

18.04.2017

BLUEMED - A basin of research and innovation for sustainable growth

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"Our efforts should be focused on developing Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and the promotion of relevant joint research ventures between the states. To this aim, it is important for us to work towards ensuring an enduring partnership between Mediterranean countries – a concept that the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union is striving for and that we will hopefully achieve, thus leaving behind a legacy that lives on even after these six months. This is what the Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport, Chris Agius said during his opening address at the BLUEMED – A basin of research and innovation for sustainable growth activity, which was organised in Malta by the BLUEMED consortium within the European Commission, represented by our country by the Maltese Council for Science and Technology (MCST) in collaboration with the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

This activity, spanning over two days, is a very important one as the consortium reached an important milestone by inviting for the first time Mediterranean countries which don't form part of the EU. This was an crucial step that will widen the agenda of the BLUEMED consortium and reach more citizens.

The Mediterranean Sea is the main topic of discussion, with sessions discussing themes such as marine litter in the Mediterranean. Moreover, presentations on various projects and existing best practices that promote the BLUEMED agenda will be given.

This activity comes at a perfect moment for the Maltese Presidency and the Maltese Council for Science and Technology as it coincides with the conclusion of negotiations after the PRIMA initiative; whereby EUR 400 million will be available for researchers choosing food and water in the Mediterranean as the focus of their research.

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