



Report of Activities

2019

January-November



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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1. Institutional Developments of MIO-ECSDE

1.1. Executive Bureau

The EEB appointed Anna Heslop who represents ClientEarth on the EEB Board to replace Mikael Karlsson on the MIO-ECSDE Executive Bureau (EB). Also, the Turkish representative is now Ms Ozlem Katisoz, replacing Ms. Ozgul Erdemli. The EB was therefore structured as follows:

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

1.2. Membership issues

Two eligible applications were received by the Secretariat:

- ▶ Stichting Connecting Natural Values & People Foundation – CNVP (active in Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, based in the Netherlands) **ACCEPTED AS CORRESPONDING MEMBER**
- ▶ Jordanian Society of Friends of Heritage – JFHS (active in all of Jordan, based in Irbid, a member of RAED) **ACCEPTED AS FULL MEMBER**

1.3. MIO-ECSDE Secretariat

In early 2019 **Ms Dora Vangi** who had joined the team in September as part time Communications Officer and after agreeing to continue for another year, decided to pursue other professional options. The call for a new recruit was launched in July 2019. A new recruit, **Ms Vasiliki Sgourdou**, joined on a part-time trial period in October and in November it was agreed that collaboration would continue on a full-time basis starting December 1st.

1.4. Quality management, financial auditing, accountability standards

MIO-ECSDE will be audited in 2020 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, after a period of revising and updating the manual.

The 2018 work programme covered by the Life+ Operating Grant was audited (positive) and was submitted with the final report to EASME at the end of March. The overall audited financial report of MIO-ECSDE for 2018 was also completed (positive) in July 2019 by PKF Euroauditing SA and was also sent to EASME.

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.

As full member of “Accountable Now” since the end of December 2018, 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/>). To be more effective, Bessie Mantzara participated in the Accountable Now AGM in London (May 2019) for first-hand support. Meanwhile, when reviewing Accountable Now Members’ reports, the Independent Review Panel selects answers that they feel constitute good practice and could provide valuable information for other Members and the sector. MIO-ECSDE is considered a good example in: ensuring it maintains independence whilst acquiring funding; its consultative and comprehensive process to develop policy and advocacy positions; its comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability. Two senior staff members also participated in the Accountable Now annual Workshop dedicated to exploring new ways of working in the donor-grantee relationship in order to make the power-shift towards people and communities we work for and with.

The above procedures stem from and at the same time complement the MIO-ECSDE Code of Conduct. As the procedures advance and become more and more sophisticated, the Code of Conduct is constantly being updated and enriched.

2. Continuation and enhancement of activities related to networking

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

3.1.1. 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 sent out covering the January-May, June-September, October-December highlights (English and French) mainly to Member Organisations and the wider MIO-ECSDE network of contacts, by e-mail (see <http://mio-ecsde.org/news/mio-ecsde-e-news/>).

(ii) The 'Sustainable Mediterranean'

Two issues were produced in 2019: one issue dedicated to the outcomes of the Med Action Day activities dedicated to citizen/participatory science and another to the outcomes of the 2nd Meeting of the Mediterranean ESD Committee and regional workshop (not so much as proceedings but rather highlights, progress and key messages).

(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, and a LinkedIn account was also created. The new Communications Officer is expected to enhance this area of work considerably.

(iii) The MEDIES webpage and e-bulletin

The website www.medies.net was regularly updated with ESD news, publications, outcomes of major fora, competitions, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest (on average, 1 post per week). The social media (fb) page of MEDIES is also regularly updated (on average, 1 post per weekday). In the second part of the year, the website was transferred to a new platform with a refreshed visual identity. Prior to the task, 42 members gave us feedback on the functionality of the existing website and their expectations for the new one through a user survey.

The information Bulletin of MEDIES was also circulated on a quarterly basis to its members. Read here the latest bulletin <http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?clD=18&aID=1332>

3.1.2. Capacity building, strengthening of co-operation and promoting the 'team-spirit' among NGOs and other stakeholders

Serving one of the initial scopes since its establishment, which is contributing to the capacity building of Mediterranean NGOs and within the framework of the follow-up action in the various priority fields of the Federation, MIO-ECSDE, (co)organised a number of actions in 2019.

- ▶ A number of (sub)regional MIO-ECSDE projects and campaigns are running with the active partnership of member NGOs.
- ▶ MIO-ECSDE together with RAED will continue under the Water and Environment Support (WES) mechanism (as was the case under the SWIM-H2020 SM) to support the objectives of the UfM labelled "BlueGreen Med-CS" which is devoted to capacity building and networking of NGOs, participatory processes with close involvement of the authorities in many Mediterranean countries (http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BlueGreen_Med-CS_snapshot_final.pdf). RAED and MIO-ECSDE will continue to coordinate the nomination of NGOs to participate in the capacity building activities organised under the WES till 2023. MIO-ECSDE is also a partner of another UfM labelled (February 2016) project entitled 'Plastic Busters for a litter free Mediterranean' in which the participation of member organisations is integral (<http://ufmsecretariat.org/plastic-busters-for-a-mediterranean-free-from-litter/>). Part of this labelled project is implemented under the 'Plastic Busters MPAs' project in which MIO-ECSDE is a key partner. It was launched in February 2018 and is led by the University of Siena.

3.1.3. Surveying the Membership

All MIO-ECSDE members received in April 2018 an e-survey ([in English and French](#)) with the aim to get to know what each member is working on these days; understand what their key challenges and constraints are; and what type of support they need from MIO-ECSDE. The overall aim of this exercise was to enhance the involvement of its members in the design of the MIO-ECSDE work programme and better support its members to access the necessary information, resources and capacity so that collectively we achieve the shift towards a more sustainable Mediterranean. Although the rate of replies was satisfactory for such types of surveys, we would have liked to receive more replies in order to have a better understanding from all types/sizes of member organizations. The findings confirm that the MIO-ECSDE work program reflects the priorities and aspirations of the memberships but also provides elements to guide further activities for support of our membership. 91% expressed their need for support from MIO-ECSDE on: specific environmental thematic areas; communication, outreach and networking; administrative and financial management of the NGO.

A second survey on what the members and close collaborators of MIO-ECSDE consider as major emerging issues also ran from late 2018 till May 2019: The survey was created in a way to allow the participants to drag 3 choices and rank them from 1 (being the most emerging issue) to 3 (being less so). The choices were: plastic pollution and associated issues, odour pollution, noise pollution, nanomaterials and nanotechnologies, endocrine disrupting chemicals, the invasion of alien/non-indigenous species, environmental pressures exerted by refugees and human mobility, wildfires, other.

Plastic pollution and associated issues was the most voted topic, followed by endocrine disrupting chemicals and by environmental pressures exerted by refugees and human mobility.

The results of both surveys have been considered in the 2020-2021 submissions of MIO-ECSDE (EU operating grant, WES, etc.) and meetings (2nd Meeting of the Med ESD Committee).

3.1.4. 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. This effort still needs to be further enhanced with the support of the new Communications Officer.

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)**

The 14th annual meeting of the Circle took place on the 17th of December 2019 in Rabat, Morocco, hosted at the Moroccan Parliament (see more under 3.2.6). A closed administrative session of COMPSUD members took place directly after the meeting. It was dedicated to reviewing the COMPSUD activities since the last administrative meeting of the Circle in Cyprus (2017), discussing fund raising efforts and electing the Board Members for the period 2020-2021.

As Vice-President of the MCSD Steering Committee, COMPSUD drafted in 2018 two concept notes (terms of reference), in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE for two Flagship Initiatives: one on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and one on how to “Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions, that have been successfully implemented to achieve waste reduction”. Their further consolidation and efforts to promote them and secure resources for their implementation continued in 2019. The Chairman of COMPSUD was invited to make a Statement during the Ministerial session of the Barcelona Convention COP that took place on the 4th of December in Naples, Italy. COMPSUD’s promotional video is available [here](#). It includes a description of the Circle and its history.

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

The e-network of educators is facilitated mainly through the “ESD News”, the “Awards & Competition” sections that are regularly updated (on average 1 article per week). Not surprisingly, the “MEDIES publications” section is the most useful section of the website, according to the survey run on MEDIES members to get their views on the new website. The members are also invited to participate in trainings, webinars, projects, etc.

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

The members are involved in a number of activities: the Crete event (2nd Meeting of the Med ESD Committee and regional workshop), the Summer University 2019 that took place in the Bulgarian Central Balkan BR in July. Also, MEDIES continued to keep up-to-date the members about ESD evolutions in the higher education sector, especially regarding SDG4.7 while the members were involved particularly in the dissemination of the calls for participation in major ESD trainings/events, etc.

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

Members of the network participated in SWIM-H2020 SM activities and have been invited to the “Training for Mediterranean Journalists: Talking effectively about Coastal Wetlands and Nexus Nature-based Solutions in the current context of climate change” that took place on December 16th in Rabat, Morocco, back-to-back with the COMPSUD meeting (see 3.2.4).

▶ **Other networks**

During 2019, MIO-ECSDE kept the **Act4Drin Alliance** informed on developments related to the Drin Corda process. There may be an up-coming opportunity for the Act4Drin Alliance once the Critical

Ecosystem Partnership launches a call in the sub-region exclusively for NGOs under the lead of MIO-ECSDE.

The **DeFishGear Network, a network for a litter free Adriatic and Ionian coast and sea**, was also facilitated by MIO-ECSDE during 2019.

MIO-ECSDE is a co-founder of the **Global Network of Water Museums** (<https://www.watermuseums.net/project/>) which was placed under the umbrella of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in June by its Intergovernmental Council, composed of 36 Member States. IHP is the intergovernmental programme of the UN system devoted to water research, water resources management, and education and capacity building. MIO-ECSDE is a member through the Hydria virtual museum contributing to the goal of the network to be an innovative "agent of transformation" in the global water debate and a channel to communicate SDGs and the present water challenges to new audiences.

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

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 MAP/UNEP and MCSD

MIO-ECSDE has kept close contacts with the Athens based Co-ordinating Unit of MAP/UNEP. The Federation has been invited to attend and contribute in many meetings of MAP/UNEP, its RACs (Regional Activity Centres) and of the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development (MCSD). It also hosts working meetings in its premises.

MIO-ECSDE authored for the UNEP/MAP 'State of the Environment and Development Report' in the Mediterranean the chapter on 'Research, Innovation, Education for Sustainable Development and Capacity Building'. It was approved at the COP21 in Naples in December.

The Secretariat (Thomais Vlachogianni) participated in the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring and the Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring and ENI SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators (Podgorica, Montenegro, 2-5 April 2019) and to the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices, jointly organized with the MARLICE 2019 (Seville, Spain 8-10 April 2019).

The Chairman as well as the Chairman of COMPSUD, Prof. Rejdali, participated in the 18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019) as well as in the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019). Each made a presentation on the concept notes that have been prepared. The Chairman also updated the members of the Commission on the MSED and the implementation of its Action Plan, as well as the 2nd Meeting of the Med ESD Committee in Crete (24-26 June 2019).

UNEP/MAP supported the 2nd Meeting of the Med ESD Committee in Crete, as a major contribution to the implementation of the MSSD (2016-2025). Countries' progress on setting up national strategies on ESD is tracked by the MSSD (one of the dashboard indicators). They sponsored the participation of around 10 participants.

MIO-ECSDE participated in both the MAP Focal Points Meeting which was held from 10-13 September 2019 in Athens, Greece, preceded by the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Meeting (Athens, Greece, 9 September 2019). In addition, MIO-ECSDE participated in the Regional stakeholders Consultation Meeting to contribute to the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration of COP21/ Conclusions and Recommendations (Athens, 24-25 October 2019) and joined the 'Regional Meeting on Pilot Projects and Assessment Tools for Marine Litter' held in Athens from 19-20 November 2019. On 2-5 December in Naples the 21st COP of the Barcelona Convention took place and MIO-ECSDE co-

organized a side-event dedicated to Marine Litter on 2 December 2019 and contributed a formal statement during the Ministerial session of the Conference of the Parties on 4 December.

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
- ▶ European Neighbourhood Policy and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)
- ▶ European Marine Framework Strategy Directive (MSFD) and Ocean Literacy
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Biodiversity (Natura 2000, MPAs, LIFE+, etc.)
- ▶ Resource efficiency-Circular Economy
- ▶ Sustainable Development
- ▶ Education for Sustainable Development
- ▶ Access to Information, Access to Justice, etc.
- ▶ Air/Odour pollution

EU consultations that MIO-ECSDE contributed to were:

- ▶ **The MSFD Common Implementation Strategy Questionnaire:** As the current work programme for the MSFD Common implementation strategy work programme comes to an end, the EC sought to review it critically to better understand what can be done better next time round. Therefore the EC tried to gauge what members of the various groups under the Common Implementation Strategy feel about the work of this expert group and its subgroups. The questionnaire aimed to also provide some input to the MSFD Article 20 implementation report, in view of its contribution to supporting the implementation of the Directive.
- ▶ **The Evaluation of EMODnet - Open Stakeholder Consultation:** The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) contributes to the EU's integrated maritime policy. It was set up as a flagship project to prepare a seamless multi-resolution digital seabed map of European waters by 2020. Following the Green Paper "Marine Knowledge 2020" it had been estimated that public bodies in European countries were spending over one billion euro a year in observing the seas and oceans including work by hydrographic organisations, geological surveys, scientists and environmental agencies. However, scientists and engineers who wanted to use the data had encountered that they were difficult to find and were hampered by restrictive usage conditions and poor interoperability. Data from different sources had different baselines, different formats, different nomenclature and different standards. The Commission Communication on "Innovation in the Blue Economy" set out a roadmap for replacing the fragmented, inaccessible and inhomogeneous repositories of marine data in the EU by a sustainable process whereby data are easily accessible, interoperable and free of restrictions on use. EMODnet is now operational and the EC sought to collect feedback on its effectiveness, weakness and strengths.
- ▶ **Implementation and compliance with EU environmental laws in the Member States - survey 2019:** The EU has adopted a wide range of measures with the aim of protecting and improving the quality of the environment for European citizens. The primary responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of European environmental legislation lies with the Member States. The objective of the European Commission is to work with Member States to ensure that EU legislation is fully implemented. As part of this process, the Commission sought to get a better understanding of the needs and expectations of environmental practitioners in

administrations, businesses and organisations that enforce environmental law and citizens who have a keen interest in compliance and enforcement in their country, region or municipality.

- ▶ **The future of the LIFE programme: What are your expectations?** Executive Bureau member Prof. Gerassimos Arapis participated in an EU consultation meeting in Brussels on 6-7 November 2019 representing MIO-ECSDE. The aim of the meeting was to discuss with stakeholders the future of the Programme and their expectations for the period 2021 – 2027. Prof. Arapis contributed to the Nature and biodiversity sub-group and especially in the Round Table related to the lack of knowledge and insufficient monitoring of Natura 2000 areas. The main result of these discussions was the necessity to mobilize not only the scientific community, but also civil society and decision makers, in order to better use the academic knowledge at hand.

MIO-ECSDE together with Seas At Risk, Ocean Care, Coalition Clean Baltic, Surfrider, Bund, Natuurpunt, IFAW and WDC signed off a **joint letter related to the MSFD implementation beyond 2020** and foreseen discussions at upcoming Marine Directors' meeting on 13-15 June 2019. The joint letter which was sent to head of unit of the Marine Unit in DG ENV and the Romanian Marine Director raised the concern that the Romanian presidency and the European Commission intend to lead a discussion with the Marine Directors on the implementation of the Marine Directive beyond 2020, when no such discussions were held at the MSCG meeting in May. This means that stakeholders (who participate as observers in the MSCG, among which MIO-ECSDE) have not had the opportunity to share their views. Given that stakeholders are usually not invited at Marine Directors meetings, the MSCG is the only opportunity for NGOs to provide input. Customarily, discussions at the Marine Directors meetings are prepared at the MSCG meeting before and/or are supported by a background document prepared by the European Commission. In both cases, stakeholders have a chance to assess the direction of the discussions and provide input. The document prepared by the European Commission in June 2017 on the 'Future implementation of the MSFD' did not expand on what should happen beyond 2020 and therefore is not sufficient to allow preparation for this discussion. The signatory NGOs expressed the strong belief that such a discussion should be held with all relevant parties, including stakeholders, based on a reflection paper produced by the European Commission outlining the different possible scenarios, including legal implications of implementing the Directive beyond its deadline, and based on the result of the Article 20 report currently in preparation.

Leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US, comprising the Group of 7 (G7), convened in Biarritz (France) from 24-26 August 2019, under the French presidency, to discuss among other issues climate change, biodiversity and oceans. Specifically, under the overarching theme of the summit entitled 'Fight Against Inequalities' the priority of reducing environmental inequality by protecting the planet through climate finance and a just ecological transition, based on preserving biodiversity and the oceans was set. To put the ocean firmly on the G7 negotiating table, Surfrider Foundation Europe and other civil society actors, organized a 3-day Ocean Pavilion in the lead up to the Summit. The main outcome of the Ocean Pavilion was the 'Ocean Call' asking the Group of Seven to adopt binding measures and a time-bound action plan to protect, restore and strengthen the resilience of the ocean to the many threats it faces, including pollution, acidification, climate change, exploitation and irreversible marine and coastal habitat and biodiversity loss. MIO-ECSDE **joined and co-signed the Ocean Call** and the priority actions needed to reduce plastic production and consumption and address the pollution impact that plastics have on the ocean.

MIO-ECSDE together with the EEB, CIEL, BFFP and 28 other NGOs **signed off a position paper for an impactful restriction of microplastics**. The position paper was sent to the EU ENVI ministers and to the AGRI, Health and Economy ministers of the EU Member States. Civil society has been raising this issue for more than 40 years and campaigns have already denounced, for example, the unnecessary and highly problematic use of microplastics in cosmetics. As set out very clearly and comprehensively in the scientific report prepared by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA); microplastics constitute a

serious risk to the environment and a potential risk to human health, a source of exponential pollution that is currently, and undeniably, out of control. The undersigned NGOs recognized the efforts ECHA has carried out on the issue and stressed that for the restriction to be effective in controlling the risk (as required under Annex XV of the REACH Regulation), it must prevent any release of microplastics into the environment. This can only be achieved with a restriction covering all uses of microplastics.

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

During 2019 MIO-ECSDE took into consideration in all its thematic priorities and activities the outcomes of the various global developments and priorities of various fora that are follow-up actions of the Rio process or linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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:

major developments in 2019 include the organisation of the 2nd Meeting of the Mediterranean Committee on ESD (Crete, 24-26 June 2019). The Cypriot government continues to support MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES under this theme. During the Crete event 18 Mediterranean countries reported their progress on ESD, through their Environment and Education Ministries' representatives, and 2 more (Turkey & Syria) through NGOs.

Global Action Programme (GAP) of UNESCO on ESD (2015-2019): MIO-ECSDE through MEdIES participates in the GAP Partner Network 1 on Advancing Policy, with Prof. Scoullos actively co-chairing it. The 2019 GAP PN closing meeting with lessons learned from the five years of implementation and way forward (Hanoi, 2-3 July), was held back-to-back to the Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED), two key programmes to the achievement of Target 4.7 SDG 4 on Education (Hanoi, 4-5 July). Prof. Scoullos coordinated the working session of the Partner Network 1 providing suggestions to UNESCO on elements for the implementation roadmap of the new "ESD for 2030" framework such as the new ESD national initiatives, monitoring and evaluation issues, advocacy and evidence-based research.

The Chairman participated in the 14th Meeting of the **UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development** (2-3 May 2019, Geneva) where he informed on the latest developments under the MSESD and its Action Plan. He also participated in the **2nd Meeting of the UNECE ad hoc group for the strategic planning of "ESD 2030"** that took place in Cyprus on 27 September 2019.

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

The Secretariat has continued to closely monitor the developments of the UfM and maintained its close relationship with the Secretariat. The UfM Secretariat supported the 2nd Meeting of the Med ESD Committee in Crete, as a significant contribution to the monitoring of the implementation of the MSESD Action Plan. They sponsored the participation of 10 participants.

MIO-ECSDE actively participated in the 3rd UfM Task Force on Environment, in Brussels on 9 January 2019 which contributed to the preparation of the concept note for a potential 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate change to take place in the second half of 2020. Within the SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism (up till end of April) MIO-ECSDE had a supporting role in the H2020 consolidation process and the planning for the post-2020 UfM environment and climate change agenda. This continues under WES as well.

In fact, MIO-ECSDE supported the 10th and last meeting of the Horizon 2020 Steering Group (Athens, 25 September 2019). The aim of this last Steering Group meeting of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a

Cleaner Mediterranean was to discuss the impacts of the Initiative, the lessons learned from the overall experience and what the potential next steps could be. The proposed title for the follow-up Initiative is: “Towards 2030: Agenda for a Greener Med” with the subtitle “Contributing to Achieving the Environmental SDGs in the Mediterranean” and a proposed acronym “2030GreenerMed”.

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

MIO-ECSDE acts as Host Institute of the GWP-Med Secretariat and continues its fruitful collaboration with it. As a member of the GWP-Med network, MIO-ECSDE promoted in early 2019 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 project on water management techniques of the past;
- ▶ The collaboration with the Department of Graphic Design of the Faculty of Graphic Arts and Design of the Technological Institute of Athens (TEI) for the production of a series of short video animations on water.
- ▶ The Drin Corda (Coordinated Action for a Sustainable Future).

MIO-ECSDE also hosted a series of GWP meetings at its premises.

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

3.2.1. Trainings organized within the SWIM - H2020 Support Mechanism

A number of capacity building activities took place in the first months of 2019 that were facilitated or supported by MIO-ECSDE as consortium member of this major EU-funded regional project, such as:

- ▶ Technical assistance for addressing industrial pollution from the tanning and olive oil mill industries, Ramallah, Palestine, 28-29 January 2019
- ▶ Support in environmental inspection and enforcement of environmental legislation, Ramallah, Palestine, 30-31 January 2019
- ▶ National Training on the Cost of Environmental Degradation, Beirut, Lebanon, 4-5 February 2019
- ▶ National Training on enhancing environmental communication skills for Media and other relevant professionals, Ramallah, Palestine 4 March 2019
- ▶ Finalisation of a set of Guidelines on the sustainable management of dredging materials for Tunisia

3.2.2. 2nd Meeting of the Mediterranean ESD Committee: Executive Meeting and Regional Workshop (24-26 June 2019)

Preparations for this major event had started in 2018 and efforts were rewarded. All major international/intergovernmental organisation confirmed their support and presence to the event. The meeting ended up being co-organised and supported by the EU, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UN Environment MAP, UNESCO, UNECE, League of Arab States (LAS), UNESCO Chair & Network on ESD

in the Mediterranean/University of Athens, the Heraklion Development Agency, the Region of Crete, the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus and the Government of Greece. It was held under the auspices of the Hellenic National Commission of UNESCO, the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy. The events took place on the occasion of the nomination of Asteroussia to join the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) of UNESCO.

The objectives of the meetings were:

- ▶ To review the progress made in mainstreaming and applying the Action Plan (AP) of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) by the countries and stakeholders, and provide input to the international and regional processes and frameworks where MSESD is integrated: ESD 2030 (by UNESCO, following the GAP), the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), the initiatives of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).
- ▶ To promote thematic priorities of the region through the lenses of ESD, such as:
 - Education on Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP) and links with green/circular economy
 - Combating Marine Litter and Plastics through ESD and promoting ocean literacy
 - ESD, Biodiversity issues and links with Biosphere Reserves (BRs)
 - Education for Human Rights, Refugees & Inclusive Societies.

The meeting gathered 80 participants from 20 countries. In general, all countries had an important progress to share regarding ESD promotion and mainstreaming in the related policies, agendas and initiatives, at the national level, since the 1st Meeting of the Med ESD Committee, in Nicosia, Cyprus (November 2017), a very encouraging and positive fact. The need of more and effective collaboration among countries and programmes was once more highlighted and the Secretariat of the Committee (held by MEDIES and the UNESCO Chair on ESD/University of Athens) promised to intensify efforts towards this end, with the help of the counties. Common challenges in the application of ESD at national and regional level were identified and ideas for the way forward at the regional level were proposed as regards the promotion and application of the AP. The representatives of the International Organisations reconfirmed their will to further support the process of promotion and application of the MSESD and its AP. The case studies presented were highly appreciated by the participants and particularly their “transferability”, leading the Committee to prepare and produce the “proceedings” of the Meeting (currently compiled in a Sustainable Mediterranean issue presenting the highlights, key messages and progress reported). The example of the Asteroussia area as a case of a territory committed to be sustainable and keep strong links with ESD was noted as one of the take-home messages of the meetings. Furthermore some of the cases presented in this meeting were included in the subsequent joint UfM and MIO-ECSDE publication entitled “Education for Sustainable Consumption, Behaviour and Lifestyles: A collection of case studies” available [here](#).

3.2.3. Summer University on Integrated Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Promotion of Biosphere Reserves (BRs)

MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES has co-organised and scientifically supervised this 5th in a series of Summer Universities that have been previously (co)organised by MIO-ECSDE, through MEDIES, on topics related to the sustainable management of Protected Areas and Biosphere Reserves (BR). This year’s Summer University, co-organised with the UNESCO Venice Office, the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation and a series of stakeholders from Bulgaria, took place from 21 to 28 July at the Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve. The topic was Integrated Management, Sustainable Tourism and Promotion of Biosphere Reserves. 35 participants from 15 countries were accepted out of 125 applicants.

It was an intensive, multidisciplinary and experiential training that aimed to develop the

understanding and competences of the participants on the management of Biosphere Reserves as "laboratories" and "catalysts" for Sustainable Development. During the week, in a program combining theoretical sessions, practical work and many visits, the participants were introduced to and discussed the future of Biosphere Reserves. Read more on the agenda, presentations and the group work outcomes here: <http://medies.net/staticpages.asp?cID=8&aID=1316>

3.2.4. Training for Mediterranean Journalists: Talking effectively about Coastal Wetlands and Nexus Nature-based Solutions in the current context of climate change (16 December 2019)

The Mediterranean is getting hotter – and we need its wetlands more than ever. Wetlands are at the heart of life itself. They give us our drinking water, irrigate our crops, support huge biodiversity, underpin cultures, and are increasingly vital in the fight to mitigate and adapt to climate change. But our wetlands are in trouble. In the Mediterranean we have destroyed about half of them in the last 50 years, and there are intense pressures on remaining areas, most of which are damaged and degraded. When we lose our wetlands, we lose all the benefits and services they offer – and with a growing population and a planet that is heating up, we cannot afford for this to happen.

This training explored why wetlands matter, particularly when it comes to mitigate the effects of climate change. It also provided fundamentals to talk about these issues through an accessible set of narrative and visual tools. It was in support of an important campaign on raising awareness on the value of coastal wetlands under the name “OFF YOUR MAP” which is run through a collaboration of 12 organisations: BirdLife, DiversEarth, GWP-Med, IUCN Med, MedINA, MedPAN, MedWet, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, Tour du Valat, Wetlands International, WWF. Read details about the training here: <http://mio-ecsde.org/journalists-and-mio-ecsde-member-ngos-now-better-equipped-to-protect-disappearing-coastal-wetlands-of-the-mediterranean-2/>.

The training was a joint effort co-organised by the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the “OFF YOUR MAP” campaign supported by the MAVA Foundation for Nature, the International Water Management Institute and the ‘Making Water Cooperation Happen in the Mediterranean’ project (aka the Water Matchmaker) supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Trainees were also invited to participate on the following day in a meeting of Mediterranean Parliamentarians & Stakeholders dedicated to "Launching a new decade of sustainable development in the Mediterranean" that was hosted at the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco. It was a unique opportunity for journalists to be informed first-hand and directly interact with Members of Parliament from many Mediterranean countries as well as international organisations, experts and NGOs working towards a common goal in the region.

3.2.5. 24th Annual General Meeting of MIO-ECSDE (16 December 2019)

Invitations were sent out to the Membership in October informing of the back-to-back set-up. It took place in the afternoon of the 16th of December after the training for Mediterranean Journalists and NGOs. The AGM was very successful with the Members confirming/validating the Executive Bureau’s report, decisions and proposals, including the suggested 2020 Work Programme and provisional Finances. A physical meeting of the Executive Bureau of MIO-ECSDE was also combined with the AGM. An on-line Executive Bureau meeting took place on the 28th of November 2019 in preparation of the AGM.

3.2.6. C.2.6. 14th Meeting of Mediterranean Parliamentarians & Stakeholders: Launching a new decade of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, hosted at the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco (17 December 2019)

This year's COMPSUD meeting took place at a moment where significant difficulties and challenges concerning the environment and sustainable development throughout the world and in the Mediterranean, in particular, have become visible to the entire society and a new stimulus is needed for an inspiring vision to address them in the new decade towards 2030. It was a joint effort co-organised by the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the "OFF YOUR MAP" campaign supported by the MAVA Foundation for Nature, the International Water Management Institute and the 'Making Water Cooperation Happen in the Mediterranean' project (aka the Water Matchmaker) supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The COMPSUD meeting hosted at the Moroccan Parliament was an opportunity for Parliamentarians and other Stakeholders to receive first-hand information from high level officials and experts of regional and international organizations and bodies active in the Mediterranean region, presenting the state-of-the art policies and good practices on key issues such as marine litter and plastic pollution, the use of non-conventional water resources, coastal wetlands protection, etc.

The first part of the meeting (Sessions I and II) concentrated on known and emerging issues and involved Parliamentarians and Stakeholders in an interactive dialogue which, hopefully, will be useful and inspiring enough for MPs to raise and address these issues in their national Parliaments.

In the second part (Session III) the meeting concentrated on climate change and its impacts on coastal wetlands and the water-energy-food-ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus.

More than 180 Mediterranean stakeholders participated, from high-level Moroccan officials, representatives of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UN Environment Programme/MAP, the League of Arab States (LAS), Parliamentarians, Members of COMPSUD, COMJESD (Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development), to Media, Scientists and other representatives of Civil Society (from Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey). The meeting unanimously approved the **Rabat Declaration**. The Declaration takes note and echoes all the major recent global, regional and EU political decisions and emphasizes the need for urgent action in the Mediterranean based on renewed and strong political will and significant resource mobilization. There is a need to work systematically together in order to, among others, strengthen efficient governance and promote a green, circular and possibly carbon neutral economy based on sound scientific evidence-based decision-making; prioritize integrated environmental planning and management, introduce combined and integrated ways for addressing biodiversity loss and land degradation, specific legislation for phasing out single use plastics; systematically promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and much more. With the bitter taste of a failed UNFCCC COP25 (Madrid, 2-13 December 2019) participants also committed to a stronger and more coordinated approach in view of COP26 planned for Glasgow in about a year's time (November 2020).

For the members of COMPSUD, a closed administrative session of COMPSUD members took place directly after the meeting. It was dedicated to reviewing the COMPSUD activities since the last administrative meeting of the Circle in Cyprus (2017), discussing fund raising efforts and electing the Board Members for the period 2020-2021.

A field visit to a nearby wetland of the Rabat-Sale-Kenitra region took place in the morning of the 18th

of December.

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:

- ▶ Participated in important events relating to water (Beirut Water Week in April 2019, the Closing Conference of SWIM-H2020 SM, the UNESCO International Water Conference in Paris, May 2019, etc.).
- ▶ 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 participation in a Meeting of the Drin Core Group held in Pristina at the end of May.
- ▶ Continued to promote various older and newer educational materials such as “Water in the Mediterranean” (available in seven languages); the “Alter Aqua” material for Malta, the “other water” for Cyprus, and the various editions of the “Gift of Rain” for Greece (all water publications available [here](#)).
- ▶ Ran a pilot awareness campaign ‘Animation4water’ in Malta and Greece. The campaign is being ‘packaged’ to be replicated in other countries.
- ▶ Following the long-standing collaboration with GWP-Med within the NCWRM Programme (which has now ended), MIO-ECSDE, through MEDIES, completed the educational activities of the “Water for the City” Programme.
- ▶ HYDRIA is a member of the World Network of Water Museums (<https://www.watermuseums.net>), with prof. Scoullou participating in the Management Board, while Vicky Malotidi was one of the trainers in the Network’s Conference (Valencia, 11-13 June 2019) coordinating a session and delivering the key presentation on “Water Museums, Education & the SDGs”.

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

In 2019 the following actions were undertaken:

- ▶ Organized biodiversity related events (the Crete events in June, the Summer University in Bulgaria in July, the Plastic Busters MPAs Info Day in Athens in November).
- ▶ Participated in and contributed to relevant consultations/conferences/meetings: a consultation in Asteroussia (Crete) to prepare their application to join the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) of UNESCO; a mission to Paris and the MAB Secretariat in support of the Asteroussia application; provision of expertise to a UNESCO Chair on water and ecosystems based in Drama on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems nexus, etc.
- ▶ Within the Interreg Med 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 Med MPAs; 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.

- ▶ Ran the ‘Marine Litter Watch Month’ in several coastal and marine protected areas located in Albania, Croatia, France, Italy, Spain.
- ▶ Within the recently approved Interreg Med 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 science and the elaboration of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans for 7 MPAs and of a joint action plan.

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

3.3.3. Marine and Coastal issues

In 2019, MIO-ECSDE followed closely the progress of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and continued to be a member of the Working Group on Good Environmental Status (WG GES) and the Marine Strategic Coordination Group (MSCG). Furthermore, Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni has been actively contributing to the work of the EU /MSFD Good Environmental Status (GES) Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter. More specifically:

MIO-ECSDE hosted in January 2019 an ad hoc working group meeting of the Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter focused on the fine-tuning of the European-wide marine litter monitoring joint list of items. In May 2019, MIO-ECSDE in close collaboration with the German delegate of the group, developed clear and concise definitions for all entries on the joint list of marine litter items.

MIO-ECSDE also developed a comprehensive list of some 70 marine litter related projects that will be published by the JRC/MSFD TGML in the upcoming months. MIO-ECSDE participated in the 13th meeting of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter held in Gothenburg from 26 to 28 of June 2019 making several interventions at the meeting and undertaking a series of tasks to be implemented within 2019. MIO-ECSDE contributed to the elaboration of a ‘Proposal towards a SMART Threshold Value for Beach Litter’ and co-authored a technical report entitled ‘A European Beach Litter Threshold Value and Assessment Method’ that was submitted to the 25th meeting of the Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG) (Brussels, November 2019). The ‘Joint List of Marine Litter Items’ was also submitted to the MSCG and both documents were approved. In the next coming months MIO-ECSDE will be working together with the Regional Agency of Coastal Protection, National Park, and Marine Protection of Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) to elaborate an operational manual for the joint list. In addition, MIO-ECSDE is closely working with IFREMER and JRC in order to develop the revised guidelines for seafloor monitoring. Last but not least, MIO-ECSDE provided marine litter data to EMODNET to support the upcoming activities of the MSFD TG on marine litter. MIO-ECSDE actively contributed to the ‘Marine Floating Macro Litter’ workshop organized by JRC in Rome, February 2019.

MIO-ECSDE elaborated the synthesis report on “Monitoring marine litter on beaches in the Mediterranean” aiming to fill in the marine litter knowledge gaps in the region through a participatory-science initiative. The results of the study are a direct contribution to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Plastics Strategy, as well as to the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2O5s4AS>. MIO-ECSDE processed the study’s results and elaborated an article entitled “Plastic pollution on the Mediterranean coastline: generating fit-for-purpose data to support decision-making via a participatory-science initiative” that was accepted to be published by the peer-reviewed journal ‘Science of the Total Environment’.

MIO-ECSDE has also been actively contributing to the promotion of citizen/participatory science in marine litter data collection at pan-European level and in this respect, it has been in close contact with the EEA and contributed to the Marine Litter Watch Community meeting held in Copenhagen, June 2019.

In July 2019, MIO-ECSDE was invited by the EC and the JRC to contribute to the EMBLAS Black Sea Marine Litter Workshop held in Constanta. MIO-ECSDE shared its knowledge and expertise on issues related to beach litter monitoring and the production of fit-for-purpose data for effective decision making. The meeting was attended by some 30 delegates from the two EU member states, Bulgaria and Romania and from Georgia, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.

In September 2019, the NIRAS project invited MIO-ECSDE to contribute to the TAIEX EPPA Regional Workshop on 'Managing Marine Litter in EPPA Countries: Challenges, Approaches, Developments' held in Split. MIO-ECSDE's intervention focused on best practice measures to curb marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs.

On the 8th of October 2019, MIO-ECSDE joined the 'G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter' held in Tokyo and shared its insights on the scientific advances and challenges on marine litter monitoring and assessment projects in European Regional Seas. The workshop was co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the EU Directorate-General for Environment and the US Environmental Protection Agency. MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni was among the invited speakers of the session focusing on best practices for monitoring and assessment of plastic litter and it had the unique opportunity to inform the G20 Leaders about the key findings of European monitoring and assessment projects as well as to highlight the main challenges of turning science into policy and actions. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/33TF5Eh>

On the 30th of October 2019, MIO-ECSDE joined a meeting at the Greek Parliament aimed to inform MPs on the impacts of plastics and single-use plastics (SUPs) on the marine environment and to advance the discussions towards catalysing Greece's efforts to implement the SUPs Directive. It was the water resources subcommittee of the Special Permanent Committee on Environmental Protection of the Greek Parliament that organised the event. It was chaired by Ms. Avgerinopoulou, who heads the Committee and is a former Chairperson of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) with a formidable track record both in Greece and the Mediterranean. Both, the MIO-ECSDE Chairman and the MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer Thomais Vlachogianni were among the invited speakers. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/36FKNM5>

Within 2019 MIO-ECSDE also carried out activities focusing on marine litter within the framework of the SWIM-H2020 SM and PLASTICBUSTERS MPAs projects and the framework of its collaboration with the UfM and UN Environment/MAP.

3.3.4. Culture and Sustainability in the Mediterranean

During 2019 MIO-ECSDE did the following:

- ▶ Maintained and further promoted the HYDRIA website (www.hydraproject.info) – acknowledged as a good example bridging ESD and Cultural practices (see [here](#)). It is now part of the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMUNET). MEdIES participated in the 3rd International Conference of the Global Network of Water Museums in conjunction with the 1st International Conference of the Tribunal de las Aguas (Valencia, Spain, 12 – 15 June 2019). Currently, MEdIES is cooperating with the WAMUNET in the promotion and implementation of the global youth contest "The Water We Want", calling children and youth to reflect novel ideas on the importance of the water heritage and its links to climate change through drawings, videos and photos (more information is available [here](#))

- ▶ As regards the Mediterranean Food agenda, the e-learning course about Mediterranean Food ([here](#)), has successfully run three times within 2019 (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](#)).
- ▶ Co-organised for the first time in Greece an Exhibition on African Art entitled ‘A Glance at African Art’ with artefacts from the personal collection of the Chairman of MIO-ECSDE. It was hosted at the Mihalis Cakogiannis Foundation, supported by Culture4All and MIO-ECSDE and was under the auspices of the National Commission of UNESCO in Greece. The Embassies of the North African countries that visited the exhibition were particularly appreciative of this cultural initiative.

3.3.5. *Med Action Day 2019: Participatory Science*

A total of 11 applications were received, out of which 9 met the requirements of the call and were selected (5 of the 9 are member NGOs of MIO-ECSDE). The beneficiaries are from the following countries: Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Slovenia, Spain. In the end, 8 reports were submitted.

The activities covered a variety of themes as follows:

- ▶ 3 on Marine litter monitoring surveys;
- ▶ 1 on awareness raising on coastal waste characterization studies and on the single-use plastics directive;
- ▶ 2 on citizen-science on monitoring marine biodiversity;
- ▶ 1 on mitigating the impacts of bycatch on sea turtle and shark populations in Greece;
- ▶ 1 on awareness about bats and their significance for ecosystems and humans.

An issue of Sustainable Mediterranean is dedicated to the MAD 2019 activities.

4. Implementing education for sustainable development through the MEDIES secretariat

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

An overview of what MEDIES did in 2019 could be summed up as follows:

- ▶ Facilitated the e-network of educators (www.medies.net). The MEDIES webpage is updated on a weekly basis with ESD related news, competitions, conference outcomes, etc. of Euro-Mediterranean interest. It was totally re-constructed and re-designed and was launched at the end of 2019.
- ▶ Followed ESD political processes at many levels (European, UfM, UNECE, UNESCO/GAP, etc.). The MEDIES Coordinator, Prof. Scoullos led the monitoring process of the Action Plan of the MSED and is co-chairing the GAP experts’ team on Policy (PN1).
- ▶ Authored and produced new teaching and learning materials (in printed or e-form).
- ▶ Facilitated the Mediterranean Universities Network for ESD (MedUnNET).
- ▶ Launched three new mini-projects/campaigns on water, plastics, diversity & inclusive pedagogies.
- ▶ Prepared and disseminated on a quarterly basis the e- bulletin to its members (see [MEDIES bulletins](#)).

4.1. Cooperation with the Għajn Water Conservation and Awareness Centre and the Water and Energy Agency of Malta

Following the second mission to the Centre in December 2018 and the ‘field-testing’ with students, teachers and experts, the new educational programmes (inclusive of four brochures and tailor-made hands-on materials) have been completed. They are on: (a) the Water Cycle & responsible water use; (b) Water management in the past & mostly in forts; (c) The water systems in Malta with an emphasis on Non-Conventional Water Resources; and (d) the ‘green’ elements of the Għajn Centre itself. The final teacher trainings took place on 16 October 2019 (primary level) and 17 October 2019 (secondary level), animated by I. Alampei and V. Malotidi. In these trainings 25 teachers tried out the programmes and assessed the new brochures which will be used by the Għajn staff during the regular school visits to their Centre.

MIO-ECSDE and the Water and Energy Agency of Malta with the support of the University of West Attika (Department of Graphic and Visual Communication) developed an Awareness & Educational

Programme using short-video animations: The Animation 4 Water campaign. The Agency set up the exhibition of storyboards and played the short animations on the occasion of the GHAIN open week 24-28 April 2019, reaching a total of 1500 visitors (through free visits and organised tours).

Similarly, in Greece the exhibition displays reached 773 students and 65 teachers so far.

The exhibition is inexpensive, light-weight and easy to set up in schools, awareness centers, festivals, etc. Guidelines have been developed so that any interested party can replicate it while ESD teacher trainings on how to use the exhibition are underway in Greece (and soon in other countries).

4.2. Project on recycling and marine litter in the Greek islands

Following our collaboration during the education activities carried out in Nikaia municipality (Oct-Dec 2018) on Marine Litter, the Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation (HERRCO) invited MEDIES to submit a proposal for joint educational actions on marine litter and plastics recycling in 3 Greek islands. The project was approved and the MEDIES team prepared and carried out the pedagogic interventions for schools of Lefkada, Paros and Rhodes (Nov-Dec 2019). A poster was developed and handed out to the students. All material has been approved by the Greek Ministry of Education. The events organised in each island combine school visits, a teacher training and an event dedicated to the general public. Proper waste management and increased recycling is a very “hot” topic for these communities. By the end of the year some 2000 students and 200 adults were impacted by the activities, while the project is expected to be expanded further in 2020.

4.3. The online educational application on NCWRs

This [online educational material](#) was developed as a web application or web app, an interactive and playful tool inviting the learners themselves to find out about the various aspects of non-conventional water resources, urban water vulnerability, the urban climate vulnerability aspects, etc. Though it is developed for a target group of learners of 10-13 years old, several sections can be used by both younger (with the educators’ facilitation) and older students. It finalized during 2019.

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

“Water for the city” was a pilot project in the city of Alexandroupolis, to promote an integrated approach to water management at the urban level. Its goal was to increase water supply for urban use and promote good practices for the sustainable water use in the city. MIO-ECSDE was in charge of the educational activities up till mid-2018. In early 2019 the Alexandroupolis Natural History Museum expressed the interest to “host” the WfC material and activities with visiting students, with the cooperation of the Municipality of Alexandroupolis, the Water Service Company, and the ESD officers of the Ministry of Education. Between March-April 2019 around 1600 students from kindergarten and primary level were engaged in the WfC hands-on activities during their visit to the Museum. Such progress proves that the local community embraced and valued this ESD project.

4.5. DIVE-In Mutual skills' building in Diversity, Inclusive pedagogies of trainers

The project was born from the need to strengthen inclusion within the sustainable school. MIO-ECSDE’s MEDIES team launched the DIVE IN project in early 2019. It involves mutual skills’ building in Diversity and Inclusive pedagogies of trainers aiming to achieve more inclusive and respectful to one another

communities. Educators, animators and trainers (formal and non-formal) from Greece, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine co-design and apply inclusive education practices for diverse groups, with emphasis on disadvantaged learners (refugees, poor, marginalized, excluded etc.).

A group of experts (formal and non formal educators) was formed in each country, in order to co-develop and pilot interventions, tailored to the national needs. In May 2019 a peer learning seminar took place in Athens. The pilots in all countries took place between July and November 2019, and all material and interventions were compiled in the form of a guidebook for educators (in English). The project was funded by the UNESCO Participation Programme and the EU Operating Grant for 2019. The partners were: Land and Human to Advocate Progress (Jordan), the Makhzoumi Foundation (Lebanon), and A.M. Qattan Foundation (Palestine).

4.6. Erasmus+ KA1 Course on Marine Litter Education

Following our January 2019 call, a week-long course on marine litter education (under the Erasmus plus training courses for teachers) took place between 6 and 12 October 2019 in Athens with 16 participants from Malta and Cyprus. The MEdIES team is very proud to have achieved for the first time a 100% satisfaction rating from the course trainees (anonymous online evaluation questionnaires sent a few days after the event). This outcome motivates us to repeat it and we urge the European members of MIO-ECSDE to support us in the recruiting process for European teachers and trainers that would be interested to attend (announcement is circulated in January every year).

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

5.1. LIFE+ 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 2018-2019 biennium. The Final report 2018 was submitted on time at the end of March 2019. A few minor clarifications were requested by EASME. In early June, MIO-ECSDE also submitted a proposal for the next biennium (2020-2021). Positive results were announced in October and by the end of the month a detailed proposal for 2020 was submitted by the Secretariat.

5.2. SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism

The EU funded SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism, in which MIO-ECSDE was a key partner in charge of the H2020 (Environment) component, drew to a close at the end of April 2019. Achievements and lessons learned from the 3 intense years of working with stakeholders in the Partner Countries were thoroughly discussed at the Closing Conference of the project (Brussels, 8 April 2019) and have been captured in a project *summary booklet*.

5.3. The Water and Environment (WES) mechanism

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 Barcelona Convention and to contribute to a more efficient management of scarce water resources in the Neighbourhood South region. The kick-off meeting took place in Brussels on the 24th of May and the first Steering Committee Meeting took place on the 26th of September 2019.

The expected results are:

- ▶ Design and implementation of relevant national regulatory frameworks in the field of pollution reduction are improved.
- ▶ Efficient use of water in urban and rural areas is strengthened through capacity building and dissemination of means to improve water use.
- ▶ Innovative approaches and successful practices in the field of efficient use of water are monitored and disseminated.
- ▶ The capacity of the UfM to contribute to the regional dialogue in the fields of water and environment is strengthened through technical support.
- ▶ Appropriation of the project results by the stakeholders is reinforced.

5.4. The Horizon 2020 D-NOSES project

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

So far (1,5 years into the project) MIO-ECSDE has advanced in the development of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) and preliminary advocacy actions.

The MOOC aims to raise awareness on the odour pollution issue and familiarize and engage the citizens with the tools to deal with it, particularly with the tools and methodologies created by D-NOSES.

On advocacy, MIO-ECSDE assisted the project partners in charge of pilot cases, by developing an "Advocacy Toolkit" consisting of a collection of methods that can be used to design and implement their own, local advocacy strategy. To provide a common document for project dissemination to policy makers and local authorities, MIO-ECSDE co-wrote the first D-NOSES Policy Brief on odour pollution. This policy brief, available in different languages, 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.

A D-NOSES stand was set up in Crete, in June 2019, during the 2nd Meeting of the Mediterranean ESD Committee, where officials from Ministries of Education and Ministries of Environment, educators of all levels, academia, NGOs, etc. participated, to present to them the project and the tools that have been created in its first year.

A D-NOSES stand was also set up during the 2019 COMPSUD meeting to present the project and engage Mediterranean Parliamentarians. It was also set up on the 16th of December 2019 during a COMJESD training, to engage journalists and ensure wider communication of the project in the Mediterranean countries.

5.5. The Interreg Med Plastic Busters MPAs project

Plastic Busters 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.

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

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

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

5.6. 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 was approved in October 2019 and its implementation has already started. By strengthening the management and the networking of the 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.

5.7. Submissions of proposals

The status of MIO-ECSDE proposal submissions and approvals/rejections for 2019 are as follows:

	Title	Donor Agency	Amount	Submission date	Officer in charge	Brief description	Comments
1	Supporting the Mediterranean to meet the SDG 4.7	Sida	350.000 €	January 2018 + 27/02/2018 elaborated message	V.Malotidi + I.Alampe	Capacity building events on ESD /AP /MSED in ten Med. Countries (3yrs)	Concept Note proposal sent to Sida for consideration Not approved
2	FAIR data based framework for Science and Society (FAIRWAVES)	H2020 Research	2.999.000 € (270.000 € for MIO-ECSDE)	April 2018	Th. Vlachogianni	The project focuses on improving scientific data FAIRness	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. The applicant is CNR Not approved
3	Green Growth and Circular Economy – Ad hoc stakeholder engagement activities and stakeholder engagement Toolkit	EC Framework Contract, ENV.B.1/FRA/2018/0002	It is a framework contract so MIO-ECSDE's budget will be defined based on the relevant requests by DG ENV.	April 2018	Th. Vlachogianni	The proposal focuses on the organisation of a series of outdoor exhibitions on marine litter and plastic waste, in five target countries	The applicant is INTRASOFT International S.A. It was approved.
4	Educ-NCWRs Education for Sustainable Development focusing on NCWRs in	Concept Note communicated to Fadi Comair	From 40,000 to 300,000 €. Depends on the number of countries and on the existence or not of	April 2018	I. Alampe	Concept note for the development of an education and awareness raising initiative focusing on NCWRs, to be implemented in formal and non formal educ.	We expect some feedback (on countries) to develop a full proposal

	Title	Donor Agency	Amount	Submission date	Officer in charge	Brief description	Comments
	the Middle East and Gulf Countries		infrastructure water works			systems in five Middle East and Gulf countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.	
5	WATER NEST	INTERREG Europe	232,665 € for MIO-ECSDE (with 77,555 € own contribution)	22 June 2018	V. Malotidi	Aims to provide input to European regions & policy tools on the role of the hydraulic heritage to sustainable development; bridge a gap between Science and Society; support major public awareness campaigns to face increasing water risks.	MIO –ECSDE is partner, the lead is Ca Foscari University Not approved
6	Capacity development on ESD	UNESCO tender	150,000 €	03 August 2018	V. Malotidi	Aims to provide capacity building on ESD/SDGs/Agenda 2030 to a critical mass of educators in Albania, Montenegro and Romania and Greece and Cyprus	MIO-ECSDE Submitted the concept note to UNESCO BRESCE
7	DIVE IN: Mutual skill building of trainers on Diversity & Inclusive pedagogies	UNESCO Participation Programme	25,000 USD	25 August 2018	I. Alampe	The project aims to support the Mediterranean formal and non formal education practitioners in applying inclusive ESD practices for diverse groups	Approved in December 2018
8	Water and Environment Support Mechanism	EuropeAid	8m € (at least 1,5m € for MIO-ECSDE)	14 September 2018	Roniotes A.	This is an EU tender for the SWIM-H2020 SM follow-up phase (4 years)	Short-listed at a first phase and approved in March 2019
9	Mobilising a 'millennial movement for global citizenship'	DEAR EuropeAid	7m-12 m € (800.00 for MIO-ECSDE)	25 Sept 2018	Roniotes A. Alampe I.	This action will catalyse a youth-driven social movement in Europe, inspired by the opportunities of green economies and the values of global citizenship.	Lead: Green Economy Coalition (was shortlisted and at the very last minute it was not submitted on the February deadline)
10	Animation4Water (Malta)	Water and Energy	9.900 €	January 2019	V. Psallidas	An exhibition of storyboards and	Approved

Title		Donor Agency	Amount	Submission date	Officer in charge	Brief description	Comments
		Agency of Malta				videos on water (NCWR)	
11	ESD project on recycling and marine litter education in Greek Islands	HERRCO	30.000 €	15 Nov 2018	V. Psallidas I. Alampeï	Following the education activities carried out in Nikaia municipality, HERRCO invited us to submit a proposal for joint educational actions on marine litter and recycling in a series of Greek islands	The 2019 scenario was approved in January 2019 for 29.200 €
12	Participation and inclusion: The water museums as gateway to society	ERASMU S+ KA2	35.000 € for MIO	21 March 2019	V Malotidi	Empowerment of vulnerable groups through Museum Learning and Activities, and development of capacities of Museum's staff and volunteers	MIO-ECSDE is a partner. The applicant is the Waterline Museum (The Netherlands) 1 st place in the reserve list
13	PLASTICA-MENTE	ERASMU S+ KA2	35,500 € for MIO	21 March 2019	I. Alampeï	Project aims to educate primary school pupils in responsibly using, consuming & recycling plastics. MIO undertakes one of the 3 expected outputs, the STEAM Box	Leader Effèbi (IT) Not approved, they are considering re-submission in 2020
14	MPAs-Engage	Interreg Med	267,000 € for MIO-ECSDE	20 June 2019	Th. Vlachogianni	This projects deals with climate change issues in Med MPAs.	Approved
15	Ocean Literacy for All	DG MARE	291,000 € for MIO-ECSDE	20 June 2019	Th. Vlachogianni	This project has the purpose of raising the level of ocean literacy in Europe and encouraging stakeholders across Europe to act and network on matters of ocean preservation and ocean literacy.	
16	Balkan Renewable Energy Network /BREN/	European Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment	375,000 € (30,000 for MIO-ECSDE)	Early May	A Roniotes	Identify, connect and intensify the network of producers of renewable energy from Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo, Romania, Hungary, Montenegro and Bulgaria into a	Lead is Eko Kvarner (member of MIO-ECSDE) Not approved

	Title	Donor Agency	Amount	Submission date	Officer in charge	Brief description	Comments
						Southeast European initiative,	
17	LIFE supported Annual Operating Grant	Green Fund (MoE – Greece)	Requested 20.000 €	January 2019 and again in May	Collective effort led by the Chair	Annual Programme	Approval of 25.000€
18	LIFE+ Operating Grant for NGOs 2020-2021	EASME	270.000 € per year	3 June 2019	A Roniotes Th Vlachogianni	Annual Programme	Approved

6. Publications & other resources

- ▶ A publication entitled ‘Marine Litter in Mediterranean coastal and marine protected areas – How bad is it? A snapshot assessment report on the amounts, composition and sources of marine litter found on beaches’ (<https://bit.ly/2YsNSel>)
- ▶ The joint position paper entitled ‘Ocean Call - Reduce plastic production and consumption and address marine plastic pollution to protect the ocean’ (<https://bit.ly/2PgGuRI>)
- ▶ A publication entitled ‘Assessing Marine Litter on Mediterranean Beaches. Filling in the knowledge gaps via a participatory science initiative’ (<https://bit.ly/2TNDPkD>)
- ▶ A scientific article published in Marine Pollution Bulletin entitled ‘A harmonized and coordinated assessment of the abundance and composition of seafloor litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion (Mediterranean Sea)’ (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2019.01.017>)
- ▶ A scientific article published in Ocean & Coastal Management entitled ‘Assessing and mitigating the harmful effects of plastic pollution: the collective multi-stakeholder driven Euro-Mediterranean response’ (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2019.105005>)
- ▶ A scientific article published in The Science of the Total Environment entitled ‘Plastic pollution on the Mediterranean coastline: generating fit-for-purpose data to support decision-making via a participatory-science initiative’ (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.135058>)
- ▶ An awareness raising poster in the format of a “comic strip” entitled “Plastics after use? Their place is in the blue (recycling) bin not in the blue seas!” (in Greek)
- ▶ A guide for downscaling the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and adapting it to a regional (sub-national) level (in this case Crete) in support of the sustainable development of the region and as a contribution to the management of the Asteroussia Biosphere Reserve of MAB/UNESCO. (in Greek)



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 ● EuromediterraneanForum ● 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. MARINU ● Centre International de Droit Compare de l'Environnement ● Ecomed 21 ● France Nature Environnement ● Languedoc Roussillon Nature Environnement (LRNE) ● Société de Protection de la Nature de AGDE ● Union Régionale pour la Sauvegarde de la Vie, de la Nature et de l' Environnement ● **FYROM (1):** BIOSFERA-Centre for Education, Environment and Nature Protection ● **GREECE (15):** Athens Environmental Foundation ● Athens Network of Collaborating Experts ● ECOCITY ● ELLINIKI ETAIRIA (Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage) ● Hellenic Association of Educators for Environmental Education ● Hellenic Institute of Environment, Water Reuse and Preservation ● Hellenic Ornithological Society ● Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature ● Interdisciplinary Institute for Environmental Research ● Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles – GREECE ● Mediterranean SOS Network ● Mediterranean Scientific Association of Environmental Protection ● Nature Watch Crete ● SOLON for synthesis and ecological civilization on 21st century ● World Wide Fund for Nature – Hellas ● **ISRAEL (5):** EcoOcean ● EcoPeace Middle East ● Israel Society for Ecology and Environmental Quality Sciences ● Sustainable Development for the Negev ● The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel ● **ITALY (9):** ARMADILLA ● Centro Regionale d' Intervento per la Cooperazione ● Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni nongovernative per la Cooperazione Internazionale al lo Sviluppo ● Forum per la Laguna ● Italia Nostra ● House of Social Rights FOCUS / Casa dei Diritti Sociali FOCUS ● Istituto per l' Ambiente e l' Educazione Scholé Futuro ● LEGAMBIENTE ● MAREVIVO Associazione Ambientalista ● **JORDAN (5):** Aqaba International Laboratories ● Jordan Environment Society ● Land and Human to Advocate Progress ● The Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development ● Jordanian Society for Organic Farming ● **LEBANON (11):** AMWAJ of the Environment ● Association Libanaise pour la Maîtrise de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement ● Development for People and Nature Association ● Association Liban Nature Environnement ● Human Environmental Association for Development ● Lebanese Environmental Forum ● Makhzoumi Foundation ● Organisation Big Blue Association ● The Union of Northern Associations for Sustainable Development ● Window to Environment Association ● BALDATI ● **LIBYA (1):** International Energy Foundation ● **MALTA (2):** Birdlife Malta ● Nature Trust Malta ● **MAURITANIA (2):** Association pour le Développement Durable ● Club des amis de la nature et la protection de l'environnement ● **MONTENEGRO (1):** NGO Greens of Montenegro ● **MOROCCO (8):** Alliance Maghreb Machrek pour l'Eau ● Association Femmes et Jeunesse dans l' Environnement Maghrebin (AFJEM) ● Association Marocaine pour la Protection de l' Environnement - Moroccan Association for Environment Protection (MAEP) ● Club Marocain pour l'Environnement et le Développement ● Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Protection de l' Environnement ● Maison de l'Environnement-Association Atlas Saïs ● National Drought Observatory of Morocco / Observatoire National de la Secheresse ● Société Protectrice des Animaux et de la Nature ● **PAKISTAN (1):** Swat Youth Front ● **PALESTINE(2):** Palestine Wildlife Society ● Palestinian Hydrology Group for Water and Environmental Resources Development ● **PORTUGAL (3):** ETNIA-Cultura E Desenvolvimento ● Liga para a Proteccao da Natureza ● Amigos da terra ● **SLOVENIA (1):** DPPVN - Society of Bird Research and Nature Conservation ● **SPAIN (7):** Amigos del Mediterraneo ● Asociación Malaguena para la Protection de la Vida Silvestre ● Centro Mediterraneo de Estudios para el Uso y Conservacion de las Costas-Centro Mediterraneo EUCC-EUCC Mediterranean Centre ● Eco-union ● Mare Terra Fundació Mediterrània ● Fundacion Iberoamerica-Europa (Centro de Investigacion, Promocion y Cooperacion Internacional-CIPIE) ● Itaca Asociacion defensa Naturaleza y Medio Ambiente ● **SWITZERLAND (1):** Global Footprint Network ● **SYRIA (1):** Syrian Coast Society for Environmental Protection ● **TUNISIA (20):** Alliance Femme et Environnement ● Association des Amis du Belvedere ● Association 'Les Amis des Oiseaux' ● Association de Developpement et de Protection de l' Environnement- La Marsa ● Association de l'Environnement de Kelibia ● Association des Habitants d'El Mourouj II ● Association de Sauvegarde de la Medina et du Patrimoine de Kelibia ● Association for Sustainable Development ● Association Nationale Tunisienne de la Protection de la Faune Sauvage ● Association pour la Protection de l' Environnement et le Développement Durable de Bizerte ● APENA ● Association pour la Protection de l' Environnement et la Nature du Gouvernorat de Bizerte ● Association for the Protection of Nature and Environment - Kairouan ● Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Médina de Gafsa ● Association Tunisienne pour la Protection de la Nature et de l' Environnement ● Femmes pour le Developpement Durable / Women for Sustainable Development ● ATMT ENVIRONNEMENT ● Centre de Recherches, d' Etudes, de Documentation et d'Information sur la Femme ● Conservation de la Nature - Developpement ● Youth and Science Club of Hammam-Lif ● **TURKEY (5):** Green Steps for Environmental Literacy ● Legacy ● Turkish Association for the Conservation of Nature ● The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats ● Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association