

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).

The Mediterranean sea: needs and opportunities

The Mediterranean Sea is a basin with unique bio-geo-physical characteristics and socio-economic features. It prominently contributes to the EU economy by: bearing 30% of global sea-borne trade with more than 450 ports/terminals, hosting the 2 World's largest market for cruise ships, half of the EU's fishing fleet and a unique cultural heritage and natural patrimony (400 UNESCO sites).

It is 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, local biodiversity and deep sea resources, tourism, renewable energy production, etc. are major local opportunities for blue growth and jobs only poorly.

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.

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:

- ❑ **Exploiting the existing knowledge and filling R&I gaps;**
- ❑ **Integrating marine and maritime sectors, and public researchers, industry (i.e., mining, aquaculture, fishery, shipbuilding, maritime transportation, tourism, etc.), and policy makers, and**
- ❑ **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; 10 signed the **Venice declaration** on October 16, 2015)

BLUEMED Vision & SRIA available at: 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: 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 Earth system geography capacities 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>

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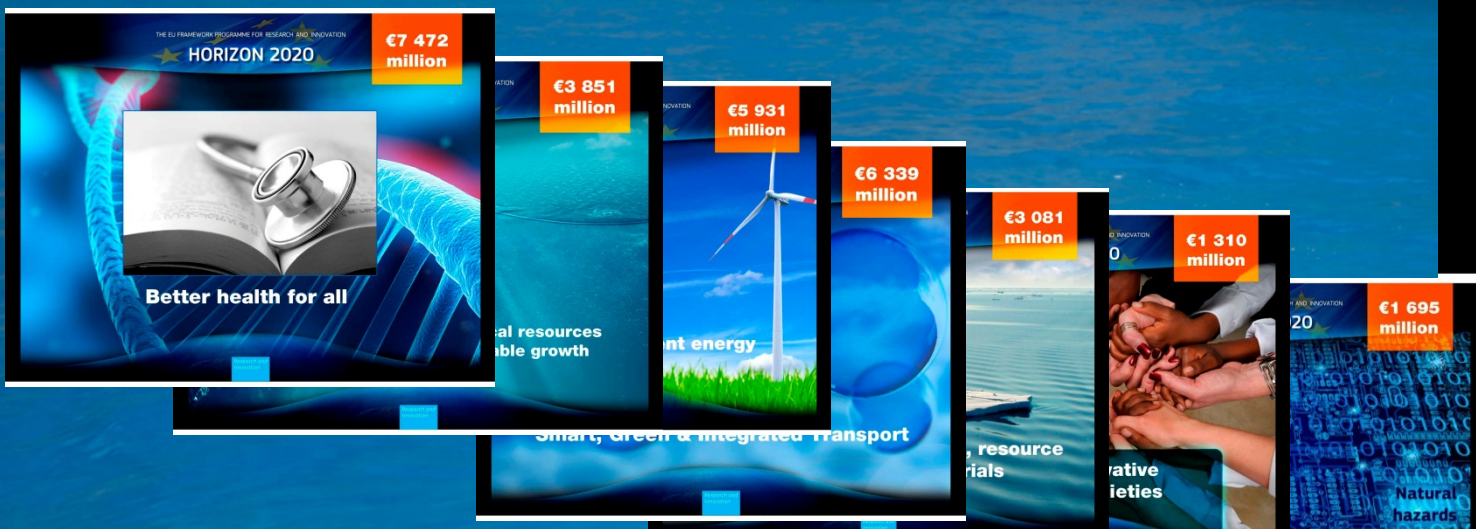
European Commission DG RTD

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)

Horizon 2020, Priority 3: Societal challenges

Tackling societal challenges for a better society



1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing (7.472 Bln)

2. Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy (3.851 Bln)

3. Secure, clean and efficient energy (5.931 Bln)

4. Smart, green and integrated transport (6.339 Bln)

5. Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials (3.081 Bln)

6. Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (1.310 Bln)

7. Secure societies (1.695 Bln)

H2020 SC2, WP2016-2017

SC2
WP 2016-2017

2016: ~352.5 M€

2017: ~390.0 M€

SFS – Sustainable Food Security – Resilient and Resource Efficient value chains

2016: 180.5 M€

2017: 251.0 M€

BG - Blue Growth – Demonstrating an Ocean of opportunities

2016: 82.0M€

2017: 47.0M€

New

RUR – Rural Renaissance – Fostering innovation and business opportunities

2016: 66M€

2017: 62M€

BE – Bio-based innovation for sustainable goods and services – Supporting the development of a European Bioeconomy

2016: 24M€

2017: 30M€

BLUEMED topics, SC2 WP2016/17

BG-07-2017: Blue green innovation for clean coasts and seas (IA, 12M, 2017)

BG-12-2016: Towards an integrated Mediterranean Sea Observing System (IA, 8M, 2016)

BG-13-2016: Support to the BLUEMED Initiative: Coordination of marine and maritime research and innovation activities in the Mediterranean (CSA, 3M, 2016)

SFS-20-2017: Towards a science-based regionalisation of the Common Fisheries Policy (RIA, 6M, 2017)

SFS-21-2016/2017: Advancing basic biological knowledge and improving management tools for commercially important fish and other seafood species (RIA, 5M, 2017)

SFS-23-2016: Improving the technical performance of the Mediterranean aquaculture (RIA, 6M, 2016)

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: implementation of BLUEMED priorities and strategies in the whole MED.



spread the
BLUEMED
concept

promote common
R&I priorities

maximize
impacts

jointly
meet
future
challenges

guarantee the
BLUEMED
sustainability

BLUEMED implementation: Strategic Board actions (a)

Facilitate BLUEMED SRIA adoption by the EU MS of the area. In Italy, BLUEMED SRIA was adopted by RITMARE and 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) (joined by HR,GR,IT, SI, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) and **“Western Mediterranean initiative”** (joined PT, SP, FR, IT, MT, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya) launched by EC (DG REGIO, DG MARE).

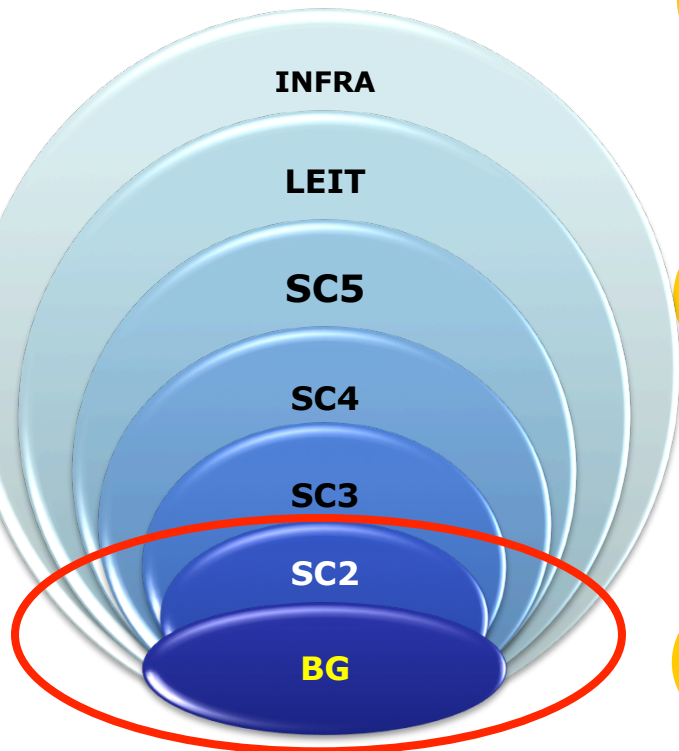
Promote cooperation with the other MED R&I initiatives, with the joint adaptive implementation of agendas, such as UfM, CIESM, CIHEAM, CPMR, GFCM, INTERREG MED, UNEP-MAP, etc. They will be invited to join the BLUEMED Strategic Board;

Promote BLUEMED in the frame of the High Level/political events, i.e. Ministerials on Environment and on R&I held in Malta on 20 April and 4 May, 2017, respectively;

Promote BLUEMED R&I priorities and needs towards the EU Commission (DG RTD, SC2, SC3, SC4 and SC5 programming committees; DG MARE; DG REGIO; other DGs) .

BLUEMED implementation: Strategic Board actions (b)

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES



SC3 Energy

- wave energy
- floating wind farms
- aquatic biomass biofuel
- offshore storage of CO₂
- Shipping renewable fuel
- Energy islands

SC4 Transport

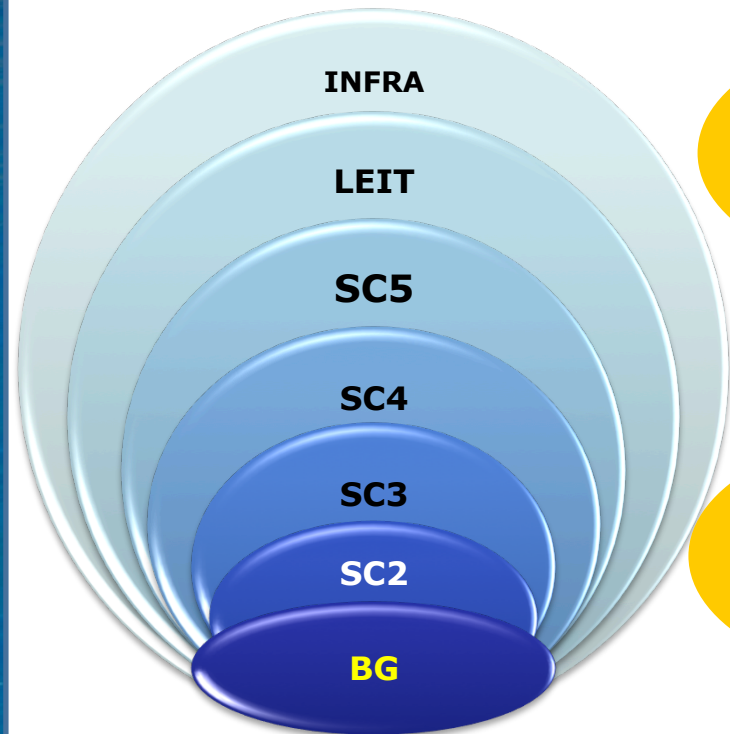
- Innovative ships
- autonomous ships
- ship emissions
- unmanned activities
- underwater noise
- maritime transport safety
- Marine accidents response

SC5 Climate

- Climate change, biodiversity and ecosystems
- recovery of sea resources
- sea level changes
- Cryosphere

BLUEMED implementation: Strategic Board actions (c)

INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP / RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES



SPACE – Copernicus
Marine Services, ocean
models

NMBP: off-shore energy
materials



Research Vessels

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BIOBASED INDUSTRY JU

BLUEMED implementation: joint Strategic Board & CSA actions

BLUEMED widening in the MED: BLUEMED extension to all Countries bordering the Mediterranean and willing to join it, in close cooperation with the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) (representing 46 Countries of the MED area).

BLUEMED promotion and SRIA implementation in all Countries, trying to align programmes, funds, infrastructures and initiatives at regional, national and international level.

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.

Organize/host High Level Conferences such as “BLUEMED – A basin of research and innovation for sustainable growth”, 18 - 19 April, 2017, The Victoria Hotel, Sliema, Malta.

BLUEMED initiative impact

