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D3.1.2 TECHNICAL REPORT FOR MATCHMAKING LOCAL WORKSHOP IN MAURITANIA

CallmeBLUE
Cluster ALLiance MEd BLUE

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Summary CallmeBLUE Project

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The role of maritime clusters is increasingly important in the process of connecting public and private entities working in all transversal sectors related to blue economy at both national and Mediterranean level. Maritime clusters are indeed crucial facilitators of networking, technology transfer, internationalization and innovation between SMEs, large companies, research centers, universities etc., and they act as key actors to promote sustainable investments of the blue economy.

CALLMEBLUE aims to strengthen existing clusters alliances in the Mediterranean area in order to accelerate north-south regional cooperation processes towards the emerging of strategic maritime clusters in North Africa area (south-south cooperation). CALLMEBLUE will aim to create a strategic vision and transferable models of interregional cooperation.

In particular, CALLMEBLUE will aim to implement concrete actions at both local and regional level in order to raise awareness on the relevance of Maritime clusters as key actors for a sustainable blue economy policy. The project will indeed promote exchange of best practices and knowledge transfer between north and southern area, including piloting learning activities aimed at offering a transferable training "Toolkit", addressed to future maritime clusters in the southern area in order to be prepared on the legal, structural, administrative and management aspects for a concrete creation of future maritime clusters.

CALLMEBLUE ambition is to set-up and strengthen maritime clusters alliances (North-South cooperation) – particularly targeting southern Mediterranean countries (South-South cooperation) but also allowing to enhance regional dialogue and more advanced services offered to Cluster Mediterranean ecosystem. At this aim, CALLMEBLUE offers its role as an accelerator for the policy goals set by relevant regional initiatives such as the UfM Ministerial Declaration for sustainable blue economy and the WestMED Initiative.

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1. Executive Summary

The **"Matchmaking Local Workshop in Mauritania: Exploring the Future of Maritime Clusters: Cooperation and Regional Potential"** was held on **20–21 January 2025** at the **Conference Room of Nouakchott Hotel** in **Nouakchott, Mauritania**. This event provided a platform to foster collaboration between key stakeholders from Mauritania and the Sea Basin Mediterranean region, with the goal of advancing the Blue Economy and promoting sustainable development throughout the region.

Organised as part of the **Fifth National Event for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Mauritania**, the workshop was supported by the **European Commission**, the **WestMED Initiative (National Hub)**, and the **Mauritanian Ministry of Fisheries, Maritime Infrastructure, and Ports**.

The primary aim of the workshop was to explore synergies between maritime clusters in the northern and southern Mediterranean. It highlighted their potential to drive economic growth, innovation, and sustainability. Through dedicated matchmaking sessions and panel discussions, participants tackled shared challenges and identified opportunities for cross-border cooperation in critical areas, including:

- Maritime skills development
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Digitalisation
- Sustainable tourism
- Eco-friendly maritime transport

The workshop's outcomes included:

- The strengthening of regional partnerships
- Actionable insights for the development of interconnected maritime clusters
- A shared commitment to advancing the Blue Economy in Mauritania and the broader Mediterranean region.

The event also underscored the importance of capacity-building and knowledge exchange as cornerstones for achieving long-term sustainability and resilience in maritime sectors.

2. Background and Context

The Blue Economy represents one of the greatest drivers for growth and development. It gathers all economic activities related to oceans, seas, and coastal areas and contributes to sustainable economic growth, job creation, and the preservation of natural capital. In fact, this sector is in constant evolution due to the introduction of new technologies, products and services. In 2022, according to the available data from Eurostat, the sector directly employed 4.82 million people, while generating nearly €890 billion in turnover and accounted for €250.7 billion in gross value added (GVA). *(EU Blue Economy Report - May 22, 2025)*.

In recent years, the European Union has significantly strengthened its policy framework concerning the blue economy, positioning it as a central component in achieving the EU's objectives. This renewed approach marks a clear evolution from the early strategies linked to Europe 2020, toward a more ambitious and integrated policy agenda aligned with the European Green Deal. Far from being an abstract concept, this vision has been consolidated through major political and legislative initiatives that provide strategic coherence to the actions of Member States and stakeholders operating in the maritime domain.

The European Green Deal is among the major steps towards the EU's growth strategy in various areas, including the blue economy sector. Namely, the Package Fit for 55, an integral part of the Green Deal, exemplifies its ambitious policy agenda. It includes reforms to the maritime transport sector, directly impacting the environmental footprint of Blue Economy activities. Notably, these reforms include the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) introduced in 2024 to limit the emissions of large ships, driving greener maritime operations crucial for the blue economy's sustainability, as well as the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation and the FuelEU maritime regulation. *(EU Blue Economy Report 2024)*.

A recent and particularly significant milestone is the 2025 update of the European Green Deal, commonly referred to as "Green Deal 2.0." This updated strategy reinforces commitments to restoring marine ecosystems, achieving climate neutrality in blue economy activities, and accelerating the digital transition of the sector. Complementing this, the European Commission's Communication on a Sustainable Blue Economy (COM(2021)240 and its 2023 update) lays out a nature-positive economic model based on circularity, technological innovation, and interregional cooperation.

Concrete actions in ecosystem restoration and sustainable water management are crucial for the Blue Economy, given its rapid emergence and evolution. This priority is significantly reinforced by the Horizon Europe Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030", launched in 2021. The development and commitment on the Blue Economy directly align with the objective of the Mission, namely in terms of addressing seas as a key aspect in achieving climate neutrality.

Similarly, a sustainable, efficient and more resilient Blue Economy needs the adoption of cutting-edge technologies to accelerate the digital transformation of marine and coastal ecosystems. These programs such as the Digital Europe Programme (2021–2027) and the New European Innovation Agenda (2022) offer the adequate financial and strategic support to promote the uptake of sustainability through solutions of digital innovations in the sector of the Blue Economy.

Within a broader framework, the Draghi Report titled "The Future of EU Competitiveness" (September 2024) is having a crucial role in the sector. It presents a comprehensive strategic roadmap for enhancing the EU competitiveness for the maritime sector with particular emphasis on the Blue Economy. The document offers insights and recommendations outlining an in-depth approach to decarbonization, innovation, and strategic investment. These measures are designed to foster sustainable growth and economic security contributing to a safer environment.

In complementarity with the EU Commission initiatives, the gender equality aspect also represents a crucial priority in the sector. The attractiveness to the sector of women and young women is among the key elements to advance the Blue Economy. A strong commitment to integrating gender equality and social inclusion into the blue economy advancements has been demonstrated with the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025, along with its upcoming roadmap for 2025–2030. It calls for the mainstreaming of gender considerations across all EU programmes and initiatives, including those tied to blue economy sectors promoting an active participation of women and youth in emerging fields, in line with the EU's broader social priorities.

International cooperation—particularly between Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries—remains a core pillar of the EU's blue economy strategy. Instruments such as the WestMED Initiative and ministerial resolutions under the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) continue to promote regional integration, capacity building, and dialogue between maritime clusters. These policies strongly support initiatives like

CallmeBLUE, which aims to strengthen alliances between actors in Southern and Northern Mediterranean countries through knowledge exchange, joint training activities, and the promotion of strategic blue clusters in North Africa.

Together, these frameworks represent a renewed and ambitious vision for Europe's blue economy—one grounded in innovation, equity, environmental sustainability, and international cooperation. The CallmeBLUE project is fully aligned with this strategic direction, acting as a catalyst for collaborative models among maritime clusters, driving the digital and green transition of the sector, and promoting inclusive growth that directly contributes to the goals of the European Green Deal and EU research and innovation missions.

2.1 Mauritania

Mauritania, located on the Atlantic coast of Northwest Africa, holds substantial untapped potential in the sustainable use of its oceanic resources. The country's fisheries sector is already a cornerstone of its economy, contributing between 4% and 10% of GDP, and generating approximately half of its export revenues, primarily through sales to European and Asian markets. With an annual average catch approaching one million tonnes, Mauritania stands as one of Africa's top seafood producers, supplying significant volumes of sardines, tuna, and other pelagic species to international markets such as Spain, Italy, and Japan. The sector provides direct employment to over 65,000 people and sustains many more through associated value chains in artisanal fishing, processing, and logistics (Tedesco & Martin, 2024).

Beyond fisheries, Mauritania is diversifying its maritime economy by developing strategic sectors such as aquaculture, coastal and marine tourism, blue biotechnology, shipbuilding and repair, port logistics, and offshore renewable energy. These emerging areas are increasingly central to Mauritania's national development agenda, in alignment with the broader Mediterranean and African transition toward sustainable blue growth. Notably, the country's abundant solar and wind resources position it as a frontrunner for green hydrogen production—an area receiving technical and financial support from international partners, including the World Bank and the European Union.

Mauritania plays an active role in regional blue economy initiatives, with particular emphasis on its involvement in the WestMED Initiative, established in 2017 under the auspices of the European Commission. As a member of the 5+5 dialogue (alongside countries such as France, Spain, Italy, Morocco, and Tunisia), Mauritania contributes to a shared roadmap focused on sustainable maritime development, improved connectivity, and strengthened regional value chains. Through the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and its Ministerial Declarations on the Blue Economy (Ghazouani, 2024), Mauritania further engages in policy dialogue, capacity-building efforts, and transnational cooperation projects aimed at generating inclusive economic growth while safeguarding marine ecosystems.

One of the most notable achievements to date is the creation of the Mauritanian Maritime Cluster (Cluster Maritime Mauritanie, CMM). Developed with support from the WestMED Cluster Alliance, this national cluster serves as a coordination platform for public and private stakeholders, fostering innovation, sustainable practices, and entrepreneurship in key sectors of the blue economy. The CMM is already facilitating stakeholders' engagement, hosting collaborative events, and identifying synergies with Mediterranean partners—particularly through north–south knowledge exchange and joint initiatives.

EU support has been instrumental in these developments. Under the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the EU and Mauritania, renewed in 2021, European fishing vessels are granted regulated access to Mauritanian waters in exchange for an annual financial contribution and dedicated investment in local fisheries governance. Complementing this, the EU has allocated additional funding through the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) to enhance port infrastructure, promote responsible fishing practices, and upgrade value chains, especially in artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Moreover, Mauritania benefits from broader EU external action instruments such as the Global Gateway strategy, which channels investment into renewable energy, green hydrogen value chains, and sustainable transport networks—laying the groundwork for long-term economic integration between Mauritania and Mediterranean EU countries.

In parallel, the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" provides a comprehensive framework for environmental restoration and sustainable use of marine ecosystems. Mauritania is eligible for funding under this mission through the WestMED regional calls, which support community-

led projects focused on ecosystem rehabilitation, coastal resilience, and inclusive blue economy development.

The strategic alignment between Mauritania's national objectives and the European Union's updated external and environmental policy frameworks—such as the European Green Deal 2.0, the New Agenda for the Mediterranean, and the evolving EU–Africa Partnership—reinforces the importance of Mauritania as a key partner in the EU's vision for a climate-neutral, digitally advanced, and inclusive blue economy.

In summary, Mauritania's transformation from a fisheries-based economy to a diversified maritime hub illustrates the country's proactive engagement in regional and global sustainability agendas. Its collaboration with the European Union—through SFPA, EMFAF, WestMED, Global Gateway, and Mission Ocean—demonstrates a shared commitment to building resilient blue value chains, strengthening regional cooperation, and unlocking the full potential of ocean-based development for both African and European partners.

3. Methodology

The methodology adopted for this study is centred around the activities and outcomes of the matchmaking local workshop organised in Mauritania, aimed at raising awareness of the crucial role that maritime clusters play as key enablers of a sustainable blue economy. The workshop also aimed to foster cooperation between stakeholders from both the Southern and Northern Mediterranean sea basin.

The event was organised with the support of Northern maritime clusters and targeted key local groups identified under Work Package 2 (WP2) of Callmeblue project, including research centres, SMEs, and industry stakeholders, all of whom had previously expressed an interest in promoting maritime clusters. These target groups were pre-identified during WP2 to ensure their alignment with the workshop's objectives and focus.

This matchmaking event served as a pivotal platform for introducing and promoting a capacity-building programme, aimed at encouraging stakeholder engagement and participation. The programme seeks to reinforce the collaborative potential and developmental trajectory of maritime clusters in the region, thereby ensuring long-term sustainability and impact.

3.1. Relevance of the Matchmaking local workshop

The matchmaking local workshop was a crucial element of this initiative, as it provided a platform for targeted stakeholders to interact, share expertise, and identify potential synergies. By connecting actors from both the North and South, the event fostered collaboration and knowledge exchange, which are essential for the promotion of maritime clusters. Furthermore, the workshop introduced tailored capacity-building programmes, enabling stakeholders to address regional challenges and opportunities while strengthening their collective ability to advance a sustainable blue economy.

3.2. Objective of the workshop

- **Raise Awareness**: To highlight the key role of maritime clusters in fostering a sustainable blue economy and their potential to drive both economic and environmental progress in the region, including investments on most promising blue economy sector. Support local actions by key stakeholders including policy makers to take target actions for the blue economy sector.

- **Enhance Cooperation**: To facilitate collaboration between North and South stakeholders through tailored local actions that respect the unique characteristics and needs of the region. This collaboration aims to build a stronger, interconnected maritime network, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and sustainable blue economy.

3.3. Design and Agenda of Matchmaking local workshop

The agenda of the **Mauritania workshop** was meticulously structured to align with its overarching goals of promoting maritime clusters and advancing the blue economy. It included diverse formats, such as in-person presentations, online contributions, working groups discussion and interactive Q&A sessions, to ensure broad stakeholder engagement and foster active participation.

Key segments of the agenda included:

1. **CallmeBLUE Presentation**: This segment highlighted the objectives and outcomes of the CallmeBLUE project, emphasising regional

collaboration, data-driven insights, and strategies to enhance the competitiveness of maritime economies in the Mediterranean.

2. **Cluster Initiatives, Promising Sectors, Challenges, and Actions to Boost Opportunities and Collaboration**: This session centred on presenting the findings of CallmeBLUE's research, offering actionable insights to support the development of maritime clusters in North Africa. The discussion also included key challenges and recommended actions for fostering sectoral growth and cross-border cooperation.

3. **Panel I - Exploring the Future of Maritime Clusters**: This session focused on sharing best practices and insights from established maritime clusters across both the North and South Mediterranean. It provided a platform for cluster leaders to present their contributions and discuss collaborative opportunities that can drive innovation and sustainability within the sector.

4. **Panel II - Boosting Potential and Promising Sectors**: Addressing emerging sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, desalination, and sustainable maritime transport, this panel emphasised the importance of North-South cooperation in integrating regional and international initiatives to support the growth of these key industries.

5. **Feedback and Survey Collection**: Concluding the workshop, participants were invited to provide feedback via a survey. This aimed to assess the event's impact and gather insights for future collaboration, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with stakeholder needs.

Table 1 : Agenda of the Workshop

Hour (GMT)	Description
10:00-10:10	Strategic insights into the CallmeBlue project ***Elizabeth Chapman*** *(Project manager of Andalusian Maritime-Marine Cluster – CMMA)*
10:10-10:15	Q&A
10:15-10:45	Cluster initiatives, most promising sectors, main challenges and obstacles, main actions to promote existing initiatives, to boost business opportunities and activities for the exchange of ideas and knowledge ***Sara Tedesco*** *- Project manager of the Blue Italian Growth Cluster*
10:45-10:50	Q&A
10:50-11:50	**Panel I** (in-person & online) Exploring the future of maritime clusters: cooperation and regional potential strategic insights into the CallmeBlue project ***Hamadi Baba Hamadi*** *- President of Mauritanian Maritime Cluster (in-person)* ***Captain Ezzedine Kacem*** *- President of Tunisian Maritime Cluster (in-person)* ***Javier Noriega****- President of Andalusian Maritime Marine Cluster (online)* ***Sara Tedesco****- Project manager of Cluster BIG (online)*
11:50-12:35	**Panel II** (online) Boosting potential and promising sectors through collaboration ***Lorella Ciuti****- Blue Executive Assistant of Forum Oceano* ***Emmanuel Noutary****- General Delegate of Anima* ***Colin Ruel*** *– Director of Service Europe for Pôle Mer Méditerranée*
12:35-12:40	Q&A
12:40-12:50	Survey collection

3.4. Communication and dissemination

The communication and dissemination strategy for the **CallmeBLUE Workshop** was carefully designed and implemented to ensure maximum outreach and engagement with the target audience.

The following key actions were undertaken:

Preparatory Phase

1. **Promotional Materials**:

A visually appealing brochure/dossier was created, incorporating diverse materials to effectively present the event's objectives and agenda. This brochure was disseminated across the Andalusian Maritime-Marine Cluster's (CMMA) social media platforms, including X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram, ensuring broad visibility.

2. **Email Marketing**:

Promotional emails were sent to a database of over 1,000 CMMA subscribers. These emails utilised effective copywriting techniques to clearly communicate the event's objectives, agenda, and participation details, ensuring targeted outreach.

3. **Targeted Outreach**:

Phone calls were made to key stakeholders, encouraging them to promote the event through their internal networks and databases. The CMMA's contact database, alongside the one developed during WP2, proved instrumental in reaching high-level prescribers in the Spanish and European maritime-marine sectors, ensuring their participation in the event.

4. **Social Media Campaigns**:

A "Save the Date" post was published on December 18, 2024, on the CMMA's social media profiles, providing early notice to the target audience. A follow-up post reinforced the announcement of the event, maintaining continuous engagement and building anticipation.

5. **Press Release**:

In the days leading up to the workshop, a press release was distributed, leveraging the visibility generated by the WestMED event in Mauritania. A press call further amplified the promotional efforts, ensuring media coverage and greater reach.

During the Event

1. **Live Coverage**:

The workshop was streamed live on Teams, providing real-time access to a wider audience who could not attend in person. This ensured inclusivity and broad participation.

2. **Social Media Engagement**:

Social media platforms, particularly X, were actively used to share photos and updates during the event, maintaining engagement with the audience and amplifying the event's reach in real time.

3. **Content Creation**:

A video capturing key moments of the workshop was produced and later shared across social media platforms. This visual content helped increase post-event engagement, allowing those who missed the live event to view highlights.

4. **Press Release Distribution**:

A press release, accompanied by images from the event, was distributed to over 500 media outlets in Spain and Andalusia, ensuring widespread coverage in relevant publications.

Post-Event Activities

1. **Dissemination of Outcomes**:

In the days following the workshop, a detailed summary of the event was published on project website and social channels, Westmed channels and CMMA's social media profiles, corporate magazine, and website. This ensured broader dissemination of the event's highlights, outcomes, and objectives, reinforcing the workshop's impact and relevance to stakeholders.

Table 2: Communication Schedule

Communication and dissemination
Promotional emails were sent to a database of over 1,000 CMMA subscribers.
"Save the Date" was posted on project website and CMMA's four social media profiles (X, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram)
Promotional emails were sent to a database of over 1,000 CMMA subscribers.
Follow-up post was published on project/Westmed/Ufm and CMMA social media profiles, announcing the upcoming event.
The Workshop was streamed live on Teams
It was followed up by promotion on CMMA X
A press release about the Workshop was sent to over 500 media outlets in Spain and Andalusia

4. Target group and Participation

4.1 Target Group

The primary target group for the local matchmaking workshop consisted of stakeholders identified during the prior field analysis conducted in Work Package 2 (WP2) of the CallmeBLUE project.

In Mauritania, a total of 10 key actors were identified through an extensive process that involved desk research, as well as the exploration of new stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels.

These actors were categorised into four distinct groups:

Policymakers	Sectoral Bodies	Business organizations	Research centers & Universities
- Ministries representatives -Governmental agencies - Regulatory institutions and commissions	- Public administration - National agencies	- Big companies - SMEs - Startups	- Experts - Mentors - Professors - Researchers

Table 1:Target Groups

This comprehensive categorisation helped ensure that the workshop addressed the specific needs and challenges of each stakeholder group, fostering collaboration across sectors and enhancing the overall impact of the event.

4.2 Participation

The matchmaking local workshop held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders representing various sectors of the blue economy. The event aimed to engage participants from both the public and private sectors, ensuring a comprehensive representation of the maritime cluster ecosystem in Mauritania and beyond.

Invitations and Representation

Based on the target group identified previously, the invitation process was designed to include actors from Nouadhibou, Nouakchott, and external organisations. A total of 92 individuals were invited (Annex Invitation list), encompassing policymakers, sectoral bodies, business organisations, and representatives from research and education institutions. Key invitees included:

- Nouadhibou Participants: representatives from 10 institutions, including the Free Zone of Nouadhibou, the Mauritanian Coast Guard, and national fisheries organisations.

- Nouakchott Participants: representatives from 50 organisations, including government ministries, public agencies, ports, universities, and private sector operators.

- Technical and Financial Partners: representatives from 12 international organisations, including the European Union (EU), GIZ, AFD, FAO, and the African Union.

- Other key Participants (Hybrid Attendance): a total of 20 participants joined either in person or virtually, representing entities such as the WestMED Technical Assistance Team, NH national hubs, maritime clusters, and the CallmeBLUE project consortium.

Attendance Results

The workshop achieved a total attendance of 79 participants in person at the Conference Room of Nouakchott Hotel, complemented by 17 online attendees. This group represented a mix of public and private institutions from various sectors of the blue economy.

Event Highlights

The workshop placed a strong emphasis on Maritime and Port Infrastructure, underscoring the government's commitment to advancing the blue economy and fostering international cooperation. The discussions highlighted the importance of modernising port facilities, improving maritime connectivity, and promoting sustainable practices in the blue economy sector. These topics were central to the workshop, reflecting both local priorities and blue economy Mediterranean area of investment.

The participation outcomes demonstrated the event's success in bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders. This diversity facilitated cross-sectoral dialogue and enabled the exchange of valuable insights, helping to identify common challenges and opportunities within the maritime sector. The event also served as a crucial platform for laying the groundwork for strengthened collaboration among maritime clusters in the Mediterranean region, fostering closer ties between key actors and reinforcing regional cooperation efforts.

Given the key role of blue economy development in Mauritania and in alignment with the country's priorities of promoting the growth of clusters and strengthen North-South alliances, the Minister of Fisheries, Maritime Infrastructure and Ports, inaugurated the workshop.

Figure 1: Official Opening

5. Procedure

This workshop was organised as part of the fifth National Event for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Mauritania. The event was supported by the European Commission, the WestMED Initiative (including National Hub), and the Mauritanian Ministry of Fisheries, Maritime Infrastructure, and Ports, who inaugurated the event by emphasising the strategic importance of maritime clusters for sustainable development and their potential to drive economic and environmental progress in the region.

The workshop was designed to foster dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among stakeholders in the blue economy. The event included a well-structured mix of presentations, panel discussions, and a survey activity, each serving a distinct purpose in advancing the workshop's goals. Below is a detailed description of the procedure, highlighting key speakers, challenges discussed, opportunities identified, and the recommendations that emerged from the discussions.

6. Main insights and results

6.1. Workshop Outcomes

- **CallmeBLUE Presentation (online)**

Strategic insight into the CallmeBlue project

- *Elizabeth Chapman (Project manager of Andalusian Maritime-Marine Cluster – CMMA)*

Figure 2: CallmeBlue Presentation

The CallmeBLUE Project, co-funded by the European Union, seeks to strengthen alliances between maritime clusters in both the northern and southern Mediterranean, fostering regional cooperation and promoting sustainable development. The project underscores the crucial role of maritime clusters as key connectors between the public and private sectors within the Blue Economy. By promoting networking, technology transfer, and innovation, CallmeBLUE aims to drive sustainable investments and stimulate regional development.

The project focuses on the following priorities:

- Empowering maritime clusters as drivers of innovation.

- Enhancing cooperation for knowledge exchange and sustainable development.
- Preparing new maritime clusters by addressing specific needs and overcoming barriers.

- Organising tailored capacity-building initiatives to strengthen cluster capabilities.

- Collaborating with public bodies to influence policies and enhance cluster participation in decision-making processes.

- Promoting inclusivity by involving women and youth in Blue Economy activities.

The project is supported by a consortium of partners from Italy, Portugal, Spain, Algeria, Tunisia, Greece, and France, ensuring a diverse and collaborative approach to advancing maritime cooperation and fostering sustainable growth in the Mediterranean region.

- **Presentation (online)**

Cluster initiatives, most promising sectors, main challenges and obstacles, main actions to promote existing initiatives, to boost business opportunities and activities for the exchange of ideas and knowledge

- *Sara Tedesco - Project manager of the Blue Italian Growth Cluster*

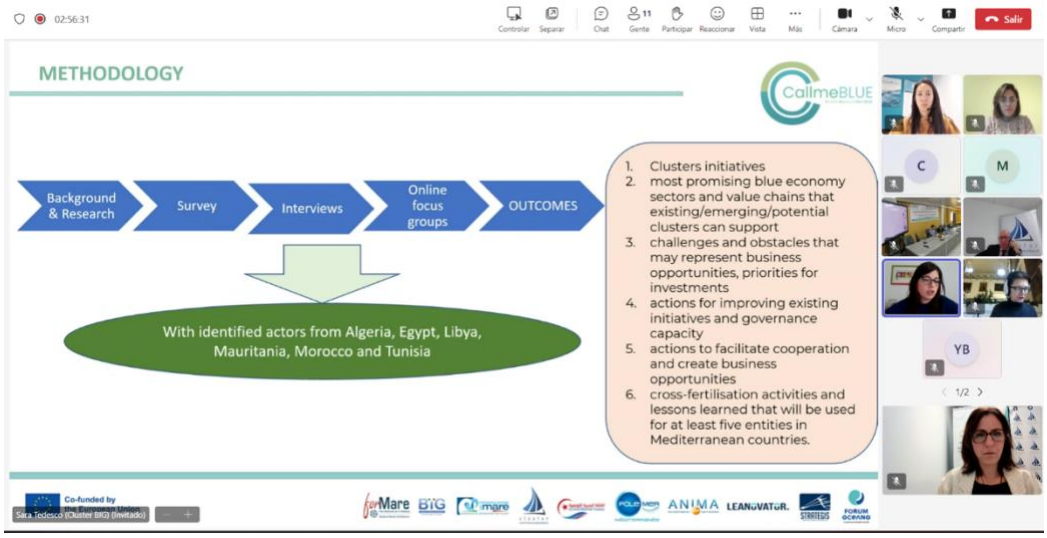


Figure 3: Cluster Initiatives, promising sectors, challenges and obstacles

Overview

This session focused on presenting the findings of CallmeBLUE's research while offering actionable insights to support the development of maritime clusters in North Africa. The research, conducted across six countries—Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Egypt, and Morocco—mapped and connected emerging maritime clusters in the southern Mediterranean. The findings highlighted the vital role of clusters as catalysts for sustainable Blue Economies, emphasizing their potential to drive governance, foster cooperation, and spur innovation. By strengthening connections between Atlantic and Mediterranean communities, the initiative aims to facilitate cross-regional growth and collaboration. A significant focus of the discussion was on the relevance of Mauritania's National Marine Cluster, established in 2023 with the support of the WestMED Maritime Clusters Alliance. This cluster represents a pivotal milestone in advancing the country's Blue Economy investment.

Challenges of the blue economy sector in the country

- Limited Private Sector Engagement: The lack of involvement from businesses in advancing cluster initiatives.
- Underdeveloped Aquaculture: Aquaculture is representing a promising sector for the country and an opportunity to invest consistently for sector diversification.
- Minimal Digitalization: Low levels of digital integration hinder efficiency and innovation in maritime activities.

- Untapped Tourism Potential: While tourism holds potential for economic growth, its development remains in their early stages.

- Port Activity and Exports: Port infrastructure is underutilized; there is a need to focus more on improving export logistics and capacity.

Opportunities

- Tourism Development: Prioritize sustainable tourism as a key pillar of the Blue Economy.

- Export Optimization: Enhance port activities and export capacities, particularly for fisheries.

- Digitalization: Invest in digital tools and systems to streamline operations and encourage innovation.

- Governance Improvements: Strengthen governance structures to ensure the sustainable management of resources.

- Cluster Integration: Expand the cluster's activities and services to better connect with Atlantic and Mediterranean networks.

Recommendations and Actions

- Strengthen Governance Capacity: Implement governance tools like Individual Quotas (IQs) and monitoring systems to ensure the sustainable management of fisheries.

- Boost Private Sector Involvement: Encourage private enterprises to actively participate in cluster activities through tailored incentives and support mechanisms.

- Develop Aquaculture: Invest in infrastructure and expertise to establish a thriving aquaculture sector.

- Expand Digitalization: Introduce digital solutions to enhance logistics efficiency and fisheries management.

- Foster Tourism Initiatives: Develop a strategic framework to grow the tourism sector sustainably.

- Leverage Port Infrastructure: Strengthen export capacity by upgrading port logistics and facilities.

- Scale Up Cluster Activities: Provide tailored services and expand the cluster's integration within regional and international networks.

- **Insights from the Q&A Discussion**

During the Q&A session, several distinguished speakers provided valuable insights, reinforcing the workshop's objectives and the broader vision of the CallmeBLUE project.

- Lidia Rossi, Managing Director and Senior Project Manager at ForMare, project coordinator of the CallmeBLUE project, highlighted the strategic significance of the event as a pivotal opportunity to establish new alliances and collaborations between Southern Europe

and North Africa. She emphasised the project's critical role in ensuring the sustainable development and long-term success of the Blue Economy.

- Laurence Martin, Secretary General of the Federazione del Mare, provided an in-depth analysis of the strategic role of maritime clusters, particularly in advancing digitalisation and decarbonisation. She underscored the Federazione del Mare's efforts in these areas and stressed the importance of information and knowledge sharing among stakeholders at Mediterranean level as a means of fostering innovation and cooperation.

- Matteo Bocci, Eu sea basin Assistance Mechanism, addressed Mauritania's future within the Blue Economy, pointed out the creation of maritime cluster as a significant milestone. He expressed appreciation for the active participation of other clusters in the workshop and emphasised the importance of regional cooperation. Furthermore, he highlighted the value of cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange in tackling shared challenges and generating new opportunities for the sustainable growth of the Blue Economy.

These contributions reinforced the core themes of the workshop, aligning with the broader objectives of CallmeBLUE in enhancing cooperation, fostering innovation, and promoting sustainable maritime development in the Mediterranean and West African regions.

- **Panel I (in-person & online)**

Exploring the future of Maritime Clusters: *Cooperation and regional potential strategic insights into the CallmeBlue project*

- *Hamadi Baba Hamadi- President of Mauritanian Maritime Cluster (in-person)*
- *Captain Ezzedine Kacem- President of Tunisian Maritime Cluster (in-person)*
- *Javier Noriega- President of Andalusian Maritime Marine Cluster (online)*
- *Sara Tedesco- Project manager of Cluster BIG (online)*

Figure 30: Panel I

Overview

This session focused on the potential of maritime clusters in the Mediterranean sea basin, particularly focusing the discussion on Mauritania, Tunisia, Italy, and Andalusia, to drive the region's Blue Economy forward. These stakeholders presented insights into their respective clusters and discussed strategies for fostering regional collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development across the Mediterranean and North Africa. The panel highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and sustainable practices in realizing the full potential of the Blue Economy in the region. Mauritania, with its newly established Maritime Cluster, and Tunisia, focusing on aquaculture and decarbonization, are taking key steps toward building a sustainable blue economy ecosystem. Andalusia's experience in promoting sustainable fisheries, renewable energy, and blue tourism offers valuable lessons for the region, while Cluster BIG's role in fostering regional cooperation will continue to support the growth of the Blue Economy through strategic partnerships and technological innovation.

Challenges

- Sustainability Concerns: Achieving a balance between economic growth and environmental preservation, particularly in sectors like fisheries and tourism.

- Infrastructure Gaps: Developing adequate logistics, port infrastructure, and preservation facilities is critical to unlocking the potential of the Blue Economy in these regions.

- Decarbonization: The maritime transport sector faces the challenge of reducing emissions and adopting alternative fuels.

- Knowledge Gaps: Despite progress, there is a need for further capacity building and knowledge transfer to implement advanced technologies and practices effectively.

- Regional Cooperation: While progress has been made, strengthening collaboration between North African and Southern European clusters requires overcoming governance gaps and fostering innovation.

Opportunities

- Aquaculture and Fisheries: Significant opportunities exist to enhance sustainability and productivity in aquaculture and fisheries, key drivers of the Blue Economy.

- Tourism Development: Mauritania's rich coastal and ecological resources offer potential for eco-friendly and sustainable tourism, which can boost local economies while preserving ecosystems.

- Marine Renewable Energy: There is a growing opportunity to expand offshore wind, wave energy, and green hydrogen projects across the region.

- Digitalization and Technological Innovation: Investing in digital solutions, such as advanced monitoring systems for marine ecosystems, can enhance productivity and sustainability across sectors.

- International Collaboration: Strengthening partnerships between Mediterranean and North African clusters can facilitate knowledge exchange, technological advancements, and joint initiatives, particularly in sustainable fisheries, port logistics, and renewable energy.

Recommendations and Actions

- Enhance Infrastructure Development: Invest in logistics, port facilities, and resource protection to support the sustainable expansion of the Blue Economy.

- Promote Digitalization and Innovation: Encourage the use of digital technologies to modernize maritime operations and supply chains while fostering innovation in aquaculture, transport, and energy sectors.

- Strengthen Collaboration: Establish deeper cooperation between Mediterranean and North African clusters to leverage shared knowledge and resources, focusing on joint projects that address regional challenges and enhance sustainability.

- Invest in Sustainable Practices: Promote sustainable practices across fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, and transport to ensure long-term viability and environmental preservation.

- Decarbonize the Maritime Sector: Support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by exploring alternative fuels, such as biofuels and hydrogen, and adopting cleaner technologies in maritime transport.

- **Panel II (online)**

Boosting potential and promising sectors through collaboration

- *Lorella Ciuti- Blue Executive Assistant of Forum Oceano*
- *Emmanuel Noutary- General Delegate of Anima*
- *Colin Ruel- Director of Service Europe of Pôle Mer Méditerranée*

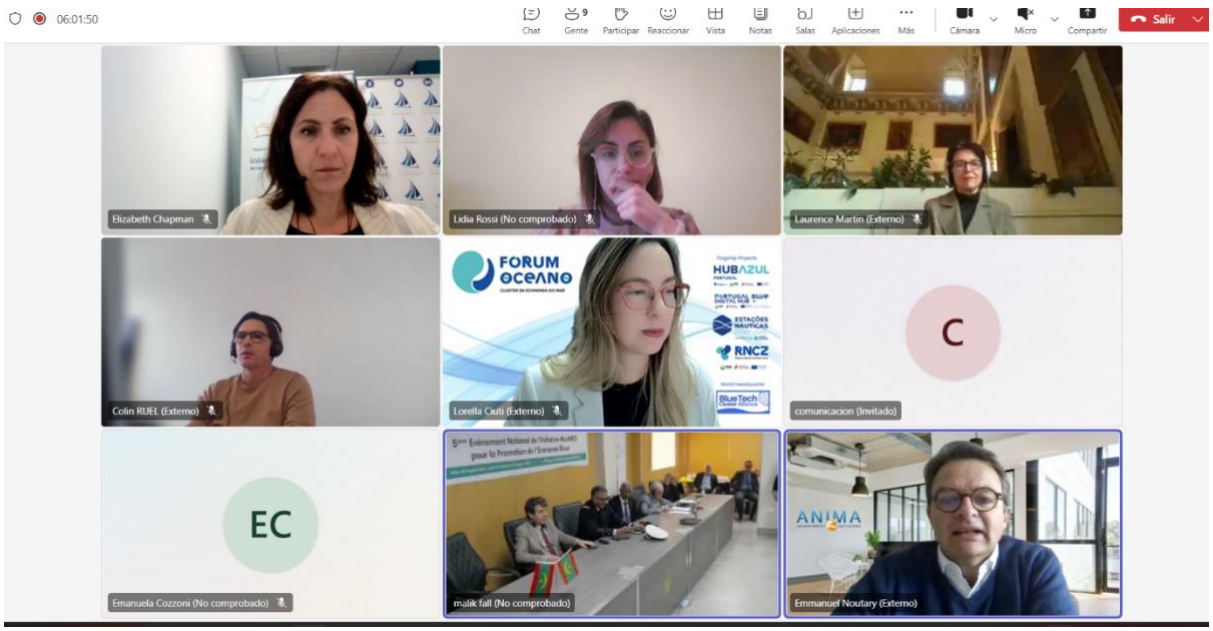


Figure 31: Panel II

Overview

Panel II explored strategies to boost Mauritania's Blue Economy through collaboration between Northern and Southern Mediterranean maritime clusters. The discussion centred on fostering sustainable development by integrating Mauritania's strategic sectors—fisheries, aquaculture, desalination, green hydrogen, digitalization, blue skills, sustainable tourism, and maritime transport—into international networks. Knowledge transfer, best practice sharing, and joint initiatives were identified as key mechanisms to enhance Mauritania's competitiveness. The panel concluded with a strong emphasis on the transformative role of regional and international cooperation in advancing Mauritania's Blue Economy. The speakers underscored the need to combine technical expertise, financing, and innovative strategies to fully integrate Mauritania's emerging cluster into global networks, ensuring long-term sustainability and equitable growth.

Challenges

- Funding Limitations: Emerging clusters like Mauritania's face challenges in securing adequate financial resources to sustain growth and innovation.

- Network Integration: Southern Mediterranean clusters are yet to be fully integrated into international frameworks and platforms. This may limit opportunities for collaboration.

- Technical Support Gaps: Limited access to technical assistance and capacity-building programs hinders the ability of clusters to adopt advanced technologies and practices.

Opportunities

- Knowledge and Technology Transfer: Structured programs and collaborative projects can enhance local expertise and competitiveness in sectors like aquaculture and maritime transport.

- Financing Mechanisms: Expanding access to public, private, and international funding opportunities will strengthen cluster growth.

- Research and Innovation: Greater involvement from universities and research institutions can drive innovation and sustainability in key Blue Economy sectors.

- Regional Cooperation: Leveraging initiatives like the WestMED and the CallmeBlue project can foster partnerships and align Mauritania's development with international standards.

Recommendations and Actions

- Leverage Regional Initiatives: the support of remarkable platforms like the WestMED to promote cooperation, facilitate knowledge sharing, and align emerging clusters with global frameworks.

- Establish Collaboration Mechanisms: Develop joint platforms and knowledge exchange programs to enhance innovation and operational efficiency across clusters.

- Encourage Innovation: Integrate Mauritania's clusters into international research and development networks to adopt cutting-edge technologies.

- Expand Financing Opportunities: Promote cross-border funding mechanisms and partnerships with international financing bodies to ensure sustainable development.

- Strengthen Technical Assistance: Invest in capacity-building programs and digital transition initiatives to modernize Mauritania's maritime sector.

Alliances

During the Matchmaking Local Workshop in Mauritania, a significant alliance was established:

The Tunisia Cluster initiated a cooperation agreement among maritime clusters in the southern Mediterranean to strengthen regional collaboration within the CallMeBlue initiative. As part of this effort, a formal agreement was signed between the Tunisian and Mauritanian Maritime Clusters under the CallMeBlue initiative and the WestMED Alliance, with plans to extend the partnership to Libya and Algeria in the near future.

Figure 32: Alliances I

Figure 52: Alliances II

Figure 60: Alliances III

6.2. Main findings and results of Survey

The survey collected valuable insights from stakeholders who participated in the workshop, focusing on the following aspects:

- The relevance of synergy between the northern and southern Mediterranean regions.
- Potential Blue Economy sectors of focus for the country/region.
- Actions to enhance cooperation and synergies between local stakeholders.
- Actions to enhance cooperation and synergies within the northern and southern Mediterranean countries.
- The role maritime clusters play in the development of the Blue Economy.
- Challenges related to management, administrative, structural, and legal aspects when establishing a maritime cluster.
- Interest in participating in training on cluster management, administration, legal, and structural aspects.

The survey was available in both French and English. To facilitate the collection of responses, QR codes for each version were displayed on the screen at the end of the workshop. The QR images are provided below:

Figure 61: English Survey

Figure 62: French Survey

Status of Local Synergies and Cooperation – Mauritania

The current level of cooperation among local stakeholders in the blue economy was perceived as low, with 75% of respondents rating it 2 out of 5. To improve collaboration within the blue economy ecosystem, the following priority actions were identified:

- Supporting capacity building and skills development: Cited by 100% of respondents as a critical need.
- Providing funding and technical assistance for the blue economy sector: Highlighted by 75% of respondents as essential to fostering progress.
- Facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange between local stakeholders: Identified by 75% as a key strategy for enhancing communication and collaboration.
- Encouraging sustainable investment and financing mechanisms: Emphasized by 75% as vital to driving long-term development.
- Addressing climate change and ocean governance challenges: Reported by 75% as necessary for ensuring sustainability and resilience.

Enhancing North-South Collaboration in the Mediterranean

The synergy between the northern and southern Mediterranean regions was perceived as low to moderate, with 75% of respondents rating it 2 and 25% rating it a 3 on a scale of 1 to 5. Respondents highlighted some challenges hindering effective collaboration and unanimously recommended the following actions to improve the situation:

- Providing funding and technical assistance: To address resource gaps and enable joint initiatives.
- Promoting research and innovation initiatives: To drive shared advancements and foster collaborative solutions.

Maritime Cluster recommendations actions in Mauritania

Participants provided key insights into the benefits and challenges of promotinga maritime cluster:

Key Contributions of Maritime Clusters

- Facilitation of Partnerships and Networking: Identified by 100% of participants as a primary benefit. Clusters act as hubs for collaboration among stakeholders, fostering synergy and cooperation.
- Encouragement of Sustainable Marine Practices: Recognized by 75% of participants. Maritime clusters promote environmentally friendly and sustainable practices.
- Improvement of Public Policies for the Blue Economy: Supported by 75% of participants. Clusters provide a platform to influence and enhance policy frameworks for sustainable development.

Additional Benefits of Maritime Clusters

- Skills Development and Education: Highlighted by 100% of participants as essential for building local capacity and a skilled workforce.
- Economic and Technological Growth: Noted by 75% of participants, including:
    - Job Creation and Economic Growth: Clusters stimulate employment opportunities and enhance economic performance.
    - Promotion of Innovation and Research: Encouraging technological advancements and knowledge sharing.
    - Attraction of Investment and Infrastructure Development: Clusters create a favourable environment for investors and improve maritime infrastructure.

Challenges in enhancing Maritime Clusters actions

- Lack of full Awareness and Understanding: Cited by 75% of participants as a significant barrier. Many stakeholders are unfamiliar with the concept of clusters and their benefits. The concept of maritime clusters should be stressed at different local level.-

- Management, Structural, Administrative, and Legal Issues: Participants noted that establishing clusters involves navigating complex governance, organizational, and regulatory challenges.

Participants' Recommendations: Key Actions to Promote Investment in the Blue Economy

To support the successful development of the maritime cluster and enhance the impact of the Blue Economy (BuE) in Mauritania, participants identified the following priority actions to be undertaken at the national level:

Advocacy and Awareness

- Develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy for the Blue Economy, emphasizing its advantages for sustainable development.
- Clarify the missions of the existing maritime cluster to operators and national investors, ensuring alignment with local and national priorities.
- Simplify and popularize concrete actions undertaken by the cluster to improve understanding and engagement.

Local Capacity Building

- Strengthen local blue skills through targeted training programs tailored to the needs of the Blue Economy sectors.
- Prioritize investment sectors based on national needs to optimize resource allocation and impact.

Incentives and Policy Development

- Implement incentive measures for Blue Economy development, such as tax benefits, legal protections, and administrative simplifications for investors in sectors like blue tourism (e.g., cruises and water activities).
- Reinforce the legislative and regulatory framework, ensuring streamlined processes and robust investor protections.

Infrastructure Development

- Invest in port, road, and energy infrastructure to improve accessibility to maritime and coastal tourism zones.

- Create economic zones or incubators dedicated to sustainable tourism and related blue economy activities, particularly in coastal areas.

Financial Support and Investment

- Facilitate access to financing through the creation of investment funds aimed at supporting blue tourism projects and related services.

International Promotion

- Participate in regional forums and international tourism exhibitions to attract foreign investors and showcase Mauritania's potential in the maritime and tourism sectors.

Stability and Communication

- Ensure political and economic stability to build investor confidence, particularly in sensitive sectors like coastal and maritime tourism.
- Launch awareness campaigns to highlight the potential of blue tourism in Mauritania, targeting both investors and tourists.

7. Strategic Roadmap for Advancing Mauritania's Blue Economy: Insights from the Fifth National Event

As part of the Fifth National Event for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Mauritania, participants were organised into four thematic working groups, each addressing specific challenges within key blue economy sectors of the country. The primary objective was to propose strategic solutions and develop actionable projects to advance the Blue Economy in Mauritania, while also enhancing cooperation with Mediterranean partners.

The collaborative nature of the discussions led to the development of innovative project ideas and strategic recommendations, focusing on sustainable fisheries, renewable energy, tourism, and maritime infrastructure. The following sections provide an overview of the main challenges identified, the strategic guidelines proposed, and the international project ideas generated by each working group.

- **Working Group 1: Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Key Challenges

- Overfishing and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Lack of investment and financing mechanisms
- Shortages in human resources and technical expertise
- Climate change and pollution affecting marine ecosystems
- Data inaccuracies and lack of monitoring systems
- Offshore resource exploitation and infrastructure deficits (storage, transport, ports, processing facilities)
- Limited market access for small-scale producers
- Conflicting interests among various sector stakeholders

Strategic Guidelines

- Align the Blue Economy strategy with international frameworks, including Agenda 2063, the Arab Blue Economy Strategy, and national policies.
- Promote sustainable fisheries management and strengthen measures against IUU fishing.
- Support the development of aquaculture and inland fisheries as key sectors for diversification.
- Invest in capacity building and training programmes to strengthen human resources in the maritime sector.
- Enhance marine environmental protection and research efforts.
- Improve monitoring, control, and surveillance systems for fisheries management.

Governance Recommendations

- Strengthen public-private partnerships (PPPs) to attract investment.
- Improve transparency and legislative frameworks for the sector.
- Foster interministerial cooperation, particularly between the fisheries, environment, and oil sectors.
- Enhance maritime safety, rescue operations, and spatial planning for marine areas.
- Encourage innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable fisheries development.

- Promote local fish consumption and improved market access.

Proposed International Projects

- Capacity-building programmes for sector stakeholders.
- Development of landing site infrastructure (PDA) to support fisheries operations.
- Sustainable fisheries certification initiatives and improvements in transport and logistics standards.
- Integration of renewable energy solutions into fisheries operations.
- Marine waste recycling and the introduction of biodegradable fishing tools for octopus farming.

- **Working Group 2: Green Hydrogen, Renewable Energy, and Desalination**

Green Hydrogen

Mauritania possesses significant potential for green hydrogen production, leveraging its solar and wind energy resources. However, it faces challenges such as environmental risks, lack of infrastructure, social acceptance, and financing limitations.

Strategic Guidelines:

- Strengthen institutional support and regulatory frameworks for green hydrogen development.
- Invest in research and training programmes to build technical expertise.
- Increase public awareness and stakeholder engagement on the benefits of green hydrogen.
- Create favourable conditions for investors, including policy incentives and financing mechanisms.

Proposed Projects:

- Collaborative exchanges with WestMED clusters to foster knowledge transfer.
- Pilot project with SNIM to explore green steel production using hydrogen technologies.
- Civil society involvement in environmental monitoring to mitigate ecological risks.

Renewable Energy

Despite its high potential, Mauritania faces barriers such as the absence of a national renewable energy strategy, technical limitations in energy storage, and high initial investment costs.

Strategic Guidelines:

- Develop a national action plan with dedicated budgets for renewable energy expansion.
- Strengthen North-South cooperation to facilitate knowledge exchange and technology transfer.
- Introduce regulatory frameworks to promote renewable energy adoption.
- Provide financing options and investment incentives for clean energy projects.

Proposed Projects:

- Training programmes in renewable energy at SOMELEC.
- Development of control mechanisms for renewable energy materials and equipment.
- Conversion of thermal engines to electric motors powered by renewable energy.
- Community-based solar energy infrastructure for marine product storage.

Desalination

Given Mauritania's water scarcity, desalination is essential to ensure sustainable water supply in coastal areas.

Strategic Guidelines:

- Develop a national strategy for water supply and desalination infrastructure.
- Strengthen capacity-building initiatives to improve expertise in desalination technologies.
- Enhance regional and international cooperation in desalination projects.

Proposed Projects:

- Renewable energy-powered desalination plants in coastal communities.

- Research initiatives to improve desalination efficiency using sustainable energy sources.
- Valorisation of salt by-products from the desalination process.

- **Working Group 3: Sustainable Tourism and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)**

Key Challenges

- Sociocultural barriers and lack of community involvement in tourism initiatives.
- Environmental concerns, including waste management and urban expansion.
- Insufficient infrastructure for eco-friendly tourism development.

Strategic Guidelines

- Strengthen legal and administrative frameworks to support sustainable tourism.
- Enhance environmental sustainability and ensure local community engagement.
- Develop coastal tourism infrastructure and promote awareness campaigns.

Proposed Projects:

- Development of a port for mini-cruise tourism.
- Implementation of a waste management strategy for coastal tourism areas.
- Assessment of tourism potential along Mauritania's coastline.
- Creation of a coastal tourism product manual and sustainable tourism routes.

Cooperation and Civil Society Engagement:

- Establish an intersectoral committee for coordination of tourism projects.
- Involve NGOs with expertise in sustainable development and Blue Economy initiatives.
- Promote ocean literacy campaigns to raise awareness.

- **Working Group 4: Ports, Maritime Transport, and Shipbuilding**

Key Challenges

- Environmental risks, including oil spills and coastal erosion.
- Infrastructure deficits, such as insufficient dock depth and logistics platforms.
- Lack of digitalisation and absence of a single window for maritime transport.
- Energy transition challenges in transforming ports into "green ports".

Strategic Guidelines

- Conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for maritime projects.
- Implement international maritime regulations (e.g., MARPOL) to protect marine environments.
- Invest in modern port infrastructure, including dredging and logistics platforms.
- Promote port digitalisation to streamline operations.
- Introduce incentives for green practices in port management.

Proposed Projects:

- Construction of deep-water ports to enhance trade capacity.
- Pilot projects for waste recycling and management in port areas.
- Capacity-building initiatives for maritime authorities to tackle marine pollution.

Figure 63: Working Group I

Figure 64: Working Group II

Figure 65: Working Group III

Figure 66: Working Group IV

8. Conclusion

The Local Matchmaking Workshop in Mauritania, held as part of the CallmeBLUE project jointly organized with Westmed National Hub to increase its impact, represented a pivotal milestone in fostering collaboration between maritime clusters in the Mediterranean and West Africa. The event facilitated strategic discussions among policymakers, researchers, businesses, and technical partners, enabling an in-depth exploration of the challenges and opportunities within Mauritania's Blue Economy.

A key outcome of the workshop was the strengthening of synergies between stakeholders in the northern and southern Mediterranean regions, providing actionable insights into shared challenges such as:

- Limited private sector engagement
- Infrastructure gaps
- Barriers to knowledge transfer

In response, the workshop generated concrete recommendations aimed at:

- Improving governance interest within the sector
- Enhancing capacity-building and training programmes
- Promoting regional collaboration through joint initiatives to address common challenges and ensure long-term sustainability

Additionally, discussions at the Fifth National Event for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Mauritania reinforced the importance of aligning national goals with regional and international strategies, particularly in sectors such as sustainable fisheries, green hydrogen, renewable energy, tourism, and maritime infrastructure. The event also underlined the need for stronger public-private partnerships, improved governance mechanisms, and greater investment in digitalisation and innovation to accelerate Mauritania's integration into the global Blue Economy landscape.

Despite technical barriers, the workshop highlighted the importance of accessibility and stakeholder engagement in future initiatives. The insights gained from this event will serve as a foundation for Mauritania's national Blue Economy strategy, ensuring its continued growth through innovation, sustainability, and regional cooperation.

- Next Steps

To build on the outcomes of the workshop, will be necessary tosupport Mauritania's efforts to strengthen its maritime cluster by:

- Implementing tailored training and capacity-building programmes, aligned with national priorities
- Fostering infrastructure development, particularly in key sectors such as tourism and aquaculture
- Advocating for policy frameworks that integrate national efforts with global sustainability goals

A sustained commitment to international cooperation, technological innovation, and strategic investments will be crucial in ensuring the long-term impact of these initiatives. By focusing on sustainability, economic growth, and social inclusion, Mauritania is poised to play a crucial role in the regionalecosystem .

The CallmeBLUE project remains dedicated to facilitating the implementation of these recommendations, ensuring that this workshop serves as a catalyst for action taking this forum for discussion to the next level in close collaboration with Westmed National initiatives and Ufm priorities.

9. Annexes

9.1. Pictures

Figure 67: Workshop participants

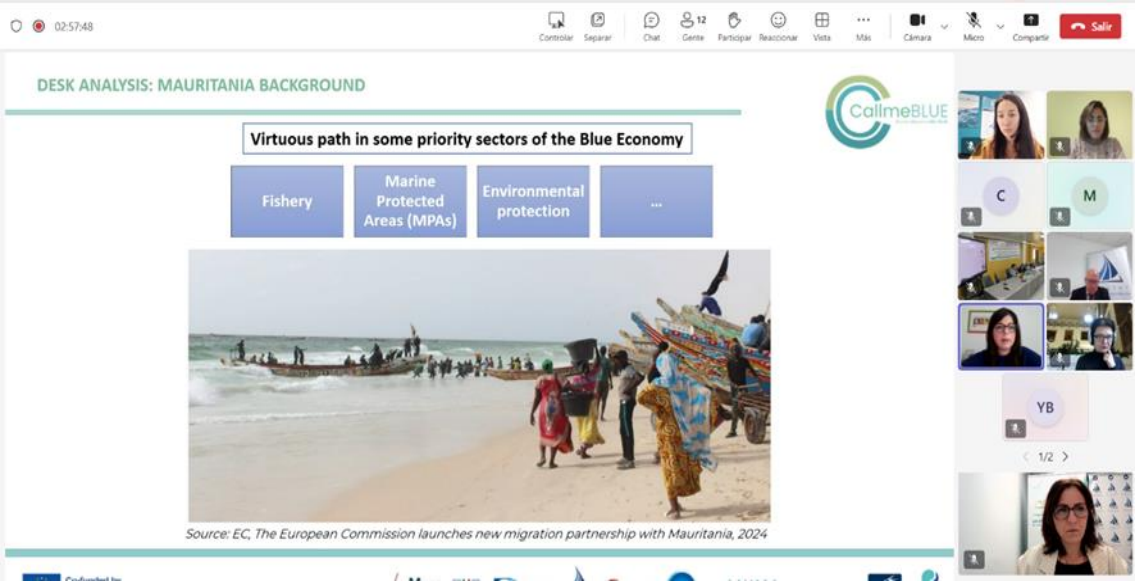


Figure 68: Presentation I: Mauritania Background

Figure 69: Intervention of Responsible of the Mauritania Cluster

Figure 70: Conference Room of Nouakchott Hotel in Nouakchott, Mauritania

9.2 Invitation list

Institution	**Représentants**
Participants de Nouadhibou	
Zone Franche de NDB	1
Garde Cote Mauritanienne	1
Institut Mauritanien des Recherches Océanographiques et des Pêches	1
Office National d'Inspection Sanitaire des produits de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture	1
Parc National du Banc d'Arguin	1
Société Mauritanienne de Commercialisation du Poisson	1
Chantier Naval de Mauritanie	1
Fédération nationale des Pêches	1
Fédération des Mareyeurs Distributeurs, Collecteurs et Exportateurs	1
Fédération des Mareyeurs de Mauritanie	1
Total 1	**10**
Participants de Nouakchott	
Ministère des Pêches et des Infrastructures Maritimes et Portuaires	
Direction Générale de l'Exploitation des Ressources Halieutiques	2
Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources et des Etudes	1
Agence Nationale des Affaires Maritimes	1
Direction de la Valorisation des Produits des Pêches	1
Direction de la Pêche Continentale et de la Pisciculture	1
Société Nationale de Distribution du Poisson	1
Port de l'Amitié de Nouakchott	1

Port de Tanit	1
Port de Ndiago	1
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, de la Coopération et des Mauritaniens de l'Extérieur	2
Ministère de la Défense Nationale	2
Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances	2
Ministère de l'Equipement et du Transport	2
Ministère du Pétrole et de l'Energie	2
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable	2
Ministère du Commerce, de l'Industrie, de l'Artisanat et du Tourisme	2
Cluster Maritime Mauritanien	1
Parc National du Diawling	1
Fédération Nationale de la Pêche artisanale	1
Fédération Libre de la Pêche	1
Université de Nouakchott	2
Académie Navale	1
Ecole Polytechnique	1
ISET de Rosso	1
Union du Patronat Mauritanien	1
Opérateurs privés dans les principaux secteurs de l'Economie bleue	5
PND / REBOOT MED	3
Société Civile	3
Presse écrite et audiovisuelle	5
Total 2	**50**
Partenaires Techniques et Financiers	

UE	1
AECID	1
GIZ	1
AFD	1
FAO	1
Coopération Française	1
JICA	1
BIT	1
BM / Projet WACCA	2
Ligue Arabe	1
Organisation de l'Union Africaine	1
Total 3	**12**
Participants extérieurs (présentiel/ vidéo-conférence)	
Equipe Technique Initiative WestMed	3
Hub Nationaux	8
Clusters Maritimes	4
CALLMEBLUE	5
Total 4	**20**
Total Général	**92**

Table 2- Invited participants list

9.3 Survey English and French version

English version

Matchmaking Local Workshop

Welcome to **CALLMEBLUE**!

As you might already know, CALLMEBLUE aims to strengthen existing cluster alliances in the Mediterranean area to accelerate north-south regional cooperation processes towards the emerging of strategic maritime clusters in the North African area (south-south cooperation), acting as an accelerator for the policy goals set by relevant regional initiatives such as the UfM Ministerial Declaration for the sustainable blue economy and the WestMED Initiative.

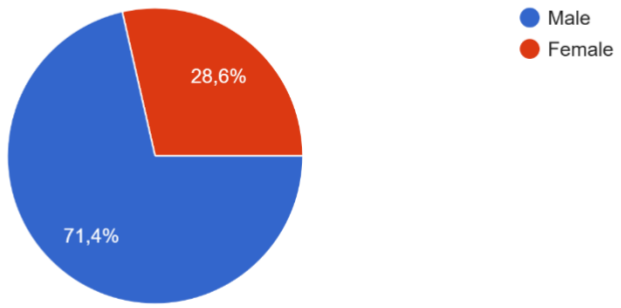
We hope you're finding the local workshop enriching and insightful in exploring the potential of the Blue Economy. Your input through this survey is invaluable to shaping the outcomes of the project.

Thank you for dedicating your time to participate, and we hope you find the survey experience engaging and rewarding!

GDPR disclaimer: The information collected on this form is recorded in a computerized file by the CALLMEBLUE Consortium. The legal basis for the processing is the consent of the user. The data collected will be communicated for project scope. The data will be kept during the CALLMEBLUE project. You may request rectification or deletion of your data within the limits of your anonymity.

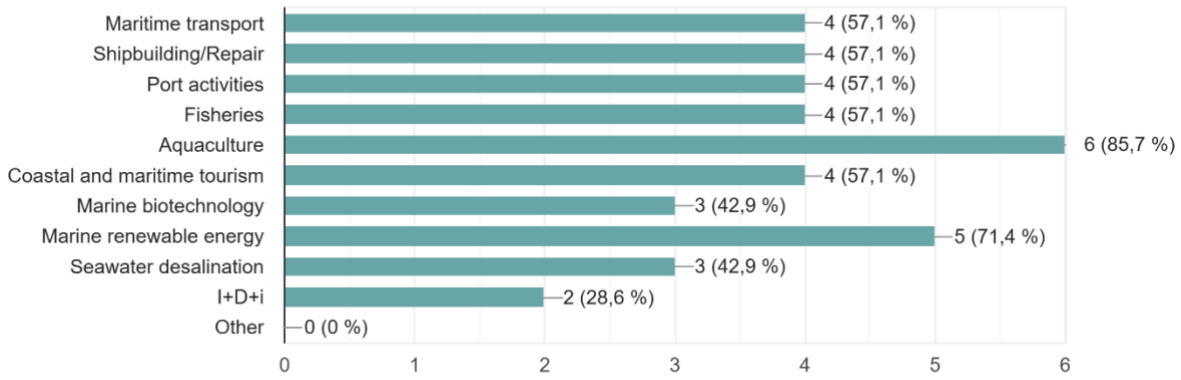
1. Name
2. Gender
    a. Male
    b. Female
    c. Other
    d. I prefer not to answer

Gender
7 respuestas



3. In what sector of the Blue Economy (BuE) is your organisation involved?
    a. Maritime transport
    b. Shipbuilding/Repair
    c. Port activities
    d. Fisheries
    e. Aquaculture
    f. Coastal and maritime tourism
    g. Marine biotechnology
    h. Marine renewable energy
    i. Seawater desalination
    j. I+D+i
    k. Other

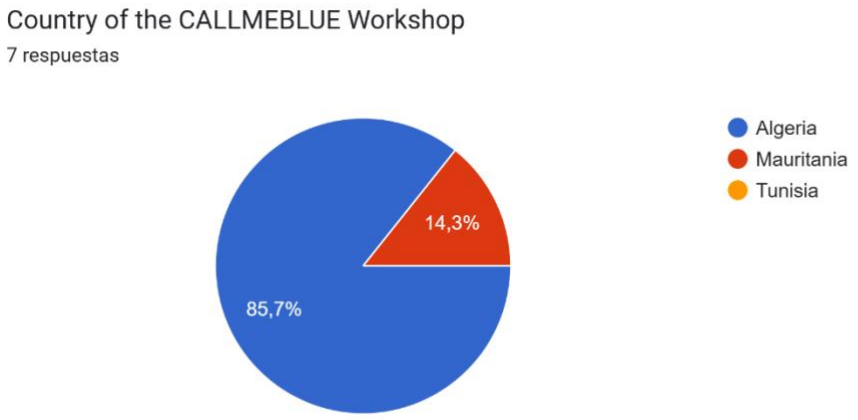
In what sector of the Blue Economy (BuE) is your organisation involved?
7 respuestas



4. What role do you play within the BuE sector?
    a. Commercial State Company
    b. Government Agency/ Department / Public Body (National)
    c. Government Agency/ Department/ Public Body (International, e.g. EU, OECD)
    d. Higher Education Institution
    e. Local / Regional Government
    f. Industry - Cluster/Network
    g. Industry - Micro Enterprise/Start-up
    h. Industry - Small Medium Enterprise (SME)
    i. Industry - Multinational Company (MNC)
    j. Industry Representative Organization
    k. Media & Communications
    l. Non-Government Organization (NGO)
    m. Not For Profit
    n. Port Authority
    o. Research Institute (Public and Private)
    p. Innovation Centre
    q. Other

What role do you play within the BuE sector?
7 respuestas

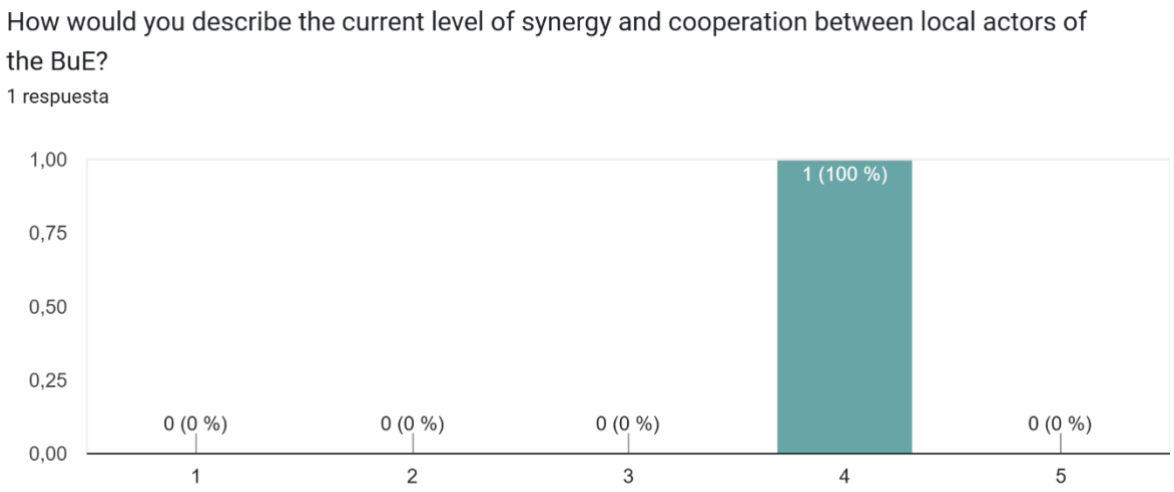
5. Country
    a. Algeria
    b. Mauritania
    c. Tunisia



Local Synergies and Cooperation – Mauritania

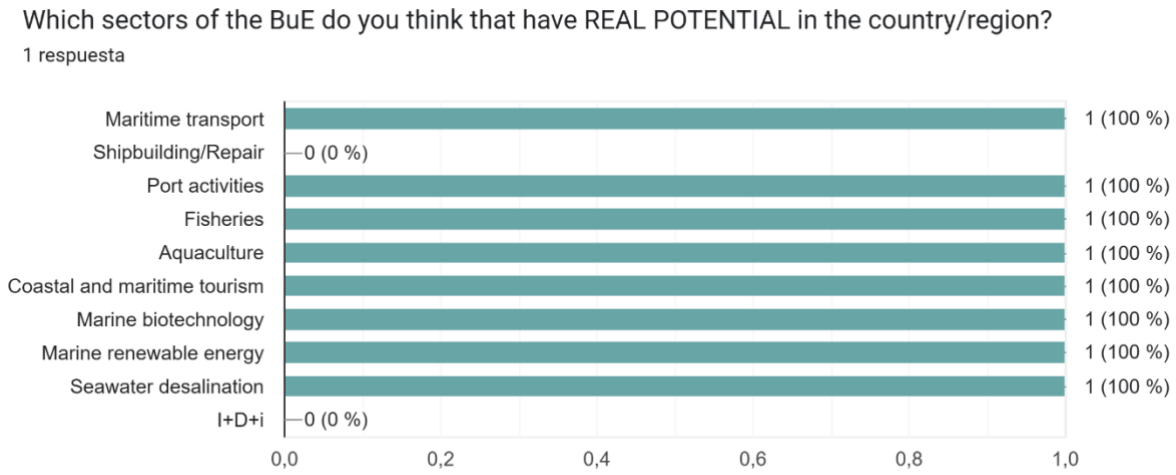
Within this section, you will be asked about different cooperational aspects locally in Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia.

6. How would you describe the current level of synergy and cooperation between local actors of the BuE?
    a. From 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent), please select the level of cooperation between local actors.

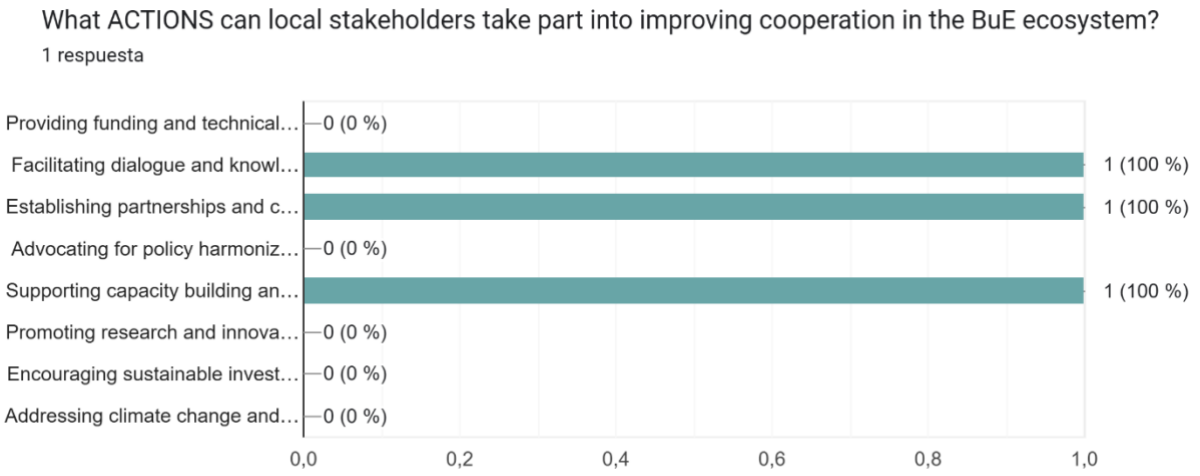


7. Which sectors of the BuE do you think that have REAL POTENTIAL in the country/region?
    a. Maritime transport
    b. Shipbuilding/Repair
    c. Port activities
    d. Fisheries

e. Aquaculture
f. Coastal and maritime tourism
g. Marine biotechnology
h. Marine renewable energy
i. Seawater desalination
j. I+D+i
k. Other



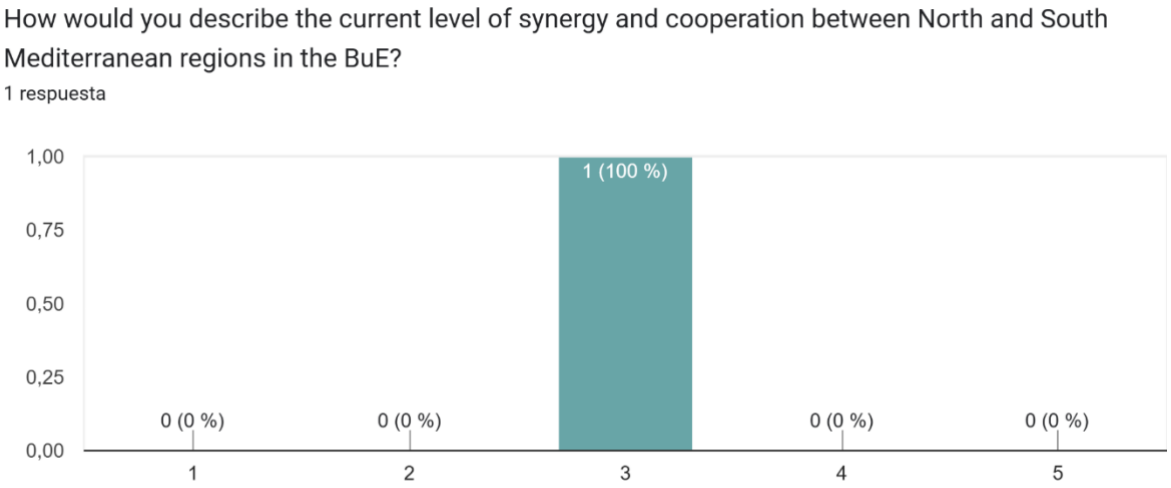
8. What ACTIONS can local stakeholders take part into improving cooperation in the BuE ecosystem?
    a. Providing funding and technical assistance
    b. Facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange
    c. Establishing partnerships and collaborative networks
    d. Advocating for policy harmonization and alignment
    e. Supporting capacity building and skills development
    f. Promoting research and innovation initiatives
    g. Encouraging sustainable investment and financing mechanisms
    h. Addressing climate change and ocean governance issues



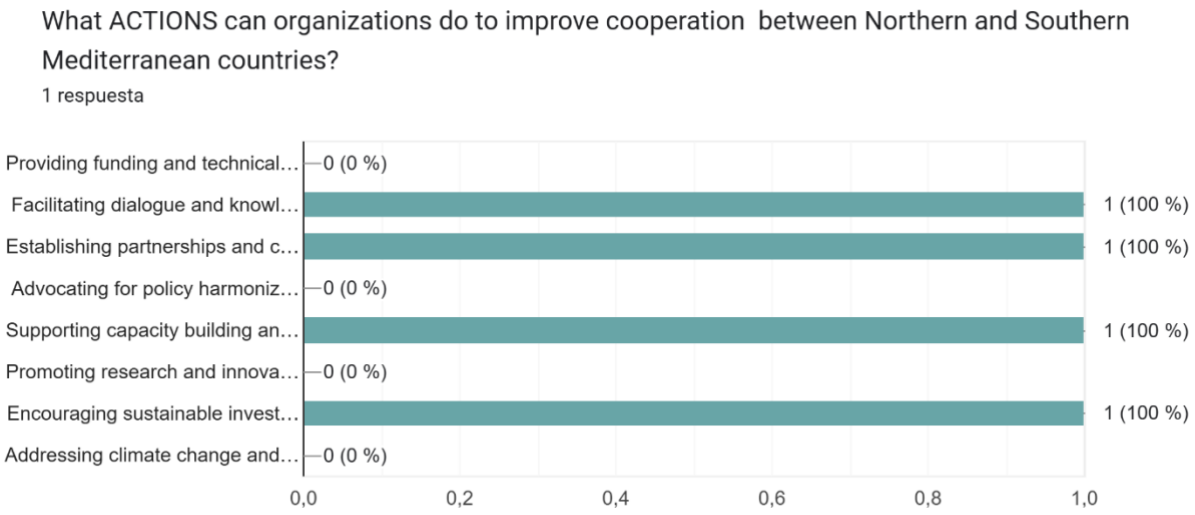
Synergies and Cooperation between North and South Mediterranean countries – Mauritania

Within this section, you will be asked about different cooperational aspects in the Mediterranean area, specifically France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Malta from the North; and Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia from the South.

9. How would you describe the current level of synergy and cooperation between North and South Mediterranean regions in the BuE?
    a. From 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent), please select the level of cooperation between North and South.



10. What ACTIONS can organizations do to improve cooperation between Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries?
    a. Providing funding and technical assistance
    b. Facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange
    c. Establishing partnerships and collaborative networks
    d. Advocating for policy harmonization and alignment
    e. Supporting capacity building and skills development
    f. Promoting research and innovation initiatives
    g. Encouraging sustainable investment and financing mechanisms
    h. Addressing climate change and ocean governance issues



Maritime Clusters – Mauritania

In this section, you will be asked about your knowledge and perception of cluster creation within the BuE.

How can maritime cluster creation contribute to the development of the BluE at regional and local level?

Maritime clusters are key to address the challenge a and facilitate The objectives for a sustainable Blue Economy

Suggestion and improvement of public policies for the Blue Economy

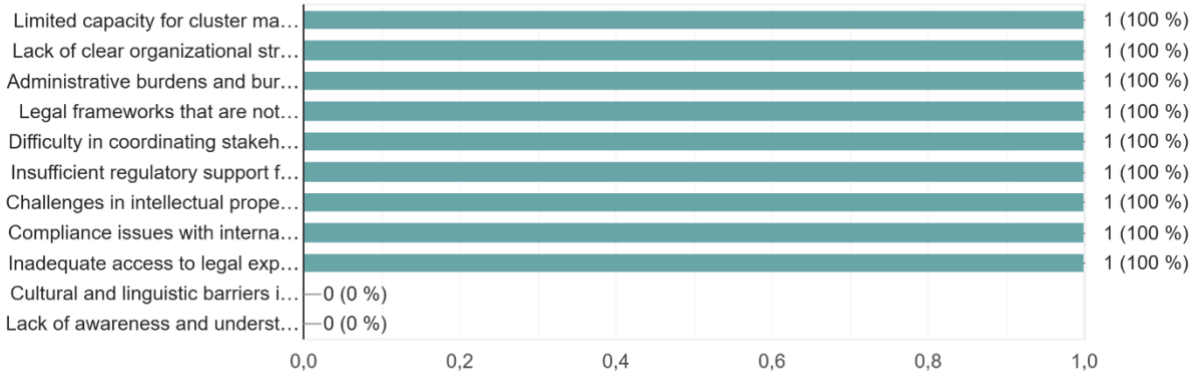
A Maritime cluster is a key instrument to identify and channel investments. Support Startups, and foster partnerships .

11. How can a maritime cluster contribute to the investment of the BuE at local level?
    a. Attracting private investment into local Blue Economy sectors
    b. Facilitating access to public funding for Blue Economy initiatives
    c. Improving infrastructure (e.g., ports, logistics, marine technology) to attract investors
    d. Promoting partnerships between local businesses and global investors
    e. Creating a favourable business environment for Blue Economy startups
    f. Enhancing the visibility of local Blue Economy projects to attract international investment
    g. Supporting the development of financial incentives (e.g., tax breaks, subsidies) for Blue Economy investors

12. When establishing a maritime cluster, list the main challenges you might face in terms of management, structural, administrative and legal aspects.
    a. Limited capacity for cluster management and governance
    b. Lack of clear organizational structures and leadership
    c. Administrative burdens and bureaucratic processes
    d. Legal frameworks that are not conducive to cluster development
    e. Difficulty in coordinating stakeholders and aligning interests
    f. Insufficient regulatory support for cluster initiatives
    g. Challenges in intellectual property rights and technology transfer
    h. Compliance issues with international standards and regulations
    i. Inadequate access to legal expertise and advisory services
    j. Cultural and linguistic barriers impacting collaboration and communication
    k. Lack of awareness and understanding of cluster concepts and benefits
    l. Other

When establishing a maritime cluster, list the main challenges you might face in terms of management, structural, administrative and legal aspects.

1 respuesta



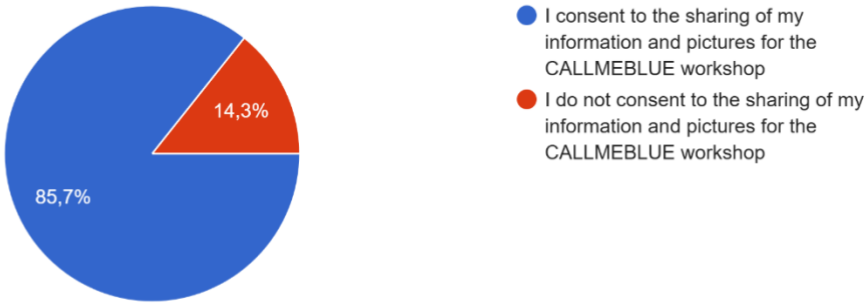
13. In your opinion, what are the main actions to be taken, at a national level, to promote plans of investment in the BuE sector?

Dialogue with national compétent authorities.

14. Photograph and publicity release consent for the CALLMEBLUE Workshop in Mauritania and Tunisia

We value your privacy and seek your consent to share any information related to your privacy with CALLMEBLUE Project Network (including website, so...tion and pictures for the purposes stated above.

7 respuestas



15. We value your privacy and seek your consent to share any information related to your privacy with CALLMEBLUE Project Network (including website, social media pages, newsletter, etc.). This may include photographs taken during the event and relevant information shared during presentations or discussions.

By checking the box below, you agree to allow us to share these information and pictures for the purposes stated above.

a. I consent to the sharing of my information and pictures for the CALLMEBLUE workshop
b. I do not consent to the sharing of my information and pictures for the CALLMEBLUE workshop

Learning Labs

The Learning Labs aim to provide participants with a transferable toolkit to prepare future maritime cluster leaders. These labs will focus on legal, structural, administrative, and management aspects required to establish and manage maritime clusters. The training model is designed to be adaptable, enabling its application in other sea basin areas, thus empowering professionals to lead the creation and growth of maritime clusters in various regions.

16. Would you be interested in participating in Learning Labs that cover the legal, structural, administrative, and management aspects necessary for establishing and managing maritime clusters?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Maybe
    d. Other____

French version

Bienvenue à **CALLMEBLUE** !

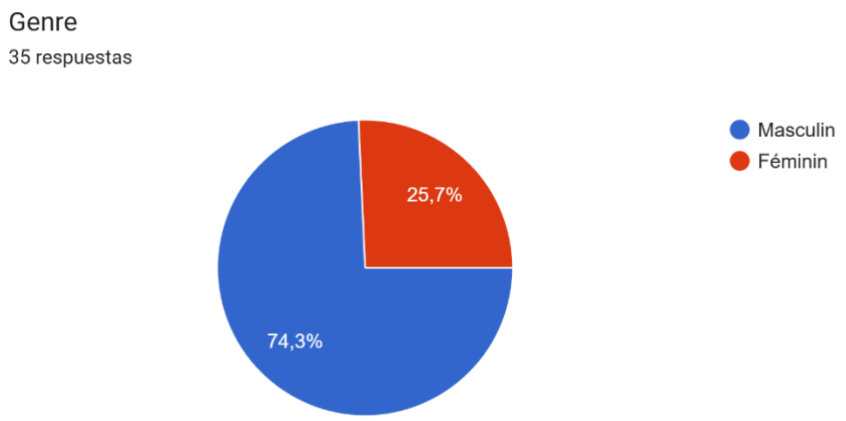
Comme vous le savez peut-être déjà, CALLMEBLUEvise à renforcer les alliances de clusters existantes dans la région méditerranéenne afin d'accélérer les processus de coopération nord-sud vers l'émergence de clusters maritimes stratégiques dans la zone nord-africaine (coopération sud-sud), agissant comme un accélérateur pour les objectifs politiques fixés par les initiatives régionales pertinentes telles que la déclaration ministérielle de l'Union pour la Méditerranée pour l'économie bleue durable et l'initiative WestMED.

Nous espérons que vous trouverez cet atelier local enrichissant et utile pour l'exploration du potentiel de l'économie bleue. Votre contribution, au travers de cette enquête, est inestimable pour façonner les résultats du projet.

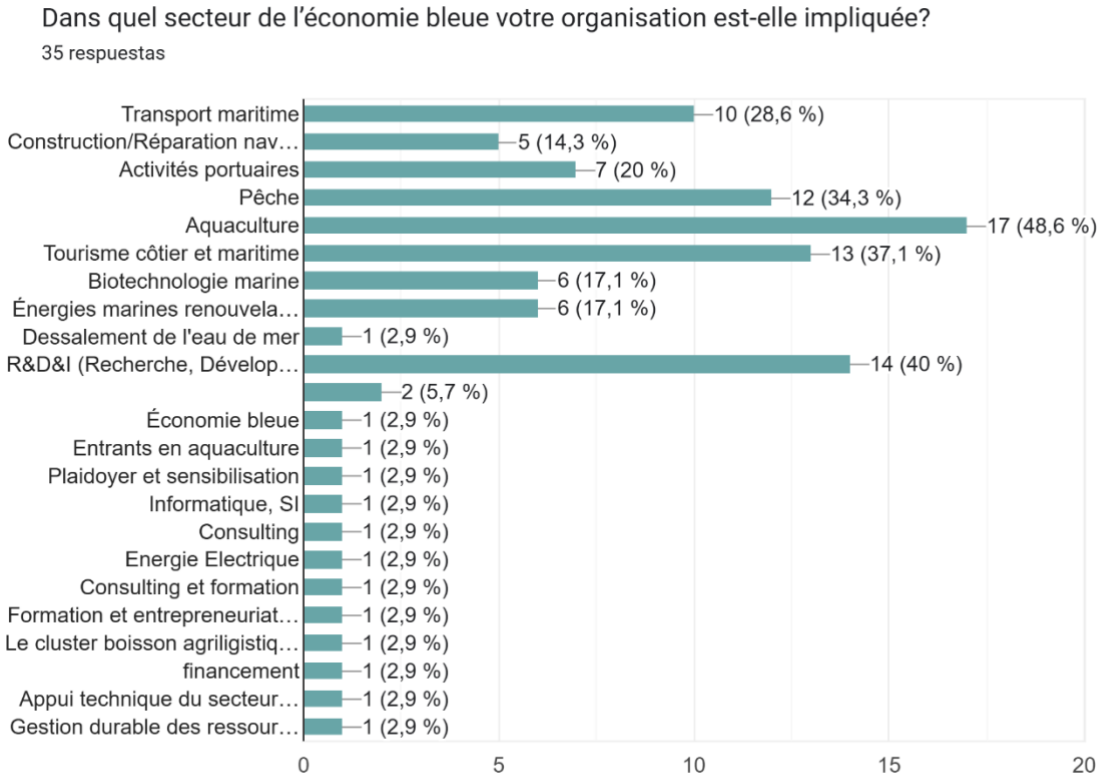
Nous vous remercions de prendre le temps de participer et nous espérons que vous trouverez l'enquête intéressante!

Mentions d'information RGPD : Les informations recueillies dans ce formulaire sont enregistrées dans un fichier informatisé par le Consortium CALLMEBLUE. La base juridique du traitement est le consentement de l'utilisateur. Les données collectées seront communiquées dans le cadre du projet. Les données seront conservées pendant la durée du projet CALLMEBLUE.

1. Nom
2. Genre
    a. Masculin
    b. Féminin



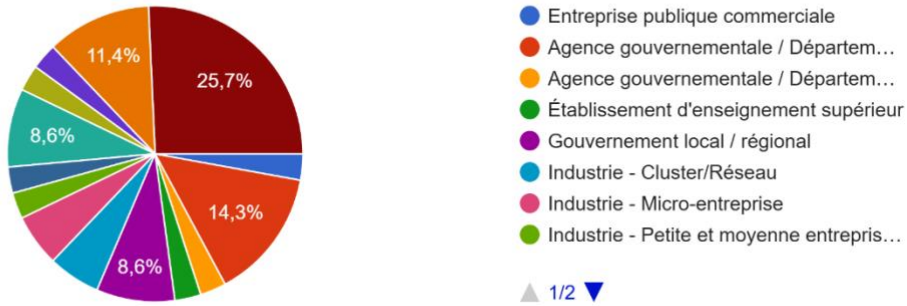
3. Dans quel secteur de l'économie bleue votre organisation est-elle impliquée?
   a. Transport maritime
   b. Construction/Réparation navale
   c. Activités portuaires
   d. Pêche
   e. Aquaculture
   f. Tourisme côtier et maritime
   g. Biotechnologie marine
   h. Énergies marines renouvelables
   i. Dessalement de l'eau de mer
   j. R&D&I (Recherche, Développement et Innovation)



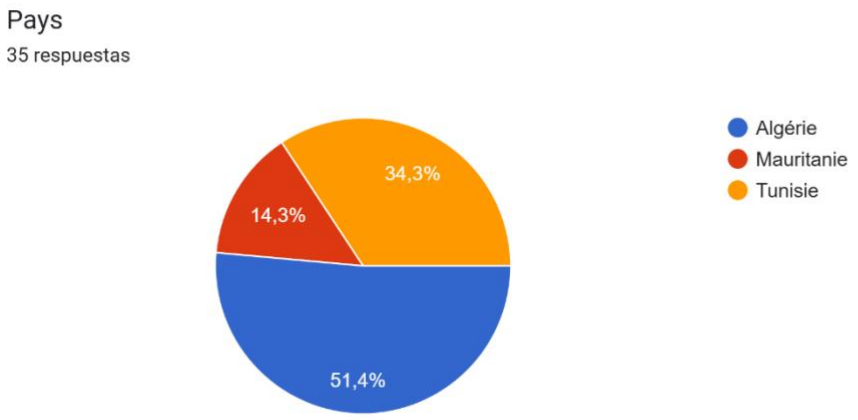
4. Quel rôle jouez-vous dans le secteur de l'Économie Bleue?
   a. Entreprise publique commerciale
   b. Agence gouvernementale / Département / Organisme public (National)

c. Agence gouvernementale / Département / Organisme public (International, par ex. UE, OCDE)
d. Établissement d'enseignement supérieur
e. Gouvernement local / régional
f. Industrie - Cluster/Réseau
g. Industrie - Micro-entreprise
h. Industrie - Petite et moyenne entreprise (PME)
i. Industrie – Grand groupe
j. Organisation représentative de l'industrie
k. Médias & Communications
l. Organisation non gouvernementale (ONG)
m. Organisation à but non lucratif
n. Autorité portuaire
o. Institut de recherche (public et privé)
p. Autre

Quel rôle jouez-vous dans le secteur de l'Économie Bleue?
35 respuestas

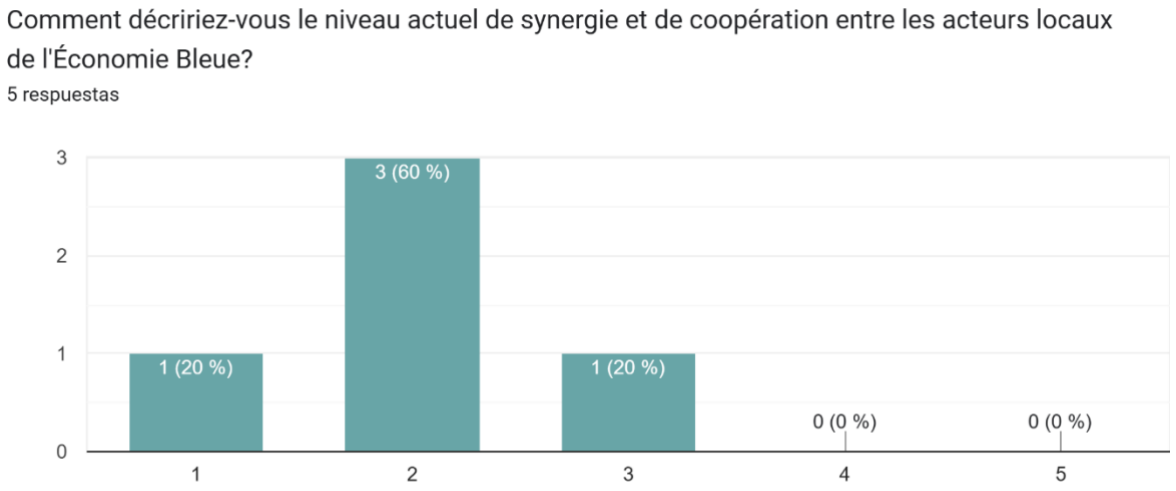


5. **Pays**
   a. Algérie
   b. Mauritanie
   c. Tunisie



Synergies et coopération locales – Mauritanie

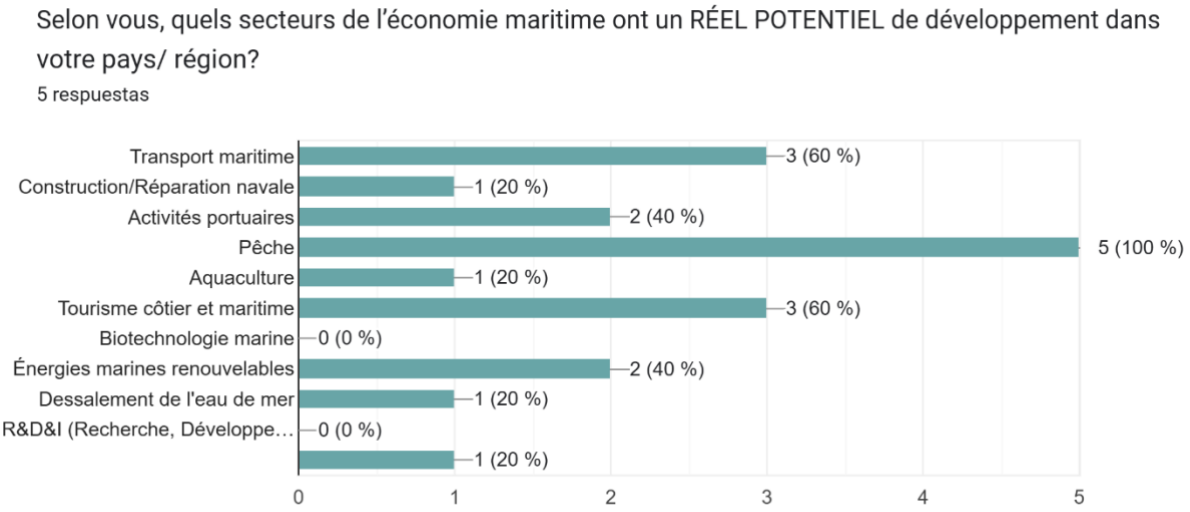
6. Comment décririez-vous le niveau actuel de synergie et de coopération entre les acteurs locaux de l'Économie Bleue?
   a. Très faible
   b. Excellent



7. Selon vous, quels secteurs de l'économie maritime ont un RÉEL POTENTIEL de développement dans votre pays/ région?

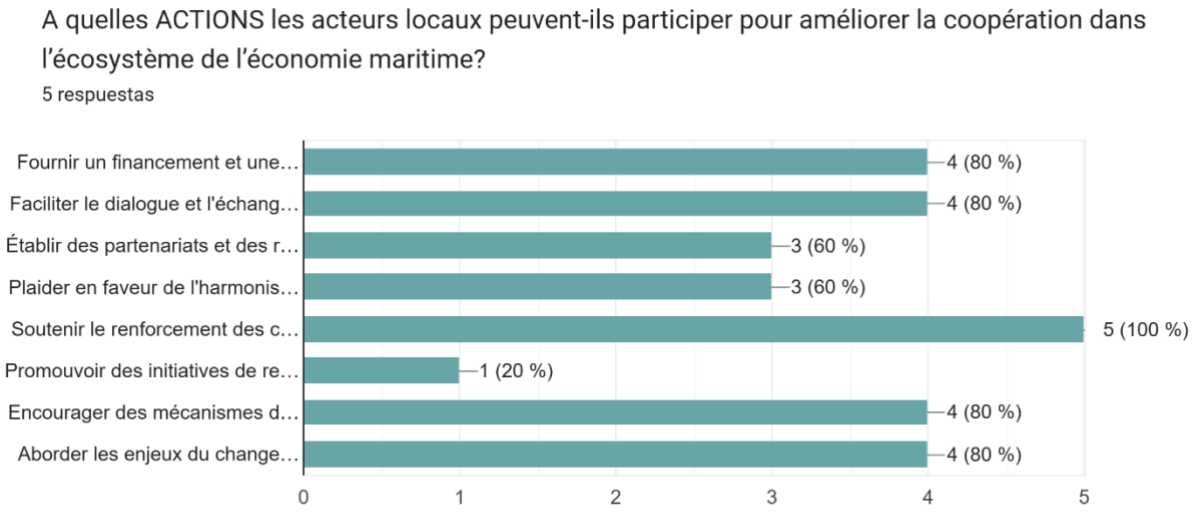
   a. Transport maritime
   b. Construction/Réparation navale
   c. Activités portuaires
   d. Pêche

e. Aquaculture
f. Tourisme côtier et maritime
g. Biotechnologie marine
h. Énergies marines renouvelables
i. Dessalement de l'eau de mer
j. R&D&I (Recherche, Développement et Innovation)



8. A quelles ACTIONS les acteurs locaux peuvent-ils participer pour améliorer la coopération dans l'écosystème de l'économie maritime?

a. Fournir un financement et une assistance technique
b. Faciliter le dialogue et l'échange de connaissances
c. Établir des partenariats et des réseaux de collaboration
d. Plaider en faveur de l'harmonisation et de l'alignement des politiques
e. Soutenir le renforcement des capacités et le développement des compétences
f. Promouvoir des initiatives de recherche et d'innovation
g. Encourager des mécanismes d'investissement et de financement durables
h. Aborder les enjeux du changement climatique et de la gouvernance des océans



Synergies et coopération entre les pays du Nord et Sud Méditerranée - Mauritanie

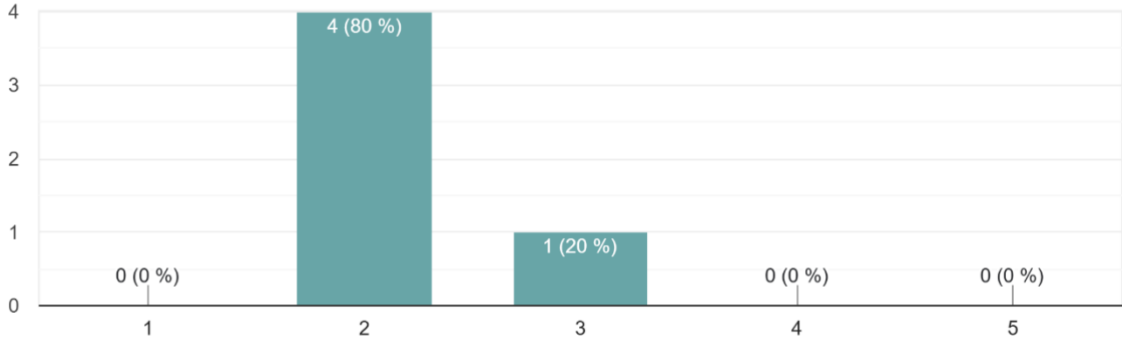
Dans cette section, vous serez interrogé sur différents aspects de la coopération dans la région méditerranéenne, en particulier en France, en Italie, au Portugal, en Espagne et à Malte, au nord, et en Algérie, en Libye, en Mauritanie, au Maroc et en Tunisie, au sud.

9. Comment décririez-vous le niveau actuel de synergie et de coopération entre les régions du Nord et du Sud de la Méditerranée dans l'Economie Blueu?

De 1 (très mauvais) à 5 (excellent), veuillez sélectionner le niveau de coopération entre le Nord et le Sud.

Comment décririez-vous le niveau actuel de synergie et de coopération entre les régions du Nord et du Sud de la Méditerranée dans l'Economie Blueu?

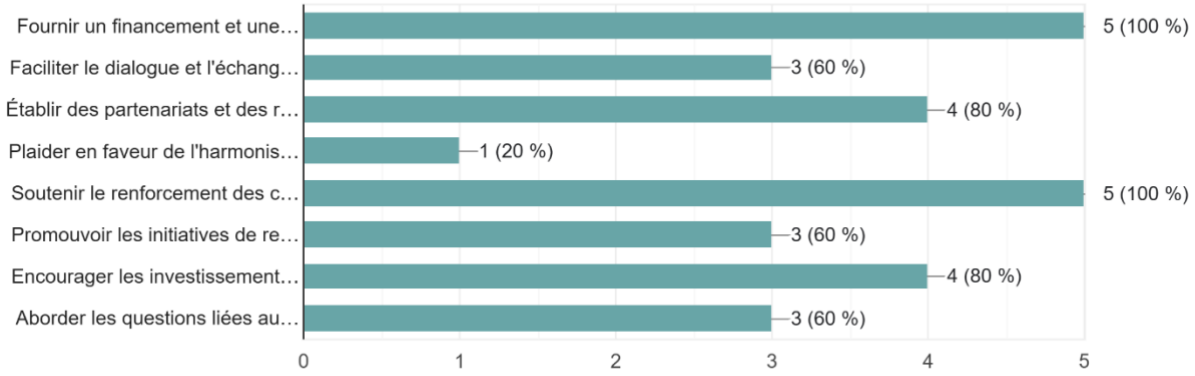
5 respuestas



10. Quelles ACTIONS les organisations peuvent-elles mener pour améliorer la coopération entre les pays du Nord et du Sud de la Méditerranée?

    a. Fournir un financement et une assistance technique
    b. Faciliter le dialogue et l'échange de connaissances
    c. Établir des partenariats et des réseaux de collaboration
    d. Plaider en faveur de l'harmonisation et de l'alignement des politiques
    e. Soutenir le renforcement des capacités et le développement des compétences
    f. Promouvoir des initiatives de recherche et d'innovation
    g. Encourager des mécanismes d'investissement et de financement durables
    h. Aborder les enjeux du changement climatique et de la gouvernance des océans

Quelles ACTIONS les organisations peuvent-elles mener pour améliorer la coopération entre les pays du Nord et du Sud de la Méditerranée?
5 respuestas



11. Comment un cluster maritime peut-il contribuer à l'investissement dans l'économie bleue au niveau local?

    a. En attirant des investissements privés dans les secteurs locaux de l'économie bleue
    b. En facilitant l'accès au financement public pour les initiatives liées à l'économie bleue
    c. Améliorer les infrastructures (par exemple, les ports, la logistique, la technologie marine) pour attirer les investisseurs.
    d. Promouvoir les partenariats entre les entreprises locales et les investisseurs mondiaux
    e. Créer un environnement commercial favorable aux jeunes pousses de l'économie bleue
    f. Améliorer la visibilité des projets locaux d'économie bleue afin d'attirer les investissements internationaux
    g. Soutenir le développement d'incitations financières (par exemple, allègements fiscaux, subventions) pour les investisseurs de l'économie bleue.

12. Lors de l'établissement d'un cluster maritime, énumérez les principaux défis que vous pourriez rencontrer en termes de gestion, d'aspects structurels, administratifs et juridiques.

a. Capacité limitée pour la gestion et la gouvernance du cluster
b. Manque de structures organisationnelles claires et de leadership
c. Charges administratives et processus bureaucratiques
d. Cadres juridiques non propices au développement des clusters

e. Difficulté à coordonner les parties prenantes et à aligner les intérêts
f. Soutien réglementaire insuffisant pour les initiatives de clusters
g. Défis liés aux droits de propriété intellectuelle et au transfert de technologie
h. Problèmes de conformité avec les normes et réglementations internationales
i. Accès insuffisant à une expertise juridique et à des services de conseil
j. Barrières culturelles et linguistiques affectant la collaboration et la communication
k. Manque de sensibilisation et de compréhension des concepts et des avantages des clusters

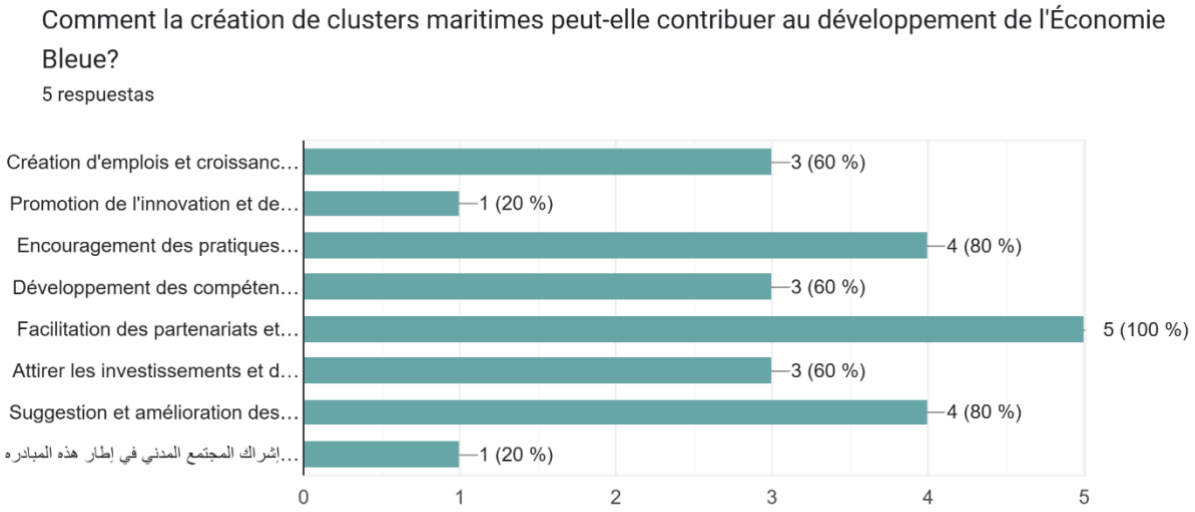
13. Selon vous, quelles sont les principales actions à mener, au niveau national, pour promouvoir les plans d'investissement dans le secteur BuE?

Clusters Maritimes – Mauritanie

Dans cette section, vous serez interrogé sur vos connaissances et votre perception de la création de clusters maritimes.

14. Comment la création de clusters maritimes peut-elle contribuer au développement de l'Économie Bleue?

    a. Création d'emplois et croissance économique
    b. Promotion de l'innovation et de la recherche
    c. Encouragement des pratiques marines durables
    d. Développement des compétences et de l'éducation
    e. Facilitation des partenariats et de la mise en réseau
    f. Attirer les investissements et développer les infrastructures
    g. Suggestion et amélioration des politiques publiques pour l'économie bleue

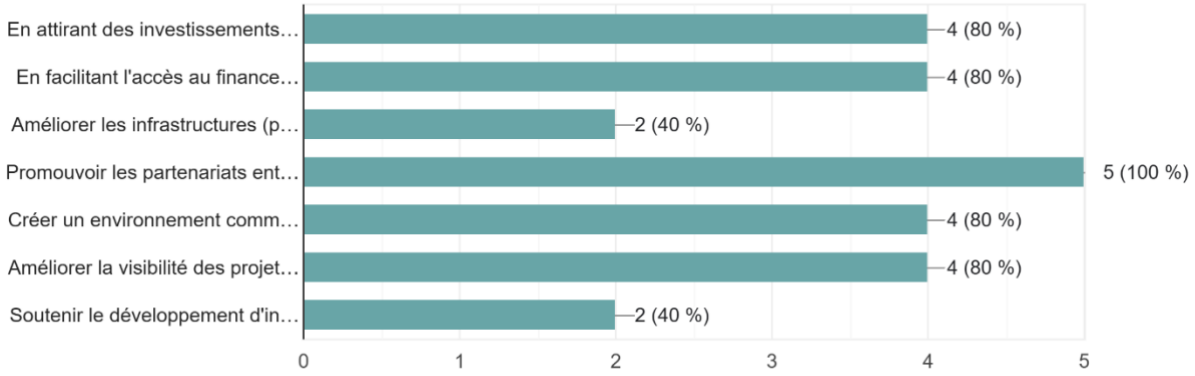


15. Comment un cluster maritime peut-il contribuer à l'investissement dans l'économie bleue au niveau local?

    a. En attirant des investissements privés dans les secteurs locaux de l'économie bleue
    b. En facilitant l'accès au financement public pour les initiatives liées à l'économie bleue
    c. Améliorer les infrastructures (par exemple, les ports, la logistique, la technologie marine) pour attirer les investisseurs.
    d. Promouvoir les partenariats entre les entreprises locales et les investisseurs mondiaux
    e. Créer un environnement commercial favorable aux jeunes pousses de l'économie bleue
    f. Améliorer la visibilité des projets locaux d'économie bleue afin d'attirer les investissements internationaux
    g. Soutenir le développement d'incitations financières (par exemple, allègements fiscaux, subventions) pour les investisseurs de l'économie bleue.

Comment un cluster maritime peut-il contribuer à l'investissement dans l'économie bleue au niveau local ?

5 respuestas

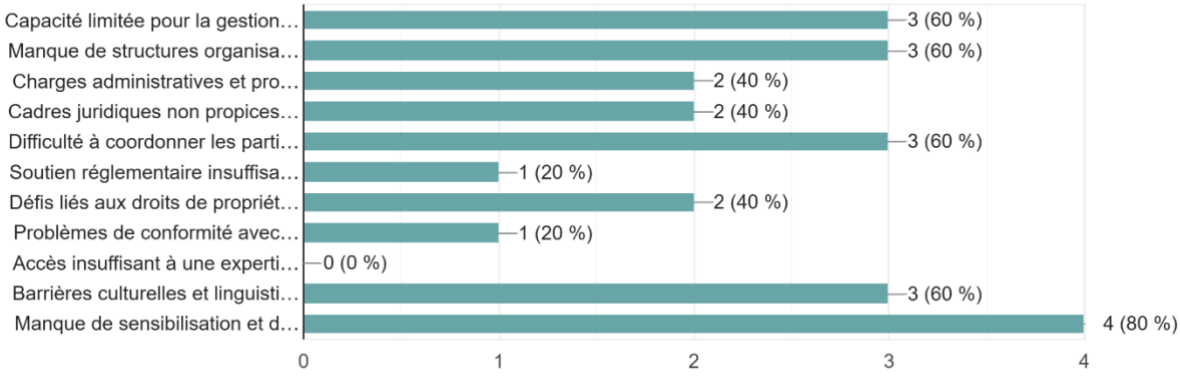


16. Lors de l'établissement d'un cluster maritime, énumérez les principaux défis que vous pourriez rencontrer en termes de gestion, d'aspects structurels, administratifs et juridiques.

    a. Capacité limitée pour la gestion et la gouvernance du cluster
    b. Manque de structures organisationnelles claires et de leadership
    c. Charges administratives et processus bureaucratiques
    d. Cadres juridiques non propices au développement des clusters
    e. Difficulté à coordonner les parties prenantes et à aligner les intérêts
    f. Soutien réglementaire insuffisant pour les initiatives de clusters
    g. Défis liés aux droits de propriété intellectuelle et au transfert de technologie
    h. Problèmes de conformité avec les normes et réglementations internationales
    i. Accès insuffisant à une expertise juridique et à des services de conseil
    j. Barrières culturelles et linguistiques affectant la collaboration et la communication
    k. Manque de sensibilisation et de compréhension des concepts et des avantages des clusters

Lors de l'établissement d'un cluster maritime, énumérez les principaux défis que vous pourriez rencontrer en termes de gestion, d'aspects structurels, administratifs et juridiques.

5 respuestas



17. Selon vous, quelles sont les principales actions à mener, au niveau national, pour promouvoir les plans d'investissement dans le secteur BuE?

Faire une vraie playdoirie de BuE (en mettant en avant les avantages) - Clarifier les missions du cluster maritime en place auprés des operateurs et investisseurs nationaux. - Vulgariser les actions concretes. - Renforcer les competences bleues locales. -Prioritiser les secteurs d'invesstiment en fonction des besoins nationaux. -Mettre en place des mesures incitatives pour l'economie bleue.

Plaidoyer sensibilisation

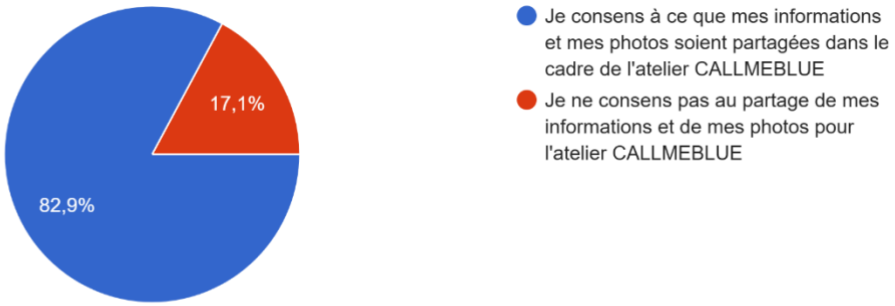
Convient de mener plusieurs actions : Pour la promotion il faut : Renforcement du cadre législatif et réglementaire : Simplification administrative, incitations fiscales et protection juridique pour les investisseurs, y compris ceux du secteur du tourisme bleu (croisières, activités nautiques, etc.). Développement des infrastructures : Amélioration des infrastructures portuaires, routières et énergétiques pour faciliter l'accès aux zones touristiques maritimes et côtières. Facilitation de l'accès au financement : Création de fonds d'investissement pour soutenir des projets liés au tourisme bleu et aux services connexes. Formation et développement des compétences : Formation spécifique aux métiers du tourisme bleu et de la gestion des ressources maritimes, en partenariat avec des institutions académiques. Promotion internationale : Participation à des salons de tourisme et forums régionaux pour attirer des investisseurs étrangers dans le secteur maritime et touristique. Création d'incubateurs et

de zones franches : Développement de zones économiques spéciales dédiées au tourisme durable, en particulier dans les régions côtières. Sensibilisation et communication : Campagnes pour valoriser le potentiel du tourisme bleu en Mauritanie et attirer les investisseurs et les touristes. Stabilité politique et économique : Assurer la stabilité et la transparence pour rassurer les investisseurs, en particulier dans les secteurs sensibles comme le tourisme côtier et maritime.

Former des cadres spécialisés dans le domaine et donner priorité et importance à ce secteur important, créer un partenariat avec le secteur privé et la société civile et mener des campagnes de sensibilisation sur son importance aux niveaux national et mondial dans le présent et le futur.

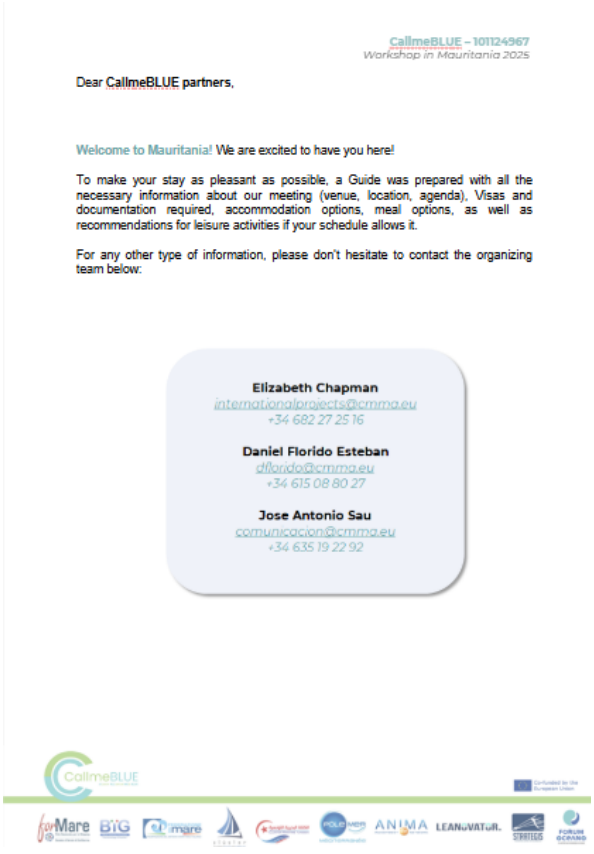
18. Photos et autorisation de publication pour l'atelier CALLMEBLUE en Algérie, en Mauritanie et en Tunisie

Nous accordons une grande importance à votre vie privée et vous demandons votre consentement pour partager toute information relative à votre vie...ations et ces photos aux fins indiquées ci-dessus.
35 respuestas



9.4 Mauritania Guideline

The Mauritania Guideline is a comprehensive information pack providing all the necessary details about the meeting, such as the agenda, as well as practical information as the venue, the city and accommodation. This pack is designed to provide a smooth and pleasant experience for all the guests.



CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025

Dear CallmeBLUE partners,

Welcome to Mauritania! We are excited to have you here!

To make your stay as pleasant as possible, a Guide was prepared with all the necessary information about our meeting (venue, location, agenda), Visas and documentation required, accommodation options, meal options, as well as recommendations for leisure activities if your schedule allows it.

For any other type of information, please don't hesitate to contact the organizing team below:

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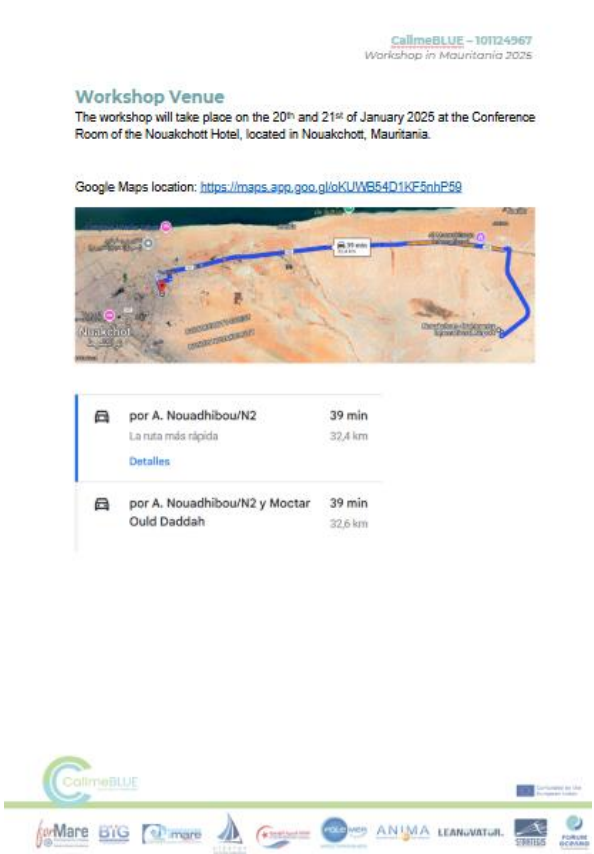

CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025

Workshop Venue

The workshop will take place on the 20th and 21st of January 2025 at the Conference Room of the Nouakchott Hotel, located in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Google Maps location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/oKUWB54D1KF5nhP59

por A. Nouadhibou/N2 — 39 min
La ruta más rápida — 32,4 km
Detalles

por A. Nouadhibou/N2 y Moctar Ould Daddah — 39 min
32,6 km

Visa & Required Documentation

A passport, visa, and evidence of yellow fever vaccination are required (https://acortar.link/xWcY7b).

Holders of diplomatic and service passports issued to nationals of Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Morocco, and Turkey do not require a VISA for Mauritania.

Holders of passports issued by any country can obtain a 90-day (about 3 months) visa on arrival at Nouakchott International Airport. Keep in mind that for the VISA you will need to pay 50 euros in cash, so do not forget to bring some Mauritania Ouguiya with you.

KES advises you to comply with the following upon arrival in Mauritania:

- The passport is valid for at least 6 months after arrival.
- A passport has at least 1 blank visa page.
- Possession of documents demonstrating the purpose of the trip.
- Possession of a hotel reservation.
- You can demonstrate that you will leave the country with a return ticket.
- You have sufficient financial means to cover your trip.
- Check with the airline if visa-free check-in is allowed.

If you want to get more info about the visa process, please contact the Mauritanian embassy in your country.

Precautions in Healthcare

The **vaccine against Yellow Fever is mandatory** when traveling to Mauritania. There are three more vaccines highly recommended to get: DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis), Hepatitis A, and MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella).

- The **yellow fever vaccination** usually provides lifelong protection. It is best to get this vaccination **at least 10 days before departure**.
- The **DTP vaccination** provides protection that lasts for ten years. DTP vaccinations can be given last minute, but it is better to get your vaccinations **one to two weeks before your trip**.
- The **hepatitis A vaccination** protects for one to three years (depending on the vaccine brand). If the vaccination is repeated, it protects 30 to 40 years. These vaccinations can also be given last minute, but it is best to get your vaccination **at least two weeks before departure**.
- The **MMR vaccination** probably provides lifelong protection. It is best to get the MMR vaccination **at least two weeks before departure**.

Other vaccines are optional:

- Hepatitis B vaccinations consist of you need three shots. The protection is lifelong. It is best to start the vaccinations at least seven months before departure. If you come at least one month in advance, you can still get two shots, but they will provide less effective protection than getting all three.
- Tuberculosis vaccinations provide lifelong protection, but not for all types of tuberculosis. It is best to get the vaccination at least six weeks before departure.
- Rabies vaccination: Rabies vaccination consists of two shots with a one-week interval. It is best to start the vaccinations 3-4 weeks before departure.
- Meningitis vaccination protects for three years. It is best to get this vaccination at least ten days before departure.

Malaria is present in Mauritania. It is highly recommended to **use malaria tablets**. Anti-mosquito measures are also important in Mauritania. Malaria mosquitoes mainly bite in the evening, at night, and in the early morning. The risk of malaria is reduced by wearing clothing with long sleeves and trousers. Using an **insect repellent containing DEET** is also advisable, as well as using a mosquito net. If you experience fever during or after staying in a malaria area, it is important to see a doctor within 24 hours.

If you are still not sure about the health precautions, you can always contact your doctor or your government website for traveling to Mauritania.

It is strongly recommended to get travel insurance that covers any medical expenses, hospital bills, and transportation costs to another country for medical treatment. Some insurance options are:

- IATI insurance
- Allianz-Assistance
- Swisscare

AGENDA

National Event Mauritania
WestMED Mauritania and CALLMEBLUE

AGENDA

Day 1 – 30 January, 2026

09:30 Registration of participants

10:00 Presentation of the event objectives and the programme
- Dr. Mohamed Lemine Abdel Hamid, WestMED National Hub- Mauritania

10:15 The WestMED initiative priorities and the Assistance Mechanism for the upcoming two years
- Matteo Bacci, WestMED Assistance Mechanism – Central Team

10:25 Sustainable tourism: priorities for Mauritania
- National Tourism Office

10:35 Maritime Spatial Planning in Mauritania
- Seyyah Meissa, Mauritanian Institute of Oceanographic Research and Fisheries (IMROP)

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Workshop in Mauritania 2025

CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025
AGENDA

CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025
CallmeBLUE Project Living-Lab, 20th of January 2025

CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025

CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025

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Workshop in Mauritania 2025

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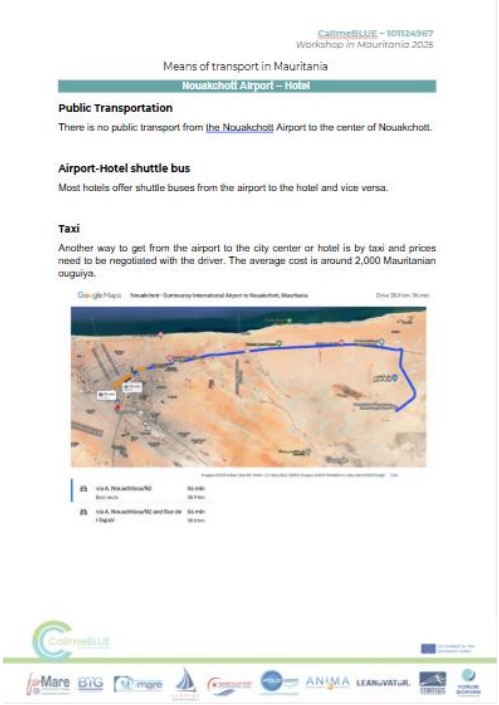
Workshop in Mauritania 2025


CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025
Means of transport in Mauritania
Nouakchott Airport – Hotel
Public Transportation
There is no public transport from the Nouakchott Airport to the center of Nouakchott.
Airport-Hotel shuttle bus
Most hotels offer shuttle buses from the airport to the hotel and vice versa.
Taxi
Another way to get from the airport to the city center or hotel is by taxi and prices need to be negotiated with the driver. The average cost is around 2,000 Mauritanian ouguiya.

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Workshop in Mauritania 2025

Accommodation

To book a hotel room, Nouakchott has plenty of options to choose from. If you would like to book a hotel that is close to the conference venue, here are our recommendations:

Nouakchott Hotel **** Airport 32.4 KM Shuttle Bus	139 EU P/N
Urban Hotel *** Airports 5KM Airport shuttle Restaurant 1km	86 EU P/N
Hotel Hiba**** Airport 2.5KM Restaurant 100M	70 EU P/N
CASABLU HOTEL**** Aiport 4 KM Restaurant 100M	64 EU P/N +conference room
The Best Centric Hotel-Ex Best Semiramis **** Airport 2.2KM Airport shuttle Restaurant 1KM	91 EU P/N
Al Khaima City Center **** Airport 2.4 KM Restaurant 600M	69 EU P/N
Hôtel Semiramis City Center Airport 34 KM Airport shuttle	89 EU P/N

We did not get a special offer from the hotel venues; this is why we encourage partners to please double check prices on www.booking.com as it might offer better prices than offers received by the hotels.

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Workshop in Mauritania 2025

What to do in Mauritania

Some activities that can be nice to do in Nouakchott are:

One option is to visit the Saudi Mosque of Nouakchott. This is the holy place of the local people of Mauritania with beautiful art and architecture. The color mosque perfectly fits in the desert and even makes it more beautiful.

Port de Pêche is also a nice option to visit in Nouakchott. Port de Pêche is a big market where all the fishers come back from their fishing run to sell their freshly caught fish. It's one of the most visited fish markets in Mauritania and very popular among tourists.

One of the biggest Camel markets in Africa is in Nouakchott and it can be a good opportunity to see Camels. It is a very popular activity among tourists as can be seen in the reviews on TripAdvisor. Keep in mind that there is a difference in culture and some reviews caution against potential harm to the animals.

For other tours in Nouakchott, you can visit the TripAdvisor website. Here you can find the latest tours and possible new tours that are going to take place. For now, there is one tour active, and you can join it for 150 euros per person.

In Mauritania, there are a lot of restaurants that prepare fresh local seafood. So, there are good opportunities to try them. Here are some local restaurants that are possible to visit in Mauritania:

- Timeless
- Smash Food
- Le Maquis Restaurant
- Palacio مطعم بالاسيو

Some usable information about tourism in Mauritania can be found in the tourism office in Mauritania. You can contact the office on this phone number: +222 25299090. The phone code for Mauritania is +222, so if you need to call a hotel or a restaurant don't forget to use the code +222.

Keep in mind that the currency in Mauritania is different. The currency that is used in Mauritania is the Mauritian ouguiya. And for example, 1 euro = 43 ouguiya.

CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025

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This project has received co-funding from the European Union under Grant Agreement No 101124967

CallmeBLUE – 101124967
Workshop in Mauritania 2025

CallmeBLUE
Cluster ALLiance MEd BLUE

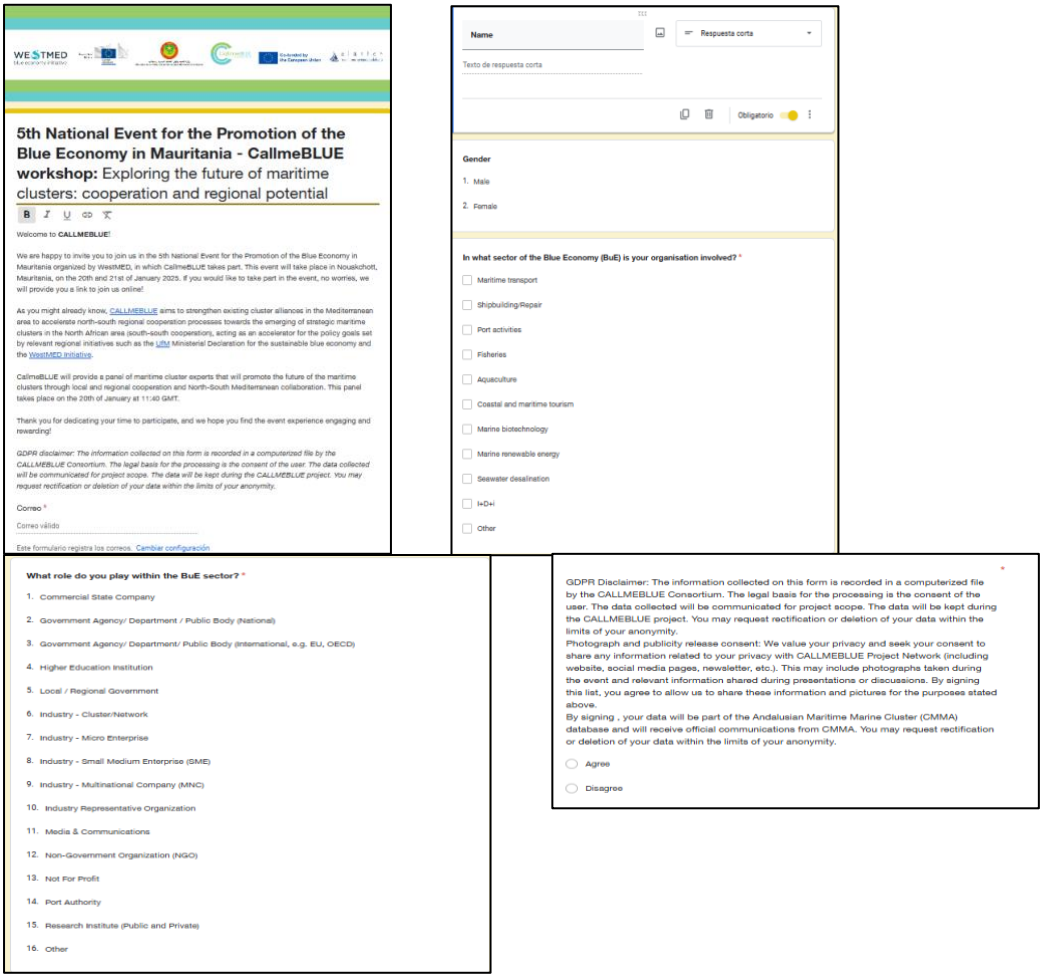
Figure 19- Mauritania Guide

9.5 Save the Date

Figure 20- Save the Date

9.6 Registration form

The following document contains the registration form for the Mauritania workshop, as provided to participants.



5th National Event for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Mauritania - CallmeBLUE workshop: Exploring the future of maritime clusters: cooperation and regional potential

Welcome to **CALLMEBLUE**!

We are happy to invite you to join us in the 5th National Event for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Mauritania organized by WestMED, in which CallmeBLUE takes part. This event will take place in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on the 20th and 21st of January 2025. If you would like to take part in the event, no worries, we will provide you a link to join us online!

As you might already know, CALLMEBLUE aims to strengthen existing cluster alliances in the Mediterranean area to accelerate north-south regional cooperation processes towards the emerging of strategic maritime clusters in the North African area (south-south cooperation), acting as an accelerator for the policy goals set by relevant regional initiatives such as the UfM Ministerial Declaration for the sustainable blue economy and the WestMED Initiative.

CallmeBLUE will provide a panel of maritime cluster experts that will promote the future of the maritime clusters through local and regional cooperation and North-South Mediterranean collaboration. This panel takes place on the 20th of January at 11:40 GMT.

Thank you for dedicating your time to participate, and we hope you find the event experience engaging and rewarding!

GDPR disclaimer: The information collected on this form is recorded in a computerized file by the CALLMEBLUE Consortium. The legal basis for the processing is the consent of the user. The data collected will be communicated for project scope. The data will be kept during the CALLMEBLUE project. You may request rectification or deletion of your data within the limits of your anonymity.

Correo *

Correo válido

Este formulario registra los correos. Cambiar configuración

Name

Respuesta corta

Texto de respuesta corta

Obligatorio

Gender

1. Male
2. Female

In what sector of the Blue Economy (BuE) is your organisation involved? *

- Maritime transport
- Shipbuilding/Repair
- Port activities
- Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Coastal and maritime tourism
- Marine biotechnology
- Marine renewable energy
- Seawater desalination
- I+D+i
- Other

What role do you play within the BuE sector? *

1. Commercial State Company
2. Government Agency/ Department / Public Body (National)
3. Government Agency/ Department/ Public Body (International, e.g. EU, OECD)
4. Higher Education Institution
5. Local / Regional Government
6. Industry - Cluster/Network
7. Industry - Micro Enterprise
8. Industry - Small Medium Enterprise (SME)
9. Industry - Multinational Company (MNC)
10. Industry Representative Organization
11. Media & Communications
12. Non-Government Organization (NGO)
13. Not For Profit
14. Port Authority
15. Research Institute (Public and Private)
16. Other

GDPR Disclaimer: The information collected on this form is recorded in a computerized file by the CALLMEBLUE Consortium. The legal basis for the processing is the consent of the user. The data collected will be communicated for project scope. The data will be kept during the CALLMEBLUE project. You may request rectification or deletion of your data within the limits of your anonymity.
Photograph and publicity release consent: We value your privacy and seek your consent to share any information related to your privacy with CALLMEBLUE Project Network (including website, social media pages, newsletter, etc.). This may include photographs taken during the event and relevant information shared during presentations or discussions. By signing this list, you agree to allow us to share these information and pictures for the purposes stated above.
By signing , your data will be part of the Andalusian Maritime Marine Cluster (CMMA) database and will receive official communications from CMMA. You may request rectification or deletion of your data within the limits of your anonymity.

- Agree
- Disagree

Figure 21- Registration form

9.7 Agenda

WESTMED blue economy initiative | Supported by the European Commission | Co-funded by the European Union | clúster marítimomarinodeandalucía

Agenda CallmeBLUE Workshop: 5th National Event for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Mauritania

20th January 2025 10:00 - 12:50 GMT

CallmeBLUE presentation

ELIZABETH CHAPMAN (Project manager of Andalusian Maritime Marine Cluster)

FORMAT: ONLINE

10:00 - 10:10 GMT
(10 MIN)

DESCRIPTION: CallmeBLUE is a European project co-funded by the European Union, aiming to strengthen existing cluster alliances in the Mediterranean area and accelerate north-south regional cooperation towards the emergence of strategic maritime clusters in North Africa. The project brings together the main maritime clusters of the Mediterranean region and is supported by the WestMED Initiative.
The project's primary aim is to foster regional collaboration and enhance the competitiveness of maritime economies in the Mediterranean. Its objectives include improving data availability to address barriers and gaps in the southern Mediterranean, empowering emerging maritime cluster ecosystems, and promoting governance dialogue to ensure sustainable development of these clusters.

10:10 - 10:15 GMT
(5 MIN)

Q&A

Cluster initiatives, most promising sectors, main challenges and obstacles, main actions to promote existing initiatives, to boost business opportunities and activities for the exchange of ideas and knowledge

- SARA TEDESCO (Project manager of Cluster BIG)

FORMAT: ONLINE

10:15H - 10:45 GMT
(30 MIN)

DESCRIPTION: In CallmeBLUE, research was conducted in six North African countries—Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Egypt, and Morocco—focusing on mapping and networking emerging maritime clusters in the southern Mediterranean. It highlights how clusters can foster sustainable blue economies through governance, cooperation, and innovation.
engthen connections across Atlantic and Mediterranean communities. Mauritania's establishment of the National Marine Cluster in 2023, supported by the WestMED Maritime Clusters Alliance, emphasizes fisheries, contributing 20% of Africa's sea fish production and 6–10% of Mauritania's GDP. Strategies include adding value to products, strengthening export supply chains, and safeguarding marine resources via governance and monitoring. The Banc d'Arguin biosphere reserve is key to biodiversity conservation and sustainable fishing. Infrastructure development focuses on logistics, preservation facilities, and resource protection, supported by governance tools like Individual Quotas (IQs).
Challenges persist in boosting private sector involvement and infrastructure for diverse blue economy sectors. The cluster aims to upscale activities, offer tailored services, and strengthen connections across Atlantic and Mediterranean communities.

10:45H - 10:50 GMT
(5 MIN)

Q&A

PANEL I - Exploring the future of maritime clusters: cooperation and regional potential

10:50H - 11:50 GMT
(1H)

- **Presentation of the cluster, services, projects, collaboration**
  - HAMADI BABA HAMADI (President of Mauritanian Maritime Cluster) (20 minutes) (FORMAT: IN-PERSON)
  - CAPTAIN EZZEDINE KACEM (President of Tunisian Maritime Cluster) (10 minutes) (FORMAT: IN-PERSON)
  - JAVIER NORIEGA (President of Andalusian Maritime Marine Cluster) (10 minutes) (FORMAT: ONLINE)
  - SARA TEDESCO (Project manager of Cluster BIG) (10 minutes) (FORMAT: ONLINE)

DESCRIPTION: A brief explanation of each of the maritime clusters within the North-South Mediterranean countries will be driven. In this slot, you will expect the different clusters to share their best practices, and joint activities and highlight their pivotal role in advancing the Blue Economy.

PANEL II - Boosting potential and promising sectors through collaboration

11:50H - 12:35 GMT
(45 MIN)

- LORELLA CIUTI, (Blue Executive Assistant of Forum Oceano) *(FORMAT: ONLINE)*
- *EMMANUEL NOUTARY (Délégué Général of Anima) (FORMAT: ONLINE)*
- COLIN RUEL, (Directeur du Service Europe of Pôle Mer Méditerranée) *(FORMAT: ONLINE)*

DESCRIPTION: The maritime cluster in Mauritania presents a strategic opportunity to integrate emerging and promising sectors of the blue economy into regional and international initiatives. Based on the findings of recent assessments, which identify the most promising sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, desalination, green hydrogen, digitalisation, blue skills, sustainable tourism and sustainable maritime transport, this approach aims to foster effective collaborations that respect the specificities and limitations of the territory. The cooperation between Northern Mediterranean maritime clusters participating in the CallmeBlue project and the emerging clusters in Southern Mediterranean countries plays a pivotal role in this process. This North-South exchange focuses on the transfer of knowledge, the sharing of best practices, and the development of joint initiatives to enhance competitiveness in Mauritania within the blue economy.
This panel will focus on exploring concrete ways to strengthen cooperation between European and African clusters, promoting a sustainable and equitable blue economy in Mauritania and the Mediterranean region.

12:35H - 12:40 GMT
(5 MIN)

Q&A

Survey collection

12:40H - 12:50 GMT (10 MIN)	ELIZABETH CHAPMAN (Project manager of Andalusian Maritime Marine Cluster) **FORMAT:** ONLINE **DESCRIPTION:** Participants will complete a brief survey designed to gather feedback, assess the event's impact, and suggest new areas of cooperation among maritime clusters. The results will serve as a basis for future collaborative strategies in the blue economy.

WESTMED blue economy initiative | Supported by the European Commission | Ministère de la Pêche, des Infrastructures Maritimes et Portuaires | CallmeBLUE | Co-funded by the European Union | clúster marítimomarinodeandalucía

Programme de l'atelier CallmeBLUE: 5eme évènement national pour la promotion de l'économie bleue en Mauritanie

Introduction et présentation de CallmeBLUE	
20 MIN	**Présentation du projet CallmeBLUE** ∘ CMMA
Principaux résultats du WP2 axé sur la MAuritanie - Rapport sur le Clusters maritimes de l'économie bleue	
20 MIN	**Initiatives de clusters, secteurs les plus prometteurs, principaux défis et obstacles, principales actions pour promouvoir les initiatives existantes, promouvoir les opportunités commerciales et les activités d'échange d'idées et connaissance** ∘ Cluster BIG
Panel I - Explorer l'avenir des clusters maritimes : coopération et potentiel régional	
2H	• **Présentation du pôle, services, projets, collaboration (1 H)** • **Stimuler les secteurs potentiels et prometteurs grâce à la collaboration** ∘ Cluster Maritime Andalou [CMMA] - Président Javier Noriega ∘ Cluster BIG - Project manager Sara Tedesco ∘ WestMED - Matteo Bocci ∘ Cluster Maritime de Mauritanie - Président Hamadi Baba Hamadi ∘ Cluster Maritime Tunisie - Capitaine Ezzeddine Kacem
Synthese et enquete CALLMEBLUE	
10 MIN	**Collecte et clôture de l'enquête**

Figure 22- Agenda

9.8 Roll-up

Figure 23- Roll up

9.9 Clipping

1. Callmeblue website :

https://callme-blue.eu/activity/a-great-success-for-the-callmeblue-workshop-in-nouakchott

Callmeblue page on Linkedin:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/callmeblue-cluster-alliance-med-blue_callmeblue-blueeconomy-bluegrowth-activity-7285234334096130048-3e42?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAAAiPtZgBMllZxp52EUArN_xySOghAXI3T9U

Westmed website:

https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/events/5th-national-westmed-event-for-the-promotion-of-the-blue-economy-in-mauritania-20-21-january-2025-nouakchott-mauritania/

Ufm website:

https://medblueconomyplatform.org/vkc/event/5th-national-westmed-event-for-the-promotion-of-the-blue-economy-in-mauritania-d33c387412/

2. Press release:

- El Estrecho Digital

- Revista Lugar de Encuentro:

- CMMA.eu

- Puertosdeportivos.info:

2. Social Networks:

- X (simultaneous broadcast and publications prior to its celebration, as well as afterwards with the content of the press release):

https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881639761817039271

https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881353465827594597

https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881343133264589189

https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881336762758504482

https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881307356065308917

https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881295164087620078

https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881291291511951598

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https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881283841736020331

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https://x.com/ClusterMMA/status/1881260913963237711

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DFFWi5aNZB9/?img_index=1

Facebook:

LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7287407145019449344/

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7287027601297072128/

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CallmeBLUE

Cluster ALLiance MEd BLUE

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