



Report

Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water agendas (REG-12)

20-22 November 2017
Nicosia, Cyprus

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1	Report: Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water agendas (REG-12), 20-22 November 2017, Nicosia, Cyprus	Anastasia Roniotes Essam Nada	Michael Scoullos



Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

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THE SWIM AND H2020 SUPPORT MECHANISM PROJECT (2016-2019)

The SWIM-H2020 SM is a Regional Technical Support Program that includes the following Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia. However, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional co-operation, eligibility of specific actions will be extended to the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro), Turkey and Mauritania. The Program is funded by the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) South/Environment. It ensures the continuation of EU's regional support to ENP South countries in the fields of water management, marine pollution prevention and adds value to other important EU-funded regional programs in related fields, in particular the SWITCH-Med program, and the Clima South program, as well as to projects under the EU bilateral programming, where environment and water are identified as priority sectors for the EU co-operation. It complements and provides operational partnerships and links with the projects labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean, project preparation facilities in particular MESHIP phase II and with the next phase of the ENPI-SEIS project on environmental information systems, whereas its work plan will be coherent with, and supportive of, the Barcelona Convention and its Mediterranean Action Plan.

The overall objective of the Program is to contribute to reduced marine pollution and a more sustainable use of scarce water resources. The Technical Assistance services are grouped in 6 work packages: WP1. Expert facility, WP2. Peer-to-peer experience sharing and dialogue, WP3. Training activities, WP4. Communication and visibility, WP5. Capitalizing the lessons learnt, good practices and success stories and WP6. Support activities.



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1 RATIONALE OF REG-12

The Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean, in its first phase 2009-2014, recognizing the importance of reaching out to stakeholders such as Members of Parliament, the Media and Non-Governmental Organizations working on related issues and engaging them in the regional process, organized through the Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme two major regional workshops:

- “Effective Involvement of Civil Society in the de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea”, that took place in Cairo, Egypt, on 16-17 December 2010 and brought together 92 stakeholders from the region.

- “How Members of Parliament can better contribute to the de-pollution of the Mediterranean” that took place in Athens, Greece, on 22-23 October 2012. The latter was organized in synergy with the Mediterranean Circle of Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) that is technically facilitated by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med, and the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) and succeeded in bringing together more than 120 stakeholders that pledged to accelerate their efforts towards a depolluted Mediterranean by the year 2020.

This SWIM-H2020 SM regional activity is the follow-up of these milestone capacity building actions and is dedicated to the continued engagement of Members of Parliament, NGOs and Media from the Partner Countries in the H2020 Initiative but also in the new Water Agenda of the Mediterranean.

The workshop was organized back-to-back with another regional training of SWIM-H2020 SM, REG-10 (23-24 November 2017), which was dedicated to supporting the PCs in the implementation of the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD). To maximise impact, the two regional activities converged in a joint session that took place at the Parliament of Cyprus where also international organizations have been invited to participate (EC, UN Environment, UNESCO, UfMS, League of Arab States, etc.). (see the outcomes of this session in annex to this report)

To strengthen the impact of the workshop, SWIM-H2020 SM partnered with COMPSUD (the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development), the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute and the Parliament of Cyprus, the GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) in the Mediterranean, which includes a portfolio of programmes and projects aiming to build climate resilience through better water management, the GWP-Med ‘Med Water Matchmaker’ Project supported by Sida, and the UfM labelled BlueGreen MED-CS Project and Mechanism. It was organized in close coordination with DG ENV, DG NEAR and the UfM Secretariat so that the results of the workshop feed into and inform the ongoing work of the H2020 Initiative and both the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (and its eventual Task Force on Environment) and the UfM Water Expert Group’s post Malta Ministerial Work Programme.



2 OBJECTIVES OF REG-12

The overall aim of the activity was to strengthen the participation and engagement of non-state Mediterranean stakeholders in the evolution of the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the Mediterranean Water Agenda. It also aimed to channel back to these processes the inputs and recommendations of the stakeholders.

The specific objectives of the activity were to:

- Introduce to the participants the latest developments under the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the Mediterranean Water Agenda, including cross-cutting issues, in a comprehensive manner and facilitate their involvement in these processes as contributors;
- Provide the enabling environment so that the invited stakeholders can contribute their informed inputs to the regional processes and develop a meaningful dialogue resulting in as tangible as possible proposed next steps both at regional level and in their respective countries;
- Enable the exchange and transfer of best practices at national level among the participants;
- Offer the opportunity for the stakeholders to define their role in supporting these regional processes;
- Support the continuation of this unique platform of regional dialogue that dates back to 2010 with an identity linked to the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

3 EXPECTED RESULTS OF REG-12

The long-term expected results were that national strategies are coordinated with the regional (Mediterranean) agreed priorities on environment and water issues. MPs, NGOs and media are pivotal in encouraging/pressuring governments, each in their own way, to this end. In the short term, the regional training workshop's expected outcomes were:

A. Key stakeholders of the Partner Countries have a good understanding of:

- The state of play under the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean and more specifically of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change;
- Recent developments under the Mediterranean Water Agenda and more specifically of the UfM Water Experts Group, including on cross-cutting issues.

B. Stakeholders feel engaged in the processes and provide their 'review' of the progress made as well as and their on-the-ground practical solutions and recommendations

C. Useful inputs and recommendations result from the discussions and group work that can feed into the on-going relevant work at regional level (EU, UfM, UN Environment, and other bodies).



D. The regional stakeholder dialogue that has been initiated during the EU-funded CB/MEP project is continued, enhancing the basis for the development of synergetic activities, regional cooperation, etc.

From the below sections it will become clear that expectations were met.

4 PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

In total, 55 participants attended the meeting coming from the Partner countries: Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Cyprus., Egypt, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia, Syria and Tunisia. The participants were Members of parliament (in total 11), Media representatives (in total 6 from Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco, Jordan and Egypt) and the rest were members of NGOs, International organizations and ministry representatives. (see the annexed list of participants for more details).

5 EVALUATION OUTCOMES OF REG-12

The training evaluation received overall very satisfactory reactions (3,6/4). Most appreciated aspect was the Efficient and effective follow-up of preparations and progress towards the event (average 3,7). It is worth to notice that the second highest value is attributed to Efficient and Effective Facilitation (average value 3.7). Participants expressed their satisfaction on these main points among others: The presence of many stakeholders (civil societies, members of parliament and media), the experience sharing from different countries and the discussions among the participants. The session at the Cypriot Parliament was generally very highly appreciated.

A. Feedback on organisational, administrative and planning issues

A set of 11 criteria; A1-A11 (See table below) was assessed by the participants, using a qualitative description ranging between “Excellent” to “Poor”, with an opportunity to provide suggestions for improvement. For the sake of comparison, the qualitative descriptions are given Series Numbers as follows: Excellent = 4; Good = 3; Average = 2; Poor = 1.

Table 1 – Training rating results related to organizational, administrative and planning issues

A. ORGANISATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING ISSUES BEFORE AND DURING THE EVENT					Total Replies	Average Score (max = 4)	
	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	POOR			
A1	Appropriate handling of invitations, visa support, information sharing and smoothing obstacles	24	7	2	0	33	3,67
A2	Efficient logistics: accommodation, transportation, location of venue and interpretation	25	8	0	0	33	3,76



A3	Provision of support (if requested) for participants' preparation for the event	18	10	0	0	28	3,64
A4	Efficient and effective follow-up of preparations and progress towards the event	24	5	2	0	31	3,71
A5	Planning for the event: selection and design of methodology, programme/daily agenda and work rules	17	14	1	0	32	3,50
A6	Smooth flow of programme, efficient handling of emerging needs and attentiveness to participants concerns	23	8	1	0	32	3,69
A7	Presentations correspond and contribute to the planned objectives and are conducive to enhanced shared understanding and participation on addressed topics	13	16	3	0	32	3,31
A8	Clarity, coverage and sufficiency of concepts, objectives, anticipated outputs and outcomes	16	15	2	0	33	3,42
A9	The materials distributed were helpful	17	16	0	0	33	3,52
A10	Efficient and Effective Facilitation	24	8	1	0	33	3,70
A11	Overall rating of the event	19	12	0	0	31	3,61

See also the corresponding graphs for Table 1 in Annex 7.3

Feedback on technical aspects

Figure 1- Training coverage

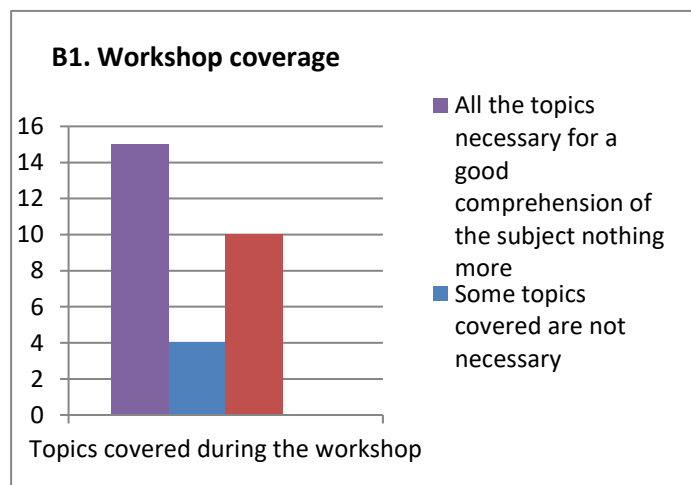




Figure 2- Training difficulty

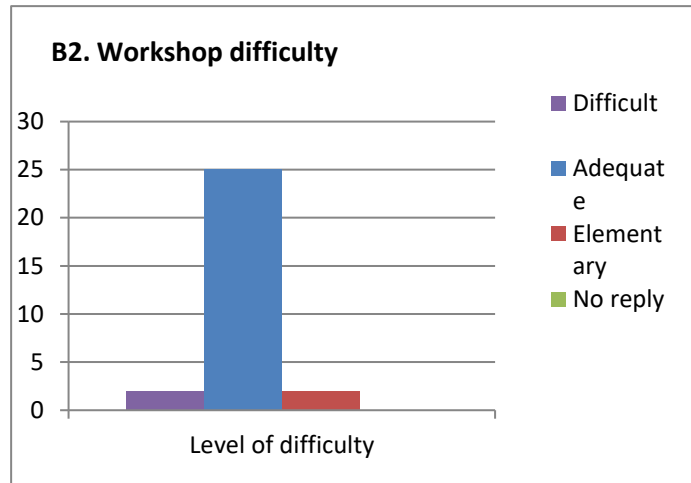
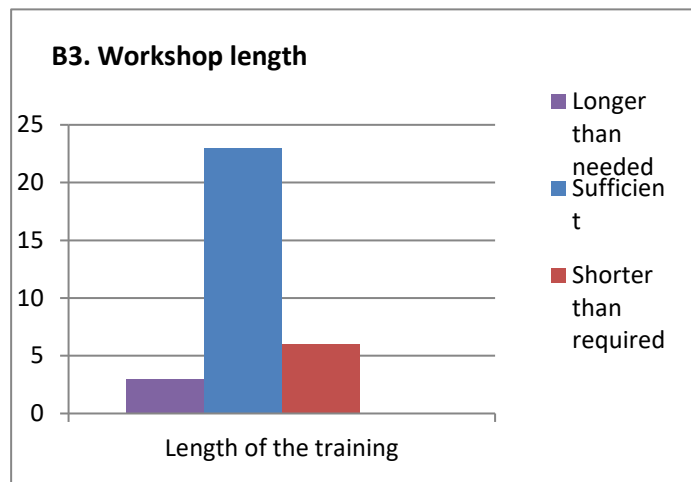


Figure 3- Training length



(see more in Annex 7.3)

6 WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthening meaningful SCO participation in environmental and water issues remains as much a priority as it ever has, also for the post 2020 phase of the regional agenda. Major issues discussed, included the following:

- The impact of **refugees** on the environmental and water issues of the region is huge. In Jordan and Lebanon, as well as in other countries in North Africa, this considerable additional pressure on



existing resources and infrastructure was not planned for. The serious problems from refugee flows on the EU Mediterranean countries, allow the entire Euro-Mediterranean community to understand the significance of the issue, since, apparently there was no preparedness for such flows.

There is concern by all stakeholders that the region, as a whole, is at risk; to a large extent, this risk is due to diverse positions of countries and groups leading to spasmodic and fragmented reactions paralleled by an overall inertia within the political sphere. This calls for even stronger solidarity in environment and water issues amongst the non-state actors of the region.

- **Monitoring** is key, and the relevance of sharing reliable data is significant for the region. Appreciation of the efforts achieved under MAP and SEIS were expressed, acknowledging the inherent difficulties in making information publically accessible. Mediterranean countries becoming signatories of the Aarhus Convention on access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental issues, can really help in advancing progress in this domain.

- **National dialogues** that link with regional processes seem to be an effective model of meaningful exchange that strengthens national implementation, regardless of administrative, institution or legal impediments. This has been apparent in the private sector: when convinced that there are benefits in adapting towards a blue/green economy, they will change behaviour and will risk investing in new technologies or practices, even if national frameworks of enforcement (legal and institutional) are not fully in place. Communication, capacity building and Education for Sustainable Development play a huge role in making such shifts materialize.

It is a challenge for Members of Parliament to move from the theory of regulation setting to the practice of regulation implementation. Capacity building specifically targeting MPs is very much needed. But even then, the task at hand is not easy. Some suggestions were:

- put emphasis on the social and economic costs of environmental degradation and the cost of 'inaction', which may stimulate decisions for practical solutions.
- focus on priorities, remove unsustainable practices, minimize the dilution of efforts and funds.
- with the SDGs as guiding/mobilizing country commitment, a lot can be achieved. Link specific activities with them.
- gender issues need to be properly integrated based on real assessment of roles and needs in order to be effective. The same applies for the role of Youth.
- the polluter pays principle should be strengthened and properly applied.
- promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) can help mobilize a deep socio-cultural change that will shift the current unsustainable policies and the prevailing 'traditional' economic models towards sustainability. Only then will current trends be reversed and a new paradigm will emerge.
- regional processes are very important but mainly act as "stimulus". They can only support, provide information, etc. It is the national processes that can exert the pressure needed to advance progress. Capacity building is needed, along with established participatory approaches and mechanisms, including its looser form of national dialogues (that in turn link with regional processes and projects).



On the Post 2020 Phase of Horizon 2020, the main message was that there is a genuine need to continue what is being done, with improvements at various levels and more emphasis on:

(a) The “integration of the integrated management approaches” must be streamlined, (e.g. through the Integrative Methodological Framework – IMF) in order to facilitate practical approaches. A good ‘nexus approach’ needs to be formulated, well communicated and well reflected in both the environment and water agendas. Soil integrity in the Mediterranean should not be left out.

(b) Plastics were a major concern for all of the stakeholder groups at the meeting. SCP within a circular economy, marine litter management, etc., need to be at the heart of future planning.

(c) Local and regional authorities, as well as regional initiatives should be more involved in the next phase. The urban environment, especially linked to climate change, overpopulation and the incurred added pressure on natural resources should be more prominent.

(d) Overall, in terms of capacity building, the needs remain, while the impact of the relevant regional projects (including EU-funded ones such as CB/MEP and SWIM-H2020 SM) is considered as particularly significant. For the Western Balkans, it was clearly mentioned that although EU approximation and integration is helping in environment and water issues, progress is lagging due to lack of institutional, human and financial resources. Activities, such as those running under the Horizon 2020 Initiative’s capacity building component are sorely missed. Similar opportunities do not seem to be available or accessible to stakeholders. This should be taken account in the post 2020 phase.

(e) The media, if well informed, independent and transparent, can be a major partner for the next H2020 steps in mobilizing progress (exerting pressure and monitoring) at many levels. However, here too, capacity building is needed.

An assessment of progress to date may help to understand better: what are/were the aspirations? How far are we from meeting them? The Team Leader explained that such a report will become available from the EU-funded SEIS South project in mid-2019.

***Note:** these conclusions were shared with the UfMS which in turn took them into consideration both for the work of the UfM Environment Task Force that met in Jordan on January 30th 2018 and for the overall planning efforts for the post 2020 environment agenda of the UfM. The Team Leader also conveyed the key points to the 9th Meeting of the H2020 Steering Group meeting that took place in Jordan on the 29th of January 2018 and the UfM Water Expert Group meeting that also took place in Jordan on the 1st of February 2018.*



7 ANNEXES

7.1 AGENDA

Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water agendas

Regional Workshop

20-22 November 2017, Nicosia, Cyprus

Provisional Programme			
19 November			
Arrivals			
20 November, Hilton Park Hotel, Nicosia			Method, Speaker/Trainer
Coffee offered at the opening		10.30-11.00	
Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome addresses, opening remarks Scope of the meeting in the context of the SWIM-HORIZON 2020 Support Mechanism 	11.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Scoullos, Team Leader SWIM-H2020 SM Charalampos Chajipakkos, Cyprus Focal Point of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, COMPSUD Chair Aravella Zachariou, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute Alessandra Sensi, Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat
Session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the stakeholders in the room 	12.00-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone - Facilitation by Emad Adly, Stakeholder Engagement Expert of SWIM-H2020 SM
Session 3 Setting the framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charting the Progress in the Region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UfM Environment and Water agendas and work programmes: where we are and what happens next Towards an enhanced regional water agenda in the Mediterranean: on-going and new political processes, all-time and emerging thematic agendas, and the need for synergies and matchmakings. 	12.30-13.30	<p>Introduction by Michael Scoullos, Team Leader SWIM-H2020 SM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alessandra Sensi, Senior Programme Manager, UfM Secretariat Vangelis Constantianos, GWP-Med <p>Brief presentations, reflections and discussion</p>
Lunch		13.30 -15.00	



Session 4 The stakeholder s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging Members of Parliament in regional processes: the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development Lessons learned from the Stakeholder Engagement Involvement component of the SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism 	15.00-16.30	<p><i>Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, Chair of COMPSUD</i></p> <p><i>Emad Adly, SWIM-H2020 SM</i></p> <p><i>Brief presentations, reflections and discussion</i></p>
Coffee Break		16.30- 17.00	
Session 5 The stakeholder s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The point of view of the media on progress; the gap between regional and national political decision making: what are they reporting? The role of the media and of communication in environmental protection The experience from another European Regional Sea: the Baltic <p>Wrap up of the day and a few words on day 2.</p>	17.00–17.50 17.50-18.00	<p><i>Fawsy Solieman, Al-Ahram Newspaper, Egypt</i></p> <p><i>Sihem Rekik, In charge of communication at the MoE, Tunisia</i></p> <p><i>Mikael Karlsson, President, European Environmental Bureau</i></p>
21 November, Hilton Park Hotel, Nicosia			
Session 6	Achievements under the League of Arab States	09.00-9.30	<i>Djamel Djaballah, League of Arab States</i>
	Sharing national experiences that can be considered as ‘driven’ or influenced by regional/ international processes	9.30–11.00	5-7 minute interventions by participants based on a provided template
Coffee Break		11.00 - 11.30	
Session 7	In view of a series of political milestones for the post 2020 phase (e.g. SDGs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What should the post Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean focus on? What are the water thematic areas that should not be left out of focus and how should Gender and Youth be tackled in these? 	11.30-12.15 12.15-13.00	<p><i>Animated tour of the room after a 5 minute introduction (UfM and SWIM-H2020 SM)</i></p> <p><i>Animated tour of the room after a 5 minute introduction (GWP-Med and SWIM-H2020 SM)</i></p>
Lunch Break		13.00 –14.30	
Session 8	How can effective communication on progress made contribute to better implementation?	14.30-15.00	<i>Animated tour of the room after a 5 minute introduction (Journalist and NGO)</i>
Session 9	Synthesis, Recommendations and Conclusions session	15.00 -16.00	Briefing by the TL of SWIM-H2020 SM followed by discussion round with everyone
Session 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing of the workshop/training component Evaluation Certificates of attendance award 	16.00-17.00	<i>Everyone</i>
Coffee offered at the closing of the session			



22 November, Hilton Park Hotel, Nicosia

10.00–11.30 Enhancing the role of Members of Mediterranean Parliaments in achieving Sustainable Development

11.30-12.00 Coordination for the session at the Cypriot Parliament later in the day (session dedicated to MPs)

12.00-13.00 Bilateral discussions and meetings over *coffee*

13.00-14.30 **Lunch break**

15.00 Departure of buses from the Hilton Park Hotel to the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus

15.30 –17.30 Joint Meeting of Parliamentarians, Ministries’ Officials & other Stakeholders

20.00 Dinner offered by the Minister of Education of Cyprus



7.2 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	COUNTRY	TYPE OF INSTITUTION	TITLE (Mr/Ms)	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	POSITION/ FUNCTION	ORGANISATION/ INSTITUTION	EMAIL
1	Albania	MP	Mr.	Besnik	BARAJ	Member of Parliament		barajbesnik@gmail.com; andiserjani@gmail.com
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11	Cyprus	MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES	Ms.	Aravella	ZACHARIOU		Cyprus Pedagogical Institute	aravella@cytanet.com.cy
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14	Egypt	International Organisation	Mr.	Djamel	DJABALLAH	Technical secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), Environment, Water, Housing and Climate Change	League of Arab States	Yasmin_teima@hotmail.com
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16	Egypt	MP	Mr.	Hegazi	EL SAYED	Member of Parliament		Hanan.arafa.waly@gmail.com
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18	Egypt	MP	Mr.	Mohamed	KHALIFA	Member of Parliament		khalifa10721@yahoo.co.uk
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21	Egypt	Media representative	Mr.	Fawsy	SOLIEMAN	Journalist	Al-Ahram Newspaper	Fawzy007@gmail.com
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31	Italy	NGO	Ms.	Patrizia	BONELLI		Schole Futuro	patbonelli@gmail.com
32	Italy	International Organisation	Ms.	Alessandra	SENSI	Senior Programme Manager	UfM Secretariat	alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org
33	Jordan	MP	Mr.	Fadeel Menwer	AL NAHAR	Member of Parliament		fadeel.alnahr@representatives.jo
34	Jordan	NGO	Mr.	Ziyad	ALAWNEH	President	LHAP	ziyadalawneh@gmail.com
35	Jordan	MP	Mr.	Ibrahim	BANIHANI	Member of Parliament	Head of Environment and Health Commission in the Jordanian Parliament	banihani@just.edu.jo



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41	Lebanon	NGO	Mr.	Fadlallah	HASSOUNA	Executive Director	Development for People and Nature Association	fadh@dpna-lb.org
42	Lebanon	NGO	Mr.	Fadi	HUSSEINI	Programme Officer	AMWAJ for the Environment	fadi.husseini70@gmail.com
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44	Lebanon	NGO	Ms.	Sallama	NAMANI	Development Program Manager	Makhzoumi Foundation	s.namani@makhzoumifoundation.org
45	Lebanon	NGO	Ms.	Marie Therese	SEIF	Founder & President of Head	UN Environment West Asia Regional Representative for Major Groups Stakeholders	mtseif4@hotmail.com



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50	Morocco	MP	Mr.	Khalid	ELHARFI	Member of Parliament		k.elharfi@parlement.ma
51	Morocco	NGO	Mr.	Mohamed	FTOUHI	President	CMED	cmepe2000@yahoo.fr
52	Morocco	MP	Mr.	Moh	REJDALI	Member of Parliament		m_rejdali@hotmail.ma
53	Morocco	MP	Mr.	Nabil	SABRI	Member of Parliament		k.elharfi@parlement.ma
54	Morocco	MP	Ms.	Fatiha	SEDDAS	Member of Parliament		f.saddas@hotmail.com
55	Morocco	Media representative	Mr.	Mohammed	TAFRAOUTI	Rédacteur en chef	www.Marocenv.com	tafraouti.mohammed@gmail.com
56	Palestine	Media representative	Ms.	Rana	ABU FARHA AL RISHMAWI	Journalist	Maan News Agency	ranarishmawi@outlook.com
57	Palestine	MP	Mr.	Waleed	ASSAF	Member of Parliament		Wassaf1960@yahoo.com
58	Palestine	NGO	Mr.	Ibrahim	ODEH	Deputy Director	Palestine Wildlife Society	educationhead@wildlife-pal.org



59	Slovenia	NGO	Mr.	Milan	VOGRIN	vice-president	DPPVN	milan.vogrin@guest.arnes.si
60	Syria	NGO	Ms.	Suheir	RAIES	Head of the Board	Syrian coast society 4 environment protection	dr.suheirraies@gmail.com
61	Tunisia	NGO	Ms.	Habib	BENBOUBAKER	Professor // treasurer of ASM Kelibia	Association de Sauvegarde de la Medina et du Patrimoine de Kelibia	hboubaker@yahoo.fr, asmkelibia@yahoo.fr
62	Tunisia	NGO	Ms.	Najoua	BOURAOUI EP MONASTIRI	Head of APEDDUB	Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Durable de Bizerte (APEDDUB)	Najwa_bourawi@yahoo.fr
63	Tunisia	Media representative	Ms.	Sihem	REKIK	Chargée de la communication	Ministre des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement	sihem.rekik@tunisia.gov.tn



7.3 DETAILS ON THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION FORMS

The following graphs illustrate Table 1: Training rating results related to organizational, administrative and planning issues:

Figure 1 – Invitations and support

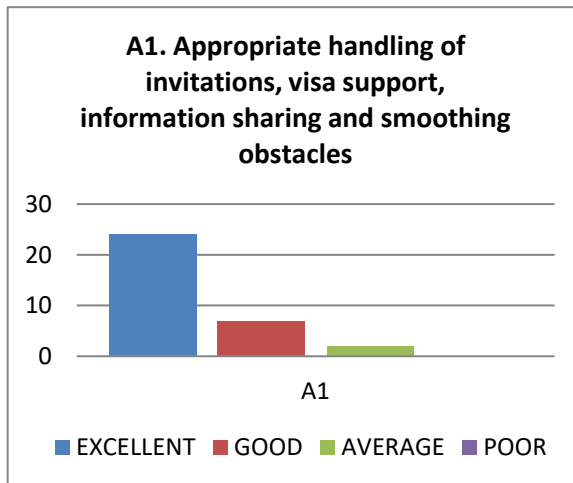


Figure 2 – Logistics

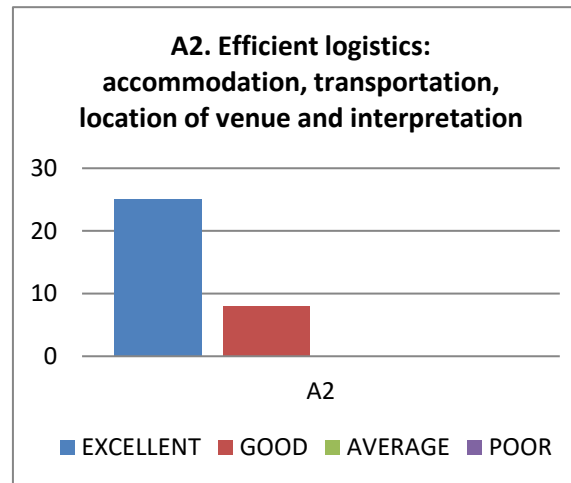


Figure 3 – Participants' preparation

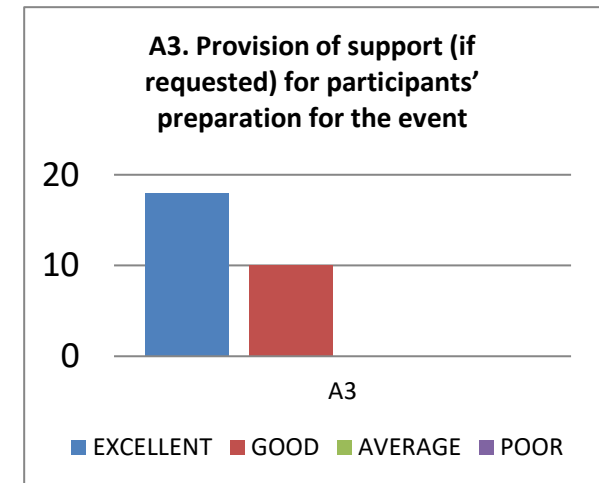




Figure 4 – Progress towards the event

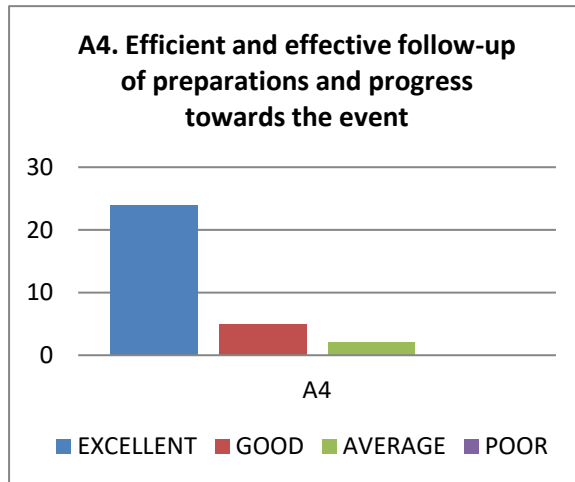


Figure 5 – Planning

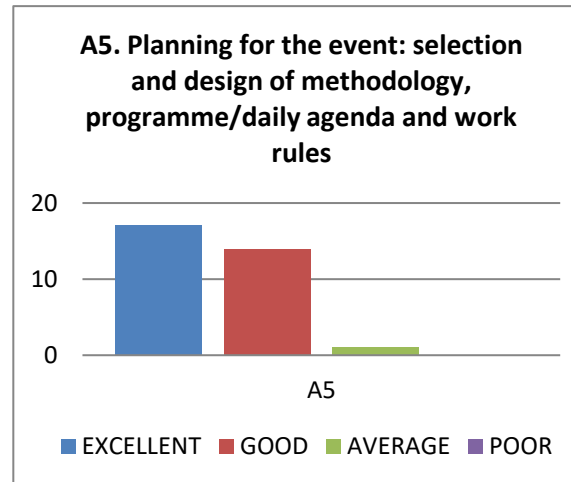


Figure 6 – Flow of programme

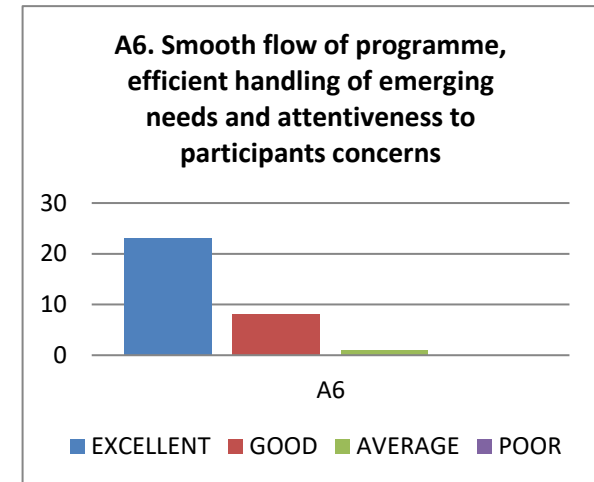




Figure 7 – Presentation and enhanced shared experience

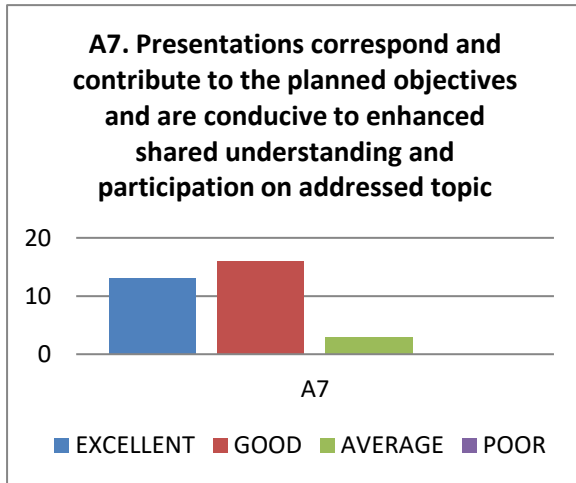


Figure 8 – Clarity and Sufficiency of concepts

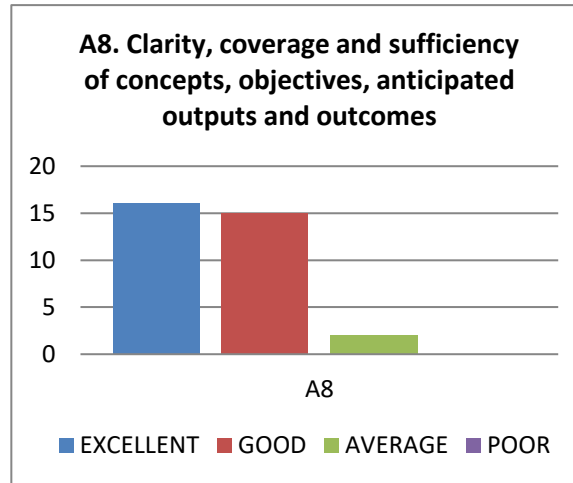


Figure 9 – Quality of materials

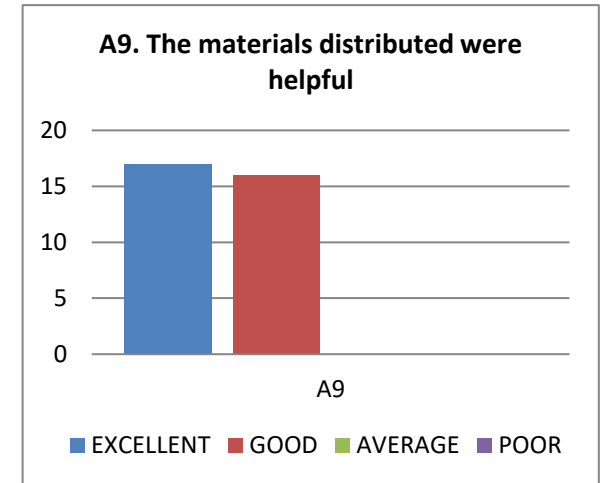




Figure 10 – Facilitation

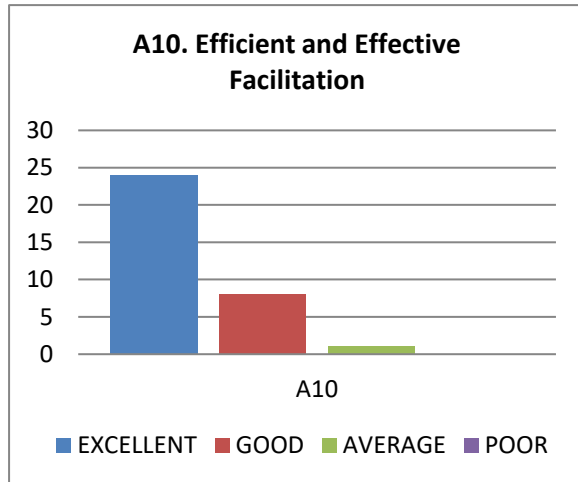


Figure 11 – Overall rating

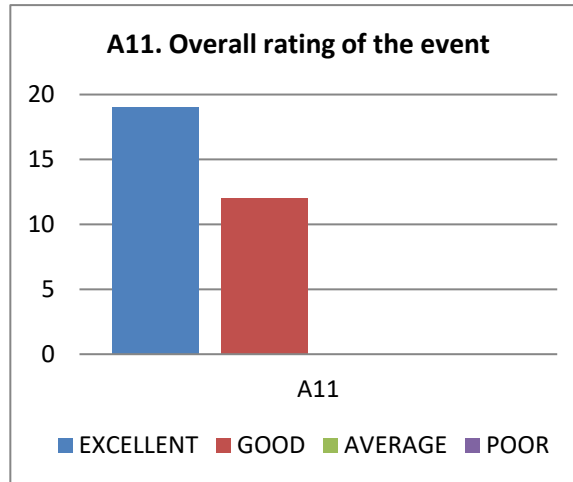




Table 2 - Participants' feedback on technical aspects of the training

B. FEEDBACK ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS		No. of replies
B1	Coverage of the event In your opinion did the event cover (tick one of the following):	
	All the topics necessary for a good comprehension of the subject nothing more	15
	Some topics covered are not necessary	4
	Some additional topics should be included	10
	No reply	0
	Total Replies	29
B2	Level of difficulty	
	Difficult	2
	Adequate	25
	Elementary	2
	No reply	0
	Total Replies	29
B3	Length of the training In your view the workshop duration (tick one of the following):	
	Longer than needed	3
	Sufficient	23
	Shorter than required	6
	No reply	0
	Total Replies	32

Table 3 - Participants replies to the open-ended questions

Open-ended questions	Participant's replies
B4 What is the most valuable thing you learned during the workshop (knowledge or skills)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cooperation between various stakeholders and different countries from North and South is essential especially legislation makers, NGO's and media. This could be executed through programs and projects. ▪ Arabic language should be one of the languages used in the workshop as more than 50% of attendants were Arabs. ▪ The importance of exchanging experiences between different countries' participants that are concerned with the environment. ▪ We should be –always- good listeners to learn how to engage and strengthen the other NGO's with other stakeholders in environment and water. ▪ Serving human takes time and it needs perseverance, teamwork and struggle. ▪ Arab countries are still late in terms of environmental protection and sustainable development and it is more than urgent to fill up the gap. ▪ SWIM H2020 SM is keen to engage different stakeholders in its national and regional events and it is trying to reach different stakeholders through different communication channels.



- Stakeholders play a big role in the Mediterranean environment and water agenda, if they work together in a high level of coordination and cooperation, there will be a lot of chances to succeed.
- Partnership between experts and media is very important to achieve progress to both.
- Introduction to different experiences and problem solving.
- Need to disseminate information more efficiently.
- UfM forum and its programme for Mediterranean environment and water sustainable management.
- NEXUS is as a new approach.
- Implication of concerns and fundamentals.
- Sharing experiences of GNP and Balkan region.
- The challenges are growing faster to narrow the gap between problems solution planning and their implementation.
- Sustainability can be only ensured through taking care of vulnerable environment.
- If there are many other parliamentarians working hard, we could make our Mediterranean cleaner.

Total Replies

29

How do you think that the current event will assist you in your future work on the subject?

B5

- Enhancing the cooperation between parliament & authorities of environment and NGO's is very important.
- The implementation of national strategies for the environment for the application of innovative ideas from different experiences.
- The guidelines and ideas learnt would help tremendously in the professional and political life.
- It will help our NGO work on sustainable natural resources management.
- Focus of details not covered by others so as not to duplicate.
- Dissemination of all the information and skills I gained during the event to a larger number of NGO's on the national and regional level to encourage them to participate and follow-up the future events.
- Contact some NGO's and MPs to discuss specific issues to deal with them in a highly professional media "Journalism".
- Gained some needed information and new facts about the co-operated programs and projects in the Mediterranean those enable us to convey back home to our organizations and countries.
- Ability to explain the seriousness of the topic to influence stakeholders specially decision makers.
- Lots of different information.
- It enforced my contacts with the Albanian MP's.
- Prevent challenges that face rivers by laws.
- Allowed me to deepen my background/knowledge about SWIM H2020 SM.
- Keep going, because in this conference we noticed a lot of what MIO-ECSDE has done with such a small budget.
- Choosing the framework, engage all the stakeholders.
- Gained more sufficient information to decision makers in different issues related to environment and water.

Total Replies

26



B6

Please indicate whether (and how) you could transfer part of the experience gained from the event to your colleagues in your country?

- We will organize meetings with all parties to discuss the results.
- Permanent training of executives, members of the civil society work in the field of the environment.
- Disseminate the experiences and best ideas presented that is important for the environment.
- Meeting with our NGO executive board and transfer the experience gained, and will put an agenda on how and when can they spread.
- Formation of a specialized civil society organization for water and environment.
- Conduct frequent meetings and forums for parliamentarians and local council's members to exchange ideas and good practices or experiences.
- Write an article to be published in "Montada Al Biah" monthly newsletter issued by RAED.
- Train my colleagues and young journalists to deal with environmental issues in the Mediterranean.
- I will transfer the information gained to people through newspapers and writing articles through briefing on the topics covered and lessons learned.
- Distribution of any materials related to the subject.
- My team will transfer the gained experience to other environmental NGO's and broader.
- Broadcasting Radio programs on the concepts we learnt.
- Press release.

Total Replies

27

B7

What did you like most about this event?

- The important ideas, interventions and different experiences for the elaboration of the strategies and the chances of working in the environmental field.
- Helpful, easy to understand and full of good ideas. MIO and its secretariat and members and their invitees all together were wonderful.
- The importance of exchanging experiences presented in this event.
- To meet people from various origins and cultures and still feel you have the same concern which is the wellbeing of humanity.
- Ensure that the presentations reaffirm to the fixed objectives.
- The dynamic approach.
- The friendly attitude by everyone.
- Focusing on creating channels for partnership between different stakeholders to make our Mediterranean cleaner.
- Many stakeholders' especially civil society, media, MP's and experts.
- The logistical and organizational support done by MIO staff.
- The topical presentations from GWP Mediterranean, parliamentarians and individual experts.
- Insisting of working even with a little budget.
- The communication and discussion with participants.
- Methodological approach.
- The implication of MPs and media.
- The experience of Morocco in the implementation and enforcement of plastic and nylon laws in Tunisia greatest church and Mosque in



B8	Total Replies	Jordan. ▪ The presentation of Michael Jarlsson from Sweden. ▪ Prof. Scoullis is always excellent.	25
	What needs to be improved?	▪ Using Arabic language and translation. ▪ Diversity of the stakeholders and their experiences. ▪ The necessity of the diffusion of the presenters of each speaker. ▪ Finding members that understand what is needed and that will be able to spread it in Lebanon. ▪ The importance of distribution and diffusion of document and exposing the different interventions to understand the experiences in details. ▪ The participation of some academics and topic specialists. ▪ To allocate more time for particular topics and discussions. ▪ Field visits can be for some special topics of great importance. ▪ Take into account obstacles that prevent the Mediterranean countries from applying the SWIM strategy. ▪ Engage more stakeholders; youth, local authorities, media, NGO's, etc... ▪ Involving more stakeholders and training them on how to engage the Mediterranean environment and water agenda's. ▪ Practical training. ▪ Diversity of attendees, not all countries were present ▪ Evaluation per member. ▪ More representatives from Balkan region. ▪ Inviting Albanian media to such events. ▪ Agenda to be more realistic in terms to outputs and design the methodology accordingly rather than present and wait for feedback and suggestions. ▪ Coordination with policy makers. ▪ More positive experiences should be presented. ▪ Regional steps should be taken by all Mediterranean countries.	26



7.4 OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING OF MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, MINISTRIES' OFFICIALS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, 22 NOVEMBER 2017, HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

From the interventions and the discussion among representatives of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UNESCO, UNECE, UN Environment / MAP, the League of Arab States (LAS), Parliamentarians, members of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) and representatives of Civil Society, from Egypt, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Jordan, Israel, Croatia, Cyprus, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Montenegro, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, **the following findings emerged:**

During 2016-2017, the Mediterranean faced, and continues to face, a number of crises, environmental, social and economic, which undermine the potential of the countries bordering it to progress. These crises directly impact social, political and cultural relations, hampering the conditions for a peaceful coexistence and sustainable development of the people and societies of the region and its wider neighborhood.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), accepted by all the Mediterranean countries and the whole planet, provide a promising milestone for the orientation of the actions of the countries of the region and of their social partners, if and only, however, societies and especially young people cooperate and coordinate their efforts towards their implementation. Many are currently enrolled in various levels of education and will gradually take the reins of their countries and the responsibility to promote and implement very demanding and difficult decisions and action.

Based on the above, it is of high priority for all the countries of the region to systematically promote education, training and awareness raising on Sustainable Development, which should be prioritized and politically supported by the Parliaments of the countries of the region and financially supported by Governments and International Organizations.

Despite the exceptional preparation and content of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) and its Action Plan, and despite the progress and positive efforts made by several countries in the region, the gap between needs and corresponding actions in the field of ESD is still significant. Both the existing inadequate and often inappropriate institutional frameworks, as well as the lack of the necessary human and material resources are responsible for this gap. There is also a significant mismatch between declared positions, suggestions and recommendations concerning education, information and public participation in the various International and Regional / Mediterranean Meetings and Treaties (e.g. Climate, Biodiversity, etc.) and the corresponding actions and investments at national and regional level. The role of the Parliaments is crucial in putting the appropriate legislation in



place, ensuring the ratification of relevant International Conventions, as well as for the adoption of the respective budgets.

The rapid increase in the percentage of young people, especially in the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean, combined with the increased rates of unemployment and underemployment and their displacement as refugees and migrants, makes their access to quality education and the theoretical and applied elements of education and training on all of the interrelated aspects of Sustainable Development imperative and urgent.

The funds currently available for ESD, including the related programs of Environmental Education, Citizenship Education, Climate Change, Health Education, Human Rights, etc., in the Mediterranean countries, address a minimum percentage of the actual needs. In some countries, there is inactivity or even withdrawal of funding, as well as of actions related to linking formal and non-formal education.

On the basis of the above, the participants **unanimously adopted the following messages and recommendations**, which they kindly ask the President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus to convey to the Parliaments and Governments of the countries of the Union for the Mediterranean, the European Commission and all the participating International Organizations. They:

- Welcome the efforts of countries to reform and modernize their institutional frameworks towards strengthening ESD, in line with the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD and its Action Plan.
- Welcome the efforts of countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlighting the urgent need to strengthen ESD as an integral part of the National Strategies for implementing the SDGs. The Parliaments of the countries of the region can convene special sessions to raise awareness and promote such relevant initiatives.
- Express their satisfaction for the capacity building activities on ESD provided by the SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism, funded by the European Union, and express the wish for its continuation and expansion.
- Point out that it is absolutely necessary for the promotion of Sustainable Development and relevant SDGs and for addressing the multiple crises that the region faces, to advance and strengthen ESD and promote the Mediterranean Strategy for ESD and its Action Plan, so that the Ministries of Education of the countries are able to use these tools for strengthening and adapting their respective national strategies and programmes in formal education at all levels.
- Highlight that all other relevant Ministries should assist in developing and integrating, within the countries' educational systems, non-formal education and public awareness raising processes on sustainable development, by integrating and encouraging the activities of civil society and in particular of NGOs dealing with ESD, as well as those of the relevant International and Regional Networks.



- Request the countries of the region, the European Union, the relevant International Organizations and institutional donors to support national and Mediterranean wide/ Regional programmes on capacity building on ESD, in particular teachers' trainings. A five-fold increase of the national budgets for ESD is proposed for its radical reinforcement, over the next five years. In the same context, it is suggested that the activities related to ESD under the Horizon2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean and of the SWIM-Horizon2020 Support Mechanism are continued and strengthened.

The Parliaments of the countries of the region can actively support the necessary legislative work and approve appropriate funding mechanisms for the promotion of ESD.

- Ask the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Committee on ESD to continue its valuable support focusing its efforts on mobilizing resources and working for the repetition of this important initiative of the Cypriot Parliament, and organizing a future joint session of Parliamentarians, educators and civil society representatives in another Mediterranean Parliament.

On the basis of the above, I call for the joint adoption of the text of the conclusions, which, as an initiative of the Cypriot House of Representatives, will be sent to all Parliaments of the Mediterranean countries. Finally, I note that the Cypriot Parliament will take the initiative to host a meeting of the Parliaments of the Mediterranean countries to discuss the role and common actions we can undertake towards the enhancement of Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean.

Adamos Adamou, President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus

House of Representatives

November 22, 2017

Nicosia, Cyprus