

SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE

المتوسطة المستدامة

Keep the Mediterranean Litter-Free!

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Pour une Méditerranée sans Déchets!

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EDITORIAL

The MEDITERRANEAN ACTION DAY is an annual initiative of MIO-ECSDE, funded in part by the European Commission (through its annual activity funding of MIO-ECSDE), for its member organisations. It is a joint, small/medium-scale action conducted in many Mediterranean countries during the last four months of the year. The objective of the activity is to give the opportunity to the MIO-ECSDE member organisations to take action in the field, locally or nationally and be more visible to their target populations while tackling a "hot" environmental issue of their municipality, region or country.

The Annual General Assembly of the Federation decides on the theme of each year's Med Action Day. For the year 2006, it was dedicated to the "Keep the Mediterranean Litter Free" campaign which is a joint effort of MIO-ECSDE, HELMEPA and Clean-up Greece with the support and partial funding of UNEP and UNEP/MAP. It is being implemented in the framework of the *Regional Public Awareness and Education Activity related to the Management of Marine Litter* of the UNEP Regional Seas and the MAP Coordinating Unit. The objective is to strengthen the awareness of the decision-makers and the population both at local and national level about the necessity to curb the inputs of litter from land-based sources into the marine environment and reduce its environmental and socio-economic impacts.

MIO-ECSDE encouraged as many of its members as possible to participate in the campaign, which had as its first phase the period mid-September to December 2006.

Nine (9) events were organised by nine (9) Member NGOs of MIO-ECSDE in nine (9) different Mediterranean countries:

Egypt: Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)
Italy: Legambiente - Circolo Festambiente, Istituto per l'Ambiente e l'Educazione Scholé Futuro
Jordan: Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP)
Lebanon: AMWAJ for the Environment
Portugal: Etnia
Spain: Mediterrània CIE
Tunisia: Association for the Protection of Nature & Environment – Kairouan (APNEK),
Turkey: TEMA Foundation

La «JOURNEE D'ACTION MEDITERRANEENNE» est une initiative annuelle de MIO-ECSDE subventionnée en partie par la Commission Européenne (par le financement annuel des activités de MIO-ECSDE) pour ses organisations membres. Il s'agit d'une action de petite/ moyenne échelle organisée en commun par un grand nombre de pays méditerranéens pendant les quatre derniers mois de l'année. L'objectif de cette activité est d'offrir aux organisations membres de MIO-ECSDE la possibilité d'agir sur le terrain, au niveau local ou national, et d'accroître leur visibilité auprès des populations ciblées tout en traitant d'un thème environnemental particulièrement "brûlant" dans leur municipalité, région ou pays.

L'Assemblée générale annuelle de la Fédération choisit le sujet de la «Journée d'Action Méditerranéenne» de l'année. Pour l'année 2006, celle-ci a été dédiée à la campagne « Pour une Méditerranée sans déchets », organisée en commun par MIO-ECSDE, HELMEPA et Clean-Up Greece avec le soutien et le financement partiel du PNUE et du PNUE-PAM. Cette campagne est mise en œuvre dans le cadre de l'Activité régionale de sensibilisation et d'éducation du public sur la gestion des débris marins des Mers régionales du PNUE et de l'Unité de Coordination du PAM. L'objectif en est de renforcer la prise de conscience des décideurs et de la population à la fois au niveau local et national sur la nécessité de réduire les impacts environnementaux et socio-économiques.

MIO-ECSDE a encouragé ses membres de participer à la campagne dont la phase de lancement a eu lieu entre la mi-septembre et décembre 2006.

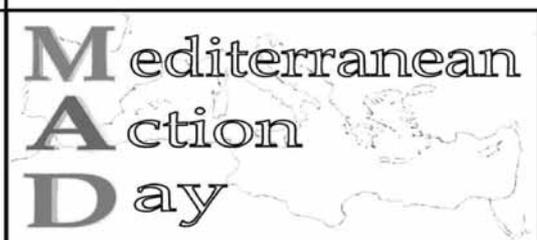
Neuf (9) événements / manifestations ont été organisé(e)s par neuf (9) organisations membres de MIO-ECSDE dans neuf (9) différents pays de la Méditerranée:

This issue of *Sustainable Mediterranean* provides a brief description of these events based on the reports and materials sent by the organising NGOs. It is a small tribute to the efforts of these NGOs and their capability and creativity in taking a small amount of seed money and organising events with a significant impact on their target groups.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with UNEP/MAP in order to continue in 2007 the regional awareness campaign on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean “Keep the Mediterranean Litter-Free”. Main actions foreseen are publication of the related poster in more Mediterranean languages, publication of a set of guidelines addressed to all of the stakeholders that are directly or indirectly part of the problem (maritime, tourism and other industries as well as local and national authorities, NGOs, etc.) on how to raise awareness appropriately in order to effectively tackle the problem. Links with other Mediterranean beach clean-up activities, etc. will also be explored as well as voluntary agreements with the private sector.

Ce numéro de *Méditerranée Durable* fournit une brève description de la plupart de ces événements / manifestations se fondant sur les rapports et documents envoyés par les ONG organisatrices. Il s’agit d’un petit tribut aux efforts fournis par ces ONG ainsi qu’à leur aptitude et leur créativité dont elles témoignent en organisant des événements / manifestations ayant un impact significatif sur leur audience cible tout en disposant d’un petit budget.

Un Mémorandum d’Entente a été signé avec le PNUE/PAM afin de poursuivre en 2007 la campagne régionale de sensibilisation sur les déchets marins en Méditerranée « Pour une Méditerranée sans déchets ». Les actions principales prévues comprennent la publication d’une affiche en plusieurs langues méditerranéennes, la publication de lignes directrices s’adressant à toutes les parties prenantes, qu’elles soient concernées directement ou indirectement par le problème (le secteur maritime, le secteur touristique et d’autres comme l’industrie ainsi que les collectivités locales, les autorités nationales, les ONG, etc.), sur les moyens de sensibiliser les audiences de manière à efficacement résoudre le problème. Des synergies avec d’autres actions de nettoyage de plages ainsi que des accords volontaires avec le secteur privé seront également recherchés.



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“Keep the Mediterranean Litter Free” campaign as combined with the MIO-ECSDE MED ACTION DAY 2006

EGYPT

Clean up the river Nile!



AOYE
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The MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Action Day (MAD) 2006, jointly with the “Keep the Mediterranean Litter-Free” and the “Clean Up the Mediterranean” campaigns were implemented in more than twenty governorates in Egypt. AOYE chose to focus the theme on “Clean up the River Nile” and succeeded in holding the events under the auspices of the Governors; getting governmental support for the campaign; and securing the support of MobiNil “Mobile Service Provider” that partially covered the cost of producing posters, T-Shirts and Banners.

More than 2500 volunteers participated in the campaigns from the various governorates located on the Nile Basin. The main actions were to clean the river banks, canals and surroundings from the huge amount of garbage and pollutants that eventually end up in the Mediterranean Sea. Also a number of meetings/forums were held in the various governorates on the

importance of keeping the river clean not only because of the benefits to the river itself but also for the benefit of the Mediterranean. The campaign was covered by local and national media and clearly identified as an international campaign that was implemented at national level. It was the first year that the three campaigns were combined mostly due to the fact that AOYE is a member organisation of MIO-ECSDE and the focal point for Arab speaking counties in the Mediterranean for the Clean-Up the World campaign.

The community participation in the activities was very satisfactory. As a matter of fact the MAD/Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free campaign offered the “seed” for more targeted actions and financial contribution from the local and central government also in the near future.

The central event, the Cairo “Main Festival” took place at the Rod El-Farag Garden; the rest of the activities took place in 19 different Egyptian Governorates within the same week. Machinery assistance to collect the

solid waste from the middle of the Nile was a significant contribution to the campaign as was the very good collaboration with the municipality services that agreed to transport all of the collected waste to the dump. The activities of youths included the planting of some plants and trees.



ITALY

Clean up the Ombrone river!



LEGAMBIENTE
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The initiative was organized in the framework of the MIO-ECSDE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION DAY 2006 which was dedicated to the “Keep the Mediterranean Litter-Free” campaign.

The “Clean up the Ombrone river” action lasted half a day (October 14th 2006) and involved civil society, primary and secondary school-children, civil protection staff, etc. The Ombrone river is the second longest river of Tuscany and marks the boundary between the provinces of Grosseto and Siena. It crosses through the whole region and 4 municipalities of the Grosseto territory: Civitella Pagano, Cinigiano, Campagnatico and Grosseto and it empties into the Tirreno Sea near Principina village in the Regional Park of Maremma. The mouth of the river is largely polluted because of waste brought by the river.



The initiative gave the opportunity to tell people and particularly young participants about the importance of each and everyone's (the individual's) behaviour in our daily life, at home, at work, at play, etc. in order to reduce litter production and land-based activities that cause land, river and consequently marine pollution.

The civil protection staff and the personnel of Legambiente guided 2 groups through 2 different activities/workshops:

First activity: discovering nature and the river habitat
Second activity: how to manage the risk of river flooding; the importance of safeguarding rivers; links with the marine environment.

A cleanup activity was organised "Clean up the river Ombrone" with the cooperation of primary and secondary schools, civil society, public bodies and the Civil Protection department of Grosseto.

A press conference was also organised in order to stress the region's problems on litter production and management. The LBS protocol was mentioned as well as data collected by the Mediterranean Observatory of Legambiente about the main sources of marine pollution in the Mediterranean. The conference was focused



on land based activities which are estimated to cause 80% of the marine litter production in the Mediterranean basin. Press and TV were invited.

- A bookmark and poster with information on time of decomposition of litter was printed.
- An advertisement of the event was posted in www.nuovaecologia.it, the online magazine of Legambiente
- the outcomes of the events were widely disseminated on the local TV and newspapers.

ITALY

Alla scoperta del Mediterraneo



SCHOLÉ FUTURO ONLUS
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On the occasion of the MIO-ECSDE 2006 MEDITERRANEAN ACTION DAY – *Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free* campaign, the Istituto per l'Ambiente e l'Educazione (Institute for Environment and Education) Scholé Futuro onlus, the Pianeta Azzurro project and the magazine ".eco, l'educazione sostenibile", in collaboration with FNAC and the University of Trieste organised the meeting **Alla scoperta del Mediterraneo** (Discovering the Mediterranean), which was held on the 8th November at Fnac in Turin.

During the meeting three videos were shown and explained by two researchers of Trieste University, while the Ocean's Citizen Passport was given to each participant. The target audience was mainly composed of students (mostly 13-14 years old) but the holding of the meeting at the FNAC Store, located in the very centre of Turin, facilitated and enabled the participation of many citizens.

Presenting the marine litter problems (prevention, reduction and elimination of this type of pollution) through videos and holding discussions afterwards allowed for a very interactive experience for the participants which included also competent authorities.

Margherita Bersisa, Vice-President of Istituto per l' Ambiente e l'Educazione Scholé Futuro onlus, introduced the scope of the meeting. Afterward two researchers of the University of Trieste, Annarita Di Pascoli and Paola Frisenda, for many years now engaged in publishing and teaching and also creators of the DRD Project (Didactic, Research, Publication), showed the chance of discovering what the Mediterranean hides in its water and explained the risks connected to litter and other types of pollution.

The three videos:

“Acquacorrente”: Stefano Moretto, Istituto per l' Ambiente e l'Educazione Scholé Futuro onlus, created by Vincenzo Pampararo, Clelia Nichelini, Francesca Veturini, Stefano Moretto e Marco Ferro. “Acquacorrente” describes the water cycle, from the glaciers to the sea, passing through the taps. A journey that helps us to discover, in a profound way, how fragile water balance and quality is.

“Il mare di casa nostra”: Annarita di Pascoli, University of Trieste Researcher, editor of Pianeta Azzurro, DRD Project.

“Inquinamento nascosto” ...le alghe ci vengono in aiuto: Paola Frisenda, University of Trieste Researcher, DRD Project. Divers' emotions underwater, full of life and surprises of the Mediterranean sea. Poetries of Samuele Seretti accomplish a multimedia path enriched



by original music composed by Umberto Di Pascoli. Video by Furio Faidutti and Daniela D'Adda, photography by Archivio DRD Project.

During the meeting all the students received the Ocean's Citizen Passport, a card created during the WON - World Ocean Network (a network to which belong more than 600 institutions - aquariums, science centres, museums, NGOs, associations of 25 different countries sharing one purpose: promoting a sustainable behaviour and a correct use of the ocean's resources).

The collaboration with FNAC offered the opportunity to include “Alla Scoperta del Mediterraneo” (Discovering the Mediterranean) in its *monthly calendar* which is distributed in thousands of copies all over Turin. A *press release* was sent to the main local media (television stations, newspapers and radio stations) and news about the meeting was published in: “.eco, l'educazione sostenibile” (monthly magazine about environmental education); “Torino Sette” (the most important weekly magazine for events in Turin); “La Stampa” (national newspaper) and “Subacqva” (monthly magazine focused on water issues). Related information was also published online at www.educazione sostenibile.it. Finally, an article on the meeting was published in January in the magazine “.eco, l'educazione sostenibile”.



Clean Up the Dead Sea: Keep the Coast Litter-Free



LHAP
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Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP), is currently implementing a series of national projects addressing students 10-16 years of age to educate them about their rights and get them involved in political life with a long term goal to improve their economical, social and environmental situation. The project is functional in 8 out of 12 governorates in Jordan. The “third generation” of human rights is what the collective rights that touch all human beings are called, such as the right to development, right to water, right to a clean environment, right to safe food..., etc. Therefore, within this framework, on Saturday, 23 December 2006, the student parliamentarians representing 34 school parliaments were invited to gather at the Dead Sea to meet at the regional level and carry out a clean-up campaign. The participants, who were in total about 250 people, split into three groups and each undertook to clean one site in the Dead Sea.

The work done encouraged involvement and awareness raising of the observers and viewers on the importance of keeping their coast litter-free. The main sources of marine pollution in the Dead Sea coast come from domestic sources, tourism sector (hotels and day tourists) and agricultural activities.

Activities Performed:

- **A Regional School Parliament** composed of representatives coming from 34 school parliaments in 8 governorates with an approximate number equal to 110 students parliamentarians (equal to the members of the Jordanian Parliament) convened by the Dead Sea on the Greater Amman Municipality main tourist site. The meeting which was inaugurated by HE Mr. Amer Al-Basheer, Deputy of the Greater Amman Municipality was also attended by other officials including HE Khalid Brak, MP of the Jordanian parliament representing the North Eastern Badia, HE Dr. Sabri Rbehat, former Minister of Political Development, Mr. Halal Azzaam, Director of Education in Bani Kenanah, Mr. Mohammad Tamimi, Director of Education of Tafileh Governorate, partner organizations, teachers coordinating the school parliaments at the school levels and many sup-

porters and friends of LHAP making the total number of participants about 250 persons. The meeting started by welcoming speeches delivered by:

- Mr. Ziyad Alawneh, LHAP president
- Mr. Halal Azzaam, Director of Education, Bani Kenanah/ Irbid Governorate
- HE Mr. Khalid Brak, Jordanian MP
- HE Dr. Sabri Rbehat, former Minister of Political Development
- HE Eng. Amer Al-Basheer, Deputy Amman Mayor

During the meeting the Jordanian charter was distributed to every participant, a song on human rights was performed by Ajloun / Halawah Girls Secondary School and then a 10 minute play was performed by Rawdat Basma Girls in Badia tackling the issue of how families perceived the school parliament concept. After that, Parliamentarians met first and elected among themselves a president, two deputies and two assistants. The meeting which was solely run by the student parliamentarians discussed issues at the school level as well as issues of national importance. The meeting was concluded by an awards ceremony.

- **A Clean up Campaign of three sites in the Dead Sea:** This activity aimed to promote the interaction of the schools with their community in the framework of the



3rd generation of human rights which call for a clean environment and invites people to protect and care for their natural resources through enhancement of participation. 250 caps and an equal number of T-shirts were distributed to students, teachers and supporters. This activity shows how students and particularly student parliamentarians can interact with their own community through performing an action that can be replicated and inviting the public to take care of their surrounding environment.

LHAP follows the strategy of implementing actions using the method “Fun with Education” to encourage students and get them involved in the process. Having the meeting by the Dead Sea and inviting students from 8 governorates, was very exciting for them. The methodology of nominating parliamentarians was democratic. Directors of education were advised that each school parliament meet and nominate a fixed number of participants and this was done for the majority. The majority of the schools that participated, including their administration, saw the benefits gained out of this practical experience of exercising one’s rights, being involved in the political process of the country while practicing



responsibility and commitment to nature through the campaign performed by all the participating students and supporters.

The students were very excited about what they were doing. They were all very willing to contribute to the preservation of the beauty of their coasts and translating this will through exercising their duties and rights. As parliamentarians representing a wide range of students, they raised various related issues with their administration.

LEBANON

“Don’t throw in the Sea”

جمعية
أمواج البيئة
لبنان



AMWAJ of the Environment
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On 6/11/2006 AMWAJ of the Environment held a meeting at its center in Beirut in preparation for the Campaign “Don’t throw in the sea”, organised in the framework of the 2006 MIO-ECSDE Med Action Day dedicated to the “Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free” campaign. This meeting brought together LEF (Lebanese Environmental Forum), campaign members and a representative of Ayoub Graphics Est. The work program was proposed to organize the national campaign to stop dumping waste into the sea.

Ayoub Graphics Est. was in charge of leaflets, posters and other printed materials needed for this campaign. On 14/11/2006 a media conference was held in LEF center to launch the campaign with representation of media groups and local environmental NGOs. A Speech was given by the general secretary of AMWAJ Mr. Malek Ghandour, the Chairman of LEF Mr. Refaat

Sabaa and the expert Dr. George Abou Jawdeh, focusing on the objectives of this campaign, and the impacts on the marine environment from dumping thousands of tons of waste in post war Lebanon in the sea.

On 30/11/2006 AMWAJ organized a seminar in Beirut. Lots of environmental organizations, NGOs and municipalities participated in it. The aim was to inform about the campaign and efforts than can be made to minimize the amount of waste ending up in the Beirut dump and eventually the sea.

On 15/12/2006 a tour was made with reporters to the Dump of the Ouzai Beach, west Beirut international Airport, where the mountains of debris from the destroyed buildings caused by the last Israeli war in July 2006, rose so quickly. One Million and a half cubic meters mixed with concrete, plastic, metal, cartons, soil and glass, with lots of chemicals from the bombings and lots of POPs and



medical wastes. It is also a main source of dangerous to human health and the marine environment substances such as: dioxins, heavy metals, etc. During the tour it was identified that the campaign (Don't throw in the sea) had begun to give its first results: vehicles and workers had begun separating the materials. Workers gathered metal on the beach in order to pack it and export it abroad, cartons which were to be used again was separated for transport to local companies. As for the soil it was to be moved far away from the beach.

The general manager of transportation Mr. Abed El Hafez Koubaisi said: the responsibility of compiling such materials is the job of coast guards, but the job of the ministry of transportation, is to find sites to gather these materials and then move it to sites in Jiyeh, far away from the sea, where they can be treated to use in constructing streets and buildings.

PORTUGAL

“Blue Pictures: For a Litter-Free Mediterranean”



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The activity for the MIO-ECSDE Med Action Day 2006 was combined with the “Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free” Campaign. More than 20 coastal local authorities were approached in order to assist in hosting photo exhibitions with the title “Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free”, spreading the initiative’s goals and possibilities. A press conference was held to announce the initiative. The organization also produced a poster and an electronic-leaflet.

Two pictures received the “Blue Pictures’ Special Mention” award. It is hoped that this was but the first exhibition and that in 2007 a second round with an even better reaction from local/regional communities will follow.

As it happens quite often in Mediterranean social and cultural environments, the search for active participation of the citizen in community educational and awareness-raising initiatives and campaigns is not an easy task. Therefore, ETNIA believes that in the case of marine litter, more than just a single and isolated action are required to succeed in having a real impact. Launching a regular initiative combining the cultural with the environmental aspects would be the most appropriate action.

Concurso de Fotografia

IMAGENS DO AZUL:
Porque o Mar não é Lixeira!

Initiativa integrada no Dia Mediterrânico de Acção 2006

Outubro - Dezembro
2006

Mais Informações:
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Costa Vicentina (Portugal) - Photo by Jorge Martins
“Special Award” - Blue Pictures Photo Contest - Mediterranean Action Day 2006
PORTUGAL

“Keep the Mediterranean litter free!” radio campaign



CENTRE
D'INICIATIVES
ECOLÒGIQUES



MEDITERRÀNIA-CIE

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From November 20th till December 30th 2006, Mediterrània-CIE broadcasted a “Keep the Mediterranean litter free!” radio campaign, contributing to the MIO-ECSDE Action Day program. The broadcasting was in Catalan covering the whole of the 4 provinces in Catalunya: Girona, Tarragona, Barcelona and Lleida, since this is the most common language in the region. The main purpose of these messages was to inform and sensitise people about the litter problem of the Mediterranean sea, the effect on marine and coastal flora and fauna, populations of endangered species, the responsibilities of human activities such as commercial and sport fishing, the role of resorts and other tourist facilities and the use of Mediterranean waters as a gigantic litter reservoir.

Initially, this campaign was supposed to last only 10 days, but in the end Mediterrània-CIE managed to broadcast it for 40 days!

Statistics, actual facts, anecdotes and short stories were the main issues of the messages. Using common everyday conversations three different broadcasts were created:

1. Some kind of contest asking someone what things one can do in order to improve the Mediterranean

sea's quality. Using a little bit of sarcasm the point was made about how we would never imagine what the direct impact on the ocean's situation can be from some common things we do.

2. A simple conversation between a father and his son talking about the human impact on the sea, giving some actual facts about litter and how similar they are to big disasters such as the one of “Prestige”.
3. Another conversation between a father and his son talking about how many garbage men exist in different cities, and then talking about how many garbage men are along the Mediterranean ocean, making the son realize the big problem littering can be, since there are no garbage men for the ocean.

The campaign targeted everybody, the wider public with its varying interests and different levels of knowledge on the issue. The common denominator was that they all share something: they live their every day lives on the Mediterranean shore, and they just have to look after it.

The Mediterrània-CIE team suggested the campaign and decided the issues to talk about. Once the ideas were clear, the professional broadcasters were contacted in order to formulate a more realistic and convincing material. With Mediterrània-CIE's ideas, these professionals then created the campaign in Catalan.

- The average time for each broadcast was 25 seconds.
- The radio broadcaster Mediterrània-CIE worked with belongs to the group “Antena 3”, a very important broadcaster in Spain, using 2 different radio stations:
 - “40 principales” (entertainment)
 - “SER” (information)
- The broadcast frequency was enough to make the points clear, but not too much so as to annoy our audience: twice daily on two different stations.

TUNISIA

La Tunisie, les Déchets et la Méditerranée



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Le 15 Décembre 2006, à l'Institut Supérieur des Mathématiques Appliquées & de l'Informatique (ISMAI), dans le cadre de MedActionDay (Journée

d'Action pour la Méditerranée promue par le MIO-ECSDE avec le soutien de l'Union Européenne et du PAM célébrée dans 13 pays méditerranéens) s'est tenue une journée d'information sur les efforts conjugués de la Tunisie en matière de gestion rationnelle des déchets visant principalement l'implication de la population estudiantine dans l'action environnementale et la gouvernance des déchets.

Cette rencontre qui se déroulait en public nombreux et en présence du gouverneur de la région, du SG du RCD, du recteur de l'université de Kairouan et des invités Aïssa Baccouche, Adel Hentati et Leila Berrari, a été initiée par le président de l'APNEK M. Ameer Jeri-



Messieurs Ameer Jeridi et Mohamed Ali Drissa ont signé un protocole de partenariat entre l'APNEK et l'Université de Kairouan.

di et co-organisée par l'université de Kairouan avec le soutien du gouvernorat de Kairouan a permis de mettre en avant les points forts de la Campagne Régionale du PAM «*Pour une Méditerranée sans déchets*»

Cette initiative interagit de bon aloi avec les orientations du Programme du Président Ben Ali pour la *Tunisie de Demain*, véritable plan quinquennal exécutif de développement durable (2005-2009) accordant à la lutte contre la pollution, la promotion de la qualité de la vie, et au partenariat national et méditerranéen tout le mérite qui leur revient.

L'APNEK à la triple dimension locale, nationale et ré-



gionale s'est toujours distinguée par ses actions en matière de défense de l'environnement et de souci de durabilité du développement et par sa présence active et significative dans les réseaux et les manifestations les plus importantes de la société civile de la Méditerranée.

TURKEY

Where the river Dim meets the Mediterranean



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TEMA Foundation (the Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats) held a clean-up activity in Alanya on November 3rd 2006 despite the bad weather. The Dim River Basin is one of the most visited places of Alanya attracting national and international visitors. Recently it has been observed that the number of buildings on the coastline has dramatically increased in a haphazard way and with-



out appropriate infrastructure. Thus the Dim River is increasingly polluted as is the coastline. This, in combination with the serious soil erosion problems in the area was what made TEMA organise the Med Action Day 2006 event in this area and in combination with the "Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free" campaign.



In preparation to the “Clean Up” event, the aim of which was to raise awareness on the issues:

- the local press was informed about the event and the poster made for the event was sent to them. En-

gin Ozdemir, representing TEMA in Alanya for this project is a primary school teacher, therefore he had given in-class trainings to his students and to a few other schools.

- the mayor was informed about the event, and about the regional character of the campaign with its global dimensions.
- an invitation poster was published and distributed by volunteers to the local schools, hotels, shops, etc.
- local residents were invited to take part in the action through newspaper announcements.
- a presentation was given to 60 students at Muminler Primary School and 250 students and their teachers at Alantur Primary School before the event.
- big trash bags were secured for the event. Engin Ozdemir had a meeting with Alantur Hotel in the area and persuaded them of the significant contribution of the hotels and other tourist facilities in the area to the burdened by litter ecosystem. The hotel administration supported the effort by providing personnel and rubbish bags.
- A song was composed for the action to attract especially children’s attention to the environmental problems given that the participants were mostly primary school students.

The event was covered by the following media: Memleketim Alanya Newspaper, Yeni Alanya Newspaper (Ahmet Gülcan, Mithat Kara), RADIO FLASH, Alanya Postası Newspaper (Osman Dogançay), Alanya TV (Ülkü Nural), www.anadolubasini.com

ENVIRONMENTAL NGO MEMORANDUM ON CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Preamble

This text identifies priority areas for capacity building interventions that are necessary or useful for NGOs working on issues of environment and sustainable development (and civil society as a whole) in the countries of the South and East Mediterranean in order to be more efficient, productive and constructive in their work. Although this memorandum has been drafted on the basis of a brief consultation undertaken within the context of how NGOs of the region can contribute effectively to the implementation of *Horizon 2020*, the proposals included herewith extend even beyond the *Horizon 2020* initiative.

It should be noted, however, that without parallel policy and institutional reforms in the countries, capacity building interventions for NGOs as “stand alone” actions will not bear the expected fruits.

Preliminary identification of how NGOs of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries can perform better as environmental advocates, monitors and providers of services

The main contribution of NGOs to *Horizon 2020* could be in the following areas:

- ◆ informing public opinion and influencing decision making (from the regional all the way to the local level)
- ◆ contributing to the necessary procedures and helping the achievement of the needed consensus for reforms and long term sustainability
- ◆ promoting effective governance (transparency, accountability, etc.)
- ◆ effectively participating in project implementation (targeted thematic areas)

The first three areas require that NGOs are capable of

increasing awareness and catalyzing institutional changes while the last one requires that NGOs can also be reliable partners and acquire expertise and experience in running projects in specific thematic areas.

The aforementioned activities focus mainly at national level. However, a set of coordination actions will be needed at regional (Mediterranean) level in order to secure coherence and comparability of the outcomes.

1. Identification of priority areas of intervention in terms of strengthening the role of NGOs in catalyzing institutional changes (including in the areas targeted by Horizon 2020)

NGOs need to be strengthened in terms of their:

1. ability to access useful information and increase know-how on key institutional issues. This links with the level of in-house expertise necessary to respond appropriately and rapidly to questions and requests on issues of their competence by other stakeholders, e.g. local authorities, as well as by citizens.
2. ability to formulate, articulate and convey their opinion in a convincing way and engage effectively in negotiations. This relates directly to NGOs' ability to enhance value-added relations with other stakeholders and the society at large by effectively addressing them and ultimately by changing mentalities as well as by influencing policies and accelerating implementation.
3. ability to mobilize resources for their proper operation and for their activities.
4. capacity to develop, adapt and fulfill the prerequisites of appropriate functioning of a civil society organisation (democratic governance, accountability, representativity, legitimacy, transparency, organizational capacities, representation/visibility). For an NGO to achieve the above at an adequate level requires a lot of effort and support.

5. ability to function within the given “environment” in their countries (political, legal/institutional, socio-cultural and economic). This defines e.g. the degree to which civil society can engage effectively in environmental issues. It is linked with their specific needs and affects the capacity of NGOs to gain access to information, mobilize resources, associate, participate or engage in governance issues and provide basic service to its target groups.

To determine the level of capacity needs in 1-5 above on a country by country basis in the Mediterranean requires further investigation based on a combination of interviews, workshops, focus group discussions, questionnaires, etc.

Some basic types of capacity building intervention:

- › workshops (regional and national), study visits and residential workshops
- › manuals/kits, brochures, CD-ROMs, etc.
- › web products including best practices, e-forums and e-courses
- › effective networking
- › provision of technical support on legal, managerial and other issues
- › specific targeting of involved youth (next leadership)
- › trainings between North and South Mediterranean NGOs (exchange of staff)
- › twinning actions among NGOs from the region e.g. developing joint work programmes on issues of mutual interest
- › support to Mediterranean NGO networks in undertaking internal capacity building activities for their members and in operating antenna offices in the South and East
- › joint seminars for local actors, e.g. NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders, on exercising in consensus building. They may use as subject themes specific issues of H2020 such as water supply and sanitation, etc.
- › joint seminars for NGOs, local newspapers/journalists, etc. for development of local communication (newspaper coverage, radio/TV broadcasts) on issues central to *H2020*

2. Identification of needs in terms of strengthening the role of NGOs in the thematic areas (sectors) of Horizon 2020

In terms of capacity building in specific **sectors** e.g. on water, waste, energy, etc., existing specialized regional bodies (NGOs and others) can undertake the role of identifying the capacity needs and provide/share the expertise for capacity building. The point of reference will be activities suitable to be implemented by NGOs and other similar groups (participation in management bodies/committees, awareness campaigns, non-formal and informal education, capacity building among NGOs, monitoring e.g. of water quality, etc., guarding of protected sites, etc.) within the projects of *Horizon 2020*. The contribution and role of specific target groups: e.g. business, chambers, trade unions, youth, etc. could be considered within the same scheme as well.

3. Regional activities

The development and implementation of a regional framework encompassing all of the abovementioned is necessary in order to secure a minimum of standards and prerequisites and to introduce a set of appropriate indicators for capacity building at national level.

A Regional Public Participation Action Plan for *Horizon 2020* with national agendas for implementation should be developed to secure regional coherence and coordination. This would include:

1. a set of guidelines for capacity building
2. a set of indicators
3. one or two “demonstration” national plans
4. a report on the implementation, to be drafted in cooperation with the competent authorities and the coordination unit of *Horizon 2020*.

The report on progress made, based on the set of indicators to be developed specifically would be useful and effective in (a) assessing the contribution of civil society in the implementation of *Horizon 2020* and (b) in determining the progressive strengthening of the role of civil society in the countries of the region.

**Taking into account the point of view of NGOs
as water users**

- Making available safe water for drinking and sanitation as a basic human need is not only a technical problem but also a social challenge encompassing issues of ownership, human rights, individual and community rights; management concerns including the issue of water wastage, the burden of repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure; issues of responsibility and participation including the choice of options, lack of accountability, corruption; methods and procedures for water resources allocation, etc.
- Public participation is crucial in achieving sustainable management of water resources:
 - current processes that marginalize civil society and crucial groups (e.g. women) that play a vital role in building sustainable communities and integrated water policies and which do not facilitate their participation in national and local policy schemes, must be reversed.
 - Public participation in decision-making and participation to review, monitor and evaluate quality of services provided will ensure transparency, fair distribution and equal treatment of users and therefore good governance.
- Knowledge about water through public awareness and education for sustainable development must be enhanced at all levels in order to effectively implement integrated water resources management and minimise gaps and divergences.
- The absence of policy coherence within and among various government departments and the little or no coordination among various agencies and actors is a serious hindrance. National water dialogues with the participation of NGOs are crucial for integrated water resources management and minimisation and rationalisation of water demand.
- The protection and conservation of water ecosystems and restoration of those that have been degraded and destroyed, such as wetlands, is a primary concern. The ecosystem approach should be integrated into water resource management policies at all levels. Rivers, lakes, wetlands, forests and all other freshwater ecosystems are not just sources of water to secure water supply, they are habitats for a wide variety of plant and animal species. These ecosystems also perform valuable services for human societies such as moderating floods and droughts, act as buffer zones purifying water and sustaining fisheries. Hence nothing but a holistic integrated ecosystem-based approach will suffice in addressing these issues.
- Innovative approaches in involving the private sector (including SMEs) should be introduced and meaningful PPPs should be encouraged. The adverse impacts of resource privatisation and over-exploitation call for firm regulations and strong enforcement. This will help conserve and improve the current rural and urban environments and to promote corporate social accountability, responsible investment and good practices in private business.
- The donor community must pay more attention to small scale water management and service provision options, which should be replicated and up-scaled. In small scales the NGO contribution could be critical and beneficial for all stakeholders.
- The vital role of water resources in rural and urban livelihoods should be appreciated as water is an essential resource for reducing vulnerabilities through attaining food security, alleviating poverty, enhancing people's health and opportunities for recreation. Sustainable water management is a vehicle in rectifying environmental and social injustices (including gender aspects) and achieving sustainable production and consumption patterns, whilst ensuring economic and social innovation and development. The role of NGOs in such a management should not be only symbolic. It could make a significant difference in many cases.



The 6th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD 6) took place on 3-4 May 2007, in Corfu Island, Greece, with the participation of 30 MPs from 15 countries and representatives of International and Regional organisations and NGOs.

The Meeting was organized by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med that jointly serve as the COMPSUD Secretariat, and was financially supported by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission.

The COMPSUD 6 meeting focused on:

1. Possible ways to strengthen the dimensions of sustainable development and of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in regional political processes such as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Horizon 2020, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, etc. and in particular on the role of MPs in promoting such processes, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental partners.
2. The cooperation of COMPSUD with other parliamentary bodies in the region and particularly with the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and the Arab Parliament.
3. The following should be highlighted:
 - The participation and proven interest of the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Dora Bakoyannis as well as of the Secretary General of the recently established Arab Parliament, Mr. Adnan Omran. Moreover, the Chairs of the Environment and Water Parliamentary Committees of Lebanon, Portugal and Greece participated at the meeting.
 - The suggestion made by MPs and the acceptance by the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs to financially support meetings of COMPSUD in Corfu Island biannually. This means that every second year the COMPSUD meetings will be organized in a Mediterranean country other than Greece (meetings were already held in Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Spain and Turkey) and every other in Corfu.
 - The invitation to COMPSUD by the European Commission representative Mr. Andrew Murphy to become Member of the Steering Committee of the Horizon 2020 Initiative.
 - The invitation to COMPSUD by UNDP representative Ms. Mirey Atallah to participate in the new project of Petersberg-Africa. This project is now being prepared by UNDP/GEF and aims to enhance synergies between African stakeholders and build capacity on issues of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Parliamentarians and media from the African sub-regions (including North Africa) are also in the focus of such activities.
 - The above indicates the recognition that the Circle receives. A key challenge ahead is to use the COMPSUD in a dynamic way at the national level, through the Parliaments, for the promotion of IWRM principles in law making and to assist country implementation of regional processes.

Corfu Declaration

We, Parliamentarians coming from 15 different Mediterranean countries, present at the 6th Annual General Assembly of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) held in Corfu, Greece (3-4 May 2007), adopt unanimously the following declaration:

1. While overviewing the achievements of the first decade of the 21st century, acknowledge that, despite the vision and framework set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) seven years ago and despite the initiatives and efforts invested by international organizations and the Governments of the region, there is still a considerable gap between the time-bound tasks and targets of the various relevant processes and the achievements realized.
2. In particular, we express our anxiety about the deterioration of living conditions in parts of the Mediterranean region due to the exacerbation of armed conflicts as well as the high pressures exerted on natural resources resulting, among others, from increasing population, higher climate variability, expansion of desertification and unsustainable models of production and consumption.
3. We are convinced that the promotion of Sustainable Development in the countries of the Mediterranean Region depends on a set of prerequisites that still need to be fulfilled, among which of priority are:
 - a) The removal of the root causes of armed conflicts and wars through the honest implementation of the UN resolutions, conventions and declarations.
 - b) The coordinated action of governments and their increased cooperation on issues of management of shared and national resources in consultation with competent stakeholders including the civil society.
 - c) The systematic provision of information on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with emphasis on education on sustainable consumption (ESC) to all concerned stakeholders, including elected representatives.
 - d) The creation of suitable conditions for women and the increased recognition of their role and participation in society, especially filling existing gaps;
 - e) The enhancement of the role and active involvement of MPs, acting beyond governments and political parties, in order to strengthen democratic processes in the countries of the region, particularly on issues important for development, employment, environment and education.
4. We are convinced that the major socioeconomic humanitarian problem of illegal migration to and through the Mediterranean is closely linked to serious problems and pressures on environment and natural resources in the countries of Sub Saharan Africa. We urge all Mediterranean countries and the EU to implement policies assisting the aforementioned countries in effectively address these problems.
5. We emphasize that the effective management of national and shared water resources must become an integral part of all countries' efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM),

an approach that takes account of competing water needs in an equitable, efficient and sustainable manner, is recognised as the appropriate response to the challenges faced. IWRM should be reflected in all national development planning instruments and budgets as well as the plans of sectors such as agriculture, energy, industry, health etc. Activities within the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems, the joint Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on Shared Water Resources Management and other processes, contribute to these objectives and should be strengthened. Water should be recognised as a critical area and should be placed higher in the EU agenda as well as in the operational programmes of EU and Mediterranean countries. Furthermore, acknowledging the Petersberg Africa Process (facilitated by UNDP/GEF) and recognizing the potential for exchange of experiences between COMPSUD and Parliamentary networks in Africa we express the willingness of COMPSUD to participate in the Petersberg Africa Process.

6. We call all countries to ratify and implement the Kyoto Protocol and to participate in the international action for reducing pollutants causing climate change. To this end we strongly support the development of Renewable Energy Sources in the Mediterranean, which has sun and wind as some of its prominent features and encourage governments and the Commission to place renewable energies in the centre of their energy policies in the region as well as to enhance research on global warming effects on the Mediterranean.

7. We urge governments to introduce innovative instruments, including 'green' investment, in order to promote their policies and effectively protect the natural resources, in particular water and forests.

8. We strongly recommend enhancing regional cooperation to share visions, experiences and good practices that can bring societies and concerned stakeholders closer, increasing their synergies and speeding-up the processes towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the creation of a sustainable future for the Mediterranean and the continents surrounding it. In this spirit, we call for a more effective cooperation between parliaments and environmental movements.

9. To this respect, we applaud the relevant work of Parliamentary bodies, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly etc., that promote a coordinated action of elected people from different countries and regions towards common goals and we recommend COMPSUD to strengthen the links with these bodies, particularly on issues related to Environment and Sustainable Development.

10. We endorse the efforts undertaken by the European Commission under the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and we expect that a sufficient level of funding within the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) should be earmarked for environmental integration both at regional level of implementation (Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean) and at the national level (National Action Plans).

11. We fully support the Horizon 2020 Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean and express our wish to see the proper implementation of the agreed operational programme, in cooperation with all relevant partners and in particular with

UNEP/MAP, supported politically and with adequate funding from the EU and other sources. To this end it is crucial that all Mediterranean countries ratify the "Land-based Pollution Sources" Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. The role of civil society and other stakeholders in the Horizon 2020 programme should be instrumental. In this framework, COMPSUD should respond to the call of the European Commission and be involved actively in the Steering Group of Horizon 2020.

12. We reiterate our suggestion that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) as well as all countries and institutions involved, must be fully supportive of the relevant recommendations of the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (SIA EMFTA).

13. We call on governments to introduce and discuss Trade Agreements in Parliaments.

14. We call that the provisions of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development are fully streamlined with those of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

15. We call for sub-regional cooperation of neighboring Mediterranean countries on designating Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) in specific parts of the Mediterranean Sea including in parts of the Adriatic-Ionian.

16. We welcome a Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) along the lines of the Strategy on ESD already agreed by the majority of the Mediterranean countries within the framework of the UNECE; such a strategy should pay particular attention to the growing unsustainable consumption in the region. This strategy should be considered as an addendum to the MSSD elaborated in the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

17. We urge that the role and work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) being one of the rare regional examples of advanced form of consultation and governance needs to be upgraded, strengthened and enriched by inputs from the region's Parliamentarians. It should be examined if MCSDD could be used as a monitoring body of the EMFTA implementation.

18. In view of the Greek Presidency of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly in 2008, we recommend that COMPSUD becomes available and acts as think tank and supportive mechanism for the most in-depth and effective work of the EMPA in areas covering the protection of the environment and sustainable development.

19. We welcome the organisation, within COMPSUD activities, of Biannual Meetings of Mediterranean Parliamentarians in Corfu Island, under the aegis of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs that would review progress achieved and identify ways for parliamentarians to assist such processes.

COMPSUD by its nature is firmly committed to work with all other relevant Parliamentary Bodies, International Organizations and networks and contribute to all regional initiatives promoting the Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean Region.

For information on COMPSUD 6 in French please visit: <http://www.mio-ecsde.org/article.php?story=20070713024440968>

ARABIC VERSION OF THE "HANDBOOK ON METHODS USED IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

We are happy to announce that the publication "**Handbook on Methods used in Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development**" by M. Scoullos and V. Malotidi (produced already in English and French) has been recently produced also in the **Arabic Language** and is now available to download at www.medies.net in the 'publications' section of the website. MEdIES e-members should use



their username and password to download the publication. (Those who are not MEdIES e-members need first to subscribe to the webpage to get their username and password (it's free!!).

Please disseminate this announcement to any other Arabic speaking educators that may be interested.

7th MEDITERRANEAN HONORIFIC AWARD Call for submissions!



Mediterrania CIE and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) are calling for candidates to be considered for the 7th MEDITERRANEAN HONORIFIC AWARD, which is given to innovative projects relating to issues about environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean. *Deadline for applications is 15/04/2007.*

This award is open to all those organisations in the Mediterranean region working in the field of the protection of the environment, culture, as well as on sustainable development issues. This year, any **innovative, successful campaigns on raising awareness** about issues relating to environment and sustainable development can be submitted. Visit <http://www.mio-ecsde.org/filemgmt/visit.php?lid=245> for the submission form.

TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Genova, Italy • (April 16-17, 2007)

The thematic issue of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is addressed at international level through the "Marrakech Process", launched at the First International Meeting of Experts on SCP held in Marrakech (June 2003), as a response to the recommendations of the Johannesburg Summit, where governments, international organisations and civil society were encouraged to develop a "10-Year Framework of Programmes in support of activities and initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production".

In order to make progress in the development of a 10-year framework of programs for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), a system of thematic Task Forces and lead countries was set up addressing specific issues related to SCP (eco-efficiency, green procurement, cooperation with Africa, sustainable lifestyles, sustainable tourism, sustainable building and construction.).

During the 14th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD14, New York, May 2006), Italy launched a thematic Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption.

The link between education and consumption originates from the consideration that behaviour changes and the acquisition of critical awareness represent key elements in the path towards new sustainable production and consumption patterns. The objective of the Task Force is to identify and to create adequate synergies between regional and international initiatives and to promote the development of activities and pilot-pro-

jects with a particular reference to developing countries. For more information go to http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_sezione=1935

The Chairman of MIO-ECSDE will be at this first meeting as coordinator of MEDIES and will Chair the session entitled “The Mediterranean: initiatives and future perspectives”.

THE NEW MEMBERS OF MIO-ECSDE

Casa dei Diritti Sociali – Focus

(<http://www.dirittisociali.org>)

NGO ■ Italy ■ Full Member



Casa dei Diritti Sociali – Focus is an Italian Federation of associations founded in 1985

for the promotion of citizenship, raising awareness of

consumers and protecting the environment. It is involved in dissemination of information and education and training with many of its local branches engaged in such campaigns, actions and projects. Most important projects at the moment are “A modo Bio” (Living organically) which is about food, health organic agriculture and the links with natural resources protection and waste management and “Io e Te” (You and Me) about sustainable development in coastal areas and towns (Gaeta).

Association du Réseau Méditerranéen pour le Développement Durable (ARREMED)

NGO ■ Tunisia ■ Full Member



ARREMED was established in 2003 and is based in Tunis. The main objectives of the association are: to raise the awareness of the public and particularly of youth about the dif-

ferent concepts, methods and means for sustainable development in order to better participate in the protection of the environment; initiate and participate in community projects particularly in poor and underprivileged areas so as to better the conditions of work and quality of life in general; protect natural resources and biodiversity in view of achieving a sustainable development, etc.

Makhzoumi Foundation

(<http://www.makhzoumi-foundation.org>)

NGO/Foundation ■ Lebanon ■ Corresponding Member



The Makhzoumi Foundation, established in 1997, is a private Lebanese non-profit organization contributing through its programs to civil society development in Lebanon. Their over-

all aims are to achieve:

- More literacy and IT experience to be able to ride the globalisation tide
- More men & women contributing to the economical growth of Lebanon
- More entrepreneurs and new businesses created
- More environmental awareness through a greener and cleaner Lebanon
- More cultural & educational venues available to all
- More preventive treatments and better medical care.



MIO-ECSDE Profile

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the Environment and Development. MIO-ECSDE acts as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. In cooperation with Governments, International Organizations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region.

Background

MIO-ECSDE became a federation of Mediterranean NGOs in March 1996. Its roots go back to the early 80s, when the expanding Mediterranean membership of the European Community encouraged the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to form its Mediterranean Committee supported by Elliniki Etairia (The Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage). The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO) was established in 1990 as a network of NGOs, under a joint project of EEB and Elliniki Etairia and in close collaboration with the Arab Network of Environment and Development (RAED). The continuous expansion of MIO-ECSDE's Mediterranean NGO network and the increasing request for their representation in Mediterranean and International Fora, led to the transformation of MIO-ECSDE to its current NGO Federation status. Today it has a membership of 105 NGOs from 24 countries.

Our Mission

Our mission is to protect the Natural Environment (flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the Cultural Heritage (archaeological monuments, and traditional settlements, cities, etc.) of the Mediterranean Region. The ultimate goal of MIO-ECSDE is to promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean.

Major tools and methods

Major tools and methods used by MIO-ECSDE in order to achieve its objectives are the following:

- Promotion of the understanding and collaboration among the people of the Mediterranean, especially through their NGOs, between NGOs and Governments, Parliaments, Local Authorities, International Organizations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean Region.
- Assistance for the establishment, strengthening, co-operation and co-ordination of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring the flow of information among relevant bodies.
- Promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues, by facilitating collaboration between NGOs and Scientific and Academic Institutions.
- Raising of public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental issues, through campaigns, publications, exhibitions, public presentations, etc.

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