Interreg NEXT MED

Co-funded by the European Union

Synergies and complementarities

Overview of the main policies, strategies and initiatives having synergies and complementarities with Interreg NEXT MED Programme – Call for capitalisation projects on sustainable tourism

REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

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Index

Disclaimer 3
Foreword 3
Introduction: Seeking synergies and complementarities at strategic level 4
Horizontal principles 6
Synergies/complementarities with key strategies, policies and/or initiatives, including those listed in the Interreg NEXT MED Programme Document 8
Strategic level by Programme Priorities and Specific Objectives 13
PRIORITY 1 - A more competitive and smarter Mediterranean 13
PRIORITY 2 - A greener, low-carbon and resilient Mediterranean 19
PRIORITY 3 - A more social and inclusive Mediterranean 32
PRIORITY 4 - A better cooperation governance for the Mediterranean 41

Disclaimer

This document shall be read in conjunction with the terms of reference of the call and guidelines for applicants which detail thew approach for capitalization which is at the core of this call. In In particular, project proposals are required to identify at least one output generated by another Interreg programme Mediterranean Multi-Programme (MMM) and contained in the common database of outputs, and to design concrete activities to reuse, adapt, replicate, and scale it up, explaining relevance to the new context, and detailing how the transfer, adaptation, and/or scaling-up will be effectively carried out. Capitalisation of outputs developed under other EU/relevant frameworks can be considered if this is relevant to the scope of the project proposals.

While the call for capitalization projects is open to a limited number of Programme Specific Objectives (1.1. 1.2, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1, 4.1) and focus on the theme of sustainable topic – in particular Innovative and smart tourism products; Tourism and the green transition; Social dimension of tourism (employment and upskilling) and inclusive and accessible tourism; Shared and strategic governance of the tourism offer – applicants are invited to consider the various initiatives mentioned in this document as long as they are relevant with their project proposals.

Foreword

A key aspect of a successful project proposal is to demonstrate that it sets the basis for and exploits synergies and complementarities with other relevant policies, strategies and/or initiatives. In the context of Interreg NEXT MED Programme, this capacity to achieve synergies should be substantiated in the project proposal at two levels:

- at *strategic* level, through consistency with the main relevant strategies and policies, including those related to green transition and environmental sustainability and/or listed in the Interreg NEXT MED Programme Document;
- at *operational* level, through the actual use of existing and scale-up of results developed by other relevant projects. This is a central feature as part of this coordinated call on sustainable tourism launched under the Mediterranean Multi-Programme (MMM).

This document is intended to provide orientations on securing synergies at **strategic level**. The operational level is left to the capacity of each project to find and demonstrate how it intends to build on, make use of and further develop specific results and outputs achieved by other projects, including funded by the European Union or other donors, in the Mediterranean area and beyond. Due to the significant number of projects having potential synergies in the different fields of intervention addressed by Interreg NEXT MED Programme, the identification of relevant results and outputs to be enhanced is at the discretion of the applicant.

Indeed, this document focuses on synergies and complementarities at strategic level, in view to supporting applicants with useful background information to demonstrate how projects could contribute to the main strategies and policies considered relevant for the implementation of Interreg NEXT MED. When reading this document, it is important to keep in mind that the **projects must be able to go well beyond simply mentioning the most coherent and**

relevant policies or initiatives with respect to the themes addressed by the project itself. Applicants should be able to describe and elaborate on the specific contribution that the proposed project is able to provide to the overall goals, specific aims of the policy, strategy or initiative referred to, consistently with the Priority and Specific Objective of Interreg NEXT MED Programme chosen for the project. Ideally, applicants should highlight how the implementation of the project will contribute to achieving the commitments of the concerned policy, strategy or initiative.

The importance of 'Synergies and complementarities', both at strategic and operational levels, is reflected in the **evaluation grid for project assessment with a dedicated award criterion, specifically dedicated to evaluating the way proposals build on and are likely to exploit synergies and complementarities**. Indeed, applicants should pay maximum attention to the issue of 'Synergies and complementarities' when developing and implementing the project: this will maximise the impact of the project and place into a broader context.

Introduction: Seeking synergies and complementarities at strategic level

Among the most significant lessons learned from the two previous cooperation exercises under ENPI (2007-2013) and ENI (2014-2020) CBC Med programmes, the need to develop synergies and coordination with policies, strategies, initiatives and other programmes implemented across the cooperation area **turned out to be a key element to avoid double funding, maximise EU funding and increase impact**. As highlighted in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (Common Provisions Regulation), "in order to optimise the added value from investments funded wholly or in part through the budget of the [European] Union, synergies should be sought in particular between the Funds and other relevant instruments."

Opportunities for synergies and complementarities between different policies, strategies and initiatives relevant to scope and thematic objectives of Interreg NEXT MED must be identified and promoted to achieve greater impact, added value and more integrated interventions, with a view to achieve enhanced cooperation across the Mediterranean. For this purpose, it is necessary avoiding as far as possible the duplication of activities between the various programmes and initiatives funded by the EU in the Mediterranean area, implementing sustainable interventions, sharing and enhancing knowledge produced, as well as defining coordination mechanisms and synergies.

This document intends to provide applicants with a non-exhaustive collection of the main policies, strategies and initiatives mentioned in the Interreg NEXT MED Programme, in view of enhancing the potential to exploit and contribute through the development of actual synergies and complementarities. This document also contains information on the consistence with the 'Horizontal principles' set out under the Interreg NEXT MED which are fully part of the project evaluation criteria.

Horizontal principles

All projects, including their objectives, results, outputs, activities and the definition of target groups/final beneficiaries, must be designed and implemented in accordance with and respectful of the horizontal principles set out in article 9 of the Common Provisions Regulation and in the Interreg NEXT MED Programme, in line with the partner countries' national laws and regulations.

Consistence with the horizontal principles listed below will be assessed during the evaluation process through a dedicated criterion.

Principle	Description
Respect of fundamental rights	In the implementation of the EU projects the respect for fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union shall be ensured. Obligations set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child shall also be respected.
Promotion of gender equality	It must be ensured that the equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender perspective are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of projects.
Prevention of discrimination including accessibility for people with disabilities	During the preparation, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of projects, the appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability (consistently with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), age or sexual orientation, shall be taken into account. Accessibility for persons with disabilities shall be taken into account throughout the preparation and implementation of projects.
Promotion of sustainable development	Projects shall be pursued in line with the objective of promoting sustainable development as set out in Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union (TFEU), taking into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the "do no significant harm" principle.
Compliance with the "do no significant harm" principle (where applicable)	1. Taking into account the life cycle of the products and services provided by an economic activity, including evidence from existing life-cycle assessments, that economic activity shall be considered to significantly harm: (a) climate change mitigation, where that activity leads to significant greenhouse gas emissions;

	(b) climate change adaptation, where that activity leads to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the activity itself or on people, nature or assets; (c) the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, where that activity is detrimental: (i)to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or (ii)to the good environmental status of marine waters; (d) the circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling, where: (i) that activity leads to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources such as non-renewable energy sources, raw materials, water and land at one or more stages of the life cycle of products, including in terms of durability, reparability, upgradability, reusability or recyclability of products; (ii) that activity leads to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or (iii) the long-term disposal of waste may cause significant and long-term harm to the environment; (e) pollution prevention and control, where that activity leads to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land, as compared with the situation before the activity started; or (f) the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, where that activity is: (i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or (ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest. 2. When assessing an economic activity against the criteria set out in paragraph 1, both the environmental impact of the activity itself and the environmental impact of the products and services provided by that activity throughout their life cycle shall be taken into account, in particular by considering the production, use and end of life of those products and services.

Synergies/complementarities with key strategies, policies and/or initiatives, including those listed in the Interreg NEXT MED Programme Document

General and transversal level	
EU Charter of Fundamental Rights	**Description:** The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union brings together the most important personal freedoms and rights enjoyed by citizens of the EU into one legally binding document. The Charter was proclaimed in 2000 and came into force in December 2009 along with the Treaty of Lisbon. **Document:** https://commission.europa.eu/aid-development-cooperation-fundamental-rights/your-rights-eu/eu-charter-fundamental-rights_en
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within the Agenda 2030	**Description:** The Agenda 2030 is an action plan for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. It recognises that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. It aims to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and to heal and secure the planet and to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated, indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/
EU Green Deal	**Description:** Climate change is the biggest challenge of our times, and it is an opportunity to build a new economic model. The European Green Deal sets the blueprint for this transformational change. All 27 EU Member States committed to turning the EU into the first climate neutral continent by 2050. To get there, the European Commission has adopted a set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This will create new opportunities for innovation and investment and jobs, as well as: reduce emissions; create jobs and growth; address energy poverty; reduce external energy dependency; improve our health and wellbeing.

	Background information: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en **Document**: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2019%3A640%3AFIN
EU Covenant of Mayors	**Description**: The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is an initiative supported by the European Commission bringing together thousands of local governments that want to secure a better future for their citizens. By joining the initiative, they voluntarily commit to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. **Background information**: https://eu-mayors.ec.europa.eu/en/home
EU Zero Pollution Action Plan	**Description:** The zero pollution vision for 2050 is for air, water and soil pollution to be reduced to levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems, that respect the boundaries with which our planet can cope, thereby creating a toxic-free environment. The Action Plan aims to strengthen the EU green, digital and economic leadership, whilst creating a healthier, socially fairer Europe and planet. It provides a compass to mainstream pollution prevention in all relevant EU policies, to step up implementation of the relevant EU legislation and to identify possible gaps. **Background information:** https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan_en
EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities	**Description**: The EU taxonomy for sustainable activities helps direct investments to the economic activities most needed for the transition, in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The taxonomy is a classification system that defines criteria for economic activities that are aligned with a net zero trajectory by 2050 and the broader environmental goals other than climate. The EU taxonomy allows financial and non-financial companies to share a common definition of economic activities that can be considered environmentally sustainable. In this way, it plays an important role in helping the EU scale up sustainable investment, by creating security for investors, protecting private investors from greenwashing, helping companies become more climate-friendly and mitigating market fragmentation. **Background information:** https://finance.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-finance/tools-and-standards/eu-taxonomy-sustainable-activities_en
European Climate Law	**Description**: The European Climate Law writes into law the goal set out in the European Green Deal for Europe's economy and society to become climate-neutral by 2050. The law also sets the intermediate target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. It sets a legally binding target of net

	zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The EU Institutions and the Member States are bound to take the necessary measures at EU and national level to meet the target, taking into account the importance of promoting fairness and solidarity among Member States. The Climate Law includes measures to keep track of progress and adjust our actions accordingly, based on existing systems such as the governance process for Member States' national energy and climate plans, regular reports by the European Environment Agency, and the latest scientific evidence on climate change and its impacts. **Background information:** https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/european-climate-law_en
Pact for the Mediterranean and Action plan	**Description:** Launched in November 2025, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, the Pact for the Mediterranean is a flagship initiative of the European Commission, jointly set out with the External Action service. It represents an ambitious step forward in deepening cooperation and reinforcing the EU's relations with its southern Mediterranean partners. The first edition of the Action Plan of the Pact was presented on 17 April 2026 to launch the first 21 co-designed, concrete and innovative actions for implementation in 2026. **Background information**: https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/what-we-do/pact-mediterranean_en **Documents**: https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/joint-communication-pact-mediterranean_en https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/pact-mediterranean-action-plan-spring-2026_en
EU strategy for Sustainable Tourism	**Description**: Announced by European Commissioner for Transport and Tourism in Cotober 2025, Apostolos Tzitzikostas, the EU's first tourism strategy with sustainability at its core. This strategic plan comes as Europe remains a top tourism destination, attracting 758 million visitors in 2024 and generating significant economic benefits. However, the rising number of tourists is straining resources and infrastructure, especially in nations like Spain, France, Germany, and Italy. The strategy emphasizes reducing emissions, wise management of resources, and protecting cultural and natural assets, aiming for regional development and greater resilience against climate change. Despite not having direct legislative power over tourism, the EU plans to exert its influence across related sectors, paving the way for a sustainable future for Europe's tourism industry. The European Commission has launched a targeted consultation to gather stakeholder input for the development of its upcoming EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy, scheduled for release in early 2026. This effort builds upon the 2022 Transition Pathway for Tourism and the EU Agenda for Tourism 2030. **Background information**: https://transition-pathways.europa.eu/tourism/news/eu-unveils-first-tourism-strategy-focused-sustainability-and-community-well-being

European Ocean Pact	**Description:** The Ocean Pact is a comprehensive strategy to better protect the ocean, promote a thriving blue economy and support the well-being of people living in coastal areas. rings together the European Union's policies and actions related to the ocean and creates a unified and coordinated plan for managing the ocean. It is built around six priorities: Protecting and restoring ocean health; Boosting the competitiveness of the EU sustainable blue economy; Supporting coastal and island communities, and outermost regions; Advancing ocean research, knowledge, skills and innovation; Enhancing maritime security and defence; Strengthening EU ocean diplomacy and international ocean governance. **Background information**: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/european-ocean-pact_en **Document**: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=comnat:COM_2025_0281_FIN
European Urban Initiative	**Description**: The European Urban Initiative (EUI) is an essential tool to support cities of all sizes, to build capacity and knowledge, to support innovation and develop transferable and scalable innovative solutions to urban challenges of EU relevance. EU cities must transform and adapt themselves, pushed to develop their creative and innovative potential, within the limits of their competencies, funding and capacity. EUI supports urban areas of all sizes with innovative actions, capacity and knowledge building, as well as policy development and communication on sustainable urban development. **Background information:** https://www.urban-initiative.eu/
Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (UN Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan)	**Description:** The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 provides an integrative policy framework for all stakeholders, including 'Mediterranean Action Plan' (MAP) partners, to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels in the Mediterranean region. As a strategic document, the MSSD serves to: adapt international commitments to regional conditions; guide national strategies and stimulate regional cooperation in the achievement of sustainable development objectives. **Background information:** https://www.unep.org/unepmap/what-we-do/mediterranean-strategy-sustainable-development-mssd **Document:** https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7097/mssd_2016_2025_eng.pdf
Union for the Mediterranean '2030 Greener Med Agenda'	**Description:** The 2030 GreenerMed Agenda provides a regional structured framework that, based on the coordination of existing and future programmes and projects, creates political and operational convergence to accelerate the transition of the Mediterranean region towards a green, circular and inclusive economy. This agenda is

	also taking into account the needs of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It links recovery plans to environmental conservation and restoration as well as to green economy principles, ensuring that social and environmental aspects are fully taken into account. "Towards 2030: Agenda for a Greener Med – Contributing to Achieving the Environmental SDGs in the Mediterranean" or 2030GreenerMed aims to define the post-2020 UfM Environment Agenda. The Agenda addresses key environmental issues in the Mediterranean that require cooperation across borders and sectors, and was developed collaboratively with countries and stakeholders, linking local experience with decision-making processes at national, regional and international levels. **Document:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/220304-Presentacio%CC%81n_Final_Light.pdf
European Commission Communication "A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU - Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future"	**Description:** The European Green Deal and the Recovery Plan for Europe will define the European economy for many years, or even decades. And the EU's blue economy is fundamental to both efforts. Not only should the blue economy adhere, like every other sector, to the European Green Deal. It is also indispensable to meet the EU's environmental and climate objectives. After all, the ocean is the main climate regulator we have. It offers clean energy and sustains us with oxygen, food, and many critical resources. There just can't be green without blue. To fully embed the blue economy into the Green Deal and the recovery strategy, the Commission has adopted a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU. For the aforementioned purposes, the European Commission has issued a Communication "A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU - Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future" which establishes a detailed agenda for the development of a sustainable blue economy. **Background information:** https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/sustainable-blue-economy_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0240
Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Action	**Description:** Ministers from the 42 Member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in occasion of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate action, agreed on a common agenda to strengthen efforts in the Euro-Mediterranean region to urgently tackle the multiple climate and environmental challenges it faces. This commitment reflects the highest possible ambition in accelerating transition towards sustainable, climate-neutral and green economies. **Background information:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/ministerial-climate-environment-2021/ **Document:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UfM-ministerial-declaration-ENV-CA_final-1-1.pdf

Strategic level by Programme Priorities and Specific Objectives

PRIORITY 1 - A more competitive and smarter Mediterranean

Specific Objective 1.1 - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	
Renewed European Agenda for Research and Innovation	**Description:** Investing in research and innovation is investing in Europe's future. It helps us to compete globally and preserve our unique social model. It improves the daily lives of millions of people here in Europe and around the world, helping to solve some of our biggest societal and generational challenges. **Background information:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/knowledge-publications-tools-and-data/publications/all-publications/renewed-european-agenda-research-and-innovation-europes-chance-shape-its-future_en **Document:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-05/com-2018-306-a-renewed-european-agenda-_for_research-and-innovation_may_2018_en_0.pdf
European Industrial Strategy	**Description:** Europe is embarking on a transition towards climate neutrality and digital leadership. The European industrial strategy aims to ensure that European industry can lead the way as we enter this new age. **Background information:** https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-industrial-strategy_en **Document:** https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/9ab0244c-6ca3-4b11-bef9-422c7eb34f39_en?filename=communication-industrial-strategy-update-2020_en.pdf
European Skills Agenda	**Description:** The European Skills Agenda is a five-year plan to help individuals and businesses develop more and better skills and to put them to use. **Background information:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223&langId=en **Document:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=22832&langId=en

Renewed EU agenda for higher education	**Description:** The renewed EU agenda for higher education adopted by the European Commission on 30 May 2017 aims to give a new impetus to higher education. It provides a set of initiatives to support the modernisation of higher education based on priority areas and streamlining EU support. **Background information:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/a-renewed-eu-agenda-for-higher-education.html **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52017DC0247
EU digital strategy	**Description:** In March 2021 the European Commission presented a vision and pathway strategy for Europe's digital transformation from now to 2030. A "Digital Compass", that translates the EU's digital transformation ambitions into concrete targets to be achieved. **Background information:** https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en
Strengthening Innovation in Europe's regions - Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth	**Description:** The communication promotes a smart specialisation strategy for EU regions. It focuses on: identifying the region's own strengths and comparative assets; prioritising research and innovation investment in competitive areas; defining a shared vision for regional innovation. **Background information:** https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2017/strengthening-innovation-in-europe-s-regions-strategies-for-resilient-inclusive-and-sustainable-growth **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017DC0376
Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration for Research and Innovation	**Description:** Research and Innovation Ministers from the 42 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) met for the first time on 27 June 2022 to discuss ways to promote scientific cooperation on climate change, renewable energy and health. They endorsed a ministerial declaration that seeks to exploit the potential of research and innovation to increase the resilience of the Euro-Mediterranean region against environmental, food security and socioeconomic challenges, as well as to promote science diplomacy. **Document**: https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-RI-EN-270622.pdf
Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean (PRIMA)	**Description:** Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area is a joint programme that is being undertaken in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. By funding R&I through competitive calls, PRIMA focuses on building research and innovation capacities and developing knowledge and common innovative solutions for agro-food systems, to make them sustainable, and for integrated water provision and management in the

	Mediterranean area. The aim is to make those systems and that provision and management more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective, environmentally and socially sustainable, thus contributing to solve water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being and migration problems upstream. **Background information:** https://prima-med.org/
BLUEMED initiative	**Description:** The BLUEMED Initiative aims to advance a shared vision for a more healthy, productive, resilient, better known and valued Mediterranean Sea, promoting the citizens' social well-being and prosperity, now and for future generations, and boosting economic growth and jobs. **Background information:** http://www.bluemed-initiative.eu/
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea	**Description:** The GFCM 2030 Strategy aims to preserve the heritage of fisheries and aquaculture as pillars for the livelihoods of Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal communities, ensuring their transformation into a productive and sustainable food system that contributes to thriving economies and healthy ecosystems. **Background information:** https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB7562EN **Document:** http://www.fao.org/3/cb7562en/cb7562en.pdf
5+5 Dialogue - Western Mediterranean Forum for Higher Education, Research and Innovation	**Description:** The 5+5 Dialogue is a sub-regional forum for dialogue between ten Western Mediterranean countries and it promotes cooperation in science, technology and higher education. **Background information:** https://www.fiveplusfiverihe.org/
WestMED Initiative's priority on skills development and circulation	**Description:** The WestMED Initiative has been created to help public institutions, academia, local communities, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs from both sides of the Western Mediterranean develop local and regional maritime projects together. It focuses on local and regional challenges, provides knowledge on the blue economy, shares opportunities in the region with the WestMED Community, helps match stakeholders with the right partners, and supports them in developing successful projects. Skills development and circulation is among the six priorities of the WestMED initiative.

	Background information: https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/westmed-initiative/
A new ERA for Research and Innovation	**Description:** Communication (COM/2020/628) "A new ERA for Research and Innovation" aims at building a common scientific and technological area for the EU. Creating a single market for research and innovation fostering free movement of researchers, scientific knowledge and innovation, and encouraging a more competitive European industry. This involves restructuring the European research landscape towards more cross-border cooperation, continent-wide competition, building of critical mass and coordination, and the improvement of national research policies and systems. **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A628%3AFIN
Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe	**Description:** The adoption of the Pact (COM(2021) 407 final) is a step forward in European Commission's ambition to create an European Research Area (ERA) fit for the future. It shows EC common commitment to mobilise research and innovation policies with concrete actions towards the challenges of today and notably the green and digital transitions. The Pact sets out principles for research and innovation for the first time ever. It incentivises joint action and simplifies monitoring and coordination. **Background information:** https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/fc3f272b-a349-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-252958029 **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0407
Specific Objective 1.2 - Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments	
UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 related to entrepreneurship through ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all	**Description:** Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was already off-track to achieve its education targets. If no additional measures are taken, only one in six countries will meet SDG4 and achieve universal access to quality education by 2030. An estimated 84 million children and young people will still be out of school and an estimated 300 million student will still not have the basic numeracy and literacy skills they need to succeed in life. To deliver SDG4, education systems must be re-imagined, and education financing must become a priority national investment. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4

UN Sustainable Development Goal 8 related to entrepreneurship through promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	**Description:** Progress towards achieving SDG8 has been challenging and the world is far from reaching most of the targets. The lingering effects of COVID-19, cost-of-living crises, trade tensions, uncertain monetary policy paths, rising debts in developing countries, and the war in Ukraine can each significantly set back global economic growth. Combined, these crises are placing the global economy under a serious threat. Global real GDP per capita is forecast to slow down in 2023, putting at risk not just employment and income but also advances in equitable pay for women and decent work for young people. Achieving SDG8 will require a wholesale reform of our morally bankrupt financial system in order to tackle rising debts, economic uncertainties and trade tensions, while promoting equitable pay and decent work for young people. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8
UN Sustainable Development Goal 9 related to entrepreneurship through building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	**Description:** The manufacturing industry's recovery from COVID-19 remains incomplete and uneven: some high-income regions achieved record-high manufacturing value added per capita in 2022 but levels in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) were not much higher than the 2015 baseline. In the aftermath of the pandemic, data show that higher-technology industries recovered faster and proved to be more resilient, pointing to the need to promote innovation and technology transfer in a way that benefits all countries. To achieve Goal 9 by 2030 it is essential to support LDCs, invest in advanced technologies, lower carbon emissions, and increase global mobile broadband access. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9
SME strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe	**Description:** With the SME strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe, the European Commission wants to support and empower SMEs of all sizes and sectors, from innovative tech start-ups to traditional crafts. **Background information:** https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-strategy_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0403
COSME - Europe's programme for small and medium-sized enterprises	**Description:** COSME, the programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), funds many initiatives that help small businesses access new markets. The promotion of entrepreneurship and an entrepreneurial culture is also one of the main objectives of COSME. **Background information:** https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/cosme_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0690

Start-Up and Scale-Up initiative	**Description:** This initiative aims at improving the conditions for startups to scaleup, create more jobs and enhance Europe's competitiveness. The Commission communication on the Startup and Scaleup initiative is part of the strategy to make a deeper and fairer single market, creating opportunities for consumers and businesses and, helping SMEs and startups to grow. The main proposals of the Startup and Scale up initiative are: To remove barriers for startups to scaleup in the Single Market; To create better opportunities for partnership, commercial opportunities and skills; To facilitate the access to finance. **Background information:** https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/new-initiative-startups-start-and-scale-europe#:~:text=The%20main%20proposals%20of%20the,facilitate%20the%20access%20to%20finance **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2016:733:FIN
Horizon Europe	**Description:** Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion. It tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth. The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It supports creating and better dispersing of excellent knowledge and technologies. It creates jobs, fully engages the EU's talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area. **Background information:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695
European Innovation Council (EIC)	**Description:** The EIC is Europe's flagship innovation programme to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and game changing innovations. The European Innovation Council (EIC) has been established under the EU Horizon Europe programme. It has a budget of €10.1 billion to support game changing innovations throughout the lifecycle from early-stage research, to proof of concept, technology transfer, and the financing and scale up of start-ups and SMEs. **Background information:** https://eic.ec.europa.eu/index_en
Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	**Description:** Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a cross-border programme facilitating the exchange of entrepreneurial and management experience. The exchange is implemented by a stay of a newly established or potential entrepreneur with a well-experienced entrepreneur running a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) in

	another country. Since its launch in 2009, the scheme's number of applications from new and host entrepreneurs willing to participate in the programme has constantly increased and currently we have organised over 10,700 exchanges. **Background information:** https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/supporting-entrepreneurship/erasmus-young-entrepreneurs_en

PRIORITY 2 - A greener, low-carbon and resilient Mediterranean

Specific Objective 2.1 - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	
A Renovation Wave for Europe – Greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives	**Description:** To pursue the dual ambition of energy gains and economic growth, in 2020 the Commission published the strategy "A Renovation Wave for Europe – Greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives" to boost renovation in the EU. It aims to double annual energy renovation rates in the next 10 years. As well as reducing emissions, these renovations will enhance quality of life for people living in and using the buildings, and should create many additional green jobs in the construction sector. The Renovation Wave identifies 3 focus areas: • Tackling energy poverty and worst-performing buildings • Public buildings and social infrastructure • Decarbonising heating and cooling **Background information:** https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficient-buildings/renovation-wave_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1603122220757&uri=CELEX:52020DC0662
European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition	**Description:** This initiative brings together EU countries, financial institutions and other stakeholders, to identify actions to concretely improve private financing for energy efficiency. The objectives of the Coalition are to create a favourable market environment for energy efficiency investments and to scale up the private funding needed in energy efficiency to help achieve the EU's energy and climate targets for 2030 and 2050. **Background information:** https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/financing/european-energy-efficiency-financing-coalition_en
International Renewable	**Description**: The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is a lead global intergovernmental agency for energy transformation that serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, supports countries in their energy transitions,

Energy Agency (IRENA)	and provides state of the art data and analyses on technology, innovation, policy, finance and investment. IRENA drives the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, including bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, and energy security, for economic and social resilience and prosperity and a climate-proof future. **Background information:** https://www.irena.org/
Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)	**Description:** CBAM is the EU's tool to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries. By confirming that a price has been paid for the embedded carbon emissions generated in the production of certain goods imported into the EU, the CBAM will ensure the carbon price of imports is equivalent to the carbon price of domestic production, and that the EU's climate objectives are not undermined. The CBAM is designed to be compatible with World Trade Organization rules. **Background information:** https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism_en
UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"	**Description:** Access to electricity and clean cooking fuels has improved in many parts of the world, but 675 million people are yet to be connected to the grids and 2.3 billion are still cooking with unsafe and polluting fuels. The war in Ukraine and global economic uncertainty continue to cause significant volatility in energy prices, leading some countries to raise investments in renewables and others to increase reliance on coal, putting the green transition at risk. If the current pace continues, about 660 million people will still lack access to electricity and close to 2 billion people will continue to rely on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking by 2030. To ensure access to energy for all by 2030, we must accelerate electrification, increase investments in renewable energy sources and invest in improving electricity grids. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7
LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme	**Description:** Building on the success of the Intelligent Energy Europe (2003-2013) and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (2014-2020) programmes, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme continues to support the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy, in particular, the European Green Deal, the Energy Union (2030 energy and climate targets) and the European Union's 2050 long-term decarbonisation strategy. The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme has a budget of nearly EUR 1 billion over the period of 2021-2027 and aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy by funding coordination and support actions (Other Action Grants) across Europe **Background information:** https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/clean-energy-transition_en

Commentato [S,J1]: It would be more relevant to move this to the section : Specific Objective 2.1 - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Energy	**Description:** Ministers from the 42 member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean signed a declaration on 14 June 2021 underlining their commitment to decarbonising the energy sector in the fight against climate change. At the third Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) ministerial meeting on energy, the agreed text confirms the intention to set a new clean energy transition pathway for the region, as well as priorities for strengthened regional cooperation in the energy sector. **Background information:** https://commission.europa.eu/news/union-mediterranean-ministers-sign-declaration-clean-energy-transition-2021-06-14_en#:~:text=At%20the%20third%20Union%20for,cooperation%20in%20the%20energy%20sector **Document:**https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/3rd-UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-on-Energy-14-June-2021-1.pdf
Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Action	**Description:** Ministers from the 42 Member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in occasion of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate action, agreed on a common agenda to strengthen efforts in the Euro-Mediterranean region to urgently tackle the multiple climate and environmental challenges it faces. This commitment reflects the highest possible ambition in accelerating transition towards sustainable, climate-neutral and green economies. **Background information:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/ministerial-climate-environment-2021/ **Document:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UfM-ministerial-declaration-ENV-CA_final-1-1.pdf
Union for the Mediterranean Strategic Action Plan on Urban development 2040	**Description:** The UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 offers a framework for integrated, sustainable urban development across the Euro-Mediterranean region by encouraging coordination of policy and action and by promoting partnerships around the planning and design of the built environment; by highlighting the role of the conservation of cultural heritage in urban regeneration and sustainable development; by promoting local empowerment and capacity building; by encouraging citizen engagement; and by supporting implementation and monitoring of urban and regional spatial interventions. **Background information:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/urban-agenda/ **Document:** https://south.euneighbours.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/UfM_Strategic_Urban_Development_Action_Plan_2040-1.pdf
WestMED Initiative	**Description:** The WestMED Initiative has been created to help public institutions, academia, local communities, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs from both sides of the Western Mediterranean develop local and regional maritime projects together. It focuses on local and regional challenges, provides knowledge on the blue economy, shares opportunities in the region with the WestMED Community, helps match stakeholders with the right partners, and supports them in developing successful projects.

	Background information: https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/westmed-initiative/
Specific Objective 2.2 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches	
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)	**Description:** The Barcelona Convention aims to take all appropriate measures to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development. **Background information:**https://www.unep.org/unepmap/who-we-are/barcelona-convention-and-protocols **Document:** https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7096/BarcelonaConvention_Consolidated_eng.pdf
UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"	**Description:** Water and sanitation are at the core of sustainable development, and the range of services they provide underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. However, in recent decades overexploitation, pollution, and climate change have led to severe water stress in locales across the world. While SDG 6 is the most recent iteration of the United Nations' aim to address water-related issues, the topic has long been a concern at the United Nations. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6
UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate	**Description:** The world is on the brink of a climate catastrophe and current actions and plans to address the crisis are insufficient. Without transformative action starting now and within this decade to reduce greenhouse gas emissions deeply and rapidly in all sectors, the 1.5°C target will be at risk and with it the lives of more than 3 billion people. Failure to act leads to intensifying heatwaves, droughts, flooding, wildfires, sea-level rise, and famines. Emissions should already be decreasing now and will need to

change and its impacts"	be cut almost by half by 2030 - a mere seven years from now. To combat climate change and its impacts by 2030, urgent and transformative action is needed to meet the commitments under the Paris Agreement across mitigation and adaptation efforts. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13
UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"	**Description:** Destructive trends in ocean health have not abated. The ocean, the world's largest ecosystem, continues to be endangered by rising acidification, eutrophication, declining fish stocks and mounting plastic pollution. While there has been some progress in expanding marine protected areas and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing over the years, more concerted efforts and acceleration are urgently needed. Urgent and coordinated global action is needed to continue to advance towards SDG14. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14
UN Sustainable Development Goal 15 "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse"	**Description:** The world is facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. The trend in forest loss, land degradation and the extinction of species is becoming worse, posing a severe threat to the health of the planet and people. Goal 15 will not be met without a dramatic shift in our relationship with our natural environment. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15
UN Sendai Framework for	**Description:** Endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), the Sendai Framework advocates for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health

Disaster Risk Reduction	and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk, but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. **Background information:** https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework **Document**: https://www.undrr.org/media/16176/download
EU Adaptation Strategy	**Description:** The European Commission adopted its new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change on 24 February 2021.The new strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.The Strategy has four main objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change. **Background information:** https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/adaptation-climate-change/eu-adaptation-strategy_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:82:FIN
European Climate Pact	**Description:** The European Climate Pact is a movement of people united around a common cause, each taking steps in their own worlds to build a more sustainable Europe. Launched by the European Commission, the Pact is part of the European Green Deal and is helping the EU to meet its goal to become climate-neutral by 2050. **Background information:** https://climate-pact.europa.eu/index_en
'Farm to Fork' strategy	**Description:** The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. Putting our food systems on a sustainable path also brings new opportunities for operators in the food value chain. New technologies and scientific discoveries, combined with increasing public awareness and demand for sustainable food, will benefit all stakeholders. The Farm to Fork Strategy aims to accelerate our transition to a sustainable food system. **Background information:** https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/farm-fork-strategy_en
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	**Description:** The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments. **Background information:** https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52020DC0380

EU Nature Restoration Law	**Description :** The Nature Restoration Law is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law of its kind. It is a key element of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. **Background information:** https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/nature-restoration-law_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1991
EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters	**Description:** With a 2030 target, the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters" aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments. The Mission's new approach will address the ocean and waters as one and play a key role in achieving climate neutrality and restoring nature. **Background information:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters_en#documents **Document**: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0609
Global Centre for Climate Mobility	**Description:** The Global Centre for Climate Mobility is a global partnership enabled by UN Member States and supported by relevant agencies of the UN system, the World Bank, and respective regional intergovernmental organizations to address climate-forced migration and displacement, in the world's most climate vulnerable regions, including the Middle East and Africa. Through its regional initiatives, the Global Centre for Climate Mobility aims to generate data and analysis, develop regional Agendas for Action, and mobilize political support for locally anchored solutions to anticipate and address climate mobility. **Background information:** https://climatemobility.org/
Specific Objective 2.3 - Promoting access to water and sustainable water management	
UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"	**Description:** Water and sanitation are at the core of sustainable development, and the range of services they provide underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. However, in recent decades overexploitation, pollution, and climate change have led to severe water stress in locales across the world. While SDG 6 is the most recent iteration of the United Nations' aim to address water-related issues, the topic has long been a concern at the United Nations. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6

UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"	**Description:** The world is on the brink of a climate catastrophe and current actions and plans to address the crisis are insufficient. Without transformative action starting now and within this decade to reduce greenhouse gas emissions deeply and rapidly in all sectors, the 1.5°C target will be at risk and with it the lives of more than 3 billion people. Failure to act leads to intensifying heatwaves, droughts, flooding, wildfires, sea-level rise, and famines. Emissions should already be decreasing now and will need to be cut almost by half by 2030 - a mere seven years from now. To combat climate change and its impacts by 2030, urgent and transformative action is needed to meet the commitments under the Paris Agreement across mitigation and adaptation efforts. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13
UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"	**Description:** Destructive trends in ocean health have not abated. The ocean, the world's largest ecosystem, continues to be endangered by rising acidification, eutrophication, declining fish stocks and mounting plastic pollution. While there has been some progress in expanding marine protected areas and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing over the years, more concerted efforts and acceleration are urgently needed. Urgent and coordinated global action is needed to continue to advance towards SDG14. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14
UN Sustainable Development Goal 15 "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat	**Description:** The world is facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. The trend in forest loss, land degradation and the extinction of species is becoming worse, posing a severe threat to the health of the planet and people. Goal 15 will not be met without a dramatic shift in our relationship with our natural environment. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15

desertification, and halt and reverse".	
EU Adaptation Strategy	**Description:** The European Commission adopted its new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change on 24 February 2021. The new strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050. The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change. **Background information:** https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/adaptation-climate-change/eu-adaptation-strategy_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:82:FIN
'Farm to Fork' strategy	**Description:** The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. Putting our food systems on a sustainable path also brings new opportunities for operators in the food value chain. New technologies and scientific discoveries, combined with increasing public awareness and demand for sustainable food, will benefit all stakeholders. The Farm to Fork Strategy aims to accelerate our transition to a sustainable food system. **Background information:**https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/farm-fork-strategy_en
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	**Description:** The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments. **Background information:** https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52020DC0380
EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters	**Description:** With a 2030 target, the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters" aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments. The Mission's new approach will address the ocean and waters as one and play a key role in achieving climate neutrality and restoring nature. **Background information:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters_en#documents **Document:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0609

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)	**Description:** The Barcelona Convention aims to take all appropriate measures to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development. **Background information:** https://www.unep.org/unepmap/who-we-are/barcelona-convention-and-protocols **Document:** https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7096/BarcelonaConvention_Consolidated_eng.pdf
Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Energy	**Description:** Ministers from the 42 member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean signed a declaration on 14 June 2021 underlining their commitment to decarbonising the energy sector in the fight against climate change. At the third Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) ministerial meeting on energy, the agreed text confirms the intention to set a new clean energy transition pathway for the region, as well as priorities for strengthened regional cooperation in the energy sector. **Background information:** https://commission.europa.eu/news/union-mediterranean-ministers-sign-declaration-clean-energy-transition-2021-06-14_en#:~:text=At%20the%20third%20Union%20for,cooperation%20in%20the%20energy%20sector **Document:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/3rd-UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-on-Energy-14-June-2021-1.pdf
Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Action	**Description:** Ministers from the 42 Member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in occasion of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate action, agreed on a common agenda to strengthen efforts in the Euro-Mediterranean region to urgently tackle the multiple climate and environmental challenges it faces. This commitment reflects the highest possible ambition in accelerating transition towards sustainable, climate-neutral and green economies. **Background information:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/ministerial-climate-environment-2021/ **Document:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UfM-ministerial-declaration-ENV-CA_final-1-1.pdf
WestMED Initiative's priority on skills development and circulation	**Description:** The WestMED Initiative has been created to help public institutions, academia, local communities, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs from both sides of the Western Mediterranean develop local and regional maritime projects together. It focuses on local and regional challenges, provides knowledge on the blue economy, shares opportunities in the region with the WestMED Community, helps match stakeholders with the right partners, and supports them in developing successful projects. Skills development and circulation is among the six priorities of the WestMED initiative.

	Background information: https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/westmed-initiative/
Specific objective 2.4 - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy	
UN Sustainable Development Goal 12 "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"	**Description:** Sustainable growth and development require minimizing the natural resources and toxic materials used, and the waste and pollutants generated, throughout the entire production and consumption process. Sustainable Development Goal 12 encourages more sustainable consumption and production patterns through various measures, including specific policies and international agreements on the management of materials that are toxic to the environment. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal12
UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"	**Description:** Destructive trends in ocean health have not abated. The ocean, the world's largest ecosystem, continues to be endangered by rising acidification, eutrophication, declining fish stocks and mounting plastic pollution. While there has been some progress in expanding marine protected areas and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing over the years, more concerted efforts and acceleration are urgently needed. Urgent and coordinated global action is needed to continue to advance towards SDG14. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14
UN Sustainable Development Goal 15 "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests,	**Description:** The world is facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. The trend in forest loss, land degradation and the extinction of species is becoming worse, posing a severe threat to the health of the planet and people. Goal 15 will not be met without a dramatic shift in our relationship with our natural environment. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15

combat desertification, and halt and reverse".	
EU Circular Plastics Alliance	**Description:** The Circular Plastics Alliance aims to boost the EU market for recycled plastics to 10 million tonnes by 2025. The alliance covers the full plastics value chains and includes over 300 organisations representing industry, academia and public authorities. New stakeholders can join the alliance by signing its declaration. **Background information:** https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/industrial-alliances/circular-plastics-alliance/commitments-and-deliverables-circular-plastics-alliance_en **Document**: https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/36361/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native
European Raw Materials Alliance	**Description:** The European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) aims to make Europe economically more resilient by diversifying its supply chains, creating jobs, attracting investments to the raw materials value chain, fostering innovation, training young talents and contributing to the best enabling framework for raw materials and the Circular Economy worldwide. The Alliance addresses the challenge of securing access to sustainable raw materials, advanced materials, and industrial processing know-how. By 2030, ERMA's activities will increase the production of raw and advanced materials and address Circular Economy by boosting the recovery and recycling of Critical Raw Materials. More specifically, the Alliance will: • Bolster the creation of environmentally sustainable and socially equitable innovations and infrastructure • Implement a Circular Economy of complex products like electric vehicles, clean tech, and hydrogen equipment • Support Europe's raw materials industry capability, to extract, design, manufacture and recycle materials • Promote innovation, strategic investment, and industrial production across specific value chains **Background information:** https://erma.eu/
EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)	**Description:** The new Circular Economy Action Plan – one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal – aims to reduce the EU's consumption footprint and double its circular material use rate in the coming decade, while boosting economic growth. **Background information:** https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en **Document**: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1583933814386&uri=COM:2020:98:FIN

EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters (Mediterranean zero pollution lighthouse)	**Description:** With a 2030 target, the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters" aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments. The Mission's new approach will address the ocean and waters as one and play a key role in achieving climate neutrality and restoring nature. **Background information:**https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters_en#documents **Document**: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0609
EU Directive on repair of goods	**Description**: The Directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods was adopted on 13 June 2024 and entered into force on 30 July 2024. Member States have to transpose it into national rules and apply it from 31 July 2026. This instrument aims at promoting more sustainable consumption by increasing repair and reuse of goods both within and outside the legal guarantee. It delivers on the Commission's priority of green transition, specifically the European Green Deal. The Directive aims at encouraging consumers to use their goods for longer thus preventing premature disposal of repairable goods. It establishes a number of measures to promote repair. **Background information:** https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/consumer-protection-law/consumer-contract-law/directive-repair-goods_en **Document**: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024L1799
EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles	**Description:** The strategy looks at the entire lifecycle of textile products and proposes coordinated actions to change how we produce and consume textiles. **Background information:** https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/textiles-strategy_en#:~:text=The%20EU%20Strategy%20for%20Sustainable,and%20the%20European%20industrial%20strategy **Document:** https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/textiles-strategy_en
SwitchMed initiative	**Description**: The initiative is aimed to speed up the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in the Southern Mediterranean, notably through the promotion of circular economy approaches. The programme aims at achieving productive, circular and sharing economies in the Mediterranean by changing the way goods and services are consumed and produced so that human development is decoupled from environmental degradation. Its activities benefit 8 countries in the Southern Mediterranean: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The programme supports policy makers, eco-innovative small and medium sized enterprises, industries, start-ups and entrepreneurs in the Southern Mediterranean

	countries, which have identified job creation and natural resource protection as priority issues that also contribute to their economic stability. **Background information:** https://switchmed.eu/
Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Energy	**Description:** Ministers from the 42 member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean signed a declaration on 14 June 2021 underlining their commitment to decarbonising the energy sector in the fight against climate change. At the third Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) ministerial meeting on energy, the agreed text confirms the intention to set a new clean energy transition pathway for the region, as well as priorities for strengthened regional cooperation in the energy sector. **Background information:** https://commission.europa.eu/news/union-mediterranean-ministers-sign-declaration-clean-energy-transition-2021-06-14_en#:~:text=At%20the%20third%20Union%20for,cooperation%20in%20the%20energy%20sector **Document:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/3rd-UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-on-Energy-14-June-2021-1.pdf
Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Action	**Description:** Ministers from the 42 Member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in occasion of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate action, agreed on a common agenda to strengthen efforts in the Euro-Mediterranean region to urgently tackle the multiple climate and environmental challenges it faces. This commitment reflects the highest possible ambition in accelerating transition towards sustainable, climate-neutral and green economies. **Background information:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/ministerial-climate-environment-2021/ **Document:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UfM-ministerial-declaration-ENV-CA_final-1-1.pdf

PRIORITY 3 - A more social and inclusive Mediterranean

Specific Objective - 3.1 Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training	
UN Sustainable Development Goal1 "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"	**Description:** Eradicating extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030 is a pivotal goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Between 2015 and 2018, global poverty continued its historical decline, with the poverty rate falling from 10.1 per cent in 2015 to 8.6 per cent in 2018. Nowcasts suggest that owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global poverty rate increased sharply from 8.3 per cent in 2019 to 9.2 per cent in 2020, representing the first increase in extreme poverty since 1998 and the largest increase since 1990 and setting back poverty

	reduction by about three years. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reversed the steady progress of poverty reduction over the past 25 years. This unprecedented reversal is being further exacerbated by rising inflation and the impacts of the war in Ukraine. It is estimated that these combined crises will lead to an additional 75 million–95 million people living in extreme poverty in 2022, compared with pre-pandemic projections. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal1
UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 "Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all"	**Description:** Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was already off-track to achieve its education targets. If no additional measures are taken, only one in six countries will meet SDG4 and achieve universal access to quality education by 2030. An estimated 84 million children and young people will still be out of school and an estimated 300 million student will still not have the basic numeracy and literacy skills they need to succeed in life. To deliver SDG4, education systems must be re-imagined, and education financing must become a priority national investment. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4
UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 "Gender equality"	**Description:** Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it's crucial for sustainable future; it's proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5
UN Sustainable Development Goal 8 "Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"	**Description:** Sustainable Development Goal 8 promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Roughly half the world's population still lives on the equivalent of about US$2 a day, and in too many places, having a job does not guarantee an escape from poverty. Slow and uneven progress in this area requires us to rethink and retool our economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under-consumption lead to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies: that all must share in progress. Sustainable economic growth will require societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality jobs that stimulate the economy while not harming the environment. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8
UN Sustainable Development Goal 10 "Reduced inequality"	**Description:** Sustainable Development Goal 10 aims at reducing inequality within and among countries. This SDG calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or

	economic or other status within a country. The goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, migration and development assistance. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10
European Pillar of Social Rights	**Description:** The European Pillar of Social Rights sets out 20 key principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems. The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan turns the principles into concrete actions to benefit citizens. It also proposes headline targets for the EU to reach by 2030. Delivering the Pillar of Social Rights is a shared responsibility for the EU institutions, national, regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society. **Background information:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1607&langId=en **Document:**https://op.europa.eu/webpub/empl/european-pillar-of-social-rights/downloads/KE0921008ENN.pdf
European Skills Agenda	**Description:** The European Skills Agenda is a five-year plan to help individuals and businesses develop more and better skills and to put them to use. **Background information:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223&langId=en **Document:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=22832&langId=en
European Education Area	**Description:** The Communication on the European Education Area outlines how cooperation can further enrich the quality, inclusiveness and digital and green dimension of Member State education systems. It shows how together, Member States can shape a European Education Area based on freedom for learners and teachers to learn and work across the continent and for institutions to freely associate with one another in Europe and beyond. **Background information:** https://education.ec.europa.eu/ **Document:** https://education.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document-library-docs/eea-communication-sept2020_en.pdf
Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)	**Description:** The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) is a renewed European Union policy initiative that sets out a common vision of high-quality, inclusive and accessible digital education in Europe, and aims to support the adaptation of the education and training systems of Member States to the digital age. **Background information:** https://education.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document-library-docs/deap-communication-sept2020_en.pdf

	Document: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0624
Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation	**Description:** The Blueprint as a key initiative to create new strategic approaches and cooperation for concrete skills development solutions in the industrial ecosystems as introduced by the updated EU industrial policy. **Background information:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1415&langId=en
Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition (DSJC)	**Description:** The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition (DSJC) is an EU initiative bringing together Member States, companies, social partners, non-profit organisations and education providers, who work to address the lack of digital skills in Europe. It offers organisations that take action to increase digital skills across Europe an opportunity to learn from peers and showcase their actions and impact. The actions done under the Coalition umbrella are key to reaching the Digital Decade targets. **Background information:** https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/about/digital-skills-and-jobs-coalition
Europe's Digital Decade	**Description:** Europe aims to empower businesses and people in a human-centred, sustainable and more prosperous digital future. The Digital Decade policy programme, with concrete targets and objectives for 2030, will guide Europe's digital transformation: skills, infrastructures, business, government. **Background information:** https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/europes-digital-decade-digital-targets-2030_en
Erasmus+	**Description:** Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.It supports priorities and activities set out in the European Education Area, Digital Education Action Plan and the European Skills Agenda. The programme also: supports the European Pillar of Social Rights; implements the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027; develops the European dimension in sport. **Background information:** https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/about-erasmus/what-is-erasmus
European Commission Skills for SMEs	**Description:** Digitisation of SMEs is an important and great challenge: from various evidence it is clear that SMEs are hesitant when it comes to adopting new technologies. Despite market volume or business growth opportunities, most SMEs keep lagging behind. The European Commission - Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - launched an initiative on "Skills for SMEs" to analyse the root-causes and remedy to this situation.

	Background information: https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/708138
EU Active Inclusion Strategy	**Description:** Active inclusion means enabling every citizen, notably the most disadvantaged, to fully participate in society, including having a job. In concrete terms, that means: adequate income support allowing a life in dignity at all stages of life; inclusive labour markets by making it easier for people to join the work force, tackling in-work poverty, avoiding poverty traps and disincentives to work; access to quality services, including social inclusion services - helping people participate actively in society, including getting back to work. **Background information:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1059&langId=en **Document**: https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=17619&langId=en
Long-term Vision for Rural Areas	**Description:** The European Commission has put forward a long-term vision for the EU's rural areas, identifying the challenges and concerns that they are facing, as well as highlighting some of the most promising opportunities that are available to these regions. The Vision proposes a Rural Pact and a Rural Action Plan, which aim to make our rural areas stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous. **Background information:** https://rural-vision.europa.eu/index_en
Union for the Mediterranean 'Skills for Success'	**Description:** Skills for Success – Employability Skills for Women provided disadvantaged women with the skills, knowledge and tools to enter the labour market, while developing women's roles within society. The programme helped participants build their employability by providing English language training, job-search tools and advice, and improving professional abilities, including computer and business skills. By promoting the economic empowerment of women in the region, the project helped tackle high unemployment rates among women educated to a secondary level in the Southern Mediterranean. It also aimed to boost the skills of the work force in order to support national and regional economies. **Background information:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/project/skills-success/
United Nations' Youth Strategy 2030	**Description:** Youth2030 acts as an umbrella framework to guide the entire UN as it steps up its work with and for young people across its three pillars – peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development – in all contexts. It seeks to significantly strengthen the UN's capacity to engage young people and benefit from their views, insights and ideas. It seeks to ensure the UN's work on youth issues is pursued in a coordinated, coherent and holistic manner. **Background information:** https://www.unyouth2030.com/about

	Document: https://www.youthpolicy.org/library/wp-content/uploads/library/2018_UN_Youth_Strategy_Youth_2030.pdf
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black	**Description:** The GFCM 2030 Strategy aims to preserve the heritage of fisheries and aquaculture as pillars for the livelihoods of Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal communities, ensuring their transformation into a productive and sustainable food system that contributes to thriving economies and healthy ecosystems. **Background information:** https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB7562EN **Document:** http://www.fao.org/3/cb7562en/cb7562en.pdf
Conference on Disability and Social Inclusion in the Mediterranean	**Description:** The 1st Conference on Disability and Social Inclusion in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, hosted in partnership between the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Spanish 'ONCE' Social Group, took place in Barcelona seeking to analyse three key challenges in the post-COVID era: the limitations that persons of disabilities face to access human rights and employment, the importance of a gender perspective in agendas and recovery programmes and the role of accessible tourism. **Background information:**https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-once-conference-disability-social-inclusion/ **Document**: https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/UfM_ONCE_DISABILITY_FinalReport_08.pdf
WestMED Initiative's priority on skills development and circulation	**Description:** The WestMED Initiative has been created to help public institutions, academia, local communities, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs from both sides of the Western Mediterranean develop local and regional maritime projects together. It focuses on local and regional challenges, provides knowledge on the blue economy, shares opportunities in the region with the WestMED Community, helps match stakeholders with the right partners, and supports them in developing successful projects. **Background information:** https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/westmed-initiative/

Specific objective 3.2 - Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care	
UN Sustainable Development Goal 1 "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"	**Description:** Goal 1 calls for an end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030. It also aims to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increase access to basic services and support people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal1
UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"	**Description:** SDG 3 aspires to ensure health and well-being for all, including a bold commitment to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases by 2030. It also aims to achieve universal health coverage, and provide access to safe and effective medicines and vaccines for all. Supporting research and development for vaccines is an essential part of this process as well as expanding access to affordable medicines. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal3
UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 "Gender equality"	**Description:** Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it's crucial for sustainable future; it's proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5
UN Sustainable Development Goal 10 "Reduced inequality"	**Description:** Sustainable Development Goal 10 aims at reducing inequality within and among countries. This SDG calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. The goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, migration and development assistance. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10
UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"	**Description:** SDG 11 aims to renew and plan cities and other human settlements in a way that offers opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and green public spaces, while reducing resource use and environmental impact. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11

European Health Union	**Description:** The European Commission is building a strong European Health Union, in which all EU countries prepare and respond together to health crises, medical supplies are available, affordable and innovative, and countries work together to improve prevention, treatment and aftercare for diseases such as cancer. The European Health Union helps: better protecting the health of our citizens; equipping the EU and its Member States to better prevent and address future pandemics; improving the resilience of Europe's health systems. **Background information:** https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union_en **Document**: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0724&qid=1605690513438
European Pillar of Social Rights	**Description:** The European Pillar of Social Rights sets out 20 key principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems. The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan turns the principles into concrete actions to benefit citizens. It also proposes headline targets for the EU to reach by 2030. Delivering the Pillar of Social Rights is a shared responsibility for the EU institutions, national, regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society. **Background information:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1607&langId=en **Document:** https://op.europa.eu/webpub/empl/european-pillar-of-social-rights/downloads/KE0921008ENN.pdf
European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing	**Description:** The European Innovation Partnership in Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-on-AHA) is an initiative that aims to foster innovation use of digital for active and healthy ageing. The concept of a European Innovation Partnership (an EIP) is of a partnership that can help strengthen EU research and innovation. A partnership brings together all the relevant actors at EU, national and regional levels across different policy areas to handle a specific societal challenge and involve all the innovation chain levels. The EIP on AHA was the first EIP created in 2011. It focuses on demographic change and the active and healthy ageing of the people of Europe. **Background information:** https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eip-aha
Enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market	**Description:** The vision outlined in the Communication on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market; empowering citizens and building a healthier society is to promote health, prevent and control disease, help address patients' unmet needs and make it easier for citizens to have equal access to high quality care through the meaningful use of digital innovations. It will also strengthen the resilience and sustainability of Europe's health and care systems. By helping to maximise the potential of the digital internal market with a wider

	deployment of digital products and services in health and care, the proposed actions also aim to stimulate growth and promote the European industry in the domain. **Background information:** https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/communication-enabling-digital-transformation-health-and-care-digital-single-market-empowering **Document:** https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=51628
5th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society	**Description:** The 5th UfM Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society was held in Madrid. UfM Member States adopted a Declaration with concrete and operational recommendations, actions and measures focused on four priority areas. These include enhancing legal frameworks; improving women's access to leadership in public life and decision-making; raising women´s participation in economic life and combatting and preventing violence against women and girls. **Background information:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-ministerial-strengthen-role-women-in-society-2022/ **Document:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/5th_UfM_Declaration_StrengtheningRoleWomenSociety_Final-_EN.pdf
Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)	**Description:** The Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) is a public-private partnership (PPP) between the European Union and the European life science industries. Our core goals are to translate health research and innovation into tangible benefits for patients and society, and ensure that Europe remains at the cutting edge of interdisciplinary, sustainable, patient-centric health research. **Background information:** https://www.ihi.europa.eu/about-ihi
Conference on Disability and Social Inclusion in the Mediterranean	**Description:** The 1st Conference on Disability and Social Inclusion in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, hosted in partnership between the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Spanish 'ONCE' Social Group, took place in Barcelona seeking to analyse three key challenges in the post-COVID era: the limitations that persons of disabilities face to access human rights and employment, the importance of a gender perspective in agendas and recovery programmes and the role of accessible tourism. **Background information:** https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-once-conference-disability-social-inclusion/ **Document**: https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/UfM_ONCE_DISABILITY_FinalReport_08.pdf

PRIORITY 4 - A better cooperation governance for the Mediterranean

Interreg specific objective 4.1 - Other actions to support better cooperation governance	
UN Sustainable Development Goal 17 "Partnerships for the goals"	**Description:** SDG 17 is a vision for improved and more equitable trade, as well as coordinated investment initiatives to promote sustainable development across borders. It is about strengthening and streamlining cooperation between nation-states, both developed and developing, using the SDGs as a shared framework and a shared vision for defining that collaborative way forward. It seeks to promote international trade and an equitable trading system. The Goal has 17 targets to be achieved by 2030, broken down into five categories: finance, technology, capacity building, trade and systemic issues. **Background information:** https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal17
Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth	**Description:** The Communication on strengthening innovation in Europe's regions aims to: • boost the innovation and competitiveness potential of the European Union's (EU) regions, as a basis for sustainable growth; • increase interregional cooperation, which is a key element in globalised economies; • increase the focus on less-developed and industrial transition regions; • improve and build on joint work across EU policies and programmes supporting innovation. **Background information:** https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2017/strengthening-innovation-in-europe-s-regions-strategies-for-resilient-inclusive-and-sustainable-growth **Document:**https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017DC0376
WestMed Initiative	**Description:** The WestMED Initiative has been created to help public institutions, academia, local communities, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs from both sides of the Western Mediterranean develop local and regional maritime projects together. It focuses on local and regional challenges, provides knowledge on the blue economy, shares opportunities in the region with the WestMED Community, helps match stakeholders with the right partners, and supports them in developing successful projects. **Background information:** https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu/westmed-initiative/