



MALTA EU 2017

**BLUEMED – A Basin of Research and
Innovation for Sustainable Growth**

**18 - 19 April, 2017
The Victoria Hotel, Sliema, Malta**

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The BLUEMED Research and Innovation initiative for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean Area is firmly on the Agendas of the European countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. It offers a shared strategic framework for working towards a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea that is better known and valued. It is designed to tap the full potential of the marine and maritime sectors, structuring transnational cooperation to boost the Blue Economy, and promote and improve social wellbeing, sustainable prosperity and the environmental status of the region and its surroundings.

Organized under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the event *'BLUEMED - A Basin of Research and Innovation for Sustainable Growth'* aims to open up this initiative, for the first time, to non-EU Mediterranean Partner Countries. The goal is to initiate regional cooperation within the Mediterranean by pooling all efforts together to unlock the potential for Blue Growth and job creation at local, regional and international level.

Research and Innovation is a key driver of this process. Its potential will be disclosed through showcase of relevant projects and discussions on how to connect the Mediterranean and collaborate on innovative activities along the value chain.

18th April, 2017 – Day 1

13:30 – 14:00 **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

14:00 – 14:30 **Introduction and Opening Session**

High level representatives open the event by setting the scene for discussions from a political perspective.

Speakers:

Chris Aguis, Malta's Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport

John Bell, Director for Bioeconomy, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Miguel Garcia-Herraiz, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

14:30 – 16:00 **Showcase projects/initiatives which implement the BLUEMED Initiative: How Research and Innovation can be drivers for sustainable blue growth**

Chairperson:

Sigi Gruber, Head of Marine Resources Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Speakers:

Georgios Sylaios, ODYSSEA Coordinator

José Pérez, MedAID Project

Aldo Drago, COPERNICUS MEMS

Paolo Favali, EMSO-ERIC Coordinator

Ilaria Nardello, EMBRC-ERIC Coordinator

Alain Deidun, Med-Jellyrisk Coordinator

Ben Stuart, ProCREW Coordinator

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 18:00 **Panel Discussion: A litter-free Mediterranean Sea. Utopia or Reality?**

Chairperson:

Fabio Fava, Chair, BLUEMED Initiative Strategic Board

Speakers:

Gaby Gorsky, TARA Foundation Expeditions

Ralph Schneider, Plastic Europe

Francesco Degli Innocenti, Novamont S.p.A

Anis Ismail, SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism - Key Environment Expert

Nicolas Kalogerakis, School of Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete

Chokri Mansour, Association Pinna

Cristina Fossi, Plastic Busters Project

18:00 – 18:30 **Wrap-up and Conclusions**

Sigi Gruber, Head of Marine Resources Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Fabio Fava, Chair, BLUEMED Initiative Strategic Board

18:30 – 20:30 **Networking Cocktail**

19th April, 2017 – Day 2**08:30 – 09:00** **Registrations & Welcome Coffee****09:00 – 09:05** **Introduction and Opening of Day 2**

Speaker:

Ian Gauci Borda, Malta Council for Science & Technology**09:05 – 09:15** **The BLUEMED Coordination and Support Action - Setting the scene for the implementation of the BLUEMED Initiative**

Speaker:

Margherita Cappelletto, BLUEMED CSA Project Manager**09:15 – 10:30** **Showcase of projects which implement the BLUEMED Initiative (continuation)**

Chairperson:

Luca Marangoni, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Speakers:

Audrey Zammit, Biodivalve Coordinator**Pierpaolo Campostrini**, SUPREME Coordinator and SIMWESTMED Project**Chiara Petrioli**, ARCHEOSUB Coordinator**Vedran Slapničar**, BlueNET Project**Jackie Chetcuti**, FiDaCaMS Project**Salowa Sadok**, BIOVecQ and SecurAqua Coordinator**10:30 – 11:00** **Coffee Break****11:00 – 12:30** **Panel Discussion: Learning from Partnerships - Unlocking Innovation through Collaboration - how different sectors can collaborate better together to develop new value chains**

BLUEMED fosters new ways to increase cooperation between industry, research and local communities to fully capture the value of innovative

technologies, scale them up and bring them to the market.

- How can partnerships lead to success in the marine and maritime sectors?
- How can clusters play a role in facilitating collaboration among different blue economy stakeholders?
- What are the opportunities and challenges for clusters?

Chairperson: **Laura Yuste**, BLUEMED Initiative Strategic Board

Speakers:

Shane A. Hunter, AquaBiotech Ltd.

Vedran Slapničar, Croatian Maritime Industry Competitiveness Cluster

Nikos Papandroulakis, Hellenic Center for Marine Research

José de Lara, Clúster Marítimo Español

Mario Dogliani, Technical Director, SEA Europe

Gustavo Larrazábal, Chair, European Aquaculture Technology Platform

12:30 – 12 :45 Wrap-up and Conclusions

Luca Marangoni, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries,
European Commission

Laura Yuste, BLUEMED Initiative Strategic Board

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Showcase of projects/initiatives which implement the BLUEMED Initiative (continuation)

Chairperson:

Vangelis Papathanassiou, Vice-chair, BLUEMED Initiative Strategic Board

Speakers:

Alain Deidun, Seaofskills - Principal Investigator at University of Malta

Marcello Scalisi, Director, Mediterranean Universities Union

Martina Rossi, ASSESS Coordinator

Georgios Georgiou, MENTOR Coordinator

Katerina Moutou, PerformFISH Coordinator

Aldo Drago, eAIROOS Project

Chokri Mansour, Association Pinna

15:30 – 15 :45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15 Panel Discussion: Connecting the Mediterranean Sea

Connecting the major players at basin level to drive and create jobs and growth in the Mediterranean

Chairperson:

Sigi Gruber, Head of Marine Resources Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Speakers:

Raffaele Mancini, Blue Economy Expert, Union for the Mediterranean

Laura Giuliano, Advisor, The Mediterranean Science Commission

Biagio di Terlizzi, Director, Cooperation and Planning office, International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

Roberto Montanari, Chair, Bologna Charter Initiative

Pierpaolo Campostrini, Management Board, Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans

Davide Strangis, Executive Secretary, Intermediterranean Commission, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

Miguel Bernal, Fishery Resources Officer, General Fishery Commission for the Mediterranean

17:15 – 17:30 Wrap-up and Conclusions

Sigi Gruber, Head of Marine Resources Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Luca Marangoni, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Gesine Meissner, Member of the European Parliament

Chris Aguis, Malta's Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport