

# Sustainable transport and ports in the Mediterranean

## EMFAF-2023-PIA-FLAGSHIP-3-MED

EU Project 101124786 POWER4MED, local environment of fuel transition FOR a green MEDiterranean. Duration: 21 months (01.11.2023 – 31.07.2025) EU contribution € 740.868

### Context

This is a decisive decade for shipping with the transition accelerating through new policies in the EU and the IMO's ambitious decarbonization strategy aiming for net-zero by 2050 (EU Green Deal, EU Fit for 55, IMO 4th Strategy). Transition toward carbon neutrality requires short & medium-term solutions for which several options are proposed, most of which are neither affordable nor yet fully available. Exploring and assessing all options for the decarbonization of the marine sector, in adequation with the increasingly ambitious IMO environmental targets is therefore essential.

### Overall Objective

POWER4MED focused on the WESTMED region and:

- evaluated maritime needs in terms of alternative fuels and fuel technologies that are available and affordable
- identified technologies that can offers short terms transitional solutions to the coming demand for carbon-neutral fuels ensuring compliance with emission reduction goals at horizons 2025, 2030 and 2040.

Dealing with such complexity is difficult for operators of small ships and ports: to help them the POWER4MED Supporting Structure was established, composed of a "Supporting Team" of multidisciplinary experts and a set of toolkits facilitating the transition to carbon neutrality of the 3 sectors targeted by the project: fishing boats, small commercial vessels/ferries and marinas.

### Project structure and specific objectives

POWER4MED was developed in three phases:

| PHASE<br>1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | PHASE<br>2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | PHASE<br>3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>Preparatory Actions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Studies and pilot applications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Development of tools</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>This phase aims at carrying out studies and assessments for phase 2 and 3 to be successfully carried out. It fulfils the following specific objectives:</p> <p><b>OBJ01</b><br/>Analysis of what operators are looking for and identify which are the available alternatives of fuels for operators</p> <p><b>OBJ02</b><br/>Assess the options for energy investments, addressing the need for short-term investments and cost structure for adaptation (towards a clear strategy for sustainable fuel bunkering)</p> <p><b>OBJ03</b><br/>Analysis of technological short- and medium-term alternatives towards decarbonisation</p> | <p>This phase is the core of the project as it fulfils the following specific objectives:</p> <p><b>OBJ04</b><br/>Assessment and pilot studies of adaptation costs for greening local infrastructures and vessels and gain their transition to fully sustainable sources of fuel and other energy/propulsion means</p> <p><b>OBJ05</b><br/>Study on regulatory aspects building on current consultations, aimed at the support of fleet transition (particularly south)</p> <p><b>OBJ06</b><br/>Assess and pilot studies of financial tools could be used towards decarbonisation</p> | <p>This phase aims at capitalising the experience/best practice by developing suitable tools which will constitute the POWER4MED Supporting Structure that will be active beyond the end of the project. Accordingly, this phase fulfils the following objectives:</p> <p><b>OBJ07</b><br/>Capitalise on experiences/models being developed in EU ports/shipping companies by developing sector/country POWER4MED tools (strategies, transition plans, capacity building tools)</p> <p><b>OBJ08</b><br/>Develop POWER4MED Supporting Structure as the mean to use results after the end of the project.</p> |

### Advisor Board and Stakeholders group

The Project team was assisted by the **Advisory Board (AB)** composed of 5 international recognized experts who provided recommendations and support on the identification of operators' needs and on the development of capacity building toolkits and by the **Stakeholders' Group (STG)** composed of more than 100 non-EU fishermen and operators of small ferries, ports and marinas who provided comments and information during 3 ad hoc workshops.

### Project Team



Contact detail and social channel: [power4med@gmail.com](mailto:power4med@gmail.com)



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## Promoting Sustainability and Innovation

Beyond its completion date, POWER4MED is providing targeted supports key players in the maritime industry—fishing boats, commercial vessels, ferries, and marinas—by providing specialized tools and expertise to improve operational efficiency, environmental performance, and resilience of coastal communities across the Mediterranean.

 POWER4MED PROJECT

## Results and POWER4MED Support Structure:

### ✓ Capacity Building & seminar:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> POWER4MED International Workshop

11<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Oran (Algeria)

Identify the needs

 First International Workshop

#### 2 POWER4MED Supporting Structure capacity building sessions

6<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Alexandria (Egypt)

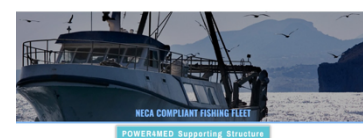
Official Opening of the Capacity Building Program.

Transfer of State-of-the-Art Knowledge and Technology Requirements for Green Transition Training Seminar

 Opening Ceremony of the Capacity Building Program

1-2 July 2025, Oran (Algeria)

Transfer of State-of-the-Art Knowledge and Technology Requirements for Green Transition Training Seminar



### ✓ KEY DEVELOPMENTS:

#### Practical toolkits

Tailored for fishing boats, commercial vessels, ferries and marinas. These toolkits offer hands-on solutions to enhance daily operations, sustainability, and overall efficiency.

#### Sector specific Training courses

Designed to meet the real-world needs with a practical and accessible approach.

#### Technical documents and informational materials

Presenting solutions, best practices, and replicable models. All these resources will soon be on the project's digital page, the ECA4Med platform.  [www.eca4med.com](http://www.eca4med.com).

This platform is acting as a digital knowledge centre designed to remain openly accessible to all the stakeholders with the aim of continuously sharing the ongoing knowledge sharing and tools developed through the project.



#### Expert Support

A dedicated team of technical experts including Prof. B. Beladjine, Prof. M. Dogliani, Prof. S. Kholeif, is available to offer customised support, technical advice and practical guidance to stakeholders interested in applying POWER4MED tools and approaches at the local level.

The technical team may expand in the future to meet the evolving needs of Mediterranean coastal communities.

## Our Commitment

POWER4MED continues to foster cooperation, innovation, and sustainability within the Mediterranean maritime sector.

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