

REGIONS, ISLANDS AND CITIES

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 1ST BLUEMISSIONMED STAKEHOLDER FORUM



CHALLENGE #1

Difficulties to involve all the stakeholders to achieve ocean protection and restoration.



SOLUTION

Cities, regions and islands need to overcome the ocean challenge with a multistakeholder and inclusive approach (for instance when designing Maritime Spatial Planning strategies).

CHALLENGE #2

Diversity of regional contexts within the Mediterranean.



SOLUTION

The Mission objectives need to be addressed from a Mediterranean basin perspective, raising capacities and mobilizing resources basin wide. Transnational and territorial cooperation through networks and communities of practice is a key opportunity to work together in an integrated and coherent way when addressing challenges relevant for all countries in the basin.



CHALLENGE #3

Lack of uptake of subnational realities in the definition of European and International policies, which ultimately have an impact at the regional and local level.



SOLUTIONS

- 🐟 Facilitate mechanisms to engage directly local actors responsible to implement International and European policies;
- 🐟 Leverage on networks representing sub-national levels.

CHALLENGE #4

Lack of awareness and knowledge about technical solutions and best practices.



SOLUTION

Dedicated fora for the best practice and knowledge sharing are key, also involving non-EU actors.

CHALLENGE #5

Lack of adequacy of the financial resources made available for ocean protection and restoration solutions with the management structures of sub-national authorities.





SOLUTION

The contribution of EU funds is essential, especially via European Regional Development Fund. European Territorial Co-operation projects are key for territorial actors as regions and municipalities to cooperate in topics contributing to the ocean protection and restoration. A revision of the calls criteria is advised to make sure that the funding and economic resources made available are indeed accessible and manageable by sub-national authorities.

CHALLENGE #6

Disconnection and lack of engagement of local stakeholders and overall society.



SOLUTION

Promote the emotional connection and commitment of civil society to protect the ocean, and broaden general acceptance of key programmes engaging citizens and local stakeholders.

This document collects the main takeaways emerged during the 1st BlueMissionMed Stakeholder Forum and has been elaborated by the facilitators of the session to be used as a starting point for future activities.



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