



D2.1 – TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF MEDITERRANEAN SEA BASIN LH



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BlueMissionMed Project Summary

The Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030 provides a holistic and coherent framework for developing a systemic approach to the depollution and regeneration of the basin hydrosphere, which is a striking need in the Mediterranean Sea (MED).

In the BlueMissionMed project, a multi-actor, trans-sectorial and multidisciplinary consortium, consisting of 6 R&I public institutions, 6 NGOs, 2 industrial associations and 2 SMEs from 5 Member States and 2 Associated Countries of the MED, proposes to set up, structure and empower a MED Lighthouse supporting the development and deployment of transformative innovative technological, social, business and governance solutions for ensuring a 30-50% reduction of pollution of the basin hydrosphere by 2030. It will be an interactive multi-actor digital platform able to offer to all MED Countries/Regions and stakeholders to access the necessary knowledge and tools. It will build on, connect and structure existing initiatives and activities, including the 9 Pilot BlueMed on plastics free healthy MED and will exploit the R&I and policy knowledge generated by the funded projects/initiatives on the MED decontamination and restoration, ultimately promoting basin-wide cooperation, commitment and deployment of solutions addressing the Mission objectives. The BlueMissionMed CSA will also ensure:

- coherence, alignment and monitoring of EU, national and local policies, initiatives and actions ongoing the MED basin;
- an effective provision of technical services, governance and business models to support and guarantee a sustainable socio-economic development of the basin;
- a well-functioning basin scale innovation ecosystem attractive towards investors and businesses;
- the required engagement of the society at large, thanks to a robust awareness raising and citizen science approach in its implementation in the sea basin and beyond; the effective deployment of Mission Implementation Charter and piloting of the Mission objectives for the MED by 2025.

Disclaimer

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* R: Document, report (excluding the periodic and final reports)

DEM: Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, plan designs

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OTHER: Software, technical diagram, etc.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present Terms of Reference provides useful guidelines for the functioning of the Mediterranean Sea Basin LH governance to implement the Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030.

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Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
BMM	BlueMissionMed
WG	Working Group
GSOs	Group of Senior Officials
WPs	Work Packages
LH	Lighthouse
EAB	External Advisory Board
OSC	Overarching Steering Committee
TAB	Technical Advisory Board
CGC	COMMON GROUND CAMP
ToR	Term of Reference

1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

According to its [Implementation Plan](#), the Mission will roll out ‘lighthouses’ in major European sea and river basins. **Lighthouses will act as hubs and platforms for the development, demonstration and deployment of transformative innovations of all forms – technological, social, business, governance – in order to reach the three specific Mission objectives**, Figure 1 by also addressing the cross-cutting enablers **Digital Ocean and Water Knowledge System** and **Public Mobilization and Engagement**.



Figure 1 Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 - objectives and targets.

According to the Mission Implementation Plan, the **Mediterranean Lighthouse addresses, as primary target, the Objective 2 of the Mission, namely “prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters”**. Specifically, the Mission Implementation Plan asks for a systemic approach to the depollution and regeneration of the Mediterranean basin hydrosphere through the definition of the targets shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2 Mission Objective n.2

The Basin-specific Lighthouses will integrate existing knowledge outputs and new knowledge, co-designed and co-implemented with citizens and stakeholders, ensuring local business participation and citizen engagement and outreach.

In this framework the **BlueMissionMed Coordination and Support Action (CSA)** is setting up and implementing activities to support the Mediterranean Lighthouse (hereafter LH) for the development and deployment of transformative innovative solutions in all forms (technological, social, business, governance) across the MED basin, to ensure fast progress towards the achievement of all the Mission objectives, with important societal impact.

The present **Terms of Reference** provides useful guidelines for the functioning of the **BlueMissionMed governance to implement the Mission objectives in the Mediterranean basin**. The contents of this documents have been presented, discussed and agreed during the Common Ground Camp meeting described in the following paragraph (Par 2).

2 BLUEMISSIONMED COMMON GROUND CAMP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN LIGHTHOUSE

Context

The BlueMissionMed's Common Ground Camp for the Mediterranean lighthouse takes place on May 29 as a side event in the context of the high-level event EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030' - The Mediterranean lighthouse in action Palermo on May 30-31. In line with the European Green Deal, the EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030' aims to eliminate pollution and make the blue economy (the economic activities that depend on the sea) carbon-

	neutral and circular. The Mission supports regional engagement and cooperation through area-based “Lighthouses” in major sea/river basins. Mission Lighthouses are sites to pilot, demonstrate, develop, and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins. The high-level event represents an opportunity to witness the political commitments of the Mediterranean countries towards the Mission and to present the actions and initiatives which contribute to the Mission objectives that may be scaled up and replicated in other sea basins.
Organizer	BlueMissionMed The EU-funded BlueMissionMed project will inspire, inform, assess, mobilise, connect, and empower all the actors that can take a role in preventing and eliminating pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and waters. The project builds on, connects, and structures existing initiatives and activities with the aim to design and support a well-functioning basin scale innovation ecosystem and to upscale solutions in all forms (technological, social, business, governance) ensuring fast progress towards the achievement of the Mission objectives.
Expected Outcomes	• Co-design and Structure a Mediterranean Sea basin governance and networking to support the Lighthouse. • Involve/engage the Board of Ecosystem Enablers to build on their previous experience/existing initiatives that will be engaged in close cooperation with the Union for Mediterranean, BlueMed, WEST MED, EUSAIR, UNEP-MAP and, joining the Overarching Steering Committee and of the core macro regional or intergovernmental organisations. • Establish a wide ‘reference’ group of stakeholders to regularly consult with and from which gather relevant knowledge, identify ongoing actions and future needs to be included in the OIR; facilitate the transfer of best practices, and develop synergy within and across sectors.
Format	The BlueMissionMed’s Common Ground Camp is organised as a participative workshop.
Objectives	• To engage multi-stakeholders in mutual learning and co-creation activities to address the EU Mission Ocean and Waters objectives. • To co-create the participative Mediterranean Sea basin Lighthouse Terms of Reference (ToR), including coordination, ambition, value proposition, etc. • To establish and amplify the Mediterranean Sea basin Lighthouse community, to network, exchange best practices and identify needs, bottlenecks, opportunities, and concrete key actions (on-going and upcoming) to meet the Mission objectives, particularly towards objective 2: Preventing and eliminating pollution of our ocean, seas and waters, with a special focus on the Mediterranean Sea basin.

Target Participants

- BlueMissionMed project coordinators and WP leaders
- EC representatives
- BMM Governing Bodies
- BMM Enablers
- IAs LH project
- Mission bodies

3 BLUEMISSIONMED VALUES, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED IMPACTS

BlueMissionMed will **inspire, inform, assess, mobilise, connect, and empower** all the actors that can **take a role** in preventing and eliminating pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and waters. With this aim, the BMM will refer to the [Mission Charter](#).

The project builds on, connect and structure existing initiatives and activities to disseminate and upscale solutions and mobilise relevant actors with the specific aim of addressing the Objective 2 of the Mission, namely “prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters”. Upon the initial focus on Objective 2, the project will address the other Mission objectives and pave the way for replicability and EU-wide scalability of the BlueMissionMed model to address the other two Mission’s objectives.

3.1 Overview of objectives and activities

To Respond to MISSION’s objectives, BlueMissionMed will support the development and deployment of transformative innovative solutions in all forms: technological, social, business and governance, see Figure 3 with project main objectives.



BOOSTING A WELL-FUNCTIONING BASIN SCALE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM ATTRACTIVE TO INVESTORS AND BUSINESSES



FACILITATING COHERENCE, ALIGNMENT AND MONITORING OF EU, NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICIES, INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS ONGOING THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN



PROVIDING TECHNICAL SERVICES, GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS MODELS TO SUPPORT AND GUARANTEE A SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN



ENSURING ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE SOCIETY AT LARGE, THANKS TO A ROBUST AWARENESS RAISING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE APPROACH

Figure 3 Objectives BMM Project

This will be achieved through the implementation of the following Strategic Objectives (SO):

- SO1: Structuring the Mediterranean Sea basin governance and networking
- SO2: Framing Ecosystem's opportunity, needs and gaps
- SO3: Empowering and supporting the Mediterranean Sea basin innovation ecosystem towards Mission Implementation
- SO4: Contributing to Mission implementation's monitoring in the LH area
- SO5: Consolidating the BlueMissionMed experience and lessons learned into recommendations for transferability and replicability
- SO6: Increase the awareness about the Mission and promote the "emotional" connection and involvement of citizens in its implementation.

The activities developed under the BlueMissionMed project are intended as an interactive, multi-actors and transdisciplinary platform able to offer the access to all Mediterranean Countries/Regions and stakeholders the knowledge and tools with the aim to promote basin-wide cooperation, commitment and deployment of solutions in line with the Mission objectives.

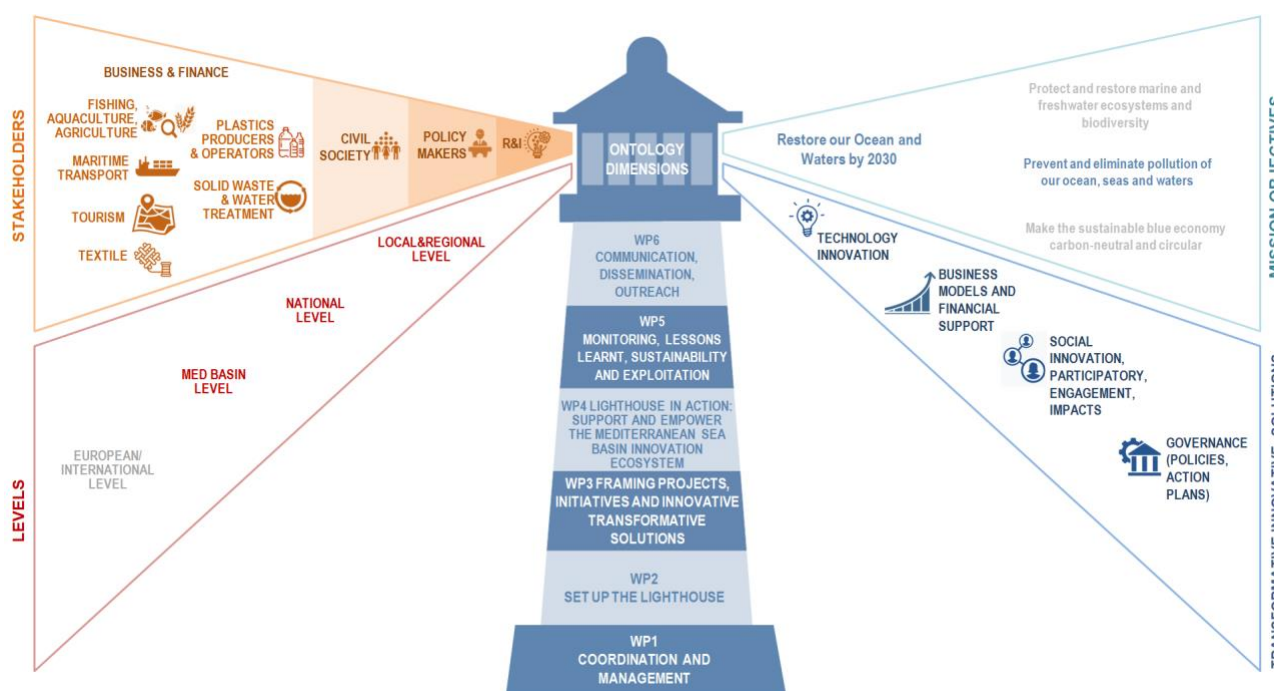


Figure 4 BMM methodological approach

BlueMissionMed methodology is based on a common ontology declined into four elements/dimensions: a) a constant focus on Mission's objectives, including the Mission charter and in collaboration with the Mission bodies and other LHs, this is addressed by specific objectives SO1 and SO2; b) a multilevel(from local to MED basin) governance and

networking; this is dealt with by specific objective SO1; c) transformative innovative solutions as necessary to develop and foster the Mediterranean innovation ecosystem; this will result from specific objectives SO3 and SO4; d) engage a wide range of stakeholders and society at large (citizens and youth) through which transfer & replicate results (specific objective SO5) and raise awareness and emotional connection to the Mission (specific objective SO6), Figure 4.

This methodological approach will ensure the solid multidimensional framework BlueMissionMed needs in dealing with and supporting the current Mission priority (“prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters”) and will allow the necessary flexibility to address also in future the two other Mission priorities. More specifically, BlueMissionMed will exercise its role in supporting the Mediterranean LH through a number of actions.

4 GOVERNANCE

To ensure an effective and functional BlueMissionMed governance structure, which fits the purpose of the expected impacts of the Mission and supports its values, three Governing Bodies are established in Addition to the Consortium partners: the Overarching Steering Committee, the Technical Advisory Board and the Board of Ecosystem Enablers. The BMM governance structure is described in the following Figure 5.

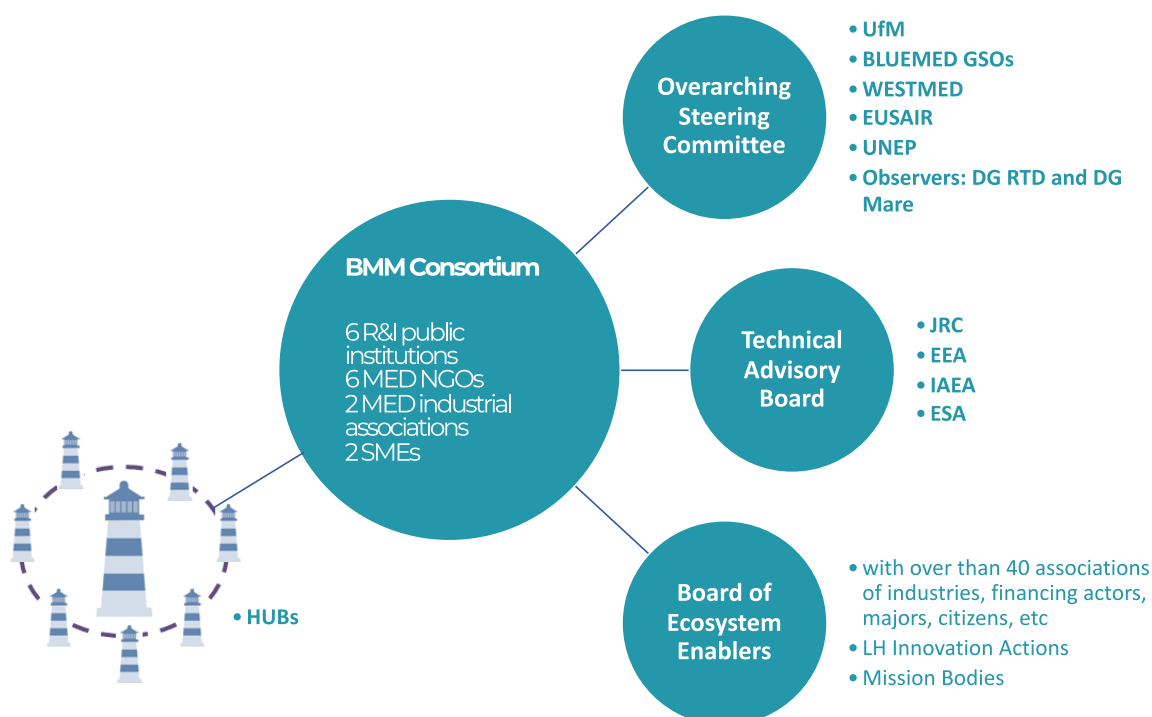


Figure 5 BMM governance structure

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities of the External Advisory Boards: Overarching Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Board

As *per* the Consortium Agreement, the **Overarching Steering Committee** and the **Technical Advisory Board** form the **External Advisory Boards** (EAB), and they represent the bodies established by the General Assembly for facilitating its decisions and provide specific advice on project activities and results.

Governing body	Role	Composition / Appointment
Overarching Steering Committee	Representatives of key Initiatives in the Med basin will provide guidance and ensure alignment among strategic agendas, promoting synergies in developing activities and joining effort in transferring opportunity.	The Overarching Steering Committee is composed as follows: - Union for Mediterranean (UfM) - BlueMed WG Senior Officials (GSOs) - WEST MED - EUSAIR - UNEP MAP And as observers: EU Commission (DG RTD, DG MARE) The Chair is the BMM Coordinator. In the meetings of the Steering Committee, the Chair may invite as observers any member or other persons whose presence may be useful for issues included in the agenda of the Steering Committee meeting.
Technical Advisory Board	The Technical Advisory Board provides data and advice on the status of pollution of MED by representing the main data centres and institutional bodies supporting the implementation of EU/National/Regional legislation linked to environment.	The Technical Advisory Board is composed as follows: - EU Commission (JRC) - European Environmental Agency (EEA) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - European Space Agency ESA (Member of the Advisory Board) The Chair is the BMM Coordinator. In the meetings of the Technical Advisory Board, the Chair may invite as observers any member or other persons whose presence may be useful for issues included in the agenda of the Technical Advisory Board meeting.

Table 1 EAB roles, composition and appointment

4.2 Board of Ecosystem Enablers, objectives and roles of the stakeholders

The Board of Ecosystem Enablers groups major key stakeholders for Mission deployment in the Mediterranean basin. This board groups associations of industries from sectors of plastic production and transformation, agriculture, fishery and aquaculture, maritime transportation, waste disposal and river and inland water management along with foundations, financing and business intermediaries, key representatives of the Euro-Mediterranean regional and local assemblies and of the EU Committee of the Regions, as well as NGOs and CSOs. The Board of Ecosystem Enablers will include other strategic and complementary MED stakeholders encountered all along the LH implementation activities foreseen in the project.

During the project preparation BMM Consortium received the letters of support from the following Categories of stakeholders:

- Scientific Commissions, Authorities, Regional Governments, Committees and Assemblies of Majors and citizens/consumers
- Associations of Plastic producers and operators; Ports, Transports, Fishery and Aquaculture, Agriculture)
- Foundations, NGOs
- Clusters, Incubators, innovation centres, infrastructures, other initiatives

The Enablers will act as amplifiers, bringing the results of the project through their networks. The BMM project also foresees activities to support the transfer of knowledge and services across the enabler's channels. This list of Enablers is expected to be enlarged to other relevant actors and categories and will entail, inter alia, the establishment of a **wide 'reference' group of stakeholders** to regularly consult with and from which gather relevant knowledge, identify ongoing actions and future needs to be included in the **Operational Implementation Roadmaps**; facilitate the **transfer of best practices**, and **develop synergy** within and across sectors.

The Board of Ecosystem Enablers is composed by the **partners** of the BMM consortium that will serve as **facilitators**, ensuring that the consultation process is as seamless, constructive, and deliberative. The facilitators will address different BMM thematic categories according to their expertise.

At the project level the updated database of stakeholder's categories is foreseen and available for internal uses.

4.3 Objectives and roles of the National/Regional Hubs

HUBs are intended as Territorial Multistakeholder Communities to implement the activities and priorities of the project. Each hub is set up, run, and implemented by the project partners quoted in Figure 6.

BlueMissionMed HUBs

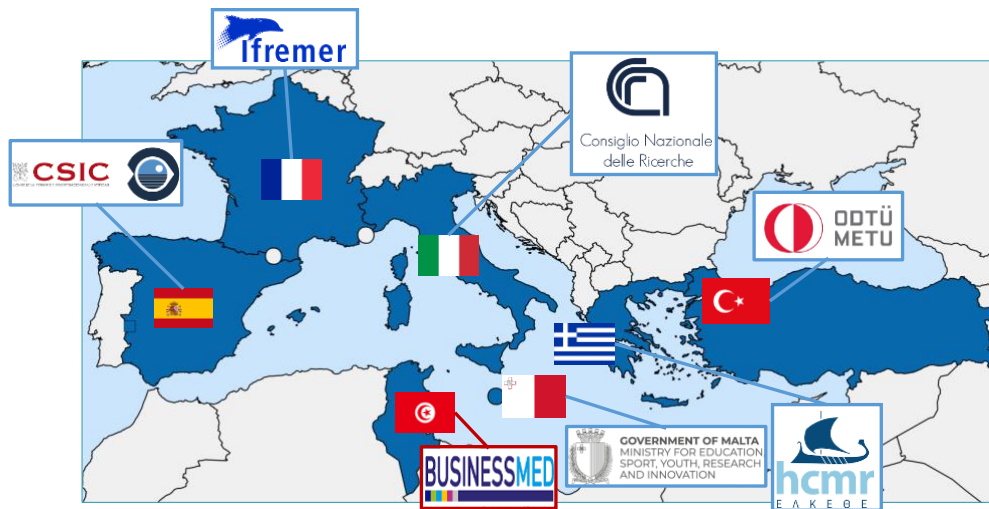


Figure 6 BMM HUBs

The activity at the hub level will reflect the activity and methodology of the project at

basin level. Each HUB will have a partner responsible but will engage with all the partners of the BMM project. The BMM 7 HUBs are strict interconnected with the already established and structured 9 national hubs of the BlueMed Pilot Plastic Free Healthy Mediterranean Sea located in 5 Member States, 2 Associated Countries and 2 non-EU Countries launched by the BlueMed GSO in 2018 and implemented by the BlueMed CSA. The existing hubs, mainly specialised on the assessment and reduction of plastic pollution, will be gradually empowered with the knowledge required for the prevention and reduction of pollution due to pesticides, nutrients and hydrocarbons. The BlueMed HUBs will be involved in the LH activities via the concerted action of the above-mentioned partners of the BlueMissionMed consortium and of the BlueMed GSOs, Figure 7.

blueMed

**Pilot Action for a plastic-free,
healthy Mediterranean Sea**



**Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy,
Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey**

Figure 7 BlueMed Pilot HUBs

convenience and does not imply any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status or legitimacy of any country, territory, city, community, or area, or concerning the borders, boundaries, governance of such regions.

Mission LH has no borders; the regionalization of countries is primarily for programmatic

BRANCHED HUB MODEL: Sub-region/level or “branch” model may be implemented. The decision of whether a branch model will be used, and how those branches will be delineated, is up to the discretion of each National/Regional HUB. To maintain cohesion, the project suggests that hubs use as few branches as possible, but recognizes that each Country/Region has different contextual needs and may require more branches than other regions. If branches are developed, those branches should act as a segment of the overarching hub rather than as a separate entity.

The BMM project encourage all Med Countries and other thematic HUB participants to self-identify into a hub at their own discretion of geographic and cultural relevance. We respect and value the self-identification of all individuals and organizations. As such, those who are deeply involved in multiple regions may join more than one hub or branch via the LH Online Community (still to be set up).

The transversal thematic associations (or Enablers) may support and be part of different HUBs and act as horizontal thematic hubs.

A dedicated Term of Reference for the HUBs will be released in Deliverable D2.3 and will provide more details about HUBs activities and governance.

5 SHORT PREVIEW ON STAKEHOLDER AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

In the following (Table 2) we present some of the project planned activities for stakeholders' engagement.

BMM ACTIVITIES WITH STAKEHOLDERS AT MEDITERRANEAN AND HUB LEVEL		
Activity	Description	Level
Inspire and Inform	Dissemination activities to raise awareness on BlueMissionMed's results, services and activities.	Mediterranean Basin and National/Regional/local
Assess	Consultation to identify gaps, needs and opportunity for LH implementation	Mediterranean Basin and National/Regional/local
Mobilise and connect	Mobilisation and Mutual learning activity	Mediterranean Basin and National/Regional/local

Empower	Capacity building	Mediterranean Basin and National/Regional/local
Support “take a role”	Implement actions and engage Mediterranean actors	Mediterranean Basin and National/Regional/local

Table 2 BMM activities for stakeholder engagement.

As it also resulted from the answers obtained through the Mentimeter session (Figure 8) during the Common Ground Camp (May 29, Palermo, Italy), some of the key stakeholder that should be involved, empowered and captive are industries, investors, funding agencies, regional organisations, local authorities etc.



Figure 8 Mentimeter word-cloud results

6 BLUEMISSIONMED STAKEHOLDER FORUM AND ANNUAL LH EVENTS:

The LH events will represent the annual Mission appointments for all Med stakeholders and will deliver an intense programme of activities targeting various audiences, including the large public with transformative innovations showcase, Figure 9.

National or Regional events are foreseen at HUB level and will follow the same rationale as the Annual events and the methodology described in par.4. HUBs events will prepare

the ground for basin events by mobilizing stakeholders, increasing awareness and commitments of Med key actors, Figure 9.

A detailed list of events will follow in the HUB's ToR and on BMM websites.

Annual BlueMissionMed Events: Mobilise the community to deploy the Mission in the LH area and to support the Innovation Ecosystem



Figure 9 BMM events planning

7 LIGHTHOUSE PLATFORM FOR BUSINESS AND INVESTORS (BUSINESS COUNTRY DESK)

By addressing the need to create and scale up inspiring demonstrations of success case the BMM project will demonstrate how innovation and investment across key areas of technological, social, and environmental capital can be brought together to bring results for everyone.

To implement the Mission Lighthouse both significant individual and industrial actions are needed as well as multistakeholder partnerships across sectors and value chains and with stakeholders such as investors, governments and civil society.

The BlueMissionMed platform will be delivered in December 2023 (please follow the updates on the project [website](#)) to promote and facilitate networking and matchmaking among all the Mediterranean stakeholders. The BMM platform, intended as events, opportunities, tools and facilities built in the project framework, will help stakeholders to identify patterns, trends, interconnections, risks and opportunities. The BMM's events will convene and enable governments, businesses, civil society, academic and media leaders to discuss and learn from such innovation ecosystem.



BlueMissionMed consortium partners:



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION,
SPORT, YOUTH, RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION