

# **UfM Declaration on the Blue Economy:**

state of play and planning of  
actions/deliverables and related reporting

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**UfM Working Group on the blue economy**

**1<sup>st</sup> meeting, on 17 May 2016 in Turku**



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The Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on the Blue Economy adopted on 17 November 2015, sets the political framework for our joint actions in the sea basin during next years.

Several activities have been launched in cooperation between the EU and Jordan Co-Presidency, the UfM Secretariat and UfM countries in the following areas:

- **Development of the Blue Economy**
- **Blue research, technology, innovation, knowledge and skills**
- **Maritime governance**



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# Development of the Blue Economy

- Strengthening UfM Secretariat's capacity in the area of the blue economy.
- Defining the blue economy
- Creating a more conducive environment for investment in the maritime sectors (national reforms)
- Involving relevant IFIs, donors and private investors to support investments in the blue economy
- Promoting sustainable production and consumption and reducing Marine litter (Plastic Busters and SwitchMed Connect)
- Design and implementation of “Motorway of Sea” services

# Blue research, technology, innovation, knowledge and skills

- BlueMED Initiative: we are in the process of involving interested countries in the BlueMED Initiative to further develop its Strategic Agenda for marine research and innovation (GSO on Research and Innovation end-January 2016, Advisory Board Med4Jobs Advisory Board on the 28 April 2016, EUSAIR Annual Forum on 13 May 2016)
- Networking of maritime training institutes
- Networking of maritime clusters
- Blue Calls

# Maritime governance

- Promoting the regional dialogue and stakeholder involvement by establishing an UfM Forum on the blue economy, including the VKC
- Exploring the feasibility and added value of a sea basin approach based on the 5+5 dialogue
- Promoting coordination between ministries, agencies, local and regional authorities, and private entities
- Coordination between transnational cooper. programmes MED and ENI-CBC-MED.

# Exploring the feasibility and added value of a sea basin approach based on the 5+5 dialogue



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## Support action

- Open tender procedure/Consortium of consultings
- Contract started in mid-December 2015 and ending in July 2017
- The process – three parallel avenues:
  1. 5+5 countries and regional organisations (Mar 2016-Apr 2017)
  2. Stakeholder involvement: focus groups, conference (Mar 2016-Jan 2017)
  3. Internal EU (COM services/EEAS-Council)

# State of play following 21 March meeting (1)

- Agreement on fully assessing the feasibility and added value of a maritime sub-regional approach, under the UfM umbrella by involving UfM Secretariat, and based on the 5+5 geographical scope and on the three principles of using better existing rules, institutions and funds.
- The lack of a structure, platform or working group that focuses specifically on maritime issues and blue economy at sub-regional level was also acknowledged, and needs to be taken into consideration at 5+5 level as well. Indeed, this pertains to the exclusive competences of the 5+5 countries.



## State of play following 21 March meeting (2)

- Potential added value could be generated by addressing the following issues:
  - Sectorial focus of the existing cooperation and legal frameworks fail to promote a truly integrated approach to develop the BE;
  - Lack of data, which is hampering an evidence-based policy making;
  - Lack of fund alignment, which results in duplication of efforts and lack of strategic long terms vision. It also limits a full cooperation;
  - Current practices of ad hoc identification of actions/projects, which are cumbersome, resource and time consuming and undermine stakeholder capacity to attract funds.

## State of play following 21 March meeting (2)

At this stage countries' interests have emerged on:

- data lack and sharing, notably with reference to evidence-based policy making and maritime spatial planning and coastal management;
- maritime security and surveillance, including cooperation amongst coast guard functions and capacity building;
- marine research and innovation;
- maritime transport, ports and infrastructure;
- Aquaculture;
- capacity building, fisheries and maritime and coastal tourism.

# Support grant for the development of the blue economy in the Mediterranean



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# THE OBJECTIVES

- The general objective is to contribute to the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on the Blue economy.
- The specific objective is to reinforce the UfM Secretariat's technical capacities on maritime policy and blue economy for a limited period in order to perform its new tasks and deliver on the objectives of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on the Blue Economy.



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# THE WORK PACKAGES

1. Assistance to the regional dialogue on blue economy and integrated maritime policy (WP 1)
2. Support to the UfM involvement in blue economy and promotion of projects and initiatives according to the blue economy agenda (WP 2), including supporting sub-regional sea basin approaches, notably in the WestMED.
3. Maintenance and development of the Virtual Knowledge Centre on marine and maritime affairs (WP3)

## THE BUDGET AVAILABLE

Total EMFF contribution: €360,000

Maximum co-financing: 80% of the total eligible costs

## ENVISAGED TIMELINE

Invitation to apply: May 2016

Deadline for submitting application: June 2016

Evaluation: June-July 2016

Signature of grant agreement: July-September 2016

Starting date: September 2016



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