Blue economy, a key for sustainable development, jobs creation and investments in Mediterranean

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The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy, an international event devoted to job creation and investment potential of blue economy in the Mediterranean basin (Naples, on November 29 & 30, 2017) gathered about 500 participants from 30 countries across the Euro-Mediterranean region, including governments’ representatives, regional and local authorities, international organisations and development agencies, 150 private sector representatives, universities, and civil society organisations dealing with marine and maritime issues.

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 1st UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE ON THE BLUE ECONOMY (EN) [2]

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 1st UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE ON THE BLUE ECONOMY (FR) [3]
Stakeholders discussed in 12 workshops about innovative financing of maritime investment, ocean energy, integrated approach to coastal community development, maritime governance, MPAs (Marine Protected Areas), tackling marine litter, state of play of MSP (Maritime Spatial Planning) and existing gaps, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine research and innovation (BLUEMED Initiative), sustainable tourism, blue entrepreneurship, youth employability and maritime skills, maritime safety, and marine knowledge.

In parallel with the workshops, 125 business to business meetings with 80 participants from 12 different countries have been organised in cooperation with the Europe Enterprise network.

A high-level panel with Commissioner Karmenu Vella, Minister Ana Paula Vitorino (Portugal), Minister Justyne Caruana (Malta), Deputy-Minister Lufthi El Magrhbi (Libya), UfM Secretary General Fatallah Sijilmassi and the Secretary General for Fisheries of Spain, Mr Alberto Lopez-Asenjo, was also held during the conference. The session concluded with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mr Fathallah Sijilmassi and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of FAO Executive Secretary Mr Abdellah Srour.

Media coverage was very high, mainly with the participation of media from Italy, France, Egypt and Morocco.

See more on the programme, the speakers and photos from the conference:

1st UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE ON THE BLUE ECONOMY
Workshop 1: The future of the Mediterranean blue economy

Room Partenope – IT EN FR

The workshop focused on three axes: i) the organization of efficient services so as to offer competitive advantages to the port community, with respect to commercial traffic and passenger traffic; ii) the relationship between port, city and territory, for a close interrelationship between maritime economy and the overall economic and social system; iii) the attraction of investments, and the opportunities arising from special economic zones; on the latter, selected case studies will be presented. Speakers:

- Mr Mohamed Salah, Director of Technical affairs & Maritime Safety, Jordan Maritime Commission
- Dr. Jorge Avelar, Deputy Secretary General for Environment and Water of the UEP Secretariat,
- Dr. George Alexakis, Vice-President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions in charge for Maritime affairs, Vice-Governor of Crete
- Dr. Sygkas Kouvouts

Presentation of the Blue open calls for proposals and the Enterprise Europe Network

Room Partenope – IT EN FR

The workshop will address the status of the implementation of MSP and ICZM in the Mediterranean region by reflecting on current gaps, existing best practices, and Mediterranean specificities such as the marine geo-hazard that jeopardize economic activities and civil infrastructures. The application of the ecosystem-based approach in MSP / ICZM will be addressed and key recommendations for its potential of the given contexts.

Speakers:

- Mrs Angela, Assessorino Fondi Europei, Giavontino, Cooperazione europea e Bacino Mediterraneo, Regione Campania, Vicepresidenza Commissione Intermediterranea della CIPPM
- Carlos Bobadilla, Laparon, Port of Vigo, Spain
- Massimo De Andreis, SINR (Istituto San Paolo Group, Italy)
- Luca Greco, Sismo Control Terminal, Italy
- Umberto Masucci, Propeller Club Italy
- Giovanni Spagnabi, General Secretary UL, Campania, Italy
- Apostolos Sigouras, ECIMOSYN, Greece

Parallel session Room Posillipo B - Business to business session A (organized by European Enterprise Network)

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch (buffet)

Workshop 2: Addressing marine litter in the Mediterranean using an ecosystem-based approach: focus on governance within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and beyond

Room Partenope – IT EN FR

The workshop will be an opportunity to present and discuss the essence of the GFCM regional and multiannual mid-term strategy, a key contribution to the sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries and fishery resources. The workshop will also present innovative and alternative seaweed and fish farming solutions. Speakers:

- Dita Abdul Malik, European Topic Center, University of Malaga, Spain
- Emad Adly, Arab Network for Environment and Development, Egypt
- Saludd Deuders, Spanish Institute of Oceanography, Spain
- Cristina Fossi, Plastic Busters, University of Siena, Italy
- Maik Ghanbour, Amwiki of Environment Association, Lebanon
- Elieni Hatziyanou, Environment and Spatial Planning, Region of Crete, CIPPM Intermediterranean Commission
- Omar Khalfa, Coastal Wastes Agency, Algeria
- Jamila Ben Souissi, Université de Carthage, Tunisia
- Julian Le Treill, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit, Greece
- Maurizio Simeone, Regione Campania, Italy

Parallel session Room Posillipo B - Business to business session B (organized by European Enterprise Network)

16:00 - 17:30 Coffee break

Workshop 3: Addressing marine litter in the Mediterranean using an ecosystem-based approach: focus on governance within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and beyond

Room Partenope – IT EN FR

The workshop will focus on the application of efficient services so as to offer competitive advantages to the port community, with respect to commercial traffic and passenger traffic; ii) the relationship between port, city and territory, for a close interrelationship between maritime economy and the overall economic and social system; iii) the attraction of investments, and the opportunities arising from special economic zones; on the latter, selected case studies will be presented. Speakers:

- Dania Abdul Malik, European Topic Center, University of Malaga, Spain
- Emad Adly, Arab Network for Environment and Development, Egypt
- Saludd Deuders, Spanish Institute of Oceanography, Spain
- Cristina Fossi, Plastic Busters, University of Siena, Italy
- Maik Ghanbour, Amwiki of Environment Association, Lebanon
- Elieni Hatziyanou, Environment and Spatial Planning, Region of Crete, CIPPM Intermediterranean Commission
- Omar Khalfa, Coastal Wastes Agency, Algeria
- Jamila Ben Souissi, Université de Carthage, Tunisia
- Julian Le Treill, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit, Greece
- Maurizio Simeone, Regione Campania, Italy

Parallel session Room Posillipo B - Business to business session C (organized by European Enterprise Network)

18:30 - 20:30 Cocktail reception
Workshop 7: Sustainability and attractiveness of Mediterranean tourism: best practices and innovation projects in the Euro-Mediterranean coastal countries
Roan Posillipo B - IT EN FR

Focusing on cooperation and interoperability among the Coast Guard organizations of the Mediterranean sea, the workshop aims to enhance the importance of planning, data sharing and operational cooperation among the member countries of the Mediterranean. The main objective is to develop an MSF-based communication system between all involved actors, which embraces different technology platforms and take advantage of standardized procedures, is the baseline to improve the control of the marine traffic and the use of the sea for all public scopes. The workshop will address how to tap the potential of coastal and underwater tourism in the Mediterranean region, including cultural tourism, by strengthening cooperation mechanisms and capitalise on existing best practices and tools.

Speakers:
- LtC Fabio Borrello, Coast Guard, Italy;
- Adm. Patrick Augier, Deputy Secretary General for the Sea, France;
- Prof. Giovanni Caprino Cetena S.p.A;

Room Posillipo B – IT EN FR
8.30 - 9.00
Workshop 6: BLUEMED – Building a shared research and innovation agenda for blue jobs and growth across the Mediterranean
Roan Posillipo B - IT EN FR

The aim of the workshop is to promote the involvement of non-EU countries in the BLUEMED Initiative. After a presentation of the BLUEMED’s Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and of the experiences and results of the Blue Growth Technology Cluster and the Regional Cluster for the Blue Economy of Campania, a panel will follow to give the opportunity to experts from several non-EU countries to share their strategy/good practices on marine and maritime research and innovation, and to seek for alignment of themes and priorities. Finally, stakeholders from non-EU countries will be invited to discuss and agree on the BLUEMED initiative towards the elaboration of a common SRIA and the joint implementation of its actions.

Moderator: Fabio Trincardi (CNR Italy, BLUEMED CSA coordinator)
Speakers:
- Luca Marangoni, Unit for Sea Basin Strategies, Mediterranean Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission;
- Marta Iglésias, Unit for Marine Resources, Directorate General Research & Innovation, European Commission;
- Fabio Fava (Chair of the BLUEMED Initiative strategic board);
- Valeria Fascon, Regional Minister for Internationalisation, Start up and Innovation, Region of Campania;
- Lucio Sabbadini, President Technology Cluster Big.

Room Partenope – IT EN FR
11.30 - 12.00
Lunch (buffet)

Workshop 8: BLUEMED – Building a shared research and innovation agenda for blue jobs and growth across the Mediterranean
Roan Posillipo B. - IT EN FR

This panel will be closed with the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO.

Workshop 9: Blue Entrepreneurship World Cafe
Roan Posillipo B. - IT EN FR

Shifting current consumption and production patterns of economic development to more sustainable ones raises enormous challenges. Yet, these challenges often represent an opportunity for entrepreneurs and start-ups to build and scale sustainable businesses that only recently have emerged. The workshop will address how to tap the potential of coastal and underwater tourism in the Mediterranean region, including cultural tourism, by strengthening cooperation mechanisms and capitalise on existing best practices and tools.

Speakers:
- Mrs. Armelle de Villamore, SCP/RAC Director;
- Mr. Luigi Sinapi, Istituto Idrografico della Marina, Italy;
- Mr. Alessandra Pome, SCP/RAC, Spain;
- Mr. Julien Le Tellier, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit, Greece;
- LtC Fabio Borrello, Coast Guard, Italy;
- Adm. Patrick Augier, Deputy Secretary General for the Sea, France;

Room Partenope – IT EN FR
13.00 - 14.00
Lunch (buffet)

Workshop 10: Maritime safety and anti-pollution contingency planning
Roan Posillipo B. - IT EN FR

The workshop will try to answer to the following questions: How to attract talents and focus on competence and skills development to make a younger generation fit for new emerging blue jobs/profiles? ii) How to jointly create pilot activities to strengthen common partnerships to address youth unemployment as well as train new researchers and new entrepreneurs to develop new skills and competencies needed for blue growth? iii) How to connect and network the diaspora of researchers from Southern Mediterranean countries as a potential for enhancing cooperation and foster knowledge transfer?

Speakers:
- Mr. Mohamed SALMAN, Jordan Maritime Commission, Director of Technical affairs & Maritime Safety Directorate.
- Prof. Giovanni Caprino Cetena S.p.A;

Room Partenope – IT EN FR
16.00 - 17.00
Closing remarks: Lessons learned

Mr. Miguel García-Herranz, Deputy Secretary General for Environment and Water of the UfM Secretariat
- Mr. Christian Economou, Head of Unit for Sea Basin Strategies, Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission