

# **BLUEMED Mediterranean Research Infrastructures Stakeholders Conference**

## **TOTEM/ISC-PIF – 11 Place Nationale – 75013 Paris**

### **June 13<sup>th</sup>**

- 12:45 – 13:15    Arrival of participants and registration
- 13:15 – 13:45    Welcome & opening addresses (10 min/pax)
- Marco Weydert, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG RTD
  - Giuseppe Provenzano, Junior Expert, Union for the Mediterranean
  - Alain Lagrange, Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, DGRI, France
- 13:45 – 14:05    Introduction: objectives of the Conference and presentation of BLUEMED CSA first achievements in the field of Mediterranean Research & Innovation Infrastructures – Nicolas Arnaud, Director, National Institute for Earth Sciences and Astronomy, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS-INSU)
- 14:05 – 14:30    Keynote speech: Françoise Gaill, Scientific Adviser, Institute of Ecology and Environment, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS-INEE) and Scientific Coordinator of the Ocean & Climate Platform
- 14:30 – 15:45    Roundtable – Paving the way for enhancing coordination of Research and Innovation Infrastructures in the Mediterranean basin
- Georgios Sylaios, ODYSSEA coordinator, Democritus University of Thrace (DUT), Greece
  - Ferial Louanchi, Professor, National School of Marine Science and Coastal Planning (ENSSMAL), Algeria
  - Baris Salihoglu, Director, Institute of Marine Sciences, Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey
  - Ghaleb Faour, Director, National Centre for Remote Sensing, National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS-L), Lebanon
- Moderator: Margherita Cappelletto, BLUEMED CSA Project Manager, CNR*
- 15:45 – 16:15    Coffee break and networking
- 16:15 – 18:15    Beginning of workshops – First session
- 18:30            Cocktail buffet

### **June 14<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:30 – 9:00     Arrival of participants and registration
- 9:00 – 10:00    Continuation of workshops in small groups – Second session
- 10:00 – 11:00    Plenary session – The way forward
- Feedback from workshops by rapporteurs
  - Towards BLUEMED Research Infrastructures Roadmap and the Implementation of BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
- 11:00 – 11:30    Coffee break and networking
- 11:30 – 12:50    Panel discussion – Towards the implementation of cooperation schemes to address Mediterranean Sea's challenges and meet Research and Innovation Infrastructures' needs
- Thorsten Kiefer, Executive Director, JPI Oceans
  - Rosa Fernández, CETMAR Foundation and member of the European Marine Board (EMB)
  - Yasser Refaat, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt
  - Saloua Sadok, National Institute of Marine Science and Technology (INSTM), Tunisia
- Moderator: Fabio Trincardi, BLUEMED CSA Coordinator, CNR*
- 12:50 – 13:00    Final remarks
- Fabio Trincardi, BLUEMED CSA Coordinator, National Research Council (CNR), Italy
- 13:00            Lunch buffet



## Description of workshops

Participants will split into different small working groups to focus on key challenges that need to be solved in the Mediterranean Sea through development and synergies of research & innovation infrastructures. An efficient and coordinated use of RIs will enable to address these challenges, while at the same time, it will contribute to the implementation of BLUEMED SRIA priorities.

These discussions will be conducted in two phases:

- **First session:** brainstorming on the challenge raised within the working group. Participants think about projects they wish to put in place both to tackle key research infrastructures gaps/needs and Mediterranean Sea's challenges. These first proposals will aim at enhancing cooperation between countries and between different Mediterranean communities.
- **Second session:** proposal of common and concrete follow-up actions that would enable to face Mediterranean Sea's challenges in link with the implementation of BLUEMED SRIA key priorities.

Each working group will designate a rapporteur who will present actions proposals and recommendations to policy makers and governments' representatives during the final plenary. These concrete proposals will also feed the BLUEMED RI Roadmap and contribute to the implementation of BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

*Please note that each workshop focuses on specific topics, but some crosscutting aspects are relevant to all of them and should be encompassed during the discussions:*

*Connecting the different communities of stakeholders involved in Blue Growth activities, enriching public policies and innovative sustainable economy with the support of relevant RIs is crucial for stimulating research and innovation in the Mediterranean Sea. Opportunities of developing blue skills through training activities bases on RIs is also a key issue to be explored.*

*Moreover, whether it be from observing systems, research vessels or satellites and spatial facilities, all RIs generate valuable data and provide services that need to be easily accessible for the different communities involved in Blue Growth activities. Therefore, it will be primordial in each thematic workshop to take into consideration the importance of data circulation, management, safety and interoperability.*

### Workshop 1 – Which tools to address key pollution issues in the Mediterranean Sea?

A stronger coordination between existing RIs networks and a better access to last brand equipment for all stakeholders involved in activities impacting marine ecosystems are required to better understand and tackle pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.

RIs can endorse the role of key facilitators to better assess anthropogenic impacts and monitor pressures on marine ecosystems. Information collected can then support the decision-making process to support the development of a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea.

Growing plastics pollution in the Mediterranean Sea is dramatically affecting marine ecosystems, economic activities and has a direct effect on human health as it gets into the food chain. Tackling this challenge requires regional cooperation. RIs can play a role of enabler by providing the different communities and stakeholders involved with key equipment, materials and tools that will help to build innovative solutions to reduce plastic litter in the sea.

### Workshop 2 – Which tools to support adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the Mediterranean Sea?

BLUEMED aims at better understanding the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems and coastal populations and aims at developing innovative services and plans in the field of sustainable adaptation to climate change. Cooperation between Mediterranean countries and an open access to RIs for projects and stakeholders working toward this direction are required to support joint innovation activities that tend toward environmental, social and economic prosperity (examples: greener transports, low fuel emission activities, towards energy transition phase, sustainable tourism).

### Workshop 3 – Which tools to ensure a sustainable use of bio-resources in the Mediterranean Sea?

BLUEMED aims at developing innovative marine-based technologies, methodologies and approaches to boost sustainable economic growth while preserving marine environment and its bio-resources. One of BLUEMED key priorities is to encourage the development of new solutions for sustainable food, with optimal aquaculture and fishing strategies, technologies and practices. RIs can be valuable assets to achieve this objective, while at the same time they can contribute to explore the potential of blue biotechnologies and deep-sea bio-resources. It is therefore essential to strengthen RIs and coordination between these different domains of activities to ensure an eco-sustainable exploitation of marine bio-resources, to preserve marine biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, while considering social and economic impacts.

