

# Y-med

## Blue Economy

Active since 2018, **Y-MED** aims to **promote circular migration pathways and foster the circulation of skills in the Mediterranean region**. The project gives students and fresh graduates from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya the opportunity to develop their skills through a **internship programme in Italy**. At the end of the internship, the participants return to their **home countries and labour markets** where **they can apply the know-how acquired during their experience in Italy**. The project is funded by the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** and the **Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia**, and it is implemented by the **International Organization for Migration - IOM**.

The Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region has considered the Y-MED model as an opportunity to support and expand its ongoing international development initiatives in the Mediterranean. The Region currently manages a pilot activity in the area of fisheries, a key sector of the blue economy, to support local public services in Libya, with the **technical support of the Italian National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS**, and as part of the **EU co-funded REBUILD project** in the framework of the Nicosia Initiative.



The REBUILD initiative has been therefore integrated with an internship component, the **Y-MED Blue Economy** project, which supports the skills development of three young Libyans in the fishing sector by offering internship opportunities in Italian companies based in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region. In this framework, the **OGS, in collaboration with IOM, has lead the pre-selection of the Libyan candidates**, identifying suitable profiles. The profiles of the participants reflected the preferences expressed by facilities owned by the Libyan municipalities of Zliten and Tobruk, and answered to the need of veterinarians, biologists and specialized technicians emerged during the capacity building activities in Libya in the framework of the REBUILD Pilot Action on Fishery.

In this context, **three Libyan young graduates are currently spending a period of training in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region**. According to current European Union health and quality control regulations, training young professionals is a crucial and urgent step to enhance the qualification of the supply chain in the North African country. This is particularly important for revitalizing the health oversight of agricultural and fishery products intended for human consumption and for facilitating the inclusion of Libyan fish products in the international trade system and EU markets. Consequently, the **five-month on-the-job training offered in public and private companies in Friuli Venezia Giulia** presents an opportunity to strengthen ties between the involved regions and integrate participants into supply chain activities, with potential benefits emerging in the medium term.