



Second Working Group Webinar of 2025

Environment, Green and Sustainable Blue Economy Division
Union for the Mediterranean



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Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC



Axis 1:

Support the transition towards a Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy based on sustainable consumption and production practices and nature-based solutions



Axis 2:

Prevent and reduce pollution on land, sea and air



Axis 3:

Protect, preserve, manage and restore biodiversity and natural resources in the Mediterranean region within an integrated ecosystem approach, including terrestrial, marine and coastal dimension/s



2ND UfM MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

(2nd FEBRUARY 2021)

10 Ministerial priorities:

1. Governance & the future of sea basin strategies
2. Marine research, innovation, skills, careers & employment
3. Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries & aquaculture
4. Sustainable, climate-neutral & zero-pollution maritime transport & ports
5. Interactions between ML & the blue economy
6. Coastal & maritime tourism
7. MSP&ICZM
8. Marine Renewable Energy
9. Maritime Safety & Security
10. Sustainable Investments



UfM Blue Economy Roadmap

Following the adoption of the **2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE**, UfM Co-Presidency, Secretariat, and UfM countries agree to elaborate a Roadmap for the implementation of the Ministerial

- ✓ *Landmark document in the region*
 - ✓ *Overview and analysis of joint needs, gaps and opportunities for future support, funding, and implementation by Ministerial priority + Sketching out of ongoing initiatives, programmes, and projects*
 - ✓ *Potential avenues for future cooperation (promising pathways, processes and actions) that can be launched and scaled-up in the short, medium, and longer term*
 - ✓ *Results-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation System*
-
- ✓ 17th meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on SBE (February 2025, UfMS)
 - ✓ Ongoing coordination with the WestMED Initiative (Steering Committees, Technical Groups...)





UFM POLICY AND TECHNICAL MULTISTAKHOLDERS'DIALOGUE

- UfM Environment (ENV) Working group and the UfM Regional Platform on Environment and Climate Change
- Regional Platform on Environment and Climate Change



CHARTING THE PATH TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

The Mediterranean Leading the Way

10 JUNE
2025



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With the financial support of



Sweden
Sverige



UNITED NATIONS
OCEAN CONFERENCE
NICE, FRANCE 2025

In the framework of the

Mediterranean
Day



2ND MEDITERRANEAN GREEN WEEK

24-27
JUNE 2025
BRUSSELS



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German Development Cooperation (GIZ) GmbH

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Focused on Sea Level Rise; Ecosystem
Restoration/Mediterranean Forests and Landscape
Restoration; Green Finance



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Sustainable food systems



Circular economy

 **Innovative sustainable economy** |  **Interreg Euro-MED** |  **Co-funded by the European Union** |  A project initiated by the UfM

**Breaking Barriers:
Behavioural Change Strategies for Circular
Economy Implementation**

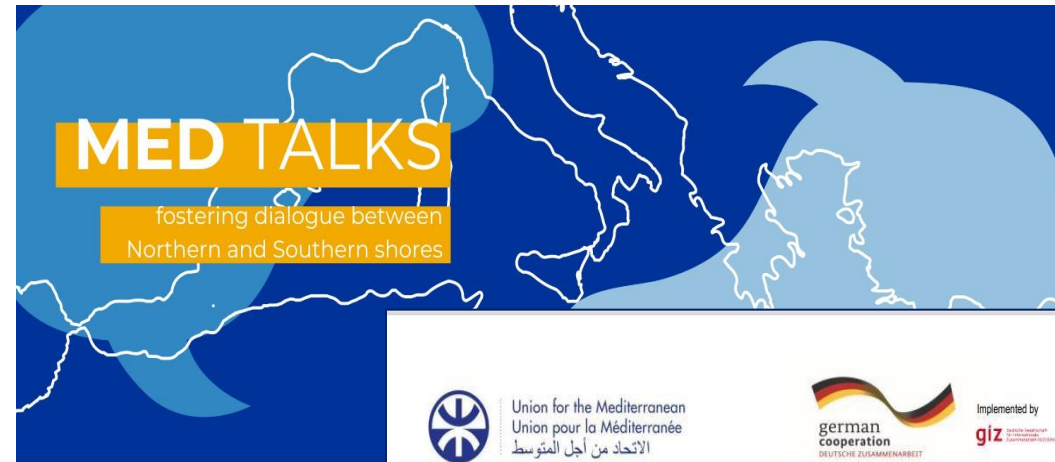
18 June 2025
Online within the EU Green Week 2025

Join us for an **interactive online webinar on 18 June**, organised as part of EU Green Week 2025. The webinar will focus on the theme 'Circular economy: reuse, repair, recycle for a better life'. The webinar will bring together practitioners, experts and researchers to address one of the most challenging aspects of the circular economy: human behaviour.

The webinar will explore **behavioural strategies that promote the adoption of the circular economy**. Through case studies of repair hubs, textile initiatives and procurement programmes, you will learn how to identify barriers and implement effective, replicable solutions across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Sustainable tourism

**Examples
/highlights
under Axis 1*



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Implemented by
giz



European Union

Concept Note

UfM Conference: The Tourism Sector
Employment-related opportunities and challenges

2-3 July 2025

Athens, Greece

The Mediterranean region is one of the world's most significant tourism destinations, attracting over **400 million visitors annually** and generating nearly **30% of global tourism revenue**. With its

**Paths
That Last**

COLLABORATING FOR
A SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

**Examples/highlights under Axis 2*



MARINE LITTER PLASTIC BUSTERS INITIATIVE

SDSN-MED
Flagship Project
2013

UfM Labelling
2016

PB MPAs
2018

COMMON +
PLASTIC
BUSTERS CAP
2019 - 23

New projects:

MIRAMAR
and
MEDPROACT



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- Updated Marine Litter Policy Paper
- Two new Plastic Busters follow-up projects:
 - ✓ *MEDproACT project - Interreg Next*
 - ✓ *MEDMIRAMAR project - Interreg EuroMED*
- ✓ Kick off on the 30th of October, Barcelona



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LITTER-FREE IS THE WAY TO BE

ACTIONS FOR A HEALTHY MEDITERRANEAN

THE ISSUE AT STAKE

Marine litter — and marine plastic pollution in particular — is a major threat due to its significant environmental, economic, social, political and cultural implications. Marine litter negatively impacts **coastal and marine ecosystems** and the **services** they provide, ultimately affecting **people's livelihoods and well-being**. Marine plastic pollution is not just an oceans' pollution issue. It is an air pollution and climate issue too as plastic — admittedly an indispensable material of today's societies — contributes to greenhouse gas emissions at every stage of its lifecycle, from its production to its refining and up to the way it is managed as a waste product.

Plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea poses a threat to **countries' wellbeing, economic resilience and environmental sustainability**, with potential effects on human health yet to be fully understood.

as estimated in 2015, are at the level of over **260,000 tonnes per year or 730 tonnes per day**, depending on the coastal population, which may vary depending on the country, representing more than 2% of the total inputs in the world's oceans (UNEP/MAP, 2015).

The root causes of marine litter in the Mediterranean are the same as anywhere else in the world: a complex combination of **production and consumption patterns, irresponsible behavior of individuals and economic sectors, weak enforcement and/or lack of policy and legislative frameworks**, poor solid waste management practices, **misconceptions** related to possible solutions, fragmented understanding of the problem due to the lack of fit-for-purpose data.

the resilience of the economic system. It also constitutes a lever to help achieve the UN 2030 Agenda and several of its SDGs.

Within this context, **PLASTIC BUSTERS** is continuously and concretely consolidating and advancing actions towards a litter-free Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean basin is **particularly vulnerable** to pressures from its densely populated coasts, highly developed tourism, and heavy maritime traffic (30 percent of the world maritime traffic); a vulnerability exacerbated by the low renewal rate of its waters and the structural lack of proper waste management systems and infrastructure (from collection to recycling) in most surrounding countries. Litter items found on Mediterranean beaches appear to originate primarily from recreational and tourism related activities, and poor municipal waste management practices.

It is widely acknowledged that the Mediterranean Sea is one of the most affected seas by marine litter worldwide. Inputs of plastics into the sea,



LITTER-FREE IS THE WAY TO BE

ACTIONS FOR A HEALTHY MEDITERRANEAN



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COMMON

THE ISSUE AT STAKE

Marine litter — and marine plastic pollution in particular — is a major threat due to its significant environmental, economic, social, political and cultural implications. Marine litter negatively impacts **coastal and marine ecosystems** and the **services** they provide, ultimately affecting **people's livelihoods and well-being**. Marine plastic pollution is not just an oceans' pollution issue. It is an air pollution and climate issue too as plastic — admittedly an indispensable material of today's

societies — contributes to greenhouse gas emissions at every stage of its lifecycle, from its production to its refining and up to the way it is managed as a waste product.

Plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea poses a threat to **countries' wellbeing, economic resilience and environmental sustainability**, with potential effects on human health yet to be fully understood.

as estimated in 2015, are at the level of over **260,000 tonnes** per year or **730 tonnes per day**, depending on the coastal population, which may vary depending on the country, representing more than 2% of the total inputs in the world's oceans (UNEP/MAP, 2015).

The root causes of marine litter in the Mediterranean are the same as anywhere else in the world: a complex combination of **production and consumption patterns, irresponsible behavior of individuals and economic sectors, weak enforcement and/or lack of policy and legislative frameworks**, poor solid waste management practices, **misconceptions** related to possible solutions, fragmented understanding of the problem due to the lack of fit-for-purpose data.

Overall, the Mediterranean economy is still marked by a linear system, which over-exploits natural resources, causes pollution and thus undermines fragile ecosystems: in a region considered a bio-

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The Mediterranean basin is **particularly vulnerable** to pressures from its densely populated



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UfM Policy Paper on
Marine Litter updated
and about to be
released, considering the
negotiations for a New
Plastic treaty



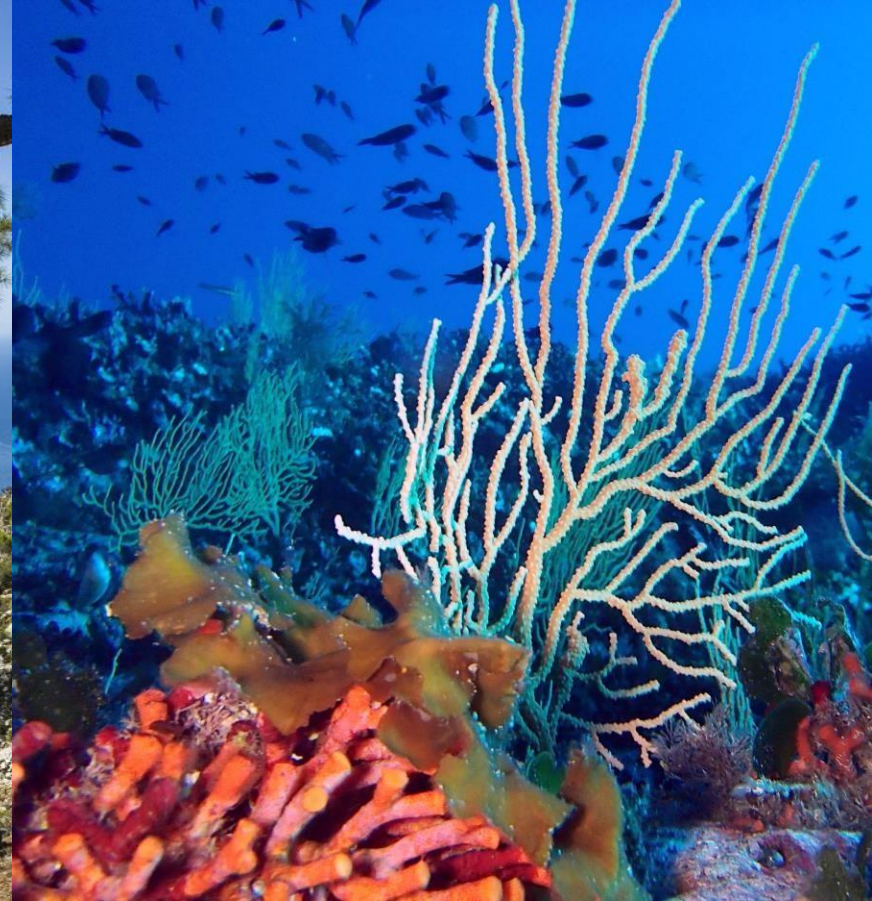
FOREST/LANDSCAPE RESTORATION - COLLABORATION WITH FAO/Silva MED, EFIMED, MED MODEL FORESTS and IUCN

- Reinforcing the Med regional dimension;
- seed funding for capacity building and TA;
- publications, awareness and dissemination material;
- Participation and co-organization of the Mediterranean Forest Week/s (last one 8th Med Forest Week in Barcelona)
- SilvaMediterranea Road Map
- Participation to the Global Forum of Model Forests and partnership with the Mediterranean Model Forests Network
- Co-organization of the Young Leadership Programme with EFIMED, in 2023 and in 2025
- Med4Gen project, forest genetic biodiversity



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Upcoming Barcelona Convention COP24 side event opportunity to launch the 100MPA MedAlliance, 2nd of December 2025





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- UfM LABELLED INTERREG EUROMED GOVERNANCE PROJECTS
- MED TALKS, 2025 EDITION



2030GreenerMed
UfM AGENDA FOR A GREENER MEDITERRANEAN

Sustainable agrifood systems in the Mediterranean
Levers for transformation

About Explore the levers

TOWARDS 2030: AGENDA FOR A GREENER MED
Contributing to Achieving the Environmental SDGs in the Mediterranean
[2030GreenerMed]

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
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The UfM Secretariat is co-funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

Interreg
Euro-MED



Co-funded by
the European Union



The European Ocean Pact

The new **Pact for the Mediterranean**, that will pave the way towards a common space of peace, prosperity and stability in the Mediterranean region, building on the foundations of the 2021 Agenda for the Mediterranean. The Commission, in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean, will support the development of a blue economy sea-basin strategy on the Eastern Mediterranean, which currently lacks a dedicated structure for cooperation, based on the format of the WestMed Initiative and in cooperation with existing regional bodies.

Built around six strategic objectives

- ✓ *Protecting and restoring ocean health*
- ✓ *Boosting the competitiveness of the EU sustainable blue economy*
- ✓ *Supporting coastal and island communities, and outermost regions*
- ✓ *Advancing ocean research, knowledge, skills and innovation*
- ✓ *Enhancing maritime security and defence*
- ✓ *Strengthening EU ocean diplomacy and international ocean governance*



Pact for the Mediterranean

with a dedicated section on
Sustainable Blue Economy

One Sea
One Pact
One Future





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Thank you! Merci ! شكراً

*Water, Environment and Blue Economy Division
Union for the Mediterranean*