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**Verso la nuova strategia nazionale per
la difesa della costa: priorità di Ricerca
ed Innovazione sostenute da
Horizon2020 e altre iniziative Europee**

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The BLUEMED initiative

About

It was initiated by the **EU member states (MS) of the Mediterranean sea (MED)** in 2014 to foster a sustainable blue growth in the area.

It was a **priority of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**; it goes on under the IT coordination with **CY, HR, FR, GR, MT, SI, SP and PT** and in close cooperation with the **European Commission (DG RTD, DG MARE)**.

Why

The **MED**, which **prominently contributes to the EU economy** (with 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 250 protected areas), is **facing relevant environmental challenges** (due to climate change, maritime traffic and pollution, overfishing, etc.) and **does not efficiently exploit local biodiversity, deep sea resources, tourism, renewable energy, etc.**

Such **challenges/opportunities** cannot be addressed/implemented by any **EU MS** individually but require a **common/shared Vision and R&I Agenda (SRIA)**.

How BLUEMED initiative was set up

Needs & Gaps

- **May 2014** >> Set up of the initiative and roadmap;
- **June-August 2014** >> **National mapping of R&I projects** (about 900!) via public/private stakeholders consultations; merging of information and **identification of R&I gaps & needs, opportunities and boundary conditions for their implementation.**

Vision

- **September - December 2014** >> Sharing of the findings with relevant scientific communities and industrial associations at national and EU level. Set up of the **Vision Document** which was endorsed by the Italian Presidency of the EU Council and presented at the Competitiveness Council of 04-05 December 2014.

SRIA

- **February 2015** >> Identification of the Key challenges and goals & actions according to the drivers *boosting blue jobs & growth, knowledge transfer and SMEs participation*
- **April 2015** >> drafting of **BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).**
- **May-September 2015:** Sharing of SRIA with regional, national, EU and international public/private stakeholders;
- **October 2015 : Publication of SRIA** (updates will be made regularly every 6 months) endorsed by 14 EU Countries; 10 signed the **Venice declaration** on October 16, 2015)

BLUEMED Vision & SRIA available at: goo.gl/ZbJTWH

BLUEMED Strategic R&I Agenda: 12 Key Challenges

Key enabling knowledge for the Mediterranean

- Mediterranean Sea ecosystems: services, resources, vulnerability and resilience to natural and anthropogenic pressures
- Mediterranean climate change: the filed of sustainable adaptation and to climate change and plans for mitigation;
- Hazards and protection of coastal areas in the Mediterranean

Key sectorial enablers in the Mediterranean

- Innovative business based on marine bio-resources in the Mediterranean
- Economic development of Mediterranean aquaculture and fisheries
- Sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean
- Maritime clusters in the Mediterranean
- Maritime Spatial Planning & Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean

Enabling technology and capacity creation for the Mediterranean

- Observing systems and operational oceanography capacities in the Mediterranean
- Multi-purpose off-shore platforms in the Mediterranean
- Marine and costal cultural heritage in the Mediterranean: discovering, protecting and valuing

BLUEMED SRIA available at: goo.gl/ZbJTWH

BLUEMED impact on EU Commission

Some BLUEMED SRIA priorities were adopted by the EU commission, DG MARE and DG RTD, and included in their R&I programmes.

European Commission DG MARE

Call for proposals:

Blue Labs - innovative solutions for maritime challenges (May 31, 2016);

Blue Careers in Europe (May 31, 2016);

Blue Technology - transfer of innovative solutions to sea basin economies (Sept 2016)

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-labs-innovative-solutions-maritime-challenges>;

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-careers-europe>

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-labs-innovative-solutions-maritime-challenges>

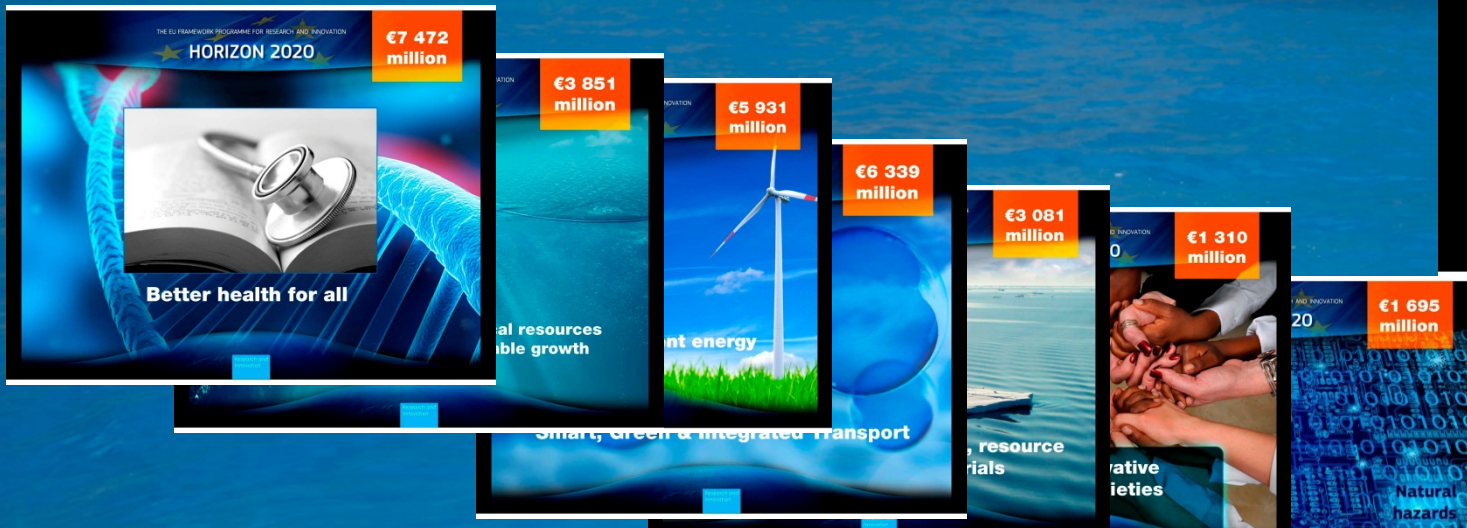
European Commission DG RTD

Six BLUEMED R&I priorities were included in the 2016-2017 WP of Horizon 2020 SC2 with € 43 M.

(http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-food_en.pdf)

Horizon 2020, Priority 3: Societal challenges

Tackling
societal
challenges
for a better
society



1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing (7.472 Bln)

2. Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy (3.851 Bln)

3. Secure, clean and efficient energy (5.931 Bln)

4. Smart, green and integrated transport (6.339 Bln)

5. Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials (3.081 Bln)

6. Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (1.310 Bln)

7. Secure societies (1.695 Bln)

BLUEMED initiative: Horizon2020 opportunities

Horizon 2020, SC2

- **BG-04-2017:** Multi-use of the oceans marine space, offshore and near-shore: Enabling technologies (**RIA, 8 M** , feb 2017, Sept 2017)
- **BG-06-2017:** Interaction between people, oceans and seas: a strategic approach towards healthcare and well-being (**CSA, 2M**, Feb 2017)
- **BG-07-2017:** Blue green innovation for clean coasts and seas (**RIA, 12 M**, feb 2017, Sept 2017)
- **RUR-02-2017:** Coastal-rural interactions: Enhancing synergies between land and sea-based activities (**RIA, 5 M**, feb 2017, Sept 2017)

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/draft-work-programmes-2016-17>

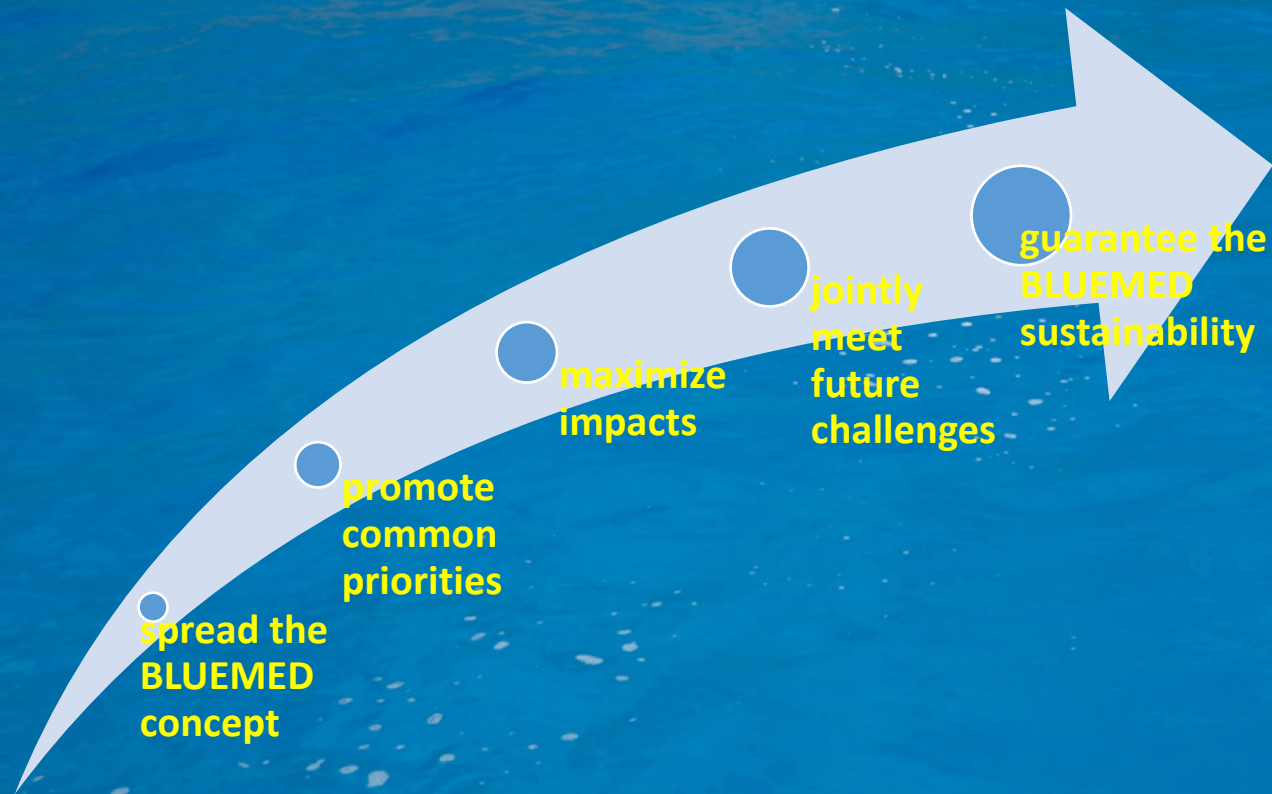
Horizon 2020, SC5

SC5-08-2017: Large-scale demonstrators on nature-based solutions for hydro-meteorological risk reduction (for hydro-meteorological risk reduction in coastal areas) (**IA**, 1st stage 07/03/2017; 2nd stage 05/09/2017)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-climate_en.pdf

BLUEMED initiative: SRIA implementation

The BLUEMED CSA aiming at implementing BLUEMED SRIA in the whole MED area is on place since October 1st 2016.



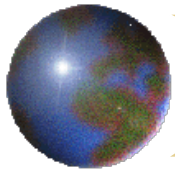
BLUEMED initiative: future opportunities

Some of the EU MS are including BLUEMED SRIA priorities in their national and regional R&I agendas. In IT, BLUEMED SRIA is quoted in the “National Plan for Research” and in some of the regional Smart Specialization Strategies.

Representatives of BLUEMED and of the “EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region” (EUSAIR) initiative are sharing and aligning R&I priorities and actions, in close cooperation with DG REGIO and DG MARE. BLUEMED is also a reference initiative for the “Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean” (WEST MED).

BLUEMED domain will be extended to all Countries bordering the Mediterranean and willing to join in the coming months. BLUEMED SRIA is included in the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) declaration and road-map.

Final objective: to contribute to align/integrate funding strategies, R&I funds and infrastructures at regional, national and EU level, by avoiding duplication, improving the effectiveness in the use of resources and maximizing the leverage effects.



Other programmes sustaining R&I in the sector (a)

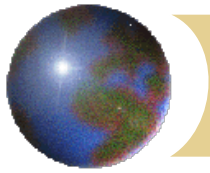
Interreg
Italy - Croatia



Axis 2 – Safety and resilience:

.....to develop the area's adaptation capacity to contrast sea level rise, flooding (in both coastal and hinterland areas), accelerated coastal erosion, subsidence, increasing water temperatures, acidification of the marine waters, saltwater intrusion into freshwater systems, increased occurrence of heavy rainfall and severe droughts and fires.

about €25 M on protection from environmental risks

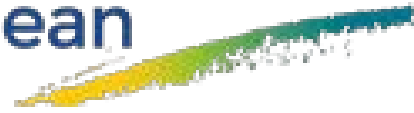


Other programmes sustaining R&I in the sector (b)

Interreg



Mediterranean



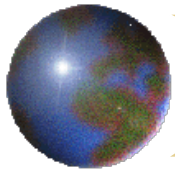
Axis 3.

Specific objective 3.1: To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area.

..... challenges regarding the environment, the natural and cultural heritage and the inclusion of coastal and maritime tourism in global sustainable development policies for the Interreg MED area, and especially into Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning policies.

Specific objective 3.2. To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas.

.....to maintain the biodiversity of natural coastal and marine ecosystems. It includes a better integration of protected areas in regional development strategies and more intensive cooperation between Interreg MED regions (exchange of information, strategies, regulations...).



Other programmes sustaining R&I in the sector (c)



Priority Area: Environment and Resource Efficiency
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Topic: Water including the marine environment:

- Better integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning
- flood and drought risk management
- preventing and reducing marine litter
- promoting synergies between integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning, demonstrating the added value of coordinating integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning in new marine contexts etc,