

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

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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 9 other EU Member States (except Portugal and Belgium, all bordering the Mediterranean): Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Malta, Slovenia, Spain and - since July 2014 –Portugal and, since May 2015, Belgium. The process is supported and facilitated by the European Commission (DG RTD, DG MARE).

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; 10 signed the **Venice declaration** on October 16, 2015)

BLUEMED Vision & SRIA available at: goo.gl/ZbJTWH

BLUEMED Strategic R&I Agenda: the process (key steps after the publication)

Updated SRIA

- **April 2017 – First update of the SRIA.** It includes relevant information gathered after its publication and launch with the endorsement of the [Venice Declaration](#) in October 2015, including through national consultation.

Updated SRIA

- **18-19 April 2017 – [BLUEMED Conference – A Basin of Research and Innovation for sustainable growth](#)** (Sliema, Malta) organized under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, **the BLUEMED Initiative officially opened to non-EU countries and stimulate the connection with Mediterranean key players**

[Valletta Declaration](#)

4th May 2017 (Valletta, Malta) – undersigned by the EU 28 and UfM member countriesWELCOME the BLUEMED initiative as a means to promote a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea and stress the importance of structuring Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in marine and maritime sectors to encompass a broad range of objectives comprising the creation of new, blue jobs and social well-being...

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: developing services in the field of sustainable adaptation and to climate change; 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-based management of Mediterranean agriculture and fisheries
- Sustainable maritime clusters in the Mediterranean
- Maritime Spatial Planning & Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean

Enabling technology and capacity creation for the Mediterranean

- Smart, greener maritime transport and facilities in the Mediterranean
- Observing capacity creation in the Mediterranean
- Multi-purpose off-shore platforms in the Mediterranean
- Marine and coastal cultural heritage in the Mediterranean: discovering, protecting and valuing

BLUEMED SRIA available at: goo.gl/ZbJTWH

BLUEMED initiative: outcomes

Some BLUEMED SRIA priorities were adopted by the EU commission, DG MARE and DG RTD, and included in their R&I programmes.

European Commission DG MARE

Call for proposals: Blue Labs - innovative solutions for maritime challenges & Blue Careers in Europe (May, 2016). Blue Technology - transfer of innovative solutions to sea basin economies (Sept 2016)

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-labs-innovative-solutions-maritime-challenges>;

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-careers-europe>

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-labs-innovative-solutions-maritime-challenges>

European Commission DG RTD

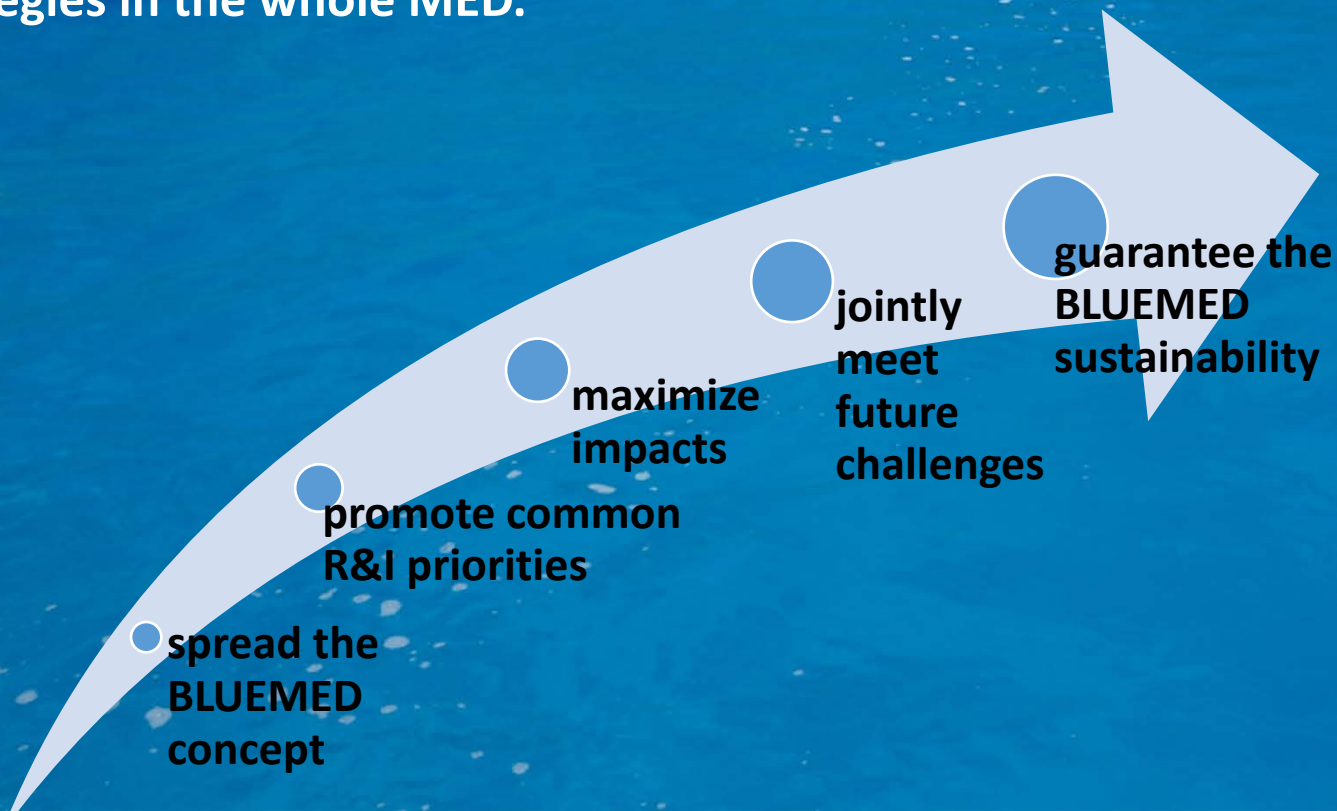
Six BLUEMED R&I priorities were included in the 2016-2017 WP of Horizon 2020 SC2 for about € 50 M allocated to the area.

(http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-food_en.pdf)

BLUEMED initiative: governance & implementation

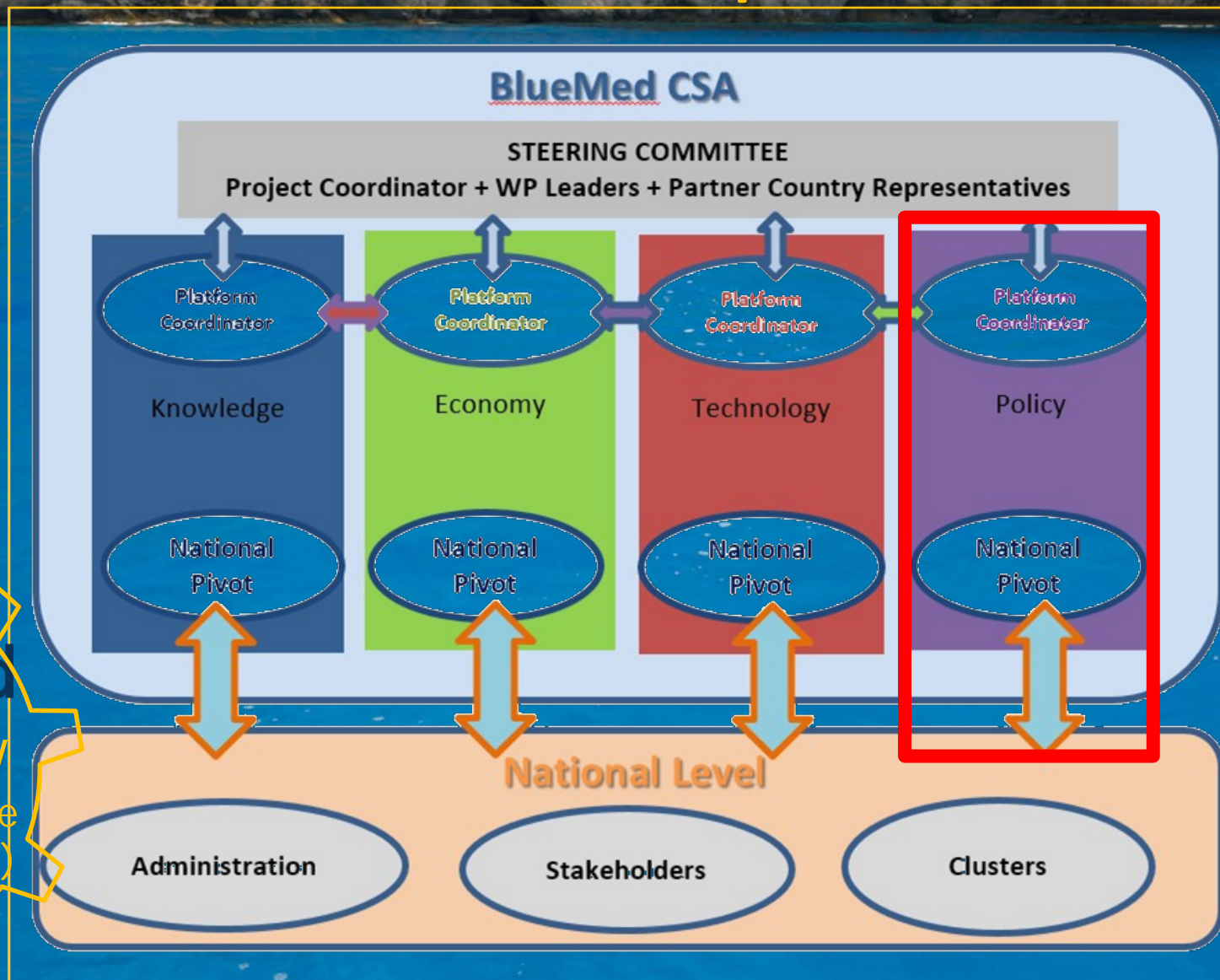
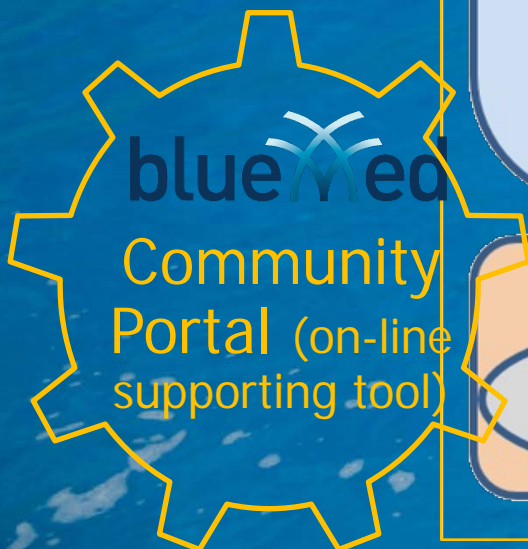
The **BLUEMED Strategic Board**, coordinated by IT, DG R&I and DG MARE, joined by Representatives from CY, HR, FR, GR, MT, ES, PT and BE: **strategic planning**

The **BLUEMED CSA**, coordinated by IT (CNR) and joined by R&I partners from CY, HR, FR, GR, MT, ES, and PT: **support the implementation of BLUEMED priorities and strategies in the whole MED.**



BLUEMED CSA: instruments for implementation

Virtual environments for stakeholders' dialogue at MED level and linked to the national dimension towards SRIA consolidation, prioritization and implementation



BLUEMED implementation: main actions on place

Facilitate BLUEMED SRIA adoption by the EU MS of the area. In Italy, BLUEMED SRIA is quoted by the “National Plan for Research” (PNR), the “Italian Bioeconomy strategy” and by some of the Regional S3. Similar processes are taking place in SI, GR, FR, ES, etc;

Promote cooperation/joint actions with the “EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region” (EUSAIR) and “Western Mediterranean initiative”.

BLUEMED widening in the MED: BLUEMED extension to all Countries bordering the Mediterranean and willing to join it, in close cooperation with UfM.

Promote cooperation with the other MED R&I initiatives, with the joint adaptive implementation of agendas, such as UfM, CIESM, CIHEAM, CPMR, GFCM, INTERREG MED, UNEP-MAP, Bologna Chapter, etc. They will join the BLUEMED Strategic Board;

Promote cooperation (via tailored meetings) among major EU projects (R&I, training, education, etc), technology clusters and platforms, industries and SMEs, and networks/organisations active in the whole area to i) reduce fragmentation and duplication, ii) create more political commitment and investments in R&I, spin off/start up, education, training, and communication, iii) a better coordination between regional, national and EU stakeholders/policies, and iv) market development actions.

BLUEMED initiative impact

