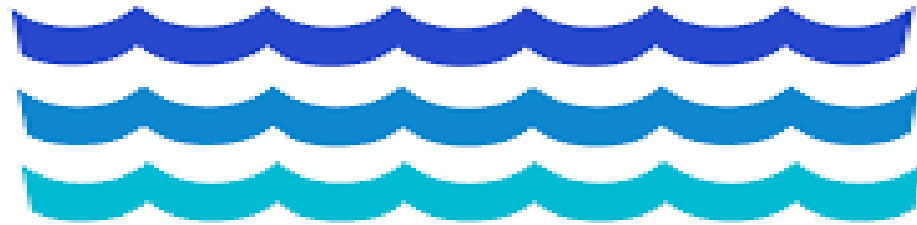


The UfM Forum on Blue Economy



*Alessandra Sensi, Senior Programme Manager
UfM Secretariat*



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**The Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan**

(as quoted from the Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy)

....endorsing the establishment of a **UfM Forum on Blue Economy***, which would **annually** bring together the **Mediterranean countries to exchange information, views and best practices; create synergies among current initiatives; provide input to future actions and possible sea basin approaches/maritime strategies**, without duplicating existing initiatives and bodies. This Forum should follow-up on this Declaration and assess the progress made. The Forum will be co-chaired by the UfM co-presidencies and the UfM Secretariat will act as its secretariat;

**by building on and replacing the existing Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in the Mediterranean.*



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The Hashemite
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(as quoted from the Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy)

....tasking the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat with the **promotion of the regional dialogue on sustainable blue economy and cross-sectorial coordination of maritime policies**, through the below agreed Forum on Blue Economy and the other existing relevant UfM frameworks of dialogue;

....inviting the UfM member countries to **promote and reinforce the cooperation and coordination between ministries, agencies, local and regional authorities, and private entities**;



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Reflections on the way forward

*as emerged at the 1st Coordination Meeting between
the UfM Co-Presidency and the UfM Secretariat
21-22 January, Barcelona*



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- The UfM Forum on Blue Economy - from a stand-alone event to a process

*Proposal on an extended structure, functioning
and working mechanism
for consideration and discussion with the countries*



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Capitalising on the existing tools, integrating the new mechanisms agreed by the Ministerial Declaration on BE. HOW?



Integrated Maritime Policy Working Group
– now the Blue Economy Working Group



Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on
Integrated Maritime Policy - Capacity
Building and Technical Assistance



Project to support the development of
the Virtual Knowledge Center (database
and networking tool)

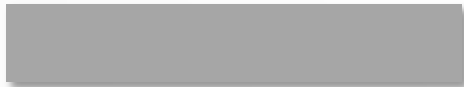


UfM Blue Economy Forum

UfM I Proposal for the UfM Forum – joining forces

UfM Working Group on Blue Economy
(previous IMP WG)

from 2016 – at least **Every Year**



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UfM Working Group on Blue Economy

(previous EU sponsored Integrated Maritime Policy WG)

- ✓ This **technical group** is composed of representatives designated by the UfM countries and is co-chaired by the two co-Presidencies with the support of the UfM Secretariat;
- ✓ It will meet at least **once a year**, possibly back to back with other events;
- ✓ UNEP and GFCM are permanent **observers** as per Ministerial Declaration. **Involvement of other key observers** (EIB, EBRD, CPRM, IMO etc.) is to be discussed and agreed with countries;
- ✓ **Additional participants can also be invited on an ad hoc basis or as observers**, depending on the agenda and to ensure appropriate coordination with other relevant initiatives



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(as quoted from the Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy)

....stressing the importance of establishing appropriate **networking mechanisms for blue economy stakeholders** around the Mediterranean and tasking the UfM Secretariat to develop further the Virtual Knowledge Centre on marine and maritime affairs on the basis of the guidance and supervision of the above forum and stressing as well the need to provide appropriate resources;

....inviting the UfM member countries to **promote and reinforce the cooperation and coordination between ministries, agencies, local and regional authorities, and private entities;**

.... call on the UfM Secretariat and the UfM to continue **identifying and promoting projects in line with the relevant regional priorities and, in close cooperation with all relevant actors,** to further enhance visibility, ownership and access to finance, including through **financial tools** (such as blending grants and soft loans mechanisms) and recommend relevant IFIs and donors, to take into due consideration such projects when programming and establishing their pipelines



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UfM Working Group on Blue Economy – UfM WG BE

(previous EU sponsored Integrated Maritime Policy WG)

The UfM WG MED on BE will focus on the **implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on BE**, therefore aim at:

- ✓ Further shaping the regional BE agenda and portfolio based on the Ministerial recommendations;
- ✓ Exchanging information, views and best practices between countries as well as stakeholders;
- ✓ Creating synergies among initiatives;
- ✓ Providing input to future actions and possible sea basin approaches/maritime strategies, without duplicating existing initiatives and bodies;
- ✓ Tackling emerging priorities.



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UfM I Proposal for the UfM Forum – Joining forces

UfM Working Group on Blue Economy
(previous IMP WG)

Regional Technical seminars

Already as of 2016

Regional Technical Seminars (+TA at national level)

- Support **capacity building tool** to deepen knowledge on specific topics. Such topics/themes are to be selected after consultation the beneficiary countries;
- Regional Technical Training **to be run continuously as of 2016** (overall duration: 36 months);
- Financed by the EU-DG NEAR sponsored “IMP-MED” Facility for ENI South countries, with the possibility to extend specific project actions to Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Mauritania, Turkey



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UfM I Proposal for the UfM Forum – Joining forces

UfM Working Group on Blue Economy
(previous IMP WG)

Regional technical seminars

UfM Stakeholders Conference
on Blue Economy

Countries + Stakeholders
– every second year -

UfM Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy

- ✓ To be **co-chaired by the two UfM Co-Presidencies** (possibly at the level of the UfM Co-Presidency, namely EU Commissioner responsible for Maritime Affairs and the Jordanian Minister for Transport) **and linked also to the UfM ministerial conference process**;
- ✓ To **present, discuss and assess the progress made by the BE-MED WG** and the support tools (regional technical workshops, TA at national level, regional initiatives and projects with etc.);
- ✓ To **ensure dialogue and close cooperation with the stakeholders** (to be ensured via this stakeholder conference and the VKC); in order to increase ownership of the Forum, the conference might host workshops organized by the stakeholders, stands and also a business-to-business session or "picking investors" session
- ✓ To be held **every second year**



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UfM I Proposal for the UfM Forum – Joining forces

UfM Working Group on Blue Economy
(previous IMP WG)

Regional technical seminars

Ufm Stakeholders
Conference on BE

Stakeholder
Register and
Networking
Platform (VKC)

**Currently under preparation
through a project of
DGMARE**

Stakeholder Register and Networking Platform

(so far referred to as Virtual Knowledge Center)

- ✓ Support tool to ensure **links and dialogue among countries and stakeholders**;
- ✓ Ensure its functioning as **Stakeholders Register and Networking platform on marine and maritime affairs**;
- ✓ Expanding its base of stakeholders and geographical coverage, including up-to-date information on blue growth developments in the **entire Mediterranean region** (i.e. not limited to ENP South countries)
- ✓ Currently under development through a specific project of DG MARE; expected transfer to the UfM Sec



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Proposal for the UfM Forum

UfM Working Group on Blue Economy
(previous IMP WG)

UfM Stakeholders Conference on
Blue Economy

Regional seminars

Stakeholders
Register and
Networking
Platform

the newly proposed
UfM Forum
- **a process** -

**- Pilot phase –
*up to next Ministerial Meeting, planned for 2018***



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**The Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan**

Next Steps

tentative planning before next UfM Ministerial Meeting

- Meeting of the BE-MED Working Group in 2016, 2017, 2018;
- UfM Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy in early 2017;
- 2nd Ministerial Meeting on BE in 2018;
- Regional Technical Training and TA (continuous from 2016 to January 2019);
- Tentative transfer of the Stakeholder register/Networking Platform (so called VKC) to the UfM Sec by November 2016.

1st BE MED WG
2016

2nd BE MED WG
2017

Stakeholders
Conference
(date tbd)

3rd BE MED WG
2018

2nd UfM Ministerial
2018

2016 ---- Regional technical trainings, TA at national level, SR and NP/VKC ---- January 2019



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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