



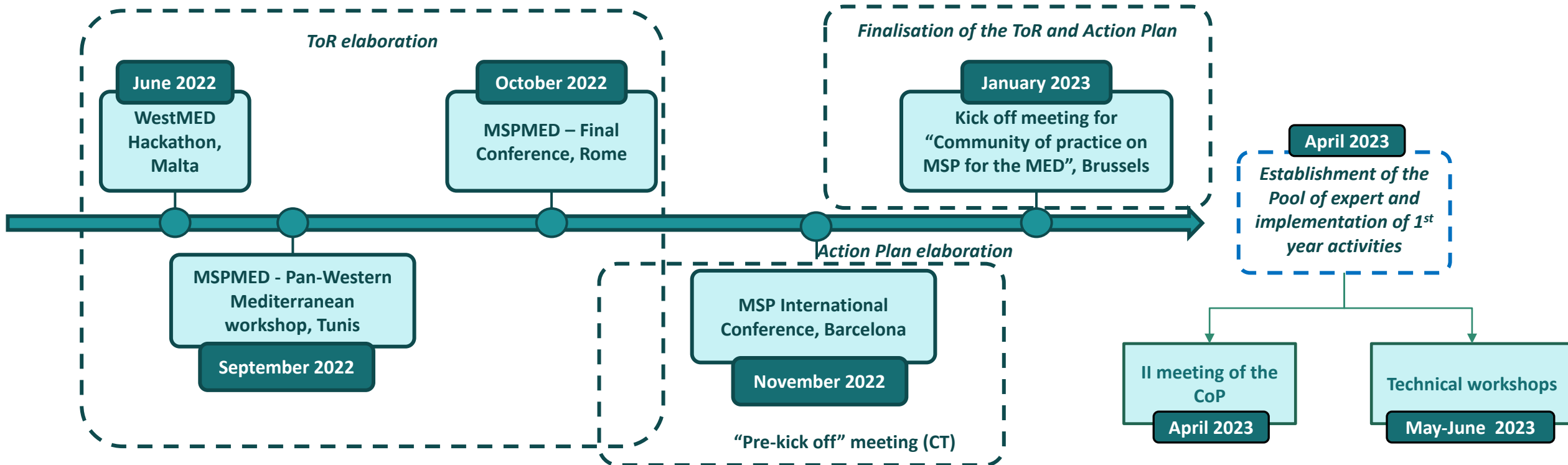
# Introduction to the MED-MSP-CoP: building on the on-going work

---

22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2023, MED-MSP-COP SESSION – WESTMED STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE



*“[...] group of **people** who share a **common concern**, a set of **problems**, or an **interest** in a topic and who **come together** to fulfil both individual and **group goals**. [...] they often focus on **sharing best practices** and creating new knowledge to **advance a domain of professional practice**.”*





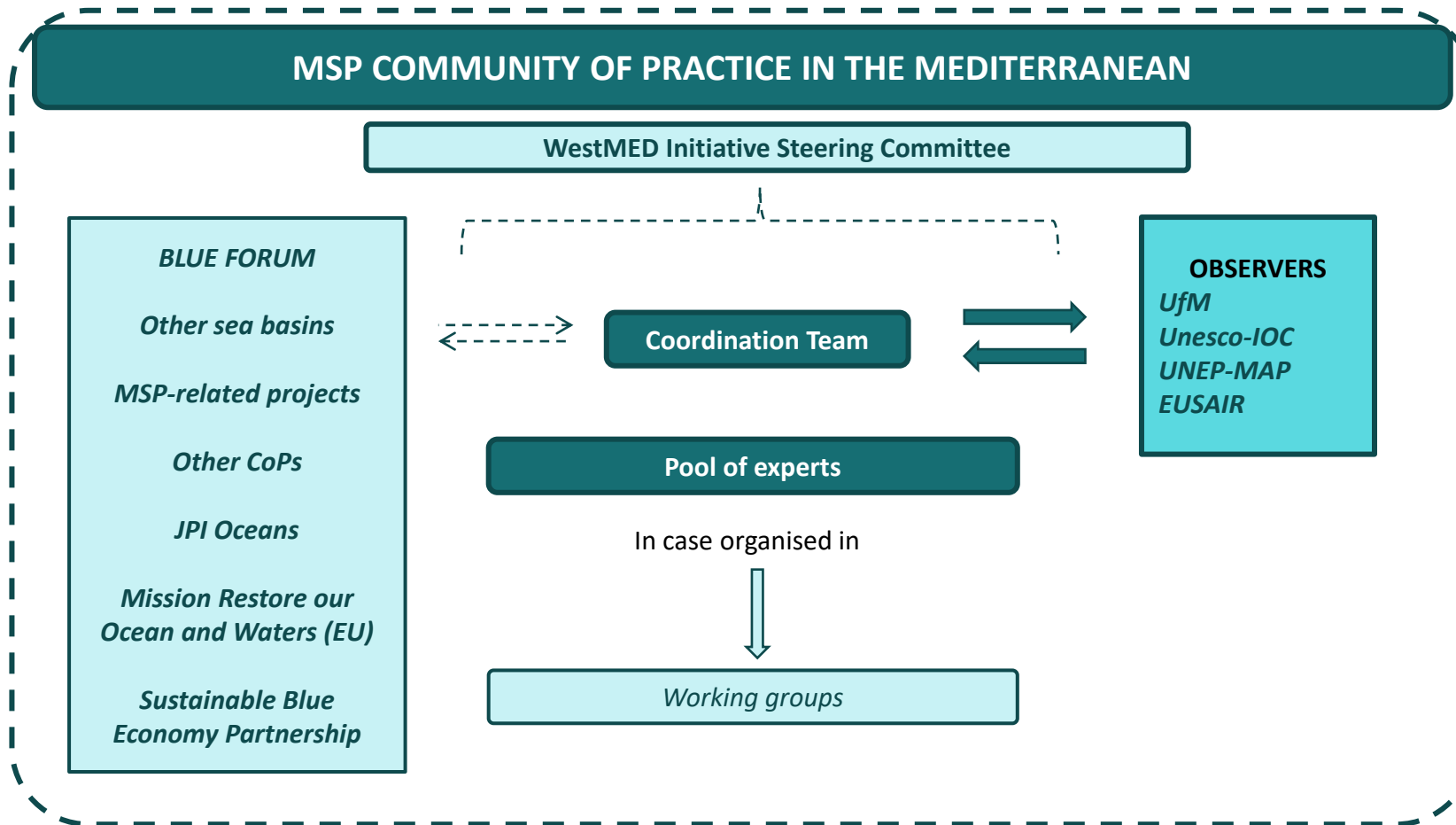
## General objectives

- **Create a permanent communication and dialogue across borders** among experts on MSP to exchange knowledge and experiences and to reach a shared perspective on topics of common interest
- **Enhance cooperation** between the north and the south and the west and the east of the Mediterranean sea on common MSP challenges and opportunities
- **Share practices and knowledge** about how to use MSP as an enabler for sustainable blue economy and improved protection of the marine environment
- Provide **recommendations** supporting **regional cooperation** on MSP and **MSP national processes**





# Governance structure and participation



It is a technical group: participation is open, inclusive and totally **voluntary**

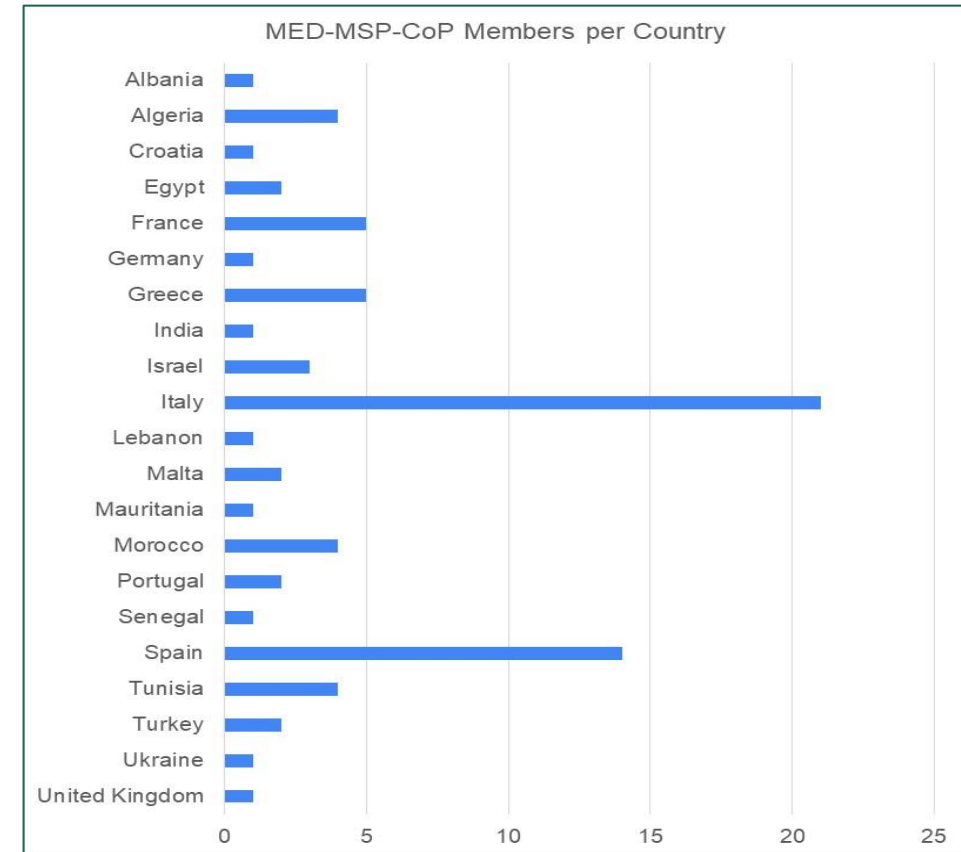
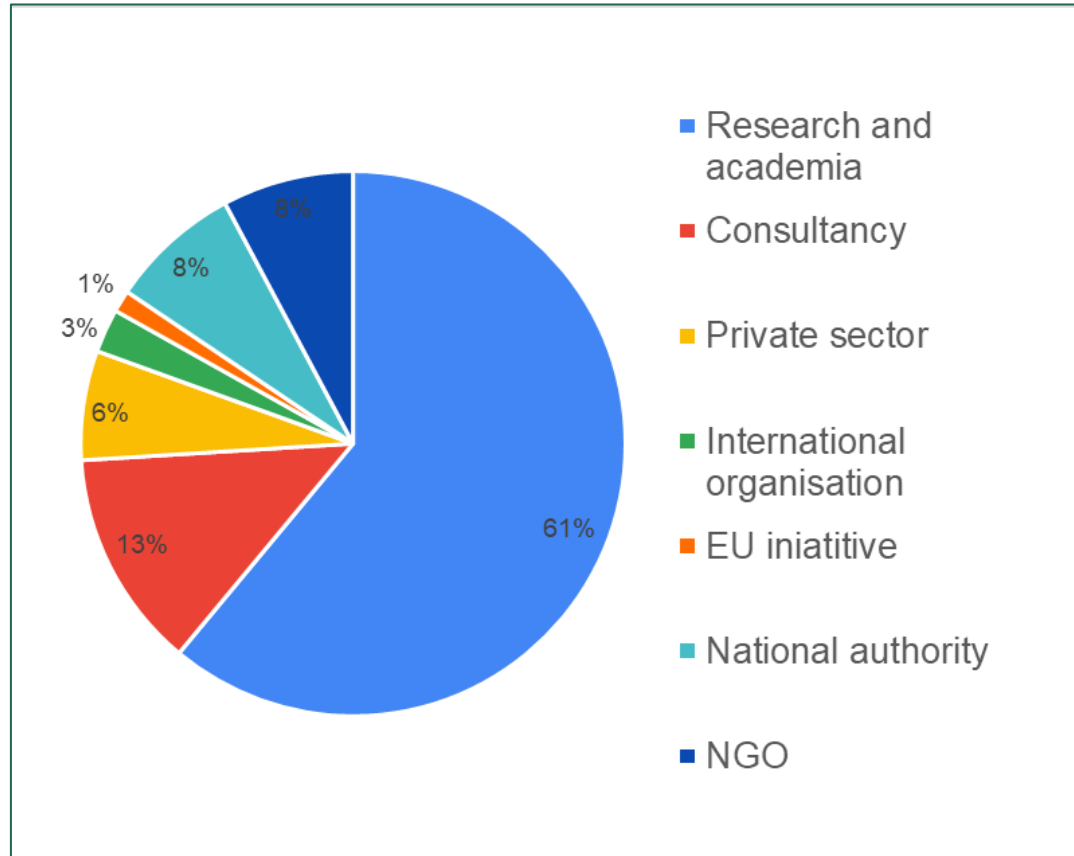
CoP members provide a technical contribution and **do not represent countries or institutions**

Initially focused on the WestMED, being however open to experts and observers from the entire **Mediterranean**

Develop **interactions and synergies** with existing and upcoming **MSP projects** (e.g. REGINA, MSP-GREEN, REMAP, eMSP-NSBR, MSP4BIO, Co-Evolve for Blue Growth, etc.) and **initiatives**

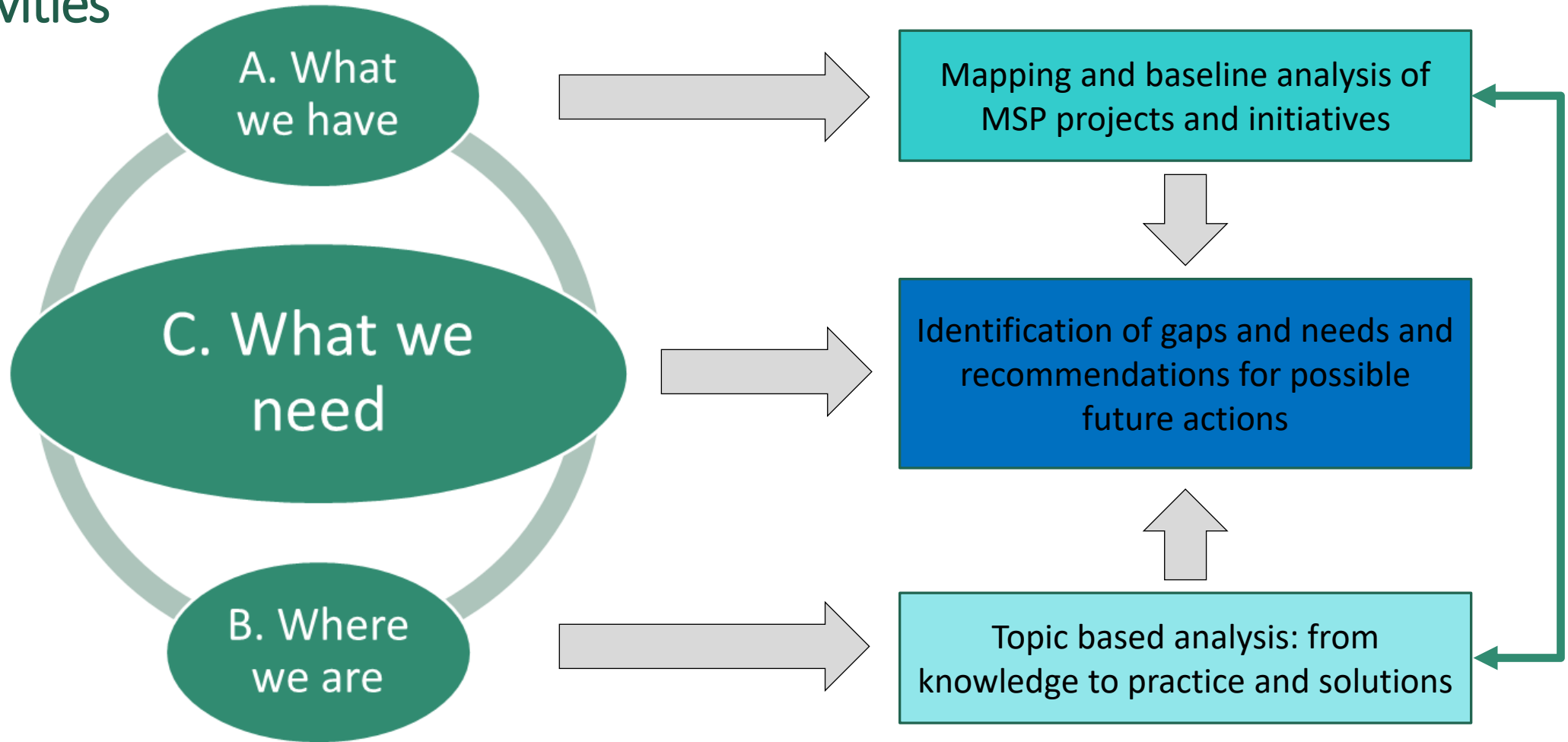


## Who we are?





## Technical activities





## Topics for year 1

MSP as key enabler for the implementation of national **Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) strategies and initiatives**, through the adoption of an integrated approach and towards the balanced distribution of benefits

Each Mediterranean country has specific priorities, but countries also share **common needs and common opportunities** for the development of maritime and coastal activities. Lack of coordination on the stages of planning and implementation becomes a waste of resources that could be capitalized for more than one Mediterranean country. Lack of coordination can also increase cumulative impacts on the environment. On top of all, some SBE challenges have an important transboundary dimension (e.g. maritime transport management or energy grid connection).

Recently, several WestMED countries defined their National Blue Economy Strategies. Although, these strategies have different priorities, they all **stress the role of MSP for the integrated and sustainable development of a blue economy**

**MSP is also an important tool/process to support transnational dialogue on SBE** (i.e. in the frame of the Roadmap for the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean) and approach some of the major challenges as for example data and knowledge gaps differently affecting EU and non-EU countries.

⇒ The MED-MSP-CoP will address the topic of coordination among sectorial strategies at different scales and point at perspectives provided by the framework of MSP implementation in this sense.





## Topics for year 1

MSP supporting the extension, improved management and improved connection of **Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures in the Mediterranean**, towards the targets set at the international and EU level on marine biodiversity protection.

**MSP can provide the framework** for and support the establishment, extension, improved management and connection of **MPAs**. The way MSP support MPAs may differ from country to country. A common approach is needed, taking in consideration the specificities of the Mediterranean Sea

MSP shall also support the establishment and management of **Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)**, defined as: “A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values (CBD Decision 14/8)”. Examples of OECMs may include Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) or Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA).

**MPA and OECM should form a network**. In a transboundary perspective, MSP should support this functioning, for the benefit of conservation objectives within MPAs and also beyond their perimeters.

MPA and OECMs establishment and/or extension is not the only priority of MSP. One of the major challenges MSP has to face is **the balancing of environmental protection and blue economy development needs**. At the same time, MSP properly address cumulative impacts of maritime activities.

⇒ The MED-MSP-CoP will point at challenges MSP could tackle to improve biodiversity protection and share good practices on improved coordination of protection and economic development objectives, specifically by using spatial conservation tools such as MPAs and OECMs.





## What we need: gaps and recommendations analysis

- ✓ Identification of gaps and (policy and research) persisting needs
- ✓ Recommendations for possible future actions, e.g.: topics for future calls or studies, proposals to build synergies among different projects or initiatives, workshops on specific aspects/topics, capacity building, etc.
- ✓ Identification of other topics/sub-topics of interest for the CoP





# Let's keep building together

EMILIANO RAMIERI, on behalf of the Coordination Team