



Interreg Italy-Croatia:

# Our Shared Blue Basin

From 14-20 to the new Programme 21-27

24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022



# Synergies with other Funds and Programmes:

EMFAF – EU Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Calls for flagship projects on blue economy with a sea basin perspective

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EMFAF



It supports the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and of the **EU maritime policy with 4 priorities**:

- Fostering sustainable **fisheries** and the conservation of marine biological resources;
- Contributing to food security in the Union through competitive and sustainable **aquaculture** and markets;
- **Enabling the growth of a sustainable blue economy and fostering prosperous coastal communities;**
- Strengthening **international ocean governance** and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans.

**Budget** of EUR 6.108 billion for the period 2021-2027,

It's divided between

- **shared** management (by Member States)
- and **direct** management (by the European Commission, agencies and international organisations).

The majority of the EMFAF actions in direct management are delegated to CINEA are targeted at supporting policy development by procurement (purchase of services) and grants (contribution to specific actions).

# 2021 EMFAF 1<sup>st</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS FLAGSHIP PROJECTS



The projects were funded under the [European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund](#) first call for proposals to support “**Flagship projects**” (pilot strategic initiatives) to achieve the goals of the relevant sea basin strategy (budget 2021).

All together the projects are worth it almost EUR 5.5 million.

The call covers the following three topics:

**1. ATLANTIC - Innovative multi-use projects combining offshore renewable energy with other activities and/or with nature protection**

**2. BLACK SEA - Blue Economy investment and innovation capacity building pilot**

**3. WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN - Recovery of coastal and maritime tourism**

Preserving the marine and coastal environment + marine cultural heritage, + contributing to the attractiveness of coastal areas + focus on ecotourism + digitalisation + mobilising private-public investments.



**EMFAF 1<sup>st</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
FLAGSHIP PROJECTS | 2021  
WESTMED**



Supporting **coastal and maritime tourism in the Western Mediterranean (WestMED)**

***Objectives: Strengthen competitiveness and sustainability of coastal and maritime tourism sectors***

1. tap into eco-tourism market,
2. boost innovation and digitalization in the tourism sector,
3. improve the business environment for tourism SMEs

***Proposals must address at least one:***

➤ **Innovation in destination management**

such as long-term orientation → environmental/social sustainability, value creation, promotion of synergies with other actors, marketing cultural heritage and natural assets;

➤ **Design of smart eco-tourism packages**

such as strengthening circular economy approach, ecological footprint reduction, collaboration local clusters, promote less-known areas, tourist season prolongation,

# EMFAF CALL FOR PROPOSALS FLAGSHIP PROJECTS WESTMED | 2021



## **Conditions for submission:**

- Minimum 4 entities from 4 different eligible countries, incl. at least two EU Member States and one eligible non-EU country participating in the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean
- At least 1 private-sector business entity or association in the coastal and maritime tourism sector
- At least 1 local/regional/city level public authority with competence relating to coastal and maritime tourism sector activities, with a coordinator established in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy or Malta

**Duration:** between 24 and 36 months

**Project budgets:** EUR 700 000 and EUR 1 000 000 per project

**Opening date:** 28 September 2021 - **Deadline date:** 12 January 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/emfaf-call-proposals-boost-regional-cooperation-sustainable-blue-economy\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/emfaf-call-proposals-boost-regional-cooperation-sustainable-blue-economy_en)



# Results of the Flagship call 2021 for the WESTMED

## 1. EU WeMED\_NaTOUR PROJECT

- Focus on West Mediterranean natural marine sites & maritime/coastal destinations to develop **transnational eco-smart tourism packages**
- Sustainable, responsible and eco-tourism, with specific reference to the “**new generations**”
- To design and pilot **eco-smart tourism packages for the school-trip tourism** market, addressed to primary, secondary schools (age groups: 6-10 yrs; 11-13yrs; 14-16yrs),
- With the strong involvement and collaboration of West Mediterranean tourism SMEs, offer “learn-by-visiting”

**Consortium: IT, ES, MR, PT, BE/Duration: 28 Months/ Total cost: 995.854 EUR/Grant: 796.683 EUR**

## 2. REBOOT MED PROJECT

- Public-private partnership co-defining Blue Economy Action Plans for the **Recovery of the tourism sector**
- To **incubate, accelerate and test new eco/blue economy tourism packages** in 10 pilot areas in 6 WestMed countries.
- **Capacity building and awareness-raising** on the competitiveness and sustainability of the coastal and maritime tourism ecosystem -> through **local clusters** and a series of exchanges organised in collaboration with the WestMed Initiative;
- Promoting asset-based development approach -> support and stimulate tourism **SMEs, coastal communities and potential pioneers** (women, NEETs, startupper) to play as actors of change in re-imagining and re-building coastal and maritime tourism.
- Targeted **go-to-market services and testing activities**

Consortium: FR, IT, ES, TN, MA, MR, MT /Duration: 24 Months/Total cost: 1.294.225 EUR/Grant: 999.380 EUR

### 3. ECO-CRUIISING FU\_TOUR PROJECT

- Developing a **new generation of cruise tourism** to preserve coastal and maritime tourism; offer innovative routes and solutions.
- To **exploit the green potential of WestMed tourism SMEs and cross-border cooperation**, and unlock new business opportunities around the **eco-cruise tourism sector**.
- Boost **managerial, innovative, blue, green and digital skills** of tourism WestMed SMEs and public and private stakeholders in charge of the **promotion of EU and West European coastal and maritime destinations**
- Develop specialised **capacity building programmes**, knowledge and **tech transfer**, preparing the transfer of good practices and multiplying the results.
- Design **eco-smart cruise packages targeting Millennials and Gen Z**; combining smart (digital) and eco-sustainable offering.

**Consortium:** IT, MA, ES, EL, CY, TN, DZ /Duration: 28 Months/Total cost: 990,222.38 EUR/Grant: 796,215.77 EUR



**EMFAF SUPPORT in the MED**



## **New Call for Regional Flagship Projects 2022, supporting sustainable blue economy in EU sea basins**

**LINK:**

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/emfaf-call-proposals-regional-flagships-projects-supporting-sustainable-blue-economy-eu-sea-basins\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/emfaf-call-proposals-regional-flagships-projects-supporting-sustainable-blue-economy-eu-sea-basins_en)

After the experience of last year focused on Coastal Tourism in the MED,  
in this occasion **2 topics for the MEDITERRANEAN**

Build up on work done in WESTMED by Stakeholder community

**Green Shipping and ports / Maritime clusters**

## Topic 3: promoting sustainable transport and ports in the Mediterranean

**(EUR 2.4 million available)**

It aims at contributing to the Goal 2 “A smart and resilient blue economy of the strategy” (Priority Sustainable consumption and production: ports and maritime transport) of the WestMED initiative. And it is totally aligned with the work of the WestMed Technical Group on Green Shipping.

Proposals should focus on one of the following themes:

- Monitoring and technology foresight on green shipping in the Mediterranean, including energy consumption, technological chains in maritime alternative fuels, and practices and opportunities for strategic development of infrastructures to boost sustainable sources for green shipping;
- Promotion of energy communities in ports of the Mediterranean, e.g. by supporting/anticipating the transition to LNG, or from LNG towards a wider choice of alternative fuels/technologies, including green hydrogen, electrification, wind, etc.;
- Promote commercial vessels (including local small-scale ferries and service vessels) and fishing boats transition to LNG, or from LNG towards a wider choice of alternative fuels-propulsion/technologies (green hydrogen, electrification, wind).

## Topic 4: fostering maritime clusters as an innovative enabler for a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

### **(EUR 1 million available)**

It aims at contributing to the Goal 2 “A smart and resilient blue economy” of the WestMED Initiative (Priority 2.2. “Maritime Clusters Development”), by building up on clusters currently cooperating (e.g. WestMED Clusters Alliance).

The UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE also calls for the establishment of blue economy clusters - including transnational ones, the strengthening of existing clusters, and increased cooperation between national clusters in the Mediterranean.

### Scope:

- This topic focuses on **establishing new national maritime clusters and enhancing cooperation between Northern and Southern clusters across the Mediterranean** and among clusters, SMEs, academia and research centres, institutional actors and financial institutions.
- It also aims to **improve the involvement of maritime clusters in policy-making** at the regional/national levels, in particular as regards the definition/upgrade of smart specialisation strategies.

The call is financed by [the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund \(EMFAF\)](#).

**Projects with budget between 400.000 EUR and 1 Million EUR**

**Eligible countries [UfM countries \(open broader than WestMed\)](#)**

EU Member States and Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya  
+ Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Albania, North Macedonia,  
Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Consortium composition** at least 3 applicants (full partners); from 2 different EU eligible countries; at least one independent entity from one non-EU eligible country;  
The coordinator must be established in an EU Member State.

**Deadline** for the submission is 31 January 2023

Also **the Blue Careers Call** published as well, with the same deadline, and open to all WestMed countries:

[EMFAF Blue Careers Call 2023 \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

The overall aim of this Call is to contribute to the development of the next generation of blue skills and to provide opportunities for attractive, sustainable maritime careers. The objective is to develop the necessary skillsets to support the European Green Deal initiatives promoting a sustainable blue economy.

INFO DAY event in hybrid format on 24 November, to present the details of these two Calls.

Please find here the link to register on CINEA website:

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/emfaf-2022-info-day-2022-11-24\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/emfaf-2022-info-day-2022-11-24_en)

A promotional banner for the EMFAF 2022 Info Day event. The background is a scenic sunset over a body of water with several boats. The text is overlaid on a blue graphic element on the left side. The main title 'EMFAF 2022 INFO DAY' is in large white letters. Below it, the topics 'Blue careers and Regional flagships Calls for Proposals' are listed. The date and time '24 NOVEMBER 2022 | 10:00-17:00 CET' are in a purple rounded rectangle. The location 'CENTRE BORSCHETTE, BRUSSELS' is in a blue rounded rectangle. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue circle containing the hashtag '#EMFAF' and the European Union flag.

**EMFAF 2022  
INFO DAY**

Blue careers and  
Regional flagships  
Calls for Proposals

24 NOVEMBER 2022 | 10:00-17:00 CET

CENTRE BORSCHETTE, BRUSSELS

#EMFAF



# EMFAF support in the MED



## EMFAF support

- **WestMed Assistance Mechanism**  
**(National Hubs and MoU with INTERREG EUROMED)**  
**Embedding process (IT) + Also synergies with EUSAIR – Macro**  
**Regional Strategies and Interreg ADRION -**
  
- **Grant to UfM**  
**(and roadmap to implement the Ministerial Declaration on**  
**Sustainable Blue Economy)**

# EMFF SUPPORT in the MED



- **AFRIMED:** Algal Forest Restoration In the MEDiterranean Sea (incl. TN, MA)
- **Cluster ACT:** Aggregation and Collaboration Tools to enhance cluster network in the maritime sector (incl. EG)
- **CMES-WestMed:** Common maritime education standards in the westmed (incl. TN)
- **DEEP BLUE:** Developing Education and Employment Partnerships for a Sustainable Blue Growth in the Western Mediterranean Region (incl. TN)
- **DiveSafe:** Integrated system for scientific and environmental underwater surveys, with advanced health & safety features (incl. IL)
- **ENSAMBLE:** Expertise and Networking to Sustain Actions in Med through Blue and Local Economy (incl. TN)
- **MedSkippers:** Professional skippers in the Mediterranean (incl. MA)
- **STARFISH 4.0:** Demonstration of an autonomous connected device and digital tools for safety of artisanal fishermen and sustainable management of small-scale fisheries (incl. MR)



# #Be Green. Go Blue!



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