



CO-EVOLVE project is completing its first phase and looking forward for pilots implementation and possible extension in South and East Mediterranean.

The [Co-Evolve project](#), compliant with “Strategic Theme 2 - Sustainable use of strategic resources and Blue Growth in the Mediterranean” of the [Bologna Charter initiative Joint Action Plan](#), is completing its **Module 1** “Study” on **sustainability conditions -threats and enabling factors- of coastal a maritime tourism**, both at the Mediterranean and Pilot areas scale. Results will be available at the end of January 2018 and will be presented within the next Sustainable Tourism Community meeting in Rome (May-June 2018). The **Module 2** “Test” will start in February 2018 working on the 7 Pilot areas implementing outcomes from Module 1 and preparing **Local Plans for sustainable tourism development** throughout Participatory processes involving respective stakeholders and local communities.

During 2017 the core partnership of Co-Evolve also developed the umbrella project “**MedCoast4BlueGrowth**” (MC4BG) representing the framework trough which to extend the Co-Evolve project, approach and methodology, involving further Med Countries and Regions of the South and East rims. MC4BG has been presented to the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS) for applying to the labelization process.

The first **CO-EVOLVE InfoDay** “[Sustainability of coastal-maritime Tourism and Blue Growth in the Mediterranean](#)” was organised on the 7th of November 2017 within ECOMONDO Expo in Rimini. The [press release and speaker’s presentations](#) are available on the project web site.

Moreover, Co-EVOLVE was recently presented in the frame of a [workshop on “Sustainability and attractiveness of Mediterranean tourism](#): best practices and innovation projects in the Euro-Mediterranean coastal countries”, held in Naples on the 29-30th of November, in the framework of the [UfM Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy](#).



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The project “MedCoast4BlueGrowth” (MC4BG) obtained the label by the Union for the Mediterranean.

With an approximate budget of 3 M Euro, the project [MedCoast4BlueGrowth](#) “*Common approaches and planning tools to boost sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean*” has been officially labelled by the 43 UfM countries at the last [Senior Officials Meeting held on the 11th of December 2017 in Barcelona](#).

This reinforce the Co-Evolve operation and set the ground for the completion of its analysis on sustainability conditions for coastal a maritime tourism at wider Mediterranean scale, but more important, for the replication of its demonstration pilots (Local Action Plans for sustainable tourism development based on ICZM principles) in countries like Tunisia and Montenegro.



MC4BG will include under its umbrella several sub projects. Co-Evolve, funded by [Interreg MED program](#), will constitute its cornerstone, providing a co-funding of 2.2 MEuros (European Regional Development Fund and partners' own resources). Other new projects are going to be "matched" in the framework of other EU programs like "Muses" (H2020) or under design for new calls as "Co-Evolve4BG", that will be submitted to the currently open ENI CBC MED call, possibly enlarging the scope of action to other Mediterranean countries, such as Lebanon.

In the 3 years to come, MC4BG will contribute in creating conditions for safety, protection, wellness and sustainability-oriented development of coastal areas in the Mediterranean. In particular, the Local Action Plans for tourism development in Pilot Areas identified by the countries involved will represent a flying-wheel factor for the socio-economic development of local economies, even beyond the tourism sector.

MedCoast4BG is led by the [CPMR IMC](#) and involve all the CO-EVOLVE partnership. It responds directly to the priorities of the Union for the Mediterranean and more specifically to priorities identified in the 2014 UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change and in the 2015 UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy, namely the use of marine spatial planning as a governance tool, mobilizing efforts towards adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and referring to coastal and maritime tourism among the main traditional and emerging economic sectors for the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean Sea.



Bologna Charter initiative mentioned in the "Athens Declaration on Sustainable Tourism"

The MED Sustainable Tourism Community - which gathers 14 Interreg MED Programme-funded projects – is promoting the "[Athens Declaration for a Sustainable Tourism](#)", pledging for a greater engagement of policy makers and all the stakeholders of the Med region to make a change at policy and managerial level because the future of tourism has to be sustainable. The Declaration has been signed by representatives of all the projects of the Community and of the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg MED Programme, during the second community-building event, which took place 4-5 October 2017, in Athens, organised by the [Interreg-MED Horizontal Project on Sustainable Tourism "BleuTourMed"](#).

The MED Sustainable Tourism Community was created in November 2016 within the Interreg MED Programme and co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Community comprises 14 projects, more than a hundred partners (public authorities, NGOs, international organisations, universities and the private sector) in nine European countries facing the Mediterranean Sea.



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Continuing the collaboration with the BLUEMED Initiative.

BLUEMED is the research and innovation Initiative for promoting the blue economy in the Mediterranean Basin through cooperation.

The Bologna Charter was invited to the **meeting of the BLUEMED Strategic Board** held in Naples the 29th of November 2017, back to back with the [1st UfM regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy](#) in the Mediterranean (29-30 November), with Representatives from the EC (DGR&I and DG MARE), FR, IT, GR, MT, UfM, JPI Oceans, UNEP-MAP, CPMR, CIHEAM, BLUEMED CSA. It has been the occasion for updating on the progress of the [BLUEMED Initiative](#) on the respective national levels, the CSA project advancements, the **opening of the Bluemed Initiative to the non-EU Med Countries** and the creation (occurred on the 28th of November) of the **Bluemed Working Group within the Euro-Mediterranean R&I Group of Senior Officials (GSO)** that, it was said, will gradually replace the Bluemed Strategic Board. It was also the occasion to confirm the collaboration on the key themes of the Bologna Charter within the BLUEMED Economy Platform as well as for the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) updating process. The Bologna Charter and the [IMC CPMR](#) have been invited to attend the **next meeting of the Bluemed CSA Platforms in February 2018**.



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Bologna Charter Joint Action Plan updating process and next IMC Political bureau in Murcia (Spain) on the 14th-15th of February 2018.

Prepared during 2014, within the BC Coordination Board by the IMC-CPMR Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy & Transport, and presented in March 2015 in Brussels within the Programme MED Capitalisation Final Event, the Joint Action Plan (JAP) is arrived to its **mid-term life period**.

The JAP updating is going on considering, on one hand, the **development of the European and international policies** in the BC key themes and, on the other hand, the progress achieved in the JAP **action lines implementation** as well as in the **Major Coastal Projects (MCP) realisation** or new inclusion. Particular updating on MCPs regards currently the advancements/realisation of those from Cyprus, Department of Hérault (France, Occitanie Region), Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy) and the inclusion of a new MCP from Western Greece Region.

The next IMC Political Bureau in Murcia on the 14th-15th of February will be the occasion for a further discussion on the updating of the JAP document.

For further information, also on the previous initiatives and updating, please see the Bologna Charter web site www.bolognacharter.eu and its Joint Action Plan.

The “Bologna Charter 2012” was launched within the MAREMED project <http://www.maremed.eu/>

the BC Joint Action Plan and the BC web site were created thanks to the COASTGAP project <http://coastgap.facecoast.eu/>

(both projects Maremed and Coastgap co-financed by the Interreg MED Program 2007-2013), developed within the framework of the FACECOAST Med cluster <http://www.facecoast.eu/>