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 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

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

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

Supported by the BLUEMED Coordination and Support Action, a project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement No 727453.

The BlueMed Initiative for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean area.

_www.bluemed-initiative.eu_
We acknowledge the importance of developing and promoting a shared vision of the Mediterranean Sea as a common resource, so as to promote security and prosperity of present and future generations, and to promote a shared vision of the Mediterranean Sea as a biodiversity hotspot, doubling during the tourist season, and healthy life.

Valletta Declaration on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation

Valletta, Malta, 4 May 2017

WHY

28% of endemic species, a biodiversity hotspot

30% of global sea-borne trade by volume

450 ports and terminals

25% of worldwide sea-borne oil traffic

WORLD’S SECOND largest market for cruise ships

150 mln people living on coasts, doubling during the tourist season

400 UNESCO sites

236 Marine Protected Areas

CULTURE OF FOOD and environmental healthy life
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.

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The geopolitical 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 facilitate cooperation between people;
- engage 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
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"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, and grounding a shared vision of the Mediterranean Sea and acknowledging the importance of developing blue._

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

WHAT

blueMed

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