



Webinars of the MED-MSP-CoP

The MED-MSP-CoP organises a series of technical Webinars to:

- Disseminate valuable practices on MSP in the Mediterranean and neighbouring seas
- Provide a regular opportunity for an open discussion on MSP-related issues of common interest for the MED-MSP-CoP experts
- Invite other experts to participate in the discussion and join the MED-MSP-CoP.

If you are not a MED-MSP-CoP member and would like to participate in the Webinars, please contact us at info@maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu.



Webinar Blue Tourism and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP): challenges and opportunities

Date: 08.05.2025

Hour: 11-12.15 AM

Introduction

The captivating allure of the Mediterranean Sea, with its vibrant coastlines and rich maritime heritage, has long established it as a premier tourism destination. From sun-drenched beaches to bustling ports and captivating underwater worlds, coastal and marine tourism, often referred to as "blue tourism," plays a vital role in the economies and cultures of this diverse region. However, the very success of blue tourism presents a complex interplay of opportunities and challenges. As the demand for coastal and marine experiences grows, so does the pressure on delicate marine ecosystems and the potential for conflict among maritime activities.

This webinar explores the conceptual framework of blue tourism and maritime spatial planning and the implementation challenges behind policies and regulations encompassing them at the European and Mediterranean levels. We will examine how integrated coastal and maritime planning principles are applied to highlight critical issues in fostering the planning and management of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism and leisure activities across the Mediterranean.

Furthermore, a case study about the Kuriat Islands (Tunisia) will be presented to exemplify the challenges of integrating an ecosystem-based approach to tourism. This case highlights the establishment of a co-management approach in a marine area that has not been officially designated as a marine protected area. It provides a practical lens through which to view how co-management and precautionary actions are implemented to prevent impacts on engendered marine species while managing conflicts with tourism users.



AGENDA

11:00 – 11:15	Setting the scene for the Webinar <i>Giulia Balestracci (Eco-Union)</i> <i>Introduction on Blue Tourism in the Mediterranean: numbers and coastal/marine activities related to MSP and ICZM issues</i>
11:15 – 11:35	Blue Tourism and ICZM/MSP <i>Alejandro González Domingo (Eco-Union)</i> <i>Challenges in integrating spatial planning and environmental regulations for sustainable blue tourism in Mediterranean destinations</i>
11:35 – 11:55	Key Lessons from Kuriat Islands MPA, Tunisia <i>Oumeima Baccouche and Ahmed Souki (Notre Grand Bleu Association)</i> <i>The Kuriat case study of co-management solutions and MPA experience in MSP</i>
11:55 – 12:10	Q&A session
12:10 - 12:15	Final reflections and closing