



European Union



Union pour la Méditerranée
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الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



The Hashemite
Kingdom of
Jordan

Financing innovation ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy: Local actors, opportunities, and challenges

UfM Webinar

30 January, 2023

10:30-12:30 CET

Innovation ecosystems are essential drivers for transformative change in coastal and maritime regions. They encompass innovative start-ups and SMEs, as well as researchers and policymaking agencies/bodies, but an essential role in terms of fostering innovation at local level is increasingly played by so called ‘enablers’ – organisations that offer support in terms of networking, access to financing and resources, opportunities for internationalization, etc.

To foster innovative ecosystems for the sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean, a number of innovative financing actions and support initiatives are available through the EU and other international investors. However, when it comes to maximising access to sustainable finance, innovation, and related opportunities, Southern Mediterranean Countries may require greater support, including capacity building and awareness raising.

Local financing initiatives often exist but are not necessarily linked to or aware of the potential of the sustainable blue economy for local development and of the need for dedicated support. It is essential to foster greater awareness on the opportunities offered by such ecosystems – at local level, and in support of innovative and sustainable blue economy value-chains across the Mediterranean.

This UfM webinar aims at shedding a light on the different actors, their experiences, and specific roles that contribute to supporting the development of innovation ecosystems in and for the sustainable blue economy across various Mediterranean countries:

- ‘Enablers’ including maritime clusters, accelerators, incubators, etc.
- ‘Financing operators’ including local development banks, SMEs support, etc.
- ‘International supporters’ including investors engaged in impact ‘blue’ financing.

The webinar also aims to raise awareness on the existence of such actors and on relevant related opportunities (i.e. in terms of replication potential at Med level).

10:30 - 10:45	<p>Welcome & Setting the stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM Jordan Co-Presidency: Mr Mohammad Al-Sakran, Executive Director – Aqaba Development Corporation • UfM EU Co-Presidency: Ms Yasmin Schinasi – Policy Officer, DG MARE • UfM Secretariat: Mr Almotaz Abadi – Deputy Secretary General <p><i>Moderation: Ms Adriana Salazar – Blue Economy Expert, UfM Secretariat</i></p>
10:45 - 11:00	<p>(Setting the stage – Cont.)</p> <p>The role of blue finance in supporting innovation in the Mediterranean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBRD: Ms Julia Manning – Associate Director & Senior Environmental Adviser <p><i>Moderation: Ms Adriana Salazar – Blue Economy Expert, UfM Secretariat</i></p>
11:00 - 12:00	<p>Overview by local actors: Opportunities and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing new business models based on regenerative technology The case of Ocean Ecostructures – Mr Ignasi Ferrer, Founder & CEO, Seastainable Ventures • Incubating and accelerating the Sustainable Blue Economy in Algeria Leancubator – Mr Ziad Nesrine, Associate & Manager • Transforming water mobility in Egypt Seavo – Mr Aly Mohamed, Founder & CEO • World Bank support for the Blue Economy in Morocco Ministry in charge of fisheries – Ms Fatimazahra Hassouni, Head of Division (Sustainability and fishery resources management) • Support to innovative biotechnology solutions in Turkey Beta ALG Biotechnology – Mr Murat Tellim, Founder • Incorporating the SDGs in investments in the Mediterranean AfricInvest – Ms Aicha Zachraoui, Head of Impact & Sustainability <p><i>Moderation: Mr Matteo Bocci – Senior Associate, Ecorys</i></p>
12:00 - 12:20	<p>Q&A and wrap-up by moderator</p> <p><i>Moderation: Mr Matteo Bocci – Senior Associate, Ecorys</i></p>
12:20 - 12:30	<p>Conclusions and way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM EU Co-Presidency: Ms Yasmin Schinasi – Policy Officer, DG MARE • UfM Secretariat: Ms Alessandra Sensi – Head of Sector; Environment, Green, and Blue Economy <p><i>Moderation: Ms Adriana Salazar – Blue Economy Expert, UfM Secretariat</i></p>