



**BLUEMED**

*Research and Innovation initiative for Blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean Venice, Expo Aquae 16.10.2015*

# RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INITIATIVE FOR BLUE JOBS AND GROWTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA (BLUEMED)

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On behalf of the BLUEMED ad hoc working group

## The BLUEMED initiative

The BLUEMED Initiative fosters integration of knowledge and efforts of EU member states of the Mediterranean Basin to jointly create new 'blue' jobs and a sustainable industrial growth in the marine and maritime sectors of the area.

It was a priority of the Programme of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union: "....., the Presidency will organise specific events and work with the Commission and Member States to define a Blue Growth flagship initiative for the Mediterranean".

Work goes on **under the Italian coordination** with 8 other EU Member States (except Portugal, all bordering the Mediterranean): **Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Malta, Slovenia, Spain** and - since July 2014 – also Portugal. The process is supported and facilitated by the European Commission (DG R&I, DG MARE, DG JRC).

## Why BLUEMED

The Mediterranean Sea has unique bio-geo-physical characteristics and political and socio-economic features. It prominently contributes to the EU economy (30% of global sea-borne trade, 25% of worldwide sea-borne oil traffic, 450 ports/terminals; second World's largest market for cruise ships; half of the EU's fishing fleet; more than 150 M inhabitants, 300 M during the tourist season; 400 UNESCO sites and 236 marine protected areas).

It is currently facing prominent environmental challenges related to climate change, growing maritime traffic and pollution, overexploitation of fish stocks, invasions of alien species, etc.. At the same time, it does not exploit efficiently the local biodiversity, deep sea resources, tourism, renewable energy production, etc.

Such challenges and opportunities cannot be addressed/implemented by any of the EU MS individually but require a common and shared Vision and a Strategic R&I Agenda (SRIA).

# BLUEMED Strategic R&I Agenda: objectives

The BLUEMED R&I Agenda (SRIA) aims at addressing the challenges outlined and facilitate to exploit opportunities into blue jobs and growth. EU Member States can achieve this by:

- q Exploiting the existing knowledge and filling R&I gaps;
- q Integrating marine and maritime sectors, and public researchers, industry (i.e., mining, aquaculture, fishery, shipbuilding, maritime transportation, tourism, etc.), and policy makers, and
- q Aligning funding strategies/integration of R&I funds and infrastructures at regional (structural and investment funds), national and EU level, by avoiding duplication, improving the effectiveness in the use of resources and maximizing the leverage effects.

# BLUEMED Strategic R&I Agenda: the process

## Needs & Gaps

- May 2014 >> Set up of the initiative and roadmap;
- June-August 2014 >> National mapping of R&I projects (about 900!) via public/private stakeholders consultations; merging of information and identification of R&I gaps & needs, opportunities and boundary conditions for their implementation.

## Vision

- September - December 2014 >> Sharing of the findings with relevant scientific communities and industrial associations at national and EU level. Set up of the Vision Document which was endorsed by the Italian Presidency of the EU Council and presented at the Competitiveness Council of 04-05 December 2014.

## SRIA

- February 2015 >> Identification of the Key challenges and goals & actions according to the drivers boosting blue jobs & growth, knowledge transfer and SMEs participation
- April 2015 >> drafting of BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).
- May-September 2015: Sharing of SRIA with regional, national, EU and international public/private stakeholders;
- October 2015 : Publication of SRIA (updates will be made regularly every 6 months) endorsed by 14 EU Countries which signed the "Venice declaration" on October 16, 2015

**BLUEMED Vision & SRIA available at: [goo.gl/ZbJTWH](http://goo.gl/ZbJTWH)**

# BLUEMED Strategic R&I Agenda: 12 Key Challenges

## Key enabling knowledge for the Mediterranean

- Mediterranean Sea ecosystems: services, resources, vulnerability and resilience to natural and anthropogenic pressures
- Mediterranean Sea dynamics: development of services in the sustainable management of change
- Hazards and protection of coastal areas in the Mediterranean

## Key sectorial enablers in the Mediterranean

- Innovative business based on marine bio-resources in the Mediterranean
- Ecosystem management and aquaculture
- Sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean
- Maritime clusters in the Mediterranean
- Maritime Spatial Planning & Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean

## Enabling technology and capacity creation in the Mediterranean

- Maritime infrastructure and facilities in the Mediterranean
- Observing systems and operational oceanography capacities in the Mediterranean
- Multi-purpose off-shore platforms in the Mediterranean
- Marine and coastal cultural heritage in the Mediterranean: discovering, protecting and valuing

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# Expected impacts of the BLUEMED initiative

