



NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING AMONG BLUE ECONOMY STAKEHOLDERS

“VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (VKC)”

UfM Working Group on the Blue Economy
Brussels 5 July 2017



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Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy

(17 November 2015)

*...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 (VKC)** on marine and maritime affairs...*

The VKC is part of the **UfM Forum on Blue Economy**, a dynamic process composed of four elements...



The VKC will promote links and operational collaboration with other blue economy related communities, such as:

- *CPMR Mediterranean Community (Maritime and Coastal Sustainable Tourism)*
- *BLUEMED Community*
- *InnoBlue Growth Community*
- *Interegg Med Community*
- *ENI CBC Mediterranean Community*
- *Etc.*

The first on-line version of the VKC was officially launched in 2014 and further shaped under the coordination of the European Union (DG MARE/EASME)...



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...this current pilot phase of the VKC, managed by the UfM Secretariat, will:

Ensure the day-to-date update of the VKC and its functioning as **Stakeholder register and Networking platform** bringing together knowledge and experiences for cross-fertilization and collaboration

Promote its role as a **regional hub** on blue economy bringing together existing knowledge and information through the contribution received by stakeholders

Use it as **communication tool** by disseminating information of the organization of conferences, meetings, seminars, etc. through an “**upcoming events**” section

Disseminate information on policies developments, projects milestones and results, outcomes/outputs of events , etc. through a “**flash news**” section

Support the organization of the **UfM Blue Economy Stakeholder Conference**, in particular by hosting a “**call for workshops**” section



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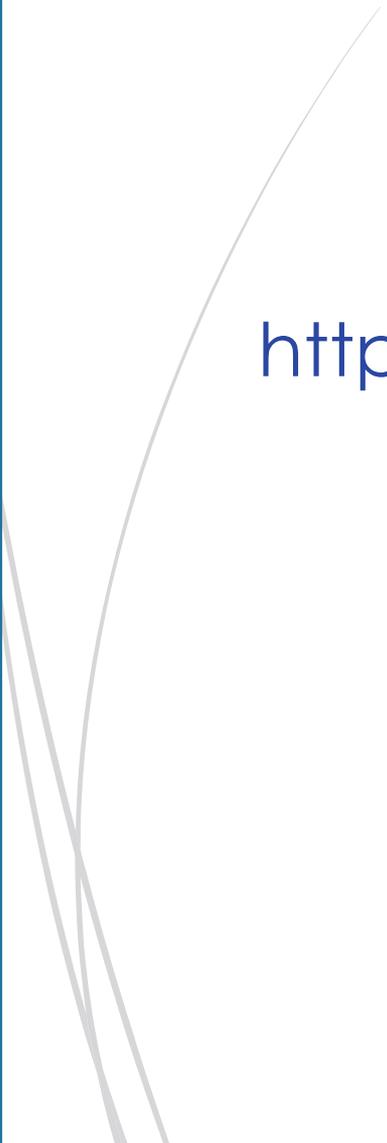
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<http://www.med-vkc-blueconomy.org/>

[Blue Economy](#)

[VKC](#)

[International framework](#)

[Mediterranean region](#)

[Countries](#)

[KMS](#)

[Studies, best practices and relevant legislation](#)

[Funding blue economy](#)

[Contacts](#)

Photos (moving with associated text)

[Log in/Register](#)

Key BE
figures

Key BE
figures

Key BE
figures

Events

News

You Tube Channel
Stories from the med (video changing every month)

Blue Economy

- Welcome messages
- What is Blue Economy?

The Virtual Knowledge Center

- Background and objectives
- Terms of Use
- How it works & Registration process

Blue Economy International Framework

- Oceans and Law of the Sea
- United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - SDG 14
- Etc.

Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region

Mediterranean basin

- EU policies
- Strategies, initiatives and frameworks
- Stakeholder networks
- Maritime clusters

Mediterranean sub-basin

- EU and sub-regional initiatives/strategies
- Projects (**currently 264 projects listed**)
- UfM labelled projects on blue economy

Countries

- Policies and Strategies

Aquaculture/Fisheries

Blue biotechnologies

Coastal and maritime tourism

Ports, Shipping, Ship-building/repair

Ocean energy and marine renewable energy, including offshore wind

MSP/ICZM

Biodiversity/Ecosystem services (e.g. coastal wetlands)

- Initiatives/projects (including thematic maps produced within them)

Aquaculture/Fisheries

Blue biotechnologies

Coastal and maritime tourism

Ports, Shipping, Ship-building/repair

Ocean energy and marine renewable energy, including offshore wind

MSP/ICZM

Biodiversity/Ecosystem services (e.g. coastal wetlands)

- Maritime clusters

Etc.

- **Knowledge Management Systems (currently 117 KMS listed)**

- **Stakeholders (currently 51 stakeholders registered)**

- **Studies, best practices and relevant legislation**

- *Studies/Best practices in BE sectors;*
- *EU law*
- *National law*

- **Funding Blue Economy**

- *EU funding*
- *IFI's*
- *GEF*
- *Others*

NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Translation into French and Arabic (on-going)
- ✓ Upgrade menu bar and sub-sections (under discussion)
- ✓ Upload/download material open to all users (on-hold)
- ✓ Upload/download news & events open to all users (on-going)
- ✓ Upload the “Call for Workshops” for the UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference (on-hold)

UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy

(end of November)

OBJECTIVE: ...promote discussion and exchanges amongst UfM stakeholders on developing a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean. It will offer an opportunity to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the 1st UfM Ministerial Declaration on the Blue Economy and collect ideas and inputs to prepare a 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on the Blue Economy.

Call for Thematic Stakeholder Workshops:

The themes of the workshops, as well its format, will be proposed by the blue economy stakeholders. Each workshop will deal with one or more topics relevant to blue economy in the Mediterranean sea-basin, in line with the priorities of the UfM Ministerial Declaration of 17 November 2015 such as:

- **Marine research and innovation;**
- **Education, training and skills development in the maritime domain;**
- **Business development (maritime clusters, start-up, boosters, etc.) and investment (access to finance) in the blue economy;**
- **Maritime transport safety and security, and sustainable ports;**
- **Sustainable aquaculture and fisheries, including small scale fisheries and coastal communities development;**
- **Coastal and maritime tourism and marinas;**
- **Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management;**
- **Renewable marine energies;**
- **Sustainable consumption and production in the blue economy;**
- **Marine and coastal environment protection (including Marine Protected Areas), marine pollution (including marine litter).**

The topics are indicative; proposals can also focus on sub-topics or combine several topics together.

Call for Thematic Stakeholder Workshops:

It is expected that each workshop will produce practical conclusions which can assist in advancing on the objectives of the UfM Ministerial Declaration and possibly lead to project ideas and proposals.

The conclusions will be shared amongst all UfM blue economy stakeholders through the Virtual Knowledge Centre <http://www.med-vkc-blueeconomy.org/>

Workshop proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The proposal contributes to one of the above list of topics;
- The format of the workshop includes interactive elements;
- The content are innovative and speakers are appropriate and qualified;
- The proposed speakers reflect a good geographical coverage and gender balance.

In order to apply for a workshop, stakeholders will have to register to the VKC and submit the online application (<http://www.med-vkc-blueeconomy.org/>)



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THANK YOU!



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