



# MedCités Mandate 2014 - 2018





**Mohamed Idaomar,**  
President of MedCities

In November 2013, the General Assembly of MedCities elected a new Board of Directors with a challenging mission: transforming the network created in 1991 into an operative association able to respond to the needs of its members. Five years later, I am glad to confirm that this mission has been accomplished successfully. MedCities has become a dynamic organization with a committed team at the service of the urban development needs of Mediterranean cities. Moreover, MedCities is engaged in several regional initiatives, giving voice to cities to increase local governance as means to achieve equitable and sustainable cities for all.

It is time to proudly report on all the hard work done during the last five years. MedCities is today a stronger and more solid organization and I hope this path will be followed in the years to come. I would like to thank all the General Secretariat team in Barcelona as well as all the members for their commitment and support to the association. Moreover, it has been an honour to collaborate with many institutions and organizations across the region. Together we are stronger to face the countless challenges the region faces.

The following pages review five years of intensive work at the service of Mediterranean cities.



**Xavier Tiana Casablancas,**  
Secretary General of MedCities

This publication reflects on the principal milestones of the 2014-2018 mandate of MedCities. I would like to highlight that, after 27 years working to support urban and metropolitan policies around the Mediterranean, this mandate has marked the consolidation of MedCities as an independent Association, operating with full autonomy. Over the course of the past five years, MedCities has grown in terms of both its membership and the scope of its projects, continuing to be a point of reference in the area of urban sustainable development strategic planning. The Association has also incorporated new areas of activity, including waste management, water cycle management, the valorization of cultural heritage, economic promotion, energy efficiency and the integration of refugees to our cities, by supporting host communities.

MedCities operates with a vision linked to the broader global agenda for urban sustainability, such as the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, the Pact of Amsterdam and the UfM Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean. At the same time, however, we must not ignore the fact that many local governments around the Mediterranean need resources and capacity building in order to respond to the many challenges facing mayors across the region.

Over the course of this mandate, MedCities has established stable collaborations with institutions, organizations and networks of local and sectoral governments. The Association also counts on a team of professionals located at its headquarters in Barcelona, Al Fayhaa and Sfax, which has as its mission to facilitate MedCities' members in developing sustainable, efficient and innovative policies that are of clear benefit to their citizens.



## MedCities, an association of cities

MedCities was created as a network of cities in Barcelona in 1991. Since then, tens of cities have joined the organization in order to cooperate with other local authorities of the region. In 2015 MedCities was established as a legal organization in order to increase its capacity to implement projects and other activities at the service of its members.

MedCities General Secretariat is established in Barcelona, at the Barcelona Metropolitan Area and with the support of the Municipality of Barcelona. The Association has a decentralized structure with two territorial antennas (Knowledge Transfer Centres) in Sfax (Tunisia) and the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa (Lebanon).

## MedCities in figures

During the last five years, MedCities has provided strong support to member cities in participating in multiple projects and initiatives.

Numbers do not always reflect the work of an organization. However, figures often enable an initial insight.



**56 MEMBER CITIES**  
**28 NEW MEMBERS IN THIS MANDATE**



**15 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES**



**8 CITY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIES SUPPORTED**



**3 PROJECTS TARGETING  
REFUGEE HOST COMMUNITIES**



**24 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCES  
TO MEMBER CITIES**



**27 KNOWLEDGE EVENTS**



**> 1000 PERSONS TRAINED**



**21 CITIES INVOLVED IN  
BILATERAL EXCHANGES**



**2 TERRITORIAL ANTENNAS**



**12 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED**



# Projects

MedCities supported the development and implementation of city development strategies along with other urban projects. We provided our members with resources, expertise and technical assistance.

During this mandate, MedCities also participated in capitalization projects in order to spread good practices on domains such as urban mobility and biodiversity protection.

## 1 City development strategies

### USUDS, City Development Strategies in the Mediterranean

Barcelona, Larnaca, Saida, Sousse, Sfax, Tripoli (Lebanon), Málaga

### MEDINATOUNA, City Development Strategies in Tunisian cities

Gabès, Kairouan, M'Saken

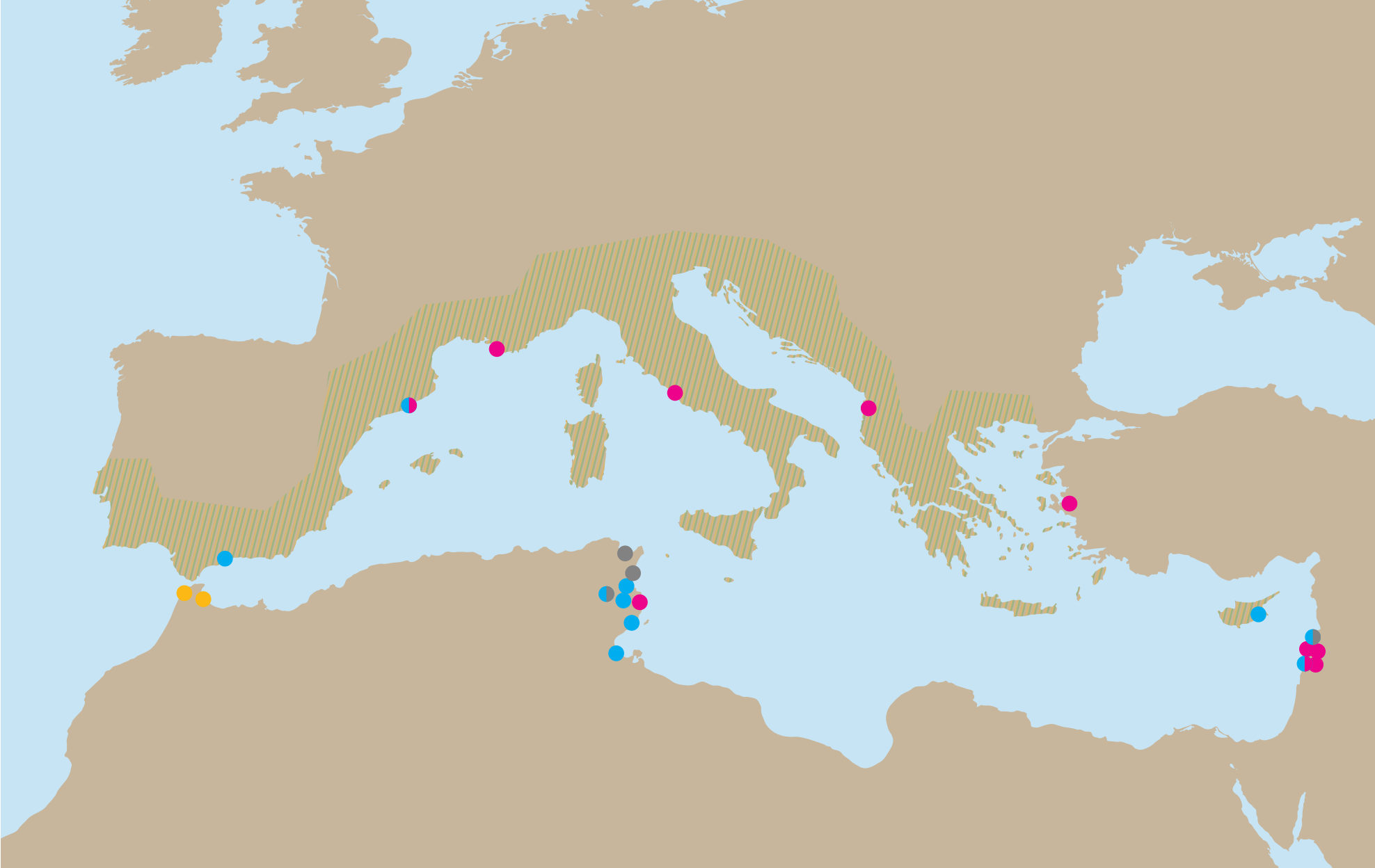
## 2 Urban Mobility

### ACCESSTT, Accessibility in Public Spaces

Tangiers, Tetouan

### Go-SUMP, Improving SUMPs in Mediterranean

Interreg MED Programme Implementation Area



## 3 Local Economic Development

### SIDIG MED, Social Development through urban

agriculture Barcelona, Roma, Mahdia

### TERBRAND, Territorial branding and local development

Izmir, Zgharta, Jezzine, Batroun

### MADRE, Promoting Metropolitan Agriculture

Barcelona, Tírana, Marseille

### Vocational Training Centre, Improving Youth

Employability Skills Saida

## 4 Waste Management

### COOP-VERD, Promoting Recycling and Green Jobs

Nabeul

### ISWML, Improving solid waste management in Al Fayhaa

Al Fayhaa, Tripoli, El Mina

### GeDeTun, Reinforcing capacities on Municipal

Waste Management Bizerte, Kairouan

## 5 Environmental Protection

### PANACeA, Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas

Interreg MED Programme Implementation Area



# Technical assistance

MedCities accompanies its members in defining and implementing tailored-made and focused interventions for the improvement of city management. These are short scale activities with a strong component of capacity building.

- 1 **Agadir**  
Mobility assessment
- 2 **Al Fayhaa**  
Study for Updating City Development Strategy
- 3 **AMB**  
Improving coordination of metropolitan agricultural initiatives
- 4 **Batroun**  
Linking heritage and Tourism
- 5 **Chefchaouen**  
Strengthening the handicraft sector
- 6 **Dannieh**  
Reducing road waste
- 7 **Djerba**  
Promoting renewable energy and efficiency
- 8 **Jerash**  
Improving local capacities on developmental strategic planning



- 9 **Larnaca**  
Study of the image and self-image of Larnaka
- 10 **Mahdia**  
Public Building Energy audit
- 11 **Minnieh**  
Selective waste collection
- 12 **Nabeul**  
Public vehicles energy audit
- 13 **Saida**  
Supporting traditional handicrafts in the Medina  
Rethinking Saida Seafront  
Public and Green Spaces System
- 14 **Sfax**  
Workshops for the Review of the City Strategy  
Study for the valorization of public buildings in the old city  
Green point for waste separation in the Medina
- 15 **Sousse**  
Local Economic Development Coordination Structure  
Support the creation of Local Development Office  
Water Cycle Management  
Public Lighting Plan  
Fighting school failure from a local perspective
- 16 **Tetouan**  
Social Cohesion Pact

# Knowledge sharing events

Generating debates and sharing knowledge, experiences and practices among its members is a pillar of the network, which has invested strongly in building the capacity of Mediterranean political and technical municipal staff.

MedCities has organised international conferences and local seminars and has participated, through the General Secretariat or cities members in events organised by partner institutions working on urban sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

## Local seminars

- 1 Waste management in Tunisian cities, Bizerte, 2017
- 2 Drafting projects to International Calls, As-Salt, 2017
- 3 The European Neighbourhood Instrument 2014-2020, Sousse, 2016
- 4 The ENI CBC MED Programme, Barcelona, 2017
- 5 The European Neighbourhood Instrument 2014-2020, Tripoli, 2016, 2017
- 6 Waste valorisation and recycling, Nabeul, 2018
- 7 Urban Observatory Training, Zarqa, 2016
- 8 Urban Observatory Training, Jerash, 2016

## International conferences

- 9 25 years supporting local development in the Mediterranean, Barcelona, 2016
- 10 Social aspects of Metropolitan Agriculture, Barcelona, 2016
- 11 Mediterranean Gathering on social innovation through metropolitan agriculture, Barcelona, 2017
- 12 Bridging the Science-Practice-Policy Gaps in Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection, Barcelona, 2017
- 13 Post-Habitat III: Future challenges of the metropolis, Barcelona, 2017
- 14 Mediterranean cities: sustainable and equitable for all! Barcelona, 2018
- 15 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum, Working Group on Water Treatment and Reuse, Cairo, 2018
- 16 Historic City Centres: Heritage, Innovation and Social Cohesion, Dubrovnik, 2015
- 17 Implementation of strategic projects on urban sustainable development, Izmir, 2014
- 18 Urban Strategic Planning in the Maghreb and new lines of European Financing, Málaga, 2014
- 19 Urban development strategies: the USUDS project for urban planning in the Mediterranean, Sfax, 2014
- 20 Urban Strategies, tools and technologies for Tunisian and Lybian municipalities, Sfax, 2016
- 21 Methodology and Best Practices in Urban Strategic Planning, Sousse, 2014
- 22 MedCOP 22 How to transform urban space to face climate challenges? Tangiers, 2016
- 23 Implementation of strategic plans and projects in the Maghreb, Tétouan, 2015
- 24 Cities facing major territorial projects, Tétouan, 2016
- 25 Implementation of strategic plans and projects in the Mashreq, Tripoli, 2015
- 26 Challenges and trends in solid waste management in Mediterranean cities, Tripoli, 2017



## medurbantools

### a Knowledge Sharing Platform on Urban Development

MedCities has increased its role as a knowledge actor through the launching of the [www.medurbantools.com](http://www.medurbantools.com) platform, aiming to be a useful, attractive and user-friendly database not only including technical content, but also offering visual materials and best practices, to promote urban analyses and inspire new initiatives.

The toolbox is managed by MedCities and it is a multi-stakeholder platform where contents from different organisations and projects are made available.

The web offers three main sections:



#### Cases

Best practices developed in Mediterranean cities.



#### Voices

Video clips from experts from the region.



#### Tools

A compilation of existing materials developed in previous projects.

## Bilateral exchanges

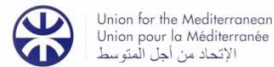
Bilateral cooperation between members is one of the driving forces of MedCities. When political representatives and technical staff meet to cooperate on tangible issues, development takes place on solid grounds. Several MedCities members have engaged in this type of cooperation in recent years.





## Partnering with other institutions

MedCities operates as a reliable and cooperative actor together with other institutions working on urban sustainable development in the region. Since 2014, MedCities has cooperated in projects and activities with different institutions. Some of them are:



## Thematic Working Fields



Environmental & climate change



Waste management



Energy



City strategies & governance



Economic development



Urban planning



Mobility



Smart cities & innovation



Culture & heritage



Social cohesion



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