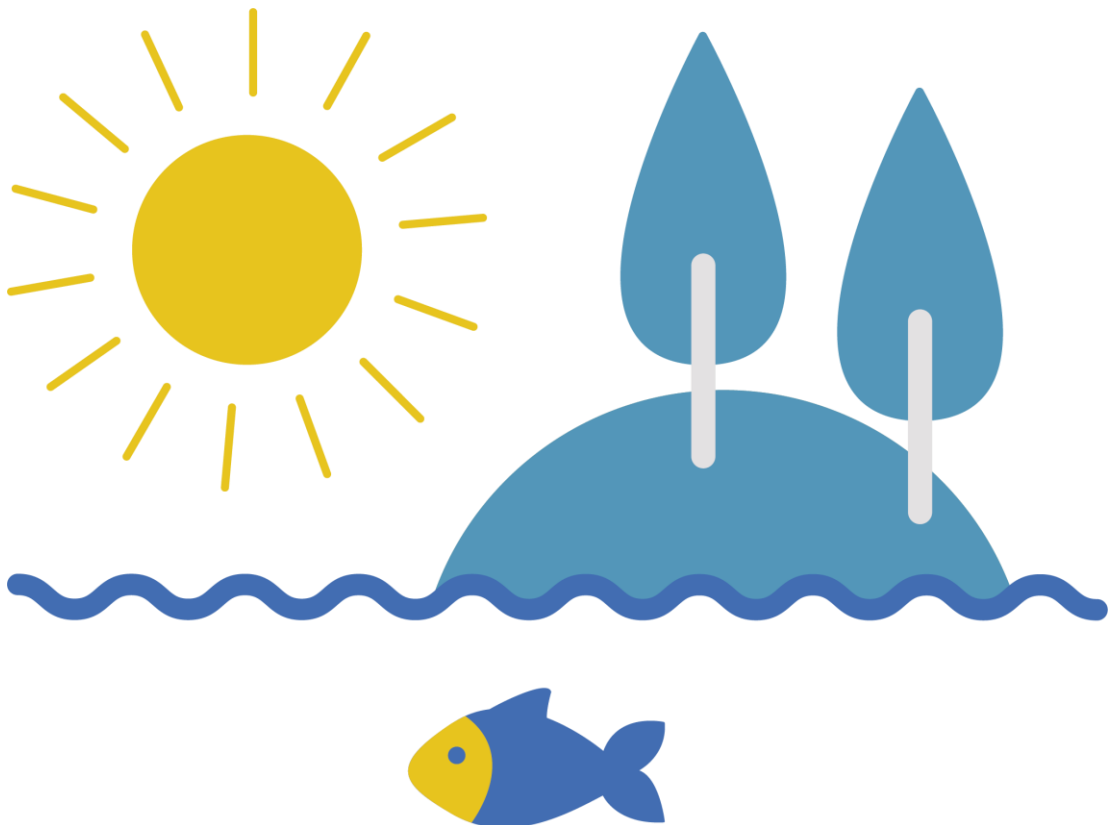


MedLab Thematic Week



20, 21 and 22 of January 2026. From 10-12h CET

MedLab Thematic Week: Connecting Mediterranean practitioners for better synergies





MedLab Thematic Week: Connecting Mediterranean practitioners for better synergies.

20-22 of January 2026.

Purpose and vision

The Mediterranean's challenges don't stop at borders — and neither should our solutions. This event is designed to explore how coordinated action can multiply impact across the region, through interactive and solution-focused sessions.

Our vision is to build a Mediterranean Community of Practitioners: a living network connecting Interreg programmes, national representatives, the European Commission, and field practitioners. The event provides a space to exchange experiences, generate insights, and shape actionable recommendations to strengthen synergies across Mediterranean Interreg programmes.

The Mediterranean itself stands as a living laboratory for cooperation and reform. In this context, the sessions will also explore how Interreg's evidence can guide a more responsive, effective, and results-oriented Policy. Together, we strive to promote meaningful and lasting collaboration across the region — turning shared challenges into shared opportunities.

Schedule: Three Thematic Sessions



10:00–12:00 CET each day

- **December 2: Focus on Water.** Managing a Shared Resource: Water Governance Across the Mediterranean
 - **December 3: Focus on Islands.** Island Voices in the Mediterranean Agenda
 - **December 4: Focus on Skills.** Empowering Mediterranean People Through Skills and Learning
- Horizontal aspect_ Interreg as a Policy Lab:** Impact and Reforming Cohesion in the Mediterranean

What Makes This Special?

Building on last year's successful experience, these sessions offer an interactive platform for practitioners and policymakers to exchange solutions and strengthen the impact of cooperation on shared Mediterranean challenges. The approach highlights the crucial role of project partners in fostering synergies across policies, funds and territories, while promoting dialogue and innovation to support resilience and contribute to the future design of Cohesion Policy post-2027.

Key Questions:

- How can Mediterranean regions better coordinate to address shared challenges through cooperation and joint governance?
- What opportunities exist to deepen territorial synergies across Interreg programmes, funds, and policies?
- How can reform efforts ensure that Mediterranean cooperation remains a driver of innovation, resilience, and territorial cohesion across the EU?



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Who Should Attend?

This event is tailored for:

- Practitioners with hands-on experience working with EU funds
- Interreg and other EU project experts
- Programme managers and national contact points
- Policymakers and regional stakeholders
- Representatives from UfM, WestMed, and EUSAIR
- DG Regio and other relevant DGs

The Goals of the Thematic Week

- To demonstrate that Interreg is actively “hitting the road” in the Mediterranean, addressing substantial regional challenges.
- To legitimise and give voice to a distinct group of experts — practitioners connected to the Interreg community — who, through their daily work, push the boundaries of innovation and embed it into territorial policies.
- To showcase the natural environment for a dynamic Community of Practice, one that operates beyond the EU framework and engages directly with the shared needs and challenges of the Mediterranean basin and its territories.

How We Will Achieve These Goals

- By showcasing concrete actions and practices — not simply projects — that effectively respond to common challenges.
- By giving visibility to real people and experts, representing diverse countries and territories across the Mediterranean, to highlight the richness and plurality of this shared “movement.”
- By encouraging exchanges through interactive Q&A sessions that foster smooth, informal, and engaging discussions.
- By creating a welcoming environment where participants feel comfortable, safe, and motivated to speak up and share.