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***BLUEMED 2nd Project Coordinators' Meeting:
Sustaining the Lessons Learned and Enhancing the Bluemed
Initiative Synergies – Meeting Report
25th January 2019***

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The BLUEMED CSA which is a Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Commission is aimed at supporting the implementation of the BLUEMED Initiative¹ for promoting blue jobs, social wellbeing and sustainable growth in the Mediterranean basin. The initiative offers a shared strategic framework for working towards a healthy, circular and resilient Mediterranean Sea that is better understood and valued.

The project identifies the need to be active at Mediterranean, European, national and local level. This is specifically addressed in Work Package 5 - The Global Med – and dedicated at integrating and synergising the results of other projects and attain their common goals in the fields covered by BLUEMED to promote blue growth and innovation in the Mediterranean basin.

In this context, in January 2018, the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) as task leader (Task 5.1), organised the 1st Coordinators' meeting aimed at capitalizing on the results of other mostly EU-funded projects working on topics related to the BLUEMED priorities. This successful meeting raised the awareness on the BLUEMED vision and in connecting projects at different stages of implementation. A tangible outcome from the event was the realisation of a gap in facilitating the connections of relevant projects and initiatives of the whole Mediterranean region to enable the uptake of open results and sharing best practises.

The 2nd Coordinators Meeting – Sustaining the Lessons Learned and Enhancing the Bluemed Initiative Synergies was organised by MCST on the 25th of January 2019. The date and venue were selected to give the opportunity for collaborations with the BLUE INVEST in the Mediterranean 2019 event².

The meeting aimed to bring together coordinators of projects working on Mediterranean/BLUEMED-related projects to share current work, best practices and transfer technical information on the implementation of Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

The following is a report presenting the main points discussed during the meeting.

¹ <http://www.bluedmed-initiative.eu/the-bluedmed-initiative/>

² <https://blue-invest-mediterranean.b2match.io/home>

The 2nd Coordinators' Meeting entitled, *"Sustaining the lessons learned and enhancing the BLUEMED Initiative synergies"* was mainly aimed at building on lessons learnt within the blue growth community in the Mediterranean and revolved around key actions and achievements of projects funded in these areas.

Building on the successful delivery of previous events, logistical considerations and active participation of the project coordinators'/stakeholders it was decided that the event should unfold in a discussion setting. The intention being to focus on the priorities of the initiative to foster the Mediterranean region into a hotspot of innovation. The discussion format will engage and enable all stakeholders in attendance to share experiences both during the sessions and the networking opportunities.

Moreover, to instigate the participants' efforts in seeking further research and innovation developments in the near future the meeting would kick off by a showcase of the forthcoming opportunities in 'Horizon Europe'. This showcase of the next framework programme would express the vision of strengthening Europe that protects, empowers and defends.

For the continuation of the efforts to counter the plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea a presentation on the BLUEMED Pilot Action – For a Plastic Free, Healthy Mediterranean Sea would be delivered. This session intends to inform the participants on the pilot action to restore the marine resources by removing, recycling and preventing plastics from entering the sea. This presentation would transition into a discussion on litter and plastics.

To give insight of the work being done in blue skills and job creation a session on Blue Labs and Blue Careers Projects outcomes would be presented, in collaboration with EC DG MARE. The programme will conclude in a discussion on challenges and opportunities faced by projects with a scope to define the gaps encountered, solutions and uptake of opportunities during the projects.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was moderated by Dr Anthony Galea.

Dr Galea opened the event by welcoming all the participants and introducing the speakers. Dr Galea outlined the BLUEMED project as a Horizon initiative promoting blue jobs and sustainability in the Mediterranean region. He also spoke about the 1st Coordinators' Meeting held last year, which brought together 18 leading projects in the area.

Dr Galea mentioned that the goal of this 2nd Coordinator's meeting is also to bring project coordinators closer and exchange best practices. He went on to state that the

BLUEMED project is not just a platform to instigate discussions, but aims to define solutions for gaps being encountered in projects.

He concluded by describing the current situation regarding the protection of our oceans and introduced the first speaker of the meeting Marta Iglesias, Senior Policy Officer at European Commission, DG RTD.

SESSIONS

Opportunities in Horizon Europe

Ms Marta Iglesias, Senior Policy Officer at the European Commission DG RTD, started by expressing satisfaction with the work currently being carried out by the BLUEMED project and how this is successful in connecting partners within the Mediterranean region.

Ms Iglesias presented the European Commission (EC) proposal on Horizon Europe (HE), which is targeting the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs), as well as growth of the European Union (EU). She explained that the EU has been successful in science, research and innovation (R&I), however compared to other advanced countries it is still lagging behind. In this regard the next Framework Programme will focus on converting knowledge into innovation. The aim is to stimulate private investments and create market-creating innovation. Ms Iglesias explained the scope of the Missions and the idea behind them. She mentioned that within HE, there is a new level of ambition and renewed R&I agenda with a focus on evolution and not revolution with three simple pillars.

The idea is to stimulate private investments and create market-creating innovation. Furthermore, the CION would like to invest in skills and empowerment, as well as supporting the dissemination in innovation. As the work on HE is still under development, she invited the participants to contribute to develop a strategic vision of Horizon Europe for 2021-2027 as it pertains to stakeholders with the ocean economy and conservation.

The BLUEMED Pilot Action on Healthy Plastic Free Mediterranean Sea

The Moderator introduced this Pilot Action by speaking about the deteriorating health of the oceans and added that, *"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it"*. The oceans, seemingly limitless, cover 70% of our planet's surface and yet they are still the least explored. By studying the oceans we have unearthed an uncomfortable fact: *"the health of our oceans is under threat, changing at a faster rate than ever before in human history."*

The health of our Mediterranean Sea is crucial for the future, our wellbeing and prosperity. Plastic pollution has increased dramatically in the last 50 years and it has become a major threat to the health of the Mediterranean Sea that must be tackled urgently.

Following the mapping, developments and discussion on best practices of the Mediterranean countries initiatives in reducing plastic in the sea, Marta Iglesias explained that at the meeting held last October in Barcelona the members of the BLUEMED Initiative Senior Officials Working Group (GSO) have agreed to launch a pilot “For a Plastic-free, Healthy Mediterranean Sea”. This was based on a proposal from Italy and France.

The pilot will help to mobilise key actors to tackle plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Updated Bioeconomy Strategy (Action 1.6) and the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy.

It is very well documented that marine litter is a complex problem with very diverse and multiple sources. Tackling marine litter to create a plastic-free and therefore healthy Mediterranean Sea, requires multiple solutions at local, national and regional level and must involve a range of different sectors, disciplines and actors. It is projected that with this pilot restoring marine resources by recycling, removing and preventing plastics in the seas will be attainable.

Panel discussion - “Building on the knowledge we have and recognizing the knowledge gaps we need to bridge to attain a healthy Mediterranean Sea free of litter and plastics”

Participants:

- H2020/FP7 - Marta IGLESIAS
- JPI Oceans - Corinne MUSCAT TERRIBILE
- UfN secretariat - Miguel GARCÍA-HERRAIZ
- ETC-UMA - Sonsoles SAN ROMÁN
- INTERREG MED - Maria Cristina FOSSI*

** Via Skype call*

To initiate the discussion, the moderator elaborated on his research activities at the University of Malta where he studies the movement of the seas around the Maltese islands. He mentioned that various EU projects contribute to the monitoring of floating material and beached debris such as plastics. A real example was presented - the plastic straw. The journey of a thrown away plastic straw, be it in the bin, on the floor or at the beach, doesn't end there. Because this plastic straw will surf the waves and travel the oceans. In addition, he mentioned that last year, on the 8th of June, World Ocean Day was celebrated. The main focus was precisely to prevent ocean plastic pollution and encourage solutions for a healthy ocean. The ocean provides us with food, transport, leisure and a balance to our climate but it is under a constant threat due to the plastic littering. Plastic is killing marine life and its environment.

The following section captures the discussion that took place in this session to bridge the gaps in research and to counteract plastic littering.

Ms Maria Christina Fossi started by thanking the organisers for the opportunity and stated that she is sorry for not being physically present for the event. Ms Fossi presented her project, **Plastic Busters**, funded under the INTERREG-MED programme and coordinated by the University of Siena. The aim of the project is mainly to reduce marine litter, especially the most affected areas, one of which is the Mediterranean Sea. The research done is to understand the impact on marine diversity, especially on turtles and tuna. There is a lot of knowledge gaps in this research and so we need to focus on what are the effects on biodiversity, marine areas and human health due to plastic littering. With the Plastic Buster project, the gaps will be reduced not only on a European scale but on a global scale. The first economical support came from INTERREG and received 5.5 million Euros for 48 months and the focus was on Mediterranean countries. The objectives were to diagnose the marine litter impacts on biodiversity in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The project has 15 consortium members. The most important activities include the study phase on preventing, reducing and removing marine litter, which will lead to the testing and implementation diagnostics to understand these effects. The main aim of the project is to put together the field data and make up a risk assessment. The methodology will be then applied and capitalised and transfer this knowledge and methodology to the southern Mediterranean countries.

Ms Marta Iglesias mentioned that in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), some projects on marine litter have been finalised and the results are now available. These projects include **CLEANSEA**, **NANOplast**, **MARIlisco** and **Bioclean**, and the results are available on CORDIS database.

In the current Framework Programme – Horizon 2020, there are 23 related projects – as listed in table 1. Ms Iglesias brought several catalogues so that the participants can understand the work being carried out in each project and avoid replications.

Table 1 – Marine litter related projects			
CLAIM	GoJelly	UTOFIA	Respon-Sea-ble
POSEIDOMM	FreshwaterMPs	TOPIOS	CM
Sea Litter Critters	Upcyclingtheocens	Ecolacfilm	waste to resource
Plasticcile	Police	P4sb	Fresh
Afterlife	Wasteshark	Sailclean	Eurormix
Newpack	Nano3Bio (FP7)	Splash (FP7)	

Ms Corinne Muscat Terribile, the Maltese representative for JPI ocean, mentioned that there are 10 strategic areas in JPI, in 2015 there was a big knowledge gap on micro projects, and a call was introduced to address this issue. The results of these projects are now available. **Baseman** is a German coordinated project and has created standards. **Weathermic** is another German project which focuses on weathered microplastics. This was done to address and understand their traits, which till now were still unknown. The hazards associated with weathered microplastics are still not yet known clearly.

Plastox project was coordinated by Norway and has 4 main research activities which are related to direct and indirect ecotoxicological impacts of micro-plastics, pops metals and plastic additives in the marine environment.

Ephemare was project coordinated by Spain, again on ecotoxicological effect research, micro-plastics on a particular size can be easily ingested but can also be easily ingested, and transferred from prey the predators.

The results brought about a greater understanding of micro-plastics, however there are still gaps that need to be addressed regarding nano-plastics. In this regard, JPI Oceans is working on addressing this gap.

Ms Sonsoles San Román spoke about ETC-UMA and the PANACeA initiative which brings together 11 projects active in marine litter and in making sure there is more focus on the issue from researchers. More than 20 countries around the Mediterranean area participate in this platform. The objective is to transfer knowledge to the areas under risk and enforce laws if necessary. The Mediterranean is a basin of biodiversity hotspots – 15 biological areas in need of protection. In this regard, Ms San Román underlined the need for countries to cooperate together to protect these areas which are constantly under threat especially from marine littering including micro-plastics which effect on living species still requires further research.

PANACeA has been running for two years. Plastic Busters project, introduced earlier, feeds in data to this platform. Ms San Román highlighted the key recommendations from PANACeA – the need for cooperation; need to fill gaps and the need for a platform to share data amongst stakeholders. It is also important to promote private sector cooperation especially for innovation in research activities such as utilising satellite imagery, drone and other technologies necessary for data collection. The joint action plan for 2019 is about protected area management, sustainable use of natural resources and integrated ecosystem monitoring.

Mr Miguel García-Herraiz speaks on behalf of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). He stressed the need for innovation and private sector participation in dealing with the marine environment, and highlighted the importance for all countries across the Mediterranean to collaborate together. Mr García-Herraiz also stressed the importance and the need in taking ownership of marine environmental threats and the

importance of cooperating on such issues. UfM is involved in a number of projects including Plastic Busters and is also associated with PANACeA. Mr García-Herraiz mentioned that BLUEMED has evolved and political support is also obtained. An H2030 focused on the circular economy is envisaged and the EU is also taking initiative with single-use plastic directives however it is also very important to have policy initiatives that make researches work together, and we need a common goal to bring different capabilities together.

Comments and questions from the floor

- Ms Iglesias was asked about the number of Southern Mediterranean countries participating in H2020. Ms Iglesias informed that a list of south Mediterranean countries which are participating in the projects will be sent by email to the participant of the meeting.
- Ms Iglesias was asked about private companies and their involvement. Ms Iglesias highlighted the need for private companies' involvement – both big and small companies are important. Nestle was mentioned as an example of a large company which is doing its part to reduce plastics. Ms Iglesias added that such big companies need to be used as an example for other companies to follow.
- A participant asked Mr García-Herraiz whether the focus should be solely on plastics or whether other pollutants were equally important. Mr García-Herraiz replied that the current hype is on plastics but other litters should also be considered as important. To this, the Moderator added that the main issue is that plastic is less biodegradable and hence the risk is bigger. It is very unfortunate that the amount of plastic is outnumbering the number of fish.
- A question on the involvement of south Mediterranean countries was put forward. The participant added whether these countries may be more focused on economic development rather than environmental issues. Mr García-Herraiz replied that all the Mediterranean countries follow baseline targets for plastic pollution as requested by the Barcelona convention. However continuous dialogue is still necessary. To this Ms Iglesias added that the goal of BLUEMED is to create jobs in the Mediterranean and every country is contributing to this project as they can.

Key outcomes of the Blue Labs and Blue Careers Projects, Christos THEOPHILOU, EC DG MARE

Mr Theophilou gave a brief introduction to the work his Unit and their involvement in policy. He mentioned that a call was issued in 2016, through which 7 projects related to blue careers have been funded. One of this projects, focusing on the building of super yachts, ProCrew is being led by MCAST. Mr Theophilou mentioned that the Unit is also focussing on promoting innovation and SMEs and he highlighted a number of other projects.

BlueSmile project is about aquaculture and offers courses at masters level. **BlueLabs** is pushing forward innovation such as **Litter Drone** which pinpoints marine litter from air and **Spilles** which uses robotics to identify oil slicks and spills.

Mr Theophilou also mentioned the BlueInvest Conference which was held a day before this meeting on 24th January in Malta. The aim of this event was to bring forward innovative proposals and brought together 20 project pitches. Each project was given 3 minutes to present their innovative project idea. Around 300 participants attended the event and Commissioner Karmenu Vella and MEP Miriam Dalli were also present. The event also included the participation of financial services such as Work Bank and Bank of Valletta, stressing the need for private sources of finance to complement EU funding. Mr Theophilou concluded that both BLUEMED and BlueInvest show the need for more to be done in this area. Investors can provide the funds which cannot be provided by the Commission and such links need to be further investigated.

Panel Discussion – “Taking stock of the challenges and opportunities of the Mediterranean Sea – Scoping the Impact of BLUEMED Initiative”

Participants:

- George TRINTAFYLLOU, HCMR – CLAIM project
- Ann ROTTER, GEOMAR – GoJelly project
- Carmela MARANGI, CNR – ECOPOTENTIAL project
- Cristina GAMBI, Polytechnic University of Marche – MERCES project
- Thanos SMANIS, Pescares Italia Ltd – WestMed As. Mechanism project; Facility IMP/BE project

Mr George Trintafyllou presented the project CLAIM which focuses on cleaning litter by development and innovative methods applications in European Seas. The project is funded under the Horizon 2020 Programme and uses innovation to reduce the amount and impact of plastic pollution. Mr Trintafyllou highlighted that plastics are a major problem for biodiversity as some plastics may take up to 1000 years to decompose. Most of the pollution – around 20 million tons of plastic, is coming from industry every year.

15 countries are participating in this project which will end in 2021. The project is also aiming to advance our knowledge on the current status of marine pollutants and introduce innovative technologies on how to reduce plastic and its effect. CLAIM has developed and tested five key technological innovations aimed at developing cleaning methods and prevent litter from entering the sea: pre-filtering system; photocatalytics nanocoating; small scale thermal treatment device; innovative floating boom; ferrybox microplastics filtering system. The data and information collected by the project plays an important role in the development of the modelling tools. One of these tools being developed is for visible litter using space data.

Ms Ann Rotter presented the project GoJelly, a Horizon 2020 funded project which uses jellyfish as a source of innovative solutions to combat marine litter. Ms Rotter explained the initial concept of the project which developed from the jellyfish ecologists community. The project which includes 16 partners, specifically addresses the problem of pollution using biological methods (jellyfish) rather than chemical solutions. Ms Rotter explained how the mucus of the jellyfish can be used capture micro-plastics. Jellyfish can be used to produce food, creams and cosmetics as well as as fertilizers for agriculture or aquaculture feeds.

Ms Rotter added that the project will also develop an app to forecast the location and travel of jellyfish. The project will develop new methodologies and tools, generate new products and services, develop optimal fishing strategies, technologies and practices, strengthen synergies among science, industry, policy makers and society. Ms Rotter explained how the consortia is very committed to this project and to achieving its aims. She also mentioned the importance of project consortia to include small countries like Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia as communication activities have greater impact in these countries.

Ms Rotter ended by mentioning the dissemination activities foreseen for the project which not only include the social media but also scientific events and yearly open labs events and workshops.

Ms Carmela Marangi presented ECOPOTENTIAL project which has also received funding from Horizon 2020. The project's goal is to make the best use of earth observation to understand the state and changes of ecosystems and ecosystem service management. As a basic structure, the project starts with observation, followed by analyses and communication. A key achievement of the project was the development of an earth observation toolbox for marine ecosystem, marine coastal and transitional water monitoring using Copernicus data. The project also performed sea surface analysis and developed earth observation data for ecosystem monitoring. ECOPOTENTIAL has also developed a virtual lab platform in order to link resources, using open data and open science. The project is also active in policy and tries to contribute as much as possible in order to improve and strengthen various related policies. The importance of data was also stressed. Meta data and standardized data are crucial for the improvement of marine environment and systems for data preservation are necessary.

Ms Cristina Gambi gave an overview of the project MERCES funded under the Horizon 2020 programme. The project is dedicated to the restoration of degraded marine ecosystems. It assesses the outcomes of the different solutions for marine restoration across habitats from shallow soft and hard bottom to deep sea. The project aims at developing new restoration and rehabilitation actions and provide tools and guidelines

for the integration of restoration actions and contribute to important EU strategies. The project also aims to develop measures to increase the resilience to climate change and to provide new employment opportunities.

28 partners from EU and Extra-EU countries are involved in this project. MERCES has prepared an inventory of degraded habitats in European seas and aims at restoring such ecosystems. The pilot studies include the Western and Eastern Mediterranean basin but are also spread around different European Seas. Ms Gambi also mentioned that policy and legal analysis, socio-economic impact analysis, transfer of scientific knowledge to Business, dissemination and communication activities for experts and general public are also important tasks in the project.

Mr Thanos Smanis member of the core team of the Assistance Mechanism for WESTMED spoke for the WestMed Initiative as an important instrument that supports cooperation between Western Mediterranean Countries through pro-active cooperation. The assistance mechanism for WestMED will operate in the institutional and socio-economic context of the Western Mediterranean, with the overall objective of supporting the effective implementation of the Framework Action Plan, as well as the work carried out by the Steering Committee of the WestMED Initiative.

It will therefore support public and private organizations and their members, research institutions and universities, institutional and private investors, as well as promoters and other stakeholders wishing to be involved in the development of strategic initiatives in the Western Mediterranean Basin.

It will do so by ensuring proactive cooperation between the European Commission and the Steering Committee, as well as the Member States and partner countries concerned, the UfM Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders.

To do this and to maximize impact, the assistance mechanism will have to meet a series of specific objectives, which are, by definition, multidisciplinary and should be addressed in an integrated way:

- Provide clear direction and proactive project development support to local stakeholders;
- Implement an effective and comprehensive communication strategy for the WestMED initiative;
- Improve the scope of the Master Action Plan and its roadmap through effective engagement activities;
- Ensure rigorous monitoring of funding/financing opportunities to support project ideas and development such Horizon 2020, Joint Programme Initiatives and Interreg;
- Improve the governance structure by providing operational, logistical and administrative support to the initiative's steering committee and to technical groups that may be established within the steering committee;

Finally, National hubs have been assigned for each country in order to support local stakeholders and local authorities and execute the relevant Roadmaps. The project involves 29 members but has recently started so no concrete results are yet available.

FACILITY IMP/BE is more policy-oriented projects funded through the European Neighbourhood Initiative (ENI) and involved southern countries. The project aims at

promoting Integrated Maritime Policy and Blue Economy (BE) in the Med Sea Basin through establishing national BE focal points and providing technical assistance to develop national marine strategies. Due to lack of funds for continuation, the project will end in April 2019 after 3,5 years. A number of workshops, events and Technical Assistance for each country have been organized and provided through the project.

Wrap-up

The BLUEMED project manager, Ms Margherita Cappelletto, thanked all the speakers and Malta BLUEMED team for the organization and hosting of the event. She concluded that the BLUEMED project is showing concrete synergies between programmes especially with regards to the plastics initiative as it has brought together a good representation of projects that deal with plastics.

Ms Cappelletto reminded the project representatives about the questionnaire that has been sent out prior to the event and encouraged all representatives to participate in this as the outcome will feed into the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). She stressed the relevance and importance of participation and with focusing on achieving concrete goals.

Conclusions

The key take home message from the event was the “relevance and significance of dissemination of outcomes” for projects to better showcase the achievements and engage with the wider community. Currently the engagement with policy makers, research community and citizens is done in an ad-hoc manner. Although this has been somewhat successful for projects, it is evident that there is a discrepancy in engagement between the ongoing projects.

There is a gap in regional engagement with communities and citizens living on the shores of the Mediterranean. The participating projects highlighted how their investments and resources allocation to address this gap have been positive and serve as a key milestone to measure the penetration rate of outreach activities. Promoting international cooperation along and across the Mediterranean Sea needs to be maintained, strengthened and sustainable in contributing to the implementation of the BLUEMED Initiative, within the context of the EU R&I framework programme.

A novel idea to bridge the regional gap of project to engage with citizens, industry, policy makers and the holistic environment is to have a biennial roadshow event. Where at such events projects are supported to participate, given the opportunity to present and have space for publications, developing an understanding of other/neighbouring countries’ issues, knowledge transfer activities and other measurable feats for promoting international cooperation along and across the Mediterranean Sea. This will in turn enable gathering of data or testing new



technologies, present new/improved products or services (enabling access to international network/market), and improved competences and skills, were the outputs will provide new information and/or tools for use in education and accelerate advances in complementary scientific or technology areas.

It is hoped that such a roadshow will bring direct and indirect societal related impacts. Some expected direct impacts are of an economic nature include additional research and commercial income, better access to external investment, reduced operational costs, and increased European/global market share for the entire Mediterranean region. Whereas indirect impacts are expected broadly in creation of both research and non-research jobs, in addition environmental indirect impacts are also foreseen due to citizen awareness and civil society actions with subsequent benefits in improved public health, safety, quality of life, restoration of biodiversity and improved environmental performance.

This idea is expected to be the perfect forum where salient issues are voiced at a regional level and reinforces the implementation of the BLUMED initiative. Synergies with other initiative and clusters will structure Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in marine and maritime sectors to encompass a broad range of objectives comprising the creation of new, blue jobs and social well-being.

Consequently, this will accelerate the transition and uptake of the recommendations of the BLUEMED initiative as a means to promote a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea while also being mindful of sustainable development and the preservation of the environment in the Mediterranean area.

1. Documentation

1. AGENDA



BLUEMED 2nd Project Coordinators' Meeting:
*Sustaining the lessons learned and enhancing
the Bluemed Initiative synergies*

Friday 25th January 2019

*Planetarium - Villa Bighi,
Kalkara, Malta*

Draft Agenda

Building on the lessons learned within the blue growth community in the Mediterranean in order to foster its transformation into a hotspot of innovation.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 727453





Moderator: Dr Anthony GALEA

09:00: Registration - Welcome Coffee

09:30: Opportunities in Horizon Europe, *Marta IGLESIAS, EC - DG RTD*

09:45: The BLUEMED Pilot Action on Healthy Plastic Free Mediterranean Sea, *Marta IGLESIAS, EC - DG RTD*

10:00: Panel discussion- "Building on the knowledge we have and recognizing the knowledge gaps we need to bridge to attain a healthy Mediterranean Sea free of litter and plastics"

Representing	Speaker Name
H2020/FP7	Marta IGLESIAS
JPI Oceans	Corinne MUSCAT TERRIBILE
UfM secretariat	Miguel GARCIA-HERRAIZ
ETC-UMA	Sonsoles SAN ROMAN
INTERREG MED	Maria Cristina FOSSI*

*Online participation

10:45: Coffee break

11:00: Key outcomes of Blue Labs and Blue Careers Projects, *Christos THEOPHILOU, EC - DG MARE*

11:30: Panel discussion - "Taking stock of the challenges and opportunities of the Mediterranean Sea - Scoping the Impact of the BLUEMED Initiative"

Project	Coordinator	Speaker Name
CLAIM	HCMR	George TRIANTAFYLLOU
GoJelly	GEOMAR	Ann ROTTER
ECOPOTENTIAL	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	Carmela MARANGI
MERCEs	Polytechnic University of Marche	Cristina GAMBI
WestMed As. Mechanism	Pescare Italia srl	Thanos SMANIS
Facility IMP/BE	Pescare Italia srl	Thanos SMANIS

12:30: Wrap-up and Conclusions

12:45: Networking Lunch & Poster Session(pull-ups only)

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30th November 2018

Subject: Invitation to BLUEMED CSA 2nd Projects Coordinators' Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the BLUEMED CSA, we are pleased to invite you to the 2nd Project Coordinators' Meeting organised within the framework of the BLUEMED CSA project: *Sustaining the lessons learned and enhancing the BLUEMED Initiative synergies*. This event will take place at Villa Bighi Kalkara, Malta, on the 25th January 2018.

The meeting will commence at 09:30hrs and is expected to end by 15:30hrs. The day will revolve around Calls in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme as well as DG-MARE Calls for a "Sustainable Blue Economy" with a Mediterranean dimension. These Calls have financially supported projects that are closely linked to the BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). This has resulted in over 30 research teams working towards a healthy, productive, secure and resilient Mediterranean Sea with the aim of creating blue jobs and growth.

In order to capitalize on the key actions and achievements of these projects, the BLUEMED CSA is organizing this event, with a view to tapping the lessons learned within the blue growth community in the Mediterranean so as to foster the transformation of the basin into a hotspot of innovation.

Moreover, we would also like to highlight the possibility to participate in the [Blue Invest in the Mediterranean 2019](#) event taking place the day before at the Westin Dragonara Resort in Malta. This is a match-making event that brings together innovators and the financial community to sustainably develop the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean Sea, while protecting its marine resources.

Attached you will find the draft agenda. In order to register kindly send an email to bluemed.mcst@gov.mt. Please keep bluemed@cnr.it in cc in all correspondence.

We look forward to welcoming you in Malta.

Yours sincerely,

MCST BLUEMED Team

Supported by the BLUEMED CSA (GA 727453) funded by the European Commission - DG Research and Innovation.

<http://www.bluemed-initiative.eu/>



BLUEMED CSA Announces 2nd Coordinators' Meeting: Sustaining the Lessons Learned and Enhancing the Bluemed Initiative Synergies, 25th January 2019, Malta

BLUEMED 2nd Coordinators' Meeting – "Sustaining the lessons learned and enhancing the Bluemed initiative synergies" – will take place in Malta on 25 January 2019. The single day event will revolve around key actions and achievements of funded projects, with a view to tapping the lessons learned within the blue growth community in the Mediterranean, in order to foster the transformation of the Mediterranean basin into a hotspot of innovation.

Location: Malta

Date: 25th January 2019

For the conference agenda, please see [this document](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

BLUEMED 2ND PROJECT COORDINATORS' MEETING

- 25th January 2019 •
- Kalkara, Malta •
- Villa Bighi •

The event titled *"Sustaining the lessons learned and enhancing the BLUEMED Initiative synergies"* will take place in Malta on 25 January 2019. This full day meeting will revolve around key actions and achievements of EU funded projects. The aim is to build on the lessons learned within the blue growth community in the Mediterranean in order to foster its transformation into a hotspot of innovation.

More details to follow soon.

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blueMed

5. List of Participants

	Surname	Name	Entity
1	BATAILLE	Amelie	CNRS
2	BONGAILAS	Jason	MMA
3	BUGEJA	George	MCST
4	CAPPELLETTO	Margherita	CNR
5	CLOCCHIATTI	Alessia	EC
6	DRAGO	ALDO	UoM
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8	FOSSI	Maria Christina	UNISI
9	FRIGERIO	Steven Andrea	MCST
10	GALEA	Anthony	UoM
11	GAMBI	Cristina	UnivPM
12	GARCÍA-HERRAIZ	Miguel	UFM
13	GAUCI	ADAM	UoM
14	GAUCI	Gilbert	ERA
15	IGLESIAS	Marta	EC
16	LOPEZ	Francisco	UPCT
17	MANZARI	Leonardo	IBG Srl
18	MARANGI	Carmela	CNR
19	MEILAK	Mark	MCST
20	MIFSUD	Roselyn	MCST
21	MUSCAT TERRIBILE	Corinne	MCST
22	PROVENZANO	Giuseppe	UFM
23	ROTTER	Ann	NIB
24	SAMMUT	Daniella	ERA
25	SAN ROMÁN	Sonsoles	ETC-UMA
26	SMANIS	Thanos	Pescares Italia
27	STRATI	Federica	UoM
28	SULTANA	Elena	MCST
29	THEOPHILOU	Christos	EC
30	TRANTAFYLLOU	George	HCMR
31	VASILEVA	Lili	MCST
32	VASSILIKI VASSILOPOULOU	Celia	HCMR
33	VELLA	Ingrid	UoM
34	VELLA	Stephanie	E-Cubed
35	Massagalwca	Alexia	AquaBioTech
36	Carbajosa	Jesus	UoM
37	Zammit	Alison	MCAST
38	Kastanidi	Erasmia	HCMR
39	San Roman	Reyes	Indipendent
40	Ivanovic	Zona	MCST
41	Sultana	Elena	MCST
42	Grech	Jacqueline	MCST



2. Other

1. [Presentations](#)

The presentations are found online on the project website; you may access and view them by click [here](#).

2. [Photographs](#)

The photographs are found online on the project website; you may access and view them by click [here](#).