



Activity Report 2018

medcitites.org



This document details the work undertaken by MedCities over the past year; from the General Assembly of 2017 – held in Tripoli, Lebanon, 7-8 November 2017 – to the present. It follows the lines of activity laid out in the Action Plan that was approved at the 2017 General Assembly.



Index

• Welcome letter by the President	04
• Welcome letter by the Secretary General	05
• A platform for projects	06
• Capitalizing knowledge	16
• Building capacity in local authorities	24
• A cooperative and reliable regional actor	26

Welcome letter from the President



**Mohamed
Idaomar**
President

Dear members,

In looking back at the activities of the MedCities Association over the past year, it is striking the extent to which municipalities and metropolitan areas from around the Mediterranean have embraced cooperation as a means to address the challenges of urban development. As the manifold examples of mutual support – from bilateral accords, to technical exchanges, to the organising of joint seminars and training – detailed in this report demonstrate, the members of MedCities have shown a willingness to share their knowledge and expertise in order to help build the capacity of their neighbours from all shores of the Mediterranean.

The members of MedCities have been ably supported in such activities by the Secretariat in Barcelona (Spain), and the MedCities Knowledge Transfer Centres in Sfax (Tunisia) and the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa (Lebanon). Over the course of 2018, the work of this team has been essential in consolidating MedCities as an independent association – through sound administration and financial management. It is this good management that has made MedCities an organisation that is valued and trusted, both by its members and external funders.

Over the course of 2018, MedCities has led and supported projects on a variety of themes related to urban development. This year saw, for example, the completion of City Development Strategies in multiple Tunisian cities as part of the Madinatouna project, the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns related to waste management in various Lebanese municipalities, and the promotion of urban accessibility for people with disabilities in Tangier and Tétouan. MedCities has also provided support for projects and technical assistance on a wide range of topics, including energy efficiency, urban mobility, tourism promotion, and the social and solidary economy.

The majority of these activities involve multiple members of MedCities, supporting each other and reaping the benefits of the experiences of their fellow Mediterranean cities. This not only builds the capacity of municipalities and metropolitan areas but also strengthens their collective voice when confronting regional and global challenges.

Taken together, the activities gathered in this report demonstrate the positive benefits such cooperation can yield, and the key role that cities and other urban areas play in furthering urban development and improving the lives of Mediterranean citizens.

2018 marks the transition to a new phase for MedCities, with the members having chosen a new Board of Directors that will define the principal objectives and strategies of the Association over the next four years. I would like to thank the trust that the members of MedCities have placed in me and, particularly, in the nine members of a Board of Directors that is made-up of cities and metropolitan areas from around the whole Mediterranean.

Welcome letter from the Secretary General



**Xavier
Tiana**
Secretary
General

Dear members,

The 2018 MedCités General Assembly was an especially notable one for the Association as it marked the transition to a new, four-year political mandate; over 30 members came together in Barcelona in October to elect a new Board of Directors for the period 2019-2022. The activities MedCités has engaged in over the past year are reflective of the significant evolution of the organisation over the course of the previous mandate (2014-2018).

Since the election of the Board of Directors in 2014, the membership of MedCités has more than doubled – with the addition of 30 new members – and the network has been established as a fully independent, legally-registered association. Its Secretariat team – including its territorial antennas in Al-Fayhaa and Sfax – has also grown and been consolidated. In 2018 we have welcomed new Mayors into the Association, especially in Tunisia where, for the first time, we will have more female Mayors than male, which is excellent news for the region.

These changes have facilitated a significant amplification in both the number and the scope of the activities that MedCités has the capacity to implement, as evidenced by the work detailed in the pages that follow. As you will see, MedCités has extended its field of operation, growing from an organisation focusing on urban sustainable development strategies to one that, over the past year, has supported projects on a whole range of topics related to urban development: heritage protection and valorisation, refugee integration, waste management and recycling, water management, tourism and urban agriculture. Sustainable urban development continues, however, to be our principal domain of action and expertise.

The Association has also worked hard to facilitate the spread of expertise across the Mediterranean region through, for example, the creation of the knowledge-sharing platform www.medurbantools.com, and through its work as a partner in several capitalisation projects of the EU's Interreg MED programme. The stable base that MedCités has as an independent association has also constituted a platform from which to represent the interests and viewpoints of Mediterranean local governments on urban development in international debates and political processes.

Following the re-election of Tétouan to the position of President of MedCités – joined on the Board of Directors by As-Salt, Al Fayhaa, Dubrovnik, Larnaka, Izmir, Marseille, the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and Sfax – and the re-affirmation of the political mandate of the Association by its members, MedCités is in a strong position to continue its hard work to support the development of its members over the coming four years and beyond.

A platform for projects

Promoting, implementing and assessing City Development Strategies in the Mediterranean

This year nine City Development Strategies were finalised through the Madinatouna project in Tunisia. Launched in November 2016 under the coordination of UNDP Tunisia – in partnership with MedCities, CILG-VNGi, GiZ and the National Federation of Tunisian Cities – the project was completed in September 2018 after 22 months of implementation.

During the lifetime of the project – which was part of the Cities Alliance Country Programme – nine Tunisian cities followed the participatory methodology coordinated by MedCities in order to elaborate their City Development Strategies. Four of the participating cities – Gabès, Kairouan, Tataouine and M'Saken – are members of MedCities.

During 2018, Gabès and Kairouan were directly assisted by MedCities in the development of their City Development Strategies, which were successfully completed in September 2018 and presented in the final seminar of Madinatouna project. The seminar, held in Tunis 24-25 September, also included the presentation of the project's capitalisation report, which identified good practices, potential improvements and reviewed the methodological guide based on the experiences from the project implementation.

The cooperation among the nine cities was an important element of the project and three Intercity Capitalisation Conferences were held to promote dialogue among peers, foster exchange and share experiences. MedCities was an active partner in these conferences as well as participating in the technical coordination meetings of the implementing partners and in the Steering Committee meetings of the Cities Alliance Country Programme.



Supporting members in the development of projects with the assistance of the MedCities territorial antennas

Continuing to implement projects in member cities, particularly related to integrated urban management and social cohesion

Increasing capacity and raising awareness for waste management in Dannieh

In the final months of 2017 and early 2018, an inspiring campaign “Dannieh goes cleaner!” was implemented in the Union of Municipalities, raising awareness about the importance of keeping roads and streets clean. Joining forces with scout groups the local NGO “Youth Dialogue Association YDA”, the campaign – which was facilitated by the MedCities KTC in Al Fayhaa – made use of visually striking advertisements on roadsides, informative videos and social media. The initiative also included the distribution of information to drivers, along with reusable bags to stop “on the road” dumping of litter.

The aim of the action was to increase the waste management capacity of the Union as well as to raise awareness among local people about the environmental and socioeconomic impact of waste disposal practices. The initiative is aimed at the inhabitants and traders along a 5km stretch of the main road from Kfarhabou to Mrah El Sreij, going through Kfarchlan to the Dannieh Union.



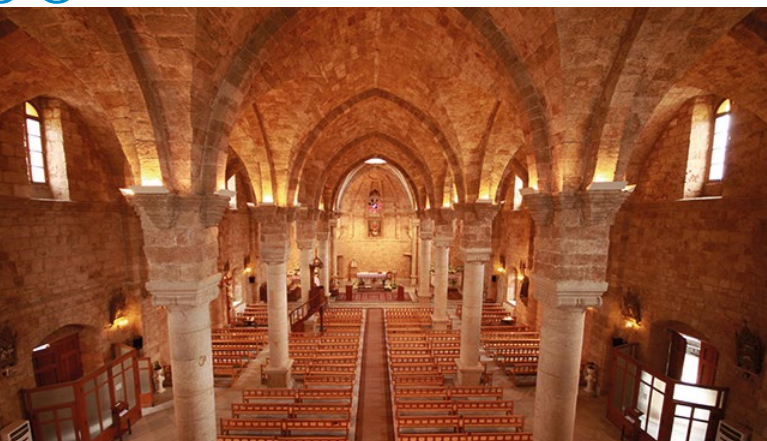
The campaign included clean-up operations which, with the help of volunteers, recovered around nine tons of waste and separated out recyclable materials for further treatment. As part of the same project, the union of municipalities has also obtained a mechanical road sweeper to increase its capacity to keep the roads free of waste.

The campaign – supported by the Union of Municipalities of Dannieh, the Barcelona Metropolitan Area and the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development – was accompanied by a high-level meeting of the Presidents of the Unions of Municipalities of Al Fayhaa and Dannieh. The meeting addressed the increasing challenges facing municipalities in providing a healthy environment in the context of the Syrian refugee crisis, which has led to the influx of a vulnerable population and increased the pressure on municipal services.

Realising tourist potential in the Union of Municipalities of Batroun

At the end of 2017, MedCities – through the KTC Al Fayhaa – conducted a participatory diagnosis to identify priority actions for the development of the tourist potential of Batroun district and the Batroun Region. The process, which particularly emphasised mountainous regions, resulted in the identification of 12 priorities to guide further initiatives and technical assistance in the territory, with the aim of fostering its cohesion and economic development.

In 2018 MedCities has consolidated this work through a new technical assistance project. The project builds on one of the identified priority actions and seeks to stimulate heritage-, religious- and eco-tourism in the region of Batroun through the development of joint alternative tourism promotion tools, such as a Guide to the municipalities of the Union and a Tourist Map.



One of the aims of the technical assistance project is to increase coordination and cooperation between the Union and its municipalities and the Tourism Office, in order to promote local economic development. The project also encourages private sector and civil society engagement. The technical assistance, supported by the Union of Municipalities of Batroun, the Barcelona Metropolitan Area and the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development, will be completed in December 2018.



Municipal support for waste management awareness-raising in Mennieh

Following a joint mission of the MedCities Secretariat and the KTC Al Fayhaa to the Mennieh Union of Municipalities in early 2018, a joint project has taken shape to support the Union in increasing awareness of the importance of sound waste management.

The project aims to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of experience among municipalities facing shared challenges. A second aim is to foster a culture of sorting-at-source among school children and, as a result, reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfill, while engaging teachers and students in the implementation of municipal activities.

The project will engage the 28 schools and about 15 000 school children of the Union. In addition to raising awareness among students regarding waste management and environmental protection, the project aims to improve sorting-at-source collection systems by distributing adequate containers to each school. Special trucks are then used to collect the separated waste and transport it to the sorting plant. The awareness activities, procured equipment and the presence of the sorting plant will assure the sustainability of the project and, ultimately, reduce the amount of recyclables reaching landfill.



The project, supported by the Union of Municipalities of Men-nieh, the Barcelona Metropolitan Area and the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development, was launched in September and will run until December 2018.

Finalisation of the COOP-VERD project for the promotion of recycling and green employment in Nabeul

The COOP-VERD project was finalised on 31 March 2018, with the celebration of the official inauguration of the Eco-Point of Nabeul and of a capitalisation seminar in order to share the experiences of the project with other MedCities members and other national actors.

Since December 2016, MedCities, the Municipality of Nabeul, the Association ETE+ and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona have been collaborating on the project – funded by the Municipality of

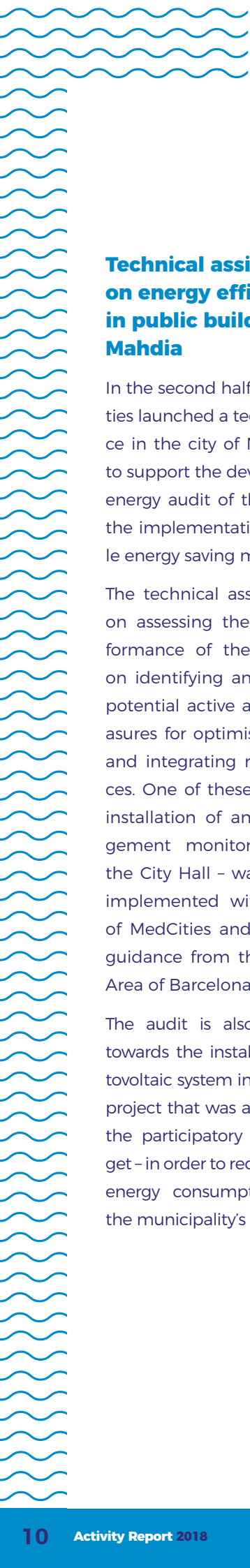
Barcelona – in order to promote recycling and plastic valorisation while improving the livelihoods and working conditions of the informal waste-pickers (barbechas).

During the reporting period, the partnership introduced a new system for the separation of plastic bottles by installing in the three pilot areas 48 containers specifically for their collection, along with implementing communication and sensitisation campaigns among citizens. Furthermore, in December 2017 a green point (Eco-Point) was launched in the city centre for the collection and treatment of plastic bottles, leading to the valorisation of some 18 tons of plastic which were collected and recycled by the 24 informal waste-pickers affiliated to the centre.

As well as improving the commercialisation options of the waste-pickers, the project worked with them in order to improve their working conditions by offering them workplace health and safety training prior to the launching of the pilot projects, and by equipping them with complete outfits for their protection during work.

The positive results of this project demonstrate its potential transferability to other cities in Tunisia. This was evident in the capitalization seminar of COOP-VERD, which took place in March 2018, which benefited from the presence of representatives of seven MedCities members, who participated actively in the debates and were keen to learn more about the project.





Technical assistance on energy efficiency in public buildings in Mahdia

In the second half of 2018 MedCities launched a technical assistance in the city of Mahdia in order to support the development of an energy audit of the city hall and the implementation of small-scale energy saving measures.

The technical assistance focuses on assessing the energetic performance of the City Hall and on identifying an action plan of potential active and passive measures for optimising energy use and integrating renewable sources. One of these measures – the installation of an energy management monitoring system in the City Hall – was agreed to be implemented with the support of MedCities and with technical guidance from the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

The audit is also the first step towards the installation of a photovoltaic system in the City Hall – a project that was adopted through the participatory municipal budget – in order to reduce fossil-based energy consumption and lower the municipality's energy bill.

Technical assistance promoting the Social and Solidary Economy in the region of Sousse

In June 2018, MedCities launched a technical assistance to the regional government of Sousse for its development of a thorough diagnosis on the potential opportunities that the Social and Solidary Economy (SSE) presents for economic development and the inclusion of women in the labour market.

In the framework of a project funded by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation for the support and promotion of the Social and Solidary Economy in the region, MedCities – together with the Governorate of Sousse – has launched a process of participatory diagnosis of the opportunities and challenges that this sector is facing.

Having completed a round of interviews with relevant actors, the first sensitization and training workshop was held on 11 July. The workshop addressed the public institutions active in SSE in order to clarify the concepts and the normative base at the national level, present a first overview of SSE initiatives in the region of Sousse, and consolidate the steps to follow for the participatory diagnosis.

In the following months, MedCities organized interviews with economic actors and focus group discussions on this issue in order to identify the challenges faced by the sector and the need for supporting activities. The assistance concluded in November 2018, with the presentation of a descriptive report that identified a series of actions to support the development of SSE in the governorate, with the aim of fostering further cooperation and joint planning on this issue. As a result of this process, the Governorate of Sousse will receive funding in 2019 by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation to implement some of the projects identified.

Technical assistance on Urban Mobility in Sfax

MedCities and the city of Sfax is, together with the KTC Sfax, conducting a consolidated technical study on Urban Mobility addressing the public parking system.

The initiative is supporting the mobility strategies (PDU and NAMA) recently developed by the city of Sfax, which made evident the need for measures to improve the current mobility situation across the whole city. Several ideas extracted from the mobility plan were analysed in collaboration with the technical services of the city, and the focus selected for the project is the implementation of a technical study on potential parking systems.

The study is analysing the potential ways to target the most congested areas of the city centre by proposing adequate parking systems. Once completed it will form the basis for continued planning to improve circulation within the city, with the aim of reducing the presence of private vehicles in the city centre and promoting a further development of pedestrian areas.

Technical assistance on Integrated Water Management in Gabès

MedCities is providing technical support and expertise to the city of Gabès, Tunisia, with regards to integrated water management and the valorisation of rainwater. The technical assistance contributes to a larger intervention, to be funded by USAID, foreseen for 2019 in order to improve rainwater harvesting and valorisation.



MedCities is supporting Gabès in the specification of further measures to implement in 2019 through the creation of a benchmarking report on integrated water management and rainwater valorisation in the Mediterranean. A technical study visit to the Barcelona Metropolitan Area also took place in December 2018 in order to provide a hands-on exchange of concrete interventions for reducing the risk of floods and improving the use of alternative water resources.



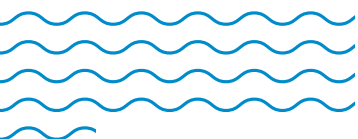
Implementing accessibility strategies in public spaces in Tangier and Tétouan

MedCities is undertaking a cooperation project on Urban Accessibility in the cities of Tangier and Tétouan, strengthening the capacity of both the municipalities and civil society associations to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

The project was conceptualised as a support mechanism for local communities, with the aim of promoting accessibility in the cities and, as a result, the social inclusion of people with disabilities who might otherwise face exclusion and vulnerability.

The project is helping to promote accessibility as integral to urban development in Tangier and Tétouan. The involvement of MedCities and the Municipality of Barcelona, together with Moroccan municipalities and other local and national partners, will enable the capitalisation of this initiative beyond the experiences of the two cities as promoters of universal accessibility.

The steering committees – in both cities, composed of representatives of the municipalities, local stakeholders and MedCities – coordinated the design and programming of the project activities. A variety of activities are taking place as part of the project, including implementing pilot projects, international exchange missions, providing technical training on accessibility for the cities' consultative bodies, holding public seminars, and developing guidelines on accessibility that will provide the basis for future municipal plans.



Integrating gender, displaced people and refugee dimensions in members' projects

In 2018, MedCities supported the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa and the partners of the ISWMF project in the development of activities to improve solid waste management in Tripoli. Through implementing recycling, separated collection and valorisation of waste, the project also aims to reinforce the capacities of the Urban Community to plan its waste management and treatment strategy in an integrated way. In this way, it will be better placed to respond to the increased waste generation that the arrival of displaced people has resulted in.

This year several steps have been taken for the preparation of the pilot projects: a diagnosis of the pilot sites in each of the cities of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa where separated waste collection will be implemented; the production of an operational plan for the pilot projects that are being launched in December 2018; the procurement of equipment and material; the preparation of a Strategic Waste Management and Treatment Plan; and the production of communication and sensitisation material to promote good recycling habits among the population of the four pilot areas.

The project is coordinated by the Catalan Agency of Development Cooperation and is funded by a consortium that also includes the Municipality of Barcelona, the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, and the Catalan Fund for Development Cooperation. It is being implemented by UNDP North Lebanon and the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa, with MedCities and the Catalan Waste Agency offering technical support to the consortium.

Supporting members in seeking funding opportunities: Promoting alternative tourism in Jezzine, Batroun and Zgharta

Through a project supported by the Municipality of Barcelona, MedCities – with the support of the KTC Al Fayhaa – is starting to help develop alternative tourism as an economic driver in the Lebanese areas of Jezzine, Batroun and Zgharta. The project aims to strengthen the capacities of the municipalities to coordinate local actors in the tourist sector, to identify and implement projects for the promotion of alternative tourism, and – through a branding strategy and communication tools – to position the territories as key destinations for ecotourism. The project also has an important transferability and capitalisation component, promoted through technical exchange missions and the organisation of a capitalisation seminar.

The project, which began in December 2018, builds upon pre-existing work done by the cities involved. In the case of the Union of Jezzine Municipalities, a new tourism program for the region was launched in June 2018 as part of its strategic plan, supported by a full-fledged communication campaign. This latest project will facilitate the implementation of concrete activities of the tourism program and will reinforce the communication capacity of the Jezzine area. In the case of the Union of Batroun Municipalities, this project is the result of MedCities work in 2017 and 2018 on the participatory creation of a road map to promote tourism through the implementation of concrete projects.



Joint Catalan initiative addresses the impact of the refugee crisis on solid waste management in Jordan

2018 marked the launch of a joint Catalan initiative to boost local government capacity in the field of public waste management in Jordanian municipalities.

Jordan is currently facing a serious environmental crisis, exacerbated by the reception of a large number of refugees escaping the war in Syria. According to UN-HCR, 47% of the 657,629 registered Syrian refugees residing in Jordan are hosted by the Northern Governorates (Ajlun, Irbid, Jerash and Mafrq). Increased generation and uncontrolled dumping of solid waste, together with the lack of a proper management system, are exposing the area to worrying levels environmental pollution, prompting the urgent need for local administrations to take action.

In March, representatives of MedCities and experts from the KTC Al Fayhaa visited officials and key stakeholders to present, discuss and formally launch a technical assistance project supported by various Catalan partners. The project carried out an analysis and a mapping of the stakeholders in the waste management field in North Jordan and identified potential activities to be carried out in a second phase.

Following the analysis, two activities were selected for further development: mapping a system for integrated solid waste collection and transportation, and the development of an Urban Training Centre. A Project Document has been generated to guide their implementation in two phases. The first phase of implementation began in December 2018, launched alongside a seminar on Integrated Solid Waste Management in Jordanian cities, with a focus on waste collection, hosted by the city of Zarqa.

This initiative is part of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona's 2017-2019 Cooperation Master Plan and is a joint intervention with the Catalan Fund for Cooperation and Development (FCCD), supported by MedCities.



Developing bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects

Promoting bilateral cooperation among members

Tétouan and Dannieh: a new example of bilateral cooperation among MedCities members

The Dannieh Union of Municipalities and the Municipality of Tétouan signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at improving the cooperation and exchange of experiences in various areas related to local governance.

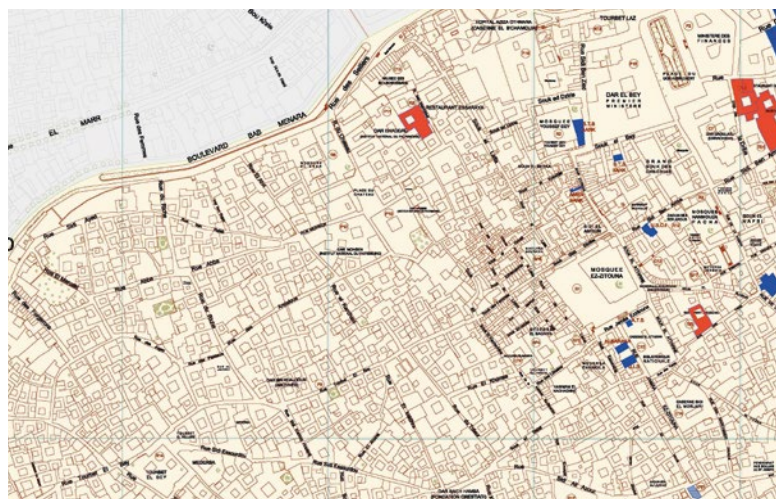
The memorandum was signed during a working meeting held in December 2017 between President Mohammed Saadieh of the Dannieh Union of Municipalities and Mr. Mohamed Idaomar, Mayor of Tétouan. The meeting was a bilateral extension of the relationship developed between Tétouan and Dannieh in the course of MedCities' activities, and both leaders stressed the desire to develop cooperative ties in order to achieve the goal of urban sustainable development. A common vision was articulated of the challenges facing both areas, particularly with respect to providing opportunities for young people, job creation, the development of tourism and the promotion of commerce.

Supporting the cooperative project “Vous en dire long sur la Médina de Tunis”

MedCities has provided technical assistance to the partners of the project “Vous en dire long sur la Médina de Tunis” to ensure the successful implementation of its activities.

The project – implemented by the Association for Safeguarding the Medina of Tunis – was identified by MedCities and approved for funding by the Provincial Council of Barcelona. It aims to promote the visibility of the Medina of Tunis as a cultural platform to attract tourists and investors. In order to do so, it highlights the city's major historic buildings, cultural areas, and those related to creative activities and handicrafts.

The project has mobilised relevant stakeholders and built a database of tourist, cultural and creative services and activities available in the Medina of Tunis. In turn, four touristic circuits have been created that link the Medina to adjacent neighbourhoods in order to highlight the monuments and architectural assets of the city. The initiative is supported by relevant communication material, both printed and digital. QR codes, for example, have been installed at the entrance of the monuments and historic buildings and panels indicating the four tourist routes have been placed at various locations in the Medina.



Submitting proposals for multilateral projects to be implemented in member cities

MedCities submits proposal for project on energy transition

During this reporting period, and in partnership with the Institut pour le Développement, l'Environnement et l'Énergie (IDE-E), MedCities submitted a project proposal for promoting networking and horizontal exchanges among cities allied for climate and energy transition. The project will be launched in early 2019 with funding from the Swiss platform REPIC (Renewable Energy, Energy and Resource Efficiency Promotion in International Cooperation) and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), and in partnership with the Tunisian National Agency of Energy Transition (ANME).

Focusing mainly on Tunisian cities but also involving networking activities at regional level, the project has several aims, including to develop a network of Tunisian cities committed to energy transition. It is also designed to strengthen municipal technical and managerial capacities and transfer knowledge between municipalities, as well as developing tools and putting in place a regional exchange platform. The project has a strong South-to-South cooperation component, by

assuring the involvement of several Moroccan cities and national institutions active in energy transition. The project has been approved and is to be launched in January 2019.

In 2018 MedCities also participated in the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin call for projects, submitting two project proposals and facilitating the application for three more projects involving five members of the Association.



Capitalizing knowledge

Developing capitalization initiatives and making them available to members

Interreg Med MADRE project to promote urban agriculture completed

The European project Interreg Med MADRE was completed in July 2018, after 18 months of promoting urban and peri-urban agriculture from a perspective that has developed specific proposals while paying special attention to Mediterranean metropolitan areas.

The project set out to provide a view of the main challenges and opportunities related to urban agriculture in order to present a series of inspirational examples and recommendations for public administrations. Over the past year and a half, it has collected best practices and discussed key challenges confronting six Mediterranean cities: Barcelona, Marseille, Montpellier, Bologna, Tirana and Thessaloniki.



The participatory work with metropolitan stakeholders through six transnational working group meetings resulted in six Thematic White Papers which fed into the MADRE Policy Paper with a set of eight recommendations for fostering urban agriculture. The recommendations are the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding which has been adopted by the participating metropolitan areas and key stakeholders to establish continued collaboration to foster urban agriculture as a key element in the design of sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean. MedCities has been the partner leading the development of these policy documents.

MedCities continues the implementation of the PANACeA project

In 2018 MedCities continued its contribution to the Interreg MED Horizontal Project PANACeA. The project aims to streamline management efforts in Protected Areas for enhanced Nature Conservation & Protection in the Mediterranean Sea.

The project has led to the creation of an EU Interreg Med Community focusing on Biodiversity Protection – the MED Biodiversity Protection Community – which creates synergies between relevant Mediterranean stakeholders around several policy aspects including biodiversity protection, coastal and marine conservation, natural resources management, land and sea interactions, Maritime Spatial Planning, climate change, governance mechanisms, marine litter and waste management.

MedCities is responsible, in partnership with Plan Bleu, for the Community Building Component of the project. In this context, the annual Open Event took place in May along with a back-to-back Community Building Event focused on “Tools for Ecosystem Based Management” and on the development of action plans for the various working groups which have been established.

Together with the European Topic Centre - University of Malaga (ETC-UMA), MedCities is also responsible for steering the collaboration and capitalisation efforts of the working group addressing biodiversity management and protection, with a special focus on the emerging pressure posed by marine litter. In this capacity MedCities organised a marine litter workshop in Barcelona in July 2018 which defined a series of joint products and commitments for their delivery, including a Policy Brief on marine litter. In the frame of the project, a conference was organised on 4-5 December in Brussels to promote the transfer of results from the MED Biodiversity Protection Community to policy making institutions – including the European Parliament – as well as to foster policy debates on how to enhance ecosystem-based approaches for reinforced biodiversity protection.

MedCities continues the implementation of the GO SUMP project

MedCities is a partner in the Interreg Med Horizontal Project GO SUMP and throughout 2018 has continued to contribute to the project's activities to address sustainable transport in the Mediterranean.

In April, MedCities contributed to the organisation and activities of a Community Building event of the MED Urban Transports Community, hosted by UNI-MED in Rome, Italy. The working groups at the event addressed five Thematic Groups established by the project: tourist destinations, specific sub-areas of trip generation, participatory planning & processes, electric mobility and low carbon transport modes and services.

In November, MedCities and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona hosted a conference on Mobility challenges in Urban and Metropolitan Areas, welcoming experts in sustainable transport, efficient buildings and renewable energy from around Europe in a joint event of GO SUMP and the Interreg MED Europe SMART MR project.





The two-day event brought together partners from the modular projects of the Interreg MED Urban Transports Community, the Efficient Buildings Community and the Renewable Energy Community, along with other relevant actors from public authorities, industry, academia and NGOs. It was, therefore, an opportunity to present on-going results and share experiences both across projects and with other experts and institutions.

The conference included a session at the Smart City Expo World Congress, which explored various aspects of smart transport and sustainability in European and Mediterranean urban and metropolitan areas.

As a partner in GO SUMP, over the past year MedCities has also been involved in various project activities, such as the organisation of webinars, the development of the interactive 'Who is Who Map' of the Urban Transports Community and the design of community workshops on recommendations for urban mobility policy, among others.

MedCities participates in the MADE in MED annual event

At the Mid-term Interreg MED Event "MADE in MED" – which took place in Rome in April – MedCities was represented in three of the nine MED Communities of the programme: Urban Transports (GO SUMP Project), Biodiversity Protection (PANACeA Project) and Green Growth (MADRE Project). MedCities also contributed to the guidelines and the stand on "Organising Sustainable Events".

MedCities was a partner within the MADRE project, which aimed to launch a transnational cluster dedicated to urban and peri-urban agriculture and deve-

lop a proposal for eco-innovation and inclusive green growth. MedCities also participated as partner in the GO SUMP and PANACeA Communities, coordinating activities within the Community Building chapter. The aim of Go-SUMP is to promote sustainable urban mobility, to facilitate the introduction of low-emission transport measures in Mediterranean countries and thus help to improve the corresponding public policies. PANACeA aims at protecting biodiversity and natural ecosystems by strengthening networking and management of protected areas.

The MADE in MED event was an opportunity to convey the ideas and values of the transnational thematic communities – knowledge sharing and promoting sustainable development all around the Mediterranean – while assessing the potential synergies among projects and partners by promoting cross cutting initiatives between the different thematic communities.

Implementing an urban toolkit addressed to Mediterranean cities

The launch of MedUrbanTools: the Mediterranean Urban Development Toolbox

In June 2018, MedCities launched MedUrbanTools. The toolbox is a Knowledge Sharing Platform, designed to be a useful and user-friendly database that not only includes technical content but also offers visual materials and best practices, thus promoting urban analysis while inspiring new initiatives. To that end, the platform presents three main sections: Cases, Voices and Resources. Each section includes content relating to ten urban sustainable development topics, with tags relating the various elements to one another.

MedCities is leading this multi-stakeholder platform – which involves the Association’s members along with other notable Mediterranean cities – while bringing together various actors working on sustainable urban development in the region. These stakeholders include members of the Urban Hub of the Center for Mediterranean Integration, which brings together urban experts from institutions such as the World Bank, Cities Alliance, GIZ, Agence Française de Développement, IEB, UNDP, Agence des Villes et Territoires Méditerranéens Durables and CODATU.

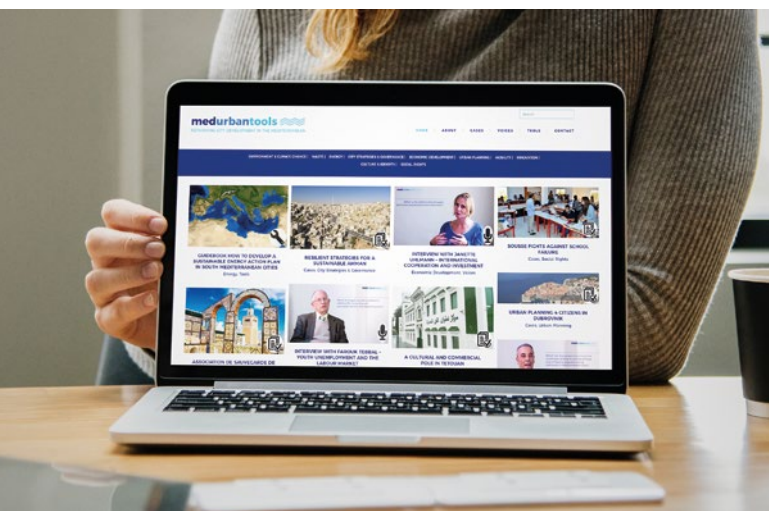
Offering a space for thinking the urban question in the Mediterranean region based on existing projects

MedCities contributes to the conference on Accelerating Energy Transition in Tunisia

On 5th and 6th April the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies (MEMER) and the National Agency for the Energy Control in Tunisia, organised a debate on the acceleration of the implementation of the energy transition strategy adopted in 2016.

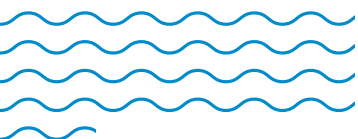
The conference assembled nearly 300 attendees from relevant organizations, with the objectives of informing them regarding the aims and measures taken in order to promote energy efficiency, to exchange successful international experiences and to discuss the recommendations made for the acceleration of the national programs on energy efficiency.

MedCities contributed to the debate on international experiences through the participation of an expert from the Barcelona Provincial Government, who emphasised the importance of localising national strategies and detailed the province’s efforts to promote energy efficiency within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors. In addition, MedCities participated in the roundtable and emphasised the role of municipalities in processes of energy transition.



It was first presented during the 17th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development in July 2017 and is the first such initiative to have successfully addressed the topic from a Mediterranean perspective.

During this first phase of the development of the toolbox, more than 30 cities have contributed their successful experiences to the knowledge platform. In addition, a number of experts from the region have been interviewed, with videos produced and included in MedUrbanTools; both contributing to the debate and increasing the visibility of the initiative. The objective for the second phase of the initiative is to diversify donors and to enrich the toolbox with the academic and technical expertise of additional Mediterranean local authorities, urban experts and other stakeholders.



COOP-VERD capitalisation seminar on waste valorisation

On the 27 March a capitalisation seminar was organised in Nabeul in the framework of the COOP-VERD project in order to showcase the experience of the project in promoting sorting, recycling and recovery of plastic waste as part of the optimization of waste management in the city.

The focus of the seminar was on presenting the results of the project in terms of plastic recovery and valorisation, and the improvement of the working conditions of waste-pickers. With the participation of seven cities of the network and the presence of national agencies and relevant local actors involved in waste management and valorisation, the seminar held an interactive session in order to facilitate the exchange of interesting experiences for plastic recovery in the country.

Towards sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean: the role of metropolitan agriculture

The closing of the Interreg MED Project MADRE in June 2018 provided the occasion to launch the debate on the opportunities and current challenges in the area of metropolitan agriculture.

Marseille hosted the final international event, at which the MedCities Secretary General chaired the round table. The panel gathered representatives from Aix Marseille Metropole, the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, Metropolitan City of Bologna, and the Municipalities of Tirana, Thessaloniki, Neapolis-Sykies and Mouans-Sartoux. The debate focused on the specific challenges faced in each of the localities and the benefits of strengthening cooperation at the Mediterranean level.

MedCities further organised a local final event in July 2018 at El Prat de Llobregat addressing the issue of metropolitan agriculture within a sustainable food system.

Participating in debates on Sustainable Urban Mobility in the Mediterranean through the REMEDIO project

MedCities participated in the seminar "Sustainable Urban Mobility: Confronting air pollution and climate change", organised by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and hosted by the Metropolitan Development Agency of Thessaloniki SA, as part of the REMEDIO project, which aims to strengthen the capacity of cities to use low carbon transport systems. The seminar focused on the topics of traffic-related pollutant emissions and air pollution, traffic-related carbon footprint, and innovative urban mobility infrastructures.

During the seminar, MedCities offered a view of the urban mobility challenges that Mediterranean cities are currently facing, addressing the reality of south and east Mediterranean cities to the partners and stakeholders of the REMEDIO project. An emphasis was placed on the capitalisation opportunities for existing solutions and for methodologies and approaches tested in the Mediterranean region, focusing especially on the transfer of experiences through MedUrbanTools, the knowledge-transfer platform launched by MedCities

Contributing to the High-level Policy Dialogue on Migration

International experts in the field of migration – including ministers, mayors and local authorities – met to share knowledge, exchange ideas and explore possible strategies to address the challenges related to migration, municipal financing and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a seminar organised by the World Alliance of Cities against Poverty (WACAP), under the umbrella of UNCDF and in collaboration with Malaga City Council.

The seminar addressed the role of migration on a global scale by sharing best practices developed in various cities regarding the needs of migrants and innovative urban planning focusing on migration. The debates also examined how local governments adapt to this reality, both in the countries of origin and in the host countries, highlighting the financial mechanisms developed by host cities.

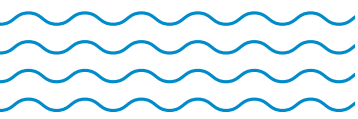
MedCities' participation focused on the Mediterranean area, specifically on the strategies developed by cities in Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco – together with migrant communities – to adapt to shifting contexts.

Participation in the seminar on cultural heritage organised by the City of Dubrovnik

MedCities participated in the international conference on cultural heritage issues – “Sharing the Future of Cultural Heritage – Synergies between Heritage, Tourism and Digital Culture” – organized by the Croatian Association of Historical Towns (HUPG), in April 2018. The conference tackled the main challenges of cultural heritage in a context of growing complexity due to the various phenomena – such as increasing tourism and new technologies – that are having increasing ramifications for the issue.

The conference gathered experts and practitioners from several countries from Europe and the Mediterranean region. MedCities participated with a presentation entitled “The Challenges of Mediterranean Historic Cities and Opportunities for Cooperation”. The city of Ancona – a MedCities member – also participated in the event in the capacity of Secretariat of the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities.





Organising knowledge events to disseminate practices and promote exchanges

Organisation of the international seminar “Mediterranean Cities: sustainable and equitable for all!”

As part of the MedCities Annual Conference 2018 – hosted by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and the Municipality of Barcelona – on 4 October over 100 participants were welcomed to a day of round tables and debate exploring the challenges of urban development in the Mediterranean and the strategies cities and metropolitan areas are developing to address them.

Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona and President of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, opened the conference and was joined on a round table by the mayors of Montpellier, Tripoli (Lebanon) and Tunis. In two further round tables, political representatives from various MedCities members – 30 of whom were represented – then went on to debate the themes of environmentally sustainable development and economic development and inequality.

Among the issues addressed by the participants were the ripple effects of the large-scale, structural problems confronting the Mediterranean – such as wars and territorial conflicts, and their attendant massive movements of populations – being felt in the daily realities of urban life and municipal government. Participants stressed the need to integrate the unique perspectives of cities and metropolitan governments with international agendas for urban development and the key role played by city-to-city cooperation in confronting shared challenges and disseminating best practices

Alfred Bosch, Vice-President of International Relations and Cooperation of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, closed the day of debate along with the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Nasser Kamel.



Organisation of the international seminar “Challenges and trends in solid waste management in Mediterranean cities”

An international seminar on solid waste management (SWM) was hosted by the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa (Tripoli, Mina, Beddawi and Kalamoun) on the occasion of the MedCities General Assembly of 2017. The event gathered around 150 participants, including representatives from various member cities as well as a large array of national stakeholders.

An introductory panel addressed the international dimension of new solid waste management models. The panel included discussion of the role and experience of MedCities, the Integrated Solid Waste Management project currently being implemented in Al Fayhaa with the support of Catalan partners, and the role of UNDP supporting municipalities on SWM in North Lebanon.

The session was followed by three round tables addressing challenges and trends at different levels; namely, multilevel governance and coordination, waste separation, and treatment. Themes addressed included the promotion of the culture of recycling and the impact of landfill and potential environmental solutions. The seminar concluded with an open debate that produced a set of recommendations for the case of the landfill of Tripoli.



Building capacity in local authorities

Organizing and promoting knowledge events

Eco MedaGreen Summit 2017 in Barcelona

The Eco MedaGreen Summit was held 23 November 2017 in Barcelona, as part of the Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders (MedaWeek Barcelona), which was co-organized by the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), the Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), MedCities, the Catalan Water Partnership (CWP) and the Mediterranean Energy Observatory (OME).

The state of the Mediterranean green economy was discussed at the Eco MedaGreen Summit by public representatives, entrepreneurs, multilateral institutions, and international experts. Participants discussed the emergence of Mediterranean sustainability in four priority areas: water, solar energy, wind energy and sustainable cities. The forums of the Eco MedaGreen Summit put faith in the promotion of the emerging sectors to place sustainability at the heart of the region.

Tétouan shares its City Development Strategy experience with nine Tunisian Cities

A representative from the Planning, Studies and Urban Development project service of the city of Tétouan participated in the 3rd Intercity meeting of Madinatouna project, held on 23 July 2018 in Tunisia.

The nine Tunisian cities present benefited from learning about the experiences of Tétouan regarding the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of its Municipal Development Plan (PCD) – which was finalised in 2016 – as well as the process of follow-up and evaluation of the current Municipal Action Plan (PAC 2016-2021). The presentation emphasised both tools for monitoring PAC implementation and potential indicators.



The exchange of knowledge and experience came at a point when the nine cities involved in the Madinatouna project were defining the follow-up structure, tools and sets of indicators to evaluate the advancement, completion and impact of their respective City Development Strategies

Deepening dialogue with EU institutions and EU Delegations

C4C Platform consolidated proposal for Territorial Cooperation

Bilateral cooperation between Tunis and Barcelona

The cities of Tunis and Barcelona have been working together to define the objectives and areas of focus of the beginning of bilateral cooperation between the two municipalities. The priorities have been identified on the basis of technical missions carried out in both cities in 2017 and 2018.

The themes of public spaces and urban green spaces were identified as the main topics of the first technical exchanges and cooperation between the two cities. The most recent technical visits highlighted urban planning design and management-planning of urban and peri-urban public spaces as potential axes for the first steps of bilateral cooperation.

Three scales of action were articulated for the collaborations: governance in the framework of municipal services; the planning of a large peri-urban park in the city of Tunis; and the redesign of selected urban spaces following a consultative and participative process.

The cities of Tunis and Barcelona have been working together to define the objectives and areas of focus of the beginning of bilateral cooperation between the two municipalities. The priorities have been identified on the basis of technical missions carried out in both cities in 2017 and 2018.

The themes of public spaces and urban green spaces were identified as the main topics of the first technical exchanges and cooperation between the two cities. The most recent technical visits highlighted urban planning design and management-planning of urban and peri-urban public spaces as potential axes for the first steps of bilateral cooperation.

Three scales of action were articulated for the collaborations: governance in the framework of municipal services; the planning of a large peri-urban park in the city of Tunis; and the redesign of selected urban spaces following a consultative and participative process.



A cooperative and reliable regional actor

A cooperative Mediterranean actor

MedCities participated in the 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum

As part of the 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum, which took place in Cairo in January 2018, MedCities and IPEMED coordinated a working group dedicated to Reuse and Treatment Technologies (REUT) linked to integrated urban water management.

The outcomes of the working groups were launched in Monte Carlo in July 2018 and, following Cairo, went on to deliver results and proposals to the World Water Forum organised in Brasilia in March 2018.

A joint publication summing up the reality of water treatment and re-use was published by the two institutions as result of the conclusions of the working group. The publication was presented at the – Mediterranean Water And Journalism Forum (AMWAJ) in Barcelona on 30 October 2018.

MedCities further contributed to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Water Agenda debates, by participating in the Water-Employment-Migration Lab organised by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-MED) on 31 October as well as in the UfM Water Expert Group Meeting, held in Athens on 6 November. MedCities forms part of the Partnership Council of GWP-MED and was also present at its Annual Meeting.

Introducing MedUrbanTools at CESBA MED

MedCities contributed to an international event on sustainable urban planning, coordinated by the CESBA-MED Project within the Interreg Med Efficient Buildings Community, presenting the knowledge-sharing toolkit, MedUrbanTools.

The CESBA-MED event provided a full overview of different initiatives and actions at the Mediterranean scale in the areas of energy efficient buildings and sustainable city development. Among other organisations, it included the participation of iiSBE, the UNEP-MAP and the Covenant of Mayors.

The CESBA Neighborhood Award was officially launched, with the aim of delivering an overview of exemplary neighbourhoods in Europe, which successfully improve the quality of life of inhabitants, minimise negative impacts on climate and resources, and capitalize key performance indicators on the CESBA Sustainable Neighborhood Tool.





The Mediterranean Climate House in Tangier

The opening meetings of the Mediterranean Climate House (MCH), which took place in December 2017 in Tangier, concluded with the adoption of a Final Declaration which stressed that responding to the challenge of climate change requires ambition, dedication and willingness on the part of the scientific community, governments, the private sector and civil society.

MedCities was among the organizers supporting the launch event, the meetings of which brought together more than 360 participants from many Mediterranean countries, including regional and local government leaders, investors, donors, experts and academics.

The MCH is designed to aid the growth of an enabling environment for good Mediterranean climate governance, to support the implementation of territorial policies and measures, and to maximize the benefits of international cooperation, particularly in relation to climate finance.

Participating in multi-actor cooperation schemes on urban development in the Mediterranean

MedCities participated in the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development

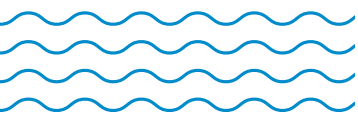
On 9 November 2017, a high-level conference held in Brussels launched the implementation of the UfM Urban Agenda through the creation of a UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development. MedCities participated in the meeting as observer, representing the voice of local authorities, as member of the UfM Urban Experts Group and the CMI Urban Hub.

The Platform is designed to promote effective coordination through multilevel and cross-sectoral cooperation to deliver more effective solutions to common urban challenges and ensure a more integrated approach at the level of functional urban areas. The conference identified the four initial common thematic priorities and established a variety of working groups.

MedCities participated in the final event of GiZ CoMun Programme

In April 2018, GiZ – strategic partner of MedCities and a member of the Centre for Mediterranean Integration Urban Hub – organised a regional forum on “City Networks as Catalysts for Urban Development” as the final event of the CoMun program.

The forum was an opportunity for the governmental and civil society actors involved in the program to take stock of what has been accomplished throughout the previous eight years of work implemented in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. MedCities participated in the debates, which reflected the constraints facing the development of urban management and the challenges in ensuring long-term ownership by municipalities.



Strengthening cooperation with strategic allies

The UCLG First World Forum on Intermediary Cities

The MedCities Secretary General Xavier Tiana contributed to the work of the First World Forum on Intermediary Cities, which was held in Chefchaouen, Morocco, 5-7 July 2018. An initiative of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) – the global network of local governments – the Forum on Intermediary Cities is designed to help drive the implementation of global sustainable development agendas at the local level. It is a consultation and policy-development process that culminates in an event every two years.

During the event, participants discussed a range of issues – such as heritage assets, the culture of ‘good living’, the fight against climate change and the role of the citizenry in intermediary cities – which were gathered together in the final declaration approved by the forum. The Secretary General of MedCities contributed to the debates on the challenges of climate change faced by Mediterranean intermediary cities.

Furthermore, during the event a meeting was held between the President of MedCities, M. Mohamed Idaomar, and the Secretary General of UCLG, Mrs. Emilia Saiz. The meeting addressed the need to coordinate a strategy for action at the Mediterranean level in which various networks and actors can participate, with a central role for MedCities, and to strengthen cooperation between MedCities and UCLG through the implementation of joint projects.

Tunisian MedCities members trained in Public Service Delivery

Various MedCities members participated in the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) and PLATFORMA training session on ‘public service delivery with a territorial integrated approach in the Mediterranean’. The training was aimed at representatives from local and regional authorities in the Mediterranean, with a specific focus on Tunisia and Morocco.

Four MedCities members from Tunisia attended – Sfax, Gabes, M’Saken and Bizerte – the participation of whom was facilitated by the collaboration agreement between CPRM and MedCities, which prompted the coordination between the KTC Sfax and the CPRM Intermediterranean Commission.

The training took place in April 2018 and was organised as part of the framework of ‘Southern Neighbourhood Activities’ under the ‘Platforma Strategic Partnership’ with the European Commission.



The Mediterranean approach within the Global New Urban Agenda

MedCities, together with other Mediterranean stakeholders, participated in the 9th World Urban Forum (9WUF), that took place 13-19 February in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), under the title “Cities 2030 - Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda”, organised by UN-HABITAT.

The 9WUF focused on analysing global developments in the roll-out of the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito in 2016, which aims to be the roadmap for sustainable development of cities over the coming decades. The debates were also an occasion to see how progress is being made in different regions of the world in the processes of localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Various members of MedCities participated actively in this event. The Mayors of Tripoli (Lebanon), Dan-nieh (Lebanon) and Chefchaouen (Morocco), and representatives of Zarqa Municipality (Jordan), were joined by the MedCities Secretary General, Xavier Tiana.

Achieving effective and transparent management

Consolidating MedCities as an association, improving internal procedures, transparency and assuring the performance of its actions

MedCities has now completed its first year as a fully independent association. The execution of the budget has been reflected in the annual accounts, which detail all of MedCities' financial activity. The execution of the budget reflected in the annual accounts was approved and reviewed without any objection by external auditors.

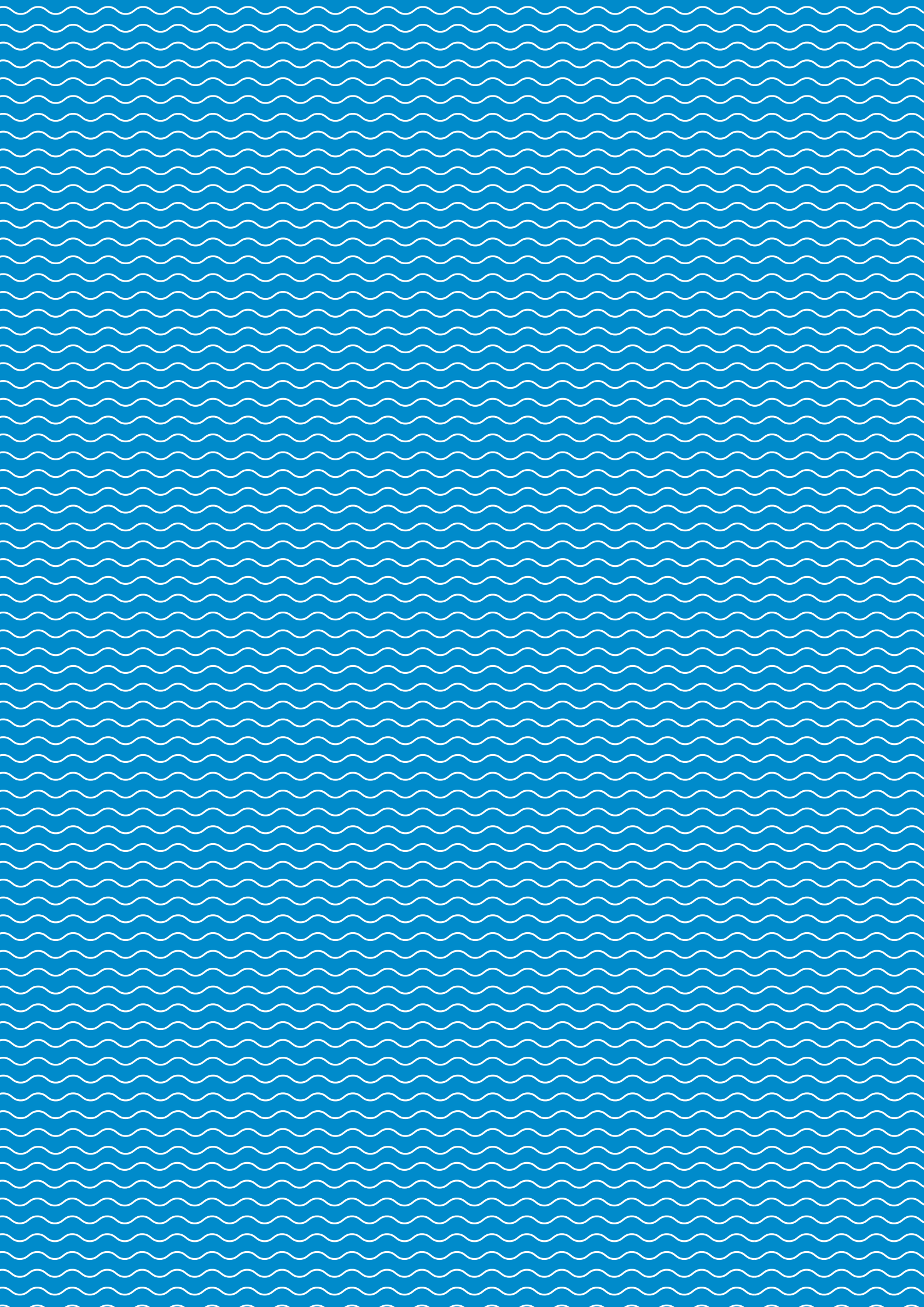
At the same time, MedCities has improved its internal procedures establishing a better system for the organization and planning execution of transactions. Once executed, transactions are reviewed and tested with an exhaustive control system that guarantees the good use of resources, always evaluated in reference to good governance and all relevant regulations, but also further standards applied by the Association itself.

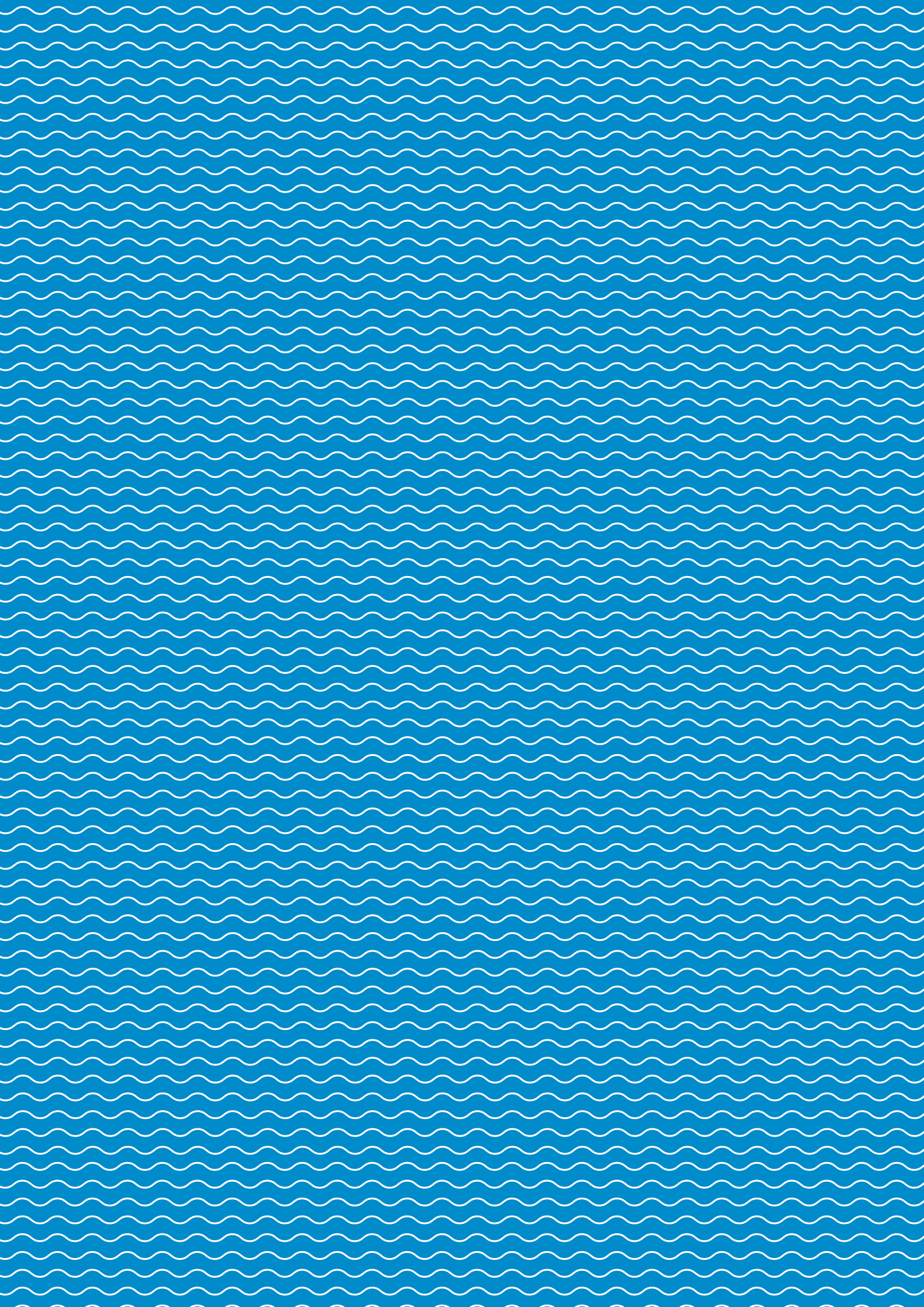
As a transparent entity, financed by public funds, MedCities is continually improving its communication in order to ensure that all the activities and actions carried out by the Association can reach any person or organization, with the MedCities website being an important transparency tool.

Continuing the diversification of the funding framework of the Association

MedCities has augmented its available resources available thanks to the incorporation of new funders, demonstrating their trust in the capacity of MedCities to successfully execute new projects and actions. In addition, as a result of both better financial control and strengthening the Association's membership, MedCities has increased the income received through membership fees.

The strengthening of MedCities funding framework has also been reflected in the consolidation of the contributions of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona and the Municipality of Barcelona as fundamental elements of the Association's financing.





MedCities General Secretariat

Metropolitan Area of Barcelona

C. 62, 16-18 - Zona Franca

08040 Barcelona

contact@medcities.org

www.medcities.org

MedCities Knowledge

Transfer Center - Sfax

ktcsfax@medcities.org

MedCities Knowledge

Transfer Center - Al Fayhaa

ktcalfayhaa@medcities.org

