First Annual Assembly of the Blue Growth Community

Expectations and practical applications of the Blue Growth Community policy recommendations

February 4 & 5, 2020
Montpellier, France

>> REGISTRATION <<

Context and objectives of the event (ENG/FR)

Further to its three years of implementation, the Blue Growth Community comes back with a fresh set of recommendations and new project members for the coming period!

The Community will keep building its reflections towards the implementation of a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean, strengthening its links with multi-level key actors of blue sectors and seeking more integration with other communities to reach cross-cutting results to tackle common challenges.

This 2-day event represents the first occasion for the “new” community to meet. The first day represents the Annual assembly of the Community: the core members belonging to the Med Blue Growth projects, the associated partners and the enlarged members represented by all relevant stakeholders that have brought contents and knowledge so far and will keep doing so.

Seven key policy recommendations included in the Policy Paper will be discussed, representing the occasion for the enlarged blue growth community to explore practical applications and perspectives in
regional contexts. Five panels will debate one by one the main indications and will support with their contribution the following mainstreaming activities planned in the Blue Growth Community project. The second day of the Assembly is dedicated to the setup of the advisory board of the Community, the body that supports the transferring process of the project allowing the matching of results’ “givers” and “receivers.” Organized prior to the Intermediterranean Commission’s (CPMR) Political Bureau, the advisory boards will notably count on the participation of associated partners and regional governance bodies to specifically reflect on capitalization results and recommendations for mainstreaming.

Overall, this Assembly will bring a specific focus on Mediterranean initiatives and frameworks working on blue sustainability, the regional dimension, smart specialization strategies and the mainstreaming of community results into the different levels of policy-making actors.

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Provisional agenda

February 4, 2020

08.30-09.00 REGISTRATION

09.00-10.00 WELCOME ADDRESS AND OUTLINE OF THE FIRST DAY

Representative of the Occitanie Region
Representative of the Blue Growth Community – Introduction
Representative of the Blue Growth Community – Presentation of the Policy Paper

10.00-11.00 PANEL 1 – THE SUSTAINABILITY DIMENSION OF BLUE ECONOMY

RECOMMENDATION 1: Promote a new paradigm for Blue Economy based on SUSTAINABILITY, developing a long-term vision and strategy and delivering concrete solutions to overcome environmental impacts

Facilitator: Blue Growth Community Representative

Panelists are asked to answer the following questions:
What is being done at Euro-Mediterranean level to strengthen the sustainability dimension of the blue economy? In terms of environment, social, financial and economic issues?
Could you provide examples of concrete actions in your organization or region?
What specific positive externalities or challenges have you noticed?

Debate & Wrap-up
11.00-11:30  COFFEE BREAK

11.30-12.30  PANEL 2 – BLUE ECONOMY SECTORS: SYNERGIES AND COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

RECOMMENDATION 2: Exploit SYNERGIES amongst Blue Economy sectors and promote establishment of permanent CLUSTERS as strategic assets for sustainable Blue Growth

RECOMMENDATION 3: Strengthen and enhance COOPERATION among all Mediterranean countries (EU and non-EU) ensuring data sharing, knowledge exchange, technology transfer, industrial cooperation, mobility of experts and professionals, with a shared environmental sustainability responsibility

Facilitator: Blue Growth Community Representative

Panelists are asked to answer the following questions:

How can cluster foster innovation, cooperation and knowledge sharing? What are the key factors for successful and sustainable clusters? How to maintain and strengthen the competitiveness of maritime clusters?

What kind of dynamics have been experimented so far by clusters to support the reinforcement of the blue economy in the Mediterranean? How can they best interact to render the Mediterranean competitive? What elements are crucial to ensure sustainability of maritime sectors to the best possible extent? To what extent can (territorial) cooperation support these efforts?

Debate & Wrap-up

12.30-14:00  LUNCH – NETWORKING – PROJECT CORNER

14.00-15.00  PANEL 3 – HARMONIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE USE OF COASTAL AND MARITIME PLANNING

RECOMMENDATION 4: Achieve HARMONIZATION of national legislations, rules and procedures to ensure exchanges of data and technology, and easier mobility of people and products

RECOMMENDATION 5: Accelerate COASTAL AND MARITIME PLANNING (ICZM AND MSP) and use them as a tools to promote a sustainable Blue
Economy, exploiting potentials, overcoming barriers and conflicts of uses among sectors

Facilitator: Blue Growth Community Representative
Panelists are asked to answer the following questions:
How is your organization or region/country pursuing the harmonization of legislation in one blue sector?
Can you provide examples of policy instruments for ensuring exchanges of data and technology and/or mobility of people and products in EU or in the Mediterranean area?
How is your organization or region/country using Coastal and Maritime planning for promoting sustainable Blue Economy, exploiting potentials for economic development and sustainability, and overcoming barriers and conflicts among sectors?

Debate & Wrap-up

15:00-16:00 PANEL 4 – RATIONAL USE OF FUNDS AND DURABLE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

RECOMMENDATION 6: Ensure the RATIONAL use of FUNDS and DURABLE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS to support all stages of Blue Economy development – from R&D to market – preventing loss of accumulated knowledge and prioritizing environmentally sustainable solutions

Facilitator: Blue Growth Community Representative
Panelists are asked to answer the following questions:
What is the stand of your organization or country/region regarding the promotion of sustainable funding? What opportunities and challenges have you observed so far regarding financial and blue sectors’ responses to it? Is there any good practice you would like to share?

Debate & Wrap-up

16:00-16:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:30-17:30 PANEL 5 – EDUCATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING
**RECOMMENDATION 7:** Invest in EDUCATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING, creating opportunities to develop new Blue Skills at all educational levels, and bridge the gaps between sectors’ demands and labor skills

*Facilitator: Blue Growth Community Representative*

*Panelists are asked to answer the following questions:*

How is your organization or region/country promoting blue sectors skills demands (e.g. of recreational boating industry, offshore renewable energies, maritime surveillance, smart ports, fisheries & aquacultures, etc.) through different educational levels?

Can you provide examples (good-practices) of seminars, courses, trainings on blue skills in the MED area that could be transferred in other MED countries?

Are there any smart specialization strategies implemented in your region/country that focus on “blue jobs” creation?

**Debate & Wrap-up**

**17:30-18:00** **INTEGRATED WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS**

**18.00-20.00** **NETWORKING COCKTAIL – END OF DAY 1**
February 5, 2020

Set up of the Advisory Board

(Associated partners, Regional authorities and Blue Growth Community partners)

09.30-10.00 REGISTRATION

10.00-10.15 OUTLINE OF THE SECOND DAY

Representative of the Occitanie Region
Representative of the Blue Growth Community (CoNISMa)

10.15-12.00 PRESENTATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

Outline of the Blue Growth advisory board and cooperation dynamics

The aim of these discussions is to outline the potentials for projects results mainstreaming into territories, on the basis of inputs from the Associated partners of the Blue Growth Community. Specific attention will be brought on regional experiences with a focus of RIS3.

Table 1 - Mapping of territorial capacities and needs – drawing a methodology for blue interactions

Table 2 - Interaction plan for the advisory board – foreseeing the strategic approach towards empowering territorial cooperation through capitalizing and mainstreaming project results

Replicability (plenary session)
Exchange with participating Regions and projects partners

12.00-12.30 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Organized by:

With the kind support of:
February 5, 2020 (part 2)
(Political Bureau Members, Deputies and Invited parties only)

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