

# The WestMED Initiative

Boosting the sustainable blue economy in the Western Mediterranean

Lija, Malta

21st November 2024

CINEA/EMFAF/2022-3.5.1/SI2.881692

**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative

Supported  
by the



The Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean

# WestMED Initiative

An innovative cooperation instrument between countries, regions and people of the western Mediterranean to facilitate the blue economy

# TIMELINE



# ASSISTANCE MECHANISM

**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative

**ATLANTIC STRATEGY**  
Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan



**Common Maritime Agenda  
for the Black Sea**



The Assistance Mechanism is led by Ecorys with AETS and PwC as consortium partners



WESTMED

blue economy initiative

# OBJECTIVES



**A safer and more secure  
maritime space**



**A smart and resilient  
blue economy**



**A better governance  
of the sea**

# PRIORITIES



**Maritime safety  
and security**



**Environment, biodiversity  
and climate change**



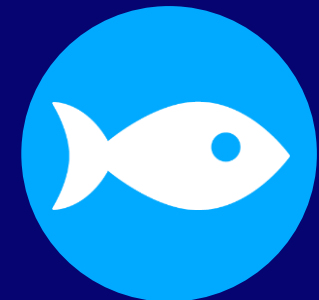
**Maritime clusters  
and networks**



**Skills development  
and circulation**



**Sustainable tourism, transport and  
fight against pollution**



**Fisheries and  
Aquaculture**



# STREAMLINED PRIORITIES Ministerial declaration: Malta 2023

On 23 June 2023, ministers and high-level representatives from the 10 WestMED countries met in Malta with representatives from the European Commission and the Union for the Mediterranean to reassess and update the priorities set out in the WestMED Framework for Action, as supported by the WestMED initiative.

## In particular:

- Supporting the transition of shipping, green shipping and ports to carbon neutrality and zero emissions,
- Turning ports into energy centres
- Innovative and restorative aquaculture and fisheries
- Coastal and maritime eco-tourism.





# STRUCTURE

## **Steering Committee**

EC/ UfM/ CINEA/ National Coordinators/ Consortium

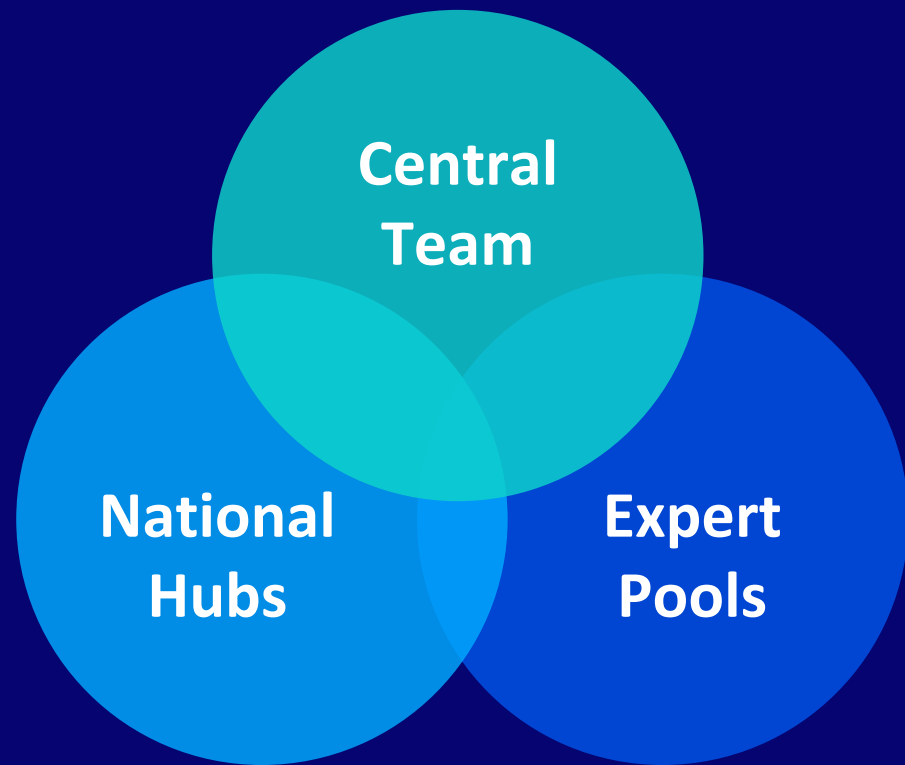
## **Overall management**

CINEA/ EC/ Consortium

## **Operational Management**

Consortium

# TEAM



29+ Experts



# 10 NATIONAL HUBS/ - CENTRES

- Assist blue projects in their search for partners, funding (EU) and capitalization
- Lead discussions on blue themes with stakeholders for sustainable transitions
- Strengthen blue policies at local, national, regional and European levels for greater synergies



# WE CAN HELP...

## ▶ **If you have a concrete project, to...**

- Identify possible funding opportunities
- Connect with possible partners across the National Hub Network
- Structure your project(idea)
- Provide argued proofreading of technical dossiers and budget proposals for official submissions

## ▶ **If you have expertise, to...**

- Connect you with possible projects across the WestMED National Hub Network
- Provide you with a platform to help shape future WestMED developments (stakeholder meetings)

# FOR

- Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Public institutions
- Academia
- Research centres
- Entrepreneurs
- Local communities
- Maritime clusters



IN-PERSON



VIRTUAL

# ASSISTANCE







SOME

FUNDING

PROGRAMS



# CONTINUOUS SCREENING (non exhaustive)

## CALLS/ GRANTS/ TENDERS/ PROPOSALS

<b>CINEA</b>	European Climate Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
<b>DG MARE</b>	Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
<b>EMFAF</b>	European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
<b>LIFE</b>	EU Funding programme for the Environment and Climate Action
<b>Horizon Europe</b>	Horizon 2020/ Research and Innovation Programme
<b>Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership</b>	SBEP enables research and innovations that contribute to the transition towards a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy
<b>Cost Action</b>	European Cooperation in Science & Technology
<b>ENI CBC MED</b>	European Neighbourhood Instrument/ Cross Border Cooperation/ Mediterranean
<b>INTERREG</b>	Interreg Next MED, Interreg Euro-MED
<b>ERDF</b>	European Regional Development Fund
<b>COSME</b>	Europe's programme for small and medium-sized enterprises
<b>CEF</b>	Connecting Europe Facility (transport, energy and digital projects)
<b>ERASMUS +</b>	EU programme for education, training, youth and sport
<b>CHAFEA</b>	Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency

An aerial photograph of a vast aquaculture farm, likely for salmon, featuring hundreds of circular pens arranged in a grid across a body of water. The water is a deep blue, and the pens are visible as lighter, circular patches. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**STAKEHOLDER  
THEMATIC GROUPS**

# THEMATIC STAKEHOLDER GROUPS



Sustainable Aquaculture



Maritime Clusters



Maritime Spatial Planning



Green Shipping and Ports



Sustainable tourism





# GREEN SHIPPING AND PORTS

- **Three EMFAF projects** awarded funding (Green Marine Med, POWER4MED and CALLMEBLUE)
- Follow-up to CETMO reports: The 'Centre d'études des transports pour la Méditerranée occidentale') encouraging cooperation related to transport in the Western Mediterranean
  - **Develop the concept of "connectivity"** (from east to west and towards southern countries)
- **Main priorities:**
  - Technology chain observatory
  - Ports as energy communities
  - Fleet renewal and refitting
- **Other emerging topics: innovation in green public procurement in ports, sustainability in small ports** Synergies permanentes with REMPEC, MEDPORTS, CETMO, technology platform for maritime transport (Waterborne transports)
- **Synergies between WestMED and the Atlantic sea** within the framework of Pillar 1: Atlantic ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy



# POWER4MED

local emPOWERment of fuel  
transition **FOR** a green  
**MED**iterranean



## WESTMED ASSISTANCE

- Matchmake among stakeholders
- Support partnership building
- Identify funding calls for project proposals

## COUNTRIES

Italy  
Algeria  
Spain  
Egypt

Türkiye  
Libya (associated)

## BUDGET

€ 798.043

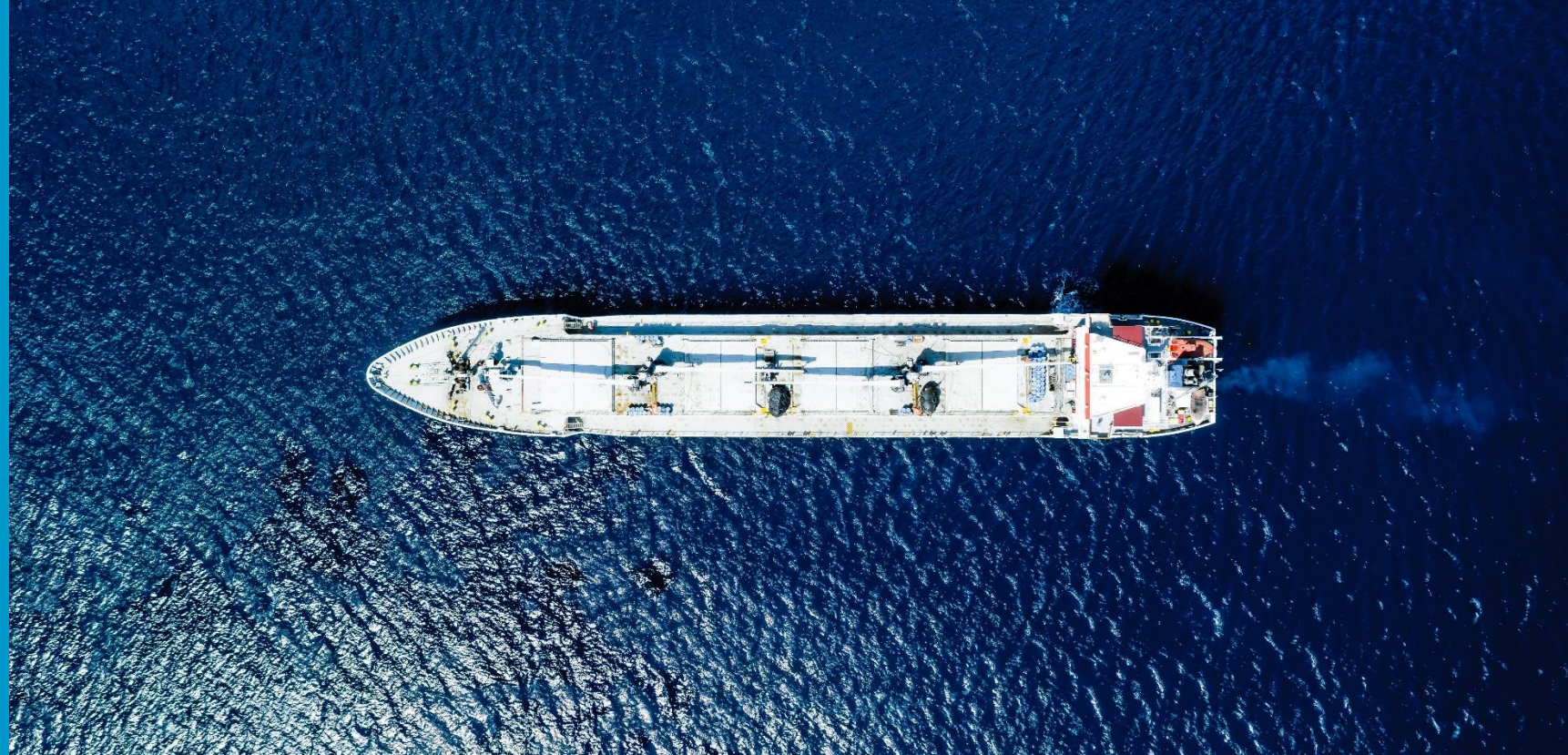
## SOURCE DE FINANCEMENT

EMFAF



# Green Marine Med

Mediterranean Green Shipping Network: Linking Ports, Industries, Investment and Innovation for Monitoring and Technology Foresight on Green Shipping in the Mediterranean



## WESTMED ASSISTANCE

- Identify/ shaping proposal ideas
- Identify funding calls
- Matchmake among stakeholders
  - Support partnership building

## COUNTRIES

Spain	Türkiye
France	Israel
Italy	

## BUDGET

€ 1.179.443

## SOURCE DE FINANCEMENT

EMFAF

# MARITIME CLUSTERS ALLIANCE

- Launched in 2021
- Led by Pôle Mer Méditerranée and coordinated by WestMED's National Hubs from Mauritania and Tunisia
- Promotes dialogue between Mediterranean maritime clusters: south south (Tunisian Maritime Cluster) and north-south (Blue Italian Growth), as well as attracting investments (Forum Oceano)
- Focuses on project development, cluster management training, as well as creating project proposals
- 3 projects supported and awarded funding in 2023: MARMED, MEDBAN and CALL ME BLUE





# MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

- The Community of Practice (CoP) on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) for the Mediterranean was launched on January 26, 2023 by CINEA and DG MARE
- The main objective: establish permanent cross-border dialogue between MSP practitioners (i.e. planners, researchers), to strengthen cooperation between the north and south of the Mediterranean
- Ongoing series of thematic webinars (check European MSP Platform - website)

[maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-resources/med-msp-cop](https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-resources/med-msp-cop)



# STAKEHOLDER EVENTS

(National and international)

Conferences, Hackathons, webinars, back to back events



Knowledge exchange | Project idea development | Networking

# WESTMED BEST PROJECT AWARDS

- 4 categories
- A trophy and certificate
- Extra support and promotion
- Next edition 2025 | Watch the website and X (Twitter)



**WESTMED 2023**  
BEST PROJECT AWARDS



[Submit your project](#)



Winner of the 2021 WestMED Award  
'Blue Skills and Circulation'



*The WestMED award was an acceleration springboard for our hub of innovation, apart from the great support we had and the visibility among potential Mediterranean partners.*



**Nesrine Ziad**  
Cofounder Leancubator

*We are very honored by the trust and recognition that has been given to us allowing us to take part in important consortiums.*

**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative



# SOME RESULTS

115

Projects Supported  
(and supporting)

45

Projects proposals  
awarded for funding

€ 78.1 M

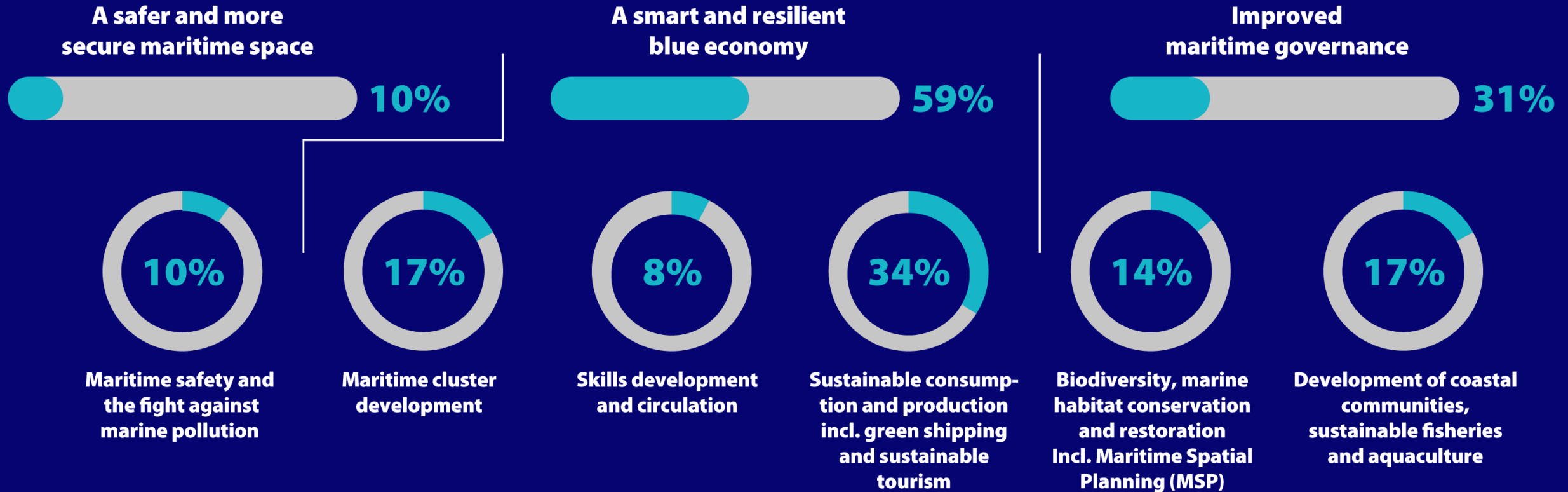
invested in the  
sustainable blue economy





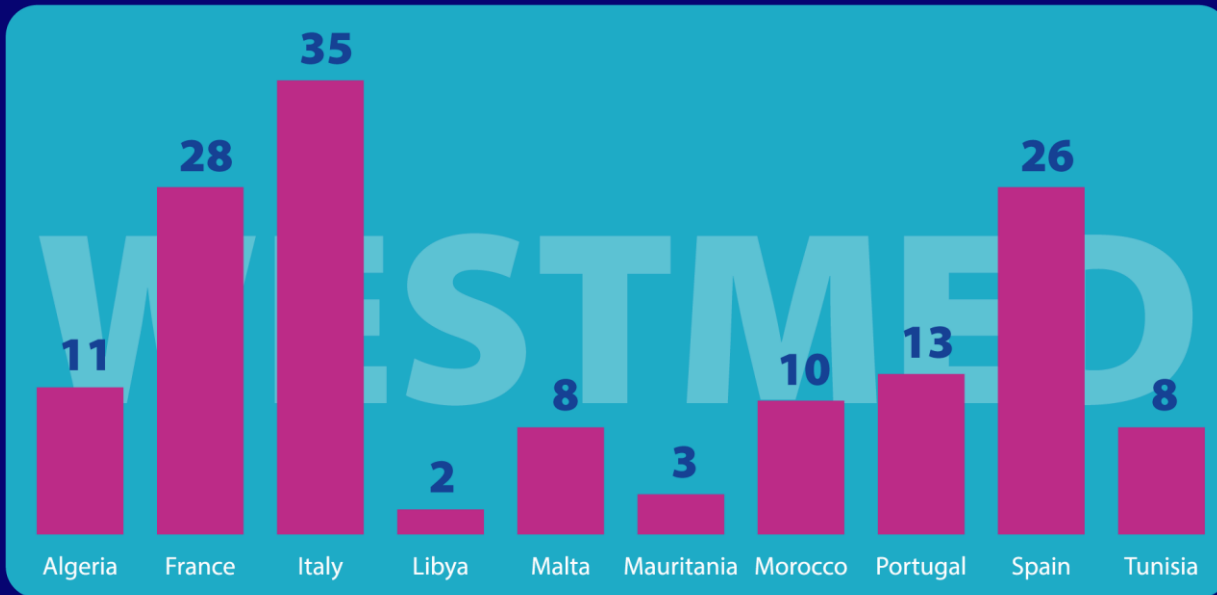
# SOME RESULTS

Approved and funded projects/ breakdown by WestMED Goals & Priorities



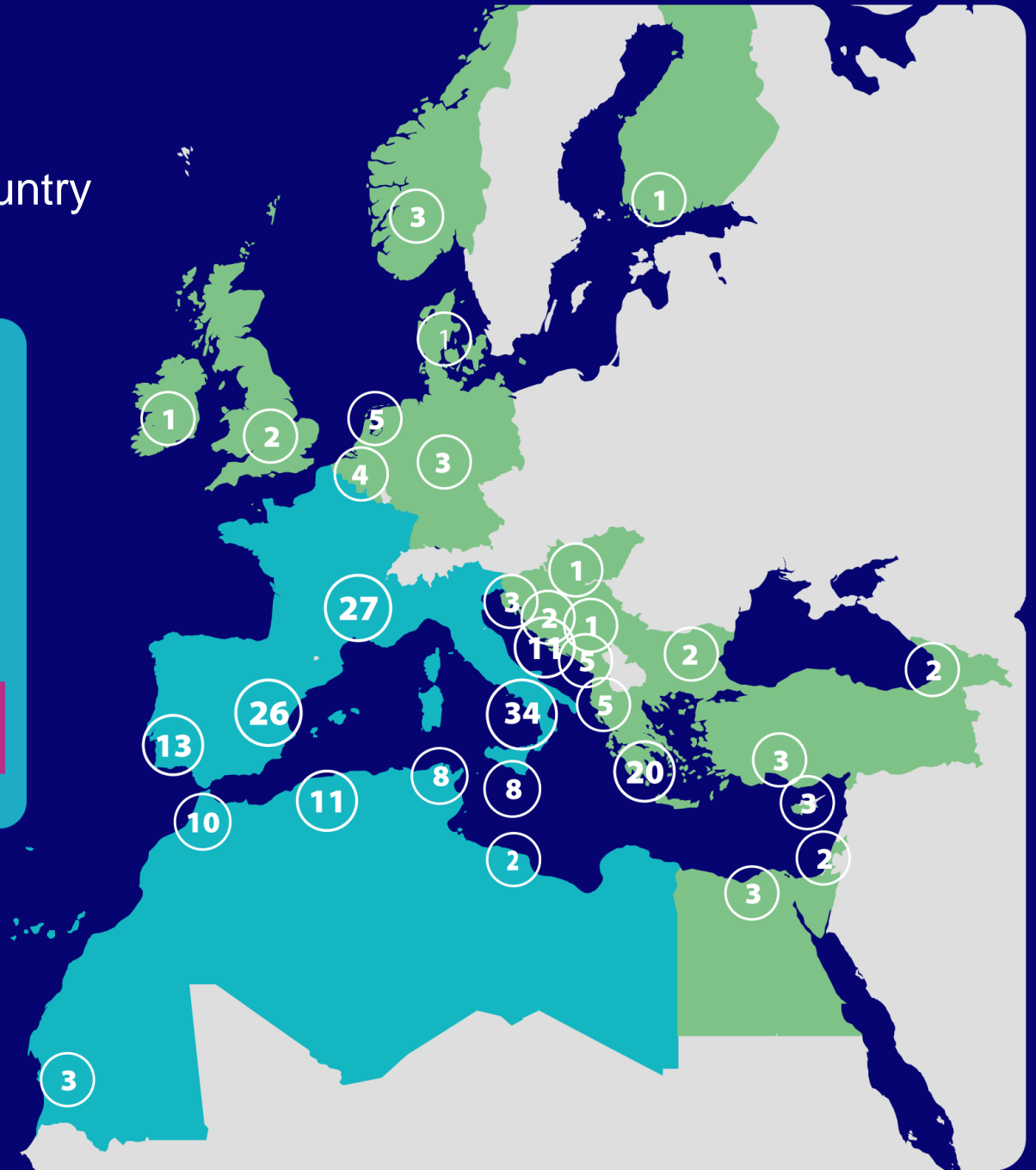
# SOME RESULTS

Approved and funded projects/ breakdown by Country



22

Non-WestMED countries also benefitted  
Notably Greece (20) and Croatia (11)



# SOME RESULTS



Approx **50**/ year WestMED branded events – incl. Stakeholder conferences, Hackathons and Ministerials



**3** countries that have been directly supported with their national maritime/ blue economy strategy (Algeria, Italy, Tunisia - with Libya ongoing)



**1** National maritime cluster created with the support of WestMED in Mauritania  
others are being developed in southern partner countries



**2.750** tweets/posts related to news, (funding) calls and events on the website and X (formerly Twitter)



**11.4K** views on YouTube | **1.670** followers on X (Twitter) | **24.300** website visits/ year (2023)



# National Hub

# MALTA



**Stephanie Vella**



**Maria Cini**

---

[malta@westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu](mailto:malta@westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu)

# Thank you for your attention!

[Westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu](https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu) | [Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

Follow us on

  @WestMedStrat

CINEA/EMFAF/2022-3.5.1/SI2.881692

**WESTMED**  
blue economy initiative

Supported  
by the

