well as at EU level, by the overarching SRIA of the EU Defence Agency, setting the framework for the preparatory activities of dual projects actions. The development of **BLUEMED** actions will be supported also according to alignment principle.

Discussion

The representative of the Ministry of The Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection - **MATTM** commits to follow the process. At a general level, the **BLUEMED** is mainly linked to the Integrated Maritime Policy promoted by **DG-R&I** and **DG-MARE** involved. While sustainable development is more under the competences of **DG-ENV**. Since growth cannot raise forever, a **blue sustainable development** has to be pursued. The approach is to stimulate the demand and adequate the offer consequently. In the perspective of managing the impacts, the following questions need to be answered: observing the Sea used as an autoroute, can we dematerialise the maritime transport relying on the Maritime Spatial Planning? These aspects should be deepened it in the White Paper also to possibly facilitate a shift from a cross-over approach between different DGs to the identification of a single target. Following this pattern, decision makers, informed by scientists, will value the Basin.

The academic inform politics and the system need the right energy to reach the objective.

According to **the Italian Pivot to the BLUEMED Knowledge Platform**, the global standard is set on growth. In this framework, the scientific community comes as provider of the proper instruments to support decision making. Anyways, the dispute on the incompatibility between development and growth shall be better explored in the White Paper.

The **MIUR** representative highlights the science diplomacy role, e.g. in the 5+5 dialogue on blue economy or in the G7, the vision on the next EC Framework Programme for R&I Horizon Europe and the **PRIMA Art.185**, with 50 B€ in 5 years.

The latest, although not including specifically "sea" projects, will in any case play a role in terms of BlueEconomy or, if we want, MEDeconomy. When Italy works in the Med, it can create a diplomatic structure including different interests of non-EU Med countries and different EU economic interests.

Other specific suggestions have been addressed from the audience, including at the thematic level, the request to the Italian research communities to implement a strategy for sustainable aquaculture by farming key species, as it successfully happened in other countries. The energy potential in the Med has also to be untapped at the policy level, considering the good results achieved by research.

Innovation districts are interested in how the CTN-BIG can work transversally with what is existing at local level. In the Working Group, associations of professionals such as the National Council of Architects can be engaged as stakeholders that materially build the relevant infrastructures. The transversal role of clusters is emphasised by the **CTN-BIG**, in particular in relation to the efficient interaction with the BLUEMED Initiative.

Final intervention focuses on the recognition of the key achievement of the BLUEMED Italian community, concretely represented by the fact that for the first time all Ministries convened together to discuss the Mediterranean Blue Growth. Relying on the Italian White Paper as a good reference document, it is the key now to consolidate this system, avoiding possible dispersion.

In his closing remarks, the BLUEMED CSA Coordinator launched the ambitious proposal of joining the efforts to implement research and innovation activities also on the Oceans, giving the Mediterranean communities a global perspective. At first, the Mediterranean Blue Growth challenge has to be won by bringing European non-Med countries into the works of the Med blue world.

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