

From the BLUEMED initiative to the Mediterranean Light House of the Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters 2030

Fabio Fava

BLUEMED GSO, University of Bologna, Italy (fabio.fava@unibo.it)

Fedra Francocci, Margherita Cappelletto, Fabio Trincardi

BLUEMED CSA, National Research Council, Roma, Italy

The Mediterranean Sea



The **Mediterranean Sea** represents **1%** of **total ocean surface** but produces **€ 415 Bln/y**, e.g., **20%** **global Gross Marine Product**. It hosts **30%** of global sea-borne trade, **450** ports/terminals, the **2nd** World's largest market for cruise ships, **half** of the EU's fishing fleet, **400** UNESCO sites and **265** protected areas.

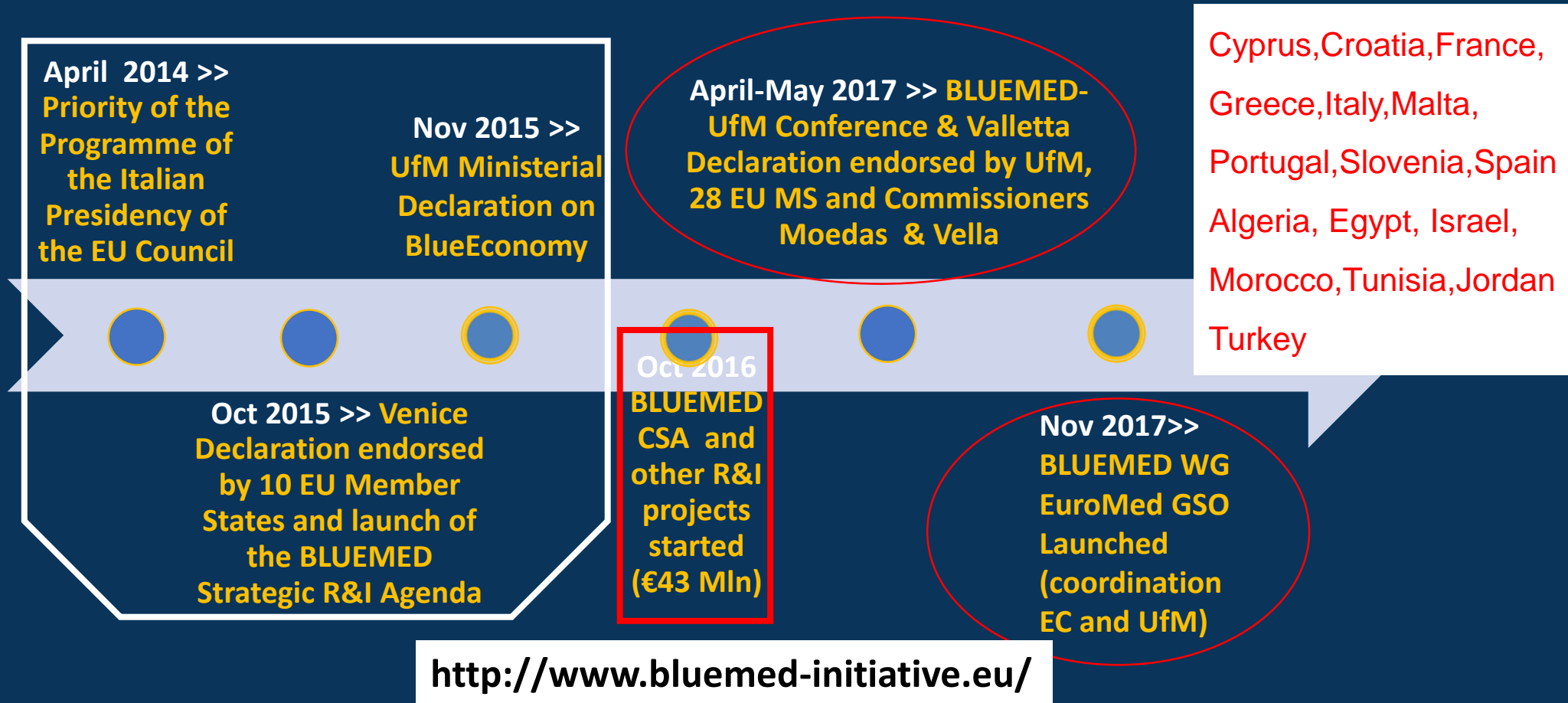
It **faces relevant environmental challenges** (due to climate change, pollution, overfishing, etc.) and **it does not efficiently exploit** local **biodiversity**, **deep sea resources**, **renewable energy**, etc.

Such **challenges/opportunities** cannot be **addressed/implemented** by any EU MS or local Country individually, but require a **common/shared Vision** and **R&I Agenda**.

The BLUEMED initiative: aims and actions



The R&I BLUEMED Initiative fosters integration of knowledge and efforts of Countries of the Mediterranean for a more sustainable blue growth in the area. It was initiated and implemented by the EU MS of the area in close cooperation with the EU commission (DG RTD, DG MARE). It was then open to all Countries of the area interested in joining it.



BLUEMED CSA R&I Action Plan

13 priority goals were selected by countries of the Basin from the BlueMed Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda: their implementation will foster sustainable, non-conflicting Blue Growth in the Mediterranean.



effective maritime spatial planning




sustainable food production




open data, open science, open innovation



greening vessels, facilities and services




understanding pollution impacts, mitigation and remediation



preparing to climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and define



building capacities, blue skills and blue professionals



towards an observing system of systems



exploring the potential of blue biotech



strengthen synergies among science, industry, policy-makers and society



linking tourism, tourists and environment



promote the role of marine renewable energies in the energy transition phase



from traditional to maritime economic blue growth activities

ACTION PLAN (2021)

http://www.blumed-initiative.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Blumed_Final_Implementation_Plan_D2.10_high_resolution.pdf

The Mediterranean sea, a plastic trap!



Mediterranean Sea:

1% of global waters

20% global Gross Marine Product

7% of global marine microplastics

The BLUEMED action



**Pilot Action for a plastic-free,
healthy Mediterranean Sea**



**Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy,
Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey**



Mapping in all Countries ongoing actions and initiatives with clear technological, business, policy, educational and social impacts. Set up of national hubs;



Set up a joint digital platform to share the mapped initiatives/projects and the best experiences;



Building a broad partnership to implement joint concrete actions to remarkably reduce marine litter in the Mediterranean sea.



EUROPEAN UNION

Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

Mission
lighthouses:
spaces of
transformation to
pilot,
demonstrate,
develop and
deploy the
Mission activities
across EU

Baltic & North sea basin



MAKE THE BLUE
ECONOMY CARBON-
NEUTRAL AND CIRCULAR

Mediterranean sea
basin



PREVENT AND ELIMINATE
POLLUTION OF OUR
OCEAN, SEAS AND
WATERS

Danube river basin



PROTECT AND RESTORE
MARINE AND FRESHWATERS
ECOSYSTEMS AND
BIODIVERSITY

Atlantic & Arctic coast



HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-03-02: Mediterranean Sea basin Lighthouse : the BlueMissionMed CSA (a)

OBJECTIVE: assist the European Commission in setting up, structuring and empowering an interactive digitalized Mission MED Light House, e.g. a multi-actors ecosystem providing MED Countries/Regions/stakeholders with the knowledge/tools for reducing pollution due to microplastics, pesticides, hydrocarbons, N, P, etc in the MED hydrosphere by 30/50% by 2030.

ACTORS INVOLVED: a trans-sectorial and multidisciplinary consortium of 6 MED R&I public institutions, 5 NGOs and 3 industrial associations, and 2 SMEs, with an “Overarching Steering Committee” (with EC, UfM, BLUEMED, WESTMED, EUSAIR, UNEP MAP, etc), a “Technical Advisory Board” (with EC JRC, EEA, Mercator Oceans, etc), a “Board of Ecosystem Enablers” (with over than 30 associations of industries, financing actors, majors, citizens, etc) and the 9 national hubs of the Pilot BLUEMED on plastics free healthy MED.

HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-03-02: Mediterranean Sea basin Lighthouse : the BlueMissionMed CSA (b)

