

BLUEGREEN MED-CS NETWORKING CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION THROUGH ENVIRONMENT AND WATER ISSUES

A UfM labeled project

Duration: 2014-2017 (but with a foreseen continuation beyond)
Budget: €2,855,900



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

The **OVERALL GOAL** of the project is to strengthen existing, and promote new, cooperation and financial opportunities among Euro-Mediterranean Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) dedicated to water and environment, thereby maximising their contribution to sustainable development in the region. More specifically, it aims to:

- Reinforce the participation and cooperation of southern CSOs through an integrated capacity building programme able to pool technical/organizational expertise and tools in the field of water and environment alongside lessons learned and resources;
- Strengthen existing dialogue and participatory decision making, and promote new collaboration opportunities, between civil society, public authorities and other relevant stakeholders through concrete actions
- Function as a mechanism allowing for CSOs/NGOs to meaningfully benefit from regional Mediterranean projects and processes.

ACTIONS

Concrete actions are foreseen through:

- Capacity building programmes, including small grants for learning-by-doing initiatives focused on environment and water issues.
- The promotion of partnerships between beneficiary CSOs and more experienced CSOs already in the specific fields of intervention.
- The strengthening of existing networks and inclusion of emerging or thematically specific CSOs.
- The promotion of dialogue between public authorities and CSOs to identify opportunities for constructive participation in policy-making processes.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Under the initial UfM labeled project, the targeted countries were: Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. However, the project is addressing the needs of other Mediterranean countries as well, such as Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, etc. and can expand to all Mediterranean countries due to the solid presence of the project promoters in the region.

RESULTS

- Strengthened personal, organisational and institutional capacities of at least 120 Mediterranean environmental CSOs to provide goods and services to society in a more efficient and sustainable way.
- Reinforced capacity of CSOs in operating, ensuring follow up on and implementing innovative projects with a high potential.
- Active and constructive contribution of CSOs to environment- and water-related national policy dialogues and regional processes.

[UfM BLUEGREEN MED-CS website](#)

[SWIM-H2020 SM website](#)

PROJECT PROMOTERS

- MIO-ECSDE, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
- RAED, Arab Network for Environment and Development
- WWF-MedPO, WWF Mediterranean Programme Office
- IUCN-Med, Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
- MEDWET, Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
- IME, Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau

The Blue Green (BG) project thus far does not have fresh funding. But the promoters are putting at full disposal their networks and broad range of activities convinced that the labelling (i.e. the endorsement by the 43 countries of this sole NGOs project of the UfM environment portfolio) has a high symbolic and political value. Promoters are proceeding contributing directly to the implementation of the activities with their own human resources while the activities themselves are advancing through associated financing from:

- Two capacity building and small grants projects of the project promoters, namely (1) IUCN Small Grants (in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia; amount: 160,000) and (2) WWF/MEDWET (estimated: 200,000).
- The capacity building activities taking place under the EU-funded H2020/SWIM project, covering all the EU-Neighborhood South countries, during 2015 and soon under its next 3-year phase (2016-2018). These are regional and sub-regional trainings and study visits. The NGOs proposed by the BG are fully paid to participate in each training.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BG AND SGP

The key purpose of cooperation between the BG and SGP would be to take advantage of the presence of both projects within the Mediterranean region to help connect local, national and regional processes and actions supporting the environment, and facilitating participation of CSOs. The aim of this cooperation is to link the ongoing regional processes with national processes and capitalize on existing structures/networks/contacts and activities. It was clarified that there will be no financial transfers related to cooperation, just coordination of activities. It was agreed that collaboration would focus on better information exchange and taking advantage of existing and planned activities around the region and in specific countries. The national coordinators will be able to circulate information about BG regional events and activities to their grantee networks and support participation of CSOs to these events.

Two key areas for partnership have been identified:

- 1) SGP to be informed about regional trainings and capacity building activities organized by BG Project promoters (RAED, MIO-ESCDE, WWF, IUCN, IME-MedWET); and to help circulate information to its grantees and, where possible, to identify qualified CSOs for participation upon availability of funds;
- 2) SGP and BG to collaborate to identify additional funding for regional coordination, through resource mobilization opportunities, where available, at national, or possibly regional/global levels.

In practical terms, the cooperation could start with identification of the target countries where links between SGP National Coordinators (NCs) and BlueGreen promoters could be established. Albania, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania are both covered by SGP and the BG promoters.

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