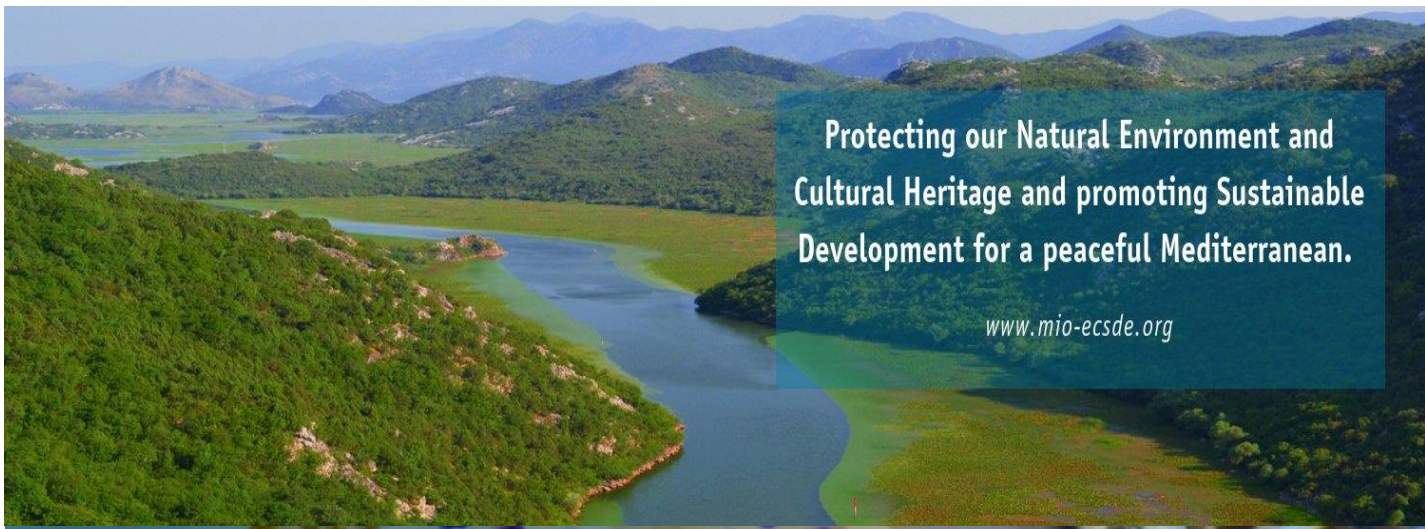




25 We Protect Our
Environment
For A Sustainable
Future
YEARS

Report of activities 2020

January-December



Protecting our Natural Environment and
Cultural Heritage and promoting Sustainable
Development for a peaceful Mediterranean.

www.mio-ecsde.org

Mediterranean Information Office for Environment,
Culture and Sustainable Development



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This Summary Report of Activities was prepared collectively by the MIO-ECSDE Staff and its Chairman.

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1. Institutional Developments of MIO-ECSDE

1.1. Executive Bureau

The MIO-ECSDE Executive Bureau (EB) was structured as follows in 2020:

Chair:	Prof. Michael Scoullos (Greece)
Co-Chair:	Prof. Mohammed Ftouhi (Morocco) Dr. Emad Adly (RAED)
Members:	Prof. Gerasime Arapis (Elliniki Etairia) Ms Anna Heslop (EEB) Ms Ayşegül Iliker (Turkey) Ms Antonia Theodosiou (Cyprus) Mr. Jean-Valère Jeronimi (France) with Celine Labbe as alternate Ms Patrizia Bonelli and Ms. Romina Bicocchi (Italy) Mr. Ziyad Alawneh (Jordan) Mr. Fadi Hussein (Lebanon) Mr. Vincent Attard (Malta) Mr. Imad Attrash (Palestine) Mr. Mario Alves (Portugal) Mr. Milan Vogrin (Slovenia) Mr. Angel Harez and Mr. Jeremie Fosse (Spain) Ms Suheir Raies (Syria) Mr. Habib Ben Boubaker (Tunisia)

1.2. Membership issues

Three eligible applications have been received by the Secretariat, all requesting Full membership status. The AGM will assess and decide:

1. Asociación Hippocampus (active in the Natura 2000 site: Mar Menor Lagoon (Murcia), www.asociacionhippocampus.com)
2. Local Democracy Agency of Kairouan, Tunisia (https://www.ald-europe.eu/newSite/lda_dett.php?id=15)
3. Arab Society for Fungal Conservation (ASFC), Egypt (<http://fungiofegypt.com/ASFC.html>)

1.3. MIO-ECSDE Secretariat

During 2020 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 worked full time at the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat, mainly responsible for financial/administrative

matters and ad hoc contributions in projects, submissions, etc.

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

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

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

Ms Sevasti Vamvakopoulou also supported the MEdIES Secretariat.

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

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

Ms Alaa Abou Daher assists in specific projects and on Membership issues.

Ms Vasiliki Sgourdou was the Junior Communications Officer with horizontal support for all activities and staff.

Ms Olga Papathanasopoulou provided the overall secretarial support.

Mr. George Paneris works as the in-house accountant while Mr. Kostas Drakopoulos continued as part-time Official Accountant of MIO-ECSDE.

Three new junior Officers were hired towards the end of the year to strengthen the Secretariat: Haris Paliogiannis (junior Policy Officer), Iosif Scoullou (junior Policy Officer) and Margaux Vlachou (junior Project Officer).

The Chairman, Prof. M. Scoullou, is responsible for the supervision of the work and the management, the development, direction of policies and projects and a large part of the representations of the MIO-ECSDE organisation. The Secretariat also works closely with various experts. During 2020 a number of initiatives and representations of the organisation were carried out also by the Co-Chairman Prof. Ftouhi ("La Méditerranée: Défi du Siècle ou échec des solutions", 15 July 2020), Executive Bureau Members Dr. Adly, as well as by other members of the EB. The Secretariat is supported by various experts on an *ad hoc* basis (Ms Vanya Walker-Leigh for climate change issues is guest editor for the dedicated issue of the *Sustainable Development* journal).

1.4. Quality management, financial auditing, accountability standards

A1. MIO-ECSDE underwent the annual audit for complying with the **ISO 9001:2015** standards in the design, development, management and implementation of international and European projects on environment and sustainable development. The review which covers all relevant institutional and operational issues took place on 29 June 2020 with positive results and no "remarks" or suggestions for further improvement of the MIO-ECSDE procedures in place.

The 2019 work programme covered by the Life Programme Operating Grant was also audited (positive) and was submitted with the final report to EASME in the first days of April. The overall audited financial report of MIO-ECSDE for 2019 was completed in September 2020 by PKF Euroauditing SA and approved by the MIO-ECSDE Treasurer (Vincent Attard) and the Executive Bureau.

The softone financial management software (including accounting component) is constantly adapted and updated to better address the daily functioning of the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat as well as for its hosted institute GWP-Med.

A2. As **full member of "Accountable Now"**, the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat is in the process of prioritizing and addressing the suggestions of the review panel (see <http://mio-ecsde.org/about-us/>). MIO-ECSDE participated in the on-line AGM of Accountable Now on May 14th 2020.

In addition, MIO-ECSDE developed the following policies that were approved by the Executive Bureau Meeting.

- ▶ The MIO-ECSDE Anti-Fraud Corruption Policy (as well as an Annual Declaration to be signed annually by MIO-ECSDE's staff members)
- ▶ The MIO-ECSDE Whistleblower Policy
- ▶ The MIO-ECSDE Complaint Policy

- ▶ The MIO-ECSDE Environmental Policy
- ▶ The MIO-ECSDE Gender Policy

As the procedures advance and become more and more sophisticated, the Code of Conduct of MIO-ECSDE is constantly updated and enriched.

A3. **New procurement thresholds** were proposed to the Executive Bureau in June 2020, to be included in the Code of Conduct and in the updated text of the ISO Procurement Procedure. This was done in order to be better aligned with the EU Procurement regulation published in 2016 as well as the updated Greek law on procurement. The new thresholds will make the MIO-ECSDE procurement processes easier and lighter, especially for contract amounts of up to 20.000 euros, without however compromising the basic procurement rules of transparency, efficiency, equity and best value for money. There were no objections or comments on the new procurement levels and they apply as of the 2nd of July 2020 onwards, following the renewed ISO 9001-2015 Certification. The new thresholds are the following:

Scope	Budget	Procedure
Works/supplies/services	€0-2.000 (excluding VAT)	Single Sourcing (A)
Works/supplies/services	€2.001- 20.000 (excluding VAT)	Request for Quotations (B)
Works/supplies/services	€20.001 – 120.000 (excluding VAT)	Call for tenders (15 days publicity required) (c)
Works/supplies/services	Above €120.001 (excluding VAT)	International procurement (open or restricted) (35 days publicity required) (D)
Works/supplies/services	Negotiated procedure without prior publication (aka Direct award) – up to 20.000 euro and up to 10% of procurement budget for the year	Restriction apply - <i>When e.g. there is a limited timeframe or the requested service or goods are of a specific, rare or artistic nature etc.</i> (E)
Supplies/services	Framework Agreements	(F)

A4. MIO-ECSDE continued hosting GWP-MED based on an agreement with GWP (Stockholm) that ended in December 2020. All involved parties agreed to renew this important for the region institutional relationship.

1.5. Reacting to COVID-19 impacts

The MIO-ECSDE Secretariat worked remotely as soon as lockdown conditions were imposed in Greece in March 2020 due to the pandemic. In May, as restrictions became less strict, staff members were coordinated on a weekly basis, so that those who wished to also work from the office, were able to do so, on a rotational basis. Hygiene protocols, 2-meter distancing of work stations and other provisions as dictated by the health authorities were set in place, as well as an adaptation of the MIO-ECSDE travel procedure by which any staff member who wished to travel (either for work or for personal reasons) would have to take a direct flight even if more expensive (to minimize exposure risk) and self-quarantine for at least seven days upon return.

All of the running projects were gradually adapted to accommodate alternatives to replace physical meetings requiring air travel, or activities that did not align with social distancing, while the Secretariat constantly assessed the global, regional and national state of play, to see how the relaxation of measures was advancing, double-back actions taken, forecasts of the scientific, political and business community, etc. Several projects very soon were granted 3 to 6-month extensions.

For the first months of the crisis, MIO-ECSDE, like all organisations, was affected by delays in administrative and financial procedures of its various donors and funding bodies. An *ad hoc* on-line Executive Bureau meeting (68th) took place on 5 May 2020 to confirm that the Executive Bureau authorizes the Chairman of MIO-ECSDE to partially redeem the MIO-ECSDE security fund, in the case that payment of expected funds from various MIO-ECSDE projects and funders were

delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before having to mobilise the release of the fund, pending payments came through, securing the full/regular operation of the Secretariat and its work programme for several months. However, it may be that the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat will have to revert to the decision taken at the 68th Ad Hoc EBM, in light of the global economic uncertainty, with a continued pandemic, potential resurgence in the winter months and staggering post-COVID challenges that will certainly affect our region.

2. Continuation and enhancement of activities related to networking

2.1. Networking with the MIO-ECSDE Members and its wider NGO Network

2.1.1. Exchange and dissemination of information

The dissemination of information was facilitated by:

(i) The 'MIO-ECSDE Bulletin'

Three issues of the Bulletin (MIO-ECSDE e-news) were prepared and sent out covering the January-December highlights (English and French), mainly to Member Organisations and the wider MIO-ECSDE network of contacts, by e-mail (see Issue#109, Issue#110 and Issue#111, <http://mio-ecsde.org/news/mio-ecsde-e-news/>).

(ii) The 'Sustainable Mediterranean' journal

Issue No 77 is dedicated to the 2020 Mediterranean Action Day of MIO-ECSDE, highlighting the work of 9 organisations that participated in raising awareness about the importance of marine Natura 2000 sites and other coastal and marine protected areas.

Issue No 78 is dedicated to climate change, in view of the upcoming Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Action of the Union for the Mediterranean, followed by the UNFCCC COP 26 Conference planned for November 2021. The issue will be available in early 2021 both online and in a limited number of printed copies and will address the main challenges of a Mediterranean regional approach to climate change from the perspectives of key bodies (EU, UfM, UNEP/MAP, LAS), civil society, the energy and agricultural sector, as well as national authorities.

(ii) The MIO-ECSDE webpage and social media

The MIO-ECSDE website (<http://www.mio-ecsde.org>) is regularly updated and populated. In addition, MIO-ECSDE facebook and twitter media are updated. The MIO-ECSDE social media statistics have been reporting a stable annual increase in total percentage of engagement and reach across all three platforms (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn). More specifically, the best performing Facebook post of 2020 reached 2.400 people (March 19, 2020) and our audience grew from 776 followers on January 8, 2020 to 982 on December 13, 2020. On Twitter, the best performing post gained 44 engagements (Jan 15, 2020) and on LinkedIn 136 Impressions (Jan 29, 2020). Our LinkedIn page (launched on Dec. 7, 2019) reached 604 followers in one year.

(iii) The MEDIES' webpage and e-bulletin

As of January 2020, the renewed website www.medies.net is fully operational. It is regularly updated with ESD news, publications, announcements, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest (on average 2-3 posts per week). The social media (fb) page of MEDIES is also regularly updated (on average, 2-3 posts per week).

The information bulletin of MEDIES is also circulated on a quarterly basis to its members (<https://medies.net/category/resources/e-bulletins/>).

2.1.2. Surveying the Membership

In view of MIO-ECSDE's 25 years of uninterrupted work as a Federation of environmental NGOs aiming to protect the Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage and promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean, all MIO-ECSDE members received in January 2020 an e-survey (in [English](#) and [French](#)) with the aim to assess how MIO-ECSDE has performed and how it can perform better. To better engage the members, the survey was made in an interactive manner using the *surveysparrow* platform. By May 2020, the results were consolidated. In total 38 organizations

participated in the survey, with a response rate of 29.2%. Out of the respondents 92% are Full Members with an almost equal North-South geographic distribution. The completion rate was 89.4% (34 out of 38 were fully completed). The findings confirm that the members are overall satisfied by the performance of MIO-ECSDE (namely in issues related to representing the membership in regional political platforms, including them in the capacity building activities MIO-ECSDE organizes through the joint projects it runs, keeping them up-to-date on developments through its websites and social media platforms, etc.). A few Members indicated that they need more systematic information on proposed follow up actions after major regional Mediterranean meetings (UNEP/MAP, UfM, etc.) to stimulate local activities. More effort for regional projects involving the membership was also requested of the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat.

2.1.3. Showcasing actions of the Membership

The dedicated section of the MIO-ECSDE website with the news of the Membership is updated with materials sent by the members. There is also a dedicated section in the MIO-ECSDE e-News. The MEDIES website also communicates relevant Membership initiatives.

2.2. MIO-ECSDE as facilitator of Mediterranean Networks

The MIO-ECSDE Secretariat is facilitating the following networks:

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

A COMPSUD Meeting for 2020 was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, the two COMPSUD/MIO-ECSDE efforts in support of two MSSD Flagship Initiatives:

- one on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (accession to the Aarhus Convention), and
- one on how to “Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions, that have been successfully implemented to achieve waste reduction”

have advanced considerably. The first was launched in the fourth quarter of 2020 while the second is expected to be launched in January 2021.

▶ **The network of Mediterranean Educators working on Environment and Sustainability / MEDIES**

The online network of educators was facilitated through new resources developed and through the permanent “ESD highlights” section that is regularly updated (2-3 articles per week). Not surprisingly, “MEDIES publications” is the most useful section of the website, according to an earlier survey sent to all MEDIES members.

▶ **Mediterranean Universities Network for Education for Sustainable Development (MedUnNet)**

The MEDIES Secretariat continued to keep up-to-date its members about ESD developments in the higher education sector, and especially regarding the SDG4.7, while the members were involved in the dissemination of calls for participation in major ESD trainings/events, the Asterousia Hybrid University (Phase II), etc.

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

Members of the network participated in the major MIO-ECSDE event at the very end of 2019 in Rabat and the aim was to maintain the momentum and co-develop the re-invigoration of the Circle, in a meeting with a core group of COMJESD members that was to take place at the premises of MIO-ECSDE in the first half of 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this initiative was postponed for later.

▶ **Other networks**

MIO-ECSDE kept the **Act4Drin Alliance** informed on developments related to the Drin Corda process.

The **DeFishGear Network**, a network for a litter free Adriatic and Ionian coast and sea, was also facilitated by MIO-ECSDE throughout 2020

3. Activities related to MIO-ECDSE 's role as promoter of common NGO policies and the collective voice of Mediterranean environment and development NGOs

3.1. Monitoring of and contribution to the formulation of policies relevant to the Mediterranean region and involvement in important Mediterranean processes

3.1.1. Collaboration and representation in the work of UNEP/MAP and MCSD

MIO-ECSDE has kept close contacts with the Athens-based coordinating unit of UNEP/MAP. The Federation has been invited to attend and contribute in meetings of UNEP/MAP, its RACs (Regional Activity Centres) and of the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development (MCSD).

MIO-ECSDE contributed to the UN Environment/MAP 'State of the Environment and Development Report' in the Mediterranean (a chapter on 'Research, Innovation, Education for Sustainable Development and Capacity Building'). Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE provided comments and feedback on the marine litter chapter pointing out inaccuracies and weaknesses.

MIO-ECSDE participated in the 21st meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) Steering Committee (organized via webex, on the 13th of May 2020 from 14.00-16.00) and briefly presented how it will be supporting (together with COMPSUD and other regional actors) the implementation of two "flagship initiatives" of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025) through the EU LIFE Programme and two regional WES activities (HE-4-REG/P2P: Overall environmental governance – promotion of the Aarhus Convention in the whole of the Mediterranean and RE-7-REG: Best practices in achieving waste reduction in the Mediterranean).

On the 29th of September 2020, MIO-ECSDE participated in a webinar entitled "The Impact of COVID-19 on the Increase of Plastic Waste in the Mediterranean", organized by the Global Partnership on Marine Litter in cooperation with UNEP/MAP and its Mediterranean Marine Litter Node.

The Secretariat also participated in several other meetings such as the "First Meeting Working Group Regional Plan on Municipal Wastewater Treatment/Developing Regional Plan on Sewage Sludge Management, 9-10 December 2020" and the "Meeting of the Working Group of Experts on Updating the Annexes to the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, 11 December 2020".

3.1.2. Securing the Mediterranean dimension in international policies and processes

3.1.2.1. EU Policy

Some specific EU policy areas in focus were:

- ▶ Horizon 2020 for a Cleaner Mediterranean and its follow-up 2030 GreenerMed Agenda of the UfM (the EU is Co-President along with Jordan)
- ▶ The EU Green Deal
- ▶ European Neighbourhood Policy and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)
- ▶ European Marine Framework Strategy Directive (MSFD) and Ocean Literacy
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Biodiversity (Natura 2000, MPAs, the LIFE Programme, etc.)
- ▶ Resource efficiency
- ▶ Sustainable Development
- ▶ Education for Sustainable Development

- ▶ Access to environmental information, participation, justice
- ▶ Air/Odour pollution and Chemicals

Some of the EU consultations that MIO-ECSDE contributed to were:

- ▶ **Consultation – Circular Design of the Fishing Gear: Challenges and Solutions:** MIO-ECSDE is actively involved in on-going efforts to address the very acute problem of abandoned /waste fishing gear by fishermen. A consultation was carried out within the framework of a study that was mandated by the European Commission. A connected study is being undertaken by the OSPAR Commission. The consultation focused on collating up to date understanding of the challenges to the design and recycling of ALDFG and EOL fishing gear, while also gathering examples of best practice of design and recycling, as well as labelling and standardisation of design.
- ▶ **UfM consultation on Blue Economy:** In a Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) online consultation that took place from 11-25 March 2020, MIO-ECSDE and 100 more entities, including research centers and universities, public administrations, the private sector, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, submitted their suggestions on jointly addressing future challenges on key blue economy matters in the Mediterranean region. The consultation was structured around priority themes, ranging from maritime governance, sustainable food, tourism, maritime transport, adaptation to climate change, marine litter, blue skills development and employment. It maintained the same structure as the UfM regional stakeholder meeting on Blue Economy that was to take place in Barcelona on 10-11 March, before being cancelled due to COVID-19. Among other inputs that MIO-ECSDE contributed to the consultation was that emphasis should be given to a key characteristic of the Appropriate Governance for the promotion of Blue economy as a vehicle towards Sustainable Development: it should be both efficient and transparent. This, to a large extent could be secured through systematic information and awareness of all relevant stakeholders, employing balanced and meaningful participatory processes. Provisions for the latter are within the Aarhus Convention, which could and should be adopted and implemented by all Mediterranean countries.
- ▶ **Targeted consultation on the future of the EU LIFE Programme:** The European Commission launched an online questionnaire to consult a broad range of stakeholders on the details of the future implementation of the EU LIFE programme. The general objectives of the post-2020 LIFE programme have been provisionally agreed, and the task is now to draw up the first Multiannual Work Programme covering the period 2021-2024. The consultation findings will be taken into account during the preparation of the Multiannual Work Programme for LIFE.
- ▶ **Green Deal Call – public engagement platform for area 7: Restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services:** Ecosystems provide essential services such as fresh water and clean air, biomass provision for food, feed, fibre and fuel, mitigation of natural disasters, pests and diseases, improved health and wellbeing of citizens, and support for climate regulation. Biodiversity loss threatens the delivery of these services. Large-scale restoration of ecosystems at land and on sea is therefore urgent. Whilst solutions are available now, they are neither up-scaled nor integrated enough in today's governance, investment or policy support frameworks and initiatives. The EU launched the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy in the second half of 2020 identifying specific measures to halt biodiversity loss, and to restore ecosystems and their services.
- ▶ **Green Deal Call – public engagement platform for area 8: A zero-pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment:** Public opinion surveys have shown that the majority of EU citizens are worried about the impact on their health of chemicals present in the environment and everyday products, including food. The EU has put in place extensive legislation to protect the environment and health of citizens. However, we continue being exposed to manmade chemicals through water, food and air. These chemicals are suspected or proven to cause various health effects. Assessment of their health risks is compromised by the fact that we are exposed to a very large number of different mixtures of chemicals, not to single substances.
- ▶ **ESA-ESPI Survey "Space and Organised Civil Society":** In September 2020, MIO-ECSDE contributed to an online survey carried out by the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI). ESPI is an independent research think tank specialised on the analysis of space policies. The survey -carried out by ESPI in collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA)- focused on the use of space technologies and services by CSOs in the environmental and humanitarian sector. The results of this survey will help determine the level of awareness of CSOs regarding space technologies, their use or non-use of these systems as well as their relation to the space sector. In November 2020, the MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer (Th. Vlachogianni) that contributed to the survey was contacted directly by ESPI in order to further contribute to the survey and associated study via an interview.

MIO-ECSDE also contributed to the elaboration and/or co-signed the following position papers:

- ▶ **The Blue Manifesto:** In January 2020, in response to the unrelenting deterioration of the marine ecosystems around the world, **102 environmental NGOs, among which MIO-ECSDE, launched a new rescue plan for Europe to make our ocean healthy by 2030.** The ‘Blue Manifesto’ –an initiative led by Seas At Risk, BirdLife Europe, ClientEarth, Oceana, Surfrider Foundation Europe and WWF- lays out concrete actions which must be delivered by set dates in order to turn the tide on the ever-degraded and polluted ocean and coastlines. With the European Green Deal, the European Commission has committed to implement ambitious climate and biodiversity strategies that will shift investment and legislation towards a climate-resilient and ecologically diverse future. The signatories of the Blue Manifesto call on the European Commission to ensure that the ocean is an integral part of these strategies as we need thriving marine and coastal ecosystems to support a climate-resilient future. Read more at <https://bit.ly/3827N8Z>

- ▶ **Manifesto entitled “Toward an EU offshore drilling”:** In April 2020 MIO-ECSDE co-signed together with **21 other European NGOs** the “Toward an EU offshore drilling ban” Manifesto. In view of the upcoming revision of the Offshore Safety Directive 2013/30/EU planned for 2020, the Manifesto is part of a campaign launched at the initiative of Surfrider Foundation Europe on the 20th of April, which marks the 10th anniversary of the catastrophic Deepwater Horizon explosion leading to the biggest oil spill in human history. Particularly in the highly vulnerable Mediterranean region, limiting climate change as much as possible by using renewable energy to minimize oil and gas consumption, MIO-ECSDE joins with all the other co-signatories, to shape the future of our continent’s energy policy by calling for an EU-wide offshore drilling ban that will shield European coasts, coastal communities and marine species from the related destructive effects. MIO-ECSDE and all the signatories of the Manifesto are calling on the European Union and its Member States to adopt a hard-line stance against offshore drilling: by stopping the approval of new drilling permits both for exploration and exploitation by 2023; by committing to refuse renewals on issued authorizations after their expiration date in order to reach a complete phase-out by 2035; by putting a stop to exploitation and exploration activities in and around Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in order to protect these ecosystems, crucial for ocean resilience; by prohibiting drilling in the EU and the EEA icy Arctic waters. The Arctic is an area where the probability of an incident occurring is higher and the potential damage is worse due to its vulnerable ecosystem with keystone species. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/31esU6M>

- ▶ **Declaration entitled “Our world – our goals: citizen science for the Sustainable Development Goals”:** In its continuous effort to promote participatory science interventions, in October MIO-ECSDE **signed on to the Declaration “Our world – our goals: citizen science for the Sustainable Development Goals”**, a kind of social contract between citizen scientists, academics, and policy makers that acknowledges the diverse structure of citizen science and advances the agenda of the SDGs. The Declaration was formulated and adopted within the framework of an international conference entitled “Knowledge for Change: A decade of Citizen Science (2020-2030) in support of the SDGs”, which was organized as an official event of Germany’s 2020 EU Council presidency. The event was held from the 14th to the 15th of October 2020 in Berlin and aimed at showcasing, evaluating, and discussing the contribution of citizen science to developing and achieving the sustainable development goals. The Declaration calls upon European institutions, EU Members States, private companies, and civil society to make citizen science a key factor across all policies and activities relevant to the SDGs, including in shaping and implementing the European research agenda. The 11 recommendations of the Declaration focus on the way forward in terms of (i) harnessing citizen science for the SDGs; (ii) strengthening citizen science and its connections with other communities; and (iii) strengthening future citizen science systems. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2l5c6aS>

- ▶ **Position paper entitled “The road to an effective EU restriction of intentionally-added microplastics”:** It is estimated that between 75,000 and 300,000 tonnes of microplastics are released into the environment each year in the EU, according to the EC report entitled “A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy”. Bearing this in mind, in 2019, upon request from the European Commission, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) submitted a proposal for restricting the use of intentionally added microplastic particles to consumer or professional products of any kind. This restriction has the potential to significantly reduce the quantity of microplastics emitted into the environment, with subsequent positive effects on ecosystems and human health. Furthermore, it may stand as a crucial precedent in the fight against microplastic pollution, and other toxic chemicals. A truly ambitious EU restriction of intentionally added microplastics is within reach, but critical concerns remain to be addressed. Too many derogations, some of them unsubstantiated, unclear wording or lengthy transitional periods risk jeopardising the overall effectiveness of the restriction. Only an ambitious restriction –without unjustified derogations and delays –could ever be considered to be in line with the Plastics Strategy, the European Green Deal commitments and the recently adopted Chemicals Strategy for

Sustainability, which many EU Member States have pushed for. Within this context, the EEB together with Client Earth and the Rethink Plastic alliance developed a position paper that invites decision-makers to defend an ambitious restriction and recommends the actions that the Commission and the Member States must take to secure this outcome. With this position paper, the signatories – MIO-ECSDE and 22 other European NGOs-wished to alert the European Commission and the Member States to the crucial remaining concerns undermining ECHA's proposal, and help identifying a better way forward. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3gLI1KE>

The Secretariat contributed to many other consultations, surveys, questionnaires throughout the year.

3.1.2.2. Following up progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Principle 10 of the Rio Convention and the Aarhus Convention), etc.

During 2020 MIO-ECSDE took into consideration in all its thematic priorities and activities the outcomes and recommendations of major global fora that are follow-up actions of the Rio process or linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

More specifically for Principle 10 of the Rio Convention and the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), MIO-ECSDE, as COMPSUD Secretariat, together with MEPIELAN Center, through the MIO-ECSDE Operating Grant (EU LIFE Programme), launched a Desk Study for the development of a Foundation Discussion Document (FDD) for the "Mediterranean Accession Agenda" to the Aarhus Convention. The aim is to promote Environmental Governance in the region by launching the MSSD Flagship Initiative on Environmental Governance to encourage the accession to and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean countries and promote stakeholder engagement. It will enable non-Members of the Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean to effectively prepare and put in motion the mechanisms needed to accede to the Aarhus Convention.

3.1.2.3. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the various political frameworks

Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) and its Action Plan: MIO-ECSDE provides the Technical Secretariat to the Mediterranean Committee on ESD, through MEDIES, with the support of the Cypriot Government. Early in 2020, and in agreement with the members of the Committee, it was planned to organize the next Committee meeting, as a Side Event of the 2020 UNESCO World Conference on ESD in Berlin (planned for June 2020). MIO-ECSDE submitted a proposal to UNESCO for a Side-event showcasing the Mediterranean region as a good example of promoting and developing ESD. However, the Conference was postponed for 17-19 May 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Global Action Programme (GAP) of UNESCO on ESD: After five years (2015-2019), the UNESCO /GAP (Global Action Programme on ESD) ended in December 2019. All this time MIO-ECSDE had led one of the GAP's five Partner Networks, on "Advancing Policy". Since 2018, a series of consultations with the GAP Partners enabled the creation of the new framework that would follow after GAP. The new framework "ESD: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)" was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2019. In this framework, a new Partnership mechanism will be established and in early 2020 MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES was asked by UNESCO to reconfirm its commitment and participation. The new framework and partnership were to be launched at the 2020 UNESCO World Conference in Berlin that was postponed for May 2021. In September 2020 UNESCO released the GAP Key Partners Report that highlights the progress of GAP Key Partners in their five priority action areas.

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development: The Chairman participates with a leading role in the Ad hoc group on Strategic Planning 2030 of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD, that is currently developing the context and roadmap of ESD in the UNECE region towards 2030, in line with the global framework "ESD for 2030". The chairman participated in the two virtual meetings of the group (31 March and 30 April 2020) and co-authored the "Preamble" of the Strategic Planning. Additionally, he participated in the online consultation meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee (SC) on ESD (7 May 2020) during which the work of the Ad hoc group was presented, and the preparations for the UNECE High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (planned for 3-5 November 2021, in Nicosia) were discussed. Efforts are made to secure a special Mediterranean session within the High-level meeting while the chairman participates in the drafting process of the UNECE ESD SC Ministerial Statement.

Since October 2020 MIO-ECSDE participates in the Bureau of the UNECE ESD Steering Committee having the status of Observer NGO Member. In this context, on 19-20 October 2020 Prof. Scoullou participated in the 15th (hybrid) meeting of

the UNECE SC on ESD and made the presentation “Recent activities organized in the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development” highlighting the interlinkages between the UNCE ESD Strategy and the Mediterranean Strategy processes.

In March 2020 the chairman was asked by the UNESCO Regional Venice Office to peer-review its comparative analysis entitled “Mainstreaming of ESD in Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Turkey in the light of SDG 4.7” (available [here](#)).

The Chairman was invited to participate in the Task Force on Education and Outreach of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) Climate Change Initiative of the Presidency of the Republic of Cyprus and coordinated by the Cyprus Institute. Since October 2020, the Chairman, supported by the MEdIES Secretariat provides technical support to the Task Force, that is expected to produce the respective Thematic Report on Education and Outreach in the region.

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

The MIO-ECSDE Secretariat has continued its close relationship with the relevant to the Mediterranean Unit(s) of DG ENV, CLIMA, MARE, NEAR while following up on the European Neighbourhood Policy and its financial instrument (ENI). The Secretariat has also continued to closely monitor the developments of the UfM and maintained its close relationship with its Secretariat.

MIO-ECSDE actively participated in numerous on-line meetings of the UfM on Water, Climate Change and Environment. There is considerable momentum in view of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Action that was planned to take place in Egypt in December 2020. It has been moved to 2021.

Within the WES project, MIO-ECSDE provided considerable expert support to the EC and the UfM Secretariat on (a) the H2020 consolidation process (drafting of a final report of the 14-year Initiative in EN, FR and AR), and (b) the design and implementation of an on-line UfM stakeholder consultation on the post-2020 UfM Environment and Climate Action Agendas that ran from mid-July till the end of August 2020 (final report is available in EN and FR).

On the 24th of November 2020 MIO-ECSDE and RAED participated in the online Civil Society Forum organized by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The event discussed the pivotal role of civil society in addressing major challenges of our times, among which the high levels of socio-economic inequality and the pressing climate change emergency exacerbating vulnerabilities within and among UfM countries. During the event, representatives of civil society identified the main issues for civil society organizations in the fields of environment and climate change and agreed on priorities for the years to come. Furthermore, they shared knowledge on tools and mechanisms that make civil society’s response on the ground more efficient and coordinated; and came up with key recommendations on how to enhance civil society action. The Civil Society Forum was held within the framework of the [5th UfM Regional Forum](#), which brought together the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the UfM Member States on the 27th of November 2020 to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the Barcelona Process. One of the highlights of the 5th UfM Regional Forum was the launch of the ‘International Day of the Mediterranean’ aiming to foster a common Mediterranean identity and create a yearly unique momentum for enhanced cooperation and integration in the area.

3.1.3. MIO-ECSDE activities as partner of GWP-Med

MIO-ECSDE acts as Host Institute of the GWP-Med Secretariat and continues its fruitful collaboration with it. As a member of the GWP-Med network, MIO-ECSDE promoted in early 2020 the following which are integral to both the GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE agendas:

- ▶ submissions of joint/coordinated 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;
- ▶ The ongoing HYDRIA virtual museum of water management techniques of the past;
- ▶ The Drin Corda (Coordinated Action for a Sustainable Future).

3.2. (Co-) Organisation of meetings at Mediterranean or sub-regional level

All planned meetings for 2020 were assessed either for postponement or “transformation”. The main event of the year was decided to be the Summer University

After Covid 19: Questioning “The Human-Nature-Economy Nexus”

At the invitation of the Co-Chairman, Professor Mohammed Ftouhi, co-organised as CMED, together with RAED and MIO-ECSDE a webinar on what we can learn from the COVID-19 crisis to reshape the relationship between humans, nature and the economy. The webinar took place on July 12th 2020.

Asterousia Hybrid University 2020

Early in 2020 MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES reaffirmed its collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Culture in Venice, to run the 2020 (6th) edition of the Summer University in Crete (Greece) in cooperation and with the support of the Heraklion Development Agency (HDA) and directly link it with the process of designation of the Asterousia area to enter the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) of MAB/UNESCO. To this end, several staff meetings were held as well as a coordination meeting with the HDA staff (4 March 2020).

In the meantime, on 29 April 2020 we were officially notified that Asterousia was approved and included in the WNBR. MIO-ECSDE, supporting the Hellenic National Committee of MAB UNESCO, has been instrumental for this success.

It was hoped that the Summer University could take place in July 2020, but it was eventually transformed into the “Asterousia Hybrid University 2020 on the Management of Biosphere Reserves and other designated areas”. It was designed to be implemented in two phases:

- 1) A face-to-face part, which took place on 5 – 7 October 2020 and was restricted to approx. 15 trainees, mostly from Crete, who had the opportunity to follow lectures on the establishment and operation of Biosphere Reserves from Greek and international experts, visit local businesses that opt for sustainable management, and discuss with local stakeholders who will be engaged in the management of the new Asterousia Biosphere Reserve. The rich material collected from this phase, including recordings by professional film-makers, was adapted and integrated in the second phase (online)
- 2) The online second part, which is a self-paced 3-week-long course, that started on 30 November and ended on 20 December 2020, offering a co-learning space in which experiences, lessons-learned and innovative practices are exchanged. There were **219 enrolled individuals** from **48 countries**: a mix of post-graduate students, scientists, MAB youth, educators and managers. The course included topics about the UNESCO MAB Programme, the frame of the SDGs, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the management, communication and branding of BRs and other designated areas, cultural and social values of BRs, innovative youth-led projects and sustainable businesses, best practices to responding to the pandemic, and Education for Sustainable Development in BRs. The topics were presented through video-lectures of invited experts, online videos and articles, material from the Asterousia BR and interactive exercises. Every week a live “Meet-the-Expert” session took place (90 min long, through zoom, in English and French), during which the invited experts can answer to questions posed by the learners. All video lectures and recorded “Meet-the-Expert” sessions are available on the MIO-ECSDE Youtube Channel. More than half of the enrolled trainees were actively engaged in the course providing interesting insights and reflection. The deadline for all learners to complete the modules, tests and final assignment was December 31, 2020.

The Asterousia Hybrid University was co-organised and supported by the MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES Secretariat, the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice, the Heraklion Development Agency, the Prefecture of Crete, the Asterousia Management Committee, the UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean, and the Greek National Committee for MAB/UNESCO, with the financial support of the LIFE Programme of the European Union (Operating Grant for NGOs) and the Green Fund of Greece.

3.3. Mediterranean Actions/Campaigns

3.3.1. *Water in the Mediterranean*

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

- ▶ MIO-ECSDE continued to provide expertise in the Core and Expert Working Groups of the framework of the Drin Dialogue Process and the implementation of the Shared Vision for the Management of the “Extended” Drin River Basin. MIO-ECSDE actively participated in the two meetings of the Drin Core Group, held in July 2020 and December 2020, respectively.
- ▶ Continued to promote, in cooperation with GWP-Med various older and newer materials such as “Water in the Mediterranean” (available in seven languages); the “Alter Aqua” material for Malta, the “Other water” for Cyprus, the online app on non-conventional water resources (www.ncwr-edu.net), the various editions of the “Gift of Rain” for Greece (all water publications are available [here](#)).
- ▶ Supported the awareness campaign ‘Animation4water’ (English and Greek) and ran a training on “Animation in Water Education” (Athens, 12 February 2020), where 30 teachers were introduced to the tools and methods of creating animations with their students and how to embed these to their ESD and water related work. The training was co-organised with the Primary and Secondary Education Directories of Piraeus and the West Attica University
- ▶ The HYDRIA virtual museum is a founding member to the World Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET) (www.watermuseums.net/). The MIO-ECSDE Chairman is on the Board of the WAMU-NET. In this framework, from September 2019 to May 2020 MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES collaborated closely with the Museums Network to design, organize and promote the Youth Contest entitled: “The Water We Want: from heritage to future”. The contest invited students from all around the world aged 6 to 18 years old to express their ideas about the links between water heritage and the SDG challenges through drawings, photos or 1-min-videos. MEdIES disseminated widely the announcement and contest toolkit to its members and channels and assisted schools and NGOs to submit their works. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak some 7,000 students participated in the contest and the winners were announced on 18 May 2020 (World Museum Day). Two MIO-ECSDE member organizations from Tunisia were awarded in the Contest: The ‘Association for the Protection of the Medina and Heritage of Kelibia’ won the 1st prize in “Photo Category, age 13-18” and APNEK gained a Special Mention in the “Video Category, age 13-18”. The winners, special mentions and shortlisted works are presented at <http://thewaterwewant.watermuseums.net>. The Chairman, Prof. Scoullos was a panellist in the webinar that officially launched this online exhibition on 18 June. Currently we are collaborating with the WAMUNET for the preparation of the 2021 edition of the Water We Want Youth Contest. See also 3.3.4

3.3.2. *Biodiversity, Protected Areas, Climate Change, etc. in the Mediterranean*

In 2020 the following actions were undertaken:

- ▶ Launching the Mediterranean Action Day 2020 on the occasion of Natura 2000 Day. This year's theme: marine Natura 2000 sites and other coastal and marine protected areas (3.5).
- ▶ Organizing biodiversity related events (preparations for the 2020 Asterousia Hybrid University, see 3.2.1)
- ▶ Organizing a training about “SD/ESD in Biosphere Reserves” on 10 February in Heraklion (Crete) in the framework of the nomination of the Asterousia area to enter the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The training took place back-to-back with a meeting for youth - experts, professionals and students - following up and promoting Sustainable Development and focusing on MAB issues in Crete. Both events were co-organised jointly with the Heraklion Development Agency and attended by more than 40 participants.
- ▶ On April 29th the Chairman was notified by an official letter of the Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences and Secretary of Man and the Biosphere Programme, that the Asterousia Mountain range was accepted as part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- ▶ Conducting a Feasibility Study for the establishment of a MAB/UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the Karystia region in the South of Evia. The aim of the Feasibility Study is to examine to what extent the area of Kafireas/South Evia Island is suitable and could meet the criteria to be designated as a Biosphere Reserve of the MAB/UNESCO Programme. The Study will take into account the natural and cultural characteristics of the area as well as its potential for sustainable development. It should also examine the complex interlinked and partly conflicting economic, social, environmental and cultural priorities, interests and orientations of the different stakeholders active in the area. It

could also assess if and under what conditions the designation of the area as a Biosphere Reserve is feasible and if such designation could stimulate and promote a “reconciliation” among visions and activities that traditionally were potentially considered as incompatible.

- ▶ Provision of expertise to visits and lectures at the UNESCO Chair on water and ecosystems based in Drama on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems nexus, etc.
- ▶ Within the Plastic Busters MPAs project MIO-ECSDE is leading actions related to defining and testing harmonized methodologies to assess the presence and impact of marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs (Marine Protected Areas); designing and implementing marine litter prevention and mitigation measures; and setting up a joint governance scheme for managing marine litter in pelagic and coastal MPAs (see 5.4).
- ▶ Within the MPA-Engage project - aiming to support and promote the role of Mediterranean MPAs as central tools for the implementation of the ecosystem approach for the adaptation and mitigation to climate change- MIO-ECSDE is leading actions related to capitalization, participatory approaches and the elaboration of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans for 7 MPAs and of a joint action plan (see 5.5).
- ▶ Within the recently approved service contract “Increasing public awareness about EU nature protection policy – utilising EU nature data”, MIO-ECSDE will contribute to the development of communication and awareness raising materials focusing on enhancing the use of existing EU nature data to enhance public awareness about the EU nature directives and the Natura 2000 network. This requires both the appropriate processing and presenting of data and incorporating these data into suitable communication products that appeal to and are understandable for the general lay public and for educators and schools (see 5.6).
- ▶ MIO-ECSDE, the UNESCO Chair & Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean of the University of Athens, and the Greek National Committee of MAB/UNESCO together with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) have a long-standing fruitful collaboration in projects and initiatives on topics relating to management as well as education within designated areas and especially Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean (see 3.2.1)
- ▶ MIO-ECSDE participated in the EEB Annual Conference 2020 entitled “From the ashes of a pandemic to an ever Greener Deal: securing Europe’s environmental leadership” that was held on 9 November 2020.
- ▶ In view of the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Action of the Union for the Mediterranean and the UNFCCC COP 26 Conference planned for November 2021, MIO-ECSDE, through one of its issues of Sustainable Mediterranean on climate change is advocating for mobilisation of all sides. The issue includes some keynote interviews from representatives of the UfM, UNEP/MAP and League of Arab States. Additional contributors illustrate how the Green Deal plans to include the climate challenge in the Mediterranean, what the climate change impacts are on Mediterranean agriculture, and cities, and the energy future of the region. What is more, the journal will address the involvement of civil society in the revision of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) within the UNFCCC process and how the private sector can be mobilised to help mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change urgently needed in the region. The issue will feature articles from the Ministers of Environment from the countries of Cyprus, Greece, Jordan, Morocco and Spain.

3.3.3. Marine and coastal issues

MIO-ECSDE closely followed the progress of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and continued to be a member of the Working Group on Good Environmental Status (WG GES) and the Marine Strategic Coordination Group (MSCG). Furthermore, Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni has been actively contributing to the work of the EU/MSFD Good Environmental Status (GES) Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter. More specifically:

- ▶ In June 2020, MIO-ECSDE participated in the on-line meeting of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter and made several interventions related to a series of tasks that it is co-leading, namely: the elaboration of a manual for the use of the Joint List of Marine Litter Items to facilitate the unambiguous identification of the litter items in order to assess macro-litter in the marine environment for the MSFD and pinpoint tailor-made management responses; the elaboration of the updated guidance document on how to carry out beach litter surveys; the elaboration of a report entitled “A European Beach Litter Threshold Value and Assessment Method” that proposes a threshold value for beach litter equal to 20 items/100m stretch of coast; the updating of a comprehensive list of some 70 marine litter related projects that will be published by the JRC/MSFD TGML in the upcoming months. For all these tasks MIO-ECSDE has been working closely with the German delegate of

the group, from the Regional Agency of Coastal Protection, National Park, and Marine Protection of Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) and JRC which is co-chairing the MSFD TGML.

- ▶ In June 2020, MIO-ECSDE participated in the 26th Meeting of the Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG). The main issues discussed were the: EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - a core part of the European Green Deal- and how it relates to the MSFD implementation; the beach litter threshold value proposed by the MSFD TGML.
- ▶ In June and July 2020, MIO-ECSDE carried out an advocacy campaign targeted to the Mediterranean Marine Directors urging them to “reduce harm to the Mediterranean from beach litter to a sufficiently precautionary level, by adopting the proposal for a European Beach Litter Threshold Value of 20 litter items/100 m beach length”. In September 2020, the proposed threshold value was unanimously agreed by all EU Member States’ experts.
- ▶ On 30 September 2020, MIO-ECSDE attended the MSFD Workshop on Horizontal Issues – Threshold Values, where through breakout sessions valuable recommendations were elaborated in relation to threshold values setting in the context of the MSFD.
- ▶ In December 2020, MIO-ECSDE participated in the *ad hoc* online meeting of the MSFD TGML where the latest marine litter related developments were discussed, while also updates on the status of work related to the revision of the monitoring guidance document and the threshold & baseline values were presented. MIO-ECSDE made several interventions at the meeting, with special emphasis on the work related to the updating of the beach litter monitoring guidelines. The final output is expected to be released by March 2021.

In January 2020 the Chairman was invited to actively contribute to “The Mediterranean Sea We Need for the Future We Want” Regional Workshops for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 (Venice, 21–23 January 2020). A key aim of the Regional Meeting was to define and address regional issues and science questions to contribute to the development of the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade in order to take into consideration the regional emerging environmental and ecosystem developments, new policy requirements, latest scientific and data advances, technological breakthroughs and evolving societal demands. MIO-ECSDE was part of the drafting team for the Med Workshop results and the Chairman has been recommended as an ambassador of the Decade’s Communication for the Mediterranean.

In February 2020, MIO-ECSDE was the key note speaker at the MARGNET Scientific Meeting held in Venice. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni made a presentation on the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean addressing aspects of the entire management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation.

In February 2020, MIO-ECSDE was also invited to join a workshop on the circular design of the fishing gear for reduction of environmental impacts held in Brussels, where it made several interventions and contributed to the working groups. In July 2020, MIO-ECSDE joined the online follow up event that aimed at presenting the final report on the issue and the associated findings and recommendations.

On the 5th of June on the occasion of the World Environment Day, MIO-ECSDE was an invited speaker at an international conference entitled “Be Smart with plastics: once upon a single-use plastics”, which was held online. The event was organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia in collaboration with the Enterprise Europe Network. The event was opened by the Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni was the key note speaker and made an intervention on “Slashing Plastic Pollution and Breaking Away from a Throwaway Society: Turning Science into Policy & Actions.

In September 2020, MIO-ECSDE participated at the first EU4Ocean workshop focusing on designing Ocean Literacy actions in Europe. Supported by the European Commission, the EU4Ocean is a bottom-up inclusive initiative that aims at uniting the voices of Europeans to make the ocean a concern of everyone. MIO-ECSDE made several interventions during the break-out sessions (EU4Ocean Platform, Network of European Blue Schools) and provided comments to the event’s final report.

In September 2020, MIO-ECSDE was one of the invited speakers at the international conference of the IPA CBC Blue Coast project that focused on new perspectives and trends related to climate change and blue growth. A presentation was made addressing the issue of marine litter and associated actions on the science-policy-society interface, including scientific advances and best practices.

In October 2020, MIO-ECSDE was an invited speaker at the Black Sea Crossborder Cooperation “Biolearn” project that was entitled “Eco-Conscious Minds to Stop Pollution in Black Sea Basin”. MIO-ECSDE’s contribution focused on the interactions between science, politics and society for addressing marine litter. A similar contribution was also made at the ECOMONDO international conference and an event that was organized by LEGABIENTE entitled “Networking for tackling marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea”.

Within 2020 MIO-ECSDE carried out activities focusing on marine litter mainly within the framework of the Interreg Med Plastic Busters MPAs projects and the framework of its collaboration with the UfM and UNEP/MAP.

Towards the end of the year, MIO-ECSDE launched a research study on the “Quantitative determination of the consumption of Single-Use Plastic products (SUPs) in hotel units (primarily in Greece but using also data from other Mediterranean countries). The aim of this research is to quantify the consumption of SUPs in hotels in Greece, as well as, to determine their average cost, in 2019 and 2020. To do this, contact is established with as many hotels as possible. These are differentiated by indicators of category, size, seasonality, and participation in environmental certification programs as well as by the willingness of the hotel management to receive help and know-how from MIO-ECSDE. From this study we will obtain an approximation of the use of these products and the opportunity-cost that exists for hoteliers who wish to make a transition. It will facilitate a set of proposed solutions and alternatives that will minimize the cost of the transition.

3.3.4. Culture and Sustainability in the Mediterranean

Within this overall framework, during 2020 MIO-ECSDE did the following:

- ▶ Maintained and further promoted the HYDRIA virtual museum (www.hydraproject.info) – acknowledged as a good example bridging ESD and Cultural practices (see [here](#)). It is a member of the Board of the Global Network of Water Museums-WAMUNET (see 3.3.1). In an effort to update HYDRIA’s profile and outreach MIO-ECSDE will cooperate with the WAMUNET Communication Team for the creation of a “promo” video. The video (~7-8’) will combine HYDRIA’s and MIO-ECSDE’s content as well as content offered by other Organizations (e.g. UNESCO) related to water heritage; how to revisit and learn from the past: nature-based solutions & ecosystems approaches to solve current problems, etc.
- ▶ As regards the Mediterranean Food agenda, the e-learning course about Mediterranean Food ([here](#)), has successfully run twice in 2020 (see D.6). The e-course is largely based on the educational package “Mediterranean Food: Historical, Environmental, Health & Cultural dimensions” (produced in five Mediterranean languages [here](#)). Since its launching 45 users have followed the course.
- ▶ The proposal submitted to the 2020 Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) Call involving member organisations, capitalizing on the Mediterranean food agenda and mainly proposing the creation of quality intercultural resources on Mediterranean food & diet (updated material and a MOOC) was approved in September 2020. More about the new project in 4.6.

3.3.5. Med Action Day 2020: the importance of marine Natura 2000 sites and other coastal and marine protected areas

The MAD 2020 call was launched on 21 May 2020 on the occasion of Natura 2000 day targeting MIO-ECSDE member organizations and other organizations from the EU countries: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. 10 activities were approved and 9 implemented, between July and November, by: ADIPA (Croatia), Eko Kvarner (Croatia), AKTI (Cyprus), Greek Eco Project (Greece), Healthy Seas (activity implemented in Greece), Istituto per l’Ambiente e l’Educazione Scholé Futuro onlus -WEEC Network (Italy), Legambiente (Italy), DPPVN (Slovenia) and Hippocampus (Spain).

MAD 2020 is dedicated to the importance of marine Natura 2000 sites and other coastal and marine protected areas. Due to COVID-19, the activities considered the restriction of group gatherings and social distancing. An issue of *Sustainable Mediterranean* is dedicated to the MAD 2020 activities and a complementary video is based on footage sent by the participating NGOs.

The activities covered a variety of themes:

- ▶ 2 scientific conferences to promote the expansion of a Natura 2000 network to the marine environment and improve its sustainable management;
- ▶ 3 on awareness raising on the importance of the Natura 2000 Network;
- ▶ 1 citizen-science activity on monitoring seahorse populations;

- ▶ 1 clean-up of a wetland;
- ▶ 2 educational visits to Natura 2000 sites

4. Implementing Education for Sustainable Development through the MEDIES secretariat

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

In autumn 2020, MEDIES was included as a “Good practice” in the Med Dialogue’s “Networks Mapping Publication”. The Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality Programme, is an EU-funded Programme aiming to strengthen the role of the regional Civil Society Organisations in building sustainable development, regional cohesion and resilience.

An overview of the activities in 2020 can be summarised as follows:

- ▶ Facilitating the e-network of educators (www.medies.net).
- ▶ Following ESD political processes at many levels (European, UfM, UNECE, UNESCO, etc). Various processes have progressed as explained in C.1.2.3.
- ▶ Authoring and producing new teaching and learning materials (in printed or e-form, see D.1, D.2).
- ▶ Continuing projects on marine litter/plastics and water
- ▶ Facilitating the Mediterranean Universities Network for ESD (MedUnNET).
- ▶ Preparing and disseminating on a quarterly basis the e-bulletin to its members (see MEDIES bulletins).
- ▶ Piloting projects with authorities of the host country (Greece) in order to replicate them throughout the Mediterranean Region.

4.1. *HERRCO project on Recycling, Single-Use Plastics and Marine Litter*

In the context of MIO-ECSDE collaboration with the Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation (HERRCO), for 2020, MEDIES continued with the planned task of developing a **new educational material** addressed to students and teachers, to accompany the relevant interventions at schools. The authoring of the new material has been finalised, and the material is at the graphic design phase. It will be available in Greek and English early in 2021.

A student poster has been translated and is available in English, Greek and French.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and schools closing, the planned school interventions were postponed. The MEDIES team developed a virtual version of the face-to-face interventions that lasts 90 min. During May 2020 these virtual interventions were piloted in selected classes of four (4) schools of the Athens metropolitan area. The programme can be applied in three (3) ways: 1) through face to face meetings following all the protective COVID-19 measures, 2) through synchronous distance education the students can participate from their classrooms, and 3) through synchronous distance education the students can participate from their houses (sometimes the parents were also involved).

Just before the second ‘wave’ of the COVID19 pandemic and following all measures indicated by the Ministry of Health, three live public awareness raising events were organised.

Also, during November -December eight webinars were held to meet the needs for teachers’ training gathering more than 200 participants.

The evaluation of these pilot interventions was possible through qualitative and quantitative research. The qualitative research was possible through content analysis done by the teachers and ESD officers both orally and in written

reports. The quantitative research was through a pre- and post-questionnaire filled in by all the participants and their families. The results of the combined qualitative and quantitative research were positive and encouraging.

4.2. *DIVE-IN: Mutual skills building in Diversity, Inclusive pedagogies of trainers*

The DIVE-IN project came to an end in December 2019. Throughout the project in the four (4) partner countries (Greece, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine) a wealth of activities on inclusive education practices and ESD were held (international peer training, skill building workshops, teacher trainings school interventions, and sport events).

In early 2020, the final deliverable of the project was compiled: a guidebook for facilitators in diversity and inclusion pedagogies. The guidebook reports on the activities held and the lessons learnt in the four project countries while it provides a compendium of free online resources relevant to Inclusion Education and ESD. Read more about the DIVE-IN project [here](#) and download the Guidebook [here](#).

Early in 2020, just before the pandemic outbreak, three MEdIES members had the opportunity to be further trained on Inclusion Education, through a KA1 Erasmus+ mobility course in Bologna. Read more [here](#).

4.3. *Erasmus+ Mobility Courses for European teachers (Key Action 1)*

Following the January 2020 call for three different week-long courses, and the announcement of the funded learning mobility of the KA1 trainings in the various European countries, so far:

- ▶ 20 applicants confirmed receiving a grant for the course on marine litter education
- ▶ 5 applicants confirmed receiving a grant for the course on water education
- ▶ 2 applicants confirmed receiving a grant for the course on animation

Due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID19 pandemic and after discussing it with the confirmed applicants, all courses are postponed for 2021.

4.4. *Web-based education applications on water*

While staying at home during the pandemic, the online web application on water developed by MIO-ECSDE and which is available in [English](#) and [Greek](#) was promoted. Learners are invited to discover in an interactive manner the various aspects of non conventional water resources, urban water vulnerability, climate change challenges, etc. Though the materials have been developed for learners of 10-13 years old, several sections can be used either by younger or older students.

4.5. *Marine litter education agenda*

On 26 and 27 February 2020, two teacher trainings were held in Athens. In total, 60 teachers explored the causes and impacts of marine litter as well as the practices to deal with the challenge, emphasizing on recycling, beach clean-ups and marine litter monitoring. Both trainings were co-organised with the Primary and Secondary Education Directories of Athens and the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMPEA).

In June 2020, on the occasion of the World Environment Day and the World Oceans Day, the exhibition on marine litter was hosted at the town hall of Elefsina for three weeks. One of the winning photos of the WAMU-NET contest “The Water We Want” was exhibited there upon its confirmation. Read more [here](#).

4.6. *Sustaining Intercultural Dialogue through deeper Understanding of Mediterranean Food (SIDUMEF)*

“Sustaining Intercultural Dialogue through deeper understanding of the Mediterranean Food” (SIDUMEF) is a new ALF (Anna Lindh Foundation) funded project, in which MIO-ECSDE members and experts from 7 Mediterranean countries will co-create new educational resources on how Mediterranean Food can maintain and enhance intercultural dialogue and sustainability. The partners are: AOYE, CMED, LEGAMBIENTE, and PWL and Associate partners are LHAP, ETNIA, and the University of Athens. The project was approved in the 2020 ALF Call for Proposals and will run from October 2020–September 2021. Apart from the new resources that will be developed, the project entails an exchange of ~300 educators, youth and trainers through webinars, MOOCs and (COVID-19 willing!) physical events and guidelines to co-value the wealth of the Mediterranean food heritage. It’s kick-off meeting took place virtually on 25 November.

4.7. *PLASTEAM: STEAM education for Plastic-free Primary Schools*

A 30-month long Erasmus+ Project was launched in November 2020, with MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES as one of its partners. The project will, among others, develop a plastic footprint survey for primary schools, develop a set a Plastic Free schools Recommendations and run a contest, and develop a toolkit (STEAM-box; where STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) with activities related to STEAM and sustainability education. The kick off was held virtually on 7 December 2020.

4.8. *MEdIES national and international networking*

The “21st century skills” nation-wide curriculum was announced by the Greek Ministry of Education, aspiring to integrate innovative educational materials and practices in the mandatory, weekly curricula of all educational levels (to be launched in the school year 2020–2021). In this context, and responding to an open a call from the Ministry, the MEdIES secretariat submitted seven educational materials and programmes.

During the last months MEdIES joined several education networks of mutual interest, such as the [Climate ECOS Community](#), [Action for Climate \(ACE\) by UNFCC](#), the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building ([PCCB Network](#)), the [Bridge 47 Network](#), the [Global Education Monitoring \(GEM\)](#) the [Futures of Education](#) (UNESCO), the [#ESDfor2030](#) framework and the [EU4Ocen Initiative](#).

5. Running, drafting, completion and/or follow-up of international projects

5.1. LIFE Programme Operating Grant for NGOs

MIO-ECSDE is one of the EU non-profit environmental NGOs active in many countries that was awarded support for part of its operational and administrative costs relating to the development, implementation and enforcement of Union policy and legislation for the 2020-2021 biennium. The contract with EASME for the 2020 Life Programme Operating Grant (covering 60% of the year's Work Programme) was digitally signed in April 2020. In addition, the final report for 2019 was submitted in early April 2020. A few minor clarifications were requested by EASME which were fully addressed. The final payment of the EU contribution in the frame of the grant agreement was made in full with a corresponding very positive letter on the good performance of MIO-ECSDE as well as some constructive suggestion for the future.

As soon as the Life Programme Operating Grant contract for 2020 was signed, the Secretariat sent a formal request to the Green Fund of the Greek Ministry of Environment to support the 2020 Work Programme by contributing as much as possible to the remaining percentage. In June MIO-ECSDE was notified that the Green Fund of Greece would support with the amount of 30.000 EUR. A report of activities was sent to the Green Fund in November 2020.

5.2. The Water and Environment Support (WES)

MIO-ECSDE and RAED are members in the consortium that was awarded the regional EU-funded project Water and Environment Support mechanism (2019-2023). The overall aim is to assist the implementation of an integrated approach to pollution reduction and prevention in line with the UfM Agendas and Barcelona Convention and to contribute to a more efficient management of scarce water resources in the Neighbourhood South region.

Due to COVID-19 there are delays in the activities that are designed as physical trainings and study visits which were the main activities in which MIO-ECSDE member NGOs as well as other civil society organisation could participate in and benefit from. However, adapted virtual capacity building activities are in the making and nominations of appropriate stakeholders will soon commence with the support of RAED and the UfM labelled BlueGreen MedCS Network. The first regional activity will be on Single-Use Plastics and will take place as a series of four webinars starting in January 2021.

5.3. The Horizon 2020 D-NOSES project

Since March 2018, MIO-ECSDE is one of the partners of the EU funded Distributed Network for Odour Sensing, Empowerment and Sustainability (D-NOSES) project. It is a Horizon 2020 specific programme with and for society (SwafS). The project consortium comprises 15 partners (combining experts in Responsible research and innovation (RRI), citizen science and co-creation, international associations, odour scientists, local administration and public bodies) from 9 countries. With this project, MIO-ECSDE is tackling odour pollution for the first time with the aim to introduce it in the policy agenda. The project is in line with the organization's values specifically that it works towards the implementation of Rio principle 10 and the Aarhus convention calling for civil society engagement and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs. Due to COVID-19, the project has been granted a 6-month extension.

So far (2 years into the project), MIO-ECSDE has finalized the content of a MOOC on "Odour Pollution for the public" and another MOOC on "Odour Pollution for educators". Currently both are being re-shaped and updated aesthetically by a graphic designer and localisation team in order to be widely disseminated early in 2021.

An abstract prepared for the MOOCs was accepted in the poster session of the hybrid Conference "Knowledge for Change: A decade of Citizen Science in support of the SDGs" (14-15 October 2020, Berlin). The MEDIES Secretariat presented the poster in the e-posters-booth.

MIO-ECSDE the main advocacy partner: co-developed an "Advocacy toolkit" consisting of a collection of methods that can be used by the partners in charge of case studies (pilots) to design and implement their own, local advocacy strategy; co-produced a [D-NOSES Policy Brief](#) which addresses the issue of odour pollution, explains the conventional ways of

odour measurement and introduces D-NOSES as a new bottom-up approach to this issue; developed an advocacy plan reaching out to 800 contacts from the identified target groups (European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, European Commission, Council of the European Union, Member States representatives of the Aarhus convention, UfM Secretariat, UNEP/MAP and COMPSUD).

5.4. The Interreg Med Plastic Busters MPAs project

PlasticBusters MPAs aims to shed light on the impacts of marine litter in coastal and pelagic protected areas and consolidate Mediterranean efforts against marine litter. The project entails actions that address the whole management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and surveillance to prevention and mitigation.

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

MIO-ECSDE is the operational leader of the communication, the studying and the capitalization components of the project. In addition, MIO-ECSDE together with the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) are the co-chairs of the Steering Committee of the project, which is chaired by the University of Siena (UNISI). MIO-ECSDE, who is currently leading the studying and testing activities of the project with regard to marine litter measures, has recently launched 3 demos; two of them taking place at the Strunjan Landscape Park (Slovenia) and one taking place at the Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (Greece). The measures to be showcased are:

- ▶ “Single Use Plastics (SUPs)-free beach bars” to be piloted in the Strunjan Landscape Park (Slovenia), by the Public Institute Strunjan Landscape Park (Lead) in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, and the Zavod TRI NITI.
- ▶ “Adopt-a-beach” to be piloted in the Strunjan Landscape Park (Slovenia), by the Public Institute Strunjan Landscape Park in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, and the Zavod TRI NITI.
- ▶ “Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme and promoting co-responsibility to tackle fisheries & aquaculture-related litter” to be piloted in the Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (Greece), by the Organization for the Preservation of the Aquatic Ecosystems (Lead) in collaboration with the Management Authority of Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas, and BlueCycle.

The upcoming deliverables of MIO-ECSDE include operational guidelines on the implementation of different marine litter measures as well as an e-learning module on the issue.

PlasticBusters MPAs is a 48-month-long project funded by Interreg Mediterranean (EU) and implemented by MIO-ECSDE and several other partners (<https://plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu>).

5.5. The Interreg Med MPA-Engage

The Interreg Med MPA-Engage project aims to support and promote the role of Mediterranean MPAs as central tools for the implementation of the ecosystem approach for the adaptation and mitigation to climate change (CC). The 3-year-long project kicked-off in January 2020 in Barcelona. By strengthening the management and the networking of MPAs, and by promoting a Mediterranean policy dialogue among the stakeholders, the project will contribute to maintain marine ecosystems in the region. The main lines of action of the project include: an assessment of the CC vulnerability (ecological and socio-economic) of MPAs; monitoring the CC effects on MPAs; engagement of citizen scientists (in particular recreational divers and small-scale/recreational fishermen) in monitoring actions; introducing CC aspects within the MPAs management plans; transferring actions; etc. The project is led by the Institute of Marine Sciences (CSIC) and is implemented by 15 partners from the following 8 countries: Albania, Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain. MIO-ECSDE is leading actions related to capitalization, participatory science and the elaboration of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans for 7 MPAs and of a joint action plan. Find more info the project here: <https://mpa-engage.interreg-med.eu>

In November 2020, MIO-ECSDE elaborated two major deliverables of the project:

- ▶ Guidelines for applying a Quintuple Helix Participatory Approach

- ▶ Guidelines on how to develop a local Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan

In addition, in December 2020, MIO-ECSDE organized a 2-day webinar series to ensure that effective and participative decision-making processes will be set up in the pilot MPAs, located in 6 Mediterranean countries, namely Albania, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain. The online training brought together 26 participants mainly managers of Mediterranean MPAs. It was divided into 2 learning units, aiming to develop the participants' skills on how to:

- ▶ Design and implement participatory processes and address all key aspects, from selecting the appropriate participation tools to ensuring that all key actors are effectively engaged in the decision-making process.
- ▶ Elaborate a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan in their MPA via a step-by-step participatory action plan.

5.6. Framework & Service Contracts

MIO-ECSDE is participating in the following framework and service contracts:

- ▶ **Framework Contract entitled "Green Growth and Circular Economy - Supporting activities for stakeholder engagement, exchange of information and best practices. Ad hoc stakeholder engagement activities and stakeholder engagement toolkit (LOT 2)".** Within this framework contract MIO-ECSDE is collaborating with INTRASOFT, AEIDL, TEAMWORK, INSPIRO and COFFEY. Within 2020, MIO-ECSDE contributed to a service contract entitled "Our Baltic Conference" and was in charge of organizing a public event within the framework of a high-level conference, with a ministerial section and stakeholders' section. The public event aimed at providing to the participants a unique opportunity to take part in a hands-on beach litter survey and generate fit-for-purpose marine litter data that are essential for effective decision-making. The beach macrolitter survey was designed to be performed in line with the recently updated beach litter monitoring guidelines of the Marine Litter Technical Group of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In this respect, the event aimed to offer a concrete opportunity to promote the uptake of the aforementioned guidelines by the contracting parties of the HELCOM Convention towards a harmonized beach litter monitoring approach and serve as a showcase of how participatory science activities are a valuable tool toward filling in the knowledge gaps and supporting tailor-made management actions. Sadly, due to the COVID-19 restrictions the event was cancelled just few weeks before the conference.
- ▶ **Service Contract entitled Increasing public awareness about EU nature protection policy – utilising EU nature data.** Within the contract MIO-ECSDE is collaborating with ADELPHI, INTRASOFT and ATECMA. The contract entails several activities that focus on improving access to biodiversity data and its use in awareness raising via the development of communication and awareness raising materials. MIO-ECSDE will provide expertise on environmental science communication and advocacy, as well as on Education for Sustainable Development. The project kicked-off in September 2020 and preparatory actions are underway.

5.7. Submissions of proposals

The status of MIO-ECSDE proposal submissions for the period from January till December 2020 was as follows:

	Title	Donor Agency	Total budget	MIO-ECSDE budget	Submission date	Officer in charge	Brief description	Status
1	Freshwater Biodiversity and Plant Conservation in the Mediterranean: A Collective Learning Workshop on Achieving Common Nature Protection Goals	CEPF	40.000	40.000	January 2020	Th. Vlachogianni	The project focuses on creating the enabling conditions for collective and collaborative learning among and between CEPF grantees, other CSOs and stakeholders on freshwater biodiversity and plant conservation in the Mediterranean.	Not approved
2	Innovative Design and Behavior Change for a Circular Economy (ODIN)	H2020 Research	3.000.000	300.000	February 2020	Th. Vlachogianni	ODIN aims to support an effective reduction of microplastic and textile fibre discharges from laundry wastewater into our environment and to inform and accelerate a systemic transition towards a CE. MIO-ECSDE will lead the communication actions, support the policy actions and carry out a case	Not approved

							study in Greece.	
3	Plastic Sources and Transport through Environmental commitments (PlasticSTREAM)	H2020 Research	4.000.000	350.000	February 2020	Th. Vlachogianni	PlasticSTREAM aims to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the problem of plastic pollution in the environment by addressing all aspects of the plastic lifespan, with the intention of providing synoptic knowledge to support the definition policies for prevention and mitigation of plastic pollution. MIO-ECSDE is leading the policy support WP.	Not approved
4	ESD Training Course on Marine Litter	ERASMUS+ KA1 Actions			February 2020	I. Alampe	Week-long training course on Marine Litter Education	Under evaluation
5	Education for alternative water resources	ERASMUS+ KA1 Actions			February 2020	V. Malotidi	Week-long training course on Teaching about Non-Conventional Water Resources	Under evaluation
6	Animation in Education	ERASMUS+ KA1 Actions			February 2020	V. Psallidas	Week-long training course on how to embed animation tools and methods in ESD	Under evaluation
7	Asterousia Summer University 2020- Youth as managers promoting sustainable development in climate challenged regions	Heraklion Development Agency & UNESCO Venice	67.000	33.500	February 2020	I. Alampe	Summer University on integrated management of BRs/protected areas this year targeting to climate vulnerable ones (Mediterranean marine PAs and BRs)	Approved
8	Increasing public awareness about EU nature protection policy – utilising EU nature data	Call for Tender ENV/2020/OP/0002	120.000	28.000	March 2020	Th. Vlachogianni	The main objective of this tender is to better use existing EU nature data to enhance public awareness about the EU nature directives and the Natura 2000 network.	Approved
9	Education Project on Water	EYDAP Thiras	32.000	32.000	March 2020	V. Malotidi	Design and application of an educational campaign on Water targeting Primary and High Schools of the island including tailored made schools interventions, educ. resources, research, events, etc.	Not approved
10	Participation and inclusion. The modern (water) museums as gateway to society	ERASMUS+ KA2 Actions	120.000	30.000	April 2020	V. Malotidi	Empowerment of vulnerable groups through Museum Learning and Activities, and development of capacities of Museum's staff and volunteers through peer-trainings.	Under evaluation
11	Odours@Schools	ERASMUS+ KA2 Actions	500.000	65.700	April 2020	V. Malotidi	Empowerment of teachers and schools in 4 EU countries to actively participate in local actions tackling the problem of odour pollution through the development and training in new innovative educational resources.	Reserve list
12	PLASTEAM: STEAM education for plastic-free primary schools	ERASMUS+ KA201 Actions	34.500	34.500	April 2020	I. Alampe	Project aims to educate primary school pupils in responsibly using, consuming & recycling plastics. MIO undertakes one of the 3 expected outputs, the STEAM Box.	Approved
13	MedBlue Tourism	ERASMUS+ KA201 Actions	300.000	45.700	April 2020	I. Alampe	The project aims to combat Ocean Litter in the Mediterranean Sea and coasts by educating and supporting tourists who are a major source of ocean pollution. MIO-ECSDE will contribute to the development of the App for tourists, the Online Course, as well as the local testing of the	Under evaluation

							IOs in selected regions of Greece	
14	Co-financing Support to LIFE+ projects	Prasino Tameio	30.000	30.000	April 2020	A. Roniotes	Submission of the Annual Programme as approved by EASME	Approved
15	Knowledge-based Approaches for deLivering Effective, Insightful, UpstanDing, InfOrmative Science COmmunication for all People (KALEIDOSCOPE)	H2020 Research	1.200.000	260.000	April 2020	Th. Vlachogianni	The project aims to strengthen the science-society interface by providing novel insights on how effective, high-caliber and reliable science communication can be achieved towards a greater degree of social acceptance of and engagement with science, political support for science, evidence-informed co-created public opinions and decisions.	Not approved
16	Σκουπίδια στην απόκη! Μαθητές και αλιείς ενημερώνονται και αναλαμβάνουν δράση για τα θαλάσσια απορρίμματα σε παράκτιες και αλιευτικές περιοχές	ΑΛΙΕΙΑ & ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑ 2014 -2020	49.946	11.700	May 2020	I. Alampei	An awareness raising project focusing on Marine Litter coming from the FISHERIES sector, to be implemented in selected spots of Southern Crete (Mesara).	Approved
17	Σκουπίδια στον αφρό! Μαθητές και επαγγελματίες τουρισμού και αναψυχής ενημερώνονται και αναλαμβάνουν δράση για τα θαλάσσια απορρίμματα στις ακτές του Μαλεβιζίου	ΑΛΙΕΙΑ & ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑ 2014 -2020	47.389	12.300	May 2020	I. Alampei	An awareness raising project on Marine Litter coming from the TOURISM & RECREATION sector, to be implemented in selected spots of Northern Crete (Heraclion).	Approved
18	Sustaining Intercultural Dialogue through deeper understanding of the Mediterranean Food (SIDUMEF)	ALF Call 2020	56.240	25.000	May 2020	V. Malotidi	The project aspires to increase awareness on food and related intangible heritage and to engage youth in dialogue; through a dynamic partnership of 5 NGO and the University of Athens, the project will focus on the joint creation of quality educational resources on Mediterranean Food.	Approved
19	Service contract for a high-level conference entitled 'Our Baltic'	DG ENV	200.000	7.000	May 2020	Th. Vlachogianni	The contractor will be in charge of arranging, in close cooperation with DG Environment and other parties involved, all logistical aspects of the event, including the arrangement of travel and accommodation for some participants, and will help generate media coverage. MIO-ECSDE will organize a beach litter monitoring activity and potentially be one of the speakers of the event.	Approved
20	Πρόταση για ΟΧΕ UNESCO - ΠΕΠ Κρήτης	Περιφέρεια Κρήτης - Δράσεις Στρατηγικής ΟΧΕ περιοχών φυσικού κάλλους UNESCO - Ομάδα Α'	229.000	79.000	July 2020	I. Alampei	The proposal aims at developing ESD projects for the three UNESCO Sites of Crete, namely The Biosphere Reserve of White Mountains-Samaria Gorge, and Geoparks of Psiloreitis and Siteia	Under evaluation
21	Σκουπίδια στον αφρό! Μαθητές και επαγγελματίες τουρισμού και αναψυχής ενημερώνονται και	ΑΛΙΕΙΑ & ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑ 2014 -2020	34.358	13.000	July 2020	I. Alampei	An awareness raising project on marine litter coming from the TOURISM & RECREATION sector, to be implemented the Rethymon, Crete,	Approved

αναλαμβάνουν δράση για τα θαλάσσια απορρίμματα στις ακτές Μυλοποτάμου								
22	Fostering knowledge transfer to tackle marine litter in the Med by integrating EbA into ICZM (Plastic Busters CAP)	CBC MED	1.093.443	133.000	July 2020	Th. Vlachogianni	The proposed project will capitalize upon and effectively transfer available knowledge and tools that address the entire management cycle of ML -from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation- in order to support concrete actions to mitigate ML on the science-policy-society interface.	Under evaluation
23	Mediterranean Dialogue for Waste Management Governance (Med4Waste)	CBC MED	1.110.655	130.000	July 2020	A. Roniotes	The Med4Waste capitalisation project aims to facilitate new governance models for integrated and efficient urban waste management policies across the Mediterranean. In line with the capitalization objectives.	Under evaluation
24	LIFE4LAKE	EU LIFE Environment	350.000	65.000	July 2020	M. Scoullas and A. Roniotes	The project aims to revitalize aquatic habitats, protect grassland Natura habitats in Jezero Njivice of Krk Island, Croatia and develop a new model for its sustainable management. It was submitted by Member NGO Ekokvarner	Under evaluation
25	MedMedia4Climate	Minor Foundation	200.000	100.000	August 2020	A. Roniotes, B. Mantzara, V. Malotidi	This activity aimed to enhance the capacity of Mediterranean journalists to better communicate climate action. It was submitted with Member organization HEAD and Greenworks4Development	Not approved
26	Mediterranean Youth works for a plastic-free future	UfM	300.000	30.000	October 2020	A Roniotes Th. Vlachogianni	The proposal was submitted by RAED with MIO-ECSDE, LHAP and APEDDUB, AMWAJ and CMED.	Under evaluation
27	Odours@School	ERASMUS+ Call Digital Education	243.911	30.000	October 2020	V. Malotidi	Empowerment of teachers and students' digital and civic skills in 3 EU countries using as a vehicle the problem of odour pollution / development of an e-course for teachers and an online educational resource, etc.	Under evaluation
28	Plastic-less society	ESA	150.000	15.000	October 2020	Th. Vlachogianni	The overall objective is to develop a consulting service on the circular economy of plastics, based on the performance assessment of the existing technologies, and the availability of the components/elements that would be updated along time as technology and understanding of the plastic cycle evolves.	Under evaluation

6. Publications & other resources

- ▶ A publication co-authored within the framework of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter: “Van Loon, W., Hanke, G., Fleet, D., Werner, S., Barry, J., Strand, J., Eriksson, J., Galgani, F., Gräwe, D., Schulz, M., Vlachogianni, T., Press, M., Blidberg, E., Walvoort, D., 2020. A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, ISBN 978-92-76-21444-1, <https://doi.org/10.2760/54369>”.
- ▶ A publication co-authored within the framework of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter: “Fleet, D.M., Vlachogianni, Th., Hanke, G., 2020. A Joint List of Litter Categories for Marine Macrolitter Monitoring. Manual for the application of the classification system. Publications Office of the European Union.”
- ▶ The Blue Manifesto co-signed by MIO-ECSDE and 101 environmental NGOs, <https://bit.ly/3827N8Z>
- ▶ A manifesto entitled "Toward an EU offshore drilling ban" co-signed by MIO-ECSDE and 21 other European environmental NGOs, <https://bit.ly/31esU6M>
- ▶ A joint declaration entitled "Our world – our goals: citizen science for the Sustainable Development Goals" co-signed by MIO-ECSDE, <https://bit.ly/2I5c6aS>
- ▶ A position paper entitled “The road to an effective EU restriction of intentionally-added microplastics”, co-signed by MIO-ECSDE and 22 other European NGOs, <https://bit.ly/3gLI1KE>
- ▶ In June, the Chairman gave an interview to the Hellenic Chapter of the Club of Rome on Security issues in Greece and the Mediterranean & the Water-Energy-Food Ecosystems (WEFE) "Nexus" (available here: <https://bit.ly/2INi2pD>).
- ▶ A Report produced within the EU-funded WES project in [EN](#), [FR](#) and AR: Reaching the 2020 Horizon: 14 years of Mediterranean cooperation on Environment.
- ▶ A Report produced within the EU-funded WES project in [EN](#) and [FR](#): Summary Report | Results of the on-line UfM Stakeholder Consultation on post-2020 Environment and Climate Action priorities in view of the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference.
- ▶ Educational material in English and Greek entitled “Plastic waste? Into the recycling bin! Far away from the blue sea. 18+1 ideas for activities” (Student Material). It is accompanied by a poster, leaflet and bookmarks (<https://medies.net/project/240569/>)



Our Members

ALBANIA (4): ALBAFOREST Center ● Environmental Center for Administration and Technology ● Environmental Centre for Development, Education and Networking ● Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment in Albania ● **ALGERIA (3):** Association Ecologique de Boumerdes ● Association Memoire de SETIF ● Association de Volontariat TOUIZA de la wilaya d'Alger ● **BELGIUM (1):** European Environmental Bureau ● **CROATIA (3):** Eko Kvarner ● Euromediterranean Forum ● The Croatian MAB Committee ● **CYPRUS (3):** Federation of Environmental & Ecological Organisations of Cyprus ● Friends of Akamas ● Terra Cypria ● **EGYPT (5):** The Arab Office for Youth and Environment ● Arab Media Forum for Environment and Development ● Arab Network for Environment and development ● Balady Association, Port Said Branch ● Nature Friends Association ● **FRANCE (8):** Association MerTerre ● Association U. 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