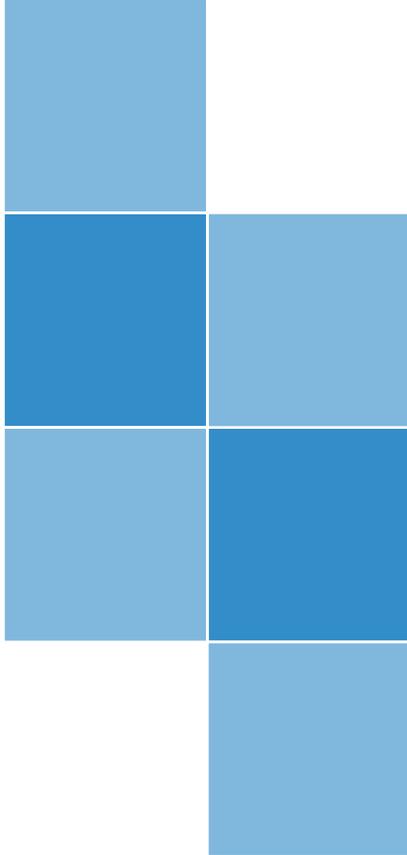




Mediterranean Information Office  
for Environment, Culture & Sustainable Development  
The Mediterranean NGO Federation



## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

# 2016

January - December



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## Executive Summary

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

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

The MIO-ECSDE activities of 2016 were mainly threefold:

- Expansion of actions, combining action in specific thematic areas and background work in the fields and events MIO-ECSDE wanted to be particularly active in 2016 (e.g. the SDGs and ESD, follow-up to Rio+20, Green Economy, Blue Economy, Marine Litter, Climate Change, IWRM, MAB Reserves, Biodiversity) and the next few years;
- Continued implementation of on-going commitments and activities from previous years, formulation of project proposals, collection and dissemination of information, contacts and advocacy, alongside the (co)organisation of important meetings of varying scale;
- Upgrading and strengthening its organizational basis, in light of regional and global socio-economic developments, to remain effective and better service its sub-networks.

Some activities of 2016 to be highlighted would be MIO-ECSDE's work in:

- Securing a **strong Mediterranean Dimension in International Environmental Policies and Processes**, especially at the EU policy level but also the UN (e.g. COP22 of UNFCCC, the GAP of UNESCO).
- Its role as a key partner in **UNEP/MAP**: the 19<sup>th</sup> COP of the Barcelona Convention took place in February 2016 where MIO-ECSDE was very active. It was also active in various of its 2016 expert groups as a MAP Partner. The revised Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (2016-2025) was adopted this year and MIO-ECSDE is active in the development of the benchmark indicators for monitoring its implementation process.
- Strengthening **the environmental component of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the European Neighbourhood Instrument** and civil society participation; contribution to the **HORIZON 2020 Initiative** to de-pollute the Mediterranean; contribution to efforts for integration of environment and sustainability concerns in all other policies of the Euro-Med Partnership/UfM.
- Promoting **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Public Awareness, Public Participation and Access to Information** at regional and national levels. After the endorsement of the **Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development** by the 43 UfM Member countries (April 2014) and its presentation at the Nagoya Conference on ESD (Nov 2014), MIO-ECSDE supported the UNESCO Chair and on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean/University of Athens to draft the Strategy's **Action Plan**, which was adopted at the Ministerial Conference hosted by the Government of Cyprus on 8-9 December 2016. MIO-ECSDE is also an official **GAP** Partner of UNESCO (Global Action Programme on ESD). Furthermore, the **MEDIES** secretariat has carried out several national and regional activities to support educators and students on ESD, through various targeted projects.
- Promoting **Integrated Water Resources Management**, where, as the NGO partner of GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE significantly contributes towards implementation of: IWRM in the Mediterranean region and Southeast Europe; the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative; actions and activities to

strengthen **capacities of NGOs** in Southeastern Europe to effectively participate in **transboundary river and lake basin management plans (e.g. the Drin River and the Act4Drin project)**.

- Developing capacities for **sustainable Urban Waste Management** and tackling **marine litter** in the region. In particular for marine litter MIO-ECSDE actions in 2016 on the science-policy-society interface include provision of scientific and technical expertise to all stages of the main legislative marine litter related processes for the Mediterranean (MSFD, EcAP – Ecosystem Approach); filling in the knowledge gaps that stand in the way of effective decision making through research (DeFishGear activities), participatory science (Marine Litter Watch activities) and community-based data collection initiatives; raising of public awareness and promotion of co-responsibility for marine litter in the Mediterranean (e.g the MARLISCO project).
- 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 already well-established networking and information communication activities of MIO-ECSDE were continued. Information on Mediterranean issues, announcements of conferences, MIO-ECSDE publications, etc., were circulated to the Members of the Federation, as well as to the network's subscribers. The MIO-ECSDE web-site was regularly updated with the information concerning MIO-ECSDE activities and positions and the Mediterranean scene in general.

Many projects in which MIO-ECSDE is involved, were followed-up and are in the state of advancement, completion or dissemination of their results. Drafting of new project proposals to secure the continuity of initiatives and activities was also a significant part of MIO-ECSDE work throughout 2016.

MIO-ECSDE was called upon to function at its best without the annual EU support for its 2016 work programme.

## Preamble

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The present report describes the progress and development of MIO-ECSDE's main activities, projects and achievements for 2016.

The activities carried out followed the priorities described in the MIO-ECSDE Annual Programme decided during the 20th AGM (virtual via WebEx – December 2015).

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

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

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## A. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS OF MIO-ECSDE

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### A.1. Structure

The Federation consists of Full and Corresponding Members who share the same benefits and rights, except for the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is reserved only for Full Members. MIO-ECSDE is headed by an Executive Bureau, which in 2016 consisted of eighteen (18) Members. Eight members are from the EU Mediterranean countries, seven are from the non-EU Mediterranean countries, and three are *ex officio* members representing the two founders EEB and Elliniki Etairia and RAED. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Member Organisations remains the main institution constituting the basis of the Federation. The AGM is convened once a year. The Federation's Secretariat is based in Athens, in the old and historic district of Plaka. The Secretariat was relocated in a newly restored building in the same (Plaka) area in January 2005.



MIO-ECSDE Premises in Plaka, Athens

The communication and co-operation of MIO-ECSDE with its founder organisations (EEB and Elliniki Etairia) as well as RAED was very harmonious throughout 2016 as it has been since its establishment. The same is true for all other NGO networks and bodies, with which MIO-ECSDE has developed close collaboration and an excellent working relationship.

### A.2. Executive Bureau

MIO-ECSDE's Executive Bureau (EB) for 2016 consisted of:

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

One Executive Bureau Meeting (59<sup>th</sup>) took place online on December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016.

### A.3. Membership

The MIO-ECSDE Membership for 2016 stands at 130 member organizations. One organisation submitted a complete application to the Secretariat in 2016 in time for the December Executive Bureau Meeting: Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA) from Lebanon.

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

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During 2016 the status of the Secretariat was as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Danai Amplianiti** (full time) and **Vangelis Kalambokis** (part time till March 2016) also were part of the junior staff of the Secretariat assisting in specific projects and tasks.

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

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

The Chairman, **Prof. M. Scoullas**, is responsible for the supervision of the work and the management, the development, direction of policies and projects and a large part of the representations of the MIO-ECSDE organisation. The Secretariat also works closely with various experts. During 2016 a number of initiatives and representations of the organisation were carried out also by the Co-Chairman **Prof. Ftouhi**, EB Members **Dr. Adly**, **Ms. Bonelli**, **Mr. Vogrin**, **Mr. Attard**, as well as by other members of the EB.

#### A.5. Audit report for the year 2015

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The overall audited financial report of MIO-ECSDE for 2015 was completed in December 2016 by PKF Euroauditing SA. Audited reports provide additional transparency and give added indicators of good governance, but also facilitate proposal submissions as they are standard prerequisites of the European Commission and other funding institutions. Audit costs, which are considerable, are a justifiable expense in most budget lines.

#### A.6. Quality management and accountability standards

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The Secretariat during 2016 finalised (a) the integration of its quality management system and accountability charter procedures (see directly below) and (b) the transposition of all quality and monitoring systems to electronic applications in view of facilitating the certification process and unnecessary administrative burden. It will have to also update the MIO-ECSDE Code of Conduct accordingly, after confirmation by the EBM and the AGM. It is also continuing to explore ways to facilitate and capacitate its members in also applying the above principles and practices.

MIO-ECSDE was thus certified in May 2016 for meeting the ISO 9001:2015 standards in the design, development, management and implementation of international and European projects on environment and sustainable development. ISO 9001 is the globally implemented standard for providing assurance about the ability of the certified organisation to satisfy quality requirements and to enhance service satisfaction. It provides a tried and tested framework for taking a systematic approach to managing the organization's processes. An on-line interface for the application of the ISO has been developed and is fully functional.

A new financial management software (including accounting component) has been fully integrated into the daily functioning of the Secretariat which also facilitates the GWP-Med Secretariat. It took most of the year for trials, trainings, fine-tunings and adjustments.

MIO-ECSDE is a Member of Accountable Now (formerly International NGO Accountability Charter), a cross-sectoral platform of 25 international civil society organisations. The aim is to be transparent, responsive to stakeholders and focused on delivering impact. MIO-ECSDE has signed the 10 Accountability Commitments and applies them throughout the organisation. MIO-ECSDE is to report in September 2017 according to the Accountable Now Reporting Guidelines to an Independent Review Panel. <http://www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org/>

The above procedures that stem from and at the same time complement the MIO-ECSDE Code of Conduct have helped the Secretariat perform very well in four audits, from different donors that have taken place during 2016. Each audit results in more suggestions for making the internal procedures even more complete particularly in terms of fraud minimisation. 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.

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

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

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

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

#### B.1.1. Exchange and Dissemination of Information

The dissemination of information is facilitated by:

##### (i) The 'MIO-ECSDE Internal Information Bulletin'

3 issues of the Internal Information Bulletin (MIO-ECSDE e-news) were distributed in 2016 in English, mainly to Member Organisations and the wider MIO-ECSDE network of contacts, by e-mail. The Bulletin highlights up-to-date information mostly related to:

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

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

Two issues (72 and 73) of the newsletter "Sustainable Mediterranean" have been developed, printed and disseminated within 2016 (without the annual support from the EU more are not possible).

The first issue (No 72, Jan 2016) was dedicated to 'The Role of Universities in Supporting UNESCO Designated Sites as Drivers for Sustainable Development at Local and Regional Levels: Exploring how ESD in Higher Education could contribute in achieving the SDGs'. It was based on the results of the experts meeting that took place between 18 and 19 January at the Senate Hall of the University of Athens, and was co-organised by the UoA UNESCO Chair on SD Management and Education in the Med, MIO-ECSDE, The Greek MAB/UNESCO Committee and the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). UNESCO BRESCE has kindly supported the production of the publication. Read more on the experts/ meeting in C.2.1.

The second issue (No 73, Dec 2016, in press) was devoted to the Summer University of Samothraki that took place between 9 and 22 July 2016 with the involvement of many International Organisations, Universities, Academic and Research Institutions and Networks, National and Local Authorities of Samothraki Island, NGOs and other stakeholders, and the participation of more than 70 trainees. The publication was realised with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). Read more on the summer university in D.3.13.



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

The MEDIES website [www.medies.net](http://www.medies.net) is regularly updated with ESD news, announcements, outcomes of major fora, competitions, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest (1 – 2 articles per fortnight). The social media page of MEDIES is also regularly updated (on average 3 posts per week).

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

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

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

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

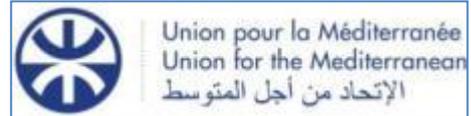
In addition, in the framework of the MedPartnership project MIO-ECSDE continued its efforts in enhancing the effective participation of NGOs in the project activities.

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

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

Serving one of the initial scopes since its establishment, which is contributing to the capacity building of Mediterranean NGOs and within the framework of the follow-up action in the various priority fields of the Federation, MIO-ECSDE, (co)organised a number of actions in 2016.

- A number of (sub)regional MIO-ECSDE projects are running with the active partnership of member NGOs (see D).
- MIO-ECSDE is a partner in the UfM labelled (June 2014) "BlueGreen Med-CS" which, once fully running, will be devoted to capacity building and networking of NGOs, participatory processes with close involvement of the authorities and also a small grants programme for pilot programmes in many Mediterranean countries ([http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BlueGreen\\_Med-CS\\_snapshot\\_final.pdf](http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BlueGreen_Med-CS_snapshot_final.pdf)). Despite the fact that funds for its full implementation are not in place yet and all partners and the UfM Secretariat are trying to tap relevant resources (see C.1.2.4), MIO-ECSDE currently coordinates the nomination of NGOs to participate in the capacity building activities organised under the SWIM-H2020 SM project. MIO-ECSDE also is a partner of another UfM labelled (February 2016) project entitled 'Plastic Busters for a litter free Mediterranean' in which the participation of member organisations is integral (<http://ufmsecretariat.org/plastic-busters-for-a-mediterranean-free-from-litter/>). On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 a kick-off meeting of the project was hosted by the University of Siena (Lead Partner) to identify potential funding opportunities and plan the next steps.
- MIO-ECSDE joined the participatory science campaign entitled 'Marine Litter Watch Month' carried out in close collaboration with the EEA and the European Topic Center on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters (ETC-ICM). The Marine Litter Watch community so far includes: Coalition Clean Baltic, Estonian Green Movement, HELMEPA, Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Keep Sweden Tidy, KIMO, Legambiente, Marine Conservation Society, MARNOBA, MIO-ECSDE, National Institute for Marine Research and Development of Romania, Plastic Change, Polish Ecological Club, Portuguese Association of Marine Litter, Seas at Risk, Surfers Against Sewage, Surfrider Foundation Europe. MIO-ECSDE apart from acting as the focal point of the Mediterranean NGO community also in the running of its long-standing marine litter actions carried two webinars on the 9th and 16th of September 2016, on how to perform marine litter surveys. In addition, it led a marine litter monitoring workshop in Gdansk targeted to NGOs.



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

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

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

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



A meeting of the Circle may become possible in 2017. In the meantime, the members were informed about major developments that took place during the year and key relationships with the other institutions of Members of Parliament, i.e. the UfM Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Energy, Environment and Water and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean were maintained.

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

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

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

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

MIO-ECSDE provides the Administrative Secretariat while the UoA provides the Scientific Secretariat of the Network. The 20 partner universities come from the EU countries: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, and the non-EU: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

For 2016, MedUnNet was involved in two main activities namely the experts meeting entitled "The Role of Universities in Supporting UNESCO Designated Sites as Drivers for Sustainable Development at Local and Regional Levels" held in Athens, 18-19 January 2016 (see C.2.1.), and the organisation of the Summer University of Samothraki 2016 (see more in D.3.13).

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

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

- **Other networks**

Since 2007 MIO-ECSDE is trying to initiate a **network of Mediterranean women's organisations working on environment and sustainable development issues**. It would be facilitated jointly also with GWP-Med as the point of focus of the circle in its inception phase will be water. There have been relevant developments in the setting up of a Youth network of GWP on water and sustainable development in the process that led to the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. It has been linked with the questionnaire on perceptions of youth in Mediterranean countries for consolidating the concept of sustainable development (D.3.12)

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

In February 2016 some 13 NGOs from the five Drin riparians joined forces to form the **Act4Drin Alliance aiming to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin**. The Act4Drin Alliance is a coalition of NGOs aiming to act as a forum for coordinating and strengthening NGO participation in the upcoming policy developments in the region driven by the Drin MoU implementation process, enhancing cooperation and networking among and between regional, national and grassroots NGOs in the Drin Basin working on sustainable water resources management and freshwater biodiversity protection/conservation. The Act4Drin Alliance comes as a direct follow up of the Act4Drin project, a project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership and run exclusively by NGOs under the lead of MIO-ECSDE. Act4Drin with the support of NGOs in the region has implemented a series of activities seeking to raise public awareness, enhance knowledge and empower NGOs to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin. The Act4Drin Alliance concretely displays the mutual trust, solidarity and strong commitment built among NGOs in the region towards the protection of the natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River. The **Act4Drin Alliance is an initiative facilitated by MIO-ECSDE**.

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE participates in and maintains good working relationships with international institutes, networks and groups such as:

- the European Commission and particularly DGs Environment, DEVCO, MARE, NEAR, etc.
- the European Parliament
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- MAP/UNEP, RAC/SPA, RAC/ERS, RAC/CP, Blue Plan, etc.
- UNEP (Nairobi), UNEP/ROE, UNEP/IETC, etc.
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MSCD)
- UNESCO, MAB/UNESCO, UNESCO BRESCE
- UNDP
- UN ECE
- UNCSD
- Global Footprint Network
- IFAD
- World Bank, former METAP
- EIB
- Anna Lindh Foundation
- IEMED
- IMED
- Centre des Regions Euromediterraneennes pour l' Environnement (CREE)  
scientific community of the Mediterranean (represented by CIESM, the Mediterranean University, etc.)
- various secretariats of Conventions (Desertification, Ramsar, etc.)
- regional initiatives with Commercial and Industrial Chambers
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- ICLEI
- WWC
- Stakeholder Forum
- Eco Forum
- IME
- MARE and other Mediterranean Youth Groups
- MEDCOAST
- MESAEP
- MWN
- Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- IUCN
- WWF International (and its European and Mediterranean offices)
- FoE (Europe, Med-net, Middle East and national branches)
- Greenpeace (International and national branches)
- ENDA
- CEDARE
- regional, sub-regional and national educational institutions
- Mediterranean and international nature conservation networks (such as MEDWET-wetlands, MEDMARAVIS-birds, MEDPAN-protected areas, MEDASSET-turtles, etc.)
- NATO and its Parliamentary Assembly
- European Seas Environmental Cooperation - ESEC (a collaboration between MIO-ECSDE, Seas at Risk, the Coalition Clean Baltic and the NGO Forum for the Black Sea)
- Asia-Europe Environmental Technology Centre
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- The Onassis Foundation
- 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 a substantial part of MIO-ECSDE networking and advocacy activities. MIO-ECSDE has also continued to increasingly build on creating channels of communication and beneficial mutual support schemes (guidelines for integrating the environmental component, expertise, funds, etc.) with the private sector. The exchange of information on Mediterranean environmental and development issues, the promotion of Mediterranean issues in non-Mediterranean fora and the exchange of Mediterranean NGO views during the formulation of policies remain three of the main MIO-ECSDE activities related both to networking and promotion of policies.

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

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

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

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

#### **C.1.1. Collaboration and Representation in the Work of UNEP, MAP/UNEP and MCSDD**

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

MIO-ECSDE was actively involved in the organization (logistics) and actively participated in the deliberations of the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP19) hosted by the Hellenic Government and held successfully from 9-12 February 2016 in Athens, Greece. More than 150 delegates from 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union, all parties to the Barcelona Convention discussed and agreed upon a great number of decisions which reflect the vitality and relevance of the Barcelona Convention, after a 40-year collective journey towards sustainable development (<http://mio-ecsde.org/civil-society-and-the-barcelona-convention-40-years-of-mutual-support/>). The Chairman Prof. Scoullou, the Head Officer Anastasia Roniotes and Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni participated actively. A number of interventions made by the Chairman were of crucial importance for the MCSDD the future of which was put at serious risk. MIO-ECSDE actively participated in COP19 and welcomed a series of decisions relating to: the adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025; marine litter and the adoption of a basin-wide beach litter reduction target of 20% by 2024; the Mediterranean Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan, etc. MIO-ECSDE was particularly happy that the Ministers' Declaration mentions that "Mindful of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, resolve to enhance public awareness and the role of education promoting sustainability and the implementation of the SDGs in the Mediterranean". In his statement during the ministerial segment of the meeting MIO-ECSDE Chairman, Michael Scoullou said "MIO-ECSDE has been one of the most faithful and consistent supporters of UNEP/MAP since its establishment. Even if sometimes critical, it has always been constructive, with good intentions, without hidden agendas. The work that MIO-ECSDE is doing for the empowerment of NGOs and CSOs of the Mediterranean is very much needed by UNEP/MAP. Despite its very limited resources MIO-ECSDE has been one of the key actors in the region playing effectively a catalyst role at many levels (global, regional, sub-regional, national and local) through its 130 members which bring together many millions of individual citizens." MIO-ECSDE is one of the very few that participate in the UNEP/MAP system with the collective memory of the past 25+ years and oftentimes the countries and other partners participating need to be reminded of procedures, historical facts, etc.

It is noteworthy that MIO-ECSDE was requested by the Greek Ministry of Environment to undertake the organization of the COP on its behalf with the financial support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

On the first day of the COP19 MIO-ECSDE jointly with UNEP/MAP organized a side event entitled “Tackling marine litter in the Mediterranean”. The event brought together some 40 participants who had the opportunity to be informed about capitalizing on the cutting edge outputs, best practices and lessons learned of these initiatives, as well as on how these can be expanded and replicated in order to serve the needs of other Mediterranean countries. The event offered a sense of relief that important steps and actions on this serious challenge have been taken in the region. In fact countries adopted a basin-wide marine litter reduction target of 20% of beach litter by 2024 (<http://mio-ecsde.org/a-bit-closer-to-a-marine-litter-free-mediterranean/>).

MIO-ECSDE, within the framework of the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project co-organized with UNEP/MAP’s MEDPOL Programme a two-day meeting entitled ‘Joint commitment for a marine litter-free Mediterranean Sea’ (<http://mio-ecsde.org/joint-unespmap-defishgear-workshop-for-a-marine-litter-free-mediterranean-sea/>). Within the scope of this meeting, some 85 participants, among which the MEDPOL Focal Points, from 20 Mediterranean countries and Belgium and Ireland, were brought together in Tirana, Albania, from 19 to 20 July 2016, to further advance the implementation of the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean. MIO-ECSDE, represented by the Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni, had a leading role in the event with several interventions and co-chaired most of the sessions. The contribution of MIO-ECSDE in combating marine litter in the Mediterranean was acknowledged in plenary by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator Gaetano Leone.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, MIO-ECSDE actively participated at the UNEP/MAP Roundtable “Enhancing Regional Coordination on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean”. The Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni actively contributed to the roundtable discussions focusing on the establishment of a partnership for the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. In this respect, the participants, among which MIO-ECSDE, agreed upon the establishment of a voluntary basis, open ended group of regional and international partners with mandates and activities contributing to the environmentally sound management of marine litter in the Mediterranean.

In early 2016, MIO-ECSDE within the framework of the UNEP/MAP project entitled "The implementation of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean" and its component dedicated to marine litter undertook a series of activities such as production of two reports addressing marine litter in the Mediterranean and abandoned, lost, derelict fishing gear in the Mediterranean (the end result of a survey-based study implemented in 12 Mediterranean countries in collaboration with many member NGOs), the development of a short film, etc.

MIO-ECSDE is a member of the Expert Group that is developing a core set of indicators for the MSSD 2016-2025 dashboard. In March 2016 Head Officer Anastasia Roniotes participated in the workshop: « How to monitor the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation? » that took place in Nice.

Throughout the year MIO-ECSDE continued to be on the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development, attend also one informal meeting of the SC. There will be a physical Steering Committee meeting in Athens in January 2017 where MIO-ECSDE will be represented by the Chairman and the Head Officer of the Secretariat.

## **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 2016 (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) which has replaced the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
- European Marine Framework Strategy Directive (MSFD)
- Water (WFD, EU Water Initiative)
- Climate Change
- Chemicals (REACH, EDCs)

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

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

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

During 2016 MIO-ECSDE took into consideration in all its thematic priorities and activities the outcomes of the various global developments and priorities of various fora that are follow-up actions of Rio+20 or linked with the process that led to the finalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015.

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

**Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and Action Plan:** The Mediterranean Strategy on ESD (MSESD) was formally endorsed by the 43 Environment and Climate Change Ministers of the UfM (Athens 13 May 2014) and was formally presented by the Greek Minister of Education at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD (Japan, Nov 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 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", the MSESD is recognized as vital for the achievement of the SDGs in the Mediterranean region. Furthermore, the Strategy is included in the first set of the still under development 'dashboard' indicators for monitoring MSSD (2016-2025) implementation (process led by Plan Blue - UNEP/MAP).

Furthermore, the MSESD was mentioned as an example of regional synergy in the Ministerial Statement on ESD of the Ministers of Education and Environment in the framework of the "Environment for Europe" process and Conference in Batumi (Batumi) 8-10 June 2016. (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41721#/>)

Within 2016 the **Action Plan of the MSESD** was drafted by the MIO-ECSDE Chairman, Prof M. Scoullou and received feedback from experts on several occasions (a. Within the GAP PN1 2<sup>nd</sup> peer learning webinar on "ESD regional-international policy", 20/06/2016; b. Within the GAP Partner Networks Meeting, in Paris 5-6 /07/2016; c. within the official Side Event entitled "The Mediterranean Strategy on ESD: how to educate youth and local communities to effectively address climate change" within the COP22, 14/11/2016, in Marrakesh). The draft Action Plan was finalised and adopted within the Ministerial Conference on the Action Plan for Education for Sustainable



Development (MSSD) implementation (process led by Plan Blue - UNEP/MAP).

Development in the Mediterranean that was organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus with the scientific support of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean/University of Athens and the technical support of MEDIES, 8-9/12/2016. Read more about the Conference at: <http://mio-ecsde.org/ministerial-conference-unanimously-adopts-the-action-plan-on-education-for-sustainable-development-in-the-mediterranean/> and [www.esdmedcyprus.pi.ac.cy](http://www.esdmedcyprus.pi.ac.cy) The process of the developing the Action Plan of MSED is actually one of the Flagship Projects of the GAP (see below).

**Global Action Programme (GAP) of UNESCO on ESD (2015-2019):** The GAP is the major post-UNDESD initiative of UNESCO. It is a five year programme launched in Nagoya (Nov 2014). The GAP programme collects initiatives from all around the world aiming to generate and scale-up ESD activities. It focuses on five priority action areas: (1) Advancing policy; (2) Integrating sustainability practices into education environments (whole-institute approach); (3) Capacity building of educators and trainers; (4) Empowering and mobilising youth; (5) Encouraging local communities to develop ESD. Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE / MEDIES participates with two initiatives in the global GAP Commitments: the development of the Action Plan of MSED (under Priority Area 1) and the MEDIES 5-year intended capacity building agenda (under Priority Area 3), while the UNESCO Chair of the University of Athens has submitted the MedUNET's 3-year plan (under Priority Area 2: whole institute approach). All GAP Commitments on ESD can be found at <https://unesco4esd.crowdmap.com/main>

MEDIES was invited to join the GAP Partners Network (PN1) on Priority Area 1 in 2015, while Prof. Scoullos is co-chairing the Network. Since then, the PN1 has been very active, holding several face-to-face meetings and webinars on selected ESD topics, in which Prof. Scoullos and MEDIES staff participated (in 2016):

- GAP PN1 Coordinating tele-conference, 8 March 2016;
- E-peer-learning session on "National Policy on ESD", 19 May 2016;
- E-peer learning session on "International Policy on ESD" 20 June 2016;

Additionally, the Chairman actively participated in all sessions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GAP Partner Networks Meeting, in Paris (5-6 July 2016) all developments of Partner Networks were presented and participants discussed ideas on how to scale up partners' activities and what could be the future steps of the GAP. Read more <http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?CID=7&aID=1075>

Also, the Chairman actively participated in the Education Day of the UNFCCC – Climate COP 22 in Marrakesh, with a special focus on climate change education.

#### ***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, NEAR while following up on the European Neighbourhood Policy and its new 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.1.2).

MIO-ECSDE is a key partner in the labelled (February 2016) project entitled "Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter". On the 14th and 15th of April 2016 a kick-off meeting of the project was hosted by the University of Siena (Lead Partner) to identify potential funding opportunities and plan the next steps.

MIO-ECSDE, together with RAED and the EEB formally represent Mediterranean stakeholders active on Climate Change matters in the UfM Expert Group on Climate Change. Various meetings took place in 2016, including at COP22. A relevant UfM publication entitled "Key players' perspective on climate change in the Mediterranean" features MIO-ECSDE in an article authored by the Chairman (<http://mio-ecsde.org/mio-ecsde-featured-as-a-key-player-on-climate-change-in-the-mediterranean/>)

The Secretariat has been invited to many other UfM meetings (Water Experts Group meetings, Ministerial and other High Level meetings) that run into 2017.

The UfM Secretariat is also very supportive of the Action Plan of the MSED and attended the Cyprus Ministerial Conference and committed to supporting its implementation.

### **C.1.3. MIO-ECSDE activities as partner with GWP-Med**

MIO-ECSDE acts as Host Institute of the GWP-Med Secretariat and continues its fruitful collaboration with it. As a member of the GWP-Med network, MIO-ECSDE promotes a specific number of outputs for 2016 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. (see D.3.2-D.3.5.);
- The celebration of the World Water Day, with activities in Aegion, Greece;
- The ongoing HYDRIA project on water management techniques of the past (see D.3.1);
- The new 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 Dialogue;

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

### **C.2.1. The role of Universities in Supporting UNESCO Designated Sites as Drivers for SD**

During the two-day long meeting of 18-19 January 2016 hosted at the University of Athens, and supported by the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), 38 experts from 9 countries debated on the role of universities as incubators of sustainability, and in supporting Designated Sites in promoting SD and ESD within recent global and regional frameworks.



The meeting was an intensive workshop for Professors, researchers and administrators, as well as managers from UNESCO Designated Sites hosting or being closely related to universities.

The meeting clearly pointed out that Sustainable Development is a core issue that the MedUnNet universities need to urgently and in-depth incorporate in all their functions in order to promote more responsible behaviours and ethical choices of citizens all around the world. Such a mission should first of all target their primary functions: teaching and research but be seeded also in all their

operations. All stakeholders - professors, students, researchers, suppliers, administration, managers and the general public - need to be engaged in actions aiming at putting sustainable development into practice, within the Euro-Mediterranean Universities themselves as well as the surrounding communities and territories.

The recommendations of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Read more in the special Issue of Sustainable Mediterranean (no 72) dedicated to this meeting [here](#).

### C.2.2. MIO-ECSDE at the European Maritime Day 2016

The European Maritime Day was held this year in Turku, Finland from 18 to 19 May 2016. The 1200 marine and maritime economy stakeholders that attended concluded that blue growth is here to stay. The theme of this year's ninth edition of the European Maritime Days was "Investing in competitive blue growth – smart and sustainable solutions". Within the framework of the EMD 2016 and its DeFishGear activities MIO-ECSDE organized a workshop entitled 'Marine litter and derelict fishing gear: from observation to blue growth' (<http://mio-ecsde.org/marine-litter-and-derelict-fishing-gear-from-observation-to-blue-growth/>). The event was



moderated by Günter Hörmandinger, European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment while the panellists were Thomais Vlachogianni, Programme Officer of MIO-ECSDE; Catherine Barrett, Marine Technical Development Officer of the Irish Sea Fisheries Board; and Veronika Mikos, Project Coordinator of Healthy Seas. The implications of marine litter and particularly of derelict fishing gear on what constitutes the basis of Blue Growth: the core functioning, productivity and resilience of marine ecosystems, were at the heart of MIO-ECSDE's workshop with special emphasis given to experiences and lessons learned from establishing derelict fishing gear management schemes in ports; fishing for litter activities; piloting business scenaria within a circular economy context; exploring options for reduced surveillance costs, etc. MIO-ECSDE presented highlights and outcomes obtained from the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project on the socio-economic implications of marine litter to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. In addition, it shared some of the results of a UNEP/MAP supported Mediterranean-wide survey targeting mostly fishermen which explored various elements linked to marine litter and derelict fishing gear in the marine environment.

### C.2.3. UNFCCC COP22 Official Side Events co-organised by MIO-ECSDE



MIO-ECSDE actively participated at the COP22 climate change deliberations and successfully co-organized –with the contribution and support of the Co-Chairman Prof. Ftouhi and the EB Member Dr. Adly- the following three official side events with the support of key member organisations:

- The Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD): how to educate youth and local communities to effectively address climate change (14 November, 2016). The event was organized jointly by MIO-ECSDE, MEDIES, CMED, RAED and CERCEO and brought together some 100 participants. The event aimed at showing how Education for Sustainable Development could contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of Marrakech COP22; sharing experiences on youth and community education on climate change that could be useful inputs to the relevant activities proposed by the MSESD Action Plan; ensuring that the MSESD Action Plan properly reflects the developments and needed components for effective adaptation and mitigation to climate change (Find more info [here](#)).
- Towards a Sustainable Mediterranean Economy: A review of the sustainability of Mediterranean countries and proposals to promote a green and blue economy which delivers on the Paris Agreement (15 November 2016). The event was co-organized by MIO-ECSDE's members Eco-union and Global Footprint Network, Plan Blue and MIO-ECSDE and it focused on sustainability strategies in the Mediterranean. Panelists presented insights on the Mediterranean region's use of natural capital, reviewed the current sustainable development strategies and proposed indicators to monitor critical economic sectors such as tourism, fisheries, and offshore energy.
- The SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Project: A Mediterranean contribution to the Climate Change Conference COP22 99 November 2016). The event was organized by the SWIM-H2020 SM project, where MIO-ECSDE and RAED are a key partners. A clear signal that resonated at the event was how in a difficult time for the Mediterranean SWIM-H2020 SM provides an open and inclusive platform for concrete action and enhanced synergies to address climate change throughout the region (Find more info [here](#)).

#### **C.2.4. The Act4Drin transboundary spring school**

MIO-ECSDE within the framework of its Act4Drin project organized a first of its kind transboundary Spring School that took place in southwest Balkans and focused on 'The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: from field observations and knowledge to collective actions towards protecting freshwater ecosystems' (<http://mio-ecsde.org/unique-transboundary-spring-school-carried-out-in-the-drin-river-basin/>).

From 7 to 15 May 2016 28 natural sciences students from the Drin Riparian countries, namely Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro and Greece went beyond 'just learning' and were 'immersed' in nature, experiencing thus the sense of inner harmony that only nature offers to humans. The 9-day Spring School introduced students to the fundamental importance of the Drin River Basin for the region's ecosystems, livelihoods and overall well-being. Through an interactive and collaborative experience the significance of biodiversity in fostering collective awareness and strengthened social, economic and spiritual well-being was highlighted. Students acquired knowledge, improved their critical thinking and renewed their motivation to become actively involved in their local communities and national policy processes for the preservation of the Drin River Basin natural heritage.



Students experienced an exceptional blend of collective and collaborative learning on the science-policy-society interface and fascinating field trips to the Drin River Basin. Students visited key conservation sites along the Drin and carried out field work, such as Golem Grad in Prespa lake, Galicica National Park, the Bird Protection centre in Ezerani, the Mavrovo National Park, Jablanica Mountain, Ohrid lake, Skadar lake, Ulcinj saltern and Buna/Bojana Delta. In a joint quest for knowledge and through a dynamic and holistic learning process, students experienced sharing common values for a better future, such as mutual respect and respect for

nature, multiculturalism, solidarity, democracy, social responsibility and sustainable development.

#### **C.2.5. The UNEP/MAP & DeFishGear workshop for a marine litter-free Mediterranean Sea**

See C.1.1.

#### **C.2.6. The MIO-ECSDE & UNEP marine litter side event at COP19 of the Barcelona Convention**

See C.1.1.

#### **C.2.7. The 'Green Economy in the Mediterranean' Workshop, Tangiers**

The main objective of the MAVA funded project 'State of Green Economy in the Mediterranean' (see D.4.4) was the development of a study/report on the status of Green Economy in the Mediterranean. The study was indeed completed by July 2016 which was when a 'validation' meeting was co-organized with partner eco-union. A full-day workshop gathered twenty experts from around the region to review the draft version of the report. The workshop took place on 20 July 2016, in Tangiers, Morocco, back-to-back with the second edition of the Mediterranean Forum for Climate 'MedCOP 22', which aimed to define the region's position in view of COP22.

Plenary sessions assessed the key findings of the report, including the recommendations towards 'greener' economies in the Mediterranean. During breakout sessions, experts worked on a roadmap aiming to prioritise the recommendations for ensuring their implementation and to link regional initiatives and institutions such as MSSD, SDGs, SCP Action Plan with the outcomes of the project. Discussions throughout the workshop highlighted the importance of inclusive stakeholders' engagement to enhance transparency and of having the private sector and financial institutions on board, as they have a role to play.

During the closing session an evaluation tour de table took place and the comments of the participants were quite enthusiastic and encouraging both of the report but also of the process that was followed.

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

See D.3.

## **C.3. Joint Mediterranean Actions/Campaigns**

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### **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 2016. 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 (see F).
- 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 for download <http://www.medies.net/staticpages.asp?aID=352>).
- Ran and expanded the educational component of the Non-Conventional Water Resources Management (NCWR) project. The NCWR project, funded by the Coca Cola Foundation and led by GWP-Med constitutes a model-best practice and apart from Greece (since 2008), it is applied in Malta (since 2012), in Cyprus (since 2013) and in Italy (since 2015). In 2015, it was ranked 2nd best among global showcase initiatives at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Korea. The overall NCWR has as main tasks the following:
  - Installation of water harvesting systems in selected public buildings of water-scarce islands.
  - Enhancement of related technical skills through training of local workers.
  - Implementation of related education activities in schools.

MIO-ECSDE, through MEDIES coordinates the educational component of the NCWR project, having to do with awareness raising activities for students and teachers, production of educational material as well as trainings. In 2016, the 8<sup>th</sup> subsequent year of implementation of the educational component Read more details for activities in all countries at D.3.2-D3.5.

- Launched a new collaboration with the Department of Graphic Design of the Faculty of Graphic Arts and Design of the Technological Institute of Athens (TEI) for the production of a series of short video animations on water by the students.
- Co-organized a 3-day training seminar entitled "Education for Sustainable Management of Water Resources and Simulation Models", held on 16-18 December 2016, in Amfissa's Centre of Environmental Education Center (CEE) within the wider project "The Gift of Rain" (see D.3.14).

### **C.3.2. Biodiversity, Climate Change, etc. in the Mediterranean**

The MIO-ECSDE efforts to activate Mediterranean NGOs, governments, etc. on issues directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and climate change continued in 2016 mainly through advocacy during all relevant major international and regional meetings attended by the Chairman, members of the EB and Secretariat and by collaborating experts, with emphasis on safeguarding the provision of ecosystem services and enhancing natural resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change; applying an ecosystem-based approach as a means for protecting and rehabilitating the environmental integrity and as a management approach that offers a valuable yet under-utilized approach for climate change adaptation and halting biodiversity loss.

MIO-ECSDE, within the Act4Drin project (see D.4.4) has continued in 2016 its activities aiming to empower local and national NGOs in effectively and meaningfully promoting Integrated Water Resources Management

(IWRM) with a special focus on the protection, conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin. Considerable emphasis has been given to expanding people's awareness, especially of youth, on the intrinsic values of freshwater habitats and species of the region and to promoting concrete, comprehensive and continuous actions towards safeguarding the biodiversity of the Drin River Basin and its invaluable ecosystem services. In this respect two important tools have been created: (a) the Act4Drin travelogue 'Living well in harmony with the Drin' jointly developed by MIO-ECSDE & KAWKA PRODUCTION (<http://mio-ecsde.org/the-actdrin-travelogue-living-well-in-harmony-with-the-drin-launched-today/>); (b) the Act4Drin publication entitled 'NGO actions to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems', a tribute to the extent and diversity concrete NGO actions in promoting integrated water resources management and freshwater biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean. This publication showcases the added value and particular strengths that the NGO community brings to environmental governance, such as leadership, creativity, flexibility, entrepreneurship and capacity for vision and long-term thinking (<http://mio-ecsde.org/project/ngo-actions-to-protect-and-conserve-freshwater-ecosystems-mio-ecsde-2016/>).

With regards to climate change MIO-ECSDE actively participated at the COP22 climate change deliberations and successfully co-organized three official side events (read more at C.2.3). Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE was featured as a key player on climate change in the Mediterranean in a recently launched Union for the Mediterranean publication entitled "Key players' perspective on climate change in the Mediterranean". The publication was released at the COP22 during the Union for the Mediterranean High Level Side-Event on stability and sustainable development of the Mediterranean and was very well received by the participants. The Chairman of MIO-ECSDE, Prof. Michael Scoullou has contributed to the publication with an article on civil society mobilisation for climate action, in which he reviews the crucial role CSOs have always played in the Mediterranean as innovators against climate change and as important influencers of public opinion. The article not only depicts MIO-ECSDE's 25-year-long contribution in advancing international climate change talks and deliberations but also proposes a set of key actions for CSOs in the fight against climate change.

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

Throughout 2016, MIO-ECSDE followed closely the progress of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and continued to be a member of the Working Group on Good Environmental Status (WG GES) and the Marine Strategic Coordination Group (MSCG). Furthermore, the Chairman and Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni have been actively contributing to the work of the EU /MSFD Good Environmental Status (GES) Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter. In 2016, MIO-ECSDE has been involved in the elaboration of the two MSFD Technical Group 10 reports entitled 'Identification of Sources of Marine Litter' and 'Harm caused by Marine Litter'. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer, Thomais Vlachogianni participated at the latest meeting of the group held in Palermo (Italy), 6-7 April 2016. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni is that task leader in charge of updating, revising and fine-tuning the masterlist of marine litter items used at pan-European level and at Regional Seas Conventions level.

MIO-ECSDE has also been actively contributing to the promotion of citizen/participatory science in marine litter data collection at pan-European level and in this respect it has been in close contact with the EEA (<http://mio-ecsde.org/join-the-marine-litter-watch-month/>). On 22-23 February 2016, MIO-ECSDE participated in the EEA Marine LitterWatch (MLW) meeting held in Copenhagen aiming to bring the Marine MLW community network together to jointly design an effective and smart approach to tackle marine litter found on beaches in the 4 regional seas surrounding Europe. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni shared experiences and lessons learned related to engaging NGOs and citizens in data collection events and facilitated the session related to defining the elements of the marine litter monitoring approach. Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE apart from being the Mediterranean Node Leader for this activity it provided technical support to the first ever Marine Litter Watch Month that took place in more than 75 of Europe's most beautiful beaches from 17 September to 16 October 2016. MIO-ECSDE organized two webinars which were followed by 18 participants from 12 countries with shores on all European Regional Seas, namely Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine (<http://mio-ecsde.org/mio-ecsde-a-pioneer-in-marine-litter-monitoring-webinars/>). In particular the second webinar, which targeted NGOs from the Black Sea was held upon request from the Joint Research Centre and Secretariat of the Black Sea Convention. Participants had the opportunity to get acquainted step-by-step with the 'Methodology for Monitoring Marine Litter on Beaches (>2.5cm)' developed by MIO-ECSDE within the framework of the DeFishGear project, with contributions from the DeFishGear partners IWRS, ISPRA, ARPA and HCMR. Within the framework of the Marine LitterWatch month MIO-ECSDE performed 3 beach surveys in the coastline of Arcadia, Greece.

On 2-3 November 2016, MIO-ECSDE joined forces with the Coalition Clean Baltic with the aim to promote marine litter monitoring in the Baltic Sea. MIO-ECSDE led a 2-day workshop which brought together some 18 NGO representatives from 8 countries, namely Belarus, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden were brought together in a two-day workshop on marine litter monitoring (<http://mio-ecsde.org/cbb-and-mio-ecsde-join-forces-to-promote-marine-litter-monitoring-in-the-baltic-sea/>).

On the 27-28 October 2016, the MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni participated at the International workshop on Marine Floating Macro Litter, held in Barcelona. MIO-ECSDE was among the invited speakers of the event which brought together renowned researchers and organization from all over the world (USA, Japan, EU countries, etc.) to define the elements of protocol for visual observation of floating macro litter.

On 12 November 2016, the Chairman of MIO-ECSDE actively participated at Oceans Action Day at COP 22.

Within 2016 MIO-ECSDE carried a large number of activities focusing on marine litter mainly within the framework of the DeFishGear project (see D.4.5) and the framework of its collaboration with the UfM and UNEP/MAP (see B.1.2 and C.1.1).

### **C.3.4. Culture and Sustainability in the Mediterranean**

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

Within this overall framework, during 2016 MIO-ECSDE did the following:

- Maintained and further promoted the HYDRIA website ([www.hydraproject.info](http://www.hydraproject.info)) – acknowledged as a good example bridging ESD and Cultural practices (see [here](#)). Read more about HYDRIA in D.3.1.
- Co-produced and promoted the educational package “Mediterranean Food: Historical, Environmental, Health & Cultural dimensions” which has been produced in five Mediterranean languages (find it [here](#)). Furthermore, the e-learning course about Mediterranean Food, in cooperation with the UoA, based to a large extent on the material has been announced to start in January 2017. Read more in D.3.8
- Launched a new collaboration with a soon to be established Centre for ESD in Kos island, Greece called “Discovery Path”. The Centre, expected to be inaugurated in 2017, aims to regularly receive students from Mediterranean countries that will follow a week-long rich ESD program including cultural activities. MEDIES has the scientific supervision of the entire program content. Read more D.3.14).
- Supported member organisations’ and other initiatives where possible.
- etc.

### **C.3.6. Chemicals**

In December 2016 some 23 civil society organisations, among which MIO-ECSDE, released a position paper renewing their calls for more public policy regulating human health and environmental safety of nanomaterials. Read more at <http://mio-ecsde.org/joint-ngo-call-for-resetting-eu-governance-of-nanomaterials/>

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

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### D.1. 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, to authoring of books and materials, trainings-of-trainers, to grass-root activities at school level. Launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) MEDIES is led by MIO-ECSDE. Its core group includes also the Greek Government, UNESCO, and UNEP/MAP while it closely collaborates with GWP-Med in water issues. Ministries of Education, Universities, NGOs from Mediterranean Countries, are among its confirmed partners (see [here](#)). Together with the UoA it supports the MedUnNet.

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

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

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

In 2016 the following main horizontal activities of the secretariat are underway or have been fulfilled:

- Facilitating the e-network of educators ([www.medies.net](http://www.medies.net)). The MEDIES webpage is updated on a weekly basis with ESD related news, competitions, conference outcomes, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest.
- Following ESD political processes at many levels (European, UfM, UNECE, UNESCO-GAP level) as well as its synergies with SDGs. The MEDIES Coordinator, Prof. Scoullou is leading the drafting and adoption process of the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD, and is co chairing the GAP experts' team on Policy (PN1).
- Authoring and producing new teaching and learning material (in printed or e-form).
- Targeted ESD trainings for educators in various Mediterranean countries.
- Targeted activities with students at schools.
- Facilitating the Mediterranean Universities Network for ESD (MedUnNET).
- Circulating on a quarterly basis the e- bulletin to its members (see [MEDIES bulletins](#)).

#### **D.3.1. The HYDRIA web application: (!new web-link: [www.hydraproject.info](http://www.hydraproject.info))**

The website 'HYDRIA' - *collection, storage & distribution of water in antiquity: linking ancient wisdom to modern needs* ([www.hydraproject.info](http://www.hydraproject.info)) 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 HYDRIA 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/MEdIES will keep seeking funds for its further expansion.

In 2016, due to an IT complication the site was "down" for almost 1.5 months (Sept- Nov). Now it is back, fully functioning, but has a new web address: [www.hydraproject.info](http://www.hydraproject.info).

### **D.3.2. 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) project is to support 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 8<sup>th</sup> year of implementation. The MEdIES activities for 2016 within the NCWR project were the following:

- School interventions: The purpose of these interventions is to inform and sensitise students on water saving, particularly through the practices of rainwater collection, and grey water reuse. The educational activities took place in the islands of Nisyros and Tilos, Athens and a few targeted interventions (e.g. Aigion, Spetses, Mykonos, Hydra, and Poros). In total 2023 students have benefited from the plethora of school interventions.
- Teacher trainings: More than 12 teacher trainings have been held in Nisiros, Tilos, Athens, and Spetses, Mykonos, Hydra, and Poros, with a total of 553 teachers having been trained on how to use in their classes the educational material "the Gift of Rain".
- Expert's Evaluation: On 18/05/2016 an experts' meeting was organised to evaluate the educational material "The Gift of Rain City" that has been applied over the last two years. The material was evaluated in terms of form, way of presentation and methods/pedagogies used. The valuable comments received from the 11 participating experts and another 15 that submitted the online form are useful input for the development of the new material that is under preparation for Alexandroupolis city.
- New material for "NCWR-Water in the city": Since the NCWR is currently geared to embrace urban settings and not only small island settings, its educational component is being adjusted. The new educational material that is being prepared has a clear city focus, is learner centred, and will be in the form of a web application. This is expected to be finalised in early spring 2017.

### **D.3.3. The educational component of the NCWR project in Malta**



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

This was the 5<sup>th</sup> and final year of project implementation with the aim to advance the use of NCWRs as a sustainable resource in the water scarce communities of the Maltese

Islands. MEdIES together with Nature Trust Malta and EkoSkola that run the project's educational interventions

have achieved impressive numbers of educated teachers and students in the past years. Actually the educational component of the Alter Aqua project in Malta was awarded the 2013 STENCIL award on Science teaching in Europe.

As the project application in Malta came to an end one last teacher training was held in Malta by MEDIES staff on 1-2 December 2015, for a total of 35 educators of primary and kindergarten level. Read more [here](#).

#### ***D.3.4. The educational component of the NCWR project in Cyprus***

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



On 9 and 10 November 2016 MEDIES officers conducted capacity building activities in Cyprus for the third time. The MEDIES mission and seminars combined two trainings for school teachers and one targeted training for all Cypriot staff of CEE. Approx. 65 teachers and educators were trained in total. Moreover, the CEE staff that has been applying the material “the other water” as well as the hands on materials in various ways the last two years provided interesting insights to the MEDIES Secretariat that will be used in the foreseen re-production of the educational material next year.

#### ***D.3.5. The educational component of the NCWR project in Italy***

The NCWRs project is expected to expand to Italy, specifically to Sardinia, again under the leadership of GWP-Med. Already in 2015, following the know-how developed in the other countries, the MEDIES Secretariat came in contact with educational authorities and non governmental institutions to establish an “Educational Focal Point” that will monitor the educational activities throughout the project. Ms Patrizia Bonelli, MIO-ECSDE EB has cooperated with MEDIES in the translation and adaptation of the Alter Aqua Educational Material (both the printed version and the hands-on material).

Following a request from the leader (GWP-Med) in 2016 all MEDIES activities for Sardinia have been paused in order to keep the pace with the intended infrastructure works of the project, which have not been decided yet.

After the finalisation of the Italian Alter Aqua publication and its production a teacher training is foreseen to take place in Sardinia, ideally within 2017.

#### ***D.3.6. MEDIES as partner in the EU ERASMUS project “UE4SD”***

University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD) was a 3 year-project (2014-2016), focusing on enabling university staff to prepare students, regardless of their courses or specialisation, to understand and apply their professional and global responsibilities in sustainability. It engaged a consortium of 55 partners from 33 countries across Europe seeking to re-orient higher education curricula to address sustainable development. Thus, UE4SD has established a leading expert group in ESD competences in higher education in Europe and will create a platform to combine and share the expertise of network partners so that they can inform policy and practice beyond the life of the project. Its activities are closely associated with COPERNICUS Alliance – the European Network of Higher Education for Sustainable Development.

MIO-ECSDE, through the MEdIES Secretariat, and the University of Athens were partners in the UE4SD project.

The final annual Meeting of the UE4SD project took place on 27 June, at the University of Gibraltar. The meeting provided the opportunity to the partners' representatives to discuss the future steps of the network, ideas to continue supporting the ESD professional development of the university educators and opportunities to keep the legacy of the network/project "alive". The meeting was quite fruitful in providing concrete proposals to the coordinators and the partners as well. It was attended by both Prof. Scoullos and Ms Vicky Malotidi.



Read about MEdIES activities in the project and some of its outcomes and publications [here](#).

### ***D.3.7. E-course on the educational pack "Know Feel Act! To Stop Marine Litter"***

Broadly speaking, this asynchronous tutor-led e-course is equivalent to a 1.5 to 2 days face-to-face seminar aiming to train learners on effective ways of teaching about marine litter. During the e-course an overview of the educational pack "Know Feel Act" is presented, and effective ways of how it could be incorporated in real life teaching settings are demonstrated. Evidently, it is appealing to school teachers, NGO and museum staff, surfers, divers, activists, and university students, who form a highly interactive online community, while the course is alive.

Following the pilot round (June 2014) and two full rounds (Jan 2015 and May 2015) that ran within the MARLISCO project, in 2016 the fourth round took place between 10 and 22 May 2016. The course was held this time in the framework of the DeFishGear project, with the financial assistance of the IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme.

Round IV of the e-course had satisfactory rates of completion, much higher than global average rates, but a bit lower compared with previous rounds: Specifically in round IV, from the 111 registrants: 42 (38%) never logged in; 36 (32%) completed only parts of it, while 33 (30%) successfully completed the entire course.

The e-course on "Know Feel Act" has been designed and run by MEdIES officer Ms. Iro Alampeï.

### ***D.3.8. E-course on the Mediterranean Food & Diet***

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

This e-course is developed under the E-learning Programme of the University of Athens and is expected to have its first roll early in 2017.

### **D.3.9. MEdIES as partner in the AFKAR Project “Civil Society in Action for Sustainable Development”**

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

MEdIES main task within this project concerns the development of a survey tool to be applied to 30 selected schools from the Bekka region (target audience 15-18 yrs old). In order to capture the students' perceptions on current issues related to sustainable development in their region, their educational needs as well as their visions for the near future. The draft questionnaire was discussed during the 1st Steering Group (Beirut, 20-21/09/2016) among other things, in which Ms Vicky Malotidi and Mr Vassilis Psallidas participated. Read more about the project [here](#).

### **D.3.10 MEdIES activities as MARLISCO follow up**

Although the MARLISCO FP7 project (MARine Litter in Europe’s Seas: Social Awareness and CO-Responsibility), ended in June 2015, its outputs still echoed within MEdIES agenda in 2016, proving the project had a strong sustainability in its design.

The activities of MEdIES building on MARLISCO that took place within 2016 are:

- The dissemination of the educational pack “Know Feel Act! To Stop Marine Litter”. The pack can be found online in 14 European languages, and Arabic thanks to MIO-ESCDE (with the support of UNEP/MAP, EcAp-MED project co-funded by the EU and the Mediterranean Trust Fund of the Barcelona Convention). Within 2016 MEdIES disseminated all languages but especially the Greek publication in all training seminars (see below). All languages of the Pack can be downloaded [here](#).
- The running of round IV of the e-course on the educational pack “Know Feel Act” (Read more D.3.7)
- Three Greek teacher trainings to promote the Educational Material “Know Feel Act! To Stop Marine Litter” (i) in Patras 21/03/2016 with 40 participants Read more [here](#); (ii) in Megara city 13/05/2016 with 25 participants (Read more [here](#)). (iii) in Gavrion, Andros a two day long training 3-4 June 2016 for 60 participants (Read more [here](#)).



*Training in Patras*



*Training in Megara*



*Training in Gavrion*

- The Promotion of the MARLISCO awareness raising exhibition in Greece: Throughout 2016 MIO-ECSD / MEdIES coordinated the display of the exhibition in the following events / places that were visited by hundreds of visitors, mostly students but also adults: (i) From 20 March to 20 April 2016 in Patras Environmental Education Centre; (ii) In May 2016 at the Cultural Centre of Megara city for three weeks; (iii) In June and July 2016 in Gavrion old school in Andros Island. Find [here](#) the list of displays of the exhibition so far.
- Promotion of the MARLISCO exhibition outside Greece: The Oslofjord Outdoor Recreational Council from Norway that in 2015 requested from MIO-ECSD to re-produce the exhibition has successfully completed the production and display! Read more [here](#).

### **D.3.11. Mediterranean Universities Network for SD and ESD (MedUnNET)**

Despite the lack of funds two main activities involving the MedUnNET have taken place this year:

- Support to the organisation and recruiting of professors for the January experts meeting entitled “The role of Universities in Supporting UNESCO Designated Sites as Drivers for SD”. Read more in C.2.1.
- Support to the organisation and recruiting of trainers as well as trainees in the Summer University of Samothraki. Read more in D3.13.

### **D.3.12. Mediterranean Youth Responses towards SD and the current crisis: A Mediterranean Survey**

This survey has been developed as part of a Master’s Thesis of Ms. Efi Touli, from the University of Athens.

The survey “Mediterranean Youth Responses towards sustainable development and the current crisis” was designed and coordinated by the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean of the University of Athens, in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE (through MEdIES)

It ran from June to Dec 2015 targeting young people aged 15-35 years old from Mediterranean countries. Main scope of the survey was to capture youth’s perceptions on current issues related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, as well as their visions for the future. The survey tool was filled by 428 youths from 25 countries.

Its findings have been used to inform policies related to youth, sustainable development and ESD, and particularly the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD. Some interesting findings:

- While 90% of sample has heard of the term “sustainable development”, only about half were able to correctly identify all the components of SD.
- 42% considered that young people are acquainted only ‘a little’ with the concept of SD.
- When asked to rank the ways they themselves “learn” SD the respondents ranked the choice “By doing” as the most effective (followed by “By reading”, “By listening”, “following social media”).

Results of the Survey will be summarised in the MEdIES webpage by 31/12/2016

### **D.3.13. Samothraki Summer University**

About 70 post graduate students from 21 countries took part in the Summer University of Samothraki that took place from 9 to 22 July 2016. The Summer University was organised in support of the efforts of the Authorities of Samothraki to designate the island as a Biosphere Reserve under the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB/UNESCO). Its scope was to train post-graduate students, young scientists and professionals on the Integrated Management Approaches for Biosphere Reserves and other Designated Areas, having two complementary courses:



- Course A on “Aquatic and Social Ecology - Theory and Practice” and
- Course B on “Integrated Water and Coastal Management - Educational and Participatory Approaches”, with MIO-ECSDE through the UNESCO Chair of the University of Athens and MEdIES being responsible for Course B.

The two courses ran jointly (with common plenary sessions) and in parallel (in the groups), providing high quality education to the attendants. For two weeks the trainees participated in fieldwork including taking measurements sampling, data collection, surveys of the views of the locals and visitors, interviews of staff of various administration services, farmers and businessmen. They examined the local social and enterprise initiatives and carried out various assignments and group work in order to obtain a clear idea about the island’s

ecological, social, and economic aspects and conditions, and reflect on its potential, as well as on the challenges of becoming a Biosphere Reserve.

Course B was organised with the kind support and co-organisation of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe Venice (Italy).

Read more on Samothraki Summer University in [medies website](#) as well as in [sustainable samothraki](#).

The results of the students' work as well as interventions from key speakers are compiled in the dedicated issue of Sustainable Mediterranean (No 73) that is expected to be available online by 31/12/2016.

#### ***D.3.14. New collaboration of MEDIES with "Discovery Path"***

Within 2016 MEDIES staff as well as the Chairman had the pleasure to hold several meetings with the people behind a new innovative ESD initiative that is currently being set up on the island of Kos. It is envisaged that Discovery Path will regularly receive international students especially from schools in Egypt and the Middle East in order to provide ESD experiential education in the field.

The goal of Discovery Path is to facilitate and support schools in their curriculum by integrating environment and sustainability as they can be applied and experienced on the island of Kos. The daily programme that has been designed under the supervision of MEDIES and the UNESCO Chair of UoA embraces discovery activities around the themes of water - wetlands - sea life and marine litter - renewable energy - the volcano of Nysiros - Mediterranean civilisations – Hippocrates' garden - the city of Kos.

In April 2016 MEDIES staff Iro Alampeï, Vicky Malotidi and Vassilis Psallidas went on a three-day long mission to the island of Kos in order to study the sites which the visiting groups will visit and study.

The initiative is currently looking into fund raising options. Hopefully the first group of students will visit Kos Island in 2017. Read more at <http://discoverypath.gr/>

#### ***D.3.14. Training Seminar on Education for Sustainable Management of Water Resources***

MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES co-organized a training seminar entitled "Education for Sustainable Management of Water Resources and Simulation Models", held on 16-18 December 2016, in Amfissa's Centre of Environmental Education Center (CEE) within the wider the project "The Gift of Rain". The seminar was co-organized in collaboration with Amfissa's Center of Environmental Education, the UNESCO Chair & Network for Management and ESD at University of Athens, GWP-Med, the Delphi Municipality, the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the Special Secretary for Water – Ministry of Environment and Energy.

The seminar aimed at building the capacities of in-service and pre-service teachers coming from both the formal and the non-formal sector around the topic of water resources and management, while focusing on a specific teaching method of applying Simulation Models. The sessions within the three-day seminar included 4 exhibitions, 6 lectures, 8 Workshops, 1 roundtable and an evaluation session. In total some seventy six (76) participants took part, including educators, regional science inspectors, regional directors of education, ESD /EE responsible officers from the regions of Attica, Fokis and Boeotia.

The invited speakers included: Professor M. Scoullas (MIO-ESCDE, UNESCO Chair and GWP-Med), Jacob Gannoulis (Special Secretary for Water-Ministry of Environment and Energy), Athanasios Panagiotopoulos (Delphi Mayor), Christos Dimitriou (Regional Education Director of Central Greece), Michael Theocharopoulos (CEE pf Amfissa), Eisodia Douka (Special Secretariat for Water -Ministry of Environment and Energy) and Vassilis Psallidas (MEDIES).

## D.2. Other projects

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### D.4.1. SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism

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

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

The 6.2 million project kicked off in February and will run till January 2019 with a Work Programme of 100 activities. Read more at: [www.swim-h2020.eu](http://www.swim-h2020.eu)

### D.4.2. Living well in harmony with the Drin (Act4Drin)

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

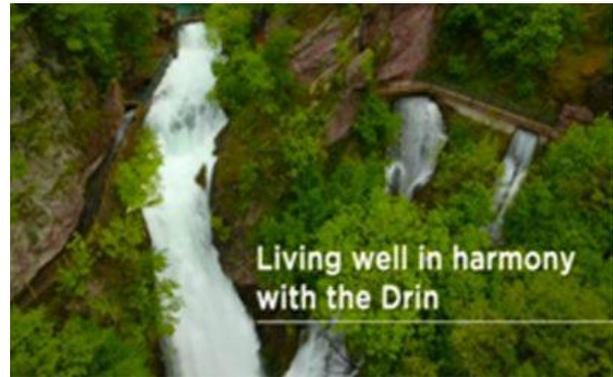
This Act4Drin project ([www.act4drin.net](http://www.act4drin.net)) comes as a direct follow-up of MIO-ECSDE's intensive efforts of the past few years to enhance the ability and capacity of its member and collaborating NGOs in the region in order to act in an effective and constructive way within the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

The Act4Drin project was launched in March 2014 and its two-year-long journey came to its end in June 2016, leaving behind a rich and lasting legacy of high quality outputs and successful results. More achievements than those planned in its inception were achieved, such as the Act4Drin NGOs Alliance, the Act4Drin Young Ambassadors and the Act4Drin Promoters, demonstrating clearly the type of impact and momentum the project has mobilised.

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

The main highlights of the Act4Drin activities for 2016 include:

- The Act4Drin travelogue ‘Living well in harmony with the Drin’, a documentary immersing us in a fact-filled yet emotional travelogue along the Drin River Basin, the connecting body of five Riparian countries (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWzag0SiOR4>). It captures the outstanding wealth of habitats and species and highlights the crucial role of local communities in protecting and conserving this biodiversity hotspot. This documentary brings forward the core message of the Act4Drin which is all about “Living in harmony with the Drin”. The Drin River Basin is full of life, housing an exceptional wealth of biodiversity, providing important habitats for many species of fauna and flora, while delivering a steady stream of benefits to its residents. Whether we consciously realize it or not, freshwater ecosystems together with every bit of biodiversity they support and the ecosystem services they provide, are intimately interwoven with our ‘harmonious’ existence and welfare.



- The Act4Drin booklet showcasing NGO actions to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems (<http://mio-ecsde.org/project/ngo-actions-to-protect-and-conserve-freshwater-ecosystems-mio-ecsde-2016/>). This booklet is a tribute to the extent and diversity of concrete NGO actions in promoting integrated water resources management and freshwater biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean.
- The unique transboundary Act4Drin Spring School 2016 (<http://mio-ecsde.org/unique-transboundary-spring-school-carried-out-in-the-drin-river-basin/>). A first of its kind transboundary Spring School entitled ‘The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: from field observations and knowledge to collective actions towards protecting freshwater ecosystems’ brought together some 28 natural sciences students from the Drin Riparian countries in a joint quest for knowledge along the Drin.
- The celebration of the Act4Drin Day (5 May 2016), an annual initiative dedicated to raising public awareness about the natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin with the overall goal of inspiring collective actions. BIOSFERA, EDEN, GREEN HOME, GRASHNICA, PPNEA, ERA GROUP, MBROJTJA E MJEDISIT are this year’s Drin Day champion NGOs. Drin Day 2016 was a joint initiative of the Act4Drin project ([www.act4drin.net](http://www.act4drin.net)) and the Drin Project ([www.drincorda.org](http://www.drincorda.org)) financed by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), respectively. The initiative was implemented in support and within the framework of the Drin Corda Process under the MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med.
- The launching of the Act4Drin NGO Alliance facilitated by MIO-ECSDE. Thirteen NGOs from the five Drin riparians joined forces in early 2016 to form the Act4Drin Alliance aiming to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin. The Act4Drin Alliance is a coalition of NGOs aiming to act as a forum for coordinating and strengthening NGO participation in the upcoming policy developments in the region driven by the Drin MoU implementation process, enhancing cooperation and networking among and between regional, national and grassroots NGOs in the Drin Basin working on sustainable water resources management and freshwater biodiversity protection/conservation.
- The Act4Drin survey on the prevailing public views and perceptions towards freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin (<http://mio-ecsde.org/act4drin-survey-sheds-light-on-the-prevailing-public-views-and-perceptions-towards-freshwater-ecosystems-in-the-drin-river-basin/>).

It is worthwhile mentioning that MIO-ECSDE received a close-out letter from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Grant Director, Mr. Pierre Carret, congratulating the team of MIO-ECSDE for the great achievements reached through this project and acknowledging the project as great experience for CEPF, as a for the development of networks.

Read more here [www.act4drin.net](http://www.act4drin.net).

#### **D.4.3. The DeFishGear project**

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

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

The project kicked off in December 2013 and its activities were completed in September 2016. Within 2016, MIO-ECSDE has invested considerable time and effort on the project activities, particularly in elaborating and finalizing all project deliverables and outputs.

Some of the highlights of the project within 2016 were:

- The elaboration of the 160-page 'Marine Litter Assessment in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas' and the 70-page 'Understanding the socio-economic implications of marine litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion' reports. Both outputs are the first of its kind in the region and of strategic importance not only for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas and the Mediterranean Sea, but for all European Regional Seas.
- The conclusion of the beach litter surveys in six locations in Thesprotia, Greece and the processing of results
- The development and finalization of the 10 GIS database reporting templates and coordinating/reviewing the database development
- The revision and finalization of the monitoring protocols for marine litter on beaches, the seafloor, the water surface and biota.
- The development of a distance learning module dedicated to the theme of marine litter monitoring. It has been developed by MIO-ECSDE within the framework of the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project. It aims to facilitate the efforts of policy makers and stakeholders in effectively dealing with the issue of marine litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion, towards litter free coasts and sea. In addition MIO-ECSDE has developed video-guidelines for on how to carry out a beach litter survey.
- The organization of a workshop at the European Maritime Day 2016 (May 2016) entitled 'Marine litter and derelict fishing gear: from observation to blue growth' (<http://mio-ecsde.org/marine-litter-and-derelict-fishing-gear-from-observation-to-blue-growth/>).
- The co-organization of the final project conference jointly with UNEP/MAP.
- MIO-ECSDE's key participation in DeFishGear event entitled "Science meets Policy for litter free Adriatic and Ionian Seas. The event was held from the 26th to 28th of April in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and MIO-ECSDE, represented by Thomais Vlachogianni, actively participated with presentations, facilitation of hands on exercises and chairing of sessions.



#### **D.4.4. The 'State of Green Economy in the Mediterranean' project**

The project is funded by the MAVA Foundation for nature and implemented by eco-union, MIO-ECSDE and the Green Economy Coalition (<http://www.medgreeneconomy.org/>). This project reviews and assesses ongoing green economy and sustainable development policies and strategies in all Mediterranean countries and at the regional level. More precisely, it aims to:

- present the current situation, highlighting strengths and weaknesses;

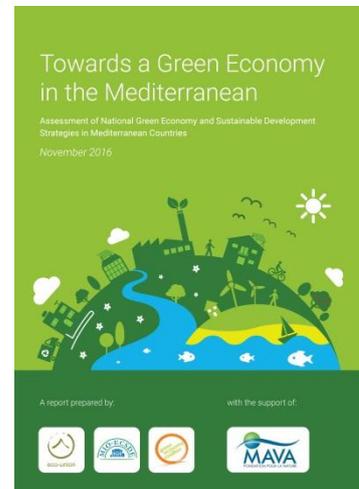
- review key initiatives, stakeholders and policies related to green economy; and
- propose steps forward for a successful implementation of green economy in the region.

As part of a civil society initiative to support the transition towards a green and fair economy in the Mediterranean, the study examined existing publically available GE/SD strategies and the perceptions of key Green Economy and Sustainability practitioners across the region.

The main outcome of the study is that a large majority of Mediterranean countries have out-dated or incomplete national GE/SD strategies - often giving vague, unclear definitions or indicators. Only five countries (France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia) can claim to have good, up-to-date and detailed strategies with clear indicators. Of these, only Italy has the necessary supporting legislation in place. Many Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Croatia, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Palestine and Turkey) have made some progress toward a modern GE/SD strategy, but are still inadequate. While seven countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Slovenia and Spain) have outdated GE/SD strategies or none at all.

The study's results are based on an extensive literature review, methodological assessment of the findings, and an online survey addressed to key regional and national GE/SD actors. These data were then reviewed by an expert workshop on 20 July 2016 in Tangier, Morocco and prompted the development several concrete recommendations aimed at accelerating the transition towards a Green Economy in the Mediterranean region.

The MAVA Foundation funded study was subsequently launched on 15 November at the Official COP22 Side Event "Towards a Sustainable Mediterranean Economy: A review of the sustainability of Mediterranean countries and proposals to promote a green and blue economy which delivers on the Paris Agreement". More details are available at <http://www.global-ecoforum.org/marrakech-cop22/>.



### D.3. Submissions of proposals

The status of MIO-ECSDE proposal submissions for end of 2015 and all of 2016 are as follows:

Proposal Title	Submitted to:	Project budget (EURO)	Submission date	Status
<b>Plastic Busters for a litter free Mediterranean</b>	UfM Secretariat for labelling	8.810.800 € (607.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	December 2015	The project was labelled in February 2016. In April a fundraising strategy meeting was arranged in Sienna.
<b>EC Bi-Annual funding (Life+)</b>	EASME (EU Agency)	600.000 €	July 2015	We were informed of the negative results in December 2015
<b>SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism</b>	DG NEAR	6.200.000 €	August 2015	LDK Consultants are the Lead. It was approved and contract was signed in May 2016. Starting date is February 2016.
<b>Small scale funding agreement for the implementation of theme V of the UNEP/MAP ECAP project</b>	UNEP/MAP	47.000 €	September 2015	Approved and implemented by December 2015.
<b>ACT4LITTER</b>	MED INTERREG	599.000 € (139.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	November 2015	Passed the first stage of qualitative assessment. Passed the second assessment stage.
<b>MEDALERT</b>	MED INTERREG	3.487.927 € (397.201 € for MIO-ECSDE)	November 2015	Passed the first stage of qualitative assessment. Didn't pass the second assessment stage.
<b>Support to the organization of COP19 of the Barcelona Convention</b>	Stavros Niarchos Foundation	65.000 €	December 2015	It was approved in January 2016
<b>State of the Green Economy in the Mediterranean</b> <i>(submission was facilitated by member organisation eco-union)</i>	MAVA Foundation	70.800 €	March 2016	MIO-ECSDE is the lead partner, with Eco union and Green Economy Coalition. It was approved and the contract was signed on 12/4/2016. The project was completed by November 2016.
<b>ESD activities in Kos</b>	Cultural Paths	~ 8.000 – 15.000 €	February 2016	Pre-agreement in March. Approved in May 2016 (paused)
<b>BIENADI</b>	Interreg Adrion	~ 1.300.000 € (201.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	September 2016	BIENADI passed the eligibility criteria check. Applicant HCMR Crete
<b>Civil Society in Action for Sustainable Development</b>	Support to CSOs / EuropeAid /OMSAR / AFKAR III	12.000 € (labour fees for MIO-ECSDE)	March 2016	Makhzoumi Foundation is the lead partner. Approved in May 2016.
<b>Bio-equality</b>	EC/Erasmus+/KA2/ Strategic Partnerships/Adult Education	39.098 € (for MIO-ECSDE)	March 2016	TEMA is the lead partner. Rejected
<b>educ4sdgs</b>	EC/Erasmus+/KA2/ Strategic Partnerships/Adult Education	240.209 € (49.320 € for MIO-ECSDE)	March 2016	MIO-ECSDE is the lead partner. Rejected/Reserve list
<b>ESD focusing on NCWRs</b>	UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development	50.000 USD	April 2016	Not selected.

<b>Samothraki Summer University</b>	GWPO	20.000 €	May 2016	Approved (& executed)
<b>Samothraki Summer University</b>	UNESCO Office in Venice	15.000 €	May 2016	Approved (& executed)
<b>Adopt-A-Beach in the Mediterranean</b>	BeMed/Prince Albert II Foundation	28.100 €	September 2016	MIO-ECSDE is the lead partner. Results will be announced in December 2016.
<b>Framework contract for information and communication activities relating to the EU IMP and to the CFP</b>	DG MARE	~6.000.000 € (It is a framework contract so MIO-ECSDE's budget will be defined based on the relevant requests by DG MARE).	November 2016	Intrasoft International is the applicant. Results to be announced by December 2016.
<b>OWWF4MED Development of an innovative fully integrated - low environmental impact Offshore Wind Wave Floating (OWWF) energy system for applications in the MEDiterranean Sea</b>	H2020	~ 200.000 € for MIO-ECSDE	November 2016	This is stage 1 of the submission. Only after passing this stage will a more detailed version be submitted with a better defined budget.
<b>Protected Areas Innovative Integrated Management for Man and the Biosphere, PRO2INMAB</b>	Interreg Balkan Med	260.000 € for MIO-ECSDE as Lead Partner From 1.3 mill	April 2016	Stage 1 passed successfully (informed in November 2016)
<b>PRISTINE Marine Pollution and Invasives: Reduction and Recycling using Innovative and Sustainable Technologies to Implement a clean Natural Environment</b>	DG Research and Innovation/Horizon 2020 call	~6.000.000 € (MIO-ECSDE is a Work Package Leader and Task Leader, the budget has not been yet defined)	February 2017	The proposal will be submitted in early February 2017 and it is an one-stage submission

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## E. PUBLICATIONS & WEB-APPLICATIONS

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- The Act4Drin booklet showcasing NGO actions to protect and conserve freshwater ecosystems (<http://mio-ecsde.org/project/ngo-actions-to-protect-and-conserve-freshwater-ecosystems-mio-ecsde-2016/>). This booklet is a tribute to the extent and diversity of concrete NGO actions in promoting integrated water resources management and freshwater biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean.
- The ‘Marine Litter Assessment in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas’ and the ‘Understanding the socio-economic implications of marine litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion’ reports. Both outputs are the first of their kind in the region and of strategic importance not only for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas and the Mediterranean Sea, but for all European Regional Seas.
- A distance learning module dedicated to the theme of marine litter monitoring ([http://www.envirolearning.net/index.php?ctg=lesson\\_info&courses\\_ID=26](http://www.envirolearning.net/index.php?ctg=lesson_info&courses_ID=26)). It has been developed by MIO-ECSDE within the framework of the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project. It aims to facilitate the efforts of policy makers and stakeholders in effectively dealing with the issue of marine litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion, towards litter free coasts and sea.
- The study entitled ‘Towards a green economy in the Mediterranean’ (<http://mio-ecsde.org/wondered-how-green-economy-is-faring-in-the-mediterranean-read-our-study/>) developed within an initiative of dedicated civil society organizations (eco-union, MIO-ECSDE and the GEC) aiming solely to boost the transition towards a green and fair economy in the Mediterranean, presents the results of a review exercise covering Green Economy strategies and Sustainable Development policies in 20 Mediterranean countries.
- The Regional Survey on abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear and ghost nets in the Mediterranean Sea, developed within the framework of the UNEP/MAP EcAp-Med project.
- A new poster on the “Urban Water Cycle” for the MEDIES activities on NCWRs in schools in Greece was developed and printed. The poster explores aspects of the natural water cycle and the human interventions on it at the city level as well as an outline of the “non conventional water resources” together with tips for responsible water use (at the house level).
- The special issue (No 72) of the Sustainable Mediterranean Newsletter dedicated to ‘The Role of Universities in Supporting UNESCO Designated Sites as Drivers for Sustainable Development at Local and Regional Levels’ 18-19 January 2016. Available [here](#)
- The special issue (No 73) of the Sustainable Mediterranean Newsletter presenting the Samothraki Summer University, the key lectures and workshops that took place, as well as the students’ work outcomes (in print).
- E-course on the Mediterranean Food and Diet (<http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?CID=7&aID=1065>)