



# Monitoring the implementation of the Roadmap, regular updates foreseen, and progress in its implementation

*ROADMAP TO SET THE PATH TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2021 UFM  
MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY*

**13<sup>th</sup> Blue Economy Working Group meeting**

Brussels, 14 March 2023

# Background summary

- Following the adoption 2<sup>nd</sup> UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE), the UfM Co-Presidency, countries, and the UfM Secretariat, agreed to elaborate the **Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 Ministerial**. On this basis, UfM Co-Presidency, UfM Secretariat, countries, contracted consultants, and relevant stakeholders worked together in an iterative process to complete the draft Roadmap. The document was presented in its final version and endorsed by the countries as a landmark document in the region at the 10th Meeting of the Working Group (March 23, 2022).
- Countries also agreed to advance and collaborate on the following **areas of action in the short-term**:
  1. Diversification of small ports and marinas beyond transport: Economic hubs linking to (i.e.), aquaculture, sustainable tourism, renewable energy, and marine litter facilities. This could encompass transformative innovation for small-scale ports, and the ability of small ports and marinas to adopt fully circular models.
  2. Innovation ecosystems and introduction to the concept of Smart Specialization Strategies, focusing on innovation and financing, and including (i.e.) the scale-up of good practices on sustainable food value-chains; financing tourism diversification and digitalization; and scaling-up innovation practices across the Sea basin.
  3. MSP as an overall sector enabler.
  4. A cross-cutting axis focusing on blue skills, careers and jobs, as well as Technical Assistance, Information Exchange, twinning (for all topics and where applicable), and including ocean literacy and maritime safety.
- The **monitoring, reporting, and evaluation system** was adopted at the 12th meeting of the WG (24 October, 2022)

# Progress in the implementation of the short-term priority actions

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## Capacity Building on project proposal development

On October 25th, 2022, in Aqaba, a **Capacity Building session on project proposal development** was organised by the UfM Secretariat and delivered in the framework of the 12th UfM Blue Economy Working Group, and in a hybrid modality in order to allow wider participation of relevant blue economy stakeholders from various Mediterranean countries

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## Innovation ecosystems for blue economy value-chains

The webinar “**Financing Innovation Ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy: Local actors, opportunities, and challenges**” was held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This UfM webinar aimed at shedding a light on the different actors, their experiences, and specific roles that contribute to supporting the development of innovation ecosystems in and for the sustainable blue economy across various Mediterranean countries.

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## Small-ports and marinas diversification Maritime Clusters

Support was provided for **project consortia to engage with east MED stakeholders**, so as to further support the ability of local small ports, harbours and marinas to act as ‘innovation hubs’ for a sustainable diversification of local business ecosystems, as well as develop maritime clusters across the southern shore of the Mediterranean.

Under the ‘flagship’ call of the European Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 26 proposals were received by CINEA, including support to “sustainable ports and transport” in the Mediterranean (Topic 3).

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## MSP as a sustainable blue economy ‘enabler’

On January 26th, 2023, CINEA and DG MARE officially **launched a Mediterranean MSP Community of Practice** during a kick-off meeting in Brussels where the experts discussed the structure and the action plan for next year.

In the context of the existing EU policy framework and the broader political will to advance the MSP process in the Mediterranean, the establishment of this enlarged MSP Community of Practice/expertise would build on the work of the WestMed Initiative. This would also entail ensuring the appropriate flow of information between the enlarged MSP Community of Practice and the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy.

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## Purpose and objectives of the Roadmap monitoring system (recap)

- Monitoring **the process of implementation** to ensure that the activities outlined in the Roadmap are being accomplished and that resources are being allocated and used effectively.
- Monitoring **concrete outputs directly associated to the activities** supported through the actions, sets of activities or projects carried out to implement the Roadmap.
- **Assessment of the progress towards the achievement** of the short, medium and long term objectives, assessing if the result indicators evolve in the expected/desired direction.
- **Using the information collected to periodically review the overall strategy** and to inform decision makers and stakeholders at different levels.

# Overview of the monitoring arrangements

## *1-UfM Focal Points country updates illustrating progress by Ministerial priority*

- The monitoring process will start with the **delivery of presentations by the countries (UfM Focal Points on Blue Economy)** during the 13th meeting of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy (Brussels, March 14), aiming in particular to monitor progress on the accomplishment of the Priorities of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE. UfM National Focal Points on Blue Economy will prepare a summary of the main achievements (policies, strategies, initiatives, programs, projects, videos, etc.) according to the priorities set in the 2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE.

## *2-Yearly updates on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration (2024, 2025)*

- These presentations will constitute the **baseline/basis for yearly updates by the countries on the implementation of the Ministerial**, foreseen in 2024 and 2025. They will be duly enriched with hyperlinks to (i.e.) key documents, publications, etc. and will help to visualize progress over time. The updates will focus on the following aspects:
  - a. Initiatives, planned and ongoing, in which countries are involved in (at both national and regional level) per each Ministerial Declaration Priority and Call for Action.
  - b. Initiatives implemented (and status of implementation).
  - c. Outputs (deliverables) and Outcomes expected per each initiative (and status of achievements).
  - d. Challenges and mitigation plans/measures (with regards to issues and bottlenecks addressed/foreseen)

## *3-Periodic updates of the Roadmap (2023, 2025)*

- The Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, understood as a living document, will be updated periodically – every two (2) years: in 2023 and 2025. The document will be enriched, as needed, with (i.e.) new data/information on the state-of-the-art for each sector/priority, projects/initiatives, avenues for joint cooperation, etc.

## *4-Mid-term evaluation (after 2025)*

- Finally, a mid-term evaluation will take place in the context of the preparation of a new UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, expected possibly after 2025. The scope and focus of the evaluation will be agreed based on the inputs received through the Yearly updates by the countries. This evaluation report should serve as an important element of information to support the preparation and the identification of the priorities of a new Ministerial Declaration.