



**WestMED Communication
process and goals**

European Commission - DG MARE



The process

- *The idea first came about in 2015, within the UfM Ministerial Conference on Blue economy and was taken forward in 2016 by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.*
- *DG MARE and DG NEAR have worked closely with national governments, the UfM Secretariat, regional organisations and listened to hundreds of stakeholders to identify what was missing - the gaps that still need to address despite the existing initiatives and funding instruments.*
- *Framework for Actions summarizes the contribution (projects and ideas) from participating countries (Algeria gave an important contribution) received early this year and discussed during the WestMED stakeholders conference held in Barcelona on 2 February*
- *Communication have been adopted last 19 April and circulated to all participating countries*



The Initiative

10 countries
Algeria, France, Italy,
Libya, Malta, Mauritania,
Morocco, Portugal,
Spain and Tunisia

3
common
goals

Goal 1
A safer and
more secure
maritime space

Goal 2
A smart
and resilient
blue economy

Goal 3
Better governance of the
sea

Goal 1

A safer and more secure maritime space

1.1 Cooperation between Coast Guards

- Increase cooperation between coastguards (networks among training centres, joint training and staff exchanges, Med Coast Guard Function Forum).
- Support capacity building (on illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, vessel traffic service, maritime search and rescue, fight against smuggling of migrants and other illicit trafficking at sea)

1.2 Maritime Safety and response to Marine Pollution

- Encourage data sharing on maritime traffic
- Enhance capacity (planning, preparedness and tools) to respond to and counter marine pollution from accidents.



Goal 2 A smart and resilient blue economy

2.1 Strategic research and innovation

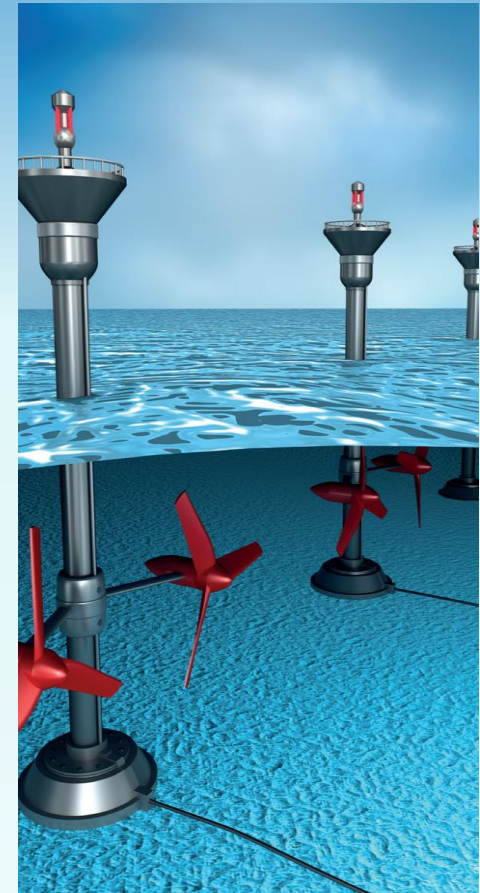
- Promote bio-based innovative industries and services, including food ingredients, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, chemicals, materials and energy.

Develop inter alia

- tailor-made solutions and new technologies to harness marine renewable energies and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- capacity building for knowledge and technology transfer.

2.2 Maritime cluster development

- Support the development of medium, small and micro enterprises in the blue economy
- Foster an effective network of maritime clusters across the region.



Goal 2 A smart and resilient blue economy

2.3 Skills development and circulation

- Foster the development of innovative maritime skills
- Promote networking and exchanges between maritime, port and logistics institutes and academies.
- Raise awareness of maritime professions and their appeal to young people.
- Harmonise existing skills and functions for managing migration issues across the region and promote more effective circular migration.

2.4 Sustainable consumption and production

- Implement sustainable consumption and production models and practices;
- Promote green shipping and port infrastructure for alternative fuels;
- Develop common technical standards for sustainable marine aquaculture across countries, diversify the sector and build capacity.



Goal 3 Better governance of the sea

3.1 Spatial planning and coastal management

- Improve the management of maritime and coastal areas and ensure an appropriate and coordinated implementation of the ICZM protocol.
- Develop tools to select appropriate sites for offshore installations and to fulfil the energy and environmental requirements of the region.

3.2 Marine and maritime knowledge

- Promote data collection through the existing instruments, databases and projects and expand their geographical and thematic scope across the region.
- Maintain and update information on erosion phenomena and coastal risks; harmonise and expand the coastline monitoring systems at sub-basin scale, and develop common tools to assess the impacts of human activities.
- Build capacity on maritime affairs.



Goal 3 Better governance of the sea

3.3 Biodiversity and marine habitat conservation

- Help to establish and manage marine protected areas, reduce marine litter, manage ballast water and monitor acoustic pollution.
- Reinforce the local ability to identify invasive alien species and routes of invasion and the structure and functioning of marine ecosystems.

3.4 Sustainable fisheries and coastal community development

- Foster the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries and coastal communities by increasing the region's ability to manage fish stocks through multiannual fisheries plans, technical measures, area closures and other specific conservation measures.
- Disseminate best practices for the marketing of fisheries products, increase their added value and diversify economic activities in coastal communities (also through bottom-up approaches such as the Community-Led Local Development).



Next steps



- 5th WestMED workshop to further discuss on governance and how to achieve the political endorsement by the 10 countries on 4 July 2017 (scheduled back-to-back to the UfM Blue Economy Working Group) letters to be sent in the following days



Thank you

