



Under the patronage of



## Launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Algerian Blue Economy Conference

The Mediterranean Conference for an Innovative and Sustainable Blue Economy

On October 15, 2024, Leancubator in collaboration with the Callmeblue MED project, under the patronage of the Ministry successfully organized the first edition of the Mediterranean Conference for an Innovative and Sustainable Blue Economy, Algerian Blue Economy Conference. The event, held at Dar Errais in Algiers, brought together over 200 key players from Algeria and nine Mediterranean countries, including Tunisia, Mauritania, Italy, Greece and Spain.

The blue economy represents a major opportunity for Algeria, a country with 1,200 km of coastline and a rich maritime heritage. Although this sector is still under-exploited, maritime and coastal activities, such as fishing, aquaculture, tourism and maritime transport, play a crucial role in supporting local communities and contribute significantly to the national economy, since according to an intersectoral estimate in 2019, no more than 7 million Algerians have, for their subsistence, a direct or indirect link with the sea. However, to fully exploit these opportunities, it is essential to adopt innovative approaches that promote sustainable practices and the integration of new technologies.

ABEC aims to address these challenges by fostering dialogue between key stakeholders, including national and international experts, policymakers, industry leaders and innovators to contribute to efforts to develop the blue economy, as well as regional cooperation, positioning Algeria as a regional hub for innovation and sustainability.

Discussions focused on how to transform Algeria's maritime sector into a long-term growth driver, reconciling economic development with responsible management of marine resources. By addressing current challenges in research and innovation, marine biodiversity, tourism, fisheries and aquaculture, maritime technologies, maritime infrastructure and transport, the conference contributes to enriching the strategic vision for the future of the sector and reinforces Algeria's contribution to the dynamics of regional cooperation.

The Algeria Blue Economy Conference also featured discussions on how startups and SMEs can contribute to this growing sector, emphasizing the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation, and highlighting the role of maritime clusters and cross-sector partnerships.

Leancubator, a major innovation cluster in Algeria, remains committed to promoting sustainable development based on innovation. By organizing the Algerian Blue Economy Conference, crowned by the signing of strategic partnerships with the Tunisian Maritime Cluster, as well as Greece's Maritime Center of Excellence, Leancubator has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the growth and development of players active in this sector, emphasizing the crucial role of innovation and cross-sector partnerships in building the future of Algeria's maritime economy.