



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

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

2018



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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 to 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 2018 were mainly threefold:

- Expansion of actions in thematic areas MIO-ECSDE wanted to be particularly active in 2018 (e.g. SDGs, Water resources, ESD, Protected Areas such as MAB Reserves, MPAs, Natura 2000, etc., Marine Litter, Biodiversity, Green Economy, Blue Economy, Climate Variability and Change, IWRM, ICZM) and in 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 2018 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 2018 meetings and expert groups as a MAP Partner. MIO-ECSDE (and COMPSUD) also contributed to the work of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and to the monitoring of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (2016-2025).
- Strengthening the **environmental, water and climate change areas of work 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 (2016) of the 5-year **Action Plan (AP)** for the implementation of the **Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)**. MIO-ECSDE is also an official **GAP** Partner of UNESCO (Global Action Programme on ESD) supporting it in the Mediterranean region. In this line, the **MEDIES** secretariat has carried out several national and (sub)-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).

- Promoting a **Green and Fair Economy** in the Mediterranean and Europe.
- Developing capacities for **sustainable Urban Waste Management**, and tackling **marine litter** in the region. In particular for marine litter MIO-ECSDE actions in 2018 on the science-policy-society interface included 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 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 2018.

The present report describes the progress and development of MIO-ECSDE's main activities, projects and achievements for 2018.

The activities carried out followed the priorities described in the MIO-ECSDE Annual Programme decided during the 22nd AGM (Cyprus – November 2017).

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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 consists 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 founders EEB, 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, Elliniki Etairia and RAED) was very harmonious throughout 2018 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) met virtually and physically twice in 2018. It consisted of:

Chairman:	Prof. Michael Scoullos (Greece)
Co-Chairman:	Prof. Mohammed Ftouhi (Morocco)
Members:	Dr. Emad Adly (RAED)
	Mr. Thomas Doxiadis (Elliniki Etairia) with Garasime Arapis as alternate
	Mr. Mikael Karlsson (EEB) with Christina Kontaxis as alternate
	Mr. Ali Değer Özbakir (Turkey) till his replacement in September by Ms. Ozgul Erdemli
	Mr. Riad Nacer Bendaoud (Algeria) till his passing in March 2018
	Ms. Antonia Theodosiou (Cyprus)
	Mr. Jean-Valère Jeronimi (France) with Celine Labbe as alternate
	Ms. Patrizia Bonelli and Ms. Romina Bicocchi (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)



Nacer Riad, being at the helm of the Ecological Association of Boumerdes, has been representing the Algerian membership on the Ex. Bureau of MIO-ECSDE for more than a decade enriching the meeting and overall governance with his knowledge, wit, frankness, enthusiasm and honesty. Nacer Riad Bendaoud was an economic scientist, a Graduate of the University of Algiers, passionate about the protection of the environment of Boumerdes and Algeria and aspiring for the sustainable development of his beloved Mediterranean.

A.3. Membership

The MIO-ECSDE Membership for 2018 was at 127 member organizations from 28 countries.

A.4. MIO-ECSDE Secretariat

During 2018 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 projects, meetings, conferences, etc.

Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni is handling many thematic and horizontal tasks in the Secretariat mainly on policy areas 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 also the educational projects of MIO-ECSDE through the MEDIES Secretariat.

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

Ms. Sevasti Vamvakopoulou also supported the MEDIES Secretariat on a part-time basis from mid-2018.

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

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

Ms. Olga Papathanasopoulou provided the overall secretarial support.

Ms. Alaa Abou Daher joined the Secretariat in March 2018 assisting in specific projects and on Membership issues, while **Ms. Dora Vangi** joined the team in September as part time Communications Officer till the end of December.

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. Scoullis**, 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 2018 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 2017

The draft overall audited financial report of MIO-ECSDE for 2017 was completed in September 2018 by PKF Euroauditing SA. It is a positive report and was approved by the Executive Bureau and the AGM in October. 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

MIO-ECSDE was confirmed in September 2018 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 is used by the Secretariat.

A financial management software (including accounting component) is fully integrated into the daily functioning of the Secretariat and also facilitates the GWP-Med Secretariat. It is constantly enriched with additional scenaria and approvals to cover all possible aspects of a solid financial management, supporting as much as possible the technical procedures.

MIO-ECSDE applied in 2015 for membership to the, at the time, "INGO Accountability Charter". In January 2016 MIO-ECSDE was welcomed as an Affiliate Member till the submission and approval by the Independent Review Panel of its first report. In 2018, MIO-ECSDE drafted its first Accountability report based on the new "Accountable Now" reporting framework and its 12 Accountability Commitments of the Global Standard for CSO Accountability (<http://www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org/>). It addresses the year 2017. Among the 12 Accountability Commitments to which the organization adheres, or is committed to, are: Justice and Equality, Women's rights and gender equality, Healthy planet, Lasting positive change, People-driven work, Strong partnerships, Advocating for fundamental change, Open organizations, well-handled resources, responsible decision-making and responsible leadership. Based on the report, MIO-ECSDE was welcomed as full member of "Accountable Now".

When reviewing Accountable Now Members' reports, the Independent Review Panel selects answers that they feel constitute good practice and could provide valuable information for other Members and the sector. MIO-ECSDE is considered a good example in: ensuring it maintains independence whilst acquiring funding; its consultative and comprehensive process to develop policy and advocacy positions; its comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability.

To contribute to the capacity building of its members, MIO-ECSDE combine with the Annual General Meeting a short training session on the principles of accountability.

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 four audits, from different donors that have taken place during 2018. 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.

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-ECSDE Members and its wider NGO Network

Staff time was devoted throughout the year to strengthen and consolidate the effective functioning of the Federation. 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.
3. Surveying the capacities and needs of the Membership

B.1.1. Exchange and Dissemination of Information

The dissemination of information is facilitated by:

(i) The 'MIO-ECSDE Bulletin'

3 issues of the Bulletin (MIO-ECSDE e-news) were prepared in 2018 in English and French, mainly to Member Organisations and the wider MIO-ECSDE network of contacts, by e-mail (see <http://mio-ecsde.org/news/mio-ecsde-e-news/>). The Bulletin highlights up-to-date information mostly related to:

- (a) the activities of the Secretariat, at policy level and projects' advancement, participation in meetings and basic information on their outcomes, etc.;
- (b) events having to do with important Mediterranean issues.

(ii) The 'Sustainable Mediterranean'

A double issue dedicated to the Regional Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the 1st Meeting of the Mediterranean ESD Committee was completed in 2018. Printed copies were produced by the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus/Ministry of Education and Culture. The double issue (<http://mio-ecsde.org/project/sustainable-mediterranean-issue-no-74-oct-2018/>) was 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 2018 some 25 news releases and feature stories were posted on the website. Some website statistics for 2018 are: on average, the website is visited by 9,437 unique visitors per month; on average, the website has 12,567 visits per month; on average, the website has 232,606 hits per month. In addition, MIO-ECSDE facebook and youtube pages have been regularly updated.

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

The website www.medies.net is regularly updated with ESD news, publications, 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, 1 post per weekday).

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

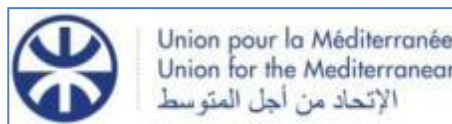
In the framework of the networking activities and exchange of information, the Secretariat forwards incoming useful information to its membership and to the wider network it collaborates with (~ 7000 NGOs, Ministries, Universities, Institutes, personalities, etc.).

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 2018.

- 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 "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). Despite the fact that funds for its full implementation were not in place and all partners and the UfM Secretariat are trying to tap relevant resources, RAED and MIO-ECSDE coordinated the nomination of NGOs to participate in the capacity building activities organised under the SWIM-H2020 SM project during 2018. MIO-ECSDE is also 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/>). Part of this labelled project is implemented under the 'Plastic Busters MPAs' project in which MIO-ECSDE is a key partner. It was launched in February 2018 and is led by the University of Siena (read more under D).



B.1.3. Surveying the capacities and needs of the Membership

All MIO-ECSDE members received in April 2018 an e-survey ([in English and French](#)) with the aim to get to know what each member is working on these days; understand what their key challenges and constraints are; and what type of support they need from MIO-ECSDE. The overall aim of this exercise is to enhance the involvement of its members in the design of the MIO-ECSDE work programme and better support its members to access the necessary information, resources and capacity so that collectively we achieve the shift towards a more sustainable Mediterranean.

The survey included questions on the members' opinions about the state of the environment in their country, their capacity and competences and lastly their needs and the areas where MIO-ECSDE can assist. The exercise was useful in re-engaging with the membership. Although the rate of replies was satisfactory for such types of surveys, we would have liked to receive more replies in order to have a better understanding from all types/sizes of member organizations. The findings confirm that the MIO-ECSDE work program reflects the priorities and aspirations of the memberships but also provides elements to guide further activities for support of our membership.

B.1.4. Showcasing actions of the Membership

The dedicated section of the MIO-ECSDE website with the news of the Membership is updated with interesting materials sent by the members. There is also a dedicated section in the MIO-ECSDE e-News. The MEDIES website also communicates relevant Membership initiatives. More stories will be featured from now on since two new staff members have joined the Secretariat.

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 took place on November 21st in Brussels, Belgium (see more details under C). In the meantime, the members were informed about major developments that took place during the year.

As Vice-President of the MCSD Steering Committee, COMPSUD offered to draft 2 concept notes (terms of reference), in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE which is also an MCSD Member for two Flagship Initiatives: one on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and one on how to “Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions, that have been successfully implemented to achieve waste reduction”.

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.

In 2018, the members of the MedUnNet were involved in the Summer University of Parnon, Greece 2018 (see C). Also, MEDIES continued to keep up-to-date the members about ESD evolutions in the higher education sector, and especially regarding the SDG4.7 while the members were involved particularly in the dissemination of the calls for participation in major ESD trainings (see D). In 2018 one new request for membership emerged from the University of Malta while the article about the network entitled “*Learning for and about sustainability in higher education – a regional perspective based on experiences from the Baltic and the Mediterranean*” was widely used through channels such as the ResearchGate and published in the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education.

- **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. Members of the network participated in several SWIM-H2020 SM activities and in the major event of the year that took place at the EU Parliament in combination with the COMPSUD meeting on November 21st in Brussels

- **Other networks**

During 2018, MIO-ECSDE kept the Act4Drin Alliance informed on developments related to the Drin Corda process. NGOs from the five Drin riparians have joined forces, with the facilitation of MIO-ECSDE, to form the **Act4Drin Alliance aiming to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin**. It 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 grassroot 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.

The **DeFishGear Network, a network for a litter free Adriatic and Ionian coast and sea**, was also facilitated by MIO-ECSDE during 2018. It includes so far some 17 institutions and organizations from the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion. It substantially contributes 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.

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 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) UN Environment/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, GAP/UNESCO, UNESCO BRESCE | UNDP, UNECE, 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.

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, participation in expert and working groups, 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 26+ years and oftentimes the countries and other partners participating need to be reminded of procedures, historical facts, etc.



MIO-ECSDE participated in the deliberations of the 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP20) that spanned over four days from 17-20 December 2017 in Tirana, Albania. More than 150 delegates from the 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union that are parties to the Barcelona Convention discussed and agreed upon several decisions. The main theme of the meeting was the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development with focus on Sustainable Development Goal 14 on pollution and biodiversity and the [Tirana Declaration](#) was adopted. On the last day of COP20, MIO-ECSDE organized a side event entitled "SDG14 and Marine Litter: what progress has been made in the Mediterranean?", offering a sense of relief that important steps and actions on this serious challenge have been taken in the region. Read more [here](#).

MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni was a trainer in the MEDPOL Workshop on marine litter for Egyptian stakeholders in Alexandria, 27-28 February 2018. She also participated at the MAP Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices, held in Izmir from the 9th to 10th October 2018. MIO-ECSDE made several interventions and provided concrete input to regional guidelines for selected marine litter prevention and reduction which are under development. Also, MIO-ECSDE made an intervention on the issue of marine litter in Greece: from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation. The Special Secretariat of Water of the Ministry of Environment of Greece, in charge of the MSFD implementation, invited MIO-ECSDE to deliver this presentation as MIO-ECSDE is considered to be one of the few competent actors on the issue of marine litter in Greece. Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE participated at the UN Environment/MAP Third Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform for Marine Litter (held back-to-back with the aforementioned meeting) and made an intervention focused on MIO-ECSDE's continuous actions to address marine litter in the

Mediterranean. During the meeting MIO-ECSDE undertook the task of elaborating a plan for joint action for a regional awareness raising campaign in collaboration with JRC, EEA and Surfrider Foundation Europe).

The Chairman participated in the 'First Consultative Meeting to Consider the Main Elements of Six Pollution Reduction Regional Plans under the Land Based Sources Protocol of the Barcelona Convention' that took place at the MAP premises on 4-5 September 2018, Athens, Greece. His contributions aimed to shift the discussions and documents closer to the EU priorities and more innovative and forward looking approaches.

Last but not least, MIO-ECSDE contributed to the elaboration of the upcoming UN Environment/MAP State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean. MIO-ECSDE authored a 12-page chapter entitled 'Research, Innovation, Education for Sustainable Development and Capacity Building' that will be included in the report.

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 2018 (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

EU consultations that MIO-ECSDE contributed to were:

- Public Consultation on the Evaluation of the 7th Environment Action Programme (7th EAP). The consultation ran from 3 May - 26 July 2018 and the aim was to evaluate this Environment Action Programme to see what worked well, and how it could have been better. Info on the consultation can be found at <https://bit.ly/2UsuMma>
- Stakeholders consultation carried out by the MERCES (Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas) project, an EU-funded Research and Innovation project dedicated to the development and promotion of marine restoration. The survey ran in March 2018 and was entitled 'Social acceptance of marine restoration: do we need to restore degraded ecosystems and how?'
- Public consultation on reducing marine litter: actions on single use plastics and fishing gear. The consultation ran from mid-December 2017 till mid-February 2018 and aimed to provide input,

opinions and data for the preparation of a follow-up to the Plastics Strategy in relation to marine litter, particularly on single-use plastics and fishing gear. Info on the consultation can be found at <https://bit.ly/2BtyLpM>.

C.1.2.2. Following up progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), etc.

During 2018 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 its 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 **Action Plan (AP) of the MSESD** was finalised and adopted by the Nicosia Ministerial Conference (December 2016). Read more about the Conference [here](#) and [here](#). MEDIES/MIO-ECSDE supports scientifically and technically the UfM Secretariat on ESD matters and within 2018 developed two progress reports on the implementation of the MSESD’s Action Plan. Furthermore, the process of developing the Action Plan of the MSESD is actually one of the Flagship Projects of the GAP/UNESCO (see below).

The MSESD 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” (2016), the MSESD is recognized as vital for the achievement of the SDGs in the Mediterranean region. In 2018 a new **factsheet** presenting the essential information about the Strategy was prepared by the Secretariat of the **UN Environment / MAP** in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE. The factsheet is accessible [here](#).

In November 2017 the **1st Meeting of the Mediterranean Committee on ESD** was held under the organisation and the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus and the SWIM-H2020 SM Programme, and the technical support of the MEDIES/MIO-ECSDE. The meeting aimed to review how the AP has been used and valued by the countries and the associated International Organisations. One of the meeting sessions was hosted at the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and the participants had the opportunity to discuss with Parliamentarians and Stakeholders from the Mediterranean possible synergies in the field of ESD. The outcomes of this discussion were shared by the President of the Parliament of Cyprus with the Parliaments of the Mediterranean countries (see more [here](#)). In 2018 MIO-ECSDE compiled a new Issue of **Sustainable Mediterranean** including the presentations, outcomes and session reports. It was also printed with the support of the Ministry of Education of Cyprus in October 2018.



One of the meeting sessions was hosted at the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and the participants had the opportunity to discuss with Parliamentarians and Stakeholders from the Mediterranean possible synergies in the field of ESD. The outcomes of this discussion were shared by the President of the Parliament of Cyprus with the Parliaments of the Mediterranean countries (see more [here](#)). In 2018 MIO-ECSDE compiled a new Issue of **Sustainable Mediterranean** including the presentations, outcomes and session reports. It was also printed with the support of the Ministry of Education of Cyprus in October 2018.

Global Action Programme (GAP) of UNESCO on ESD (2015-2019): The GAP is the major post-DESD initiative of UNESCO, a 5-year programme collecting initiatives from all around the world aiming to generate and scale-up ESD. 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 Partner Network 1 on **Advancing Policy**, with Prof. Scoullos actively co-chairing it. In September 2017, MEDIES was officially re-invited by the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education to extend its membership in the GAP/PN1. In 2018, MEDIES, in cooperation with the PN1 members developed a new **Policy Brief** entitled “**Regional ESD Networks**” and is accessible [here](#).

Following a series of online text reviews and consultations on the draft **Position Paper** on the future of ESD, prof. Scoullos actively participated in the UNESCO/GAP [Technical Consultation Meeting on the Future of ESD](#)

(July 9-10, 2018 Bangkok, Thailand) where the Position Paper was further discussed and elaborated. This paper was approved by the 206th session of the UNESCO Executive Board, (April, 2019) and is available online [here](#).

In August 2018, MIO-ECSDE prepared its portfolio on Advancing ESD Policy and submitted its application to participate in the **EC / DG EAC European Education and Training Expert Panel**. The purpose of the panel is to assist the EC/ DG EAC in the preparation of the new Strategic framework for cooperation in education and training. The Expert Panel addresses societal challenges which are directly linked to, or have an impact on education and training. Nothing has been communicated from the Panel (as of end of 2018).

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 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, together with RAED and the EEB formally represent Mediterranean stakeholders active on Climate Change matters in the UfM Expert Group on Climate Change. MIO-ECSDE participated in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Climate Change Expert Group (CCEG) meeting that took place in Barcelona on 23-25 April 2018, represented by Jeremie Fosse, president of eco union and MIO-ECSDE board member. Discussions focused on several issues of concern for the Mediterranean region such as climate finance, which will identify, develop, and scale new financial tools for a low carbon, climate-resilient transition. Although there is a UfM REEE Platform (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform) that aims to promote the progressive deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, of concern to MIO-ECSDE is the promotion of natural gas under the UfM energy agenda and the dedicated UfM Gas Platform.

MIO-ECSDE actively participated in the 1st UfM Task Force on Environment, in Jordan in January 2018. The "Agreed Conclusions" of the meeting included the proposal of holding a UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change in 2020 with the adoption of a Declaration as well as what such a potential Ministerial Declaration could address.

The Steering Group of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean also took place in Jordan in January 2018 and MIO-ECSDE was integrally involved. The consolidation of the results so far, as the initiative is approaching its close by 2020, was at the heart of the discussions. Within the SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism, MIO-ECSDE has a supporting role in this H2020 consolidation process.

In November, MIO-ECSDE participated in the 2nd meeting of the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (and the back-to-back UfM Environment Task Force and UfM Expert Group on Climate Change) that follows the advancements in the implementation of the 2014 Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change. Planning for the post-2020 UfM environment and climate change agenda was central in the discussions.

MIO-ECSDE also participated in 9th Water Expert Group (WEG) Meeting of the UfM in Athens on 5-6 November. Before, during and after the meeting, MIO-ECSDE focused its inputs on encouraging down to earth concrete results from the UfM Water Agenda in three of the priority areas: Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus; Water and Climate Change; water, employment and migration.

The UfM Secretariat is also very supportive of the Action Plan of the MSED 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 promoted a specific number of outputs for 2018 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);
- 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; the wall-screen games for the GhaIn Water Centre in Malta (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).

MIO-ECSDE hosted a series of GWP meetings at its premises in early September and participated in the GWP annual global 'Network Meeting', on 27-28 September 2018, through an on-line system of 'rolling' 2-hour sessions with the GWP Regions. The Mediterranean slot was on Friday, 28 September, 15.00-17.00, and MIO-ECSDE presented the main NGO concerns (also based on the Membership survey results) that could feed into the new GWP Strategy.

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

C.2.1. Workshops and trainings organized within the SWIM – H2020 Support Mechanism

Many important activities were co-organised by MIO-ECSDE under this major EU-funded regional project. Indicatively the following are included in this report:

- **Regional Training on Marine Litter Monitoring and Management in the Mediterranean:** The training took place in Athens on 24-25 October 2018. The overall aim of this regional training was to bring together the key stakeholders from the beneficiary countries with selected experts and provide a high-level collective learning experience in order to strengthen the implementation in the beneficiary countries of the obligations and measures relevant to the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean of the Barcelona Convention.

The specific objectives of these activities are to:

- Provide the participants with a complete and comprehensive introduction of the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean of the Barcelona Convention, its requirements and obligations. Throughout the workshop emphasis was placed to the practical implementation of the marine litter related indicators adopted within the Barcelona Convention Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP – Decision IG.22/7).
- Enable, encourage, and facilitate dialogue and exchange of experiences between participants from the beneficiary countries on marine litter monitoring and management measures;
- Promote sharing of best practices and facilitate synergies and complementary activities within the Mediterranean with regards to marine litter monitoring and management measures;
- Facilitate the peer-to-peer process for experience sharing at regional level and knowledge transfer on marine litter monitoring and share the lessons learned at the regional workshop. In fact MIO-ECSDE is coordinating the collection of data from numerous beach litter surveys taking place in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco.

The first day of the training was the ACT4LITTER closing conference. More than 130 dedicated marine litter practitioners attended the final conference.

- **Support for the implementation of the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Egypt.** Egypt is developing its National Action Plan on ESD and two back-to-back trainings were implemented by the MIO-ECSDE ESD experts from 2-6 December 2018 in Cairo in support of this, as well as two interministerial/interinstitutional consultations during that same week.

C.2.2. Summer University on Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Development Management, Tourism and Local Products in Biosphere Reserves (BRs) in Parnon 8-15 July 2018

This was the 4th in a series of Summer Universities that have been previously organised by MIO-ECSDE, through MEDIES, on topics related to the sustainable management of Protected Areas and Biosphere Reserves (BR). This year focus was on tourism and local products, within the framework of green growth and sustainable development. The Summer University took place in the area of Parnon-Maleas, in the Peloponnese, Greece aiming to contribute in the preparation of the nomination dossier of the region to enter the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and had **56 participants from 15 countries**. Based on the evaluation results, the course managed to achieve its expected outcomes:



- Knowledge of the EU Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) and relevant work of other important regional organisations and programs such as the MCSD, the UfM, SWIM-H2020 SM, etc.
- Knowledge on procedures relating to the BR establishment and designation; preparation and implementation of management plans, based on the principles of the MAB/ UNESCO programme.
- Familiarisation with the design and implementation of ESD programmes on the ground.
- Familiarisation with the processes of preparing recommendations for the Management Plan of the wider Parnon-Maleas region.
- Networking amongst young researchers, educators and managers in BRs around the Mediterranean and South Eastern Europe.

By the end of the week-long event, the three thematic Working Groups came up with a series of recommendations that will be used as input to the preparation of the nomination dossier of the region. The majority of the trainees expressed high level of satisfaction from the course (3.63 score on a 1-4 scale). Find out more about the Summer University, the presentations, the detailed evaluation and the work group recommendations, as well as the communication outputs (press releases & videos) [here](#).

The Summer University was co-organised by MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES (through the LIFE+ grant for environmental NGOs) with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice Office); the Regional Development Company of Parnon; the Management Body of Parnon, Moustos, Mainalon and Monemvasia, the UNESCO Chair and Network of the University of Athens; the Greek National Committee of MAB/UNESCO, the Centre of Environmental Education (CEE) of Molaoi and the Mediterranean Universities Network for ESD (MedUnNET).

C.2.3. The ACT4Litter Closing Conference (Athens, 23-24 October 2018)



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

The final ACT4LITTER Conference, organised by MIO-ECSDE, was held in Athens on the 24th of October. More than 130 dedicated marine litter practitioners attended the final conference. The Commissioner Karmenu Vella opened the conference remotely with a recorded video message in which he highlighted

that there is no easy solution for marine litter and that in order to address it we need a wide range of actors. Mr. Vella went on to say that Act4Litter is a perfect example of dedicated cooperation in the Mediterranean. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2yCbnWW>.

The event provided the Interreg Med community members and other partners with a concrete opportunity to share their compelling stories and hands-on experiences on the issue of marine litter in Med MPAs and beyond. The conference featured initiatives that address the whole management cycle of marine litter, from prevention, monitoring and surveillance to mitigation measures, carried out at European, Mediterranean, national and local level. Special emphasis was given to litter that is building up in what should be pristine coastal and marine protected areas, where marine biota and endangered species dwell. Working together at all levels is what it takes to deal with this 'wicked' problem.

The event was organized back-to-back with the EU SWIM-H20202 SM regional workshop on marine litter ensuring the participation of national and local authorities from the Southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia).

C.2.5. The 23rd AGM of MIO-ECSDE

The 23rd AGM of MIO-ECSDE took place in Athens on October 23rd 2018, back-to-back with the closing conference of another EU-funded project MIO-ECSDE was a partner of (Act4Litter). The AGM was very smooth and successful with the Members confirming/validating the Executive Bureau's report, decisions and proposals, including the suggested 2019 Work Programme and provisional Finances. Valuable inputs for improvements were also put forth such as creating an informal Working Group in 2019 to explore and guide the new agenda of MIO-ECSDE on migration and natural resources. A physical meeting of the Executive Bureau of MIO-ECSDE was also combined with the AGM. An on-line meeting took place on the 12th of October in preparation of the AGM.

C.2.6. Session at the European Parliament on a Plastic Free Mediterranean Sea

On the 21st of November MIO-ECSDE, together with the Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (Searica) Intergroup of the European Parliament and the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD – one of the Circles supported by MIO-ECSDE) organized at the European Parliament in Brussels a hugely successful MPs event entitled 'A plastic-free Mediterranean Sea in the making'. This was a unique occasion where Members of the European Parliament and Members of Parliament of EU and non-EU countries came together with marine litter experts, environmental NGOs, plastics producers, journalists and other key stakeholders to explore the next steps in achieving a litter-free Mediterranean Sea. The event was attended by more than the maximum number of people that could fit in the meeting room (around 65 participants) from more than 20 countries. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2RaH2Gr>

C.2.7. Regional Roundtable on "Debating the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus in MENA and the wider Mediterranean"

Some 65 Members of Parliament (MPs), Journalists and NGOs from 20 countries gathered in Brussels on the 22nd of November 2018 to debate the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (aka Nexus) in the Mediterranean. The aim of the event was to enhance the understanding of the Nexus framework and identify the needed actions to operationalise it in Mediterranean, as a contributor for sustainable development, focusing in particular on the role of MPs and Media.

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (aka Nexus) approach was introduced in the natural resources management agenda to facilitate enhancement of water, energy and food security while preserving ecosystems and their functions and increasing climate resilience, by reducing trade-offs and shifting towards more sustainable consumption patterns while increasing efficiency, building synergies and improving governance across sectors. A Nexus approach to sectoral management, through enhanced technical assessment, policy dialogue, governance improvements, investment mobilization, replicable applications, collaboration and coordination, is necessary to ensure that co-benefits and trade-offs are not only considered but also that appropriate safeguards are put in place to prevent and/or mitigate their detrimental effects especially regarding on the availability of water resources.

Because of this multiplicity of conceptual expansions, the Nexus represents a promising vehicle for promoting considerations on cross-cutting issues, like gender, stakeholder engagement, rights, poverty, etc. The Nexus can assist in the efforts to further mainstream these issues in addition to its pivotal role in promoting green job creation. In this context, the role of Parliamentarians and civil society is recognized as key for promoting positive change towards more integrated approaches in policy making, law development, action planning and implementation, through structured institutional (MPs) and multi-stakeholders (NGOs) processes, while Media should play an even more dynamic role in informing and engaging the public.

The Roundtable was organised by the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), with contributions by a number of institutions and organisations.

The event was part of the ‘Making Water Cooperation Happen in the Mediterranean’ (Water Matchmaker) Project supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the 2018 Work Programme of MIO-ECSDE supported by LIFE+. It contributed to and enriched the on-going dialogue and action of the Water Agenda of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), and particularly to its Nexus thematic area. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2Ar5xaY>

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 2018. 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 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 7th 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. 2018 is the 10th subsequent year of implementation of the educational component. Read more details for activities in all countries under D.3.2-D3.5.

- Following the long-standing collaboration with GWP-Med within the NCWRM Programme, MIO-ECSDE, through MEDIES, undertook and completed the educational activities of the “Water for the City” Programme (see D.5)
- MIO-ECSDE continued to provide expertise in the Core and Expert Working Groups of the framework of the Drin Dialogue Process and the implementation of the Shared Vision for the Management of the “Extended” Drin River Basin. MIO-ECSDE actively participated in the 2 working group meetings of the Drin Core Group: (i) the 15th Meeting of the Drin Core Group held in Tirana on the 7th of June 2018; (ii) the 16th Drin Core Group Meeting held in Ohrid from the 15th to 16th of November 2018. Both meetings discussed the progress achieved with regards to the implementation of the Drin Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been signed off by the Drin Riparians in order to “promote joint action for the coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin, as a means to safeguard and restore, to the extent possible, the ecosystems and the services they provide, and to promote sustainable development across the Drin Basin”. MIO-ECSDE actively contributed in the meetings’ discussions that focused on the current state-of-play of the Drin MoU implementation: a transboundary diagnostic analysis is being elaborated identifying and assessing the transboundary management issues of the extended Drin River Basin, including their drivers, causes and impacts. MIO-ECSDE provided comments to the thematic reports on pollution and on institutional and legal settings, as

well as contributed to the exchanges on the specifications of the foreseen information management system. MIO-ECSDE provided concrete recommendations on how to engage civil society more effectively in the Drin MoU implementation. MIO-ECSDE also participated at the 6th Drin Stakeholders Conference organized back-to-back with the 16th Drin Core Group Meeting. The Conference addressed the issue of the Water-Food-Energy- Ecosystems Nexus and how this could be applied in the Drin River Basin. MIO-ECSDE was the rapporteur of the break-out session. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2O5s4AS>

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 2018 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.

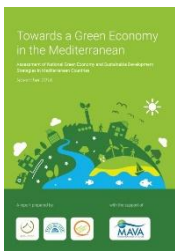
In this respect, in 2018 the following actions were undertaken:

- MIO-ECSDE joined forces with the European NGO Networks of Seas at Risk, Coalition Clean Baltic and Black Sea NGO Forum and elaborated a joint position paper urging the EU Member States to honour their 2020 commitments with regards to clean and healthy seas. The joint position paper entitled 'Two years to make EU seas healthy again' places special emphasis on three priority areas: ending overfishing; eliminating pollution; and halting biodiversity loss. With regards to the latter, Member States were called to ban high-impact human activities in Marine Protected Areas (including fisheries). Read more at <https://bit.ly/2Hq7hGO>
- Organizing biodiversity related events: (i) an official side-event at the UN Biodiversity Conference organised this year in Egypt entitled 'The Nexus approach: a tool for safeguarding biodiversity'. The side-event was held on the 18th November 2018 at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The side event, led by the MIO-ECSDE Chairman, Prof. Michael Scoullou and Ambassador Ambassador Shahira Hassan Wahby of the League of Arab States, featured the links and dynamics between resource systems to ensure their coherent and responsible management and debated the optimal coordination options among the 'nexus' sectors at local, country, transboundary and regional (e.g. Mediterranean) levels. Related cross-cutting challenges, for example on required governance and needed financing, as well as opportunities, like on employability out of application of 'nexus' approaches, while contributing to gender equality and youth engagement objectives, were also discussed. The side event was organized on the 18th of November 2018 by MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med and RAED. It is part of the "Making Water Cooperation Happen in the Mediterranean" (Water Matchmaker) Project supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the 2018 work programme of MIO-ECSDE (LIFE+). Read more at <https://bit.ly/2Ar5xaY>; (ii) a roundtable held in Brussels on 22 November 2018 aiming to enhance the understanding of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus framework and identify the needed actions to operationalise it in the Mediterranean (see C.2.7); (iii) a Summer University held at the Protected Area of Parnon, Moustos, Mainalon and Monemvasia in Greece, from the 8th to the 15th of July 2018. The Summer University provided a platform for concrete and dynamic exchanges on Protected Areas management issues and promoted Natura 2000 sites, Biosphere Reserves and other Designated Areas as a tool for sustainable development. The Summer University was attended by more than 50 post graduate students, young researchers and protected areas managers from 15 EuroMediterranean countries. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2Tvl7z1>; (iii)
- Participated in and contributed to relevant conferences/meetings: (i) MIO-ECSDE participated in the 28th Annual Meeting of the SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) and made an intervention at a special session focusing on the harmful effects of plastic litter on Mediterranean biodiversity. The session was organized in Rome on the 16th of May 2018 and MIO-ECSDE's intervention focused on the essential role of NGOs in strengthening the science-policy-society interface with regards to the marine litter threat. Member NGOs were also present. The event was attended by more than 200 participants. (ii) MIO-ECSDE participated in an event held at the Akamas Natura 2000 site in Cyprus, on 2-4 May 2018. The event was entitled 'Nature-Myth-Man'. MIO-ECSDE made an intervention on how Natura 2000 sites and Biosphere Reserves are a tool for the sustainable

development of the communities ('economies') that exist within them and how resilience to climate variability and water scarcity can be boosted. It should be noted that this Natura 2020 site is facing many challenges with opposition from local inhabitants and vested interests. Cypriot Member NGOs (as well as other non-member NGOs) benefited from the presence and support of MIO-ECSDE (validation of their purpose and efforts from an international NGO) but also learned from the MIO-ECSDE strategic/advocacy approach and knowhow.

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 publicly 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 2018, 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, Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni has been actively contributing to the work of the EU /MSFD Good Environmental Status (GES) Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter. More specifically: MIO-ECSDE participated in the 12th meeting of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter and the workshop on litter baselines and thresholds held in Larnaca from 26 to 28 of June 2018. MIO-ECSDE made several interventions at the meeting and undertook a series of tasks to be implemented within 2018, which are described below. MIO-ECSDE elaborated a chapter on the transboundary implications of setting marine litter threshold values to be included in the JRC/MSFD TGML upcoming report entitled 'MSFD Thresholds for Marine Litter'. MIO-ECSDE reviewed and provided comments to the JRC/MSFD TG10 report entitled 'Top Marine Beach Litter Items in Europe'. MIO-ECSDE developed a comprehensive list of some 70 marine litter related projects that will be published by the JRC/MSFD TGML in the upcoming months. MIO-ECSDE worked closely with a few other members of the MSFD TGML in order to revise the marine litter 'masterlist' and develop the revisited beach litter monitoring guidance. Within this context, MIO-ECSDE, in December 2018 undertook prep work for organizing and hosting an ad hoc meeting of the MSFD TGML on the macro-litter categories. Last, but not least, MIO-ECSDE provided marine litter data for the upcoming marine litter baselines report.

In September 2018, MIO-ECSDE launched a call for quotations for "Monitoring marine litter on beaches in the Mediterranean" (<https://bit.ly/2xvdAD0>) with the aim to fill in the marine litter knowledge gaps in the region through a participatory-science initiative. To meet a higher number of applications received, MIO-ECSDE relaunched the call in October 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2F8hwOz>) and received in total 7 expressions of interest; one submitted by a freelancer and the rest submitted by the following NGOs: AKTI (Cyprus), HELMEPA (Greece), MAREVIVO (Italy), SEAQUARIUM MARINE INSTITUTE (France), SUNCE (Croatia), U MARINU (France). All applications received met the criteria set in the Terms of Reference and MIO-ECSDE proceeded with the related agreements. The participatory science initiative was launched in October and started off with a webinar that introduced to the participants the MSFD TG ML marine litter monitoring methodology. A total of 23 sites were surveyed in total and two sets of surveys were performed: from mid-September to mid-October 2018 (autumn surveys) and from mid-November to mid-December (winter surveys). A total of 62 beach transects were surveyed, which extended over a distance of 6,200m and covered an area of 113,780m². A 42-page report was developed presenting the obtained results. To-date, this activity is one of the very few collective efforts of NGOs (if not the only one) to assess in a comprehensive and harmonized way marine litter deposited on Mediterranean beaches. It provides fit-for-purpose data and baseline information on the amounts, composition and sources of marine litter in several Mediterranean beaches, as well as a useful tool for

decision-makers to gear up their efforts in the combat against the marine litter threat and identify targeted measures to tackle this threat at its source. The results of the present study are a direct contribution to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Plastics Strategy, as well as to the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2O5s4AS>.

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.

Within 2018 MIO-ECSDE carried a large number of activities focusing on marine litter mainly within the framework of ACT4LITTER and PLASTICBUSTERS MPAs projects (see D), the SWIM-H2020 SM project and the framework of its collaboration with the UfM and UN Environment/MAP (see B.1.2 and C.1.1).

Within the European Seas Environmental Cooperation, a joint initiative of Seas At Risk, the Coalition Clean Baltic, the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development and the Black Sea NGO Network, the Secretariat recommended [three priority areas of action](#) through which Member States can achieve clean and healthy seas by 2020 (Marine Directive).

In October 2018, MIO-ECSDE sent a letter to each Mediterranean MEP calling upon them to act as responsible Mediterraneans to close the loopholes of the EU Plastics Strategy. In the letter, MIO-ECSDE highlighted that it strongly welcomes several points of the resolution voted on September 13th such as the call for a complete EU ban on oxo-degradable plastic by 2020; or the recognition that biodegradable and compostable plastics cannot be considered a remedy against marine litter and should not legitimise unnecessary single-use applications. Along the same spirit MIO-ECSDE urged MEPs to vote boldly for a strong law to cut plastic pollution and help break away from a throwaway society. MIO-ECSDE would like to claim that this and other advocacy actions contributed to the overwhelmingly positive EP plenary voting results (87%).

Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE joined forces with 34 European environmental NGOs and urged EU ministers via a joint position paper to commit to '20 measures for clean and healthy seas by 2020' as foreseen under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Article 1(1). Some of the NGOs that signed off the joint position paper are: Seas at Risk (Belgium), the European Environment Bureau (Belgium), Oceana (Belgium), Client Earth (Belgium), Coalition Clean Baltic (Sweden), Surfrider Foundation Europe (France), Friends of the Earth Europe (Belgium), Marine Conservation Society (United Kingdom), Legambiente (Italy). Read more at <https://bit.ly/2O5dgSM>

MIO-ECSDE joined the 'Voice for the Ocean' campaign launched by Surfrider Foundation Europe. Its goal was to consult with ocean and coastal communities and offer to all EU citizens the possibility to voice their priorities and concerns ahead of the European elections and position seas' and oceans' protection at the heart of the policy debates. MIO-ECSDE promoted the campaign widely to the many thousands of organisations and individuals it is networked with, in order to amplify this effort to put the oceans' priorities firmly on the EU policy table. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2F5vK2l>. To-date 7,000 citizens and interested groups have responded to the consultation and we feel that MIO-ECSDE has contributed to this success.

MIO-ECSDE also participated and contributed to several related conferences: (i) MIO-ECSDE participated at the MEDCIS (Support Mediterranean Member States towards Coherent and Coordinated Implementation of the Second Phase of the MSFD) stakeholders' workshop, held in Athens from 20 to 23 February 2018. MIO-ECSDE made an intervention on the essential role of NGOs in strengthening the science-policy-society interface with regards to the marine litter threat. The event was attended by more than 80 participants. (ii) MIO-ECSDE participated in the SEARICA (EU Parliament group) event entitled 'Towards a circular economy and sustainable tourism on islands', held at the European Parliament in Brussels in the 11th of April 2018. MIO-ECSDE made an intervention on MIO-ECSDE's actions and obtained knowledge on the science-policy-society interface with regards to marine litter monitoring. The event was attended by more than 150 participants. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2J6wybo>. (iii) MIO-ECSDE participated in the 4th EEA Marine LitterWatch Stakeholder Workshop held in Copenhagen from 25th to 26th of April 2018. MIO-ECSDE made an intervention focused on MIO-ECSDE's actions on the science-policy-society interface to address the growing threat of marine litter. (iv) MIO-ECSDE participated in the MELTEMI marine litter workshop on smart solutions and technologies held in Larnaca, from the 20th to the 22nd of June 2018. MIO-ECSDE made an intervention on best practice marine litter actions addressing the whole management cycle of marine litter from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation; (v) MIO-ECSDE also participated in the Ecocity Forum 2018 addressing the topic of Circular Economy in Smart Cities. The conference was held in Thessaloniki, from the 3rd to the 5th of October 2018 and MIO-ECSDE made an intervention on 'Blue Economy - An opportunity for business innovation & regional development'.

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 2018 MIO-ECSDE did the following:

- Maintained and further promoted the HYDRIA website (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 three times within 2018 (see D.6). 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.

D. IMPLEMENTING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE MEDIES SECRETARIAT

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, 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 EU Education and training 2020 agenda (ET 2020); the 2015 Paris Declaration on citizenship through education; the 2010 Conclusions CoE on ESD; 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-centred 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); included in the UN Decade on ESD Report (UNESCO, 2014), while several of its projects like HYDRIA, and Alter Aqua (Malta) have been awarded.

Within 2018 the following main horizontal activities have been fulfilled by the secretariat:

- Facilitating the e-network of educators (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).(see C1.2.3)
- Authoring and producing new teaching and learning materials (in printed or e-form).
- Facilitating the Mediterranean Universities Network for ESD (MedUnNET).
- Preparing and disseminating on a quarterly basis the e- bulletin to its members (see [MEDIES bulletins](#)).

MEDIES results in numbers for 2018 were the following:

- 1 online educational material (web application) on NCWRs, urban water vulnerability, etc. (see D3)
- 12 meetings and trainings related to SD/ESD/MSESD in Malta, Greece, Lebanon, etc.
- 2 week-long training courses: a Summer University (see C2.3) and a Training of Trainers (see D8)
- 1 exhibition on marine litter awareness: during its 2,5 month duration, it received 1815 students through organised visits plus some 1000 free visitors (see more below)
- 4 information e-bulletin issues released (see [here](#))
- 7 requests for provision of expertise or for cooperation for joint project proposals by the Municipality of Nikaia/Greece; the National Union of University Students UK; the University of Venice; the Biotechnical Educational Centre Ljubljana; the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice; the Green Economy Coalition (UK); the Water and Energy Agency of Malta; the Ministry of Education of Greece; the Ministry of Education of Cyprus.
- 3 formal references of the Action Plan of the MSESD in: 13th Meeting of the UNECE ESD Steering Committee (Geneva, 3-4 May 2018); UNESCO Member States news item on [ESD](#) 2018; Ministry of Education of Cyprus.
- 230 new members subscribed to the MEDIES e-network (annual growth of 5%).
- 318 new webpage active users/month (growth of 74%).

- 147 new followers on the MEDIES facebook page (growth of 21%).
- In total, the targeted ESD trainings reached some **500 educators** from various Mediterranean countries.
- In total, the targeted ESD activities reached **4.516 students in schools**.

D.1. The HYDRIA website (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 14-18 May 2018, the Chairman participated in the 2nd **Conference of the Global Network of Water Museums** in the Netherlands where ideas and proposals of common strategic projects were discussed as well as the mechanisms for internal coordination of the WAMU-NET, and the establishment of three internal working groups (Research, Education, SDGs). MIO-ECSDE participates in the WAMU-NET *via* the HYDRIA Programme.

D.2. Cooperation with the Ghajn Water Conservation and Awareness Centre of Malta

Building on the long-standing NCWRs Programme in Malta, and as a follow up to the development of the wall touch-screen games for the Ghajn Water Centre of Malta (in 2017 by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med), MEDIES was entrusted to develop four hands-on educational programmes to 'compliment' the experience of the e-games about water. To this end, between 13-16 March 2018 the Chairman and the MEDIES Secretariat (Iro Alampej, Vicky Malotidi, and Vassilis Psallidas) travelled to Malta, to observe how the four wall screen games (particularly on: Water cycle; Water monuments; Water Utility; and Non-Conventional Water Resources) are used and explore the possibilities for developing the new hands-on material. During its mission, the MEDIES team observed several times teams of adults (experts and teachers) as well as students playing the e-games at the Centre, and ran focus group discussions with all teams, to collect feedback and to identify needs and expectations for the planned new programmes. The four programmes are under development and are expected to be finalized by early 2019 accompanied by their.



These new educational programmes (inclusive of brochures and hands-on material) are about: (a) the Water Cycle & responsible water use (b) Water management in the past & mostly in forts (c) The water systems in Malta with an emphasis on Non-Conventional Water Resources (d) the 'green' elements of the Ghajn Centre itself. MEDIES elaborated draft scenarios on the new educational programmes, and during its second mission to WCAC between 16 and 21 December, MEDIES staff I. Alampej, V., Malotidi and V. Psallidas 'field-tested' the respective hands-on activities with students, teachers and experts. The 'trials' received positive feedback by students and adults, and the feedback collected currently is used in the finalization of the four programmes. The programmes are expected to be applied in the beginning of the school year 2019-2020 when also a related teachers' training will take place as well

D.3. The online educational application about NCWRs



This [online educational material](#) was developed as a progressive web application or web app, an interactive and playful tool inviting the learners themselves to find out about the various aspects of non conventional water resources, urban water vulnerability, the urban climate vulnerability aspects, etc. The content of this app has been developed based on the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), aspiring to develop inquiry, critical thinking and problem-solving skills of the learner-users, as well as an attitude of a new “water ethic” in line with sustainability. The app is designed to be played on PCs, laptops, smart phones and tablets, offering various opportunities for interaction. It includes 14 sections - presented in the menu bar on the right side of the homepage, and depending on the feedback that will be collected, it will be gradually amended and enriched (progressive educational application). Though it is developed for a target group of learners of 10 – 13 years old, several sections can be used by both younger (with the educators’ facilitation) and older students.

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 10th year of the NCWR project and the MEDIES activities for 2018 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. In 2018 the school activities in the Athens Thessaloniki Kalimnos and Agathonisi Islands engaged **2425 students**.
- Teacher trainings: About five teacher trainings have been held in Athens Thessaloniki and Kalimnos, with a total of **260 teachers** having been trained on how to apply the educational material “the Gift of Rain”.

Both teachers and students expressed a quite high percentage of average satisfaction from their participation. Students’ overall satisfaction from the programme is 3.52 on a 1-4 scale (88 %).



D.5. The educational component of the ‘Water for the City’ project in Greece

This was the second and last year of the "Water for the City" programme 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. Within the programme MIO-ECSDE:

- Developed an online interactive application (in Greek) on promoting ESD focusing on the topics related to the urban water cycle, climate change, water management, responsible consumer behavior, etc. (<http://water-polis.gr>).
- Produced 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 diagrams, cards, etc.)
- Organised a series of school interventions and seminars for local teachers in cooperation with the local educator.

In 2018 the programme reached **1156 students** with an overall satisfaction rate of 3.68 on a 1-4 scale (92%) and **83 teachers** with an overall satisfaction rate of 3.87 on a 1-4 scale.



On 23 April the closing meeting took place in Alexandroupolis where interesting ideas were discussed regarding the follow up of the educational component i.e. through the cooperation with the local Natural History Museum. Read more [here](#)

The programme came to an end in June. In its two year duration (2017-2018) **4.063 students** and **345 teachers** were engaged in the programme's activities, coming from all the schools of the Alexandroupolis metropolitan area.

(Early in 2019 a post-project development emerged: the local Natural History Museum expressed the interest to "host" the WfC material and activities with visiting students, with the cooperation of the Municipality of Alexandroupolis, the Water Service Company, and the ESD officers of the Ministry of Education. It is expected that between March-April 2019 some 900 students will be engaged in the WfC hands-on activities during their visit in the Museum. Such progress proves that the local community embraced and valued this educational project).

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

MEDIES Secretariat together with the UNESCO Chair on ESD of the 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 2018, the e-course ran successfully in three rounds of application. Read more [here](#)

D.7. Cooperation with the Municipality of Nikaia on Raising Awareness about Marine Litter

This is a joint action of MIO-ECSDE (through MEDIES), the Municipality of Nikaia and the Ministry of Education, through the ESD Officers of the Department of Piraeus and involves:

(A) the Hosting of the Exhibition on Marine Litter created by MIO-ECSDE (under the MARLISCO Programme) at a dedicated public space of the Municipality of Nikaia from the 1st of October to the 15th of December 2018. The exhibition was open to the public on certain weekdays and Saturdays with some **1000 visitors** who were given a guided visit.

(B) The organization of dedicated school visits to the schools of the municipality **1815 students** visited the exhibition during its 2,5 month display and participated in hands-on activities coordinated by educators who had received proper training by MEDIES.

(C) The organization of **two seminars** for teachers on Education about Marine Litter on 26 and 27 September 2018, attended by 50 educators coming from the primary and secondary level.

(D) One public event for raising awareness on the marine litter issue organised in 7 November 2018 (30 participants).

A beach clean-up activity was successfully organised on October 5, engaging 100 officers of the OPAP Company in Attica (Greece). The activity was organised upon the invitation made by OPAP which dedicated its 2018 CSR Day to the staff's awareness raising on the issue of marine litter. On October 3rd, MEDIES presented the status, causes and challenges related to marine litter in Greece and in the European Seas in general, during a special event at the OPAP premises (35 participants). During the beach clean-up more than 1,5 tonnes of litter were collected; the vast majority of the litter items were plastic. After the activity many participants expressed their willingness to reduce plastic consumption and improve their reuse/recycling behaviour.

D.8 Train the trainer course on ESD & Marine Litter, 7-13 October 2018, Athens

A train-the-trainer course held in Athens from the 7th to the 13th of October 2018 focused on the issue of marine litter. A total of 24 educators from Cyprus, Malta, Italy and Greece had the opportunity to explore questions such as: why should we all be concerned about marine litter? what do we know so far about the issue and how can we work together to address it? how can we better communicate it to our learners?



During the course the participants familiarized themselves with a variety of educational tools that they can use in their educational settings. The evaluation done through anonymous questionnaires revealed a high level of satisfaction (3.63 on a 4 point scale), while 24 out of the 25 respondents declared they would absolutely recommend the course to a colleague. Also, several of

them reported launching a project at school after the course. More at <http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?CID=8&aID=1227>

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

E.1. LIFE+ Operating Grand for NGOs



MIO-ECSDE is one of the EU non-profit environmental NGOs active in many countries that was awarded support for part of its operational and administrative costs relating to the development, implementation and enforcement of Union policy and legislation for the 2018-2019 biennium. The last time MIO-ECSDE received this support was in 2012. This is an opportunity to strengthen the federation after several years without core funding.

E.2. 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 7.2 million project kicked off in February 2016 and will run till April 2019 with a Work Programme of more than 100 activities. Read more at: www.swim-h2020.eu and see the project booklet at <https://bit.ly/2DuFK46>

E.3. The Interreg Med ACT4LITTER project

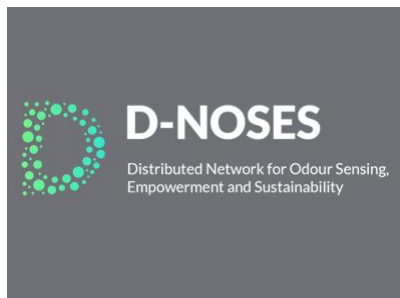
ACT4LITTER is an Interreg Med funded project aiming to facilitate efforts for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs through effective and targeted measures towards reaching their conservation targets. MIO-ECSDE is a key partner of the project bringing its longstanding experience in research/policy/advocacy/awareness 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 as well as regional plan. 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 were completed by the end of October 2018. The closing conference of the project was organised by MIO-ECSDE and took place in Athens on the 24th of October 2018 (see C).

ACT4LITTER was 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.4. The Horizon 2020 D-NOSES project



Since March 2018, MIO-ECSDE is one of the partners of the EU funded *Distributed Network for Odor Sensing, Empowerment and Sustainability (D-NOSES)* project. It is a Horizon 2020 specific programme with and for society (SWaFA). The project consortium comprises 15 partners (combining experts in Responsible research and innovation (RRI), citizen science and co-creation, international associations, odor scientists, local administration and public bodies) from 9 countries. With this project, MIO-ECSDE is tackling odor pollution for the first time with the aim to introduce it in the policy agenda. The project is in line with the organization's values specifically that it works towards the

implementation of RIO principle 10 and the Aarhus convention calling for civil society engagement and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs.

D-NOSES aims to:

- empower citizens to become a driving force for change,
- map and measure the odor pollution problem in selected EU sites through the citizen-science approach and other co-creation tools,
- co-design solutions with key quadruple helix stakeholders (Business, civil society and users, research and academia and public administration) at all levels (global, national, regional and local)

In the project duration of 36 months, MIO-ECSDE has 3 deliverables: a MOOC in odour pollution due in month 18, evaluation of co-designed methodologies to address odour pollution and work package leader for the project's advocacy actions.

E.5. The Interreg Med PlasticBusters MPAs project

In April 2018 a new project entitled PlasticBusters MPAs kicked off with the aim to shed light on the impacts of marine litter in coastal and pelagic protected areas and consolidate Mediterranean efforts against marine litter. The project entails actions that address the whole management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and surveillance to prevention and mitigation.

PlasticBusters MPAs will deliver a quantitative and qualitative diagnosis of the impacts of marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs; strengthen networking of MPAs in improving the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems in pelagic and coastal MPAs; accelerate knowledge transfer to Mediterranean MPA managers and other key actors towards scaling up effective solutions to curb marine litter.



MIO-ECSDE is the operational leader of the communication, the studying and the capitalization components of the project. In addition, MIO-ECSDE together with ISPRA are the co-chairs of the Steering Committee of the project, which is chaired by UNISI.

PlasticBusters MPAs is a 48-month-long project funded by Interreg Mediterranean and implemented by MIO-ECSDE and several other partners (<http://mio-ecsde.org/project/plasticbusters-mpas/>)

E.5. Submissions of proposals

The status of MIO-ECSDE proposal submissions for late 2017 till December 2018 are as follows:

	Title	Donor Agency	Amount	Submission date	Officer in charge	Brief description	Comments
1	Development of publication for the Drin River Basin	GWP-Med	17.300 USD for MIO-ECSDE	September 2017	Th. Vlachogianni	To develop and produce then 2 nd edition of the publication entitled 'The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: inspiring our collective actions'.	MIO-ECSDE is the implementing partner.
2	Summer School 2018 – to be held in Parnon Greece	UNESCO Venice Office	54.500 € (total) 28.000 € requested for MIO-ECSDE	January 2017	I. Alampei	In Jan 2018 we were informally notified that UNESCO Venice will support the meeting, and the estimated budget will be analogous of previous years (10-15 USD).	The activity is co-funded by OIKOM (2000 E) and MIO-ECSDE Annual EU Grant
3	EMPOWER: EMPLOYMENT Opportunities for Women and NEETs through advanced IT-supported training	ENI CBC MED	€ 3.331.949 386.912 for MIO-ECSDE (PP2 in the project)		I. Alampei	MIO-ECSDE's role in the project: undertake a needs analysis in the partner countries and coordinate some of the foreseen trainings	MIO-ECSDE is a partner, (through consultant company ITML) It was not approved
4	Educational Programmes for WCAC, Malta	Water and Energy Agency, Malta	From 53.000 to 82.000 €	February 2018	I. Alampei + V.Malotidi	MIO-ECSDE undertakes the development of a series of educational programmes for the Center. Duration 03/2018-12/2019	Approved by Water and Energy Agency for 53,000 Launched in March 2018.
5	Supporting the Mediterranean to meet the SDG 4.7	Sida	350.000 €	January 2018 + 27/02/2018 elaborated message	V.Malotidi + I.Alampei	Capacity building events on ESD /AP /MSESD in ten Med. Countries (3yrs)	Concept Note proposal sent to Sida for consideration Not approved
6	ESD Training Course	KA1 Erasmus+	Depending on the number of trainees (490€ fee)	01 February 2017 deadline	I. Alampei + V.Malotidi	Week-long training course based on MEDIES materials	Approved for 22 trainees
7	MedResilience: Resilient Environment, Resilient People	ENI CBC MED	2.458.886,75 € (582.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	January 2018	Th. Vlachogianni	The project addresses the development and improvement of ecosystem-based management approaches in demonstration sites, aiming at integrating them into existing ICZM and maritime spatial planning.	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. The applicant is the University of Malaga.
8	Trans-boundary Assessment, Monitoring, and Management of Sea-based Litter in the Alboran and Levantine Seas (TAMMAL)	EMFF	478.000 € (70.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	January 2018	Th. Vlachogianni	The aim of TAMMAL is to provide the key knowledge in two trans-boundary sub-regions, in the Western and Eastern Mediterranean, to evaluate the contribution of maritime traffic, sea installations, and coastal activities off the coast to the overall budget of marine floating litter.	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. The applicant is the University of Malaga.
9	Partnerships for Good (PfG)	ERASMUS+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships	19.025 € for MIO-ECSDE	March 2018	V. Malotidi	The aim is to get in action a consortium of academia, CSOs and students associations in order for a critical mass of 'vulnerable' students to have a first working experience in the field of sustainability.	MIO-ECSDE is a partner (together with UoA). The applicant is the National Union of Students - UK It was not approved
10	NoSTORM	Urban Innovative Actions (UIA)	320.000 € for MIO-ECSDE	March 2018	Roniotes A.	This is about novel nature-based stormwater management for multi-dimensional issues intensified by changes in climate. MIO-ECSDE would be in charge of community engagement and	Not approved but the Lead applicant is appealing based on questionable assessment results

Title	Donor Agency	Amount	Submission date	Officer in charge	Brief description	Comments	
					communication aspects.		
11	FAIR data based framework for Science and Society (FAIRWAVES)	H2020 Research	2.999.000 € (270.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	April 2018	Th. Vlachogian ni	The project focuses on improving scientific data FAIRness	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. The applicant is CNR (CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE).
12	Green Growth and Circular Economy – Supporting activities for stakeholder engagement, exchange of information and best practices	EC Framework Contract, ENV.B.1/FR A/2018/00 02	It is a framework contract so MIO-ECSDE's budget will be defined based on the relevant requests by DG ENV.	April 2018	Th. Vlachogian ni	The proposal focuses on providing analytical and continuous support services for stakeholders' engagement	The applicant is KANTOR Management Consultant SA
13	Green Growth and Circular Economy – Ad hoc stakeholder engagement activities and stakeholder engagement Toolkit	EC Framework Contract, ENV.B.1/FR A/2018/00 02	It is a framework contract so MIO-ECSDE's budget will be defined based on the relevant requests by DG ENV.	April 2018	Th. Vlachogian ni	The proposal focuses on the organisation of a series of outdoor exhibitions on marine litter and plastic waste, in five target countries	The applicant is INTRASOFT International S.A. It was approved.
14	Educ-NCWRs Education for Sustainable Development focusing on NCWRs in the Middle East and Gulf Countries	Concept Note communicated to Fadi Comair	From 40,000 to 300, 000 €. Depends on the number of countries and on the existence or not of infrastructure water works	April 2018	I. Alampe	Concept note for the development of an education and awareness raising initiative focusing on NCWRs, to be implemented in formal and non formal educ. systems in five Middle East and Gulf countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.	We expect some feedback (on countries) to develop a full proposal
15	WATER NEST	INTERREG Europe	232,665 € for MIO-ECSDE (with 77,555 € own contribution)	22 June 2018	V. Malotidi	Aims to provide input to European regions & policy tools on the role of the hydraulic heritage to sustainable development; bridge a gap between Science and Society; support major public awareness campaigns to face increasing water risks.	MIO –ECSDE is partner, the lead is Ca Foscari University
16	Capacity development on ESD	UNESCO tender	150,000 €	03 August 2018	V. Malotidi	Aims to provide capacity building on ESD/SDGs/Agenda 2030 to a critical mass of educators in Albania, Montenegro and Romania and Greece and Cyprus	MIO-ECSDE Submitted the concept note to UNESCO BRESCIA
17	DIVE IN: Mutual skill building of trainers on Diversity & Inclusive pedagogies	UNESCO Participation Programme	25,000 USD	25 August 2018	I. Alampe	The project aims to support the Mediterranean formal and non formal education practitioners from Jordan, Greece, Lebanon and Palestine, in designing and applying inclusive ESD practices for diverse groups, with emphasis on disadvantaged learners	Approved in December 2018
18	Water and Environment Support Mechanism	EuropeAid	9m €	14 September 2018	Roniotes A.	This is an EU tender for the SWIM-H2020 SM follow-up phase (4 years)	Short-listed at a first phase and approved in March 2019

Title	Donor Agency	Amount	Submission date	Officer in charge	Brief description	Comments
19 Mobilising a 'millennial movement for global citizenship'	Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education in European Union (DEAR) EuropeAid	7m-12 m €	25 Sept 2018	Roniotes A. Alampei I.	This action will catalyse a youth-driven social movement in Europe, inspired by the opportunities of green economies and the values of global citizenship.	Lead: Green Economy Coalition
20 ESD project on recycling and marine litter education in Greek Islands	HERCO	4,400 € (2018) + 10.000-30.000 € (2019)	15 Nov 2018	V. Psallidas I.Alampe	Following the education activities carried out in Nikaia municipality, HERCO invited us to submit a proposal for joint educational actions on marine litter and recycling in a series of Greek islands	The 2019 scenario was approved in January 2019 for 15.000+ €

F. PUBLICATIONS & OTHER RESOURCES

- A double 50-page Sustainable Mediterranean issue, dedicated to the proceedings and outcomes the 1st Meeting of the Mediterranean Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (<https://bit.ly/2F6Qwxo>)
- An online interactive learning application (in Greek) on topics related to the urban water cycle, climate change, water management, responsible consumer behavior, etc. (<http://water-polis.gr>)
- Online interactive learning application (in English) on topics related to the urban water cycle, climate change, water management, responsible consumer behavior, etc.
- The Act4Litter publication entitled 'Marine Litter in Mediterranean coastal and marine protected areas – How bad is it? A snapshot assessment report on the amounts, composition and sources of marine litter found on beaches' (<https://bit.ly/2YsNSel>)
- A joint position paper entitled 'Two years to make EU seas healthy again' (<https://bit.ly/2TxkncG>)
- The joint position paper entitled '20 measures for clean and healthy seas by 2020' (<https://bit.ly/2CkOJnS>)
- A publication entitled 'Assessing Marine Litter on Mediterranean Beaches. Filling in the knowledge gaps via a participatory science initiative' (<https://bit.ly/2TNDPkD>)
- The second edition of the multi-lingual MIO-ECSDE publication entitled 'The Natural Wealth and Legacy of the Drin River Basin: Inspiring our Collective Actions' produced under the Drin CODA - Coordinated Action for a Sustainable Future with the support of the GEF Drin Project, executed by Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean / GWP-Med (<https://bit.ly/2DDHBFu>)
- A scientific article published in Marine Pollution Bulletin entitled 'Floating plastics in Adriatic waters (Mediterranean Sea): From the macro- to the micro-scale' (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2018.09.016>)
- A scientific article published in Marine Pollution Bulletin entitled 'Exploring public views on marine litter in Europe: Perceived causes, consequences and pathways to change' (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2018.05.061>)
- A scientific article published in Marine Pollution Bulletin entitled 'Marine litter on the beaches of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas: An assessment of their abundance, composition and sources' (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2018.05.006>)