

Background information for the event: New Initiatives in Southern Europe and Mediterranean.

What are the new developments in the Mediterranean area? Maritime Strategies and Governance Platform.

Currently, new governance structures and coordinating platforms are arising to improve cooperation in the Mediterranean area. These are:

1. **West Med** Maritime Basin Strategy. Sustainable development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean.
2. **Panoramend**_Interreg MED governance pilot in axis 4.



West Med Maritime Basin Strategy. Sustainable development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean

Background

Maritime strategies are a tool foreseen by the Integrated Maritime Policy to better address cross-sectorial challenges and develop the blue economy in EU-shared sea basins. Already, few sea basins based strategies have been set up for the Atlantic, the Baltic Sea and the Adriatic-Ionian Seas. In the case of the Western Mediterranean, the initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy is based on the Union for the Mediterranean process and its Ministerial declaration, adopted on 17 November 2015,¹ which invites the UfM countries to explore the added value and feasibility of maritime appropriate strategies.

Geographical Scope (see country contact)

- EU countries: Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal.
- Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia.

Objective

There is no doubt the Western Mediterranean has a high potential for development based on tourism, trade & ports, fishing and a rich marine biodiversity. However, this region, regardless of its resources, also faces huge challenges which have to be tackled with a joint response, including the EU neighbouring countries. By fostering the coordination and cooperation among the 10 (5+5) countries, the West Med initiative aims to:

- Increase safety and security.

¹ <http://ufmsecretariat.org/55-dialogue-ministerial-meeting-highlights-the-key-role-of-the-ufm-to-promote-regional-cooperation-in-the-mediterranean/>

- Promote sustainable blue growth and jobs
- Preserve ecosystems and biodiversity.

In addition, joining forces not only will allow countries to coordinate actions and use tools more effectively but also it will allow them to maximise the use of funding and financial instruments, as well as the possibility of leveraging more private investments.

Goals and priorities

Following extensive consultations with the national authorities, the Initiative will focus on the following 5 common priority actions

1. Maritime Cluster Development
2. Biodiversity And Marine Habitat
3. Sustainable Consumption And Production
4. Sustainable Fisheries And Coastal Community Development
5. Skill Development And Circulation

Interact's role

Interact Office Valencia held a consultation to the related Maritime Strategy for the Western Mediterranean and on an action plan for its implementation, among those Interreg and ENI programmes concerned, last February 2017. Following the [consultation](#) Interact is acting as an **Observer member** to the process for Interreg programmes.

Political endorsement

Political endorsement under the Maltese Presidency of the European Council, the European Commission adopted the [Communication on this Initiative for the sustainable](#) development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean on 19 April 2017.

Subsequently, on 26 June 2017, [the Council Conclusions on Blue Growth](#) endorsed the contents of the Communication, to take forward the implementation of the Initiative in coherence, complementarity and coordination with all the other existing initiatives which are taking place in the region.

During next meeting at UfM Regional Stakeholder **Conference on Blue Economy, on the 29-30 November 2017**, in Naples (Italy), the Initiative for the sustainable development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean on a governance and management system will be endorsed by all the Ministers (Of Foreign Affairs and Maritime Affairs) of the participating countries.

More information on www.westmed-initiative.eu

- ['Framework for Action' document presenting the identified priorities, actions and projects:](#)
- [Towards an initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean GOALS and PRIORITIES](#)
- [WEST MED INITIATIVE & ITALY FRANCE MARITIME 2014-2020 – COMPLEMENTARITY & CONNECTIONS](#)

Please find here the contact details of the different countries and regions involved in WEST MED initiative

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Interreg MED governance Platform PANORAMED. Enhancing Mediterranean Governance

Background

Almost a year ago, **Panoramed** project was launched, an Interreg MED Governance platform ² for the Mediterranean with 18 M€ of investment. This project will adopt an evidence-based approach in order to contribute to the policy and decision-making processes at national and

² Interreg MED is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes that intervene on large transnational areas to support wider EU cohesion policy goals. The Programme involves 13 Mediterranean States: 10 EU members States – **Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Gibraltar (UK), Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain** - 2 candidate States – **Albania and Montenegro** - and 1 potential candidate State – **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and it has a total budget of indicatively 276 million € for supporting sustainable development of the North shore of the Mediterranean basin. INTERREG MED invest in 4 priorities: Innovation, Low Carbon, Environment and Governance.

transnational level on 2 identified sectors and cross-cutting issues. This will be achieved through the **Governance platform project** of national and regional authorities who will analyse the results produced by MED projects and by other Mediterranean programmes/initiatives/organisations, in order to provide a scientific base for strategic policies and initiatives in the Mediterranean area.

Geographical coverage

Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, Albania, Montenegro and, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Objectives

The main goal is to support the contribution of participating States and regions to the governance processes in Mediterranean. In particular, to:

1. Ensure the impact of MED project results
2. Find the complementarity with other Programmes.
3. Implement strategic projects
4. Reinforce national policy definition and strategic planning
5. Enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities

Thematic Priorities

Strategic themes	Partner Leader of Operation Work Packages
• Coastal & Maritime Tourism	Croatia and Toscana Region
• Maritime Surveillance	Secretariat de la Mer (France)
Cross Cutting themes	
• Liaising	Crete Region
• Mainstream	Provence, Alps et Cote d'Azur Region
• Migration	Molise Region

Other Work Packages

- Coordination and Communication: Ministry of Finance and Public Administration (Spain)
- Methodology and evaluation: Italian Agency for Territorial Cohesion. Emilia Romagna Region (Italy)

Interact's role

Interact Office Valencia as an **associated partner** to the whole process will be a key driver to explore **complementarities and synergies** as well as to define possible alignment of initiatives and, potentially, of funds. Currently Interact IO Valencia is providing information on the Migration topic to Molise Region and it will work in close cooperation with Crete in the Liaising Work Package.

Other associates: Interreg V-B Balkan-MED, Bluemed, CPMR, EUSAIR, Interreg Europe, UNEP MAP, Interreg V-B Adriatic-Ionian, DG MARE, DG REGIO and DG NEA

More information at <https://governance.interreg-med.eu/news-events/news/detail/actualites/main-objectives-of-the-governance-platform-panoramed-presented-during-the-kick-off-in-seville/>

Find here the contact details of the different countries/regions involved in Panoramed:

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