



European Union



Union pour la Méditerranée  
Union for the Mediterranean  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



The Hashemite  
Kingdom of  
Jordan

## *Financing innovation ecosystems for the Mediterranean Sustainable Blue Economy: Local actors, challenges, and opportunities*

*30 January, 2023*

*10:30-12:30 CET*

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Innovation ecosystems are essential drivers for transformative change in coastal and maritime regions. They encompass innovative start-ups and SMEs, as well as researchers and policymaking agencies/bodies, but an essential role in terms of fostering innovation at local level is increasingly played by so called ‘enablers’ – organisations that offer support in terms of networking, access to financing and resources, opportunities for internationalization, etc.

To foster innovative ecosystems for the sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean, a number of innovative financing actions and support initiatives are available through the EU and other international investors. However, when it comes to maximising access to sustainable finance, innovation, and related opportunities, Southern Mediterranean Countries may require greater support, including capacity building and awareness raising.

Local financing initiatives often exist but are not necessarily linked to or aware of the potential of the sustainable blue economy for local development and of the need for dedicated support. It is essential to foster greater awareness on the opportunities offered by such ecosystems – at local level, and in support of innovative and sustainable blue economy value-chains across the Mediterranean.

This UfM webinar aims at shedding a light on the different actors, their experiences, and specific roles that contribute to supporting the development of innovation ecosystems in and for the sustainable blue economy across various Mediterranean countries:

- ‘Enablers’ including maritime clusters, accelerators, incubators, etc.
- ‘Financing operators’ including local development banks, SMEs support, etc.
- ‘International supporters’ including investors engaged in impact ‘blue’ financing.

The webinar also aims to raise awareness on the existence of such actors and on relevant related opportunities (i.e. in terms of replication potential at Med level).

10:30 - 10:45	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Setting the stage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jordan Co-Presidency: Mr Mohammad Al-Sakran, Executive Director – Aqaba Development Corporation</li> <li>• EU Co-Presidency: Ms Yasmin Schinasi – Policy Officer, DG MARE</li> <li>• UfM Secretariat: Mr Almotaz Abadi – Deputy Secretary General</li> </ul>
10:45 - 11:00	<p><b>(Setting the stage – Continuation)</b></p> <p><b>The role of blue finance in supporting innovation in the Mediterranean</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EBRD: Ms Julia Manning – Associate Director &amp; Senior Environmental Adviser</li> </ul>
11:00 - 12:00	<p><b>Overview by local actors: Opportunities and challenges</b> (Moderated roundtable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Venture Capital support in Tunisia</b> AfricInvest – Ms Aicha Zachraoui, Head of Impact &amp; Sustainability</li> <li>• <b>Incubating and accelerating the Sustainable Blue Economy in Algeria</b> Leancubator – Mr Ziad Nesrine, Associate &amp; Manager</li> <li>• <b>Transforming water mobility in Egypt</b> Seavo – Mr Aly Mohamed, Founder &amp; CEO</li> <li>• <b>Support to innovative biotechnology solutions in Turkey</b> Beta ALG Biotechnology – Mr Murat Tellim, Founder</li> <li>• <b>Sovereign Fund of Egypt (TBC)</b></li> <li>• <b>Morocco – Blue Economy Programme (TBC)</b></li> </ul>
12:00 - 12:20	<p><b>Q&amp;A and wrap-up by moderator</b></p>
12:20 - 12:30	<p><b>Conclusions and way forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UfM Co-Presidency</li> <li>• UfM Secretariat: Ms Alessandra Sensi – Head of Sector; Environment, Green, and Blue Economy</li> </ul>