



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

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

# 2017

January - November



**Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development**

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## Executive Summary

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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 UNEP/MAP 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 2017 were mainly threefold:

- Expansion of actions in thematic areas MIO-ECSDE wanted to be particularly active in 2017 (e.g. SDGs and ESD, MAB Reserves, Marine Litter, Biodiversity, Green Economy, Blue Economy, Climate Change, IWRM, ICZM) and the next few years;
- Continued implementation of on-going commitments and activities from previous years (monitoring and formulation of policy, preparation of project proposals in support of its networks, 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 2017 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 (e.g. through the MSFD related work) but also the UN (e.g. through the work in the "Advancing Policy" Partner Network 1 of the UNESCO/GAP).
- Its role as a key partner in **UN Environment/MAP**: It was active in various of its 2017 meetings and expert groups as a MAP Partner and in the run up to COP20 in December. MIO-ECSDE was on the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and actively contributed to the monitoring of the implementation of the revised Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (2016-2025).
- Strengthening the **environmental component of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**, the **European Neighbourhood Instrument** and civil society participation; contribution to the **HORIZON 2020 Initiative** for a cleaner Mediterranean; contribution to efforts for integration of environment and sustainability concerns in other policy areas of the UfM.
- Promoting **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**, Public Awareness, Public Participation and Access to Information at regional and national levels with a renewed momentum after the adoption of the **Action Plan (AP)** of the **Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)** in Nicosia, on 8-9 December 2016. MIO-ECSDE is also an official **GAP** Partner of UNESCO (Global Action Programme on ESD). Furthermore, the **MEdiES** secretariat has carried out several national and regional activities to support educators and students on ESD, through 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; 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)** as well as through **water education** activities (e.g. water in the city).

- Developing capacities for **sustainable Urban Waste Management** and tackling **marine litter** in the region. In particular for marine litter MIO-ECSDE actions in 2017 on the science-policy-society interface include provision of scientific and technical expertise to all stages of the main legislative marine litter related processes for the Mediterranean (MSFD, EcAP – Ecosystem Approach); filling in the knowledge gaps that stand in the way of effective decision making through research (DeFishGear activities), participatory science (ACT4LITTER, Marine Litter Watch activities) and community-based data collection initiatives; supporting MPA managers to develop MPA-specific marine litter action plans (ACT4LITTER pilot actions).
- 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); facilitated the Secretariat of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean/University of Athens; maintained the traditionally close relations with the Greek National Committee of UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserves (MAB BRs).
- co-organised international conferences, workshops and seminars.

The 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 2017.

The present report describes the progress and development of MIO-ECSDE's main activities, projects and achievements for 2017.

The activities carried out followed the priorities described in the MIO-ECSDE Annual Programme decided during the 21st AGM (virtual via WebEx – January 2017).

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## A. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS OF MIO-ECSDE

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### A.1. Structure

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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 2017 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.



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 2017 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

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MIO-ECSDE's Executive Bureau (EB) for 2017 consisted of:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Prof. Michael Scoullas (Greece)
<b>Co-Chairman:</b>	Prof. Mohammed Ftouhi (Morocco)
<b>Members:</b>	Dr. Emad Adly (RAED)
	Mr. Thomas Doxiadis (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 (60<sup>th</sup>) took place online on November 9th 2017, one in Cyprus on the 20th of November (61<sup>st</sup>) and a third one was held again in Cyprus, immediately after the AGM (62<sup>nd</sup>).

### A.3. Membership

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The MIO-ECSDE Membership for 2017 stands at 128 member organizations.

#### A.4. MIO-ECSDE Secretariat

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During 2017 the status of the Secretariat 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), quality assurance, 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 the MEDIES Secretariat.

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

**Mr. Vassilis Psallidas** continued as ESD advisor supporting mainly the educational projects of MIO-ECSDE through the MEDIES Secretariat.

**Ms. Danai Amplianiti** (full time junior staff) assisted in specific projects and tasks.

**Ms. Olga Papathanasopoulou** provided the overall secretarial support.

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

Ms. Matina Vezirzti was a part time officer for the water education activities in Alexandroupolis (see section D).

The Chairman, **Prof. M. Scoullas**, 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 2017 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. The Secretariat is supported by various experts on an *ad hoc* basis (Vanya Walker-Leigh for climate change issues).

#### A.5. Audit report for the year 2016

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The overall audited financial report of MIO-ECSDE for 2016 was completed in July 2017 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

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MIO-ECSDE was confirmed in September 2017 for meeting the ISO 9001:2015 standards in the design, development, management and implementation of international and European projects on environment and sustainable development. 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 on-line interface for the application of the ISO has been developed and is fully functional.

The financial management software (including accounting component) has been fully integrated into the daily functioning of the Secretariat which also facilitates the GWP-Med Secretariat.

MIO-ECSDE is a Member of Accountable Now (formerly International NGO Accountability Charter), a cross-sectoral platform of several international civil society organisations. The aim is to be transparent, responsive to stakeholders and focused on delivering impact. MIO-ECSDE has signed the 10 Accountability Commitments and

applies them throughout the organisation. MIO-ECSDE is to report in 2018 according to the new Accountable Now Reporting Guidelines to an Independent Review Panel. <http://www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org/>

The above procedures that stem from and at the same time complement the MIO-ECSDE Code of Conduct have helped the Secretariat perform very well in two audits, from different donors that have taken place during 2017. Each audit results in more suggestions for making the internal procedures even more complete. As the procedures advance and become more and more sophisticated, the Code of Conduct also has to be updated and enriched. The Secretariat accordingly proposes adaptations to the Executive Bureau. It is also continuing to explore ways to facilitate and capacitate its members in also applying the above principles and practices.

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## **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**

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### **B.1. Networking with the MIO-ECSDE Members and its wider NGO Network**

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Staff time was devoted throughout the year to strengthen and consolidate the effective functioning of the Federation, even if not at the same degree as in the years with EU core funding. 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-ECSDE Internal Information Bulletin'**

1 issue of the Internal Information Bulletin (MIO-ECSDE e-news) was distributed in 2017 in English, mainly to Member Organisations and the wider MIO-ECSDE 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) events having to do with important Mediterranean issues;

##### **(ii) The Newsletter 'Sustainable Mediterranean'**

During 2017 previous issues of 'Sustainable Mediterranean' were widely promoted and disseminated.

##### **(ii) The MIO-ECSDE webpage**

The **MIO-ECSDE's website** (<http://www.mio-ecsde.org>) is regularly updated and populated. In 2017 some 20 press releases and feature stories were posted on the website, as well as 3 publications and multimedia were uploaded on the resources sections of the website. Some website statistics for 2017 are highlighted herewith: on average, the website is visited by 9,437 unique visitors per month; on average, the website has 12,567 number of visits per month; on average, the website has 243,247 hits per month. In addition, MIO-ECSDE facebook and youtube pages have been created and regularly updated.

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

The website [www.medies.net](http://www.medies.net) is regularly updated with ESD news, announcements, outcomes of major fora, competitions, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest (on average, 1 post per week). The social media (fb) page of MEDIES is also regularly updated (on average, 3 posts per week).

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

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

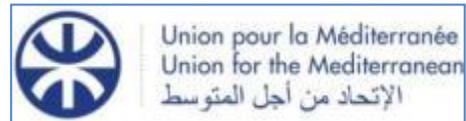
In the framework of the networking activities and exchange of information, the Secretariat forwards incoming useful information to its membership and to the wider network it collaborates with (up to around 7000 NGOs, Ministries, Universities, Institutes, personalities, etc.).

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.

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

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 2017.

- 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 is 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 many Mediterranean countries ([http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BlueGreen\\_Med-CS\\_snapshot\\_final.pdf](http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BlueGreen_Med-CS_snapshot_final.pdf)). Despite the fact that funds for its full implementation are not in place yet and all partners and the UfM Secretariat are trying to tap relevant resources (see section C), MIO-ECSDE currently coordinates the nomination of NGOs to participate in the capacity building activities organised under the SWIM-H2020 SM project. MIO-ECSDE also is a partner of another UfM labelled (February 2016) project entitled 'Plastic Busters for a litter free Mediterranean' in which the participation of member organisations is integral (<http://ufmsecretariat.org/plastic-busters-for-a-mediterranean-free-from-litter/>). From 28 to 30 June 2017 the second meeting of the project was hosted by the University of Siena (Lead Partner) to identify potential funding opportunities and plan the next steps.
- MIO-ECSDE organized and hosted a collective learning event on enabling civil society participation in biodiversity conservation around the globe. The meeting was attended by the Secretariat and Regional Implementation Team members of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and was held in Athens, Greece, from 16-19 May 2017 (see C.2.2).



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

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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 is taking place in November 2017 in Nicosia, Cyprus. In the meantime, 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 [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 (MedUnNet)**

The MedUnNet was launched in November 2008 by the University of Athens (UoA) and MIO-ECSDE 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 20 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 2017, the members of the MedUnNet were involved in the Summer University of Sardinia 2017 (see C.2).

- **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**

In February 2016 some 13 NGOs from the five Drin riparians joined forces to form the **Act4Drin Alliance aiming to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin**. The Act4Drin Alliance is a coalition of NGOs aiming to act as a forum for coordinating and strengthening NGO participation in the

upcoming policy developments in the region driven by the Drin MoU implementation process, enhancing cooperation and networking among and between regional, national and grassroots NGOs in the Drin Basin working on sustainable water resources management and freshwater biodiversity protection/conservation. The Act4Drin Alliance comes as a direct follow up of the Act4Drin project, a project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership and run exclusively by NGOs under the lead of MIO-ECSDE. Act4Drin with the support of NGOs in the region has implemented a series of activities seeking to raise public awareness, enhance knowledge and empower NGOs to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin. The Act4Drin Alliance concretely displays the mutual trust, solidarity and strong commitment built among NGOs in the region towards the protection of the natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River. The **Act4Drin Alliance is an initiative facilitated by MIO-ECSDE**. During 2017, MIO-ECSDE kept the Act4Drin Alliance informed on developments related to the Drin Corda process.

Since July 2016 and within the framework of the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project a **network for a litter free Adriatic and Ionian coast and sea** is supported by MIO-ECSDE. This network ensures that the contacts and working relationships developed during the project will be maintained and further developed through follow up, collective and collaborative projects and initiatives. Furthermore, it is expected to substantially contribute to efficiently and effectively achieving lasting positive impacts and changes via continuity, coherence and cross-fertilization among and between projects and/or initiatives dealing consecutively or in parallel on the marine litter issue in the region. The **DeFishGear Network, facilitated by MIO-ECSDE**, includes so far some 17 institutions and organizations from the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion.

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

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

- (a) The H2020 Steering Group
- (b) The UfM Environment and Climate Change Working Group
- (c) The UfM Expert Group on Climate Change
- (d) Various EU and UN expert working groups
- (e) UNEP/MAP expert working groups
- (f) The Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- (g) The Drin Core Group and expert working groups
- (h) The MSFD technical group on marine litter
- (i) Etc.

Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE participates in and maintains good working relationships with international institutes, networks and groups such as: the European Commission and particularly DGs Environment, DEVCO, MARE, NEAR, 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 | World Bank, EIB | Anna Lindh Foundation | IEMED | IMED | 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 | ICLEI | WWC | Stakeholder Forum | Eco Forum | IME | IUCN | WWF International (and its European and Mediterranean offices) | Greenpeace (International and national branches) | ENDA | CEDARE | Mediterranean and international nature conservation networks (such as MEDWET-wetlands, MEDMARAVIS-birds, MEDPAN-protected areas, MEDASSET-turtles, etc.) | 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) | Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation | The Onassis Foundation | The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) | The MAVA Foundation | etc.

Contacts with the above organisations and with Governments for mutual exchange of information on activities, initiatives and opportunities of collaboration, remain 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 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.

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## **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.**

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

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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 stages 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 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 MAP/UN Environment and MCSD***

MIO-ECSDE has kept close contacts with the Athens based Co-ordinating Unit of MAP/UN Environment. The Federation has been invited to attend and contribute in many meetings of MAP/UN Environment, its RACs (Regional Activity Centres) and of the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development (MCSD). MIO-ECSDE is one of the very few that participate in the MAP/UN Environment 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 Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni was one of the invited speakers at the 2-day meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring (CORMON) held in Madrid from 28 February to 1 March 2017. She presented the accumulated MIO-ECSDE experience on marine litter monitoring including the DeFishGear methodology and best practices on monitoring marine litter on beaches, inclusive of sampling locations and study areas, applied protocol, main results at sub-regional and country level.

The Secretariat participated in the Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement on 6-7 April in Loutraki, Greece and on 9-10 November 2017 in the Second Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, a partnership for the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. It is an open-ended group of regional and international partners with mandates and activities contributing to the environmentally sound management of marine litter in the Mediterranean.

In preparation of COP20 that will take place in Tirana, Albania from 17-20 December 2017, MIO-ECSDE participated in the meeting of the MAP Focal Points, which had a very heavy agenda to tackle over the 4-days it lasted (Athens, 12-15 September 2017). The objectives were to review the progress achieved during the 2016-2017 biennium in the implementation of the programme of work and of the activities approved by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19, Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) and to approve a number of draft decisions, including the proposed biannual Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget 2018-2019.

MIO-ECSDE represented the NGO members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in its Steering Committee (SC) up till the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (4-7 July 2017). The SC held its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting on 18 and 19 January 2017 in Athens, Greece, where the Chairman of MIO-ECSDE participated. Good practices and also challenges encountered so far in the implementation of the Med Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) were highlighted during the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD together with specific aspects of the strategy's implementation such as the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Strategies for Sustainable Development, the MSSD monitoring indicators and the flagship initiatives. The Mediterranean

Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development – promoted by MIO-ECSDE – was among the flagship initiatives presented at the meeting. During the meeting, the new MCSD SC was elected for the next biennium (July 2017 – June 2019). COMPSUD was elected as Vice President and RAED as Rapporteur. The President of the MCSD Steering Group is Greece, while the other Vice Presidents are: Albania, Israel, Tunisia and the Med-SDSN.

The MIO-ECSDE Secretariat also participated at the MAP Focal Points meeting held in Athens from 12 to 15 September 2017.

## ***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 2017 (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 for a cleaner Mediterranean
- European Neighbourhood Policy and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)
- 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

To enhance efficiency in some of the above, MIO-ECSDE, 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 progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), etc.***

During 2017 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 the Rio process or linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### ***C.1.2.3. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the various political frameworks***

**Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and Action Plan:** The Mediterranean Strategy on ESD (MSESD) was formally endorsed by the 43 Environment and Climate Change Ministers of the UfM (Athens, 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”).

The MSED was accepted as an integral part of the updated Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD, 2016-2025) adopted by the COP19 of the Barcelona Convention (Athens, February 2016). In addition, in the Ministerial “Athens Declaration”, the MSED is recognized as vital for the achievement of the SDGs in the Mediterranean region-

In December 2016, in Nicosia, Cyprus, the **Action Plan (AP) of the MSED** was finalised and adopted within the Ministerial Conference on the Action Plan for Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, that was organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus. This Conference had the scientific support of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean/University of Athens and the technical support of MEdIES. Read more about the Conference [here](#) and [here](#). The process of the developing the Action Plan of MSED is actually one of the Flagship Projects of the GAP/UNESCO (see below).



**Global Action Programme (GAP) of UNESCO on ESD (2015-2019):** The GAP is the major post-UNDESD initiative of UNESCO. It is a five year programme launched in Nagoya (Nov 2014). The GAP programme collects initiatives from all around the world aiming to generate and scale-up ESD activities. It 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 through MEdIES participates in the GAP Partners Network 1 on **Advancing Policy**, with Prof. Scoullou co-chairing it in an active way by, holding several online face-to-face meetings. The Chairman actively participated in the GAP Review Forum and UNESCO Week for "Peace and Sustainable Development: the Role of Education" (6 - 10 March 2017, Ottawa, Canada). The events aimed to examine pedagogical approaches and teaching practices to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through ESD and Global Citizenship Education. The “Review Forum for the GAP” particularly aimed to review the progress so far in the implementation of the projects/initiatives under the GAP and the Chairman presented the developments about the AP/MSED, the outcomes of the Nicosia Conference and the upcoming meeting of the Mediterranean Steering Committee on ESD (Cyprus, November 2017).

In September 2017, in recognition of its long-lasting work and commitment in ESD at the Mediterranean level, MEdIES was officially invited by the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education to extend its membership in the GAP/PN1, and of course, MEdIES confirmed its membership renewal.

#### ***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 ENV, CLIMA, MARE, NEAR while following up on the European Neighbourhood Policy and its financial instrument (ENI).

The Chairman participated in a consultation meeting organised by DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) for representatives of civil society organisations in Europe and in the Southern Neighbourhood countries (7 June 2017 in Brussels) where the draft outline for the ENI South Regional Strategy for the period 2018-2020 was presented. RAED also participated in the meeting.

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 UfM labelled project "BlueGreen Med-CS". Without secured funds, it is running through association with other regional projects such as the SWIM-H2020 SM, the GEF Small Grants Programme, the PPI-OSCAN (the IUCN Programme supporting NGOs in North Africa) (see also B.1).

MIO-ECSDE is a key partner in the labelled (February 2016) project entitled “Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter”. From 28 to 30 June 2017 the second meeting of the project was hosted by the University of Siena (Lead Partner) to identify potential funding opportunities and plan the next steps. The Plastic Busters project was submitted to the recent INTERREG Med call and successfully passed the first step of application. During the meeting the second step of the application was discussed and the complete project proposal was submitted in October 2017. The UfM recruited an external expert to help with the preparation of the application.

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. A two day meeting took place in Barcelona (15-16 March) to agree on the Work Program (2017-2022) and the Operational Modalities of the UfM Climate Change Expert Group.

MIO-ECSDE actively participates in the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change that follows the advancements in the implementation of the 2014 Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change. At a meeting in Barcelona (14-15 March 2017) preparatory actions aiming at moving towards the definition of the priorities, operational modalities and the work programme post-2020 were agreed by the Working Group.

The Ministers and other Heads of Delegations attending the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Meeting on Water in Malta on 27 April 2017 agreed on a new ‘Water Agenda’ for the region. MIO-ECSDE Treasurer, Vincent Attard of Nature Trust Malta (President) addressed the meeting on behalf of Mediterranean Civil Society specifically voicing the concerns of MIO-ECSDE, RAED and the EEB.

The UfM Secretariat is also very supportive of the Action Plan of the MSES and reports on its progress and reconfirms its commitment to supporting its implementation.

### **C.1.3. MIO-ECSDE activities as partner with 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 2017 which are integral to both the GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE agendas:

- submissions of joint project proposals;
- facilitation of the Circle of the Parliamentarians (COMPSUD), facilitation of the Circle of Media/Journalists (COMJESD);
- The interactive wall animations in the new Water Centre in Malta (see D)
- Collaboration with MEDIES for its water education activities and particularly the educational components of the NCWR Project as applied in Greece, Malta, Cyprus and Italy. (see D);
- The ongoing HYDRIA project on water management techniques of the past (see D);
- The collaboration with the Department of Graphic Design of the Faculty of Graphic Arts and Design of the Technological Institute of Athens (TEI) for the production of a series of short video animations on water.
- The Drin Corda (Coordinated Action for a Sustainable Future).

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

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### **C.2.1. Workshops organized within the SWIM – H2020 Support Mechanism**

- **MEDIES facilitated a series of Training-the-Trainers on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** that were organized by the EU-funded regional project SWIM-Horizon2020 Support Mechanism (led by LDK Consultants) in Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia and Algeria. The trainings aimed on, one hand, to raise awareness and contribute to build the capacity of educators and other professionals on the design and application of ESD programmes, and, on the other, to introduce the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSES) and explore how its Action Plan could be effectively applied in the countries. All trainings combined presentations, group-work and experience sharing, while the participants were provided

with ESD materials/resources. The trainings took place on 13-14 September 2017 in Amman, Jordan with 55 participants, on 17-18 September 2017, Ramallah, Palestine with 33 participants, on 16-17 October 2017, in Tunis with 60 participants and on 19-20 October 2017, in Tozeur, Tunisia with 55 participants.

More information can be found at the [MEdIES website](#) and at the [SWIM-H2020 website](#) (and D).

- **Monitoring and assessment of marine litter in the Egyptian Mediterranean coastline, 19-20 September, Alexandria, Egypt:** Some 30 professionals were successfully trained on how to properly monitor marine litter at a workshop organized by MIO-ECSDE and RAED, as consortium members of the EU-funded SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism, together with the Egyptian Authorities, on 19-20 September, in Alexandria, Egypt. The workshop participants were introduced to the theme of marine litter, its sources and impacts, as well as the main legislative framework to combat marine litter, namely the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. The participants gained an overview of the 'best' available techniques and methodologies for monitoring marine litter in the coastal and marine environment. Most importantly, they had the opportunity to get acquainted step-by-step with the methodology for monitoring marine macro-litter on beaches and gain hands-on experience on how to perform beach litter surveys and interpret the results.
- **Strengthening participatory coastal management for the reduction of marine litter in Morocco, 19-20 October, Tangiers, Morocco:** MIO-ECSDE, as consortium member of the EU-funded SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism, together with the Moroccan Authorities organized a very successful training on how to properly monitor Marine Litter, on 19-20 October 2017 in Tangier, Morocco, following a similar training held last month in Egypt. The workshop participants were introduced to the theme of marine litter, its sources and impacts, key issues (technical, environmental, economic, health, cultural and social) related to marine litter, to improve knowledge on the quantities, types and sources of marine litter in the coastal areas of Tangier Tetouan-Al Hoceima and Rabat-Sale-Kenitra. They were also informed on how to strengthen capacity, monitor marine litter at beach level in a harmonized manner, increase awareness of marine litter and management options, as well as the main legislative framework to combat marine litter, namely the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. More than 35 officials of Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Marine Fisheries, representatives of Local Authorities, NGOs, Research Institutes and Academia were successfully trained to contribute to the depollution of the Coastal Zones of the Tangiers Tetouan-Al Hoceima and Rabat-Sale-Kenitra.
- **Regional workshop on 'Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water agendas', Nicosia, 20-22 November:** MIO-ECSDE, together with RAED provide technical support (as consortium members of the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 SM, led by LDK Consultants) to this regional activity that is dedicated to strengthening the participation and engagement of non-state Mediterranean stakeholders in the evolution of the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the Mediterranean Water Agenda. It also aims to channel back to these processes the inputs and recommendations of the stakeholders. To strengthen the impact of the workshop, SWIM-H2020 SM is partnering with COMPSUD (the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development), the Government of Cyprus and the Parliament of Cyprus, the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) North Africa, which includes a portfolio of programmes and projects aiming to build climate resilience through better water management, and the UfM labelled BlueGreen MED-CS Project and Mechanism. It will be organized in close coordination with DG ENV, DG NEAR and the UfM Secretariat so that the results of the workshop feed into and inform the ongoing work of the H2020 Initiative and both the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (and its eventual Task Force on Environment) and the UfM Water Expert Group's post Malta Ministerial Work Programme.

### **C.2.2. The CEPF collective learning event**

MIO-ECSDE organized and hosted a collective learning event on enabling civil society participation in biodiversity conservation around the globe. The meeting was attended by the Secretariat and Regional Implementation Team members of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and was held in Athens, Greece, from 16-19 May 2017. Thirty-four participants based in 12 biodiversity hotspots – Cape Floristic Region, Caribbean Islands, Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Tropical Andes, Wallacea, Western Ghats – and the Secretariat in the U.S., were brought together for a three-day workshop. These CEPF local leaders – the key link between the fund and local stakeholders and grantees who are implementing conservation on the ground – exchanged experiences and best practices on how to achieve the priorities set in

the ecosystem profiles of each biodiversity hotspot. The meeting offered MIO-ECSDE the opportunity to showcase to the participants the rich and lasting Act4Drin legacy, as well as the federation's longstanding actions to protect the natural environment and cultural heritage and promote sustainable development in a peaceful Mediterranean by bringing together the efforts of environmental and developmental NGOs. On the 19 of May, MIO-ECSDE organized a field trip to the National Park of Parnassos and the Oracle of Delphi, where participants were introduced to an outstanding wealth of wide-ranging habitats and life-forms.

### **C.2.3. Summer School in Sardinia**

MEDIES (through MIO-ECSDE) has successfully co-organized one more Summer School, this year in Sardinia, with the theme: "Integrated Management Approaches and Sustainable Tourism Strategies for Biosphere Reserves". This intensive week long training (13-20 July) combined theoretic presentations, groupwork and study visits to the "Tepilora, Rio Posada and Montalbo" Park that was just recently (June 2017) registered as a Biosphere Reserve (BR) within the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO. The 26 trainees were post-graduate students, young scientists, staff and managers of BRs, mainly from South Europe and Mediterranean countries.

On behalf of MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES, Ms Iro Alampey and Mr Vassilis Psallidas tutored two of the groupwork teams on Education and Management, respectively, and were theoretically backed by two presentations delivered (over skype) by Prof. Scoullou.

The Summer School was co-organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice office), the Tepilora Park, MEDIES, MIO-ECSDE and the UNESCO Chair and Network of the UoA. Read an analytical report of the summer school [here](#).

### **C.2.4. COMPSUD Meeting**

The last meeting of COMPSUD took place in Athens in 2015. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2017, the members of COMPSUD that will be in Nicosia, Cyprus, to participate in a regional SWIM-H2020 SM workshop on 'Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water agendas' (20-22 November) will hold a dedicated session to discuss the Circle's next steps, elect its new Board, etc. Afterwards, they will be hosted at the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus (15.30-17.30) to discuss possible synergies in the field of Education and Sustainable Development with Parliamentarians, Ministries' Officials, Civil Society and Media.

### **C.2.5. Meeting of the Mediterranean Steering Committee on ESD (Cyprus, November 2017).**

Following the Ministerial Meeting for the adoption of the Action Plan of the MSES (Cyprus, December 2016) the committee that was created to monitor the progress of the Action Plan's will meet in the framework of a SWIM-H2020 SM regional training on ESD that is going to take place in Cyprus (22-24 November 2017). MIO-ECSDE and MEDIES are providing technical and logistical expertise to the meeting, where all the Mediterranean countries will be asked to present their national ESD plans, report on progress and learn more on how to properly implement the Action Plan of the MSES.

### **C.2.6. The 22<sup>nd</sup> AGM of MIO-ECSDE**

Preparations for the AGM began once the dates of the Cyprus events were confirmed and the possibility of a physical meeting became clear. It will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November in the evening. There is no funding for EU based members so they will have to join virtually.

### **C.2.8. Other Meetings and Workshops organized by the MEDIES Secretariat**

See section D.

### C.3. Mediterranean Actions/Campaigns

#### C.3.1. Water in the Mediterranean

It is clear throughout this report that Water has been a top priority for the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat and its collaborating experts also for 2017. Water is a cross cutting issue that permeates MIO-ECSDE activities both at policy level and for activities in situ.

Regarding the ongoing MIO-ECSDE water agenda, the Secretariat did the following throughout this year:

- Participated in important events relating to water).
- Continued to promote various older and newer educational materials such as “Water in the Mediterranean” (available in seven languages); the “Alter Aqua” material for Malta, the “other water” for Cyprus, and the various editions of the “Gift of Rain” for Greece (all water publications available [here](#)).
- Coordinated and expanded the educational component of the Non-Conventional Water Resources Management (NCWR) in the Mediterranean project. The NCWRM project, funded by the Coca Cola Foundation and led by GWP-Med constitutes a model-best practice and apart from Greece (since 2008), it is applied in Malta (since 2012), in Cyprus (since 2013) and in Italy (since 2015). In 2015, it was ranked 2nd best among global showcase initiatives at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Korea. The overall NCWR has 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.

MIO-ECSDE, through MEdIES coordinates the educational component of the NCWR project, having to do with awareness raising activities for students, production of educational material and teacher trainings. 2017 is the 9<sup>th</sup> subsequent year of implementation of the educational component. Read more details for activities in all countries at D.3.2-D3.5.

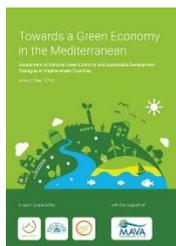
- Following the long-standing collaboration with GWP-Med within the NCWRM Programme, MIO-ECSDE, through MEdIES, undertook and launched the educational activities of the “Water for the City” Programme (see D.3)
- Continued the collaboration with the Department of Graphic Design of the Faculty of Graphic Arts and Design of the Technological Institute of Athens (TEI) for the production of a series of short video animations on water by the students. In fact, MIO-ECSDE is co-organising a launching ceremony for the promotion of the animations on World Water Day (22 March 2018).

#### C.3.2. Biodiversity, Protected Areas, Climate Change, Green Economy, etc. in the Mediterranean

The MIO-ECSDE efforts to mobilise or support Mediterranean NGOs, authorities, etc. on issues directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and climate change continued in 2017 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.

Within the INTERREG Med ACT4LITTER project MIO-ECSDE is supporting managers in improving the management of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through the definition of MPA-specific action plans tackling marine litter towards good environmental status in the marine environment.

MIO-ECSDE; the UNESCO Chair & Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean of the University of Athens, and the Greek National Committee of MAB/UNESCO together with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) have a long standing fruitful collaboration in projects and initiatives on topics relating to management as well as education within designated areas and especially Bio-sphere Reserves in the Mediterranean.



To support the transition towards a green and fair economy in the Mediterranean, MIO-ECSDE continues to promote the 2016 study that examined existing publically available GE/SD strategies and the perceptions of key Green Economy and Sustainability practitioners across the region. The study was funded by the MAVA Foundation for nature and implemented by eco-union, MIO-ECSDE and the Green Economy Coalition (<http://www.medgreeneconomy.org/>). The Secretariat is supporting its Member Organisation Eco-Union in dissemination efforts.

### **C.3.3. Marine and Coastal issues**

Throughout 2017, 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 2017, MIO-ECSDE has been involved in the work related to risk assessment of marine litter and in the definition of marine litter thresholds. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer, Thomais Vlachogianni participated at the latest meeting of the group held in Palermo (Italy), 8-9 June 2017 and is the task leader in charge of updating, revising and fine-tuning the masterlist of marine litter items used at pan-European level and at Regional Seas Conventions level.

MIO-ECSDE has also been actively contributing to the promotion of citizen/participatory science in marine litter data collection at pan-European level and in this respect it has been in close contact with the EEA (<http://mio-ecsde.org/join-the-marine-litter-watch-month/>). On 20-21 April 2017, MIO-ECSDE participated in the 3rd EEA Marine LitterWatch (MLW) meeting held in Copenhagen aiming to bring the Marine MLW community network together to jointly review the experiences from the first pilot Marine Litter Watch Month monitoring initiative and to discuss ways to transform this initiative into a pan-European citizen-science based monitoring framework (including the development of a citizen science ML indicator), which will provide reliable, accurate and comparable marine litter data for years to come.

In July 2017, MIO-ECSDE joined forces with Environmental NGOs for a Mediterranean free from plastic pollution. Over twenty environmental NGOs, among which MIO-ECSDE joined forces to launch the Break Free from Plastic Movement in the Mediterranean. At their first meeting in Barcelona in June 2017, they agreed on a manifesto calling for systemic change along the entire plastic value chain to prevent plastic pollution at source. Read more at: <http://mio-ecsde.org/5374/>. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2017 MIO-ECSDE participated with an invited talk at the roundtable on 'Maritime governance: the role and barriers of NGOs' organized by the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence and National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, held in Athens.

In October 2017 MIO-ECSDE together with some 20 NGOs joined the Plastic Soup Foundation initiative and released a position paper on stopping pollution of plastic from cosmetics through an EU-wide ban.

Within 2017 MIO-ECSDE carried a large number of activities focusing on marine litter mainly within the framework of ACT4LITTER project (see D.4.5), the SWIM-H2020 SM project (see C.2.1) and the framework of its collaboration with the UfM and UNEP/MAP (see B.1.2 and C.1.1).

### **C.3.4. 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 2017 MIO-ECSDE did the following:

- Maintained and further promoted the HYDRIA website ([www.hydraproject.info](http://www.hydraproject.info)) – acknowledged as a good example bridging ESD and Cultural practices (see [here](#)). Read more about HYDRIA in D.3.1.
- As regards the Mediterranean Food agenda, the e-learning course about Mediterranean Food ([here](#)), has successfully run twice in 2017 (see D.3.5). The e-course is largely based on the educational package "Mediterranean Food: Historical, Environmental, Health & Cultural dimensions" (produced in five

Mediterranean languages [here](#)). The Greek edition of the material was included in the official list of the Education Ministry under a respective thematic campaign.

- Supported member organisations' and other initiatives where possible.
- etc.

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## D. IMPLEMENTING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE MEDIES SECRETARIAT

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Via the MEDIES Initiative MIO-ECSDE plays a leading role in promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the Mediterranean, with activities ranging from drafting and following ESD policies, to authoring of books and materials, trainings-of-trainers, to grass-root activities at school level. ESD is an “umbrella” type of education that ultimately equips learners with sustainability knowledge, values, skills, and motivation to act for a more just and meaningful life.

The MEDIES working agenda is in line with the underlying principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the 2015 GAP of UNESCO on ESD; the 2012 Partnership between the European Union and UNESCO on education, culture, science and human rights; the 2010 Conclusions of the Council of the EU on ESD; the UNECE Strategy on ESD and its “child” the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD (MSESD) and its Action Plan. 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 focused on interdisciplinary cross-cutting themes, such as freshwater, solid waste and marine litter, diet/food, climate change, etc. applying mostly ESD learner-centered inquiry-based and transformative ESD methodologies.

MEDIES is an international ESD network accredited by the Hellenic Education Ministry (2006-today); selected in a pan-European inventory of innovative ESD practices (DG EAC, 2008); and included in the UN Decade on ESD Report (UNESCO, 2014) while several of its projects like HYDRIA, and Alter Aqua (Malta) have been awarded.

In 2017 the following main horizontal activities of the secretariat are underway or have been fulfilled:

- Facilitating the e-network of educators ([www.medies.net](http://www.medies.net)). The MEDIES webpage is updated on a weekly basis with ESD related news, competitions, conference outcomes, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest.
- Following ESD political processes at many levels (European, UfM, UNECE, UNESCO/GAP, etc). The MEDIES Coordinator, Prof. Scoullos led the drafting and adoption process of the Action Plan of the MSESD, and is co chairing the GAP experts’ team on Policy (PN1).
- 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 in schools (in Greece).
- Facilitating the Mediterranean Universities Network for ESD (MedUnNET).
- Preparing and disseminating on a quarterly basis the e- bulletin to its members (see [MEDIES bulletins](#)).

### D.1. The HYDRIA website ([www.hydraproject.info](http://www.hydraproject.info))

The website ‘HYDRIA’ - *collection, storage & distribution of water in antiquity: linking ancient wisdom to modern needs* was launched in 2008 as an awareness raising and sensitisation tool. It demonstrates 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.

Between 2008 and 2014 HYDRIA was enriched (number of cases, languages) with the support of MIO-ECSDE (through the EU annual funding); GWP-Med; the UNESCO Participation Programme; and the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF). Today it showcases 39 cases and is fully functioning in English, Greek and Arabic. The website includes texts, photos and animations to present the cases and targets mostly young people, teachers, researchers, etc.

The website has been awarded twice as a good practice: By ALF (2010) and by UNESCO (“Cultural Diversity in ESD”, 2011). MIO-ECSDE and MEDIES keep seeking funds for its further expansion.

On 2-4 May 2017, the Chairman participated in the **Conference of the Water Museums** in Venice where he had the opportunity to present HYDRIA to an international audience of museums that showed great interest in it (several of them asked for various schemes of cooperation).

#### ***D.2. The educational component of the NCWR project in Malta***

Building on the long-standing NCWR Programme in Malta, and in collaboration with GWP-Med and the Maltese stakeholders, MIO-ECSDE / MEDIES developed (scenario, scientific data) two interactive e-games to be played on large touch-screen-walls by young visitors in the recently established Water Conservation Awareness Centre of Malta. The e-games are addressed to 7-10 year olds, one on the topic of the “Water Cycle” and the other about “Water in forts”. Two more games have been developed by the GWP-Med team.



The launching ceremony took place on 21 April 2017. The visitors of the Water Center are sensitized through a series of activities, including watching videos, interaction with hands-on models, geological walk-through with info-points and the touch screen walls with the e-games. Read more [here](#).

#### ***D.3. The educational component of the NCWR project in Cyprus***

The NCWR project has been successfully running in Cyprus since 2014. Led by GWP-Med, the project in Cyprus is funded by the Coca-Cola system in Cyprus (Lanitis bros & Coca-Cola Cyprus), while MIO-ECSDE through MEDIES and the Cyprus Pedagogic Institute (PIK) collaborate to carry out the project’s educational activities. In the previous years, NCWR systems (mostly of grey water recycling) were installed in three Centres of Environmental Education (CEEs) of Cyprus, and their staff have been repeatedly trained on how to use the educational material “The *other* Water”

During 2017, MEDIES monitored how the educational material and the hands-on activities have been applied in the CEEs of Cyprus. A mapping and evaluation is going to take place (possibly based on a questionnaire) for the entire educational component of the 4-yr long ALTER AQUA project in Cyprus (expected to be completed in early 2018).

#### ***D.4. The educational component of the NCWR project in Greece***

The role of MIO-ECSDE and specifically MEDIES in the Non-Conventional Water Resources Management (NCWR) in the Mediterranean Project is to facilitate its 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. This project is considered a model of best practice to be replicated in other water scarce communities in Greece, the EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries.

This was the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the NCWR project and the MEDIES activities for 2017 were the following:

- School interventions: Their purpose is to inform and sensitise students on water saving, particularly through the practice of rainwater collection and grey water reuse. So far (Oct 2017) the school activities in the Attica region have engaged **1659 students** and some more are scheduled by the end of the year in Kythira.
- Teacher trainings: About five teacher trainings have been held in Athens, Molae and Amfissa, with a total of **372 teachers** having been trained on how to apply the educational material “the Gift of Rain”.

#### **D.5. The educational component of 'Water for the City' project in Greece**

"Water for the City" is a 2-yr programme (2017-2018) implemented in the city of **Alexandroupolis, Greece** by GWP-Med, in cooperation with the local Municipality, the local Water & Sewage Service (DEYAA), and MIO-ECSDE / MEDIES. The programme aims to enhance the city's water supply through increasing the capacity of the city's reservoir and promoting good practices for sustainable water use in the urban environment. MIO-ECSDE through MEDIES coordinated the following activities:

- The development of a **new online interactive application** (in Greek) on topics related to the urban water cycle, climate change, water management, responsible consumer behavior, etc. (<http://water-polis.gr>). This application is designed to be used by young students aged 11-14 years old. It can be played on PCs, laptops and 'smart' devices, and has the potential to function in other languages.

- The production of the students' poster on the urban water cycle (in Greek, available [here](#)) and the set of hands-on materials that are used during the school visits (magnetic board, illustrated diagrammes, cards, etc.)

- The school interventions in Alexandroupolis. Till the end of October 2017 **1900 students** had participated in activities animated by the MEDIES Secretariat and the local educator, Ms. Matina Vezirzti. By the end of the programme a total outreach of 4.000 students is expected.



- The capacity building of local teachers. Till the end of October 2017, **135 teachers** had been trained.

#### **D.6. E-course on Mediterranean Food & Diet**

MEDIES Secretariat together with the UNESCO Chair on ESD of UoA, have developed an e-learning course (in English) about the Mediterranean Food and Diet, the content of which is partly based on the respective MEDIES educational material (under the 2008 Project funded by ALF). However, this e-course addresses a wider adult audience 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 landscape; 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 and the wine; the olive tree and oil; cereals and their products) and other characteristic foodstuff and products; the importance of the Mediterranean diet to human health; and food security within sustainable development.

During 2017, the e-course ran successfully already once, while currently is in its second round of application (expected to be completed in December 2017). Read more [here](#).

#### **D.7. MEDIES as partner in the AFKAR Project "Civil Society in Action for Sustainable Development"**

The Makhzoumi Foundation leads this project having as partners MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES, ALMEE (Lebanon), Armadilla (Italy) and the National Commission of UNESCO in Lebanon (associated partner). The Project aims at fostering socio-economic sustainable development in the West, Mid and North Bekaa regions of Lebanon, through raising public awareness, empowering the capacities and skills of locals, and enhancing energy efficiency solutions in the communities. It covers different levels of interventions, including awareness raising, education, vocational training and other services.

MEDIES' main task concerns the coordination of the Survey entitled "Youth responses towards sustainable development in Lebanon" through the application of an anonymous questionnaire to capture the students' perceptions on current issues related to sustainable development in their region, their educational needs as well as their visions for the near future. During the survey (Dec 2016 to March 2017) more than 1000 students (15-18 yrs old) from the Bekka region filled in the questionnaire. The preliminary descriptive analysis and qualitative data analysis have been completed and the initial results have been publicized. A full-scale result analysis and report are underway.

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

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### **E.1. SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism**

MIO-ECSDE is a key partner in the Consortium that is implementing the new phase of the SWIM-H2020 SM Project (Member network RAED is also a partner). The SWIM-H2020 SM Project, funded by the European Union, aims to contribute to reduced marine pollution and a sustainable use of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean Region with emphasis on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia). The Project is the continuation and merging of two successful previous EU-funded service contracts, Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP) (2009-2014) and the Sustainable Water Integrated Management Support Mechanism (SWIM SM) (2010-2015). The main lines of action of the project include:

- Provide tailored and targeted technical assistance at national level based on partners' requests through an Expert Facility;
- Organize regional (or sub-regional) peer-to-peer seminars and webinars;
- Conduct on-site training courses and study tours;
- Capitalize on the lessons learnt, good practices and success stories;
- Support the Horizon 2020 Initiative's governance mechanism and the work of the Union for the Mediterranean's Water Experts Group.

The 6.6 million project kicked off in February 2016 and will run till April 2019 with a Work Programme of 100 activities. Read more at: [www.swim-h2020.eu](http://www.swim-h2020.eu)

### **E.2. ACT4LITTER**

ACT4LITTER is an Interreg Med funded project aiming to facilitate efforts for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs through effective and targeted measures towards reaching their conservation targets. MIO-ECSDE is a key partner of the project bringing its longstanding experience in research/policy/advocacy/awareness raising and networking on marine litter issues. MIO-ECSDE is leading the communication component of the project, as well as the 10 pilot actions focusing on the elaboration of MPA-specific management plans. In addition, MIO-ECSDE is leading an activity related to carrying out a snapshot assessment of marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs.

The ACT4LITTER kicked-off in February 2017 and all project activities are already in full swing. An initial list of measures aiming to tackle marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs has been developed and has been shared with MPA managers and marine litter experts in order to be reviewed and validated. At the same time the methodological approach for building upon these selected measures and developing a decision-making tool has been drafted, while the first meeting of the associated partners was held in Barcelona from 2 to 3 October 2017.

ACT4LITTER is an 18-month-long project funded by Interreg Mediterranean and implemented by the Catalan Waste Agency – Regional Activity Center for Sustainable Consumption and Production (Lead Partner), the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, MedPAN – Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean and MIO-ECSDE.

Read more at: <http://mio-ecsde.org/project/act4litter>

### **E.3. The DeFishGear project and follow-up actions**

Together with fifteen other organizations from all seven countries of the Adriatic Sea, MIO-ECSDE was 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 aimed 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 provided strategic input to regional efforts in successfully achieving good environmental status in the Mediterranean Sea. Read more at [www.defishgear.net](http://www.defishgear.net)

The project kicked off in December 2013 and its activities were completed in early 2017.

Some of the highlights of the project within 2017 were:

- The production of the 160-page ‘Marine Litter Assessment in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas’ and the 70-page ‘Understanding the socio-economic implications of marine litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion’ reports. Both outputs are the first of its kind in the region and of strategic importance not only for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas and the Mediterranean Sea, but for all European Regional Seas. The development of a [distance learning module](#) dedicated to the theme of marine litter monitoring. It has been developed by MIO-ECSDE within the framework of the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project. It aims to facilitate the efforts of policy makers and stakeholders in effectively dealing with the issue of marine litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion, towards litter free coasts and sea. In addition, MIO-ECSDE has developed [video-guidelines](#) on how to carry out a beach litter survey.
- The acknowledgment of the DeFishGear monitoring and assessment approach as a best practice by the Contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention and the European Commission.

#### E.4. Submissions of proposals

The status of MIO-ECSDE proposal submissions for end of 2016 and all of 2017 are as follows:

Proposal Title	Submitted to:	Project budget (EURO)	Submission date	Status
Adopt-A-Beach in the Mediterranean	BeMed/Prince Albert II Foundation	28.100 €	September 2016	MIO-ECSDE is the lead partner. Never heard from the donor, <b>probably rejected.</b>
OWWF4MED Development of an innovative fully integrated - low environmental impact Offshore Wind Wave Floating (OWWF) energy system for applications in the MEDiterranean Sea	H2020 Research	~ 200.000 € for MIO-ECSDE	November 2016	This is stage 1 of the submission. Only after passing this stage will a more detailed version be submitted with a better defined budget. <b>Not approved (March 2017)</b>
Framework contract for information and communication activities relating to the EU IMP and to the CFP	DG MARE	~6.000.000 € (It is a framework contract so MIO-ECSDE’s budget will be defined based on the relevant requests by DG MARE).	November 2016	Intrasoft International is the applicant. Results to be announced by December 2016. <b>Not approved.</b>
ESD trainings on (i) Marine Litter (ii) NCWRM	Schooleducationgateway.eu	5.000 €-10.000€ / training	January 2017	Depending on registrations.
Marine Pollution and Invasives: Reduction and Recycling using Innovative and Sustainable Technologies for a clean Natural (PRISTINE)	H2020 Research	6.163.920 € (399.375 € for MIO-ECSDE)	February 2017	Centre for Research and Technology Hellas is the lead partner. <b>Not approved</b>

Green and holistic applications for self-sustainable and socially inclusive ISLANDS (GO ISLANDS)	H2020 Research	17.935.775 € (125.937 € for MIO-ECSDE)	February 2017	STICHTING DELTARES is the lead partner.  Not approved
Collective Learning towards Achieving Shared Nature Conservation Goals	CEPF	84.142 €	February 2017	MIO-ECSDE was the applicant.  Approved/executed
Εμπνέομαι – οραματίζομαι – δρω για την αειφορία	Stavros Niarchos Foundation	50.000 €	March 2017	MIO-ECSDE was the applicant.  Not approved
Mediterranean tools for Maritime spatial Planning (MEDPLAN)	INTERREG MED (2014-2020)	2.488.337 € (314.985 € for MIO-ECSDE)	April 2017	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. Lead is REGIONE LAZIO. The project passed the first phase of evaluation and went for full proposal submission in October 2017.
Plastic Busters: preserving biodiversity from plastics in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (PlasticBusters MPAs)	INTERREG MED (2014-2020)	5.955.000 € (480.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	April 2017	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. Lead is ISPRA. The project passed the first phase of evaluation and went for full proposal submission in October 2017. It is competing against only two other proposals.
Investigation of the marine litter amounts and sources in the Albanian coastline(Buna-Velipoja)	EuropeAid/155863/DD/ACT/AL	25.000 € (5.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	May 2017	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. Lead partner is the Albania NGO Well Point.
Discovery Path εκπαιδευτικά προγράμματα για την αειφορία / DPESD	«ΕΡΕΥΝΩ-ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΩ-ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΩ» Υπ. Ανάπτυξης (Προγρ. ΕΣΠΑ)	~ 75.000 € (for MIO-ECSDE)	June 2017	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. Lead is the “Discovery path” (results expected by April 2018)
EC Bi-Annual funding (Life+)	EASME (EU Agency)	364.000	June 2017	Scored 70/80. Was not awarded.
BRIDGE (Bridging informal and formal science education by pedagogical scenarios for learning and accreditation)	H2020-SwafS-2017-1	161.250€ (for MIO-ECSDE)	August 2017	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. Lead is the University of Cyprus.
D-NOSES Distributed Network for Odor Sensing, Empowerment and Sustainability	SwafS-23-2017 “Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in support of sustainability and governance,	~ 267.000 € (for MIO-ECSDE)	August 2017	MIO-ECSDE is a partner.
Fostering Reforms in the Egyptian Renewable Energy and Water Sectors through developing capacity building ENI/2015/038-275	Europe Aid	TBD	August 2017	Not shortlisted (5/9/2017)
Development of publication for the Drin River Basin	GWP-Med	17.300 USD for MIO-ECSDE	September 2017	MIO-ECSDE is the implementing partner.

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## F. PUBLICATIONS & OTHER RESOURCES

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- The Act4Drin booklet showcasing NGO actions to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems (<http://mio-ecsde.org/project/ngo-actions-to-protect-and-conserve-freshwater-ecosystems-mio-ecsde-2016/>) was printed in May 2017 and was disseminated at the CEPF workshop hosted by MIO-ECSDE. This booklet is a tribute to the extent and diversity of concrete NGO actions in promoting integrated water resources management and freshwater biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Act4Drin publication entitled 'The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: inspiring our collective actions' has been produced under the Drin CORDA with the support of the GEF Drin Project.
- The '[Marine Litter Assessment in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas](#)' and the '[Understanding the socio-economic implications of marine litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion](#)' reports. Both outputs are the first of their kind in the region and of strategic importance not only for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas and the Mediterranean Sea, but for all European Regional Seas.
- A distance learning module dedicated to the theme of marine litter monitoring ([http://www.envirolearning.net/index.php?ctg=lesson\\_info&courses\\_ID=26](http://www.envirolearning.net/index.php?ctg=lesson_info&courses_ID=26)). It has been developed by MIO-ECSDE within the framework of the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project. It aims to facilitate the efforts of policy makers and stakeholders in effectively dealing with the issue of marine litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion, towards litter free coasts and sea.
- The MIO-ECSDE/DeFishGear video tutorial on how to monitor marine litter on beaches ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyITyf\\_5qJg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyITyf_5qJg)).
- The study entitled 'Towards a green economy in the Mediterranean' (<http://mio-ecsde.org/wondered-how-green-economy-is-faring-in-the-mediterranean-read-our-study/>) developed within an initiative of dedicated civil society organizations (eco-union, MIO-ECSDE and the GEC) aiming solely to boost the transition towards a green and fair economy in the Mediterranean, presents the results of a review exercise covering Green Economy strategies and Sustainable Development policies in 20 Mediterranean countries.
- A new poster on the "Water for the City" for the MEdIES activities in schools in Alexandroupolis (Greece) was developed and printed. The poster explores aspects of the natural water cycle and the human interventions on it at the city level together with tips for responsible water use (at the house level).
- Online educational material [www.water-polis.gr](http://www.water-polis.gr) (in Greek)
- E-course on the Mediterranean Food and Diet (<http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?CID=7&aID=1065>)