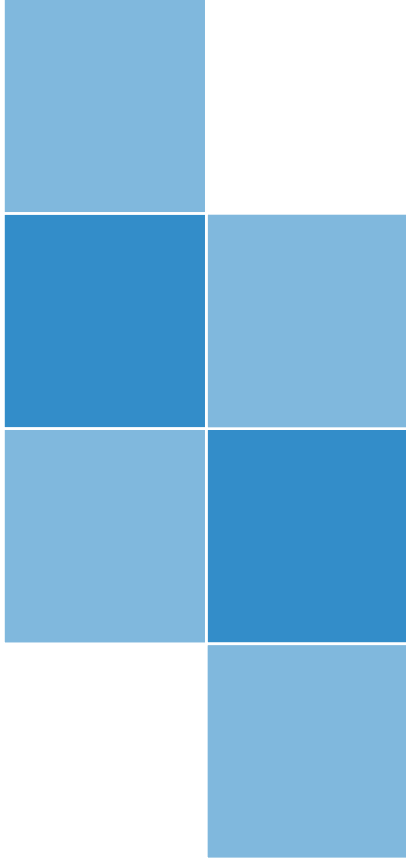




Mediterranean Information Office
for Environment, Culture & Sustainable Development
The Mediterranean NGO Federation



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

2015

January - October



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Executive Summary

The **Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)**, is the Federation of the wider existing spectrum of environmental, cultural and development NGOs active in the Mediterranean. It includes the major NGO Federation of the North, namely the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), and of the South, namely the Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development (RAED), which are *ex officio* members in its Executive Bureau.

MIO-ECSDE has as its guiding operational philosophy and strategy to be actively involved and contribute in the formulation of environmental and environment friendly policies within the framework of sustainable development for the Mediterranean with emphasis on the relevant EU and EU policies. It advocates participatory decision making through appropriate institutions and instruments in the entire sphere of the environment (natural, cultural and socio-economic) in the Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean region. It actively promotes environmental awareness of the wider public and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and contributes to the increase of capacity of the weaker national NGOs as well as of other important groups (e.g. educators, journalists, etc.) of the Mediterranean region. Apart from being internationally recognised as being the most significant Mediterranean Network of Environmental, Cultural and Development NGOs, MIO-ECSDE has also been recognised as a key international player in skilfully bringing together Mediterranean stakeholders on issues crucial for the sustainable future of the region and beyond.

The MIO-ECSDE activities of 2015 were mainly threefold:

- Expansion of actions, combining action in specific thematic areas and background work in the fields and events MIO-ECSDE wanted to be particularly active in 2015 (e.g. follow-up to Rio+20, ESD, Blue Economy, Marine Litter, etc.) and the next few years;
- Continued implementation of on-going commitments and activities from previous years, formulation of project proposals, collection and dissemination of information, contacts and advocacy, alongside the (co)organisation of important meetings of varying scale;
- Upgrading and strengthening its organizational basis, in light of regional and global socio-economic developments, to remain effective and better service its sub-networks.

Some activities of 2015 to be highlighted would be MIO-ECSDE's work in:

- **Securing a strong Mediterranean Dimension in International Environmental Policies and Processes**, especially at the EU policy level but also the UN.
- Its role as a key partner in **UNEP/MAP**, both in its expert groups (e.g. on the application of the ecosystem approach and in tackling marine litter) and as a partner in the UNEP/MAP-GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (or **MedPartnership**). The revision of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development was completed this year and MIO-ECSDE has contributed in the consultation process.
- Strengthening **the environmental component of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**, the **European Neighborhood Instrument** and civil society participation; contribution to the **HORIZON 2020 Initiative** to de-pollute the Mediterranean; contribution to efforts for integration of environment and sustainability concerns in all other policies of the Euro-Med Partnership/UfM.
- Promoting **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Public Awareness, Public Participation and Access to Information** at regional and national levels. 2015 has been the first year after the end of the Decade on ESD. After the endorsement of the **Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development** by the 43 UfM Member countries and its presentation at the Nagoya Conference on ESD, MIO-ECSDE, through its Chairman, has been working for the development of the strategy's **Action Plan** and also as an important partner to the implementation of the ambitious **UNESCO Global Action Plan on ESD**. Furthermore, the **MedIES** secretariat has carried out several activities to support educators and students of the Mediterranean on ESD, through its various targeted projects.
- Promoting **Integrated Water Resources Management**, where, as the NGO partner of GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE significantly contributes towards implementation of: IWRM in the Mediterranean region and Southeast Europe; the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative; actions and activities to strengthen **capacities of NGOs** in Southeastern Europe to effectively participate in **transboundary river and lake basin management plans (e.g. the Drin River)**.

- Developing capacities for **sustainable Urban Waste Management** and tackling **marine litter** in the region.
- Promoting the **Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF)** that considers all the integrated frameworks (ICZM, IWRM, EcAP – Ecosystem Approach, etc.).
- Promoting the **Cultural dimension for the Sustainable Development of the region.**
- Contributing to and strengthening **Diplomacy for Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean and Europe.**

Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE

- continued to **host the Chair and Secretariat of GWP-Med** (on the Board of which the following networks participate: Blue Plan, CEDARE, CIHEAM, IME, Medcities, MedWet, MENBO, MWN and MIO-ECSDE);
- co-organised international conferences, workshops and seminars.

The already well-established networking and information communication activities of MIO-ECSDE were continued. Information on Mediterranean issues, announcements of conferences, MIO-ECSDE publications, etc., were circulated to the Members of the Federation, as well as to the network's subscribers. The MIO-ECSDE web-site was regularly updated with the information concerning MIO-ECSDE activities and positions and the Mediterranean scene in general.

Many projects in which MIO-ECSDE is involved, were followed-up and are in the state of advancement, completion or dissemination of their results. Drafting of new project proposals to secure the continuity of initiatives and activities was also a significant part of MIO-ECSDE work throughout 2015.

MIO-ECSDE was called upon to function at its best without the annual EU support for its 2015 work programme.

Preamble

The present report describes the progress and development of MIO-ECSDE's main activities, projects and achievements for 2015.

The activities carried out followed the priorities described in the MIO-ECSDE Annual Programme decided during the 19th AGM (virtual via WebEx – December 2014).

Continuing to seek opportunities for the formulation of common NGO positions, it has co-organised and supported relevant meetings, increasing the co-operation, mutual understanding and solidarity among the various stakeholders in the Mediterranean region and also among its members. Members of its Executive Bureau and Secretariat have participated actively in most major meetings concerning the Mediterranean, reflecting the NGO thinking and views and effectively contributing to the formulation of more progressive and effective environmental policies in the region.

It also continues and reinforces the flow of information and communication among NGOs and between them and governmental and international bodies, etc. The MIO-ECSDE web site, re-vamped, continued to provide service to its members and the wider public, as did the MEDIES web site and the various MIO-ECSDE project websites (e.g. Act4Drin).

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A. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS OF MIO-ECSDE

A.1. Structure

The Federation consists of Full and Corresponding Members who share the same benefits and rights, except for the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is reserved only for Full Members. MIO-ECSDE is headed by an Executive Bureau, which in 2015 consisted of eighteen (18) Members. Eight members are from the EU Mediterranean countries, seven are from the non-EU Mediterranean countries, and three are *ex officio* members representing the two founders EEB and Elliniki Etairia and RAED. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Member Organisations remains the main institution constituting the basis of the Federation. The AGM is convened once a year. The Federation's Secretariat is based in Athens, in the old and historic district of Plaka. The Secretariat was relocated in a newly restored building in the same (Plaka) area in January 2005.



MIO-ECSDE Premises in Plaka, Athens

The communication and co-operation of MIO-ECSDE with its founder organisations (EEB and Elliniki Etairia) as well as RAED was very harmonious throughout 2015 as it has been since its establishment. The same is true for all other NGO networks and bodies, with which MIO-ECSDE has developed close collaboration and an excellent working relationship.

A.2. Executive Bureau

MIO-ECSDE's Executive Bureau (EB) for 2015 consisted of:

Chairman:	Prof. Michael Scoullou (Greece)
Co-Chairman:	Prof. Mohammed Ftouhi (Morocco)
Members:	Dr. Emad Adly (RAED)
	Mr. Gerasimos Arapis (Elliniki Etairia)
	Mr. Mikael Karlsson (EEB)
	Mr. Ali Değer Özbakir (Turkey)
	Mr. Riad Nacer Bendaoud (Algeria)
	Ms. Antonia Theodosiou (Cyprus)
	Mr. Jean-Valère Jeronimi (France)
	Ms. Patrizia Bonelli and Ms. Romina Biccocchi (Italy)
	Mr. Ziyad Alawneh (Jordan)
	Mr. Fadi Hussein (Lebanon)
	Mr. Vincent Attard (Malta)
	Mr. Imad Attrash (Palestine)
	Mr. Mario Alves (Portugal)
	Mr. Milan Vogrin (Slovenia)
	Mr. Angel Huarez and Mr. Jeremie Fosse (Spain)
	Mr. Habib Ben Boubaker (Tunisia)

One Executive Bureau Meeting (58th) will take place on November 6th 2015 in Athens Greece back –to-back with the 11th Meeting of COMPSUD and three other back to back events (see C.2.4).

A.3. Membership

The MIO-ECSDE Membership for 2015 stands at 128 member organizations. Two organisations submitted complete applications to the Secretariat in 2015 in time for the November Executive Bureau Meeting.

A.4. MIO-ECSDE Secretariat Staff

During 2015 the status of the Secretariat staff was as follows:

Ms. Anastasia Roniotes continued working, full-time, with main fields of responsibility: administrative matters relevant to the Annual Work Programme and MIO-ECSDE governance (Executive Bureau and AGM), policy formulation and monitoring, representation, running of specific projects, submission of project proposals, co-ordination of the edition of the *Bulletin* and newsletter *Sustainable Mediterranean*, etc.

Ms. Bessie Mantzara was substantially involved in the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat, mainly responsible for financial/administrative matters and *ad hoc* contributions in conferences and projects.

Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni is handling many thematic and horizontal tasks in the Secretariat mainly on policy area and project basis. She also manages ICT issues, including the MIO-ECSDE web-sites, workshop and conference support, etc.

Ms. Iro Alampei continued as full-time member of the staff supporting mainly the educational projects of MIO-ECSDE through MEdIES Secretariat.

Ms. Vicky Malotidi continued as full-time member of the staff supporting mainly the educational projects of MIO-ECSDE through MEdIES Secretariat.

Danai Amplianiti (full time) and **Vangelis Kalambokis** (part time) also were part of the junior staff of the Secretariat assisting in specific projects and tasks.

Ms. Olga Papathanasopoulou (full time) provided the overall secretarial support.

Mr. Kostas Drakopoulos continued as part-time Official Accountant of MIO-ECSDE with **George Paneris** assisting.

The Chairman, **Prof. M. Scoullou**, is responsible for the supervision of the work and the management, the development, direction of policies and projects and a large part of the representations of the MIO-ECSDE organisation. The Secretariat also works closely with various experts. During 2015 a number of initiatives and representations of the organisation were carried out also by the Co-Chairman Prof. Ftouhi, EB Members Dr. Adly, Ms. Bonelli, Mr. Vogrin, Mr. Attard, as well as by other members of the EB.

A.5. Audit report for the year 2014

The overall audited financial report of MIO-ECSDE for 2014 was completed in September 2014 by PKF Euroauditing SA. Audited reports provide additional transparency and give added indicators of good governance, but also facilitate proposal submissions as they are standard prerequisites of the European Commission and other funding institutions. Audit costs, which are considerable, are a justifiable expense in most budget lines.

A.6. Quality management and accountability standards

The Secretariat is in the process of (a) integrating its quality management system and accountability charter procedures (see directly below) and (b) transposing all quality and monitoring systems to electronic applications in view of facilitating the certification process and unnecessary administrative burden. It will have to also update the MIO-ECSDE Code of Conduct accordingly. It is also continuing to explore ways to facilitate and capacitate its members in also applying the above principles and practices.

MIO-ECSDE staff upholds ISO 9001 (2008) related requirements and continually identifies any significant improvements that strengthen the management of the organization's processes. ISO 9001 is the globally implemented standard for providing assurance about the ability of the certified organisation to satisfy quality

requirements and to enhance service satisfaction. It provides a tried and tested framework for taking a systematic approach to managing the organization's processes. An updated version of ISO 9001 is about to be launched and the Secretariat has attended an info-session on it. Several project and financial management software packages (including accounting) have been presented to the Secretariat and final selection and initial application will commence in November 2015.

Meanwhile, MIO-ECSDE has prepared its direct application to the International NGO Accountability Charter which sets out core values and operating principles for International NGOs and is applicable for all NGOs. These include good governance and management, fundraising and multi-stakeholder engagement. It also makes specific reference to respect for universal principles (such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), independence, responsible advocacy, effective programs, non-discrimination, transparency and ethical fundraising (<http://www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org/>).

B. CONTINUATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NETWORKING: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF CO-OPERATION AMONG NGOs AS WELL AS BETWEEN NGOs AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

B.1. Networking with the MIO-ECSD Members and its wider NGO Network

Staff time was devoted throughout the year to strengthen and consolidate the effective functioning of the Federation, but not at the same degree as in previous years. Networking with and among the Member Organisations is focussed on two main components:

1. Exchange and dissemination of information
2. Strengthening of co-operation and promoting the 'team-spirit' among NGOs, educators, etc.

B.1.1. Exchange and Dissemination of Information

The dissemination of information is facilitated by:

(i) The 'MIO-ECSD Internal Information Bulletin'

1 issue of the Internal Information Bulletin will be distributed in 2015 in English, mainly to Member Organisations and the wider MIO-ECSD network of contacts, by e-mail. The Bulletin highlights up-to-date information mostly related to:

- (a) the activities of the Secretariat, such as the submission for funding and progress of projects, the participation in meetings and basic information on their outcomes, etc.;
- (b) the Executive Bureau Meetings;
- (c) events having to do with important Mediterranean issues; and
- (d) activities performed by Member Organisations;

(ii) The Newsletter 'Sustainable Mediterranean'

Only one issue of the newsletter Sustainable Mediterranean will be printed and disseminated in 2015 (without the annual support from the EU more are not possible). It is dedicated to the proceedings of the 'International Conference on the Environmental Perspectives of the Gulf of Elefsis - A Mediterranean case study where Science meets the Society' (read more about the Conference at C.2.3) and will be produced in hard copies also with the kind support of the Mayor of Elefsis. It will be completed by December 2015 and will also be presented at the next COP of the Barcelona Convention in February 2016.



(iii) The webpage and the e-bulletin of MEDIES (Read more under D.3)

The MEDIES website www.medies.net is regularly updated with ESD news, announcements, outcomes of major fora, competitions, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest (on average 1 article per week for 2015). The social media page of MEDIES is also regularly updated (on average 3 posts per week).

The information Bulletin of MEDIES circulated to its members is distributed on a quarterly basis. Read here the latest bulletins: <http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?cID=18>

(v) Other activities related to Exchange of Information and Networking

In the framework of the networking activities and exchange of information, the Secretariat, forwards incoming useful information to its membership and to the wider network it collaborates with (up to around 7000 NGOs, Ministries, Universities, Institutes, personalities, etc.).

Apart from this, the Secretariat continuously receives requests for information on specific issues, to which it responds accordingly. Furthermore, many letters of interest for further co-operation in various fields of activities arrive, creating interesting new potential for specific collaborations.

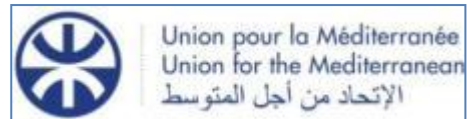
In addition, in the framework of the MedPartnership project MIO-ECSDE continued its efforts in enhancing the effective participation of NGOs in the project activities.

The **MIO-ECSDE web-site** <http://www.mio-ecsde.org> was redesigned in early 2015 and was launched in March 2015. Since then it has been regularly updated. In addition, MIO-ECSDE facebook and youtube pages have been created and regularly updated.

B.1.2. Capacity building, strengthening of co-operation and promoting the 'team-spirit' among NGOs

Serving one of the initial scopes since its establishment, which is contributing to the capacity building of Mediterranean NGOs and within the framework of the follow-up action in the various priority fields of the Federation, MIO-ECSDE, (co)organised a number of actions in 2015.

- A number of (sub)regional MIO-ECSDE projects are running with the active partnership of member NGOs (see D).
- MIO-ECSDE is a partner in the UfM labelled (June 2014) "BlueGreen Med-CS" which, once fully running, will be devoted to capacity building and networking of NGOs, participatory processes with close involvement of the authorities and also a small grants programme for pilot programmes in 5 Mediterranean countries (http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BlueGreen_Med-CS_snapshot_final.pdf). However, funds for its full implementation are not in place yet and all partners and the UfM Secretariat are trying to tap relevant resources (see C.1.2.4). At the moment however, MIO-ECSDE coordinates the nomination of NGOs to participate in the few capacity building activities organised under the SWIM-SM project (which also acts a bridge between the previous H2020 CB/MEP and the new one, expected to be launch by the EC in December 2015). Another project dedicated to Marine Litter is also currently under development for labelling by the UfM in which the participation of member organisations is integral.



MIO-ECSDE's Med Action Day 2015 could not take place without the annual support from the EU.

For the benefit of its membership, MIO-ECSDE is a main partner of the *Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (the 'MedPartnership')*. Within the framework of the programme MIO-ECSDE is responsible for the effective participation of the region's NGOs and since November 2010 has been leading the communication activities of the project (see C.1.1).

B.2. MIO-ECSDE as facilitator of Mediterranean Networks

At the moment the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat is facilitating the following networks:

- **The network of Parliamentarians and other Politicians for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean (COMPSUD)**

The **Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)** was created with the encouragement of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med) in December 2002 in the wake of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which reaffirmed sustainable development as a central element of the international agenda and emphasized the important role of partnerships and dialogue among the various stakeholders and decision makers, including Parliamentarians and politicians at large. It is an open, flexible and light structure, aiming to promote suitable mechanisms to support the dialogue among Members of Parliaments (from EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries), politicians and other Stakeholders on the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the necessary socio-economic conditions for the sustainable development of the region.



A meeting of the Circle became possible late in the year and preparations started in mid-September 2015. (read more at C.2.4). The members were informed about major developments that took place during the year and key relationships with the other institutions of Members of Parliament, i.e. the UfM Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Energy, Environment and Water and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean were maintained.

COMPSUD's promotional video is available for download [here](#). It includes a description of the Circle and its history. Feel free to show the video within your sphere of activities.

- **The network of Mediterranean Educators working on Environment and Sustainability / MEDIES** (see D.3)
- **Mediterranean Universities Network for Education for Sustainable Development**

MIO-ECSDE launched in November 2008 the MedUnNet in partnership with the University of Athens (UoA) to revitalize the Higher Education system towards sustainable development. The tasks of the network are:

- to provide a forum for consultation and radical re-thinking on ESD among academics, students, public administration representatives, future employers, NGOs, etc.
- to facilitate the "whole institute approach" on SD in each participating University which encompasses the concepts of green, resource efficient, low carbon-footprint buildings and services, along with opening up to societies and becoming platforms of sustainable innovation.

MIO-ECSDE provides the Administrative Secretariat while the UoA provides the Scientific Secretariat of the Network. The 10 partner universities come from the EU countries: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, and the non-EU: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. For details on 2015 activities see D.3.10.

- **The network of Mediterranean Journalists and Communication Professionals working on Environmental issues / COMJESD**

The Network aims to be an active forum through which the regular exchange of information and views about crucial Mediterranean environmental and sustainable development issues, the promotion of capacity building of media professionals and the organization of joint and concerted actions can be promoted so that information and communication experts will be strengthened in their capacity of sensitizing and informing Mediterranean societies, improving democratic and participatory processes and in directing more effectively the flow of information produced by scientists, NGOs, etc. to the decision-makers. At present the core of the Network is composed of 62 Journalists from the following countries: Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Greece, Egypt, Malta, Croatia, Jordan, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro, Israel, Albania, Slovenia and France.

- **Other networks**

Since 2007 MIO-ECSDE is trying to initiate **a network of Mediterranean women's organisations working on environment and sustainable development issues**. It would be facilitated jointly also with GWP-Med as the point of focus of the circle in its inception phase will be water. There have been significant relevant developments in the setting up of a Youth network of GWP on water and sustainable development in the process that led to the 7th World Water Forum. It has been linked with the questionnaire on perceptions of youth in Mediterranean countries for consolidating the concept of sustainable development (D.3.11)

MIO-ECSDE has always had a very strong scientific background. Many members of its Executive Bureau are distinguished members of the Mediterranean Academia. Eventually, the Secretariat will establish a pool of scientists from various mainly Mediterranean countries that MIO-ECSDE works closely with, in order to facilitate (a) strengthening their contribution to MIO-ECSDE activities, (b) interaction among these scientists, (c) access to this pool of scientists for the MIO-ECSDE Membership and wider network, etc. MIO-ECSDE aims to gradually establish its **Mediterranean Scientific Advisory Council** based on this pool of scientific expertise. Within this wider framework, in 2008 MIO-ECSDE established the **Mediterranean Universities Network for Education for Sustainable Development** mentioned above.

B.3. MIO-ECSDE contribution in and collaboration with important Networks, International Organisations, Institutes, etc.

MIO/ECSDE has contributed in the following Networks/Institutes/etc.:

- (a) The Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- (b) The H2020 Steering Group
- (c) The UfM Expert Group on Climate Change
- (d) Various EU and UN expert working groups
- (e) UNEP/MAP expert working groups

Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE maintains good relations with international institutes, networks and groups such as:

- the European Commission and particularly DGs Environment, DEVCO, MARE, etc.
- the European Parliament
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- MAP/UNEP, RAC/SPA, RAC/ERS, RAC/CP, Blue Plan, etc.
- UNEP (Nairobi), UNEP/ROE, UNEP/IETC, etc.
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MSCD)
- UNESCO, MAB/UNESCO, UNESCO BRESCE
- UNDP
- UN ECE
- UNCSD
- Global Footprint Network
- IFAD
- World Bank, former METAP
- EIB
- Anna Lindh Foundation
- IEMED
- IMED
- Centre des Regions Euromediterraneennes pour l' Environnement (CREE)
- scientific community of the Mediterranean (represented by CIESM, the Mediterranean University, etc.)
- various secretariats of Conventions (Desertification, Ramsar, etc.)
- regional initiatives with Commercial and Industrial Chambers
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- ICLEI
- WWC
- Stakeholder Forum
- Eco Forum
- IME
- MARE and other Mediterranean Youth Groups
- MEDCOAST
- MESAEP
- MWN
- Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- IUCN
- WWF International (and its European and Mediterranean offices)
- FoE (Europe, Med-net, Middle East and national branches)
- Greenpeace (International and national branches)
- ENDA
- CEDARE
- regional, sub-regional and national educational institutions
- Mediterranean and international nature conservation networks (such as MEDWET-wetlands, MEDMARAVIS-birds, MEDPAN-protected areas, MEDASSET-turtles, etc.)
- NATO and its Parliamentary Assembly
- European Seas Environmental Cooperation - ESEC (a collaboration between MIO-ECSDE, Seas at Risk, the Coalition Clean Baltic and the NGO Forum for the Black Sea)

- Asia-Europe Environmental Technology Centre
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- The Onassis Foundation
- etc.

Contacts with the above organisations and with Governments for mutual exchange of information on activities, initiatives and opportunities of collaboration, remain a substantial part of MIO-ECSDE networking and advocacy activities.

MIO-ECSDE has also continued to increasingly build on creating channels of communication and beneficial mutual support schemes (guidelines for integrating the environmental component, expertise, funds, etc.) with the private sector.

The exchange of information on Mediterranean environmental and development issues, the promotion of Mediterranean issues in non-Mediterranean fora and the exchange of Mediterranean NGO views during the formulation of policies remain three of the main MIO-ECSDE activities related both to networking and promotion of policies.

C. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MIO-ECSDE'S ROLE AS PROMOTER OF COMMON NGO POLICIES AND THE COLLECTIVE VOICE OF MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT NGOs AT INTERNATIONAL FORA, CONVENTIONS, etc. AND THROUGH THE ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS, JOINT ACTIONS, etc.

C.1. Monitoring of and Contribution to the Formulation of Policies Relevant to the Mediterranean Region and Involvement in Important Mediterranean Processes

Monitoring the Mediterranean, EU and international environmental policies as well as policies concerning and/or affecting the Mediterranean environment and the sustainable development of the region directly or indirectly, is an integral part of MIO-ECSDE's work since its establishment. Provision of comments, especially during the European Commission's consultations, proposals for the drafting of White Papers or Directives, are stage where NGOs can really make a contribution in policy formulation.

Drafting of common Mediterranean NGO position papers, declarations and agreed positions, particularly on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of the region discussed during international meetings has always been and will continue to be an important part of MIO-ECSDE's activities.

C.1.1. Collaboration and Representation in the Work of UNEP, MAP/UNEP and MCSD

MIO-ECSDE has kept the traditionally close contacts with UNEP, including Nairobi, and the Athens based Co-ordinating Unit of MAP/UNEP. The Federation has been invited to attend and contribute in many meetings of MAP/UNEP, its RACs (Regional Activity Centres) and of MCSD.

The Chairman was invited by UNEP/MAP Coordinator Gaetano Leone to contribute to the Conference on the revision of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) that took place in Malta in February 2015, hosted by the Maltese Government, which at the time was co-chairing the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD). The revision of the MSSD resulted in the MSSD 2.0 at the 16th Meeting of the MCSD that took place later in the year.

MIO-ECSDE participated in the Integrated Correspondence Group (Integrated CorGest Group) held in Athens, 30 March - 1 April 2015. The main objectives of this meeting were to discuss the main elements of the draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme and provide recommendations for their further development. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer, Thomais Vlachogianni, actively contributed to the meeting and made several interventions/recommendations on pollution and litter in the respective break out session. MIO-ECSDE was among the few participants that made constructive comments on the main elements of the draft monitoring and assessment programme with regards to technical issues and advocated for a more ambitious approach when it comes to monitoring of marine litter in different environmental compartments, while it also raised the issue of the added value of citizens' science initiatives in collecting useful data. In addition, MIO-ECSDE followed up with a written contribution and feedback to the Report of the Informal Online Working Group on Marine Litter. Almost all points of MIO-ECSDE were taken on board in the final report. In May 2015, MIO-ECSDE was invited by UNEP/MAP MEDPOL to provide input to two major marine litter documents: (a) the Fishing for Litter related Guide; (b) the updated Marine Litter Assessment Report.

MIO-ECSDE participated in a meeting of the MAP Focal Points held in Athens, from 19-21 May 2015. The main objective of the meeting was to review the draft strategic framework of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 and provide guidance and recommendations. MIO-ECSDE also participated in the second Focal Points meetings of 2015 (13-16 October) which was very crucial as it decided on the recommendations that are to go to the meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) of the Barcelona Convention in February 2016. The Chairman Prof. Scoullou and Head Officer Anastasia Roniotes participated actively. A number of interventions made by the Chairman were of crucial importance for the MCSD the future of which was put at serious risk. MIO-ECSDE is one of the very few that participate in the UNEP/MAP system with the collective memory of the past 25+ years and oftentimes the countries and other partners participating need to be reminded of procedures, historical facts, etc.

MIO-ECSDE participated at the UNEP/MAP regional meeting on applying a methodology for programmes of measures and economic analysis in the NAPs update held in Athens from 11 to 13 May 2015. The main aim of the meeting was to provide assistance and practical training to the contracting parties in implementing the NAP update Guidelines. Head Officer Anastasia Roniotes and Programme Officer, Thomais Vlachogianni actively participated in the meeting and provided substantial input and support to the practical sessions. MIO-ECSDE made interventions on several occasions and one of these was included in the final recommendations.

This year the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention celebrate their 40th Anniversary. The Chairman was invited by the Coordinator to attend a celebratory event 'Greening the Blue: forty years together for a sustainable Mediterranean' held within the EU Maritime Day on the 29th of May 2015. The event provided an opportunity to participants to discuss key accomplishments and challenges of the past decades in "greening the blue", from the perspectives of government, NGOs and Academia representatives. The Chairman made an impressive presentation with a lot of historical photos and facts that manifested also the constant and high standard contribution of MIO-ECSDE to the Convention and its Secretariat.

At the 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development that was hosted by the Moroccan Government in collaboration with the Secretariat to Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and Plan Bleu in Marrakech (9-11 June 2015), MIO-ECSDE was elected on its Steering Committee as Rapporteur for the next 2 years, representing the NGO members of the Commission. The President of the MCSDD Steering Group is Morocco, while the Vice presidents are: Malta, Croatia, MedCities, CEDARE and Turkey as President of the Barcelona Convention (till February 2016 when Greece will take over). The Meeting agreed to include COMPSUD as a member of the Commission and the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, at their meeting in February 2016, are expected to approve this. The MSSD 2.0 was also finalised and proposed to the COP in 2016.

MIO-ECSDE participated in the experts advisory panel for the formulation of the UNEP/MAP Regional Framework on Climate Change Adaptation which will be submitted to the COP for approval.

The MIO-ECSDE Communication contract for the MedPartnership project of UNEP/MAP (funded by GEF, the EU and other donors and countries) (signed in October 2012 and ending in 2015) ran throughout 2015. Within the framework of this contract MIO-ECSDE has undertaken the implementation of selected activities, such as the development of two e-learning modules on public participation and stakeholders' involvement (completed) and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, etc.

In March 2015, MIO-ECSDE within the framework of the UNEP/MAP project entitled "The implementation of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean" and its component dedicated to marine litter undertook a series of activities such as to develop a questionnaire on abandoned/lost fishing gear in the Mediterranean and run a survey in 12 Mediterranean countries in collaboration with many member NGOs, to adjust the MARLISCO educational material and best practice guide in order to address the Mediterranean specificities and translated it into Arabic. RAED was a key partner in the implementation of the contract. The 3-month contract was followed by another one in September 2015 for complementary activities.

C.1.2. Securing the Mediterranean Dimension in International Policies and Processes

C.1.2.1. EU Policy

A top priority for MIO-ECSDE is achieving integration of environment and sustainability concerns in relevant other policies of the EU as well as the Union for the Mediterranean. Some specific EU policy issues which are undoubtedly of vital importance for the Mediterranean region and that MIO-ECSDE streamlined into its programme for 2015 (following up on groundwork done during previous years) by way of written contributions to communications and calls for comments, advocacy, papers, statements /declarations/position papers, meetings, etc. were:

- Horizon 2020
- European Neighbourhood Policy and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) which has replaced the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
- European Marine Framework Strategy Directive (MSFD)
- Water (WFD, EU Water Initiative)
- Climate Change
- Chemicals (REACH, EDCs)

- Nanotechnologies
- Biodiversity (Natura 2000, LIFE+, etc.)
- Resource efficiency
- Sustainable Development
- Education for Sustainable Development
- Access to Information, Access to Justice, etc.
- Tourism
- Intercultural Dialogue
- Gender mainstreaming
- Energy
- Waste, Production and Consumption
- Agriculture
- ICZM
- Transport
- etc.

To enhance efficiency in some of the above, MIO-ECSCDE, given the opportunity, needs to increase in-house expertise while for others, further contacts and collaboration with expert groups and thematic networks may be needed.

C.1.2.2. Following up Rio+20, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), etc.

During 2015 MIO-ECSDE took into consideration in all its thematic priorities and activities the outcomes of the various global developments and priorities of various fora that are follow-up actions of Rio+20 or linked with the process that led to the finalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015.

C.1.2.3. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the UNECE and UNESCO frameworks

15th Meeting of the UNECE Bureau on ESD, Geneva, 10 February 2015: Prof. Scoullou, MEDIES Coordinator, represented Greece and MIO-ECSDE at the 15th Meeting of the Steering Committee of ESD of UNECE that took place in Geneva. Key issues that were discussed during the Meeting were: (i) the preparation of the High-level Session on ESD at the 2016 UNECE Ministerial Conference; (ii) the progress in processing national implementation reports for the reporting phase III (2011-2015) and preparation of the synthesis report within the UNECE Strategy on ESD; (iii) the finalization of the Future Implementation Framework of UNECE on ESD (post-2015) taking into account the outcomes of ESD World Conference (Nagoya, November 2014).

Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development: The Mediterranean Strategy on ESD (MSESD) was formally endorsed by the 43 Environment and Climate Change Ministers of the UfM in Athens in May 2014. The aim of this Strategy is to encourage countries of the Mediterranean region to develop and incorporate ESD into all relevant subjects of their formal, non-formal and informal educational systems. This is the only regional Strategy after the UNECE one (considered its child) and it was formally presented by the Greek Minister of Education at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in Japan (Nov 2014). Currently its **Action Plan** is under preparation by the UNESCO Chair on ESD in the Mediterranean/University of Athens with the support of the MEDIES Secretariat, following a participatory approach and will be also fed by the outcomes of the Mediterranean Youth Survey (see D.3.10) and is expected to be finalised in 2016.

Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD: The GAP, which is led by UNESCO was launched in the Nagoya ESD Conference of 2014. The GAP initiative collects initiatives from all around the world aiming to generate and scale-up ESD activities in the post – 2014 era. The GAP focuses on five priority action areas: (1) Advancing policy; (2) Integrating sustainability practices into education environments (whole-institute approach); (3) Capacity building of educators and trainers; (4) Empowering and mobilising youth; (5) Encouraging local communities to develop ESD.

MIO-ECSDE / MEDIES has launched two initiatives in the global GAP Commitments: the development of the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD (under Priority Area 1: Advancing Policy) the MEDIES 5 year future train-the-trainers' agenda (under Priority Area 3: Capacity building), and the UNESCO Chair of the

University of Athens has submitted the MedUnNET 3 year future plan (under Priority Area 2: whole institute approach). All GAP Commitments on ESD can be found [here](#).

In addition, since May 2015 Prof. Michael Scoullou, co-chairs the experts team of Priority Area 1 on "Advancing Policy". He participated in the 1st meeting of the GAP Partner Networks in Paris (UNESCO, 26-27 May 2015). During this 1st consultation meeting, the function of the Partner Networks was discussed in the plenary and during the breakout sessions proposals for particular workplans and joint activities for each Network were elaborated. On 30/09/2015 the 1st virtual meeting of the Partner Network 1 (Advancing Policy) was co-organised by MEdIES together with UNESCO during which participants were informed in detail about the draft Workplan of the Network (prepared by UNESCO and the Co-chair). Participants were invited to feed into this Workplan. Furthermore, a few of these initiatives of the Workplan will be jointly nominated in the Network's Flagship Project, as "best-practice activities" in the field of integrating policies and scaling up ESD, that can also be replicated in other regions.

C.1.2.4. Active participation in the Euro-Mediterranean policy area: Union for the Mediterranean and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) processes

The MIO-ECSDE Secretariat has further strengthened its close relationship with the relevant to the Mediterranean Unit of DG Environment and DG Development and Cooperation while following up on the European Neighbourhood Policy and its new financial instrument (ENI). It submitted inputs to the consultation "Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy" that closed in June 2015.

The Secretariat has continued to closely monitor the developments of the UfM and maintained its close relationship with the Secretariat:

MIO-ECSDE and RAED are partners in the project proposal "BlueGreen Med-CS" which is in the process of securing the funds to be launched. It was labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean earlier in 2014. Through a capacity building programme and a small grants scheme, the project will enable NGOs to acquire skills in various areas of sustainable development. Throughout the process, the relevant public authorities will be constantly informed of and involved in the activities organised in order to strengthen the dialogue between CSOs and national authorities. It will eventually be implemented in Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Read more at: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/bluegreen-med-cs/> (see also B.1.2). A partners meeting took place in Barcelona on the 1st of July 2015 to discuss progress made and next steps in advancing the financing of the project.

MIO-ECSDE is a key partner in the project proposal "Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter" which will be formally presented in the end of November at the SOM(27/11) for labelling. So far endorsement letters have been received by Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Montenegro, Spain and Palestine.

On the 27th of June 2015 MIO-ECSDE participated in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) stakeholders conference entitled "Towards a Roadmap for Blue Investment and Jobs in the Mediterranean" held in Athens. MIO-ECSDE's views and perspectives on the issue of marine litter fed into the panel discussion, with a particular emphasis placed on the key hindrances to effectively deal with marine litter and ways to overcome them. MIO-ECSDE showcased two major initiatives carried out at European Regional Seas and Adriatic Sea level, namely the FP7 MARLISCO project and the IPA Adriatic DeFishGear project and distilled lessons learned at the science-policy-society interface. (Read more <http://mio-ecsde.org/mio-ecsde-views-and-experiences-feed-into-the-ufm-panel-discussions-on-marine-litter/>).

MIO-ECSDE, together with RAED and the EEB formally represent Mediterranean stakeholders active on Climate Change matters in the UfM Expert Group on Climate Change. Two meetings took place in 2015, one dedicated to climate mitigation (Skhirat, Morocco, 6-7 May 2015) and another dedicated to climate adaptation (Barcelona, 1-2 October 2015). Head Officer Anastasia Roniotes attended both, supporting a number of environmental and civil society concerns.

The Secretariat has also been invited to the 5th UfM Water Experts Group which is to take place on the 23rd and 24th of November in Luxembourg. The last WEG Meeting took place in 2011, following an intensive consultation process (2009-2010) for the elaboration of the draft UfM Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean that did not receive consensus on political grounds in 2010. It is expected that the

UfM WEG will assist promotion of cooperation and synergies on policy and technical water issues in the region.

C.1.3. MIO-ECSDE activities as partner in GWP-Med

MIO-ECSDE acts as Host Institute of the GWP-Med Secretariat and continues its fruitful collaboration with it. As a member of the GWP-Med network, MIO-ECSDE promotes a specific number of outputs for 2015 which are integral to both the GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE agendas:

- co-organisation of meetings and seminars including for the World Water Forum that took place in Korea this year (see C.2. and D.3.);
- submissions of joint project proposals;
- facilitation of the Circle of the Parliamentarians (COMPSUD), facilitation of the Circle of Media/Journalists (COMJESD);
- collaboration with the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEEdIES, see D.3);
- The HYDRIA project on water management techniques of the past (see D.3.1);
- The Alter Aqua project (Non Conventional Water Resources Management in Greece, Malta, Cyprus and Italy) particularly its educational components (see D.3.2, D.3.3, etc.);
- the Drin Dialogue;
- etc.

C.2. (Co-) Organisation of Meetings at Mediterranean or sub-regional level

C.2.1. MIO-ECSDE at the European Maritime Day 2015

The European Maritime Day was held this year in Athens, from 28 to 31 May 2015. The European Maritime Day 2015 conference attracted a record number of participants, some 1300, from the European maritime community, who came together to discuss this year's theme 'Ports and Coasts as Engines for Blue Growth'. Within the framework of the EMD 2015 MIO-ECSDE carried out the following activities:

- **Co-organized a workshop with the ECNC Group entitled "Innovative business models for marine litter in Europe"**. The growing threat of marine litter and derelict fishing gear may have been at the core of the presentations and discussions but the emphasis was on the importance of solutions that are integrated in business models involving cross-sectoral collaboration and resulting in prevention and minimisation of marine litter in European seas. MIO-ECSDE showcased the DeFishGear project that is carrying out fishing-for-litter activities, setting up derelict fishing gear management schemes in the Adriatic Sea and in the process of collecting large amounts of litter and derelict fishing gear. MIO-ECSDE also presented some first results of a UNEP/MAP supported Mediterranean-wide survey, conducted in collaboration with several Member Organisations, targeting mostly fishermen which explores various elements linked to marine litter and derelict fishing gear in the marine environment. The workshop provided the possibility for panelists and audience alike to hone into the many aspects of such innovative business models, including environmental, technical, investment-related, stakeholder involvement, etc. (read more <http://mio-ecsde.org/marlisco-curtain-fell-with-a-standing-ovation-at-the-european-maritime-day-2015/>).
- **Showcased the MARLISCO project and its key outputs with an exhibition booth**. MARLISCO's exhibition booth was a huge success, being perhaps the most popular one with a constant flow of visitors and many



lively discussions and photo sessions. The project's high quality outputs exhibited (the best practice guide, the educational pack, the short animated film, etc.) attracted even the attention of the Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Mr. Karmenu Vella himself (photo).

C.2.2. The Act4Drin NGO workshop in SW Balkans: sharing experiences & lessons learned for the protection of freshwater ecosystems in the region

The Act4Drin project brought to the town of Lin, Albania, on the shore of Lake Ohrid, some 28 representatives from 18 environmental NGOs active in the SW Balkans (28-29 April 2015). Everyone engaged in a collective and collaborative learning process on integrated water resources management and freshwater biodiversity conservation in transboundary settings. Participants had the opportunity to take stock of their experiences on a wide range of issues including technical & research aspects, policy & advocacy, education & awareness raising, participatory science, etc. Intensive discussions and reflections resulted in a set of lessons learned and the identification of promising practices, which will be showcased in the upcoming Act4Drin handbook. The handbook will communicate acquired knowledge and ensure that beneficial information is factored into future NGO activities. Milan Vogrin, member of the MIO-ECSDE executive bureau actively participated in this workshop organized by MIO-ECSDE. (Read more at <http://mio-ecsde.org/environmental-ngos-display-solidarity-in-sw-balkans-sharing-experiences-lessons-learned-for-the-protection-of-freshwater-ecosystems-in-the-region/>).



C.2.3. The International Conference on the Environmental Perspectives of the Gulf of Elefsis - A Mediterranean case study where Science meets the Society

The Conference was co-organized in the framework of the project "Aristeia I" of the University of Athens by the Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry and the UNESCO Chair & Network on Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean of the University of Athens; the City of Elefsis; the Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy; UNEP/MAP and MIO-ECSDE. The purpose of the Conference was:

- To present the results of the project Aristeia, "Integrated Study of Trace Metals Biogeochemistry in the Coastal Marine Environment (ISMET-COMAREN)" to the scientific community and the wider society of Elefsis.
- To compare and interpret that new evidence with data from related programmes (e.g. H2020) within the framework of the 40 years of research on the Gulf of Elefsis, of the Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry as well as within the MEDPOL programme of UNEP/MAP, which also celebrates 40 years since its establishment.



The meeting offered the opportunity for MIO-ECSDE to present how it has contributed to the rehabilitation of this heavily polluted industrial area (educational activities, exhibition on marine litter for a number of days, etc.).

The Chairman, by the closing of the event had a concrete set of proposed actions and measures for the sustainable development of the Gulf of Elefsis. On the occasion of the event, the Chairman was also awarded by the City of Elefsis for his personal unique and impressive contribution to the de-pollution of this area, which dates back to his teenage years.

C.2.4. The Regional Workshop for Members of Parliaments, Media and Stakeholders on Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Coastal Area

Just a short while before the Paris Conference on Climate Change - COP21 (30 November – 11 December 2015) and the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (9-12 February 2016, Athens), with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) just launched laying out the conditions to achieve sustainable development in the coming years, and the Mediterranean witnessing acute human tragedy and economic uncertainty, the times are calling for real commitment, optimism and strength of will in view of the staggering challenges.

Members of Parliament and other civil society actors of the Mediterranean have the demanding task of keeping abreast of the rapid developments affecting and forming the region that, among many other things, is a major climate variability and change hotspot. Taking and advancing initiatives within regional and national settings and having resounding messages to put across in the two upcoming COPs, as well as in other regional fora, adds value to international efforts.

It is within this context, that MPs, journalists, NGOs and others are coming to Athens for the *Mediterranean Workshop of Members of Parliament and other Stakeholders on Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas*, on the 5th and 6th (half day) of November 2015, in Athens.

The meeting is organised by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) within the framework of the GEF MAP/UNEP ClimVar & ICZM Project and the GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP), in collaboration with the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) and MIO-ECSD.

Meanwhile, MIO-ECSD is participating and supporting the organisation of the closing conference of the GEF MAP/UNEP MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM Projects that will come to a close in December 2015 (4 November 2015). More than 150 activities in 11 countries have been implemented over the last five years. The aim of the event is bring together country administrators and policy makers, regional actors and experts, intergovernmental bodies and donors, NGOs and journalists, and discuss the results achieved by the two regional projects, and help to define together strategies to ensure their continuity. A celebratory event on the 40 years of UNEP/MAP will also take place in the evening of the 4th.

C.2.5. The 10th Meeting of COMPSUD

The 11th meeting of COMPSUD is to take place on the 5th of November. Preparations for the meeting began in September when the opportunity arose to combine with the:

- the Final Conference of the GEF MAP/UNEP “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) and the “Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” (ClimVar & ICZM) Projects (4 November 2015); and
- the Mediterranean Workshop of Members of Parliament and other Stakeholders on Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas (5-6 November 2015).

The closed session of COMPSUD will consider the following items for discussion:

- Short Report of Activities and where the Circle stands now
- Procedural matters: classification of Members
- New Members
- Next elections

C.2.6. Meetings and Workshops organized by the MEDIES Secretariat

See D.3.

C.3. Joint Mediterranean Actions/Campaigns

C.3.1. Mediterranean Action Day 2015

Due to the unfortunate developments of the 2015 Annual EC Grant submission there was no call for Mediterranean Action Day 2015 events to be organized.

C.3.2. Water in the Mediterranean

It is clear throughout this report that Water in the Mediterranean was a top priority for the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat and its collaborating experts also in 2015. Water is a cross cutting issue that permeates MIO-ECSDE activities both at policy level and for activities in situ.

Following-up on all previous MIO-ECSDE efforts, the Secretariat did the following throughout this year:

- Within the 7th **World Water Forum (WWF7) Korea, 12-17 April 2015** MIO-ECSDE and the UNESCO Chair on ESD/UoA together with a group of stakeholders from and beyond the Mediterranean organised a **Water Education Special Session**, coordinated by MIO-ECSDE and H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco (who participated, showing high interest in the Water Education agenda and several programs such as the www.hydraproject.net). The Mediterranean was the only region within the WWF7 that recognised the indispensable role of Water Education for achieving Sustainable Development and thus, organised this special session. The Session's report, key outcomes and Recommendations produced can be found here www.medies.net/articles.asp?cID=8&aID=983&ereg=
- Participated in numerous important events relating to water (see F).
- Continued to promote the Educational Material on "Water in the Mediterranean" which is available to download in many Mediterranean languages [here](#).
- Ran and expanded the Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) and Non-Conventional Water Resources Management projects in the Greek Islands: The 7th year of implementation of the rainwater harvesting project was conducted in the Dodecanese islands and Attica, Greece, in 2015. The overall RWH project is coordinated by GWP-Med having as main tasks the following:
 - Installation of water harvesting systems in selected public buildings of water-scarce islands.
 - Enhancement of related technical skills through training of local workers.
 - Implementation of related education activities in schools.

This overall RWH project, funded by Coca Cola Hellas constitutes a model-best practice and from 2012 is being replicated in Malta (read more at D.3.2) and 2013 in Cyprus. From 2015 onwards, it is also applied in Italy. It is also now geared to urban settings and not only small island settings.

C.3.3. Biodiversity, Climate Change, etc. in the Mediterranean

The MIO-ECSDE efforts to activate Mediterranean NGOs, governments, etc. on issues directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and climate change continued in 2015 mainly through advocacy during all relevant major international and regional meetings attended by the Chairman, members of the EB and Secretariat and by collaborating experts, with emphasis on safeguarding the provision of ecosystem services and enhancing natural resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change; applying an ecosystem-based approach as a means for protecting and rehabilitating the environmental integrity and as a management approach that offers a valuable yet under-utilized approach for climate change adaptation and halting biodiversity loss.

MIO-ECSDE, within the Act4Drin project (see D.4.4) has continued in 2015 its activities aiming to empower local and national NGOs in effectively and meaningfully promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with a special focus on the protection, conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin. Considerable emphasis has been given to expanding people's awareness, especially of youth, on the intrinsic values of freshwater habitats and species of the region and to promoting concrete, comprehensive and continuous actions towards safeguarding the biodiversity of the Drin River Basin and its invaluable ecosystem services. In this respect two important tools have been created: (a) the "Echoes from the Drin" short films triplet jointly developed by MIO-ECSDE & KAWKA PRODUCTION (http://act4drin.net/?page_id=235); (b) the Act4Drin publication entitled 'The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: inspiring our collective actions' launched on the occasion of the World Rivers Day (<http://act4drin.net/?p=1081>).

C.3.4. Marine and Coastal issues

Throughout 2015, MIO-ECSDE followed closely the progress of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and continued to be a member of the Working Group on Good Environmental Status (WG GES) and the Marine Strategic Coordination Group (MSCG). Furthermore, the Chairman and Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni have been actively contributing to the work of the EU /MSFD Good Environmental Status (GES) Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter. In 2015, MIO-ECSDE has been involved in the elaboration of the upcoming MSFD Technical Group 10 reports expected to be published in 2015, focusing on the assessment of harm; approaches to identification of land and marine-based sources, and monitoring of riverine litter. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer, Thomais Vlachogianni participated at the latest meeting of the group held in Dublin(Ireland), 29 June-1 July 2015.

MIO-ECSDE advanced the discussions on marine litter solutions in the Mediterranean at an event that was organized by the Beyond Plastic Med group, comprised of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Mava Foundation, Tara Expéditions and Surfrider Foundation Europe. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer, Thomais Vlachogianni, who was one of the invited speakers of a two-day international conference held in Monaco from 10-11 of March 2015, contributed with an NGO perspective into the discussions. (Read more at <http://mio-ecsde.org/mio-ecsde-advances-the-discussions-on-marine-litter-solutions-in-the-mediterranean/>).



MIO-ECSDE has also been actively contributing to the promotion of citizen science in marine litter data collection at pan-European level and in this respect it has been in close contact with the EEA. On 23-24 March 2015, MIO-ECSDE participated in the EEA Marine LitterWatch (MLW) meeting aiming to bring the Marine MLW community network together to jointly design an effective and smart approach to tackle marine litter found on beaches in the 4 regional seas surrounding Europe. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni shared experiences and lessons learned related to engaging NGOs and citizens in data collection events.

C.3.5. Culture and Sustainability in the Mediterranean

Among the main objectives of MIO-ECSDE is the protection of the cultural heritage of the Mediterranean region. It proposes that on the one hand cultural values and assets should be used to preserve biodiversity in the Mediterranean and promote sustainable development, and on the other to obtain for many sites in the Mediterranean simultaneous protection of cultural and natural diversity and goods. To this purpose MIO-ECSDE seeks to make the best use of its network of Mediterranean NGOs (as well as of the other sub-networks it facilitates i.e. COMPSUD, educators, journalists, etc.).

Within this overall framework, during 2015 MIO-ECSDE did the following:

- maintenance and further promotion of the interactive HYDRIA website (www.hydraproject.net) – acknowledged as an outstanding example of work bridging ESD and Cultural practices (see [here](#)). Read more about HYDRIA in D.3.1.
- has a very prominent component linked with cultural heritage within the Non-Conventional Water Resources Management programmes.
- promoted the educational package “Mediterranean Food: Historical, Environmental, Health & Cultural dimensions” which has been produced in five Mediterranean languages (find it here <http://www.medies.net/staticpages.asp?aID=371&overrideCategory=1>). Furthermore, an e-learning course about Mediterranean Food is under completion, in cooperation with the University of Athens and based to a large extent on the material. Read more in D.3.8
- Pursued funding for various related projects particularly on Cultural diversity and Biodiversity including proposal submissions.
- Supported member organisations’ and other initiatives where possible.
- etc.

D. RUNNING, DRAFTING, COMPLETION AND/OR FOLLOW-UP OF PROJECTS

D.1. Annual EC Funding for 2015

The deadline for submitting the 2015 Annual Funding under the LIFE+ Instrument was the 15th of October 2014 and the results were communicated to the Secretariat in early 2015. For a 3rd year in a row (4th in the last 5 years) EU funding of our annual programme, as submitted to the European Commission, was not approved. We scored 88/100 and we needed 89 to pass and be funded. The Secretariat reverted to the EC with a letter indicating the errors and weaknesses in the evaluation but they were not convinced to reconsider, even though they did confirm that the submission and its quality was very good.

D.2. EC Funding for the biennium 2016-2017

The new submission was early this year (27 July 2015) and follows a whole new approach including that it is for a two year period rather than annual. If all goes well, at a first step a framework contract will be signed (November) and then a full submission for the first year of the biennium will be required by December. The Secretariat submitted the MIO-ECSDE programme as approved at the AGM last December.

D.3. Implementing Education for Sustainable Development - the MEDIES Secretariat

Via the MEDIES Secretariat MIO-ECSDE plays a leading role in promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the Mediterranean, Europe and the rest of the world from policy formulation to implementation, and monitoring of progress. The MEDIES initiative was launched in Johannesburg during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, 2002) led by MIO-ECSDE, the Greek Government, UNESCO, and UNEP/MAP and closely collaborates with GWP-Med in water issues. Confirmed partners of the initiative include Governments (through Ministries), Universities, NGOs from Mediterranean Countries, etc. (see [here](#)).

MEDIES's working agenda is in line with the principles of the 2010 Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on ESD; the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the 2012 Partnership between the European Union and UNESCO on education, culture, science and human rights; the 2004 UNECE Strategy on ESD and its "child" the 2015 Mediterranean Strategy on ESD; the major global initiative on ESD in the 2015 phase called Global Action Plan (GAP, led by UNESCO). Within MEDIES, the exchange and close collaboration of EU and non-EU countries of the Mediterranean allows the development of a methodological framework that could be further implemented in other regions of the world.

The educational programmes of MEDIES are usually developed around interdisciplinary cross-cutting themes, such as freshwater, solid waste, resource-efficiency, consumers' behaviour, diet/food, climate change, marine litter, etc. applying mostly methods of ESD, an "umbrella" type of education that ultimately equips people with sustainability knowledge, values and skills, making them more competent and motivated to act for a healthy, productive and respectful life, in harmony with nature and others. MEDIES puts emphasis on the role of students/learners as "messengers for sustainability" to their families and local communities.

MEDIES is since 2006 an accredited International Network for Environmental Education/ESD of the Hellenic Ministry of Education. Earlier it had been selected in a pan-European inventory of innovative practices on ESD by DG Education and Culture (DG EAC) (2008). Recently it was included in the Report of the UN Decade on ESD (UNESCO, 2014) as an international Network with significant achievements in capacity building of ESD teachers. Several of its ongoing educational projects like HYDRIA, and Alter Aqua in Malta have been awarded.

In 2015 the following main horizontal activities of the secretariat are underway or have been fulfilled:

- Facilitating the e-network of educators that are members of www.medies.net and implement its educational programmes. MEDIES webpage is updated on a weekly basis with ESD related news, competitions, conference outcomes, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest.
- Following various political processes supporting ESD at many levels (European, UfM, UNECE and UNESCO-GAP level), through participation of the MEDIES Coordinator in strategic meetings and networks.
- Authoring and producing new teaching and learning material (in printed or e-form).
- Targeted ESD trainings for educators in various Mediterranean countries.

- Targeted activities with students at schools (mostly in Greece).
- Facilitating the Mediterranean Universities Network for ESD (MedUnNET).
- Circulating on a quarterly basis the e- bulletin to its members (see [MEdIES bulletins](#)).

D.3.1. The HYDRIA web application

The website 'HYDRIA' - *collection, storage & distribution of water in antiquity: linking ancient wisdom to modern needs* (www.hydraproject.net) was launched in 2008 as an e-awareness and sensitisation tool targeting mostly youth, teachers, researchers and potential visitors. Its aim is to demonstrate aspects of the diverse, yet common tangible and intangible Mediterranean Cultural Heritage using as a vehicle, selected cases of water works of the distant or more recent past. The website includes texts, photos and animations to present the cases.

Between 2008 and 2014 HYDRIA has been gradually expanding in number of cases, and served languages with the support of MIO-ECSDE (through the EU annual funding); GWP-Med; the UNESCO Participation Programme; and the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF).

The website has been awarded twice: By ALF as a good practice project (2010) and by UNESCO as a good practice project in the field of "Cultural Diversity in Education for Sustainable Development" (2011). Today HYDRIA showcases 39 cases and is fully functioning in English, Greek and Arabic. MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES will keep seeking funds for its further expansion.

D.3.2. The educational component of the Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) project in Greece

The role of MIO-ECSDE and specifically MEdIES in the Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) project is to support the awareness and education component, targeting students, teachers as well as the wider public.

The overall project is coordinated by GWP-Med having as its main tasks to conserve traditional or install new rain water harvesting systems of public use in water-scarce areas, mostly islands; enhance the related technical skills of local workers; implement awareness raising activities in schools and educate teachers. The main partner and donor of the project is the "Mission Water" environmental program of Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company & Coca-Cola Hellas. This project is considered a model of best practice to be replicated in other local communities in Greece and other EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries.

Since 2009 the project has run in more than 25 islands of the Cyclades and Dodecanese. This was the 7th year of implementation of the overall project, including its educational component. The latter, for this school year targeted two Dodecanese Islands (Kos and Astypalaia) and a significant number of schools in the Athens Metropolitan region.

The MEdIES activities for 2015 within the RWH project were the following:

- "Gift of Rain" school interventions: The purpose of these interventions is to inform and sensitise students on the issue of water saving, particularly through the revival of traditional practices of collecting rainwater, e.g. in cisterns. The educational activities took place in the islands of Kos and Astypalaia in May, for a total of 642 students. Additionally, more than 2000 students (number refers to the entire school year 2014-15) benefited from a plethora of school interventions in the wider Athens metropolitan area.
- "Gift of Rain" teacher trainings: A teacher training and an info session were held in Kos and Astypalaia, respectively, resulting in 67 trained teachers. Additionally, through a series of trainings in Athens and Attica more than 300 teachers (number refers to the entire school year 2014-15) have been trained on how to use in their classes the educational material "the Gift of Rain".
- Student's works from the previous years' School Art Contest were exhibited in Kos and during a weeklong display in May 2014 they were visited by hundreds of students.

D.3.3. The educational component of the "Alter Aqua" project in Malta

The *Alter Aqua* project in Malta is led by GWP-Med in partnership with the Ministry of Gozo; the Ministry for Energy and Health; the Eco-Gozo project; the Coca-Cola System in Malta (Coca-Cola Malta and General Soft Drinks); in collaboration with MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES (leading the educational component); Nature Trust Malta (NTM) and the EkoSkola programme.

This was the 4th year of project implementation with the aim to advance the use of Non Conventional Water Resources (NCWRs), such as rainwater harvesting, grey water and treated wastewater reuse, as a sustainable resource in the water scarce communities of the Maltese Islands.

The project aims also to raise awareness of students and teachers on NCWRs and sustainable water use and to enhance the capacity of local and regional councils on NCWRs management. MEDIES together with Nature Trust Malta and the EkoSkola programme have been jointly running the project's educational component, reaching to an impressive number of educated teachers and students. The educational component of the Alter Aqua project in Malta was awarded the 2013 STENCIL award on Science teaching in Europe. As the project comes to an end one last teacher training is scheduled to take place in Malta on 1-2 December 2015.

D.3.4. Educational component of the "NCWR in CYPRUS" project

This has been the final year of implantation of the project of Non Conventional Water Resources (NCWRs) in Cyprus. Led by GWP-Med, the project in Cyprus was funded by the Coca-Cola system in Cyprus (Lanitis bros & Coca-Cola Cyprus), while MIO-ECSDE through MEDIES and the Cyprus Pedagogic Institute (PIK) collaborated to carry out the educational activities of the project.



In the previous years through the wider project NCWR systems (mostly of grey water recycling) were installed in three Centres of Environmental Education (CEEs) of Cyprus. Their staff expressed a keen interest to include these systems in the guided tours they perform to the hundreds of students that visit them on a daily basis. In 2014 two sets of the hands-on material (magnetic board, floor plans, etc) were supplied by MEDIES to the Cypriot colleagues, and in 2015 further to their request, another two sets were produced and shipped over. So, from this year on, the four CEEs of Cyprus are equipped with appropriate hands-on material to support them in carrying out the water sensitization activities.

D.3.5. Educational component of the "NCWRM in Italy" project

From 2015 to 2018 the NCWRs project will expand to Italy, specifically to Sardinia, again under the leadership of GWP-Med.

For this first year, following the know-how developed in the other countries, the MEDIES Secretariat came in contact with educational authorities and non governmental institutions to establish an "Educational Focal Point" that will monitor the educational activities throughout the project. Ms Patrizia Bonelli, MIO-ECSDE EB member is cooperating with the MEDIES Secretariat in the translation and adaptation of the Alter Aqua Educational Material (both the printed version and the hands-on material).

It is envisaged that following the completion of the Italian Alter Aqua publication and its production a teacher training is foreseen to take place in Sardinia, ideally before the end of 2015.

The overall ALTER AQUA project (the material, the hands-on activities, etc.) was presented in the Seminar "Water in the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD: Training of Trainers on Water Issues" organised by the Rotary Clubs of Lebanon, the Notre Dame University (NDU) and GWP (NDM Beirut, April 25). The seminar aimed at raising awareness about sustainable water management, water culture and education, ethics regarding water management and gender issues (130 participants). Prof Michael Scoullos, made the key-presentation of the training seminar about the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD, emphasising on water issues. (more information at www.medies.net/articles.asp?CID=8&aID=986&ereq=)

D.3.6. MEDIES as partner in the UE4SD EU Tempus project

University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD) is a 3 year-project (2014-2016), focusing on enabling university staff to prepare students, regardless of their courses or specialisation, to understand and apply their professional and global responsibilities in sustainability. It engages a consortium of 55 partners from 33 countries across Europe seeking to re-orient higher education curricula to address sustainable development. Thus, UE4SD will establish a leading expert group in ESD competences in higher education in Europe and will create a platform to combine and share the expertise of network partners so that they can inform policy and

practice beyond the life of the project. Its activities are closely associated with COPERNICUS Alliance – the European Network of Higher Education for Sustainable Development. MIO-ECSDE, through the MEDIES Secretariat, and the University of Athens are partners in the UE4SD project.

In 2015, MEDIES has, among other things, edited, in cooperation with the University of Athens, the article about “The Network of the Mediterranean Universities for Sustainable Development focusing on Education for Sustainable Development” that is included in the “Leading Practice Publication” of the UE4SD network as a “Large Case Study Example”. The publication will soon be printed and uploaded at www.ue4sd.eu. The article will also be presented during the upcoming annual meeting of the UE4SD (to take place in Madrid on 23-24 November 2015; MEDIES Secretariat will be represented by Programme Officer Ms Vicky Malotidi).

D.3.7. E-course on the educational pack “Know Feel Act! To Stop Marine Litter”

Broadly speaking, the asynchronous e-course is equivalent to a 1.5 to 2 days face-to-face seminar aiming to train learners on effective ways of teaching about marine litter. During the e-course an overview of the educational pack is presented, and effective ways of how it could be incorporated in real life teaching settings are demonstrated. Evidently, it is appealing to school teachers, NGO and museum staff, surfers, divers, activists, and university students, who form a highly interactive online community, while the course is alive. Following the pilot run of the e-course in June 2014 two full rounds have been implemented in 2015, within MARLISCO project, as follows:

- Round II (9-20 January 2015) with 122 participants from 18 countries, mostly Euro-Mediterranean (i.e. Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, UK and USA). Read more on round II results [here](#).
- Round III (19 – 31 May 2015) with 132 participants from 28 countries (Bermuda, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, UK). Read more on round III results [here](#).

The e-course has been designed and run by MEDIES officer Ms Iro Alampeï. The high completion rates (57.4% in round II, and 42.4% in round III, which is about four times higher than the average completion rate in MOOCs) and the constant demand for it, motivate us to repeat it. Hopefully, another round will take place in January 2016, this time, within the DefishGear project.

D.3.8. E-course on the Mediterranean Food & Diet: A multidisciplinary Historic, Cultural, Environmental and Dietary Overview

MEDIES Secretariat together with the UNESCO Chair on ESD of UoA, are working on the development of an e-learning multidisciplinary course (in English) about the Mediterranean Food and Diet. The content of the e-course is partly based on the respective ESD material that MEDIES had produced some years ago under a project funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation. However, this e-course addresses a wider adult audience (not students) and promotes Mediterranean food and diet as such. The main themes covered in this e-course are: the interrelationships between food, biodiversity and the Mediterranean environment and landscapes; the evolution of human activities directly related to food; the impacts of history (Mediterranean civilisations) on food and diet; the establishment of the Mediterranean triad (the vine & the wine; the olive tree & oil; cereals & their products) and other characteristic foodstuff and products; the importance of the Mediterranean diet to human health; and, food security within sustainable development.

This e-course is developed under the E-learning Programme of the University of Athens and is expected to be functional by the end of 2015 (or early in 2016).

D.3.9. MEDIES as partner in the AFKAR Project “Lebanese Youth as Messengers for Sustainability”

This is the second and final year of the project entitled “Lebanese Youth as Messengers for Sustainability” that is led by the Makhzoumi Foundation and includes as consortium partners MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES, OMSAR, CERD, ALMEE, and ARMADILLA.

The Project fosters a culture of sustainability among Lebanese children and youth, their families and the local communities, in order to enhance a sustainable development within the country and the Mediterranean

region. Its diverse activities are designed to address four dimensions of sustainable development i) education ii) citizenship and civic engagement iii) cultural and ethical aspects and iv) the local and global contexts.

Its activities include school interventions, school projects, capacity building trainings for local authorities and NGOs, a short video competition and the compilation of a resource book on ESD.

MIO-ECSDE / MEDIES involvement is primarily in the capacity building workshops to local authorities' staff (held in 2014); the updating of the project webpage and networking youth in Greece. The project comes to an end in November 2015 with the final events taking place in all partner countries (Lebanon, Italy and Greece).

D.3.10. Mediterranean Universities Network for SD and ESD (MedUnNET)

Due to lack of funds this was a year with limited but important activities of the MedUnNET:

- In April 2015, a proposal was submitted to the EC Life Long Learning Programme (ERASMUS+ KA2- Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices / Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education) by the University of Athens on behalf of the Network involving some of its members and in cooperation with the MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES Secretariat. The proposal concerned a 3 year long project entitled "Partnership and e-Learning course on Education for Sustainable Development in Designated Areas" which is a priority theme in the agenda of MedUnNET. Competition in such Calls is rather high; unfortunately we were notified in July 2015 that with a score of 71.5% the project was included in a reserve list.
- In July 2015, and following an invitation by Prof. Tuncay, MedUnNET member, a draft proposal for a 1-2 week long Summer School (for 2016) to be held in the Danube Delta on the topic of "Sustainable Development (SD) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Biosphere Reserves and Protected Areas" was submitted to Veolia and Apa Nova Bucharest. The intended summer school will target 40-50 University students and their Professors from SE European, Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. The outcome of this proposal is pending. If this proposal is approved another complementary budget is secured by GWP.
- MedUnNET joined the European Regional network of GUPES: "Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability". GUPES has been started by UNEP aiming to increase the mainstreaming of environment and sustainability practices and curricula into universities around the world; to encourage also further interaction between UNEP and universities, around education, training and applied research; and to enhance sharing of information, best practices or initiatives relevant to SD in higher education. Within the GUPES 'family', MedUnNET co-signed the Open Letter to COP21 Ministers and Governments as a collective voice of the world's universities, colleges and students that will be heard at COP21 Paris (early December), urging Ministers and Governments to acknowledge and strengthen the research and education role that universities and colleges play in addressing climate change. The Open Letter celebrates and confirms the critical role universities and colleges play in finding and implementing solutions towards climate change mitigation and adaptation and places it in the context of addressing wider issues of sustainability, including social and economic policies and practices.
- A training meeting is to be co-organized by the University of Athens, MEDIES and the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice in order for Universities (and Managers of BRs) to exchange know-how and practices on SD including footprint considerations and accounting and other monitoring tools, in view of the new global SGDs. The meeting is planned to be held in Athens (18-20 January 2016) and it will be an excellent opportunity for the members of MedUnNET to meet and discuss future plans.

D.3.11. Mediterranean Youth Responses towards SD and the current crisis: A Mediterranean Survey

In spite of the good news we had in 2014 that this project was approved to be financed (by the General Secretariat of Youth, Ministry of Education), the funding was then cancelled due to the call of early elections in January 2015 and the severe economic crisis in Greece.

Despite these developments, due to the importance given to the activity, MIO-ECSDE / through MEDIES decided to go on with the activity with the support of a Masters student from the University of Athens. To minimise costs the survey runs only online.

The survey invites young people aged 15-35 years from all over the Mediterranean region to share their thoughts about sustainability issues (environmental, social and economic) and also their visions for the future.

It aims to capture the current state of youth in countries of the Mediterranean, record the challenges and especially the need for skills necessary to combat these and to propose a series of actions for the post-2015 period.

The questionnaire can be found online in 3 languages (English, French, Greek). It is anonymous and takes about 20-30 minutes to fill. The survey results will be used by MIO-ECSDE as a knowledge base to design future activities, but it will also feed into the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy for ESD that is under development and is expected to be finalised in 2016.

The survey will be open at least until November 2015. Please share the link with your networks:
<http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?cID=8&aID=989>

D.4. Other projects

D.4.1. Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP)

MIO-ECSDE was a key partner in the Consortium responsible for the implementation of the EU funded Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP). The project started in November 2009 and successfully ended in October 2014. The Consortium was led by the University of Athens. The final report of the project was submitted to the EC in mid 2015.

There was an EU call for tender for the follow-up phase which will be combining H2020 and SWIM - H2020/SWIM Support Mechanism (2016-2018). In the consortium, LDK consultants is the Lead partner and MIO-ECSDE, the University of Athens and RAED are among the 12 partners of the consortium. We should have news by November 2015 on this.

D.4.2. The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Sea Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership)

The MedPartnership is a collective effort of leading organizations (regional, international, nongovernmental, etc.) and countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea towards the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean. The MedPartnership is being led by UNEP/MAP and is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors, including the EU and all participating countries.

Within the framework of the project, MIO-ECSDE's activities aim to strengthen public awareness (with particular emphasis on NGO networks) and support NGO participation in the implementation of the project. More specifically the aim is to ensure effective NGO involvement in the project and feeding into and complementing the Communication Strategy. Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE has been leading several of the communication and information dissemination activities of the project. The follow-up contract for the whole duration of the project (end of project: December 2014) was extended and it will end in December 2015. Read more at www.themedpartnership.org and see C.1.1.

D.4.3. FP7 project: MARine Litter in Europe Seas: Social Awareness and CO-Responsibility (MARLISCO)

Together with eighteen other EU-based organizations, MIO-ECSDE has been a partner in the FP7 project entitled MARLISCO "MARine Litter in Europe's Seas: Social Awareness and CO-Responsibility". The 36-month long project, led by Provincia di Teramo, Italy ended in June 2015. MIO-ECSDE member organization MerTerre (France) was also a partner.

The MARLISCO project aimed to increase awareness on the consequences of societal behaviour in relation to waste production and management on marine socio-ecological systems, to promote co-responsibility among the different actors and to define a more sustainable collective vision through concerted actions. The main focus was to provide and evaluate mechanisms to enable society to perceive the impact of litter on the marine environment, to identify the land-based activities that are involved and collectively arrive at solutions to reduce that impact – in particular solutions that can be implemented locally but have a regional effect.

MIO-ECSDE, given its long-standing experience at policy/advocacy/awareness raising level and Education for Sustainable Development is involved in almost all working packages and has undertaken the role of leading the Med Node and the educational component of the project.

Highlights of MIO-ECSDE and MEDIES participation in the MARLISCO project in 2015 concern the following activities (some of which extend beyond the official end of the project in June 2015):

- The educational pack “Know Feel Act! To Stop Marine Litter”: This is a joint product of the MARLISCO consortium aiming to inform, sensitise and enable European teachers and students to take action in tackling the problem of litter in our seas and coasts. The English version of the pack (finalised in 2014) has been translated into 14 European languages within 2015, by the other project partners. MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES undertook the compilation of the Greek version and the coordination of the entire translation activities with partners. Access all languages of the Pack [here](#).



- The printing of the educational pack “Know Feel Act! To Stop Marine Litter” has been possible with the support of the Coca-Cola System in Greece (Coca-Cola Hellas & Coca-Cola Tria Epsilon). The English version was printed in 400 hard copies, and the Greek version in 1000 copies.

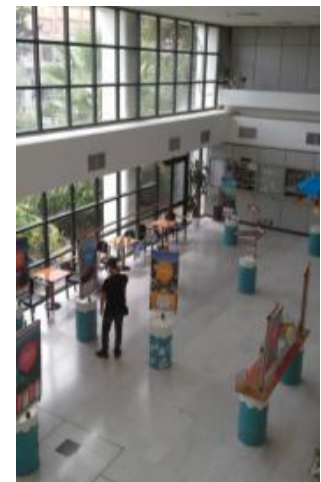
- The adaptation, translation, printing and wide dissemination of this educational Pack in the **Arabic** language has been possible with the support of UNEP/MAP through the EcAp-MED project co-funded by the EU and the Mediterranean Trust Fund of the Barcelona Convention. RAED has done the translation, adaptation, Arabic layout and production, as well as the dissemination.

- The adaptation, translation and wide dissemination of the MARLISCO best practice guide into **Arabic** within the aforementioned EcAp-MED project. Again RAED has done the translation and Arabic layout,

- Two very successful on-line courses have been held on how formal and non formal educators can use this Educational pack (see D.3.7).

- Greek teacher trainings to promote the MARLISCO Exhibition and the Educational Material “Know Feel Act! To Stop Marine Litter” (i) in Elefsina, 10 September 2015, 30 participants; (ii) Faliro Municipality of Athens, 15 October 2015, 50 participants.

- Promotion of the MARLISCO awareness raising exhibition in Greece: Throughout 2015 MIO-ECSDE / MEDIES has been coordinating the displays or lending of the exhibition in the following events / places that were visited by tens of thousands of visitors, mostly students but also adults: (i) From April to June 2015 the exhibition was hosted at the Attica Zoological Park (ii) From May to November 2015 the banners have been reproduced and are displayed in the Goulandri Museum of Natural History (iii) from 8 September to 14 September the Exhibition was hosted at City Hall of Elefsina.



- Promotion of the MARLISCO exhibition outside Greece: Institutions/organizations from two countries have approached MIO-ECSDE and expressed interest in reproducing and disseminating the Exhibition, namely OZON from Montenegro and the Oslofjord Outdoor Recreational Council from Norway. MIO-ECSDE has gladly agreed to grant them the right to reproduce the exhibition following the signing of a partnership agreement. The high demand to reproduce the exhibition both inside and outside Greece demonstrates that this has been a very successful awareness raising tool of MARLISCO.

- The development and promotion of the MARLISCO brochure entitled ‘Stopping marine litter together!’ targeted to citizens mainly in their professional capacity but also as individuals. The economic sectors that are addressed are tourism, the maritime and wider manufacturing sector. It provides essential information on the marine litter issue (sources, composition and impacts) and suggestions on how one can contribute to tackling this growing pressure. The aim is not only to instil a sense of co-responsibility within the various stakeholder communities as co-contributors to the marine litter problem but also to foster a sense of empowerment and take up individual and/or collective actions.

- The development and dissemination of the MARLISCO project synthesis entitled “Understanding the science-society nexus through the marine litter challenge: lessons learned & recommendations from the MARLISCO project”. The synthesis offers insights that contribute to an improved understanding of the science-society

nexus, while setting a precedent for effective use of knowledge towards sustainable and responsible individual and collective actions. Currently a scientific paper is under elaboration to be submitted.

D.4.4. Living well in harmony with the Drin (Act4Drin)

Living well in harmony with the Drin (Act4Drin) is a CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) funded project aiming at raising public awareness, enhancing knowledge and empowering NGOs to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin.

This Act4Drin project (www.act4drin.net) comes as a direct follow-up of MIO-ECSDE's intensive efforts of the past few years to enhance the ability and capacity of its member and collaborating NGOs in the region in order to act in an effective and constructive way within the Drin Dialogue Process. Furthermore, this project builds upon MIO-ECSDE's long standing experience at policy/advocacy/awareness raising/capacity building level when it comes to nature and biodiversity protection, integrated water resources management, stakeholder's involvement and participatory processes in transboundary set ups.

The Act4Drin project was launched in March 2014 and has a timeframe of two years. The activities focus on building the capacities of local/national NGOs to promote IWRM and freshwater biodiversity conservation in transboundary settings; enhancing coordination, cooperation and networking of local/national NGOs working in the Drin River Basin and catalyzing the effective involvement of local/national NGOs in the Drin Dialogue process and/or other relevant projects; raising awareness of local communities and the wider public on the importance of the Drin River Basin and its freshwater ecosystems.

Key partners of the project are Kawka Production (<http://www.kawkaproduction.com>), a documentary film production company from Slovenia experienced in communicating nature protection concepts; the Macedonian Ecological Society, who are implementing a 'sister' project entitled "Water for lakes, bogs, streams and people on Jablanica Mt."; three grassroot organizations, from Albania (EDEN), Montenegro (GREEN HOME) and FYR Macedonia (BIOSFERA) who are involved in all phases of project implementation as associate partners and act as the national ambassadors in promoting the project's objectives and results in their respective countries.

The main highlights of the Act4Drin activities for 2015 include:

- The Act4Drin survey report (January 2015) taking stock of environmental NGO capacities in the Drin River Basin (<http://act4drin.net/?p=919>).
- The organization of a collective and mutual learning workshop at Lin, Albania, on the shore of Lake Ohrid, bringing together some 28 representatives from 18 environmental NGOs active in the SW Balkans (28-29 April 2015) (<http://act4drin.net/?p=990>). A MIO-ECSDE member of the Executive Board was actively involved.
- The celebration of the Act4Drin Day (17 May 2015), an annual initiative dedicated to raising public awareness about the natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin with the overall goal of inspiring collective actions. BIOSFERA, EDEN, GREEN HOME and MES, all Act4Drin project partners, organized wide-ranging celebrations with a common goal: to protect and conserve the freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin. The events targeted mainly youngsters -as agents of change - but also educators and NGOs. They took place in various locations throughout the extended river basin. (<http://act4drin.net/?p=1043>)
- The development and launching (April 2015) of the “**Echoes from the Drin**” short films triplet jointly developed by MIO-ECSDE & KAWKA PRODUCTION. The films entitled ‘Whispers of Water’, ‘Reflections of Life’, ‘Impressions of Humans’ seek to bring forward what is all about "Living in harmony with the Drin". The triplet has also been translated into the partner countries' (Albania, Montenegro, FYROM) languages. (<http://act4drin.net/?p=954>)
- The development and launching of the Act4Drin publication on the natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin on the occasion of the World Rivers Day (27 September 2015). For the first time ever a multilingual (five languages) publication that highlights the exceptional wealth of freshwater biodiversity of



the Drin River Basin has been produced via a collective effort of the region's civil society. Entitled "The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: inspiring our collective actions", it aims at raising public awareness on the value of our common natural wealth and ultimately triggering individual or collective actions towards safeguarding the basin's biodiversity and its invaluable ecosystem services. MIO-ECSDE member of the Executive Board (Milan Vogrin) was actively involved in the development of the publication. (<http://act4drin.net/?p=1081>).

Read more here www.act4drin.net.

D.4.5. The DeFishGear project

Together with fifteen other organizations from all seven countries of the Adriatic Sea, MIO-ECSDE is a key partner in the IPA Adriatic project entitled "Derelict Fishing Gear management system in the Adriatic Region". MIO-ECSDE is leading the 'Marine Litter Monitoring & Assessment' related component of the project.

The DeFishGear project aims to facilitate efforts for integrated planning to reduce the environmental impacts of litter-generating activities and ensure the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment of the Adriatic Sea. Ultimately, the DeFishGear project will provide a strategic input to regional efforts in successfully achieving good environmental status in the Mediterranean Sea. Read more at www.defishgear.net

The project kicked off in December 2013 and its activities will be completed in March 2016. Within 2014, MIO-ECSDE has invested considerable time and effort on the project activities, particularly in the preparation of all technical guidance documents to facilitate coordinated marine litter pilot monitoring activities in all environmental compartments.

Some of the highlights of the project within 2015 were:

- The launching (February 2015) of the transborder floating marine macrolitter survey in the Adriatic-Ionian Sea together with Accademia del Levatiano. The first results were published in May 2015 (<http://mio-ecsde.org/winter-2015-results-of-a-transborder-marine-macrolitter-survey-in-the-adriatic-ionician-sea/>).
- The continuation of the beach litter surveys in six locations in Thesprotia, Greece.
- The revision and finalization of the monitoring protocols for marine litter on beaches, the seafloor, the water surface and biota.
- The co-organization of a workshop at the European Maritime Day 2015 (May 2015) entitled "Innovative business models for marine litter in Europe" together with ECNC Group (<http://mio-ecsde.org/innovative-business-models-for-marine-litter-in-europe/>).
- The launching (July 2015) of a socio-economic implications survey for marine litter in the Adriatic Macro-region with 7 participating countries.
- MIO-ECSDE's key participation in three major DeFishGear events:
 - **The MICRO2015 seminar** organized on 4-6 May 2015, at the Marine Biology Station, Piran, Slovenia. The event attracted 82 participants from 10 countries. Six renowned scientists contributed invited talks into coordinated sessions focusing on occurrence of microplastics in the marine environment; microplastics as vectors for biological and chemical contaminants; impacts on biota; prevention and mitigation (<http://mio-ecsde.org/mio-ecsde-at-the-micro2015/>).
 - **The DeFishGear 2-week long summer school** on marine litter held at Nova Gorica, Slovenia from 11 to 24 June 2015 and attended by some 40 Master and PhD students from the countries of the Adriatic sea (and beyond). MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni, actively participated at the summer school with two lectures focusing on 'Monitoring macro-litter in the marine environment: overview of applied methods and data in the Adriatic Sea' and 'Understanding the science-society nexus through the marine litter challenge: lessons learned from the MARLISCO project'. At the coast of Debeli Rtič she demonstrated how marine litter monitoring methodologies can be applied, based on the beach monitoring protocol prepared by MIO-ECSDE in collaboration with other DeFishGear partners. (<http://mio-ecsde.org/mio-ecsde-at-the-defishgear-summer-school-on-marine-litter/>).
 - **The DeFishGear conference** organized in Venice (October 2015), where MIO-ECSDE contributed with two scientific posters: (a) Piloting different methodological approaches to assess amounts,

types and sources of litter on Slovenian beaches; (b) Winter abundance, composition and distribution of marine macro-litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macro region. In addition MIO-ECSDE chaired one of the conference sessions on marine litter monitoring.

D.5. Submissions of proposals

The status of MIO-ECSDE proposal submissions for 2015 are as follows:

Proposal Title	Submitted to:	Project budget (EURO)	Submission date	Status
EC Bi-Annual funding (Life+)	EC	Requested from the EC: 600.000	27/7/2015	Pending Applicant: MIO-ECSDE
SWIM/H2020 Support Mechanism	EC	7.000.000	3/8/2015	Pending Applicant: LDK Consultants
Green Economy Mediterranean Hubs	MAVA Foundation	1.500.000	August 2015	Pending Applicant: MIO-ECSDE (with ecounion)
Promoting Principle 10 with respect to environmental matters in Middle East and North Africa region	Eye on Earth Special Initiative of the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI)	500.000	July 2015	Pending Applicant: EEB
BlueGreen Med-CS	UfM Secretariat	2.855.000	April 2014	Labelled by the UfM in June 2014 (pending financing)
Plastic Busters for a litter free Mediterranean	UfM Secretariat for labelling	8.810.800	May 2015	Under development
Litter in Greek coastal and marine waters: enhanced knowledge towards effective decision making for anticipating the problem	ICELAND, LICHTENSTEIN, NORWAY EEA GRANT	399.785	February 2015	Not approved (July 2015)
ETSE: Empowering teachers for a sustainable Europe	ERASMUS+ / KA2.1. Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, "School Education"	270.000	March 2015	Not approved (score: 72,8% reserve list)
Partnership and e-Learning course on Education for Sustainable Development in Designated Areas	ERASMUS+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships for HEIs	~ 390.000	April 2015	Reserve list (considered unsuccessful)
Summer School for SD and ESD BRs and Protected Areas	(1) Veolia / Apa Nova Bucharest (2) GWP Stockholm	(1) 61.500 (2) 20.000	September 2015	(1) Pending (2) Ensured as co-funding Applicant MIO-ECSDE

ActDev - Acting for Sustainable Development	Support to CSOs / EuropeAid	~ 6.000 Euro for MEDIES	Sept 2015	Concept note approved Full proposal pending
Civil Society in Action for Sustainable Development (including youth e-survey)	Support to CSOs / EuropeAid /OMSAR / AFKAR III	~ 6.000 Euro for MEDIES	Aug 2015	Pending
MedUnNET training on "Accessing Sustainability in Higher Education Institutions"	UNESCO Venice Office	Funds to cover a 2.5 day long training for 20 participants	Nov 2015	Ensured
ACT4LITTER	MED INTERREG	599.000 (139.000 for MIO-ECSDE)	November 2015	Pending
MEDALERT	MED INTERREG	3.500.000	November 2015	Pending

E. PUBLICATIONS & WEB-APPLICATIONS

- The educational material “Know, feel, act! to stop Marine Litter”. MIO-ECSDE had undertaken the original English material and the Greek translation and production within the EU funded MARLISCO project. In 2015 the material was translated in 14 European languages by the MARLISCO Consortium. In 2015 MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES undertook the English printing (400 copies), the Greek printing (1000 copies), and with the support of RAED, the Arabic adaptation, translation and printing (1700 copies) and widely disseminates the Pack through online and face to face trainings. All 15 languages of the Pack can be accessed [here](#). The Arabic version was made possible through the support of UNEP/MAP and the EcAp Med EU funded project.
- The Act4Drin publication entitled “The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: inspiring our collective actions” was produced in 1500 copies (<http://act4drin.net/?p=1081>). It is a multilingual publication made with the active involvement of the participating partner NGOs.
- The MARLISCO brochure entitled ‘Stopping marine litter together!’ targeted to citizens mainly in their professional capacity but also as individuals was produced in 500 copies.
- The MedPartnership handbook on the Public Participation Process in the Mediterranean - A tool for achieving Sustainable Development. It is the basis on which an e-learning module on the same topic was developed under the communication component of the project.
- The MedPartnership Persistent Organic Pollutants: The ‘dirty dozen’ and the ‘nasty nonet’.