

Mistral Project's News

A project co-financed by the European Development Fund

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More MISTRAL News

A deeper analysis of the project structure.

This is the second newsletter issue of the MISTRAL project which aims to provide more information to the MISTRAL fans regarding the structure of the project. The project partners of MISTRAL collaborated to develop the content of this newsletter so as to the general public to easily understand how MISTRAL supports and enhances the Blue Growth sector in Mediterranean.

In the following pages, you will find some introductory information about the project as well as information about each phase of the project. Keep reading to learn more about the purpose and the achievements of the studying phase, the testing phase, the transferring phase and the capitalization phase. Plus, you will find information about the synergies that MISTRAL has developed in the Blue Growth community!

Enjoy the reading!



MISTRAL History

A two-year implementation with challenges & goals achieved!

It was April 2018 when for the 1st time MISTRAL partners met, some live some others online, testing a method of work that in this current year has become ordinary: digitalisation to preserve health and to go on working and achieving results! A two year-implementation has ment a lot and has driven to strengthen collaboration with a solid teamwork with proactive approach, overcoming distances, obstacles and sometimes, bottlenecks but happy for the results achieved!

The first MISTRAL “Bday”, at one year distance from its launch, has been celebrated with the elaboration of the MISTRAL Blue Book, part of the “Studying phase”, presented officially at the European Maritime days in Lisbon, in May 2019. The Blue Book collects relevant knowledge and data, analysing the 5 BG subsectors, providing an extensive scientific frame of the MISTRAL-MED scenario, relevant base to carry out the “Testing phase”, to pilot services to support the innovation in the area.

From the unexpected outbreak of Covid19 the prompt reaction of MISTRAL teams has enabled to carry on the activities planned, using all the potentials offered by digitalization! From February 2020, a more intense “virtual” exchange among partners has driven to reschedule activities, using new tools such as platforms to start implementing the Business Plan Competition and Matchmaking events that are the backbone of our “Testing Phase”.

The 2nd of October, MISTRAL consortium will meet online again to assess the outcomes of the activities described as well as to plan together the following phase: “Transferring”! The final phase of the project is called "Capitilization" which is the main activity for ending the project.





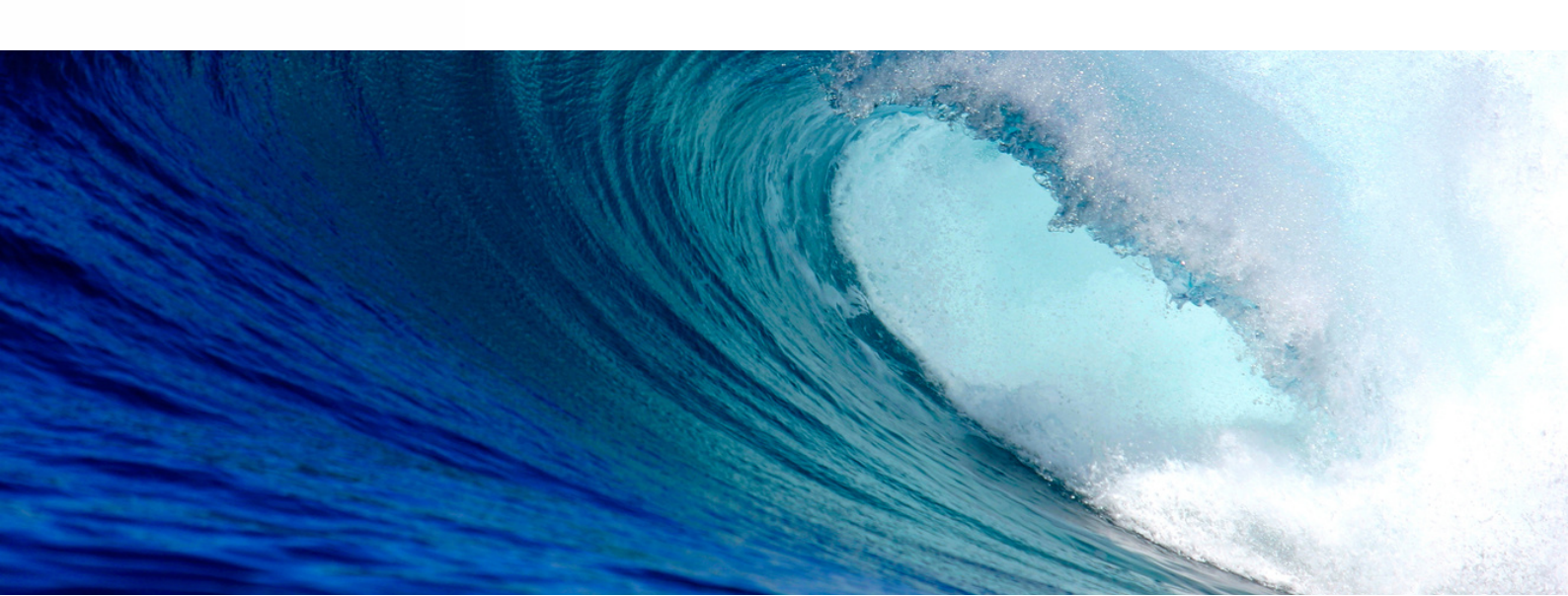
The Studying Phase

The Studying Phase is the first of the four phases of the MISTRAL Project. the Blue Growth Book is the main deliverable of this phase and one of the most important "tools" of the MISTRAL Project. On our website www.mistral.interreg-med.eu you can find the full version of the Blue Growth. To be redirected to the respective article, please click on the image below.

The MISTRAL Blue Book represents the first step of Blue Growth implementation process within the MISTRAL project and is aimed at assessing challenges and opportunities within the Blue Growth sectors along Mediterranean Sea, by looking at innovation driven actions in order to deliver the highest impact and thus open opportunities for stakeholders.

The report not only looks at the well-established sectors in the recent years (i.e. Tourism and Fishing and Aquaculture), but also at those emerging sectors (i.e. Biotech, Renewable energy, Surveillance) considered to be promising in the future in terms of innovation capacity and potential of investment. In this context, an overall benchmark analysis is performed based on MISTRAL consortium composition that includes EU and non-EU Member States namely Albania, Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Key Innovation Potentials for Mediterranean Blue Growth are identified together with drivers and assets with the final aim to concentrating clusters, investors and resources around an accomplishment-oriented vision of their exploitation."





The Testing Phase

Want to know more?

Our first newsletter issued on July 2020 includes detailed information about the activities implemented by the responsible MISTRAL Project Partners for the "Testing Phase" activities. If you want to be fully informed take a look at the MISTRAL website or click on the button below to be redirected in the respective article.

[READ MORE](#)

In the "Testing phase" we want to design and test two innovation service packs, in more details:

- the Blue MED business plan competition with national and transnational editions aims to create services supporting the set-up of innovative businesses in the BG sector, while improving skills of operators (innovation centres, clusters, technology transfer offices, business support organizations). This phase is running in 9 partners' areas: ART-ER and FVG -Italy, HCMR -Greece, ADRAL-Portugal, PMM-TVT-France, ZADAR-Croatia and CHRISALYSLEAP-Cyprus, Maritime Cluster of the Balearic Islands - Spain and the Maritime Cluster of Andalusia - Spain following a common methodology and guidelines. The beneficiaries selected (research teams, enterprise spinoffs, intrapreneurs etc) are supported by an acceleration program. The final event is planned for the 22nd October 2020 and will gather the best projects coming from different national editions and will probably be online.

- The BG Matchmaking Events intend to increase collaboration and networking of different actors of the BG ecosystem and the Med Community, following an open innovation approach. Starting from – on the one side - the assessment of innovation needs from SMEs/large companies/clusters and - on the other side - scouting new technologies and research results, matching and networking activities will favor durable collaborations and partnership in an integrated international context. Events are presently planned or in some cases also running and involve Italy, Spain, Portugal and Croatia.

The Transferring Phase

Note: Transferring phase hasn't started yet

The Transferring phase, is composed by 2 main activities:
1) transfer processes towards regional and MED operators, through learning camps and learning laboratories;
2) definition of policy recommendations.

Transferring knowledge/ know-how/ expertise will be accomplished at national level through a 2 day's events targeting: partner's stakeholders and network; MED clusters; EU clusters; MED regions. Once validated, pilot programme's outputs will be shared with stakeholders from partner's networks in the MED area, in order to present the opportunity to launch similar initiatives and enrich the Blue Growth innovation ecosystem.

Such activity will be made through a 2 days' workshop to share competences within operators and policy makers. The presentation of contents in learning camps (at national level) with the participation of at least 10 stakeholders per partner.

A side goal of this stage is to collect feedback and advice on both programs from outside the consortium, with a special focus on the challenges to keep into account for their adoption. The national learning camps will be composed by 2 sessions (one dedicated to business creation and one on networking and matchmaking). In addition, part of this phase is the organization of a learning lab at transnational level for operators; the international learning lab will focus on transferring the results to MED partners, clusters and regions possibility in connection with the European Maritime Meetings.

The event will be composed by 1 training on the service pack contents (how to do) to cluster managers, policy makers + 1 networking event.

Policy recommendations for transferability on the basis of feedback obtained from operators and policy makers will follow. MISTRAL is planning to organize the learning camps between October 2020 and February 2021. The international Learning Lab is planned to next spring. The rest of the group or individual meetings have taken place in June 2020, according to the mentoring needs that arise among the participants. The last phase will be the investment round in September 2020, in Palma.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the B2Sea Alentejo Matchmaking website. The header includes the event title 'B2Sea Alentejo Matchmaking', the date '29 July 2020', and language options 'Português' and 'English'. Navigation links for 'Home', 'Participants', 'Marketplace', 'Agenda', 'Login', and a 'Registration closed' button are present. A large banner image of a coastal scene with waves is featured. Below the banner, a secondary navigation bar lists 'Home', 'Registration FAQ', 'Virtual Meetings FAQ', 'MISTRAL', and 'Contacts'. The main content area has a 'Welcome to B2Sea Alentejo Matchmaking' heading, followed by a subtitle 'The Contribution of SMEs and the Scientific System for the Blue Growth'. A paragraph describes the event's aim to engage international activity and innovation in the blue economy. Another paragraph states the event is a virtual event promoted by ADRAL, with collaboration from the Enterprise Europe Network, IAPMEI, INTERREG MISTRAL, CCDR Alentejo, and the Municipality of Sines. Logos for ADRAL and the Enterprise Europe Network are displayed on the right side of the page.



The Capitalization Phase

Capitalization is the main activity for ending the project.

Outputs of the pilot actions within WP4, as well as results of former projects and initiatives identified in WP3, will be exploited at a wider scale. This will be done by the:

- Creation of an open “debate and discussion platform” that will allow Regions and other relevant committed stakeholder engagement (BIG MEDForum). This “platform” will start during the next months in order to create an open dialogue between key stakeholders and for developing joint sub-regional and regional approaches towards action. New stakeholders will be invited to participate to this multilevel platform.
- Support of the BG policy implementation by assessing BG policy implementation status, and elaborating 8 regional Action Plans. The results, conclusions and recommendations of the WP3 and WP4 and the platform forum ideas will be taken into account to elaborate these 8 regional Action Plans.
- Definition of a MED policy set of recommendations. Those should be also supported by the BG forum that will take place in any Spanish Mediterranean location, to be determined. This Big Med Forum will include identification of new stakeholders and start-ups acceleration with a view to have openness and best practices sharing within some blue economy sectorial priorities.



SUMMARY

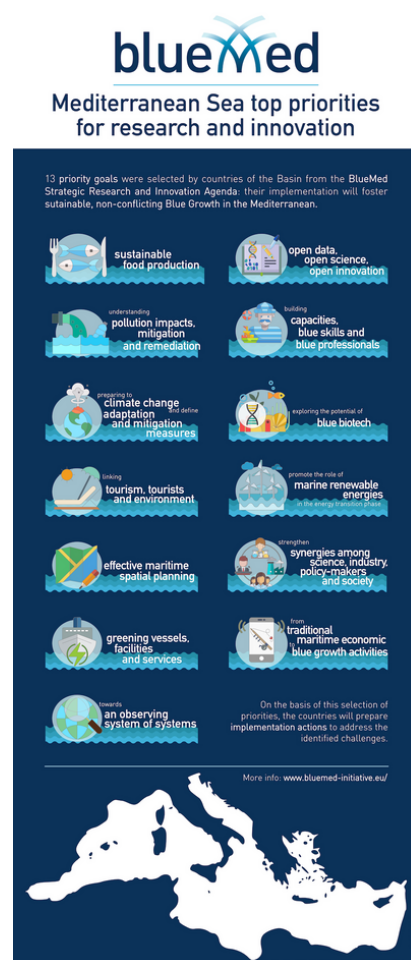
This newsletter section aims to present the synergies that the MISTRAL project partners have developed so far with other Blue Growth projects or initiatives.

LP COMMENT

Synergies have been developed through the networking with the Blue Growth Community and with the Italian National Cluster BIG (Blue Innovation Growth): the 4th February 2020 MISTRAL has joined the 1st Annual Assembly in Montpellier (France) through the Maritime Cluster of Andalusia (CMMA) and the Maritime Cluster of Balearic Islands networking with the Projects involved in the Blue Community and also with the Italian National Cluster BIG, whose Committee of the Regions is coordinated by Emilia - Romagna Region (MISTRAL LP), together with Liguria Region. A 2nd meeting - Advisory Board was arranged online the 27th of July, to assess developments and to plan further common activities.

Synergies developed

Since its beginning, MISTRAL looked at the directions for a Blue Growth in the Mediterranean Sea promoted by the BlueMed Initiative by strengthening synergies with the BlueMed CSA Project that operationally supports the Initiative. The BlueMed Initiative aims to advance a shared vision for a more healthy, productive, resilient, better known and valued Mediterranean Sea, promoting the citizens' social well-being and prosperity, now and for future generations, and boosting economic growth and jobs. In order to reach this ambitious aim, the BlueMed CSA defined The BlueMed Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) outlines as a set of key challenges for the Mediterranean and particularly knowledge gaps, specific activities enabling the blue growth as well as measures for capacity creation and skills' enhancement. Sectors of interest include ecosystems, climate change, biotechnologies, aquaculture, fisheries, tourism, shipbuilding, transportation, observing systems, data, off-shore platforms, cultural heritage, spatial planning. Furthering on this, in 2020 has been published the BlueMed Preliminary Implementation Plan, intended as the operational tools to develop a sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean area. The document indicates a set of Strategic Actions necessary to reach the priority goal with a proposal of feasible promotional actions. The level of participation reached for the Plan's definition was large and was based on a cohesive BlueMed Community.



A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows the silhouette of a large wind turbine against a sky with soft, orange and blue clouds from a sunset or sunrise. The turbine's tower and three blades are visible, with another smaller turbine in the background to the right.

Synergies developed

The Project Partners of MISTRAL who participate in other Interreg Projects related to the Blue Growth, have developed synergies among MISTRAL and these projects. One of these projects is the Blue Boost Interreg Adrion project where Croatian Chamber of Economy - Zadar County Chamber participates as Lead Partner along with seven other partners from Italy, Greece and Albania. The project is financed by the European fund of the Interreg Adrion program. The goal of the project aims at unlocking and boosting the potential of knowledge/technology transfer, transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation of key innovation actors of traditional and emerging Blue Growth sectors by reinforcing the relationships and interactions within and among their clusters according to an open source, knowledge sharing & community based approach. BLUE_BOOST included the implementation of Blue labs, workshops and hackathons and provided 315 thousand euros for about 35 small projects funded by the blue innovation voucher scheme, to encourage and guide the innovation capabilities of micro, small and medium enterprises and start-ups of traditional and new Blue Growth sectors in the Adriatic - Ionian area.

Another project is 4Helix+ (Interreg Mediterranean). 4helix+ aimed at strengthening and reinvigorating the transnational innovation process of blue economy clusters within the eight involved MED maritime regions, by supporting their innovation capacity and creative culture. The focus is on both traditional blue sectors, such as fisheries, shipbuilding, coastal and marine tourism, and emerging ones i.e. aquaculture, blue biotechnologies and green shipbuilding. The project offers coaching and funding to blue sector MSMEs and START-UPS wishing to revolutionize their processes, products or services, and to improve their competitive strategies through knowledge sharing and innovation. A key role in this path is played by Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs): by providing their expertise to companies as knowledge providers, in combination with “new innovation agents” (fab-labs, makerspaces, etc.), CCIs shall trigger creativity and innovation in both traditional and emerging blue economy sectors. Croatian Chamber of Economy - Zadar County Chamber participates in project as a one of the partners, along with nine other partners from Italy, Greece, Albania, France, Spain and Portugal.

The Maritime Cluster of the Balearic Islands on July 2020 organized, together with the University of Patras, leader of the BLUEFASMA project, an international meeting where nine Mediterranean countries participated. The objective of the event was to form a network of Living Labs, innovation laboratories, the creation of startups, and the launch of new business ideas throughout the Mediterranean. We are working on the growth of the blue economy, the promotion of the fishing and aquaculture sectors, and the circular economy, as joint strategies to reactivate the potential of the northern Mediterranean shoreline and the insularity of several of its regions. Iolanda Piedra, president of the Maritime Cluster of the Balearic Islands, in her welcoming speech, highlighted the importance for the Balearic Islands of adopting a comprehensive maritime strategy, given that the activities related to the blue economy affected an added value of 5.124,35 million euros per year through a business network of 6.511 companies with 88.441 workers. The BLUEFASMA project together with the MISTRAL project is being essential to convert business talent and ideas into business realities with an insular and maritime perspective.