ACTIVITY REPORT 2015
The current annual report takes as a structure the Action Plan for 2015 presented and approved at the MedCities General Assembly held in Izmir in 2014. Although entitled “Annual Report 2015”, it describes the activities developed between the Izmir General Assembly (November 2014) and the Dubrovnik General Assembly (November 2015).
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Dear members,

One year after the General Assembly of Izmir, MedCities network presents here its annual report with the conviction that the objectives set have been mainly achieved by the means of concrete actions.

During the last year, MedCities has focused on the reinforcement of three priority axis connecting some of the aims of the network:

Being a decentralized network, we have created an Association of cities with two regional antennas, one in the Maghreb and the other in the Middle East areas, in order to strengthen ties among its members.

Being also a decentralized platform for the definition of urban development projects, the network has been involved in the reinforcement of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between its members, in the exchange of experiences and practices, and ultimately in promoting future collaborations.

Being an instrument for lobbying at international level, MedCities encourages and supports the international initiatives of its members and acts as an instrument of representation of local authorities in international forums.

Furthermore, MedCities has strengthened ties with member cities of the network and has acquired a greater knowledge of their needs and realities in terms of urbanization and governance. This allows the network to easily identify short scale cooperation projects and paves the way for greater and long-term collaboration among its members. Mediterranean cities have shown their interest in our activities, an interest that has brought a permanent enlargement of the network under the new steps taken in this regard in Tetuan (Morocco) in 2015. In fact, two new members will be formally join our Association at the Dubrovnik General Assembly.

I am convinced that cities have a lot to say in order to build a region of peace and stability in the Mediterranean, and also that the work done by MedCities contributes significantly to the achievement of this common goal.

I hope we will continue to cooperate all together in favor of our cities, in favor of our citizens and in favor of the whole Mediterranean basin.

Mohamed Idaomar – President
Dear Members,

In the last year, our network has been developing activities in several domains and countries. It has reinforced its presence in Tunisia, where it participates in the definition of a coordinated programme for the reinforcement of the capacities of local administrations and advocates for the need to promote urban strategic planning as a tool for urban sustainable development.

Also, MedCities has been very active in Lebanon where new cities and unions of municipalities have applied to join the network and new projects are being identified and implemented.

Furthermore, the network has gained presence in Morocco, through the organisation of an International Conference that brought together municipal representatives in a regional dialogue forum on urban sustainable project implementation, and through the technical assistance projects in several cities.

Cooperation with international stakeholders has also been reinforced and the strengthening of the strategic alliances has been one of the pillars of our work in 2015.

Last, the network has engaged in a new Communication strategy, which aims at reinforcing its visibility internationally and seeks to give presence to all members in order to present and promote their activities in a broader and international audience.

The Mediterranean continues to be one of the most challenging regions in the world. I am convinced that thanks to our commitment and dedication, we are contributing positively to face the enormous challenges ahead. May this continue to be the case for many years.

Joan Parpal – Secretary General
MedCities, a network of Mediterranean cities

Enlarging the network and improving communication among members

ADVANCEMENT OF THE CREATION OF THE ASSOCIATION
As foreseen in the Action Plan for 2015, the association MedCities has been successfully created according to Spanish legislation and it has a Fiscal Number in order to start operating as an association. Moreover, a bank account in the name of the Association has been opened to which members have started transferring their contributions for 2015. Currently, the association is being registered in the public register record of associations. This is a necessary condition to present projects in several international calls for projects. This process is envisaged to be finished shortly. In the meantime, MedCities will continue to present project proposals using the legal personality of the General Secretariat of the responsible institution, namely the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, as has been the case since its creation in 1991.

NEW FUNDING FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASSOCIATION
The definition of a new funding framework for the association is under way. This year, MedCities has executed projects from different sources of funding, such as the Multi-donor Trust Fund of the CMI and members’ contributions for projects. However, having the association fully operative is a pre-condition to establish agreements with other institutions in order to diversify funding sources. This is a mid-term process that will continue in the coming years. To that end, this priority defined in the Action Plan 2015 has been also included as a priority in the Action Plan for 2016.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE NETWORK
The constituent meeting of MedCities Association in Barcelona in November 2013 implied the ratification of membership by all members. At the General Assembly in Izmir, some members were still in this process. Since then, the cities of Barcelona, Rome, Marseille, Agadir, Tripoli, Byblos, Ancona, Alexandria, Oran and Zarqa have formally adhered to the MedCities association. The cases of Alexandria, Oran and Zarqa are particularly relevant. These three cities were historical members of MedCities that had been relatively inactive in recent years. With their incorporation, MedCities gains presence in three more countries. Currently, MedCities includes 41 cities from 14 different countries.

Moreover, the Union of Municipalities of Koura and the Union of Municipalities of Batroun have formally applied to become MedCities members. Their formal acceptance as members is proposed to the General Assembly.
DEFINITION OF A COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
As foreseen for 2015, MedCities developed a communication strategy that has been implemented during the year. This strategy developed by the General Secretariat aimed at increasing visibility of the network and improving internal and external communication.

The main activities developed are:

- Development of the new MedCities website launched in 2014. Sections of the site have been improved, including the catalogue of Best Practices and Other Cases of Interest, which have enlarged its catalogue with experiences presented in the seminars organised in 2015.

- Social Networks: Twitter, Facebook and YouTube - MedCities has increased its presence in the different social networks, gaining more followers and disseminating and promoting its activities through internet.

- MedCities Brochure - A brochure has been printed in French, English and Arabic, in order to disseminate our activities. It contains basic information linking to other communication tools such as the web or social networks.

- Mailing MedCities - New MedCities official email addresses have been created: contact@medcities.org, ktcalfayhaa@medcities.org and ktcsfax@medcities.org.

- MedCities Newsletter - The MedCities Newsletter has been sent out regularly. More than 2,000 people receive monthly information about the activities of the network and its members with regards to sustainable urban development.

Providing proximity assistance to cities through the regional antennas

CONSOLIDATION OF THE KTCS OF SFAK AND AL FAYHAH AS MEDCITIES ANTENNAS
With the finalisation of the USUDS project, MedCities put in place a project for the consolidation of the structures of the Knowledge Transfer Centers as the regional antennas of the MedCities in the Maghreb and Mashreq areas. This project is financed by the Municipality of Barcelona and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and is planned to be completed by March 2016.

The most relevant activities developed under this project are:

Training workshop on the KTCs as territorial antennas of MedCities.
From 16-18 December 2014, a training workshop was held in Tripoli for the KTCs of Sfax and Al Fayhaa as territorial antennas of MedCities.

The aim of the workshop was to reinforce the KTC staff in order to undertake tasks of representation of MedCities in the region and to identify needs and projects of the members of the network. A specific session was dedicated to funding opportunities and the preparation of proposals to achieve financial support (in EU or
international calls) which was open to other Lebanese cities who were members of the network. Thirty people participated in the training, representing nine different cities of the network (Jezzine, Dannieh, Byblos, Saida, Tripoli, El Mina, UC of Al Fayhaa, Sfax and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona).

**KTC of Al Fayhaa: Knowledge sharing activities**

*Organisation of the Regional Seminar “The implementation of strategic projects and the participatory approach”*

A regional seminar on the implementation of strategic projects and the participatory approach was organised on 15 and 16 June in Tripoli (Lebanon) by the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa and the Centre for Mediterranean Integration in Marseille (CMI). Around 120 people, political representatives of Mediterranean municipalities, representatives of international institutions, NGOs, civil society and international experts from the Mashreq and the Maghreb regions participated in the debates on municipal governance, the role of civil society in decision-making processes and international actors in the implementation of strategic projects, held during the two days of the seminar.

In particular, the following activities were designed and are currently being implemented:

1. Assistance to the Union of Municipalities of Dannieh in advancing in the definition of one of the strategic projects for the promotion of the Agrofood Industry, in particular in the creation of an Agricultural Observatory. The support will be in drafting a project proposal, suitable for the future ENI CBC MED call for projects.

2. Assistance to the Municipality of Zgharta – Ehden in the definition of one of the strategic projects. Zgharta presented its strategic plan in August 2015 and it has been decided that the KTC assists the city in drafting a project proposal for future funding.

3. Assistance to the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa (UC Al Fayhaa): an external expert is working to assist the UC Al Fayhaa in reviewing its strategy (AFSDS 2020) and updating it to the recent developments of the city, included the impact of Syrian refugees, the integration of the city of Kalamoun in the UC, the establishment of the commercial port of Tripoli and its special economic zone.
4. Assistance to the Municipality of Jerash in Jordan: an external expert is working in order to undertake an exploratory visit to Jerash for the identification of the subject of the assistance, which could be the revision of the strategy or the definition of a pre-proposal of one of the strategic projects. Jerash is in the process of joining MedCities.

All above-mentioned activities are being developed within the last trimester of 2015 and will finish before March 2016.

**Representation and other activities**

- The KTC of Al Fayhaa has participated in the presentation of the strategy of Zgharta Eden Municipality, celebrated on 26 August 2015.

- The KTC of Al Fayhaa undertook on 13 October 2015 a communication action at the Institute of Fine Arts, School of Urban Planning in the Lebanese University at Hadath in Beirut. The KTC Director discussed issues relative to strategic urban planning and presented the experience of MedCities in accompanying its members in the development of their strategy.

Also, the KTC has been providing valuable information to the General Secretariat of MedCities, especially on the following issues:

- Identification of possible decentralised cooperation activities between members of the network on the impact of Syrian refugees.

- Through the implementation of the EU RECONET project, identification and follow up on new strategies developed in Lebanese municipalities, including the revision of the strategy of the Union of Municipalities of Koura.

- Support in the identification of good practices from Lebanese Municipalities with regards to the sustainable development of historic city centres, especially regarding interventions for economic and tourist promotion and for urban regeneration and innovation.
KTC of SFAX: Knowledge sharing activities

Organisation of the International Conference "The implementation of strategic projects and the participatory approach"

An international conference on the “Implementation of strategic projects and participatory approach” was organised on 21 and 22 April in Tetouan (Morocco). The conference was organised by the Urban Community of Tetouan, the MedCities network, through its Technical Secretariat held by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and its Knowledge Transfer Centre (KTC) of Sfax (Tunisia), the CoMun programme of the GIZ, the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Municipal Councils (AMPCC) and the Centre for Mediterranean Integration in Marseille (CMI).

Around 60 political representatives from MedCities members and other cities from the Maghreb debated for two days on the participatory approach and public-private partnership in the implementation of strategic projects in Mediterranean cities, with a total participation of more than 200 people.

Technical assistance offered to other cities

1. Technical assistance in Chefchaouen, Morocco, for the promotion of the handicraft sector of the city
   Technical Assistance was provided to the city of Chefchaouen, following a demand of the Municipality, for the promotion of the handicraft sector of the city. The technical assistance was co-organised by the Centre for Mediterranean Integration, the CoMun Programme of the German cooperation agency (GIZ) and the MedCities network. A Diagnosis and a Master plan for the promotion of the handicraft sector of the city was prepared by an external consultant, a study visit was organised in Tunisia in order to exchange experiences with other Mediterranean cities that have been working for the promotion of handicraft and a short term project is currently being implemented for the creation of a multi-partner coordination platform for the promotion of the handicraft sector in Chefchaouen.

2. Technical assistance for improving waste management in the medina of Sfax
   Technical Assistance was provided to the city
Representation and other activities
The KTC of Sfax participated in the regional workshop for the exchange of experiences on the promotion of the handicraft sector organised by the CoMun Programme of GIZ in Tunisia on 10-11 September 2015. This workshop formed part of the technical assistance undertaken with the Municipality of Chefchaouen and aimed at putting together representatives of different Tunisian and Moroccan institutions and municipalities, active in local economic development and handicraft promotion. 5 Moroccan municipalities and 4 Tunisian ones participated in the exchange and the study visits in Tunis and Sousse.

of Sfax on the Optimisation of the system of waste management in the Medina. This Assistance, coordinated by the KTC of Sfax and the General Secretariat of MedCities and with the support of the Centre for Mediterranean Integration, included the preparation of a participatory diagnosis for the optimisation of waste management in the Medina and an action plan for the creation of a waste collection site in its proximity. A process of consultation was undertaken with the civil society, the stakeholders and users of the Medina, which culminated in the celebration of a participatory workshop on 21 July 2015. At the moment of presenting this report, a pilot project is being implemented for raising awareness among these actors on adequate waste management and for the communication of the new project that the city of Sfax will launch for the creation of a waste collection site, as a result of this Technical Assistance.
MedCities, a platform to build City Development Strategies and implement urban projects

Preparing projects to be presented to future calls

PREPARATION OF MULTILATERAL PROJECTS
Due to the delay in the publication of the terms of reference and the priorities of the ENI Programmes for the cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin, this issue has not been a priority during the first months of 2015. A working group was created in order to advance some proposals on social cohesion projects, coordinated by the General Secretariat of MedCities and with the support of Mr Khaled Ben Abdessalem as external consultant.

MedCities Secretariat is following the process of preparation of the new ENI Programmes as the ENI CBC MED, ENI Mid Atlantic and ENI Italy-Tunisia. The Secretariat will be in a position to identify and support MedCities members to prepare future projects using these financial instruments. MedCities Secretariat is also studying other EU programmes for the period 2014-2020 which are in line with our priorities.
Specifically, the MedCities General Secretariat has also been working on several project proposals to be submitted for funding to the Interreg MED Programme of the European Union, which targets the EU Mediterranean regions.

ELABORATION OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS IN COOPERATION WITH MEDCITIES ANTENNAS AND PRESENTATION TO FUNDERS
GeDeTun: Reinforcement of local government capacities on waste management in Tunisia
MedCities, in collaboration with the cities of Bizerte and Kairouan, has elaborated a short-term project on reinforcing the capacities of local governments regarding waste management which is starting its implementation phase. Meetings started in April 2015 and the project was launched on September 2015 and is currently in the phase of defining the pilot projects to be developed starting on January 2016. The project is co-funded by the Municipality of Barcelona and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, as well as the cities involved.

Uraía Platform: Project for the optimisation of services of the Urban Planning Directorate
The Uraía Platform was established in collaboration between two international institutions that work to improve urban citizen’s life around the world: The Global Fund for Cities’ Development (FMDV) and UN-Habitat. The Uraía Platform works on the use of SMART technologies in three specific aspects of city management: Municipal finances; Management of public services and infrastructure; Transparency and accountability. On June 29 and 30 2015, the Uraía Platform organised its first capacity building activity in Oslo, Norway, on “Public-Private Partnerships Negotiation for SMART City Management”. The MedCities Secretariat was present at the workshop and presented some initiatives already undertaken by the city of Sousse in this regard. Also, the MedCities Secretariat and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona supported the city of Sousse in applying for funding under the Call for Projects launched by the Uraía Platform with a focus on the creation of new mobile-based apps to be used by citizens directly through their Smartphones or other internet-based platforms that improve communication with their local government.
CISUD PROJECT (CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROMOTED BY ARLEM)

MedCities has continued working for the launching of a region-wide capacity-building project together with AVITEM, GIZ and the School of Public Administration of Catalonia (EAPC). The project, promoted by ARLEM, was seconded by ARLEM Steering Committee on 28 May 2015 and included in the Union for the Mediterranean priorities in its working plan. Funding is partially assured and further steps are envisaged before the end of 2015.

ENPI CBC MED USUDS PROJECT

During 2015 the MedCities Secretariat and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona have been working with the formal closure and preparation of the final activity and financial report of this project led by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

PROMOTION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AMONG CITIES OF THE NETWORK

The MedCities General Secretariat, convinced of the importance of reinforcing bilateral cooperation among members of the network, has assisted and promoted the signature of cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding among cities who are members of the network. MedCities is considered a supporting institution for these bilateral actions. The Protocol of Friendship and Cooperation between the cities of Tetouan and Barcelona was signed on 16 December 2014, with a duration of four years. The Protocol consolidates the long term cooperation relationship between both cities. The new agreement seeks to contribute to institutional development and modernisation of the local administration through the implementation of local development projects identified in the Urban Development Plan of Tetuan and the empowerment of local actors’ capacities in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable urban planning.

A memorandum of collaboration was signed on 15 April 2015 between the cities of Saida and Barcelona, as a result of the cooperation initiated in the framework of the USUDS project, in order to implement a programme of cooperation to promote institutional development, modernise the administration and improve the management of basic services, as well as collaborate for the technological development that helps to increase the welfare of the citizens of both cities. The memorandum aims at launching a number of development projects that form part of the Saida Urban Sustainability Development Strategy, through co-operation, training and exchanges on different issues. As a result of the USUDS project and the technical assistance missions undertaken, reinforced collaboration has been launched between the cities of Marseille and Sousse. The two cities have been working for the signature of an agreement of partnership and cooperation, focusing on energy efficiency issues.
MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

RECONET Project
The KTC of Al Fayhaa has begun a new project with Municipalities, Union of Municipalities, and civil society from Lebanon, called RECONET. The duration of the project is 18 months. The partners of the RECONET project are the UC of Al Fayhaa (applicant), the two Unions of Municipalities of Al Koura and Jerd El Kaiteh, the Manar University of Tripoli, and the Faculty of Social Sciences in the Lebanese University Branch 3 in Tripoli (Lebanon), and MedCities, the municipalities of Saida, Zgharta, Jbeil and the two unions of Danniyeh and Jezzine as associates. MedCities General Secretariat is also an associate and contributed to drafting the project proposal. The main objectives of the project are to initiate dialogue and interaction between partners and associates, in order to achieve better municipal management and higher level of municipal governance.

CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE CDS IMPLEMENTATION IN SOUSSE
During 2015, MedCities has been developing the project led by AERYC and financed by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and the Council of the Province of Barcelona, on the Consolidation of the Local Development Office of Sousse to foster the implementation of the CDS. A local team has been constituted and two training missions have been held under the framework of this project. The result of these missions has been the constitution of thematic working groups and partnerships for the definition and implementation of the strategic projects included in the Strategic Plan. A seminar was held on 27 October in order to present the results of the project.

PROJECT ON CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN TUNISIA
MedCities has intensely advocated for the launching of a country-wide project on City Development Strategies in Tunisia. Together with other institutions working in this domain and with the decisive support of the National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNVT), MedCities is working on the definition of such programme, promoted by Cities Alliance. The object is to replicate the successful experiences developed in Sfax and Sousse in recent years and for other Tunisian cities to go through this process of city development planning, which turns to be a useful and enriching experience transforming local governance and project promotion at city level.

PROJECT “SOCIAL COHESION AGREEMENT” IN TETOUAN
During 2015, MedCities has been developing the project led by AERYC and financed by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and the Council of the Province of Barcelona, for boosting the Pact for Social Cohesion in the city of Tetouan. The general purpose is to articulate all projects and actions performed in Tetouan in a single policy, with
public, private or international funding that currently are provided by social organisations and public administrations. In other words, to articulate social actions through objectives and complementary projects, in order to point them in the same direction and thus achieve a much stronger social impact for the resources invested.

One training mission has been executed during 2015 and the results will be presented at the end of the project in 2016.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CITY OF AGADIR
MedCities is promoting a technical assistance project to be offered by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and Barcelona Regional to the city of Agadir for the definition of the terms of references for contracting the assistance to the mastery of work for the Bus Rapid Transit project that the city is implementing. An identification mission has been planned for the end of 2015 in order to launch the collaboration in this UPFI project.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM MARSEILLE TO THE CITY OF SOUSSE
As a result of the USUDS project and in the frame of the future agreement of partnership and cooperation between the city of Marseille and Sousse, the two cities have started to collaborate for putting in place a local policy of energy efficiency in the city of Sousse.

A political mission visited Marseille in December 2014 and a technical mission was organised in Sousse in July 2015, in order to advance the technical diagnosis of the project and define its governance.
Continuing advocacy for increasing the role of local authorities in the Mediterranean region

The General Secretariat of MedCities has continued its collaboration with international stakeholders active in the fields of urban sustainable development and in the Mediterranean region and has reinforced its presence in international forums in representation of local authorities.

**REINFORCEMENT OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCES AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES**

**Collaboration with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean**

MedCities participates in the Urban Experts Group of the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat. On December 17 a meeting of the working group was celebrated in Barcelona, the sixth since the creation of the group, in order to review developments since the last meeting, especially with regards to the Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI), and to discuss the Transport and Urban Development Division Work Programme 2015.

Also, MedCities participated in a one-day workshop in Barcelona on 9 June 2015 which sought to bring together Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI) project promoters, donors and the consultant teams in charge, in order to discuss UPFI process advancements and prospects. Three members of MedCities are involved in UPFI projects: the Sfax Taparura project, the Oued Martil Rehabilitation Project in Tetouan and the Bus Rapid Transit of Agadir.

**Political Committee of the UCLG Mediterranean Commission**

MedCities is a member of the Political Committee of the UCLG Mediterranean Commission. At its annual meeting, held in December 2014, the network was represented by M. Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, who advocated for increasing the role of local authorities in the region as a means to promote development and increase efficiency in cooperation actions in the Mediterranean.

**European Transparency Register**

The MedCities Association is included in the European Transparency Register. The transparency register has been set up to answer core questions such as what interests are being pursued, by whom and with what budgets. The system is operated jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission. More than 8,500 European and International public and private organisations belong to this instrument as a way of working and lobbying in the European Union.

**Participation in the European Commission Structured Dialogue on the European Structural and Investment funds**

MedCities participates as a member in the European Commission Structured Dialogue on the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2014-2020. The role of MedCities is to advocate for Mediterranean cities’ interests and their fit with the investment policies of the European Commission. The first meeting was celebrated at the end of 2014 with the aim of monitoring the implementation of the Structural Funds and European Investment for the period 2014-2020. As a result of the meeting, an annual report will be produced by the European Commission and submitted to the European Parliament to ensure accountability on the participation of the different actors in the implementation of this policy.
Participation in the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) Steering Committee
MedCities was elected member of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development Steering Committee, as representative of local authorities in the Mediterranean. The 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development was celebrated on 9, 10 and 11 June in Marrakech (Morocco).

Participation in the definition of a new European Neighbourhood Policy
MedCities has contributed to the revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy by participating in the consultation process opened between the 4 March and the 30 of June and addressed to public authorities, civil society, think tanks, social partners, business and academic communities.

The key ideas introduced by MedCities focus on governance challenges and on urban and sustainable territorial development. Several members added ideas to the joint contribution sent by MedCities General Secretariat on behalf of the network.

Reinforced collaboration with GIZ and CoMun Programme
MedCities and the CoMun Programme are strategic partners and cooperate in their respective actions in the Maghreb with regards to local development. Both initiatives are members of the Urban Hub of the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), based in Marseille. During 2015, MedCities and the CoMun Program have reinforced their collaboration, through a joint program funded under the Multi Donor Trust Fund of the CMI. This project aimed at reinforcing cross-border learning initiatives on City Development Strategies and city participation and complemented the work done by the KTCs, especially the KTC of Sfax.

The collaboration with AVITEM and GIZ
MedCities has strengthened cooperation with the “Agence des Villes et Territoires Meditarraneens Durables” (AVITEM) and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

In January, MedCities participated in a top-level seminar cycle on urban and territorial development in the Mediterranean, organised by AVITEM in Marseilles in the framework of the second Annual Meetings focused on Strategic planning in Mediterranean metropolises. Both organisations have been preparing joint projects for the INTERREG MED call for projects launched by the European Commission in September 2015.

With regards to the GIZ, MedCities was invited to the launching of the new CoMun Programme in Berlin in February 2015. Moreover, both institutions have implemented joint projects in the Maghreb and organised the regional dialogues on implementation of projects and participatory approach with significant impact on local policy makers and experts in the region.
Institutional relations with other Mediterranean organisations
MedCities is also working with other Mediterranean organisations such as the Mediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime regions of Europe (CRPM), the Arco Latino Association, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities, the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), etc.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS’ EVENTS

Participation in the Med Confederation: “The Challenges Of Mediterranean Urban Agenda”, Organised By IEMED
From 15 to 17 of December 2014, the IEMed (European Institute of the Mediterranean) brought together a group of high level experts to debate about the urban policies agenda of the Mediterranean, in the framework of the MED Confederation. The objective was to debate and analyse the situation of urban financing and management with the experience and knowledge of experts from different backgrounds, and suggest policy proposals to improve urban conditions in the region.

Participation in the Conference Resolutions Africa
On December 11 and 12 2014, the Marrakesh City Council, the FMDV-Global Fund for Cities’ Development and UCLG Africa (United Cities and Local Governments of Africa) chose to mobilise African local and regional authorities and their partners, under the theme Financing African Cities: agenda, alliances and solutions. The event brought together more than 450 participants from over 40 countries and 65 local and regional authorities and cities networks.

Mohamed Idaomar, Mayor of Tetouan and President of MedCities, participated in a round table on Programming and managing urban investments in African cities to present the priorities and projects of the MedCities network as an example of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean area focused on urban planning. The speech also focused on the need to strengthen local leadership giving mayors and local authorities greater room for manoeuvre to lead urban development projects. During the conference MedCities also participated in a meeting with the different international organisations and donors working in the region.
MEDCOP21 Conference
On June 4-5, MedCities participated in the conference MEDCOP21, held in Marseille. The conference was the occasion to give voice to Mediterranean actors on climate change actions as a preparation for the COP21 conference that will take place in Paris in December 2015.
M. Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, represented MedCities on this occasion, participating in one of the plenary sessions of the event. The conference resembled more than 2,000 participants with relevant political figures and the main stakeholders of the Mediterranean region related to sustainable development and issues related to climate change.

Workshop on Municipal Development Plans in Tunisia
MedCities was invited to participate in this seminar as one of the main international actors working on City Development Strategies in Tunisia together with UNDP, Cities Alliance, GIZ and VNG-CILG. The seminar was the occasion to debate on the process of decentralisation in Tunisia and the role that strategic city planning must play in this context and to pave the way for coordinated future actions on this domain.

Climate Eco Forum in Barcelona
On 22 and 23 October M. Mohamed Seffiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, represented MedCities in this conference and showed his views on Climate Change strategies from a local level perspective. The Climate Eco Forum had the aim to discuss the common challenges and economic opportunities behind the fight against climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean region and update the participants on the state of negotiations before the Paris summit of December 2015.