



Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of Interreg MED BLUEfasma project!

BLUEfasma highlights



The BLUEfasma e-network

The BLUEfasma e-network is now online and all the actors of the fishing/aquaculture sector are invited to join it. Through the network the interested stakeholders will be able to communicate, exchange knowledge and experiences, and get informed about updates on blue Circular Economy in fishing and aquaculture. Join the network [here!](#)



The BLUEfasma Circular Economy knowledge base

The BLUEfasma Circular Economy knowledge base systematizes identified circular economy best practices, tools and methods in the field of fishing and aquaculture. A well-organized online library has been designed to assist relevant actors to improve their innovation capacity. Explore the knowledge base [here!](#)

Mediterranean Circular Economy data

BLUEfasma testing activities were implemented in order to estimate the Mediterranean stakeholders' level of circularity. In total, 114 stakeholders from 9 countries were involved in the testing phase. The results highlighted that the Mediterranean stakeholders' level of circularity in the fishing and aquaculture sectors is rather low. Lack of awareness, lack of financial resources, difficulties with administrative procedures and limited control over waste flows were some of the factors identified as main obstacles in moving towards circular economy. However, there is a huge potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors towards this direction. Most of the interviewed stakeholders agreed that there should be a more rational use of raw materials benefiting the environment and are willing to invest in more ecological alternatives. Possible improvements for all stages of product life were identified. Find out more about our results [here!](#)

BLUEfasma meetings & events

Seminar on "Circular Economy in Fisheries and Aquaculture", France

On 24 June, a local seminar on "Circular Economy in Fisheries and Aquaculture" was organized online by our French partner. The seminar gathered SMEs, associations and local authorities related to fishing and aquaculture sector to provide practical knowledge on circular economy and get introduced to the BLUEfasma Circular Economy self-assessment tool.



BLUEfasma Living Labs Initiators' meeting, Balearic Islands

On 14-15 July, BLUEfasma launched the formation of a network of Living Labs, innovation laboratories, creation of new business ideas throughout the Mediterranean. The BLUEfasma Living Labs will represent open innovation ecosystems to foster the growth of a blue economy and circular economy practices in the fishing and aquaculture sector. The event was coordinated by our partner located in Palma, Balearic Islands.

1st BLUEfasma Living Lab, Portugal

The 1st BLUEfasma Living Lab (BLL) "Circular Economy in the context of the Blue Growth" was held online on 5-6 November, by our Portuguese partner. BLLs aim at gathering key stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices to foster the transition towards a bluer and more circular economy in the fishing/ aquaculture sector. The 1st BLL was attended by relevant entities in Portugal, namely the Secretary of State for Fisheries, SMEs, Higher Education and Research Institutions, Regional Authorities, NGOs and Business Support Entities. BLLs are planned to be organized in 10 more territories: Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Croatia, Montenegro, France, Barcelona, Balearic Islands, Sicily and Sardinia.



The Circle the Med Forum, Greece

During 9-13 November BLUEfasma was proud to be a supporter of the Circle the Med Forum, declaring its commitment towards a bluer and more circular economy. 940 participants from 57 countries were registered to the Forum to explore its sessions tackling key topics related to circular economy. The importance of mobilizing SMEs and the need for the public sector to support their integration for a Mediterranean blue economy transition was stressed out during the event. You can still watch all sessions [here!](#)

Webinar "Towards a sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean Region"

On 16 November, BLUEfasma attended the webinar "Towards a sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean Region". Given the sector's overall long-term trends and impacts, the webinar focused on challenges of aquaculture and innovative solutions to address them. BLUEfasma was invited to present the Circularity Self-Assessment Tool and its replication potential supporting in its way the development of a road map for decision makers and major stakeholders, proposing concrete actions to accelerate the shift towards sustainable aquaculture. The event was organized in partnership with key actors of the sector such as FAO/GFCM, WestMED, IUCN, the Interreg Med Blue Growth community and Biodiversity protection community.

Webinar "Sustainable Aquaculture in the WestMED: strengthening ties with southern partners"

On 11 December the WestMED initiative organized a webinar showcasing existing projects on sustainable aquaculture with the aim to support knowledge and technology transfer towards southern Mediterranean countries. BLUEfasma and other relevant projects were invited to present their proposed solutions fostering sustainable aquaculture, ranging among new products and technologies, circular economy tools and networking/ clustering activities. A discussion with southern stakeholders from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania followed to debate on how to achieve a greater uptake of the presented solutions addressing challenges and opportunities for a fully sustainable and resilient aquaculture sector across the Mediterranean.

project partners:

 University of Patras Greece	 MEDCITIES Spain	 CEEETA-ECO, Energy Consultants Ltd. Portugal
 Region of Crete Greece	 Taormina Etna Consortium Italy	 Chamber of Economy of Montenegro
 Dynamic Vision P.C Greece	 IMC Foundation- International Marine Centre Italy	 Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries & Animal Rights, Malta
 Pôle Mer Méditerranée- Toulon Var Technologies France	 Larnaca-Famagusta District Development Agency ANETEL Cyprus	 Strategem Energy Ltd. Cyprus
 Maritime Cluster of Balearic Islands Spain	 Dubrovnik Neretva Regional Development Agency DUNEAL Croatia	

"A BLUE Sea needs BLUE actions: Take example from nature and let's make a circular economy"

