

The WestMED initiative: Blue economy in action



- ▶ The WestMED initiative was launched on 17 November 2015 by the Union for the Mediterranean with support from the European Commission, in the wake of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on the Blue Economy. It seeks to build a safer maritime space, create a smarter and more resilient blue economy and improve maritime governance in the Western Mediterranean.
- ▶ The culmination of several years of consultation among the ten countries of the Western Mediterranean, this initiative was designed to help public institutions, universities, local communities, small and medium-sized businesses, and entrepreneurs from both sides of the Western Mediterranean to develop local and regional maritime projects together.
- ▶ On December 4, 2018, Foreign Ministers of the ten Western Mediterranean countries, together with the European Commission and the Union for the Mediterranean, adopted a joint roadmap for the development of a sustainable blue economy in the sub-basin, building on the following priorities:
 - ❖ Maritime safety and the fight against marine pollution.
 - ❖ Developing maritime business clusters.
 - ❖ Developing skills and creating frameworks conducive to their circulation.
 - ❖ Encouraging sustainable consumption and production.
 - ❖ Conserving and restoring biodiversity and marine habitats.
 - ❖ Improving the living conditions of coastal communities and developing sustainable fishing and aquaculture.

References

- WestMed. L'Initiative OuestMED [[online](#)]