



Welcome to the 1st newsletter of Interreg MED BLUEfasma project!

What is BLUEfasma about?

BLUEfasma is about rethinking circularity. In particular, BLUEfasma aspires to trigger change in the fishing/aquaculture sector of Mediterranean islands and coastal areas by reinforcing the adaptation of Circular Economy (CE) practices. BLUEfasma tackles the challenges of continual depletion of natural resources and the low Mediterranean CE innovation performance in fishing/aquaculture by empowering innovation capacity of SMEs, maritime clusters/networks and Public Authorities to boost blue CE growth. BLUEfasma project was launched in November 2019 and ends in June 2022.

THE BLUEFASMA PARTNERSHIP



Get to know us better!

The BLUEfasma partnership counts 14 partners from 9 Mediterranean countries: Greece, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Malta, Croatia and Montenegro. Building on its diversity, the BLUEfasma team will foster synergies among key actors representing the quadruple innovation helix, driving the growth of the Blue Circular Economy in the fishing/aquaculture sector. Join our network!

BLUEfasma highlights

The BLUEfasma Circularity Self-assessment tool

BLUEfasma capitalized on the CIRTOINNO project's (Interreg South Baltic) self-assessment tool in order to develop the [BLUEfasma circularity self-assessment tool](#) for the fishing/aquaculture sector. The tool aims to tackle the lack of data on the circularity level of Mediterranean SMEs/enterprises related to fishing/aquaculture and their willingness to invest in blue Circular Economy. This user-friendly tool will be tested among key actors of the fishing/aquaculture sector in 11 Mediterranean territories, offering a review of current business practices and generating corresponding guidelines/ recommendation towards a more Circular Economy.

The BLUEfasma e-platform

The [BLUEfasma e-platform](#) is now online! The platform is designed to host the BLUEfasma tools to be developed during project's lifetime. The available solutions provided through the platform is expected to increase blue actors' capacity and reinforce transnational cooperation towards a blue circular economy. The tools include: the Circular Economy Knowledge Base, systematizing best practices, tools, solutions and methods in the sector of fishing/aquaculture; the BLUEfasma e-network, established to facilitate experience exchange and networking among actors of the fishing/aquaculture sector; MED Circular Economy Data, providing data related to the business readiness and willingness to invest in CE in the Mediterranean area; the BLUEfasma Circularity Self-Assessment Tool, used as a unified Mediterranean measure of SMEs/enterprises readiness and willingness to invest in CE and acting as a decision support tool; and the BLUEfasma Capacity Building Instrument, integrating financing/mentoring/coaching opportunities for R&I business investment in fishing/aquaculture. Join our platform and our community!

BLUEfasma meetings & events



1st Annual Assembly of the Blue Growth Community

BLUEfasma is a project grouped under the umbrella of the Interreg MED Blue Growth Community. On 4-5 February 2020, BLUEfasma attended the 1st Annual Assembly organized by the Blue Growth Community in Montpellier, France. The project was represented by the University of Patras, Lead Partner. This Assembly brought a 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. BLUEfasma presented its goals and objectives in conjunction with a new set of recommendations that have been developed by the Blue Growth Community contributing to the need of promoting a new paradigm for Blue Economy based on sustainability, developing a long-term vision and strategy and delivering concrete solutions to overcome environmental impacts.

During the event, University of Patras was given the opportunity to liaise with the setting up process of the Advisory Board and declared their desire to be part of it, both as "givers" and as "receivers" in mainstreaming and capitalization activities of the Blue Growth Community. Find out more in the event's [video](#)!



Kick-off of BLUEfasma project

On 18-19 February 2020, the BLUEfasma partners gathered together in Patras, Greece at the Kick-off meeting hosted by the University of Patras, Lead Partner of the project. During this 2-day meeting, the BLUEfasma team shared thoughts and discussed their plans on how to change the current thinking of the fishing/aquaculture sector on circularity. Building on their experience and expertise the BLUEfasma partners complement each other and are committed to work together and bring blue circular economy practices in the front, creating a positive impact to the Mediterranean region and beyond.



Supporting the 'Circle the Med Forum'

[Circle the Med Forum](#) represents a pathway to sustainability, promoting new production-consumption models and circular business initiatives. Following up two former events focusing on Circular economy, Circle 2018 in Greece and Circle & Smile 2019 in Cyprus, this time the forum will be organized digitally on 9-13 November 2020. In the meanwhile, a series of monthly virtual debates have started taking place under this initiative, hosting experts and policy makers related to circular economy. Circle the Med and BLUEfasma share the common goal of changing the current thinking on circularity, reinforcing a 'Med circular way' of thinking. BLUEfasma is supporting this event, under the blue economy pillar.

project partners:



"A BLUE Sea needs BLUE actions. A circular approach
for fisheries and aquaculture is our future."

