

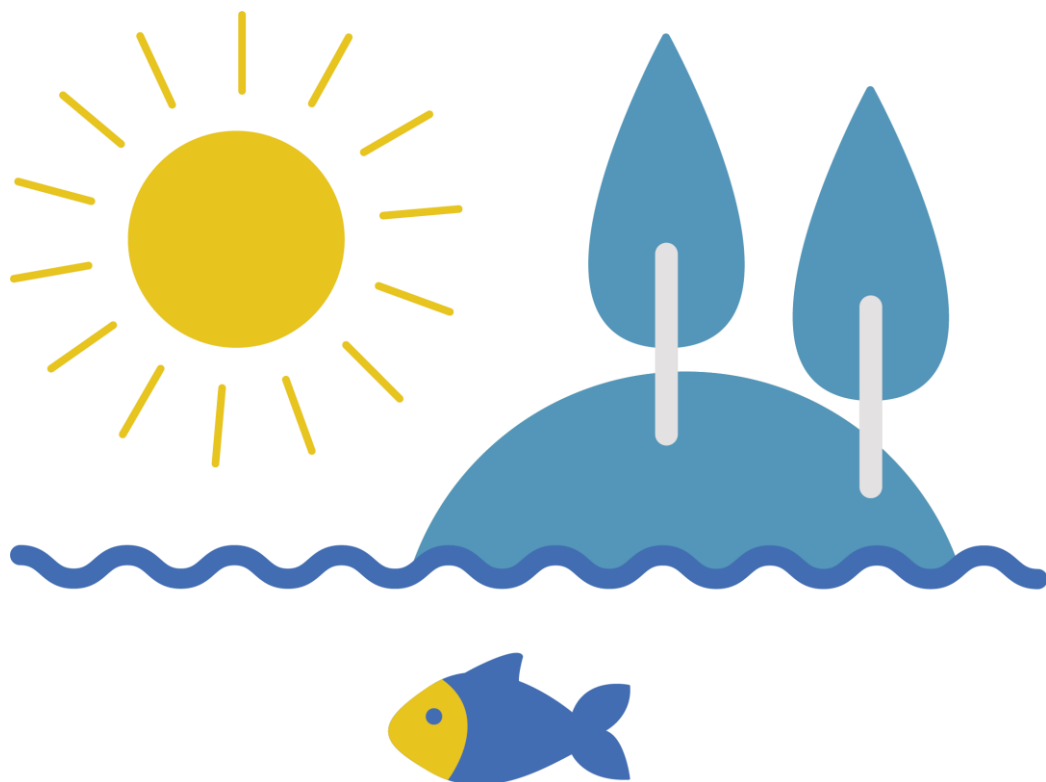


MedLab Annual Meeting



29 October 2025. From 13.30 to 16.00

MedLab Annual Meeting: Interreg implementation and role in the Mediterranean





Agenda_MedLab Annual Meeting: Interreg Implementation and role in the Mediterranean.

29 October 2025.

Background

The MedLab Annual Meeting brings together the key actors driving Interreg cooperation across the Mediterranean. Participants include the Managing Authorities and Joint Secretariats of the 17 Interreg programmes in the region, members of their Monitoring Committees, National Contact Points, representatives of the WestMed initiative and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), as well as colleagues from the European Commission (DG REGIO).

This year's meeting takes place at an important moment for the Mediterranean. The launch of the New Pact for the Mediterranean, and the European Ocean Pact are creating new opportunities for regional collaboration. These developments invite us to reflect on how Interreg can be further recognised as a successful instrument for cooperation in the region, and to define its role within the Pacts, as well as looking ahead to the post-2027 framework.

At the same time, it is essential to take stock of the achievements in the current 2021–2027 programming period. Programmes are advancing with calls and budget engagement, and first projects are already underway. Capitalisation and synergies are also taking shape, with KEEP.eu serving as the visibility and evidence hub, and INDEX supporting early detection of overlaps and acceleration of connections between projects and programmes. Among other coordination efforts, the Mediterranean Multi-Programme Mechanism (MMM) has successfully piloted joint action on sustainable tourism, providing a concrete example of how collective work can enhance visibility and impact.

This dual perspective, reflecting on current progress while keeping in mind the strategic and future dimension, will define the spirit of this year's meeting.

Objectives

The MedLab Annual Meeting aims to:

- Present the latest **policy and strategic developments** for the Mediterranean and explore **Interreg's role** within the **New Pact for the Mediterranean** and the **European Ocean Pact**;
- Review **programmes implementation progress** – calls, budget engagement, first results, and capitalisation/synergy activities;
- Consolidate tools for capitalisation (**INDEX, KEEP.eu**)
- **Share the developments from Mediterranean Multiprogramme Mechanism (MMM), SYNERGIES (Italy) and MEDCOOPNET** as pilot actions for coordination and synergies in the Mediterranean.



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13.30 – 13.40

Welcome & scene setting

- Opening by Jean Pierre Halkin. DG REGIO
- Purpose of the meeting. Interact and TESIM

13.40 – 14.05

Changing Mediterranean context

- The New Pact for the Mediterranean. Beatrice Grifoni, DG MENA and Roger Albinyana, IEMED
- European Ocean Pact. Iglia Yakova, DG MARE

Panel

14.05 – 14.55

Strategic discussion. Mercedes Acitores. Interact

- Interreg's added value for the New Mediterranean Pact and EU Ocean Pact
- Future of synergies in the region

Debate Format

14.55 – 15.10

Effective use of KEEP.EU, INDEX for capitalisation and synergies.

Rafael Agostinho and Janne Kiilunen. Interact

Presentation

15.10 – 15.30

Current programme implementation state of play. Rosario Sapienza. TESIM

- Calls launched and budget engagement
- Achievements and lessons learned

Presentation followed by Debate

15.30 – 15.55

Updates of Initiatives for Synergies in the Mediterranean . Diana Kobayter. TESIM

- National approach: *Sinergie* Italian strategic project for synergies. Luca Palazzo. Italian Presidency of Council of Ministers. Department for Cohesion Policy.
- Programmes approach: Mediterranean Multi-Programme Mechanism (MMM) Filippo Giabbani. Interreg Italy France Maritime. Managing Authority.
- Project approach: MedCoopNet Project. Alessandro Daraio. Emilia Romagna Region

Presentation and Q&A

15.55 – 16.00

Conclusions and next steps

- Closure by Moray Guiland. DG REGIO
- Next steps Interact and TESIM