

PART 1

- Working Document –

**INITIAL REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AT REGIONAL LEVEL
OF
THE UFM MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
*(Athens, May 2014)***



Index

Abbreviations

Background

Objective of the Report

Key Highlights

Key points for discussion at the UfM WG on ENV and CC to build main suggestions on the way forward

ANNEXES

Annex 1 : Implementation of the UfM Declaration on ENV and CC as far as regards the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean (or “for the De-Pollution of the Mediterranean”)

Annex 2 : Implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC as far as regards sustainable consumption and production

Annex 3 : Implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC far as regards climate change

Annex 4 : Implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC far as regards other environmental issues

Annex 5 : Implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC far as regards governance and stakeholder involvement

Annex 6 : Implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC far as regards the need for increased awareness and education

Annex 7 : Implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC far as regards ensuring implementation of required environment and climate investments

Annex 8 : Overview of UfMS activities carried out with UNEPMAP in order to operationalize the signed and renewed MoU as well as the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change in 2014

Abbreviations

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
AfD	Agence Française de Développement
BAT	Best Available Techniques
BE WG	Blue Economy Working Group
BEP	Base Erosion and Profit Shifting
BREF	BAT Reference Document
CABS	Committee Against Bird Slaughter
CITES Wild	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora
CMS Animals	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild
DRIVE	Delivering Resource Efficiency Investments
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EASME	Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
EIB	European Investment Bank
EEA	European Environment Agency
ENP	European Neighborhood Policy
ERBD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EUMSS	EU Maritime Security Strategy
EUSAIR	EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
FACE	Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU
FoP	Friends of the Presidency
GES	Good Environmental Status
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management

INDCs	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IMP	Integrated Maritime Policy
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategy
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MEDIES	Mediterranean Educational Initiative on Environment and Sustainability
Med ReSCP	Mediterranean Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production
MedECC	Mediterranean Experts on Environmental and Climate Changes
Med SCP	Mediterranean Sustainable Consumption and Production
MedMIS	Monitor invasive species in Mediterranean MPAs
MeSHIP-PPIF	Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme – Project Preparation and Implementation Facility
MIO-ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
MSEG	Member State Experts Group
MSES D	Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development
MedPAN	Mediterranean Protected Areas Network
MedPOL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NABU	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union
NADEG	Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directives
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PAP/RAC	Regional Activity Centre/Priority Actions Programme

PRPI	Pollution Prevention and Reduction Investment
RAC/SPA	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
RECP	Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RFCCCA	Regional Finance Cooperation Committee for Climate Action
SCP/RAC	Sustainable Consumption and Production/Regional Activity Center
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SOM	Senior Officials Meeting
SWIM-H2020 SM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UfMS	Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat
UfMCCEG	UfM Climate Change Expert Group
UNEP-DTIE (now UN Environment Economics)	United Nation Environment Programme - Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
UNEP/MAP (now UN Environment MAP)	United Nation Environment Programme /Mediterranean Action Plan
UPFI	Urban Projects Finance Initiative
WB	The World Bank

Background

The first UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (hereinafter the Declaration) was adopted in Athens on 13 May 2014. Through this joint Declaration, the 43 UfM Ministers expressed the urgent need to join forces on three main axes of work, namely:

- The H2020 Initiative for the De-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea;
- Sustainable Consumption and Production and green/circular economy;
- Climate Change adaptation and mitigation.

Moreover, **biodiversity and ecosystem protection, integrated maritime policy, integrated coastal zone management, awareness and education for sustainable development, governance and stakeholder involvement** were also highlighted as areas for closer cooperation. In this regard, the Declaration pursues targets which are instrumental in achieving various Sustainable Development Goals¹ (e.g. SDG 12 *Responsible Consumption and Production*, SDG 13 *Climate Action*, SDG 14 *Life below water*, SDG 15 *Life on land*, and it strongly contributes to others such as SDG 8 *Decent Work and Economic Growth*, SDG 9 *Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*, SDG 11 *Sustainable cities and communities*).

In order to assess progress in the implementation of the recommendations agreed upon in Athens, the Declaration itself envisaged a specific mechanism: *“Ministers invite high level experts and officials to meet regularly, at least every two years, and where appropriate in synergy with other regional meetings dealing with environment or climate issues, as long as such meetings remain relevant, in the form of a UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (hereinafter the UfM Working Group) to follow-up on this Declaration and assess the progress made...”*²

Early 2017, two years and a half from its adoption, **the 1st meeting of the UfM Working Group will review progress in the implementation of the Declaration up to date.**

Objective of the Report

The ultimate objective of this Report is to provide readers with **a snap shot of the progresses made over the years by the various organizations and bodies operating at regional level in the implementation of the Declaration under the different topics.**

Processes, programmes, projects, initiatives, and even single activities have been screened and the most significant information and data collected, processed and presented so to capture at the best the efforts made in the implementation of the Declaration. This has allowed highlighting developments and achievements and identifying emerging issues for a common reflection towards **the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting, tentatively scheduled in 2019 (or 2020 at the very latest).** The present **Report is instrumental to such meeting** and is to be considered as **“Working document” to be further fine-tuned based on comments, integrations and suggestions resulting from the UfM Working Group meeting on the 14th-15th of March.**

The Report is built on the contributions provided on a voluntary basis by the partner organizations. Such contributions are attached in the Annexes. Each Annex addresses one topic as listed in the Declaration, delving into the overall context and main actions (processes,

¹ “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. United Nations, 2015.

² “Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change – Declaration, page 9. Athens, 13 May 2014.

initiatives, programmes, projects, activities, etc.), their state of advancement, outcomes/results achieved so far, final expected results, and timing where applicable.

The Report compiles as far as possible the information received on the different topics covered by the Declaration with the aim to offer an **overview of the implementation of the package of actions agreed in 2014 concerning the transition towards a green, circular, low-emissions economy**. Out of such contributions, the Report has striven to: i) extrapolate **key findings as actual results/relevant actions accomplished** up to date; ii) **underline issues that have gained relevance after the adoption of the Declaration and are not, or not enough, addressed in the Declaration**; iii) **advance specific suggestions for further action and follow up** and, whenever needed, propose corrective measures.

Further information on regional developments and progresses at national level (e.g. policy and regulatory frameworks and related implementation and degree of enforcement) collected at the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change meeting in March will help distill further actions to be taken in order to move ahead and set the path for the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting.

It is worth underlining that the meeting of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, and this Report, do not substitute other reporting mechanisms, including CoPs, Steering committees, coordination committees etc. related to other organizations, processes, programmes, projects, initiatives and activities. Detailed information on specific issues can be requested directly to the concerned organizations through the contacts provided.

1. Key Highlights

Following the recommendations of the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, key highlights on progress in implementation up to February 2017 include:

The H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean (previously called “H2020 Initiative for the De-Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea”)

OVERALL H2020 INITIATIVE

- The **Work Program for Phase 2 (2015-2020)** of the H2020 Initiative was **successfully adopted** at the end of 2014; it is under implementation for **three out of four H2020 components**, namely for the components on **capacity building, review and monitoring, and pollution reduction and prevention investment**³;
- **EU funded programmes/support mechanisms** are in place to operationalize the H2020 actions and priorities for Phase 2; **such programmes/support mechanisms, with their own specific timeframe for action**, are **H2020-SWIM SM** for the capacity building component; **ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism** for the review and monitoring component; **MeHSIP** for the pollution reduction and prevention investment component; the **research component**, which was covered by the DG RTD MIRA project during Phase 1 of the H2020 Initiative, has been associated/redistributed as transversal issue among the three abovementioned H2020 subcomponents as of 2015;
- The overall 2014-2020 Work Program for Phase 2 and the associated EU funded programmes/supporting mechanisms set in motion between 2014 and 2016 are enriched by a **wider green/circular economy approach**, in particular adopting a larger focus - and corresponding activities - on **pollution prevention** and addressing also specific issues such as **marine litter** and **hazardous waste**, as called for by the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration;
- The EU funded programmes/supporting mechanisms for Phase 2 include **a reinforced package of actions and technical assistance at national level, complementing the regional one**; under each component, inter-linkage among the actions carried out at regional and national level is ensured as well as, as needed, inter-ministerial collaboration at national level;
- The success of the initiative relies a lot on a strong coordination among the key actors; in particular the **‘Horizon 2020 Coordination Mechanism’**, ensuring close collaboration among the H2020 components/programs, has proved to be very effective till 2014; it needs to be reactivated/reshaped to better adjust to the renewed setting of Phase 2;
- **Ensuring adequate visibility of the H2020 outcomes at national level** as well as of **the joint efforts** of the H2020 components remains a challenge ;
- There is a **temporal discrepancy** between the implementation timeframe of some of the EU funded programs and the overall remaining timeframe of H2020.

H2020 INITIATIVE SUB-COMPONENTS

H2020 Initiative – Capacity Building (CB)

- In 2015, the **“transition phase”** between the MEP (Mediterranean Environment Programme), closed in 2014, and the new EU funded **“H2020-Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism” (SWIM-H2020 SM)**, launched in 2016,

- ³ The fourth component is the **research**

- was served, in terms of H2020 capacity building activities, by the EU funded SWIM programme (Sustainable Water Integrated Management);
- In 2016, the EU funded “**H2020-Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism**” (SWIM-H2020 SM)” was activated in order to support the Horizon 2020 Capacity Building component **up to April 2019**; differently from Phase 1, SWIM-H2020 SM merges the EU capacity building environment and water programs, namely the previous MEP (Mediterranean Environment Programme) and the SWIM (Sustainable Water Integrated Management) into one;
 - **SWIM-H2020 SM Workplan** was **adopted in September 2016** (Annex 1, tables 2 & 3); capacity building and other activities are just starting implementation;
 - Within the SWIM-H2020 SM, national activities **cover Southern Mediterranean countries but regional activities extend also to Western Balkans and Turkey**;
 - the H2020-SWIM SM includes an **Expert Facility** geared to tailor-made assistance to the Partner Countries. Approx. 50 "in depth" interventions are foreseen till April 2019. The Regional Component of the project includes not only trainings, study tours and webinars but also "peer to peer" capacity building, where experts, administrators and relevant stakeholders are connected and share experiences with their peers and colleagues from other countries in an on-going process facilitated by the Experts of the Support Mechanism;
 - **the H2020-SWIM SM addresses both environment and water issues**; it also addresses a series of **cross cutting issues/activities**, namely *climate change, environmental mainstreaming, green economy, ICZM/IWRM, regulatory and legal frameworks, urban wastewater, water-energy-food nexus*;
 - **the UfM project BlueGreen Med-CS** (labeled in July 2014; <http://ufmsecretariat.org/bluegreen-med-cs/>) is supporting the civil society component of the SWIM-H2020 SM;
 - **the UfM project “Plastic-Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter”** (labeled in February 2016; <http://ufmsecretariat.org/plastic-busters-for-a-mediterranean-free-from-litter/>) is partly covered by the marine litter and green economy related activities within SWIM-H2020 SM.
 - For its side, the **SWIM-H2020 SM is contributing to the H2020 Research component** through the enhancement of the useful interaction between 1) on the one hand, *the efforts to de-pollute the Mediterranean and obtain a more efficient integrated management of water resources and the coastal zone in this region* and 2) on the other, *important outcomes of the relevant EU funded research projects* ;
 - During phase 1, **coordination among the H2020 components and implementing organizations** was ensured by the ENPI Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP); **no similar arrangement is in place in Phase 2.**

H2020 Initiative – Review and Monitoring (RM)

- As of 2014, the RM group is co-chaired by EEA & UN Environment/MAP; it includes Southern Med as well as Western Balkans and Turkey (the latter, **through the financial support of SWIM-H2020 SM**); in order to maximize coordination and synergies with the Barcelona Convention, the reference Focal points in countries are now the **UN Environment MAP (previously called UNEP MAP)- MED POL and the SEIS Focal Points**; collaboration between the **EEA- UN Environment MAP** was strengthened through the **signature of the Joint Work Plan 2016/2021** in May 2016;
- Pollution prevention and emerging issues such as **hazardous waste and marine litter** are fully reflected in the RM work programme 2014-2020 with the aim to propose **indicators and enhance the corresponding data production**; **knowledge base is also**

- expanded to cross-cutting issues (such as Sustainable Consumption and Production, Climate Change) in order to keep a comprehensive picture of H2020 and address pollution issues in a more integrated way;
- **National networking structure** to coordinate and facilitate knowledge management to support H2020 goals as well as NAPs priorities to achieve Good Environmental Status targets (Ecosystem Approach GES targets) is in place and active; supporting projects and contracts are operational; national needs are identified and detailed national work plans prepared;
 - **In-country support** is under deployment (provision of national assistant and capacity building) to enhance national capacities and implement national work plans
 - **The indicators of the H2020 Initiative are fully embedded into the UN Environment/MAP National Action Plans (NAPs) implementation indicators;**
 - The **EEA/UN Environment MAP Horizon 2020 Mediterranean report - Toward shared environmental information systems**, published in 30/03/2015, highlighted the following:
 - o *Sanitation has improved steadily in the region over the last decade. Between 2003 and 2011 the proportion of the population with access to sanitation increased from 87.5 to 92 %. There are still 17.6 million people in the region without sanitation, a third of them living in urban areas.*
 - o *There is great potential to reuse wastewater in the region. Currently only around 1% of wastewater is reused, so it is possible to make better use of this resource instead of discharging it into the sea.*
 - o *Progress in urban wastewater management is difficult to assess as the data available do not provide sound evidence on trends at the regional level.*
 - o *While solid waste generated in the region is still approximately half the per capita level in the EU, waste generation in the southern Mediterranean region has grown approximately 15% over the last decade, mostly due to a growing population and increased consumption.*
 - o *Waste management needs significant improvement. Around three quarters of waste is collected, but most of this is still disposed of in open dumps, which can have health impacts and find its way into the sea leading to environmental problems. Less than 10% of the waste collected in the region is recycled.*
 - o *Industrial emissions have a heavy impact on the Mediterranean. While pollution from heavy metals in seawater has decreased in recent years, local marine pollution from cities, industry and tourist resorts is still leading to pollution of seas and beaches.*
 - Actions are in place to contribute, as appropriate, to operationalize UN Environment/MAP regional information system (InfoMAP) and promote integrated environmental approaches; as well to support **data management and infrastructure** development at country level;
 - There was a significant **break in time** between the EU programmes supporting RM in Phase 1 and in Phase 2, namely between **SEIS I and SEIS II**, thus generating a delay in implementation of the RM component;
 - The EU funded **SEIS Support Mechanism-South (SEIS II)** to operationalize the work of the Review and Monitoring (RM) component of the H2020 Initiative **up to 2020**, was activated in 2016; the 1st Steering Committee meeting of the **ENI SEIS II South** project took place in December 2016 (**draft SEIS National Work Plans** were produced based on specific national needs, in-country support to be deployed via Small Scale Funding Agreement with UN Environment MAP) and the **7th meeting of the Horizon 2020 RM** group was held back to back; SEIS covers **Southern Mediterranean** countries; the overall **SEIS work plan is under final approval**; a specific **Partnership agreement** between the **EEA- UN Environment MAP to implement ENI SEIS Support Mechanism** was signed in September 2016.

H2020 Initiative – Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment (PRPI)

- As of 2014, the **Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment (PRPI) group is co-chaired by the European Investment Bank (EIB) & the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat;**
- As per its mandate, the PRPI Group has been working on advancing investment projects addressing key pollution sources and making the link between financial viability/ownership of projects and their regional environmental relevance; the PRPI Group met four times since the adoption of the UfM 2014 Ministerial Declaration, in 2014 (December), once in 2015 (November) and two times in 2016 (NAP Roundtable Discussion in June), and in December 2016. It is a platform where IFIs (AFD, EBRD, EIB, WB etc.) can exchange on pipelines and discuss mutual challenges in bringing a project to implementation with all involved players (IFIs, EC, UFM). UN Environment-MAP is closely associated to the process in order to link up with the National Action Plans (NAPs) process;
- **In 2015, the PRPI Group has facilitated the adoption of a two years Roadmap for Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investments with a core group of IFIs (in Annex 1);** the Roadmap, currently under implementation, agrees/includes the following:
 - o Confirm the interest to **keeping H2020 PRPI pipeline and related project information alive and up-to-date;**
 - o **NAP process and evaluation** (flagship projects) through the organization of an Assessment roundtable for NAPs and projects, held on 7 June in Athens (translated from the *Workshop n. 1 for translation of NAP measures in projects proposals and on sharing of best practices on institutional and policy framework for project implementation to increase efficiency*).
 - o **Buy-in of Ministries of Finance** or international cooperation as appropriate (*translated into 1) Workshop n.2 how to make the business case for financiers on the pipeline of projects with a specific session on PPPs held in December 2016, where a number of business case were presented with focus on the socio-economic benefits of the environmental projects; and 2) Meetings to discuss concrete projects through IFIs at the national level*)
 - o **Strengthening of the preparatory phase** of projects through the definition of options for mobilization of financial resources for preparatory Technical Assistance for priority projects in the pipeline and financing arrangements;
 - o **Involvement of local authorities.**
- To support the H2020 Investment component, the **EU funded Facility “Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme – Phase II”** was launched in 2015 under the EIB leadership and runs **up to June 2018;** MeHSIP II has expanded its scope in the second phase of H2020 to support both a) projects contributing to the pollution reduction in the Mediterranean and b) projects tackling related issues such as natural resources efficiency, climate change, sustainable growth and jobs creation, etc; with respect to the H2020 Initiative, it has the objective to i) increase the number of bankable projects in priority sectors capable of being readily financed and implemented, ensuring that their operation is efficient and sustainable in the long-term and; ii) strengthen the project preparation capacity of public sector institutions and private sector; in this respect, a team of three experts in the EIB headquarters in Luxembourg and four resident experts in EIB offices in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan is now in place;
- the MeHSIP Team is currently supporting **the implementation of two projects** prepared under MeHSIP-PPIF between 2009 and 2013, namely **The “Integrated Programme to protect the Lake of Bizerte against pollution”;** the **“Kafr El Sheikh Wastewater Expansion Programme”;** furthermore, for **four projects, feasibility studies are ongoing;** a loan has been signed to implement one credit line; another credit line is close to signing; and for

around 12 projects, the funding proposals and terms of reference for feasibility studies are under preparation;

- To further support the process and in agreement with the H2020 core group partners, the UfM Secretariat launched in 2016 a **technical assistance to work on criteria for H2020 investment flagship projects**; after consultation with IFIs, particularly EIB, EBRD and KfW, a methodology to define such flagship projects is now in draft; it will be presented to the next PRPI group of H2020 (planned for the first semester of 2017).

Sustainable Consumption and Production

- **Collaborative implementation of the EU funded SwitchMed Initiative** (see Annex 2) and the **UfM labeled Med ReSCP Project** (see Annex 2), both mentioned in the Declaration as *“important support to the transition to sustainable consumption and production and to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols”*; together, the two programs ensure **coverage of the southern and eastern Mediterranean region**, as called for by the UfM 2014 Ministerial Declaration, **even if the focus of their activities differs**; SCP/RAC and UNIDO, which are also implementing agencies of the EU funded SwitchMed Programme, ensure regular links and exchanges between the two programs;
- **The SwitchMed Initiative** is jointly carried out by **UNIDO, SCP/RAC and UN Environment Economy Division** (previously called UNEP DTIE); under its different components (policy, demonstration, and networking), SwitchMed has advanced as follows:
 - Adoption of the **Mediterranean Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production** in February 2016 by the CoP 19th of the Barcelona Convention to move towards a circular economy in the Region; it is structured around **4 key economic sectors: (i) Food, Fisheries and Agriculture, (ii) Tourism, (iii) Goods manufacturing, (iv) Housing and Construction**; it includes 12 operational objectives and 51 specific actions; the **SCP Toolkit for policy makers** was published in 2014 in English and French; a set of **SCP indicators** is currently under elaboration; the activities of both SwitchMed and MedReSCP are embedded in the SCP implementation Road Map;
 - National Sustainable Consumption and Production assessments done in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine;
 - **Adoption of national Sustainable Consumption and Production Plans in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine**;
 - **Application of UNIDO MED TEST** (Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology) in a pool of 130 industries belonging to 5 different industrial sectors (food, chemical, textile, leather and mechanical), resulting in a **RECP (Resource Efficiency/Cleaner Production) investment pipeline**;
 - **Training and Support Programme for Green Entrepreneurs and CSOs** through innovative training materials (handbook and workbook); 123 Local Trainers identified and trained, 76 workshops of the Green Entrepreneurship Programme implemented in the 8 countries; 1,446 Green Entrepreneurs selected and trained, out of which 138 received individual coaching to improve their Green Business Models, and 18 supported during the incubation phase; 74 selected Civil Society ecological innovation initiatives trained in Tunisia, Lebanon, Algeria and Morocco and now in a second group of countries: Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine;
 - Development of **Green Impact Investing Network (GIN) in partnership with the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA)** in order to create a group of interested international and national financing institutions that can invest in **green start-ups** in four SwitchMed Northern African countries;
 - The **Mediterranean SCP Hub** (www.switchmed.eu) was created, together with Country Hubs; a regional **Action Network** (a professional social network for all SCP

actors to share information and knowledge) and 8 National Stakeholder communities were established;

- The **first and second editions of the SwitchMed Connect** (<http://www.switchmedconnect.com/>) took place in Barcelona in October 2015 and in October 2016 respectively;
- **The EU funded SwitchMed Programme is running towards completion in 2018;**
- **The Med RESCP project** is jointly carried out by **EBRD, UNIDO, SCP/RAC**. Under its two components on **access to financing in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia** (component 1) and **development of green industries and entrepreneurship in Western Balkans and Turkey** (component 2), MedReSCP has progressed as follows:
 - In order to **facilitate access to financing for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** that adopt Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) models in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, UNIDO and EBRD have been working on **connecting the UNIDO RECP (Resource Efficiency/Cleaner Production) investment pipeline with EBRD existing credit lines;**
 - Med ReSCP and SwitchMed, through SCP/RAC, support the Federation of European Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA) in **engaging investment networks and creating platforms with local financiers for enhancing access to finance for Green Entrepreneurs (GEs)** in the Mediterranean and **developing a Green Impact Investing Network (GIIN)**; Meet-Ups and Seminars with National Financial Sector and SWOT analyses: Missions to Egypt (August 2015), Morocco (May 2016), Tunisia (June 2016) and Lebanon (November 2016); missions in Europe Paris, Brussels and Marseille; dedicated sessions on access to financing at SwitchMed Connect 2015 and 2016;
 - EBRD supports the objectives under Component 2 of MedReSCP in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Turkey in particular via technical assistance provided by the **DRIVE Fund (Delivering Resource efficiency InVEstments)**, funded by the Austrian government and facilitated by the UfMS. The DRIVE Fund aims at **investment preparation for cleaner and more resource efficient technologies (water, energy, raw materials and waste minimization)**. The DRIVE Fund has **EUR 5 million** and during the first operational year, **7 projects** were carried out in **Turkey and Albania**; other projects under preparation to cover other countries in the Western Balkans;
 - **Financial contribution of UfMS to support the communication activities of the SwitchMedConnect event for both editions, in 2015 and 2016;**

Climate Change

- The UfM **Climate Change Expert Group** was established and met **4 times** (see Annex 3) since its establishment in 2014;
- **12 climate related projects labelled and launched** by the UfM since the adoption of the UfM Declaration
- The **UfM Secretariat** got the **status of UNFCCC observer** in November 2016;
- The **UfM Secretariat** is working, together with the UNEP-MAP, the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate and the UfM Climate Change Expert Group, on the emergence of a **science-policy interface** for assessing climate vulnerability of the region.

Other environmental issues

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Aichi targets

- To date (2016 Mediterranean MPA Status Report, MedPAN & RAC/SPA) there are **1,231 MPAs and OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures)** in the

Mediterranean Sea, covering 179,798 km², which places a surface of 7.14% under a legal designation;

- The 2nd edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum in Tangier, organized by MedPAN, RAC/SPA and the Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification of the Kingdom of Morocco, released the Tangier declaration - (http://www.medmpaforum.org/sites/default/files/tangier_declaration.pdf) that is used to update the 2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap elaborated at the **2012 MPA Forum in Antalya and adopted in 2016 in a revised version by the Barcelona Convention**. This Roadmap aims to support the achievement of the Aichi target 11. **The Roadmap was updated** with the following elements:
 - o **Institutional framework taking into consideration the recent developments**, including the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change in 2014 (and the Declaration on Blue Economy in 2015) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14;
 - o A new **Strategic Objective 5** of the Roadmap *“Strengthen and develop the role of MPAs as a marine spatial management tool in supporting ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation to climate change”*;
 - o **Increase of coverage and implementation of no-entry, no-take and no-fishing zones**, within either existing or future MPAs, from the current coverage of 0.04% of the Mediterranean Sea to reach at least 2% of no-take zones, especially in key functional areas;
 - o Support to **more effective, equitable and efficient management of existing MPAs by 2020 through more financial and human means** available for MPAs as well as long-term capacity-building and networking at Mediterranean level.
 - o Create **win-win relationships of MPAs with decision-makers, donors and private sector** in order to respond to pressures beyond MPA borders, while considering **MPAs as a natural capital and a management instrument to reach sustainability targets**;
 - o A **Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs**, through the setting up of an association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs, **promoted by France, Monaco and Tunisia, with an initial allocation of 500,000 EUR, and the launch, as pilot phase, of projects** to support the management of 2 MPAs in Morocco (Al Hoceima National Park) and Tunisia (Marine and Coastal Protected area of Kuriat islands).

Rich avifauna/Recommendations under the Bern Convention

- o The established intergovernmental task force on illegal killing, taking and trade (IKB) of migratory birds in the Mediterranean, is now operational

Integrated Maritime Policy/Blue Economy

- **Adoption of the 1st UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy** (hereinafter BE Declaration) by all 43 Union for the Mediterranean partners; the declaration gives the political mandate to **improve maritime governance and provide guidance to create an environment conducive to job creation, innovation and knowledge-based business opportunities** at national and sea basin level, whilst safeguarding **healthy seas** and developing a clear vision for the **sustainable and integrated development of marine and maritime sectors**;
- The BE Declaration endorses the establishment of a **UfM Forum on Blue Economy, a broad, integrated and coordinated process made up of four components**:
 1. The **UfM Blue Economy Working Group (BE WG)** to ensure regional dialogue among countries on sustainable blue economy and cross-sectorial coordination

- of maritime issues (*two meetings held in 2016, namely in May and November 2016; one planned for May*); the composition of the BE WG ensures the presence of **permanent observers**⁴ as well as **ad hoc observers** for a multi **stakeholders/participatory approach**, including local authorities;
2. The **Regional Technical Seminars** (*first Technical Seminar held in November 2016*) to support the **technical part of the BE dossier**;
 3. The **UfM Stakeholder Conference/s** (*Western Med Stakeholders Conference, 2nd of February 2017; Regional UfM Stakeholders Conference planned for 2nd semester 2017*) to **ensure regular consultation** as well as **wide involvement, networking and mobilisation of key stakeholders**;
 4. **Virtual Knowledge Center as a stakeholder register and networking platform** (under transfer by DG MARE to the UfMS).
- Launch of the **EU funded Integrated Maritime Policy Facility** (http://51.255.195.60/En/home_4_index) for the **Southern Mediterranean countries for national and regional activities; regional activities extend to Western Balkans and Turkey**; provision of technical assistance, launch of capacity building activities and small demo projects based on countries' needs; promotion of better governance, including inter-ministerial collaboration facilitated with the support of regional organizations;
 - Launch of a **DG MARE/EASME grant** to provide the **UfMS** with the support and means to properly perform its function within the Blue Economy dossier promoted through the UfM 2015 Ministerial Declaration;
 - Main actions under development (for more information, see Annex 4):
 - The launch of the **Initiative for the Sustainable Development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean** (*three meetings held with the concerned countries; a fully dedicated stakeholders conference in February 2017*);
 - **BlueMed Initiative for Blue Growth and Blue Jobs which promotes cooperation between States on innovation and research in relevant areas** – initially launched by EU countries; now open for extension to Mediterranean countries willing to join (*meeting of the BlueMed CSA in November 2016; the BlueMed CSA representative was agreed to be among the permanent observers of the WG on Blue Economy*);
 - **Networking of maritime training institutes** (*EU study completed and approved; a targeted program is expected to start as of 2017*) and creation of new **maritime clusters** (*activities ongoing at national level*);
 - Integration of **cross cutting policy tools** such as **Maritime Spatial Planning** (in liaison with **Integrated Coastal Zone Management** to ensure **sea-land interface**) based on experiences gained through current activities and projects.

⁴ Permanent Observers in the Blue Economy Working Group include a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme/ Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), European Investment Bank (EIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), League of Arab States (LAS), Managing Authorities for the MED and ENI-CBC-MED cooperation programs.

Findings related to Eco-cities

- Under the leadership of the UfM Co-Presidency (EU and Jordan) and with the assistance of the UfM Secretariat, the **2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development** is under preparation; it is scheduled to take place in April 2017 in Egypt;
- The **Jordan-led Eco Cities Forum**, a biennial two-day regional event and expo addressing environmental challenges and green sustainable opportunities for cities promoting both economic growth and social responsibility, is a **powerful platform where international, regional, and local decision makers from the private and public sectors** converge to meet, exchange views and inform themselves about what **policies, technologies and business opportunities** may help with, in order to lead to cleaner, safer and vibrant sustainable cities. The Forum is a Jordanian initiative launched in 2008 in partnership with UNEA, UNIDO, UFM, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and Greater Amman Municipality. So far, 4 editions have taken place, the last one in November 2014; the next one is tentatively scheduled for end 2017;
- **Sustainable Housing and Construction** is one of the four priority economic sector tackled by the *Mediterranean Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production*;
- For those countries where structures make it relevant and who are willing to, the UfM Secretariat is working, in cooperation with the European Union, on the strengthening of cooperation among local authorities in the Mediterranean region, especially through the establishment of a **Mediterranean Covenant of Mayors**, addressing local and regional authorities voluntarily committing to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Environmental and climate change governance and stakeholder involvement

NATIONAL LEVEL

- According to the provisions of the Ministerial Declaration, specific information on developments at national level on the subject is envisaged (*the Working Group on Environment and Climate will be an opportunity in this respect*);

REGIONAL LEVEL

- Overall, the ongoing regional programmes (on environment, climate change, blue economy, etc.) include and promote:
 - **Multi stakeholders/participatory approaches (NGOs, academia, private sector, etc.)**, progressively extending to **local authorities** (e.g. in the Blue Economy dossier through the CPRM-Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, Covenant of Mayors, H2020 SM through the UfM labelled BlueGreen project, etc.) through observers at the Working Groups, dedicated stakeholders conferences, increasing involvement of other relevant Ministries (e.g. Foreign Affairs, Finance and Planning/Economic Development, etc.) as well as involvement of other key Ministries (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Finance/Planning, etc) to reinforce action and maximize results;
 - **Increased coordination among funding programmes** to optimize the use of available limited resources around joint priorities (e.g. environment and climate funding; cooperation of EU funding programs; etc)

Increased awareness and education

- Following the endorsement of the “Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)” by the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC, the **MSESD Action plan was adopted** at a Ministerial Conference held in Cyprus in December 2016;

- MSES D is an integral part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD 2016-2025) and the status of MSES D implementation (namely number of countries that have launched national strategies on education for sustainable development) has been included in the 'dashboard' indicators for monitoring the MSSD implementation progress. COP19 of the Barcelona Convention (Athens, 2016) recognised the role of MSES D in promoting sustainability and the implementation of the SDGs in the Mediterranean.
- An **awareness raising component** is systematically part of all the main EU funded projects on depollution and pollution prevention, sustainable consumption and production, blue economy and climate change (SWIM -H2020 Support Mechanism, SwitchMed etc.);
- The **Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes** (labelled by the UfMS in 2012 and launched in 2014) launched its first Master Degree in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Doctorate Programmes on Renewable Energy. In September 2015, a Master Degree in Environmental Energy was also launched. In the period 2015-2016, 36 students enrolled in both master degrees.

Environment and climate investments

- **Investments on wastewater, municipal waste and industrial pollution** are currently dealt with by the H2020 Investment Component, including the EIB-run MeHSIP II Facility and the Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment Group (PRPI), revamped in 2015; *for more information, see Annex 1;*
- **Enabling activities related to Sustainable Consumption and Production investments** (*technology transfer; pipelines of Resource Efficiency/Cleaner Production investment; green entrepreneurship/start-ups/incubation; etc.*) are carried out under the Demonstration components of SwitchMed for Southern Mediterranean countries; the DRIVE (Delivering Resource efficiency InVestments) Fund set up in association to the UfM labelled MedReSCP project for Western Balkans and Turkey addresses directly investment opportunities in cleaner and more resource efficient (*water, energy, raw materials and waste minimization*) manufacturing technology; *for more information, see Annex 2;*
- **Creation of the UfM “Regional Finance Cooperation Committee for Climate Action (RFCCCA)”** gathering major international financial institutions operating in climate finance in the Euro-Mediterranean region; the first meeting of RFCCCA took place in Barcelona in March 2016; a set of climate relevant investment projects were labeled by the UfM; *for more information, see Annex 3.*

UfMS and UN Environment MAP (*previously called UNEP MAP*)

The **overview of UfMS activities carried out with UN Environment MAP** in order to operationalize the signed and renewed MoU as well as the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change in 2014, is available in Annex 8.

It includes coordination/contribution on processes, programs and projects to reach the common objectives.

Key points for discussion at the UfM WG on ENV and CC to build main suggestions on the way forward

(included in the detailed agenda)

Overall, the Working Group on ENV and CC will aim at discussing progress in the implementation of the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC in terms of

1. **Key highlights and major issues to be tackled within 2020**, and
2. **Main priorities and actions for post-2020**; thus feeding and setting the path towards the next UfM Ministerial Declaration, tentatively scheduled for 2019.

H2020 INITIATIVE – OVERALL

Short term/up to 2020

- Explore and propose to the H2020 Steering Group mechanisms to ensure **full involvement and participation of all H2020 countries** (not only countries covered by a project funding) in the implementation of the H2020 programme of work;
- **Reintroduction** of the '**Horizon 2020 Coordination Mechanism**', including specification of the needed annual meetings/coordination activities of the H2020 coordination Group;
- Enhancement of the **overall communication** (*through internal and external channels*) **and visibility of the H2020 Initiative**, with emphasis 1) on the overall joint efforts and progress of the H2020 components, and 2) H2020 activities and impacts at national level;
- Overall reflection on the **opportunity/capacity to re-launch/ implement the planned actions** of the **H2020 research component** within 2020;
- **Synchronization of the work plan of the relevant EU funded programs timeframes with the overall timeframe of the H2020 initiative**;
- **Activate further synergies** in order to ensure that new, relevant regional programs channel their support towards the successful implementation of the H2020 Initiative;
- Explore broader **coordination mechanisms** (within and outside H2020) able to ensure **appropriate integration of all various assessment-based projects and initiatives** (e.g. 2nd H2020 Indicator-based assessment, UNEPMAP State of the Environment and development, etc.) to build-up a coherent regional knowledge base;

Post 2020

- **Consolidate the results so far of the overall H2020 Initiative, and assess the achievements versus the initial target** (*...aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution...*).
- **Initial reflection on the post H2020 Initiative**, namely how to tailor/readjust the approach, mechanisms and operational modalities of the H2020 Initiative based on the results accomplished so far;
- **Grab the opportunity to further strengthen the Mediterranean green/circular economy/low emission agenda**; make the best out of the existing mechanisms, complementarities and structured linkages among countries, organizations and programs; in line with the relevant SDGs, **emphasize, or better integrate, socio-economic themes** with emphasis on **job creation dimension, youth, women**;
- Build on the governance set-up in place over the last years.

H2020 Initiative – Capacity building

- **Alignment of the SWIM-Horizon2020 Support Mechanism timing with the end of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme (2015-2020)**;
- While considering the **reintroduction of the ‘Horizon 2020 Coordination Mechanism**, take into consideration the **successful management of the ‘H2020 Coordination Mechanism’ by the previous Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/ Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP) during phase 1.**

H2020 Initiative - Review and monitoring

- **Finalisation of the SEIS national work plans; and of the overall SEIS workplan**;
- Further support the **operationalisation of an effective regional information system based on solid national information system** and promote integrated environmental approaches;
- Ensure **appropriate integration of all various assessment-based projects and initiatives to build-up coherent regional knowledge base** necessary to properly inform on the current and upcoming challenges the region faces; this requiring stronger and broader coordination mechanisms.

H2020 Initiative – Research

- Rethink the opportunity/capacity to address **science-policy/practice interface** under H2020 within the current setting
- **Better link as well with other initiatives** (H2020 R+I, Bluemed, PRIMA...)

H2020 Initiative - Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investments

- Promote the **long-term development of the existing Road Map with IFIs**; Ensure the full involvement of partner institutions for the work of the PRPI group to be efficient; Approach additional relevant donors to expand and consolidate the PRPI group and its objectives;
- **Alignment of the MeHSIP timing with the end of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme (2015-2020)**;
- Agreement on **the criteria for H2020 flagship investment projects**; support in **advancing/launching/operationalising the H2020 investment flagship projects**.
- Promote as much as possible the **alignment of existing facilities with the revised NAPs priorities** for project development and financing;

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- Ensure the **full implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production** and of the **National Action Plans** in countries that have already adopted them; promote the elaboration and adoption of National Action Plans in the remaining countries;
- Building on the successful results of the ongoing regional programmes, **ensure as matter of urgency adequate financial resources beyond 2018 to keep up the momentum created at regional level by the SwitchMed Programme; scale up thematically and geographically the existing efforts into a longer term set of expanded actions, including access to financing and facilitation of SCP/RE related investments, so as to consolidate the critical mass of regional and local capacities necessary to support the move toward SCP and green/circular economy models**;
- **Accelerate implementation of activities** under the DRIVE Fund in the **Western Balkans**; Promote establishment of **new, similar donor funds** to facilitate access to financing for SMEs and green entrepreneurs adopting SCP practices in the entire Med.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Implement the revised structure and mechanisms** - reshaped along the lines of the Paris Summit, following CoPs and regional meetings - **of the climate change expert group**, if so agreed by the countries based on the proposal advanced at the Environment and Climate Change Working Group;
- Consolidate through the **new work programme** the definition of a regional climate change agenda and action plan in line with the Paris summit and related COP outcomes and agreements;

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

- Promote the **creation of new MPAs, including in the open seas**, to reach the established Aichi target 11⁵;
- Support to **more effective, equitable and efficient management of existing MPAs by 2020 through more financial and human means** available for MPAs as well as long-term capacity-building and networking at Mediterranean level;
- Create **win-win relationships of MPAs with decision-makers, donors and private sector** in order to respond to pressures beyond MPA borders, while considering MPAs as a natural capital and a management instrument to reach sustainability targets.
- Further **support the establishment of the MPAs Trust Fund**, building on the lessons learned from other well-established regional conservation trust fund delivering conservation to marine areas around the world;
- Strengthen and develop the role of MPAs as a marine spatial management tool in supporting ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

Bern Convention in particular Larnaka and Tunis Action Plan

- Ensure adequate country representation within the established intergovernmental task force on illegal killing.

Integrated Maritime Policy/Blue Economy

- Set the path towards the **2nd Ministerial Meeting on Blue Economy**, tentatively planned in 2018, based on the final outcomes and outputs of the activities launched so far;
- Optimize and fully operationalize the existing **Virtual Knowledge Center** as a **stakeholder register and networking platform**;
- **Officially launch the Initiative Sustainable Development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean Initiative** and consider UfM labelling;
- Promote **the regional network of maritime training institutes**;
- **Expand the Bluemed Initiative** to other Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries willing to join;
- Further promote **maritime spatial planning /integrated coastal zone management as governance and management tool** (ensuring sea land interaction);
- Maximize the **involvement of relevant stakeholders**;

⁵ Target 11: *By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes*

Eco-cities

- Consolidate a **common conceptual agreement on the definition of “eco-cities, smart cities, green cities, etc.”**; and build synergies among the existing regional processes and initiatives;
- Welcome and support the **2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development in 2017**
- **Promote the upcoming edition of the Jordan-led Eco Cities Forum** as regional platform powerful platform where international, regional, and local decision makers from the private and public sectors converge to meet, exchange views and inform themselves about what policies, technologies and business opportunities may help with, in order to lead to cleaner, safer and vibrant sustainable cities.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- **Progress from countries on** *‘measures to ensure environment and climate change are mainstreamed into sectoral policies and institutional structures, promoting and reinforcing the cooperation between ministries, agencies, local and regional authorities, and the private and public sector’; and steps taken ‘to enhance the opportunities and capacity of civil society, including recognized and registered NGOs, academic, financial and research institutions, local and regional authorities, the private sector, and other stakeholders to participate in decision-making processes’*
- **At regional level**, progress on the adoption of **multi stakeholders/participatory approaches (NGOs, academia, private sector, etc.)**, progressively extending to **local authorities**;
- **Increased coordination among funding programs** around common/shared priorities (e.g. environment and climate funding; cooperation among EU funding programs; etc)

INCREASED AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

- **Implementation of the Action Plan on Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development**;

ENSURING IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIRED ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

- Better **integrate newly established IFIs green and climate funds to serve environmental de-pollution and pollution prevention investments**;
- Activate the newly **established UfM Regional Finance Cooperation Committee for Climate Action (RFCCCA)**
- Address environment and climate investments through the closer **involvement of all concerned national authorities**, including the Ministries of Finance/Economy/Planning

PROPOSAL FOR EMERGING DOSSIERS TO BE FURTHER INTEGRATED IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES AND WORK OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

- Integration/association of the overall **Mediterranean Forestry/Silva Mediterranean frameworks of work and activities** into the wider implementation measures related to environment and climate change of the 2014 Ministerial Declaration to address **desertification, water quantity/quality, biodiversity, climate mitigation/adaptation** as well as contribute to promoting SCP business models, job creation and green investments;
- **Closer involvement of the local and regional coastal administrations through the Bologna Charter**, namely the charter of the Regions for the promotion of a common framework for strategic actions aimed at the protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastal areas. The Bologna Charter is open to more Southern & Eastern coastal administrations of the Mediterranean to join on a voluntary basis. Presentation of Co-Evolve as example to foster further partnership and specific actions on local coastal territories.