

# Activity Report

# 2022

[medcities.org](https://medcities.org)



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# Governance

MedCities was established in 1991 in Barcelona when 16 municipalities formed a network with the purpose, initially, of supporting environmental protection from a local perspective. In 2015, the network became a fully independent organisation and now brings 67 local authorities from all shores of the Mediterranean basin. The transformation of MedCities into a legal association has increased its operational capacity and enhanced its ability to promote urban sustainable development. MedCities is governed by its General Assembly, formed by all its member municipalities and unions of municipalities. The Assembly approves among others the annual Work Plan, the activity and economic Annual Reports and the Annual Budget as well as the adhesion of new members. In 2022, the General Assembly took place physically in Larnaka where the Secretariat and some city members' representatives could meet and discuss the development of the association as well as main working areas while setting future actions to better coordinate and develop concrete projects.

MedCities is managed and represented by a Board of Directors made up of 7 to 9 members. All positions within the Board of Directors are unremunerated. MedCities Board of Directors for the period 2019-2022 was approved by the members at the Extraordinary General Assembly held in Barcelona, 5 October 2018. The composition of the last Board (mandate 2018-2022) was as follows:

- Municipality of Tétouan (President)
- Al-Fayhaa Urban Community (Vice-President)
- Municipality of Sfax (Vice-President)
- Barcelona Metropolitan Area (Secretary)
- Municipality of As-Salt (Treasurer)
- Municipality of Dubrovnik (Member)
- Municipality of Marseille (Member)
- Municipality of Larnaka (Member)
- Metropolitan Municipality of Izmir (Member)

On the last General Assembly a new board of directors was elected giving the composition as follows:

- Municipality of Montpellier/Montpelhièr (President)
- Union of Municipalities of Dannieh (Vice-president)
- Municipality of Tunis (Vice-president)
- Barcelona Metropolitan Area (Secretary)
- Municipality of Tetouan (Treasurer)
- Municipality of Bethlehem (Member)
- Greater Municipality of Zarqa (Member)
- Municipality of València (Member)
- Municipality of Limassol (Member)

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

*This document details the work undertaken by MedCities over the past year as approved by its General Assembly held in Larnaka in a hybrid format on 23 November 2022.*

## A message from the new MedCities' President



**Michaël Delafosse**

**Mayor of Montpellier and President of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole  
President of MedCities**

In February, the city of Montpellier was incredibly honoured to become president of MedCities for the coming four years. Both an honour and a weighty sense of responsibility in the face of how communities and cities respond to the current period.

The world's cities, and particularly Mediterranean cities, are facing crucial common challenges that we can no longer ignore: climate change, migratory flows, soaring energy prices, and the food security repercussions of the Ukraine war... We need to face the changing world together, and the city scale is the most relevant level for developing practical solutions.

In Montpellier, we strongly believe that concrete action and the development of local governance-powered projects are key to harnessing the environmental crisis and to building a more sustainable future.

As a member, I have been both admiring and proud of MedCities action in empowering Mediterranean local governments and implementing practical programs with visible results. This report is proof of and pays testament to the organisation's intensely rich activity, as well as that of our members and partner stakeholders.

As President, I will do my utmost to ensure that we pursue this course of action and that we contribute to further developing capacity-building and self-sufficiency throughout the region.

The Mediterranean, the birthplace of multiple cultures and civilizations, must be protected and must be a safe haven for all those forced to move, to flee their homelands.

Our territories must become greener, ever more resilient, and welcoming.

The city of Montpellier, and I as Mayor, will steadfastly support and steer MedCities and its members forward in this way.

## A message from outgoing MedCities' President



**Mustapha El Bakkouri**

**Mayor of Tétouan**

The commitment of the city of Tétouan to MedCities is firm and determined since we joined the network. During the last 8 years, we assumed the presidency of MedCities for two terms thanks to the support and trust of the members of the association.

It has been eight years in which Tetuan City Council has exercised the presidency of MedCités in an open, collegial manner, in dialogue with the other members of the outgoing board of directors, to whom I would like to dedicate a few words to thank you all for the special dedication. In these eight years, the association has made a very important leap in terms of associated members, in terms of projects, and managed budget and professional staff. Together we have led the organisation to have a recognized presence in the Mediterranean region, both for the role of technical support for members and the role of political representation of local authorities in international forums and multilateral bodies.

I want to congratulate the new President and mayor of Montpellier, Mr. Michaël Delafosse for his appointment and the other elected members of the new board of directors for the next four years. Tetuan wanted to give a sense of relief and also of continuity and will hold the position of Treasurer in this new political direction. Again, thanks for your trust.

Finally, I want to thank the Secretary-General and the secretariat team for their daily work with a strategic vision that has allowed MedCities to be well recognized today.

I invite you to continue working, dear members and friends, for a cohesive, respectful Mediterranean region in which cities have an active role to improve the life of our citizens.



# A message from MedCities' Secretary General



**Josep Canals Molina**  
MedCities' Secretary General

Dear members and fellow Mediterranean family,

I am pleased to introduce you to the work our association has carried out this past year.

2022 has witnessed our association completely back to normal. Since we have acquired the good things of the pandemic, like teleworking some days, we have on the other side being able to be closer to our members than ever.

Some projects, such as the Interreg MED projects, have ended with great results like methodological tools for institutions to become more circular and sustainable; good practices in soft mobility, and strategic and impactful political recommendations and white papers on biodiversity, circular economy, blue economy, and sustainable mobility.

However, a new phase of projects arise: we have been awarded Horizon and PRIMA projects as well as new Interreg EuroMED program projects on nature protection and green living cities. Besides, the ENI-CBC projects on biodiversity (Enseres) and waste management (Med4Waste) are at full steam.

Our cooperation with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Barcelona City Council, Diputació de Barcelona, and the Government of Catalonia is stronger and consolidated.

All of this means that our network is more renowned as a crucial partner capable of transforming ideas into concrete projects, something that international funders like the European Commission seek with determination.

And all actions we do are possible thanks to the highly qualified and deeply engaged team. They believe in MedCities. And this is noticeable.

Thanks to all of this I feel sound and confident to represent the institution in political forums, as agreed by the general assembly, where the local voice can be heard stronger the more we spread it. For the first time, MedCities has been present at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, on the first Mediterranean Pavillion. We also exchange experiences with some of our mayors in the United Cities and Local Governments world congress.

**Finally, let me express my congratulations to the new president and the rest of the board of directors recently elected. We need strong political leadership for this institution that is playing a key and recognized role in the international arena. States and multilevel institutions are starting to look at us. With this new board, the challenges we face will be easier to achieve.**

**I want to thank you for believing in MedCities. This means we are useful to you, being the best compliment we may get.**

**I'd like to welcome, once more, our new members and observer members to our family.**

**Let me tell you, my dearest mayors and partners, that our work is easier because we believe in you and feel that you believe in us.**

## 2022 at a glance

During 2022 MedCities has continued supporting member cities in participating in multiple projects and initiatives.

Numbers do not always reflect the work of an organization. However, this figures attempt to enable an insight.

Our actions are based on the SDG 17.



### Our guiding principles are



Sustainable  
development



Climate crisis  
mitigation



Economic and  
social equality

**17**

ONGOING  
PROJECTS

**7**

LED BY  
MEDCITIES

**40**

CITY MEMBERS  
INVOLVED AS PARTNERS  
OR ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

### Fields we worked on



Waste  
management



Mobility



Social cohesion



Governance  
and city development



Strategic  
Planning



Sustainable  
development



Environment  
and climate change



Energy

### New members

**67**

MEMBERS  
IN 2021

+

**6**

NEW  
ACCESSIONS

=

**73**

FROM 3  
MEDITERRANEAN  
SHORES





## Medcities as a knowledge development and sharing platform



**medurbantools**  
RETHINKING CITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

**+350**

Open access documents and resources divided in tools, cases and voices

Continuous update of the online sharing platform

## A voice for Mediterranean local authorities: dialogue and political exchanges

**+45**

Participation in events and contribution to reports and technical papers

- Networking with international partners
- Support and accompaniment to city members in International foras
- Dissemination of good practices and policy recommendations

**Metrosolutions** EU cohesion forum

**Word urban forum** **EU green week** **UCLG 7th World Congress**

Sea'ties Report - Ocean & Climate Platform **Interreg MED Project Events**

**European week of regions and cities** **COP 27** ARLEM assembly

**Sustainable Urbanisation through Port City Transformation at the UpM**

Med Cat Days **Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance** and more...

## MedCities media appearances

**+15**

## Total 2022 budget

**1.8M**



# Strengthen internal and external communication

## Communication plan: Arabic translation of the web and communication agency support

In terms of external communication, the association made a clear commitment with city members to work on the new website, which allows having the **contents in five languages**. After two years of work updating all news and documents, 2021 was the year for **Arabic content** to be translated. Now, the main pages and stable and permanent content could be found in Arabic so MedCities members who have that native and working language are able to find relevant information in their own language as other members can search the content in **English, French -both, main working languages- , Spanish and Catalan**.



MedCities SG interviewed during MBPC final event

Also, as communication concerns, MedCities counted on a **communication and public relations agency** to help the association to be present in the media. It has been an important concern for the General Secretariat to count on

an agency to help MedCities to spread all work done. The agency has been looking for **communicative actions** and key moments to write press releases to send to the main media.



Arabic web version



Private user area - MedCities website

Some of the main appearances in the media are related to the **Blufasma project pilot** involving the stakeholders of the fishery and aquaculture sectors. During the last year MedCities has intensified the sending of press releases and the association appeared in different media such as radio stations and newspapers.

Furthermore, after the event from the **Urban Transports Community** held in Brussels in May, *‘Striving for a greener Mediterranean: Sustainable mobility solutions for a greener & better experience living and visiting the Mediterranean’* a press invitation and a press release were prepared and distributed to both, **European** and **Catalan journalists**. And, in April, for one of the main events of the **InCircle project**, involving **Palma** city members, *‘The circularity applied to the tourism sector as the solution to give continuity’* also a press invitation was sent to journalists, as well as a press release after the presentation. As far as the **Bluefasma project**, MedCities and the agency worked together to prepare also some communicative elements to send to journalists for the *‘Blue circular economy and innovation in the Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture sectors - contributions from BLUEfasma project’* presentation in April, in **Barcelona**.

Finally, as far as **internal communication** is concerned, the new website now includes a **private user area** for city members where relevant information can be found. The private area is distributed in categories; one for the Board of Directors members and the other is open to the totality of members. Important documents for instance the Assembly and Budget or specific information presentations about open calls can be found.

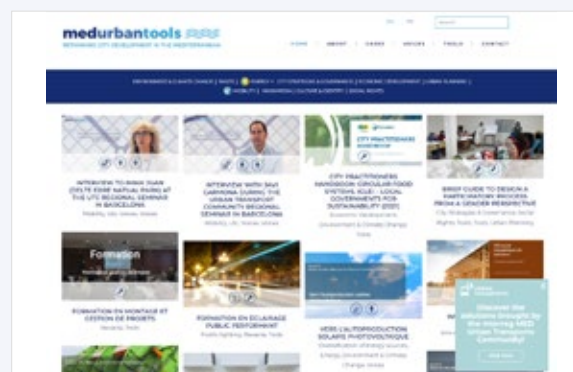
## Strengthen MedUrbanTools as a permanent platform for knowledge sharing on urban development in the Mediterranean

The **MedurbanTools** website has been **updated to expand the scope and the contents of useful and practical information for MedCities members**. The knowledge platform has two specific sections, one for mobility which contains online annexes to the **Interreg MED Urban Transports Community programme** as practical cases and specific information about sustainable mobility pilot projects in Mediterranean cities can be found. The other specific section is for the **Rev'Acte project** -led by the Tunisian National Agency for Energy Management (ANME)-, which contributes to the networking of Tunisian cities committed to promoting energy transition in order to facilitate the transfer of experience, the dissemination of pilot initiatives and the exchange of good practices.

Furthermore, the different cases, articles, projects and voices the platform contains have been **promoted through MedCities' social media and monthly newsletter**. Also, the website has added some fact-sheets explaining the implementation of projects focused on the use of the culture as a lever for the economic and social development of the city, the revitalization of the city centre, and enhancement of heritage, for instance in Málaga, Fes, Naplouse or Ramallah or a complete handbook about circular food systems to support local governments, which have already identified priority sectors or materials they wish to apply circular economy principles to.

All members and other Mediterranean associations have been **invited to provide their cases and pilot experiences** about sustainable development, mobility, waste management, energy, climate change, urban planning and any other topic.

The platform will continue to showcase actions and projects developed by local governments in order to be a live website containing a large repository of replicable actions.



MedurbanTools open sources website



# Medcities: a leading network for cities throughout the mediterranean. A specialist in management, strategic planning, urban projects, decentralisation, new local governance, and representative, participatory democracy

FOUR PROJECTS FUNDED BY INTERREG MED PROGRAMME

## Urban Transports Community (until December 2022)

The **Urban Transports Community** closed its implementation in December 2022 after 3 years of mainstreaming and promoting low-carbon mobility solutions in the Mediterranean region. MedCities acted as lead partner of this EU-funded initiative (ERDF Fund) and coordinated the action through solid coordination, management and a smooth collaboration among partners.

The main outcomes of the project can be described as follows:

- **8 replicating territories, including the Municipality of Sfax and Greater Irbid Municipality, and Municipality of Durres** as pioneer, in the frame of a mentoring programme tailored and targeted to their needs and offering them expert-driven support to understand and adapt concrete solutions and methods generated by the Urban Transports Community modular projects.
- **45 policy recommendations** for city planners, national decision makers and EU representatives, including 12 on active mobility, 8 on sustainable mobility planning in tourist areas (drafted by MedCities), 16 on e-mobility deployment and 9 on how urban transport should handle the impacts of climate change.
- **83 supporting cities and stakeholders** to the UTC Declaration across the MED Area

- **12 replicable tools and solutions** available for cities on sustainable mobility, published on the MedUrbanTools portal, with an analysis of the key factors of their replicability and recommendations for city planners.
- **Over 30 activities across the Med area and online** to build capacities, transform policies and mainstream the Mediterranean local voice for sustainable mobility around the 7 thematic axis of the project: active mobility, e-mobility, sustainable mobility planning in tourist areas, shared mobility, the use of data for transport management and participatory approaches to mobility planning.
- **190.000 people reached** by the key messages and promotion actions of the project through social network posts using LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter, newsletters and public events.



Mr Riadh Haj Tadjeb, Dir. Projects of Sfax and Mrs. Basma Maatoug, Mayor of Nabeul

The mentoring scheme of the Urban Transports Community benefited the member cities of **Sfax** and **Greater Irbid Municipality** with a tailored program of technical support on participatory approaches to mobility planning (Greater Irbid Municipality) and road-design for cycling uses (Sfax). Other cities and institutions, like the **Municipality of Dürres** and **Barcelona Metropolitan Area**, took part in the mentoring as pioneers by presenting their experience and own knowledge. The final report of the mentoring shows the diverse range of results and driving factors of transferring of knowledge among cities and public institutions, while the article published on the project website summarises the main outcomes of the initiative.

On the other hand, the Urban Transports was part of **the Euro-MED Academy**, a unique cross-thematic initiative that gathered all the thematic communities of the Interreg MED and created a full online program of training modules around sustainability and governance for Mediterranean city makers and planners. An online module on active mobility and another one on planning for sustainable mobility in areas and cities affected by the tourist flows and seasonality. The modules were well positively received by participants, coming from the North and South, and raised enough interest so as to keep the material online at the specific website of the MED Academy.

The project organised the **Mediterranean Mobility Forum** as its **final conference the 25 and 26 October in Athens, Greece**, gathering around **30 city representatives and 50 Mediterranean stakeholders**. Three thematic sessions featuring the project's main products and takeaways were followed by a walking study visit at the city centre of Athens, and a training on e-mobility the next morning. A total of twelve MedCities' city members participated actively in this unique event, and **the UTC Declaration was presented and celebrated as a joint commitment from Mediterranean cities to advance the sustainable mobility agenda**. The declaration, together with the session's presentations

and videos of the event were published on the project website. The Urban Transports celebrated its final Steering Committee meeting the 24 October, and closed its implementation December 2022 with the publication of its final policy brief as a summary work of the policy leverage mission of the community, together with the translated versions of **the 4 policy briefs of the community**, and the participation to the **COP 27 and POLIS Conference**, as final mainstreaming actions before its definitive finalisation.



*MedCities Secretary General at the UTC Regional dialogues in Barcelona*



*UTC final event- declaration*



*UTC City to city learning session, October 2022*



## Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (until December 2022)

December 2022 was also the end of 3 years of collaboration under the **Interreg Med Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community** (MBPC).

The MBPC project engaged **more than 300 nature conservation actors** working together for environmental sustainability and biodiversity protection through 15 thematic projects. This horizontal, umbrella project (2019-2022) was a continuation of the PANACeA project (2016 to 2019) with an aim to advance networking and management efforts inside and outside protected areas (PAs) in the region. The community brought together key public and private players by mainstreaming management efforts for environmental sustainability and increasing the impact of biodiversity protection projects towards common identified strategic goals.

**MedCities led the communication activities of the project** and co-led, together with the project leader, one of the three working groups of the Community, the one focused on “Biodiversity protection and transboundary challenges” especially as to the work addressing **marine litter and climate change**.

Mayor MBPC highlights of 2022 to which MedCities contributed included:

- The release of a number of publications **increasing knowledge** on pressing environmental pressures and solutions on topics as e.g. marine litter, wetlands ecosystems and ecosystems restoration.
- The **consolidation of recommendations** based on that knowledge base including:
  - Guidelines for the **sustainability of cruises & recreational boating in the Mediterranean region**.
  - “The **urgent need to protect and conserve wetlands** for the future of Mediterranean people, nature and economies”

conveying **7 key messages** to guide Mediterranean stakeholders in the transformative changes needed to preserve wetlands ecosystems and the services they provide. The advocacy paper conveys specific recommendations to different stakeholders, including **local authorities**.

- The review of the MBPC **9 recommendations to address marine litter**.
- The **policy paper** “Towards a governance mechanism on the conservation of the south Adriatic-Ionian marine ecosystem”
- And the **final MBPC policy paper**, “Transformative change for the conservation, restoration and wise use of biodiversity in the Mediterranean” screening, analysing and consolidating the key policy messages of the whole community.



*Ms Jelka Tepsic, Deputy mayor Dubrovnik*

MedCities was fully engaged in **capacity building activities** as the MBPC module of the **Interreg Interreg Euro-MED Academy**, a joint initiative started from all Interreg MED Programme Thematic Communities. MBPC ran from mid April to mid May an e-learning program on **“Ecosystem-based Management and Marine Spatial Planning”**. The e-learning program was mainly addressed to policymakers at regional or local levels who want to adopt best practices and new approaches in their plan-



ning and conservation policies and strategies. **8 member cities** registered for the course. MedCities further contributed to the revamping and extension of the **MBPC Catalogue of tools**. The multilingual joint catalogue includes now **45 successfully tested, transferable tools**, supporting ecosystem based management and ICZM inside and outside protected areas.



*MBPC- SAIS-EBSA workshop in Dubrovnik*

MedCities further engaged in the workshop “Transboundary governance in the South Adriatic Ionian Straight Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (SAIS-EBSA) and contiguous regions: from the identification of an area to biodiversity conservation”, that was hosted by the city of **Dubrovnik** on 31st of May and 1st of June.

Lastly, MedCities fully engaged in several on-line and face to face capitalisation events.

Especially efforts were placed on two of them:

- At the **II International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy** (MARLICE in Seville on May) MedCities co-organised jointly with ETC UMA and UNEP MAP MedWaves the session “Focus on the Mediterranean: pioneer science and actions in the field”, moderating one of the round tables. MedCities further contributed to numerous sessions of the Forum. Cities such as **Málaga** and **Dubrovnik** engaged in MARLICE to share their experiences on reducing plastic waste.

- The highest momentum was the project’s **final event**, entitled “**The Mediterranean leading the way – a cooperative framework to strengthen area-based nature conservation actions**” held in Brussels from 2nd to 4th November under the premises of the Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament. The **Municipality of Sfax** participated in the event to showcase its experience uptaking MBPC tools and practices through the ENI CBC MED project ENSERES.

Other than MedCities, the partnership comprised ETC-UMA (lead partner), CPRM, UNEP MAP Plan Bleu, Latte Creative, Montenegro’s Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and

Urbanism; and the Croatian Marine Institute. The city of **Marseille** was one of the associated partners.

MBPC contributed to the following SDGs: GOAL 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; GOAL 13 Climate Action; GOAL 14 Life Below Water; GOAL 15 Life on Land; GOAL 17 Partnerships to achieve the Goal.



*MBPC final event in Brussels*



*MedCities presenting ENSERES project at the MBPC final event*

## Incircle: circular tourism in insular and low-density areas (until June 2022)

The InCircle **Interreg MED** Project had the objective of enhancing the sustainability and attractiveness of MED touristic insular and low-density areas through Circular Tourism (CE), preserving the quality and availability of natural resources as well as improving the quality of life of residents & tourists.

Two MedCities members, **Palma** and **Larnaka**, acted as pilot demonstrators testing CE solutions regarding water management and sustainable mobility respectively.

MedCities provided technical support to Palma in the implementation of one of the pilot actions of the project seeking to promote a change in the culture of drinking mineral water in front of the tap water in order to reduce the consumption of plastic bottles. **15 new water sources** including an additional filtration **process to avoid the carbonated taste that may remain in the water were installed in tourist spots** and a mobile application was developed to **geolocate the water sources** around the city. Moreover, 8.250 reusable bottles were distributed to visitors through hotels, kiosks, and tourist offices in the city. On the 21st of April a final event was organised in Palma to showcase the results of the pilot project highlighting that this set of actions eliminated 482,150 bottles of plastic waste between June 2021 and March 2022 in the city, according to data from Palma City Council.

In the pilot local territory of **Larnaka**, an online virtual guide and an **app for cyclists and tourists** with various useful features was created and bike stations were installed at city hotels.

During the last phase of the INCIRCLE project, **MedCities led the process of capitalising its outputs and results to six replicating territories**: el Berguedà, Delta de l'Ebre, Terra Barocca, Attica Region, Split-Dalmatia and Oltrepò Mantovano. These territories used the tools developed by InCircle to assess their status of circularity and to perform a set of working

groups with several stakeholders from the sector, to develop their circular economy strategy based on its results. In addition, each territory performed a pilot activity that contributed to start implementing part of the developed strategy. In order to share the strategies, local action plans, pilots and actions developed within the project, over 40 people between project partners and replicating territories met in May 2022 in **Rethymno** and **Larnaka** in a study visit organised by MedCities.

In June, the project celebrated its final event **“Tools, finance, opportunities and bottlenecks towards a circular and sustainable tourism”**, which gathered over 70 people from different organisations that work for a more circular and sustainable tourism. The morning session of the event focused on InCircle results and the current status of the touristic sector, while the afternoon session was dedicated to promoting future sustainable and circular tourism practices. During the event, the guest municipalities of **Zgharta-Edhen, Madaba, and Barcelona** (all of which are MedCities members) provided an overview of the current status of the tourist sector in their territories, and the opportunities and bottlenecks they have when implementing circular tourism projects and practices.

InCircle is now closed but it left a set of tools and good practices that will certainly be useful to MedCities members who want to work towards the achievement of more sustainable tourism.



MedCities members engaged in InCircle project



## Bluefasma: the Blue Circular Economy in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (until June 2022)

BLUEfasma was an **Interreg MED** project seeking to apply the principles of the circular economy in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The project started in November 2019 and ended in June 2022 gathering actors representing the academia, public authorities, the private sector, and the general public/NGOs/associations from 9 Mediterranean states: Greece, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Malta, Croatia, Montenegro. MedCities led the last phase of the project on capitalization of results, in cooperation with **Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)** as an associated partner.

During 2022 MedCities was responsible for the development of the **policy recommendations** aiming at facilitating the integration and implementation of Circular Economy principles in Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture, as well as funds allocation for business investment in R&I in these sectors. The policy recommendations addressed specific needs linked to 12 key identified issues (funding, governance, sea waste collection, eco-labeling, etc) and were endorsed by nine institutions (pan-Mediterranean, regional and local) invited by MedCities, committing themselves to a policy shift to promote sustainability and circular economy.

These recommendations and the project results and tools developed were presented on 4th of April in Barcelona, in an event entitled “**Blue circular economy and innovation in the sectors of fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean**”, organised by MedCities in collaboration with the Clàster Marítim de les Illes Balears (meaning in Catalan, Maritime Cluster of the Balearic Islands) gathering more than 80 participants representing key stakeholders of these sectors.

The recommendations were also previously discussed with more than 30 stakeholders from the fisheries, aquaculture and food sec-

tor in Catalonia in an online seminar entitled “**Sustainable blue food in Catalonia – Contributions from the BLUEfasma project**”, organised by MedCities on the 18th of February. This event was organised within the framework of Barcelona’s World Capital of Sustainable Food 2021.



*MedCities presenting the Bluefasma policy recommendations output*



*Bluefasma final event attendees*

TWO PROJECTS FINANCED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (FORMER DEVCO)

## A'SIMA Tunis project reaches the finalisation of the City Development Strategy and launches the sustainable waste management component

This year was crucial for “**A'SIMA Tunis: Urban strategic planning and multilevel governance for a resilient Metropolis**” project, funded by the **EU Delegation in Tunisia** and implemented by MedCities in collaboration with the **Municipality of Tunis** and **Barcelona Metropolitan Area**. The project has a direct impact on SDGs 11, 12 and 17.

The project concluded the **definition of the strategic framework of the City Development Strategy of Tunis (CDST)** and defined 16 structural projects for Tunis 2050. This process was based on **7 consultation workshops**, open to more than **170 relevant city stakeholders**, key in reviewing and complementing the city's strategic lines of action and identifying relevant strategic projects. The consultation was also open to the metropolitan mayors of Grand Tunis, through the **2<sup>nd</sup> Metropolitan Roundtable**. Also, a **large-scale citizen participation and communication campaign** was launched during the months of June and July 2022. The campaign counted with the active participation of **more than 10.753 citizens**, who approached one of the itinerant informative stands in order to prioritise the strategic objectives for the city. The campaign was also reinforced with **workshops targeting migrant communities** and a **workshop targeting a group of adolescents**. Finally, the strategic framework and proposed action plan for Tunis 2050 was validated by the steering committee of the strategy, which gathers 30 public and private institutions.

On the Component 2 relative to **Sustainable Waste Management**, the project partners finalised the “**Strategic and participative diagnosis on the state of waste management in**

**the Grand Tunis**”. This diagnosis is the result of exhaustive **fieldwork and data-collection** with the participation of more than 30 technical focal points from 25 municipalities of the Grand Tunis and of a technical workshop held at the Municipality of Tunis on 7th and 8th March to discuss preliminary findings. As a result, project partners, led by **Barcelona Metropolitan Area** experts identified the pilot projects to be implemented by the **Municipality of Tunis** in partnership with the Municipal Agency of Environmental Services, **a multipurpose eco-centre that facilitates disposal, transfer, and sorting of solid waste and targets several municipalities in the “Banlieue Sud” of Tunis, which agreed to sign a partnership convention**. A mission by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona was organised in October 2022 in order to advance the discussion on the pilot project and provide a two day training on Waste Collection, targeting the municipalities of Grand Tunis. The project also organised a technical mission of representatives of Tunis Municipality in the metropolis of Barcelona, in order to get acquainted with sustainable practices on waste collection and management. Furthermore, in December the project launched a consultation process for defining an intermunicipal waste management strategy among the municipalities of Grand Tunis.



*A'SIMA Tunis large-scale citizen participation and communication campaign*



Last, regarding the project component 3 on **International partnerships and networking for capitalisation**, the project finalised a benchmarking study of urban strategic and transformative projects, by identifying 10-13 replicable projects with a potential to engage in a partnership between Tunis and implementing cities from the euro-med region and beyond. In that sense, **MedCities** met with its associated partner in the project, the **Metropolis network**, in order to discuss potential city-to-city partnerships with Tunis. Also, MedCities in partnership with the **Fédération Nationale des Communes Tunisiennes** (in French for national federation of Tunisian municipalities) continued to animate the **city network on territorial planning**, with the participation of **18 Tunisian municipalities**. Three workshops were organised in 2022 and as a result of its works, the network has contributed to the revision of the Tunisian Code of territorial and urban planning in direct consultation by the Ministry of Equipment and Habitat. Lastly, the **Municipality of Barcelona** continued to support Tunis in the elaboration of the Green Areas Plan and the design of inclusive green spaces.



*A'SIMA Tunis citizen participation and communication campaign*



*Workshop targeting a group of young people*

## Urban strategies : the SDGs localization and a new democratic governance

Furthermore, in the framework of A'SIMA Tunis project, the **city network on territorial planning**, was launched in partnership with the **National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities**. With a participation of 18 tunisian municipalities, the network focuses on bringing the voice of cities in territorial planning relative law preparation; on building local capacities on strategic planning in the country as well as on identifying relevant and innovative methodologies applicable for Tunisian cities. In 2023 the work of the network will continue and it will be active in the A'SIMA Tunis conference on the evolution of strategic urban and metropolitan planning in the Mediterranean **as a step for localising SDG implementation**.

MedCities also continued to promote urban strategies as a means of localising the SDGs and planning the future of cities through participation in the **11th edition of the World Urban Forum organised by UN-Habitat in Katowice**, where **Mr. Josep Canals, Secretary General**, intervened during the dialogue session 2 on the theme “Building resilience for sustainable urban futures”. The session, focusing on urban examples of resilience strategies and innovative tools for successful urban resilience, paved the way for potential global partnerships and innovative platforms. MedCities underlined the importance of local authority networks to accelerate the changes needed to mitigate climate change and have more livable cities, as well as the importance of the presence of local authorities at the negotiation tables during decision-making.



*MedCities SG at the World Urban Forum talking about SDGs and A'SIMA Tunis*

## ValEUR Gabès: non-conventional water resources plan launched in Gabès

The partnership of ValEUR Gabès, namely **Barcelona Metropolitan Area, MedCities** and the **Municipality of Gabès**, marked an important advancement in the project during 2022. The project funded by the EU Delegation in Tunisia is aiming to improve urban water management by valorising non-conventional water resources in a context of climate crisis.

The project launched a **participatory process to define a non-conventional water resources (NCWR) plan**, involving all relevant stakeholders in the Grand Gabès, in order to contribute to better governance and local appropriation of efficient water management. A thorough **diagnosis regarding water-related challenges in the region and the potential of non-conventional water resources (NCWR) was finalised and validated** by key stakeholders. In addition, **a non-conventional water resources strategy and action plan for the municipality of Gabès, containing 10 projects**, was elaborated with the identified key stakeholder following the organisation of a participatory workshop in Gabès aiming to define the strategic orientations and desired scenarios for non-conventional water resources valorisation.

Furthermore, the project organised several capacity building activities:

- Comprehensive **training on NCWR** targeting the **members of the Steering committee and the representatives of around 10 Tunisian municipalities**, members of the Med-Cities network and cities of the Gabès region. The three day training was assured by an expert of the **Mediterranean Water Institute** (IME in French acronym), who provided theory and good practices on rainwater valorisation, grey water reuse, and water infiltration, and sustainable drainage.
- The **first technical exchange mission** took place from the 27th to the 29th September in

the metropolitan area of Barcelona. During 3 days, the representatives of Gabès Municipality, the Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development and the National Sanitation Office visited relevant water management catalan stakeholders with a focus on sustainable urban drainage systems, municipal regulations in order to incentivise the reuse and valorisation of rainwater as well as technologies for the reuse of treated wastewater.

- **Elaboration of several feasibility studies**, in order to analyse and determine the applicability of water filtration techniques in the context of the southern Mediterranean as well as that of implementing green rooftops, green walls or water filtering green areas.

Lastly, but most importantly, the **partners of ValEUR Gabès advanced in the preparation of the pilot projects**. The pilot sites were validated and technical and environmental feasibility studies have been launched and are underway. Such studies will conclude with the preparation of detailed construction projects that will be implemented in 2023. The pilots include the **collection of urban rainwater on municipal buildings' rooftops** for municipal use and the **implementation of two rainwater filtration ponds** in Gabès city centre.

ValEUR Gabès contributes mainly to SDG 06 (Clean Water and Sanitation).



*ValEUR Gabès first technical exchange mission in Barcelona*



## TWO PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE ENI-CBC-MED PROGRAMME

### Med4Waste: Mediterranean Dialogue for Waste Management Governance (until September 2023)

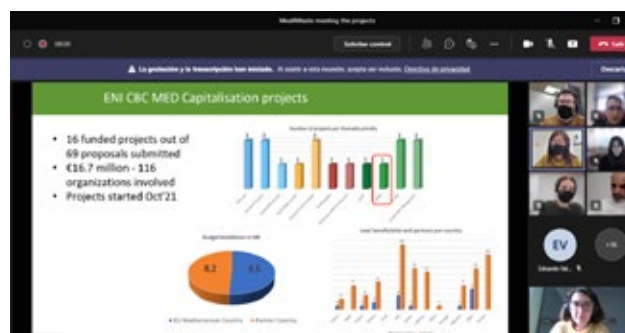
The objectives of **Med4Waste** are to build on and **improve existing knowledge to foster capitalisation of social innovative, integrated, and efficient practices from public, private and social sectors in waste management across the Mediterranean**. It will pay special focus on waste prevention, circular economy practices and on the organic component. It will offer guidance and training for public administrations and relevant private and social stakeholders, to apply transferring actions and exploitation measures and to support planning, adapting, and readdressing of waste management plans, policies and other management actions and normative drivers (regulations, financial plans, service contracts). Med4Waste will also support the dissemination of key results and increase awareness among key stakeholders, promote cross-border and cross-sectorial networking, and foster long-term commitment of decision and policymakers to promote an environmental, socio-economic, and institutional transition towards green growth in MSB.

**Med4Waste will create a Waste Management Case Studies Catalogue, will launch an awareness campaign and a capacity building program**, which will include the development of a MOOC to increase technical and operational capacities of public and private stakeholders.

**MedCities is responsible for transferring successful results to local authorities in the Mediterranean** by putting in place a Mentoring Scheme. Six local authorities will benefit from the mentoring scheme, which will assist them to upgrade or build their waste management plan. In addition, the six local authorities participating in the Mentoring Scheme will have the opportunity to see first hand the implementation of good practices by local au-

thorities who participated in the projects Med4Waste capitalises on.

Med4Waste contributes mainly to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).



Med4Waste ENI CBC Med exchange meeting



Med4Waste partners follow-up meeting



Med4Waste campaign for the environment and climate week

## ENSERES: ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas (until September 2023)

ENSERES is a project focused on transferring and mainstreaming ecosystem-based management tools to implement integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) processes in multi-level conservation and territorial practices inside and outside marine protected areas. The transfer activities are implemented in two partner territories: the **Municipality of Sfax** (Tunisia) and surrounding urban and coastal areas and the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon).



ENSERES technical visit to Tyre

**MedCities coordinates the activities related to transfer, replication and upscaling of practices and knowledge.** These activities focus on increasing the capacity of local and regional stakeholders, and support intervention models in pilot sites as examples of transformative actions.

During 2022 MedCities has focused on developing the Transfer, replication and upscaling strategy and starting with its implementation. The first step has been to complete the multilingual **MBPC Catalogue of tools and the ENSERES toolkit** as one single, revamped platform. The catalogue was presented by MedCities and ETC-UMA (project lead partner) in **Tyre** by the end of July and in **Sfax** by mid September. The presentation was followed by a participatory session to agree on the local challenges that could be addressed by these tools and select those 3 most promising tools that are the focus of the **capacity-building process** which was launched in December through online training followed by

the opening of a mentoring process to put into practice one of the tools. MedCities is engaging experts and accompanying the cities of Sfax and Tyre and the natural areas around them in this process.

The transfer activities were complemented with a **technical exchange visit to Oristano**, Sardinia, organised by MedSEA Foundation which brought together a delegation of **7 representatives from Sfax municipality and local stakeholders**, 2 from Tyre as well as ETC UMA and MedCities got a deep understanding of successful practices in the area with regard to environmental contracts and governance; marine litter prevention and monitoring; circular economy; innovation in water use; ecosystems restoration; artisanal fisheries and sustainable aquaculture.

During the first half of the year, MedCities also engaged together with ETC-UMA, Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and the two local partners - city of **Sfax** and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve- in the launching of a **subgranting scheme to provide financial support for demonstration actions that engage civil society organisations** and businesses to showcase the relevance of income-generating actions in the territories and to raise the awareness of all stakeholder linked to ICZM. MedCities is funding three of the subgrants implemented in around the Municipality of Sfax: one within the city of Sfax, another in the area of Thyre and the third one in the islands of Kerkennah. The city of Sfax, ENSERES partner, is monitoring and accompanying the implementation of those projects which will run till July 2023.



ENSERES subgranting presentation in Sfax



The project is led by the ETC of the University of Málaga (ETC-UMA) in partnership with MedCities, MedPAN network, UNEP MPA SPA/RAC, MedSea Foundation, the Municipality of Sfax and the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve.

ENSERES addresses the following SDGs: GOAL 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; GOAL 13 Climate Action; GOAL 14 Life Below Water; GOAL 15 Life on Land; GOAL 17 Partnerships to achieve the Goal.



*MedCities exchange with the Mayor of Tyre Mr. Hassan Dbouk*



*ENSERES visit to Oristano*



*ENSERES partners in Lebanon*

ONE PROJECT FUNDED BY DIPUTACIÓ DE BARCELONA

## **LASERMed: Actions for socioeconomic recovery in the Mediterranean (until May 2023)**

LASERMed (Local action for the socioeconomic recovery in the Mediterranean : the cities respond) is a 2-years project **funded by Diputació de Barcelona** (the council of the province of Barcelona) and led by MedCities in cooperation with member municipalities of **Zgharta-Ehden** (Lebanon), **Sousse** (Tunisia) and **As-Salt** (Jordan); and Oujda (Morocco). The project aims to provide tailored support to municipalities in the identification and implementation of local, tangible and concerted actions to mitigate the effects of the COVID crisis and promote the recovery of strategic sectors with social value and environmental perspective.

On the 27th of January, the project held its **kick-off meeting online**. The 4 participating cities of the project and the donor gathered to discuss the project planning, budget and internal rules. Partners also discussed the sectors and objectives to be prioritised through the implementation of local economic pilot projects until May 2023.

Since then, the project hired an international expert to create a common methodology to develop local diagnosis and identify pilot projects for the four cities. In parallel, MedCities hired 4 local experts that helped the municipalities in gathering data, consulting key stakeholders and identifying priority actions. In order to ensure the smooth implementation of the diagnosis phase, The Secretariat met with the project contact points in **Sousse**, Tunisia (February 2022), Oujda, Morocco (March 2022), **Zgharta Ehden** (in Barcelona, June 2022) and **As-Salt**, Jordan (July 2022). By July 2022, the four cities completed their participatory diagnosis phase (focus groups, interviews, and meetings with local stakeholders) and presented their pilot actions plan and budget. The actions identified put the focus on the **local economic recovery with a social and green sustainability perspective** and are under implementation until March 2023:

- In **As-Salt**, targeted training and mentoring will be offered to home-based local businesses and skilled-youth entrepreneurs. The city council team will also benefit from training on fund-raising and grant management.
- In **Zgharta-Ehden**, the olive oil-based soap and refashioning sectors will be the main focus of the action, and training on circularity and social and economic sectors will be complementary to technical and business-oriented capacity building.
- In **Sousse**, the intervention will focus on the medina and the handcraft sectors with training and a social mediation process, facilitated by experts, to create a good basis for dialogue between the city council and the informal sellers of the neighbourhood.
- In **Oujda**, the target group will be the waste collectors, who work informally and without minimum safety and health conditions, and a training and advisory program will be coupled with an awareness-raising campaign about the need for citizens to recycle.

Between the 29 November and 1 December, LASERMed gathered delegations from the **four associated cities for a visiting study to the province of Barcelona**, with an enriching agenda of meetings and visitings to local projects promoted by city councils and their municipal services in the field of green-sector socioeconomic promotion, socially inclusive economic development and employability.



*Lasarmed visit to Provincial Council of Barcelona*

ONE PROJECT FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA

## EMPLOIMed: Training and job opportunities for youth (until September 2022)

The EMPLOIMed project, financed by the **Catalan Government** (Generalitat de Catalunya) through its Catalan Agency for Cooperation to the Development (**ACCD**), aimed to establish a support service for employability and entrepreneurship in **M'Saken** and **Chefchaouen**, offering spaces for co-working, information, training opportunities, and support for young people. The overall objective was to strengthen the role and capacities of the local governments as actors of economic development in supporting its youth population's employability and promoting entrepreneurship.



*Employed project results*

A first technical field visit from MedCities Secretariat was organised in M'Saken, Tunisia on the 9th of March, and in Chefchaouen, Morocco, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. In particular, it was the occasion to present the results of the diagnosis phase, which was based on the surveys done targeting the youth population, companies, and other key socio-economic actors of the territory, and discuss with relevant local stakeholders the design of the future support services for young people.

In May-June 2022 both support services opened their doors to the public, offering a soft skills training program of around 50 hours for young people. A total of **278 youngsters** (users) in **Chefchaouen** and **81 in M'Saken followed one or more of the training modules** offered, which addressed the management of key competencies like communication, working on your



CV and professional career management, storytelling, design thinking and/or conflict management.

The project also included the implementation of specific professional training targeting unemployed youth in the economic sectors offering more job opportunities in both cities. In this sense, Chefchaouen offered a training course in e-commerce in the arts and crafts sector and M'Saken in digital marketing and graphic design. Both trainings, with a duration of around 100 hours, were followed by more than 30 students in Chefchaouen and 23 in M'Saken.



*Youth employability fair in M'Saken*



*Youth employability fair in M'Saken*

Finally, both cities organised a youth employability fair bringing together local businesses and young unemployed people. In Chefchaouen the fair gathered 224 young people aged from 19 to 35 years old and 11 representatives from

companies coming mostly from **Tétouan** and **Tangier**. During two days, job interviews were organised with these companies coming from different economic sectors, like digital marketing, IT, human resources, electricity, administration, construction and agro-food industry. Thanks to this recruitment process 60 youngsters obtained a summer internship, 9 a six-month internship and 12 a job position.



*Soft skills training program in Chefchaouen*



*E-commerce training group in Chefchaouen*

In M'Saken the fair gathered more than 350 young job seekers and 28 companies from almost all the economic sectors presents at the city offering 1.200 job opportunities. 10 youngsters were offered a job position after passing successfully a job interview during the fair and more than 250 CVs were collected by the invited companies. The event counted the participation of key public figures like the Governor of Sousse and the Director of the National Agency for Employment and was hosted by the Mayor of M'Saken.

ONE PROJECT FUNDED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION (DG INTPA)

## Project MAIS: Intelligent Mobility in Sfax (until 2026)

The **MAIS project** (Active and Intelligent Mobility in Sfax through innovative actions and initiatives in energy-saving and resilience to climate change) is a 4-years initiative funded by the **European Union, the German Development Agency (GIZ)** and the **Catalan Government** through the **Agency for Cooperation and Development (ACCD)**, and is led by the municipality of **Sfax** in partnership with the Municipality of Chihia and **MedCities**. The project has innovative funding mechanisms, including the intervention of the local Taparura project and the “Caisse de Prêts et de Soutien aux Collectivités Locales” (CPSCL).

The project aims to promote the transition of the agglomeration of **Sfax** towards green and resilient urban development in the face of climate change, through sustainable urban mobility and contributing to national commitments in terms of energy-saving and promotion of renewable energies and international commitments (**Agenda 2030-SDG11**).

**MedCities**, as partner of the project, supports the implementation and management of the project, ensuring the EU management rules are observed and in the relations with the donor and other technical partners. Moreover, the Secretariat is responsible for the organisation of a number of international seminars to generate knowledge transferring within the network, and of the communication strategy of the project, among others. and coordinate the drafting of a good practices study.

The project was publically launched on the 3rd of June 2022, when the partners and donors of the project met in **Sfax**. The conference raised interest and over 60 people were present, together with local media. The **Mayor of Sfax, Mr. Elloumi, the Mayor of Chihia, Mr. Tmar and the Secretary General of MedCities, Mr. Canals** inaugurated the event. Other key project partners actively participated, including the **Delegation**

**of the European Union in Tunisia** and the **Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation of the Catalan Government**.

As one of its first public awareness activities under MAIS, the city council of **Sfax** and of Chihia organised their “Day without cars” on the 23rd and 24th of September, with parts of the city centre closed to car-traffic, a reparation point for bicycles and a rich program of activities for cycling associations, citizens and civil society organisations to raise awareness about low-carbon transport modes and promote an alternative mobility culture by showing the effects of traffic jams and pollution.

The first year of implementation of the project closed with the celebration of a seminar on metropolitan governance of mobility in view of the ongoing creation of the Metropolitan Authority of Urban Mobility for the greater Sfax, and the organisation of a second “day without cars” in **Sfax** the 25th December with a great acceptance among citizens and local civil society organisations promoting the use of the bike.



*Cyclists in Sfax celebrating the Day without cars*



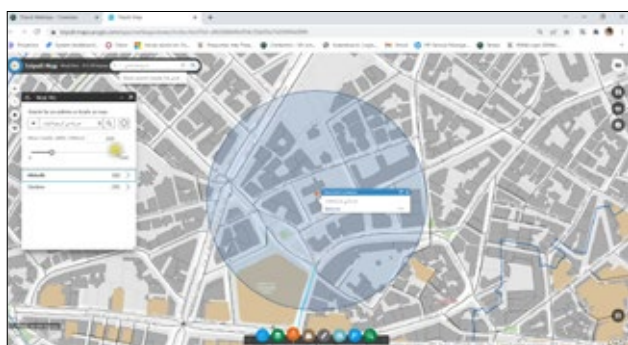
*Day without cars in Sfax*



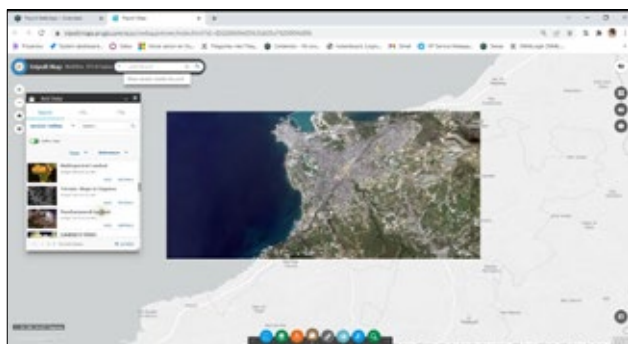
PROJECTS FUNDED BY BARCELONA METROPOLITAN AREA  
(JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022)

## Enhancing capacity to work on Geographical Information System online systems and development of Tripoli's City Guide

The action follows the request of the city of **Tripoli** which required support to assess their current Geographical Information System (GIS) and the existing options to upgrade to a cloud GIS system with SAAS (Software As A Service) possibilities which could be linked to apps for its continued use and update.



*Training process to support the current Geographical Information System (GIS) in Tripoli*



*GIS Tripoli, example of field maps and applications to visualise the city council's map*

During the year 2022, NEXUS Geographic developed the first version of a Tripoli's city Council web app. The development of this proposal was the basis of a training process to assure the maintenance and the further development of this tool.

The content of the training was focused on three modules. The first one was to increase the IT team's capabilities to navigate and understand how to use the ArcGIS geographic platform, publish data and use it to create their web maps, and create different web applications to display all kinds of geographic information to share it. The second block tackled dashboards and story creation using this GIS solution. Finally, the last module builds capacities on field maps and applications to visualise the city council's map, collect data, track location, and other concrete applications helpful to work with data.



*GIS Tripoli, example of Tripoli's city Council web app*

## The metropolitan fact in the framework of Mediterranean cities cooperation

MedCities organised and implemented in 2022 a set of activities shaped around some topics of common interest for our cities, in particular those with a strong metropolitan area influence. Some of these topics were mobility, port-city relation or green cities.

MedCities co-organised, together with the **Union for the Mediterranean**, an event that tackled the topic of **Sustainable urbanisation through port-city transformation**. Representatives from countries, cities and regional and local governments as well as port authorities

and regional stakeholders were invited to the meeting in which we could hear some concrete cases from MedCities members, for instance, **Barcelona, Izmir and Tunis**. During the session the topics addressed talked about port cities as nodes of economic activity and infrastructure, hubs of population, and innovation centres.



*MedCities SG at the Metrosolutions congress*



*UfM session, Sustainable urbanisation through port-city transformation*

Another event to promote cooperation between cities, putting the metropolitan fact on its core was celebrated on October 17-18, 2022. The **MetroSolutions international congress**, which was organised by **Barcelona Metropolitan Area**, brought together international experts who presented and discussed innovative technological and governance solutions for metropolitan challenges. Within this international congress, MedCities organised two parallel seminars on “How cities learn”, based on its long experience in promoting cooperation between cities, and in the particular experience of the **Urban Transports Community project (Interreg MED)**.



*València mobility councilor at Metrosolutions congress*

This was in parallel to MedCities General Assembly for which the association organised an event that promoted the **collaboration between member cities** in relation to the topic of creating more sustainable and greener Mediterranean Cities. This helped to explore how to work together and do **mutual learning regarding different hot urban topics**: sustainable mobility, green city planning and sustainable coastal cities.



*Greener Mediterranean cities session with MedCities members*



PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARCELONA  
(JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022) (NATUREMED)

## Urban resilience to climate change

The NATUREMED project brought together three MedCities members (**Jerash, Bethlehem and Saida**), to work towards the common objective of building urban resilience to climate change through the incorporation of nature in the urban planning dimension.



*Bethlehem awareness raising day*

As a result of this project, the three municipalities determined a set of strategic actions to increment and enhance the **use of green infrastructures such as trees, green roofs, vertical walls, gardens, or other natural elements in cities**. This was based on a diagnostic of their current existence and state of green infrastructure, and it was aligned with the city's thematic priorities. Each city selected one of the possible placements in which to add green infrastructure, and designed the installation of a pilot. Municipalities also shared experiences with MedCities members who were working on greening urban spaces, such as **Barcelona City Council** and Amman municipality.

NATUREMED project also organised an awareness-raising event in all three municipalities, which helped their citizens to realise about the ecosystem services that nature can bring to the city. The presence of natural elements brings a varied amount of benefits to the cities such as temperature regulation, social cohesion, flooding prevention, brings family and social engagement spaces, improving children's scholar outcomes, and increasing citizens' physical and mental health among others.



*Bethlehem awareness raising day*



*Poster for Saida Awareness day*



*Saida Awareness day*

## Leave no one behind: towards an active participation of migrant in Tunis City Development Strategy

MedCities and the **Municipality of Tunis** implemented the project **“Leave no one behind: towards an active participation of migrant in Tunis City Development Strategy”**, as part of the ICMPD programme **“Mediterranean City-to-City Migration MC2CM”** financed by the EU and the Swiss Development Cooperation fund, from March to June 2022. The project aimed to enhance the participation of migrants and migration-related CSOs in the definition of strategic priorities and future projects in the frame of the City Development Strategy of Tunis (CDST) and to reinforce the capacity for inclusive urban planning in Tunisia.

The project supported the implementation of the CDS citizen participation campaign in order to actively target the migrant population. After thoroughly mapping CSOs and migrant communities in Tunis, three focus group meetings were organised on the 9th and 10th of June in the Municipality of Tunis, targeting migrant students; migrant support CSOs and resource people representing vulnerable groups of migrants, namely informal workers. The meetings had a two-fold objective:

- inform them of the strategic planning process launched by Tunis Municipality and
- collect their inputs, especially regarding the priorities of migrants and their concerns in order to inform future strategic projects.

A **citizen participation campaign** was launched with several communication tools. A bilingual website and social network profiles were put in place in order to inform on the CDS elaboration process and an informative leaflet, posters, roll-ups, and banners were printed and distributed.

The campaign included a strong presence on the ground since three mobile stands were in

different locations of the city of Tunis, including the areas of affluence of migrants, where a team of facilitators, guided by the CDS experts, accompanied the citizens in filling in the bilingual surveys. For a more detailed view of the campaign, you can follow the Facebook profile of Tunis CDS. As a result of this process, some **74 migrants were directly targeted** during the duration of the project, by filling in the survey. Also, their priorities have been considered, and the expert team is working on **identifying a municipal strategic project on migration inclusion** by facilitating access to services and rights, equal access to public spaces, and social integration activities.

In parallel, the local migration expert who accompanied the Municipality of Tunis in this process has elaborated a **practical guide on how to reinforce migrant participation in urban planning processes**, in order to assure the inclusion of their concerns and priorities. An in-person **training was organised for 30 representatives of more than 15 Tunisian municipalities** on June 30th in an activity co-organised with the National Federation of Tunisian Cities, in the frame of the works of its network of Local Planning. The training was an opportunity to discuss the multiple realities of cities concerning migration and their impact on strategic planning.



MC2CM training with representatives of Tunisian municipalities



MC2CM presentation of City Development Strategy of Tunis



NEW INTERREG EURO-MED, HORIZON EUROPE AND PRIMA PROJECTS

## ANERIS, BLUEMISSIONMED, WEFE4MED and GO4MED projects

In terms of project development and engagement of member cities in project partnerships in 2022 we have been awarded two **Horizon Europe projects** in the role of partners: **ANERIS** -operAtional seNsing liFe technologies for maRine ecosystemS that propose to develop the next generation of scientific instrumentation tools and methods for sensing marine-life- and **BlueMissionMed** -Coordination and Support Action (CSA will inspire, inform, assess, mobilise, connect and empower all the actors that can take a role in preventing and eliminating pollution in the Mediterranean sea and waters. Moreover, we have been awarded one **PRIMA: WEFE4MED**, which aims to foster the adoption of a Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach in the Mediterranean through a Nexus Community of Practice and the two new **Interreg EuroMED Governance projects** in the **Green Living Areas Thematic Community Project** and the **Institutional Dialogue Partnership for Protecting, restoring and valorising the natural environment and heritage**. In this last one, member cities such as **Marseille, Dubrovnik, Izmir and Sfax** are among the project associated partners.



ANERIS communication materials

Additional proposals are still in the pipeline, one other Governance and 4 thematic projects for the Interreg Euro MED programme covering all 4 missions of the programme - green living areas, sustainable tourism, innovation and natural heritage- and one LIFE project.

We have engaged in this effort **5 member cities as partners** and **12 as associated partners**.



WEFE4MED kick-off meeting



WEFE4MED meeting



WEFE4MED meeting

# Continue collaboration with international cooperation agencies for the implementation of actions in mediterranean cities

## The collaboration with international cooperation agencies: setting up actions with Mediterranean cities

Within the framework of the **NATUREMED project**, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (**AECID**) participated in the training workshop organised in Jerash. The themes of the project are in line with the priorities of the AECID and the continuation of the cooperation is in the negotiation phase with a view to expanding the scope of the project.

In addition, MedCities has collaborated with the German Agency for International Cooperation (**GIZ**) through the organisation of technical visits in the field of waste management. Following this collaboration, representatives of several cities will travel to Nabeul to assess the results of the **COOPVERD project** on site. Currently, a new technical visit is being jointly organised by GIZ and **MedCities** to welcome a **delegation of Libyan municipalities to Barcelona** to better understand the functioning of a series of waste management infrastructures under the auspices of the **Barcelona Metropolitan Area** and **Barcelona City Council**.



MedCities SG welcomes a tunisian delegation

## Continue the joint work with UN Habitat on the localization of the SDGs

During 2022 MedCities continued its **cooperation with UN Habitat City Resilience Global Programme (CRGP)** through its Urban Resilience Hub, which provided **support to the city of Tunis in introducing an urban resilience focus in its City Development Strategy (CDS)**. This cooperation is framed under the city to city agreement between the **Municipality of Barcelona and the Municipality of Tunis**, as members of the network and A'SIMA Tunis project.



UN Habitat exchange workshops with the CDS team in Tunis



UN Habitat exchange workshops consultation on urban resilience



As part of this cooperation, UN Habitat experts prepared a **City Urban Resilience Identity** identifying the main shocks and challenges faced by the city of Tunis in terms of urban resilience and participated in the consultation workshop on urban resilience organised on the 15th March in Tunis in order to validate and prioritise strategic objectives relative to urban resilience and discuss possible projects. The expert team analysed the strategic framework of Tunis CDS and identified links between proposed projects and urban resilience challenges. Several exchange workshops were organised with the CDS team in Tunis in order to enrich the content of strategic projects with an urban resilience focus, provide recommendations on how to better tackle the challenges identified as well as support the definition of urban resilience indicators, based on the SDGs and the global agendas. The support offered by CRGP will continue until the finalisation of Tunis CDS and will conclude with the preparation of an Urban Resilience strategy, based on the work of the CDS.

## Continue collaboration with international cooperation agencies for the organisation of capacity building activities

MedCities alliance with the **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)** was strengthened during the year with the celebration of the **2nd and 3rd Political Dialogue of Mediterranean Mayors**.

The event “**Local authorities and bankable urban transformation projects: access to international funds**” took place on 17th and 18th May in **Agadir** and aimed at enhancing the capacities of municipal representatives to access international funding for the implementation of urban transformation projects, **towards greener and more inclusive cities in the Mediterranean**. Focusing on offering a better understanding of the opportunities to finance sustainable urban development actions through grants, loans and blended mechanisms, the event had a mixed component of political exchanges and technical

training, by targeting both Mayors and high-level technical staff of local development units working on strategic urban projects. With the participation of the **Mayors of Tunis, Sfax and As-Salt and municipal councillors of Tetuan, Agadir and the Greater Irbid Municipality**, as well as experts from international financial institutions and technical partners of international cooperation such as the **World Bank**, the **African Development Bank**, **GIZ** the German cooperation agency, and the **Union for the Mediterranean**, the first day of the event dedicated to a **dialogue between the cities of the southern and eastern Mediterranean and IFIs or international actors**. The second day was **hands-on training on how to prepare local institutions for better access and an enhanced capacity to manage international funds**. Knowing the funding opportunities available, planning in advance the funding strategies for their strategic projects, identify donors’ funding priorities in line with the city strategy, and creating the municipal technical capacities necessary for preparing and implementing such projects, are some of the necessary steps that South Mediterranean Mayors should take to assure their institutions’ access to funding opportunities.



KAS event with local authorities about agrifood and energy resilience



KAS event with local authorities about access to international funds

The success of the 2nd regional dialogue, drove the two entities to renew their partnership for the organisation of the 3rd Regional event, which took place in Hammamet on the 5th and 6th December. The event “**Local authorities acting for agrifood and energy resilience**” aimed at discussing the current challenges faced by Mediterranean municipalities due to the energy and food crisis at international level aggravated by a context of climate change pressures, urbanisation and social inequalities, such as in the Mediterranean. The event was an opportunity to discuss the role of cities in shifting urban food systems towards socially affordable and environmentally sustainable models of production. The Mayors of **As-Salt, Jerash, Tunis, Gabès, La Goulette** and Carthage and municipal councillors of **Saida, Agadir** and Wilaya of Ghardaia, and the representatives of FAO, UN Habitat, UN-OPS-CMI, CIHEAM and Milan Urban Food Policy Pact discussed on the opportunity and potential of Mediterranean municipalities for implementing long-term integrated strategies of sustainable urban food models by enhancing food and energy resilience, renewable energy sources, urban and periurban agriculture development, water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus projects, all of the above with a focus on social justice and inclusion in a context of climate change.



*KAS event with local authorities about access to international funds*



*KAS event with local authorities about agrifood and energy resilience*



*KAS event with local authorities about agrifood and energy resilience*



*KAS event with local authorities about access to international funds*



# Medcities: a political representative of mediterranean city governments to international organisations, and development and cooperation bodies

## Enhance cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean

Following the mandate of MedCities General Assembly, held in Montpellier/Montpelhi r in December 2021, MedCities boosted the organisation of a conference on the interaction between cities and ports **in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**, and the Association MedPorts, among others.



*SG Josep Canals participation at the port-city debate at the UfM*

Throughout history, cities have been built alongside rivers and natural harbours, originating a two-way relationship between water and cities: Water forms cities, but cities also shape the boundary between land and water. In present times, ports generate externalities on their territories that pose a challenge in finding the perfect balance between economic development and its impacts.

During the session the topics addressed talked about **port cities as nodes of economic activity and infrastructure, hubs of population, and innovation centres**. Ports and their adja-

cent cities have long played an important role in global exchange, industrialization, and territorial development, often leading local, regional, and national development. In present times, ports generate externalities on their territories that pose a challenge in finding the perfect balance between economic development and its impacts.

**The secretary general, Josep Canals, was part of the inauguration panel with Ambassador Kamel, secretary general of the UfM.** The SG stated that cities receive several impacts regarding mobility, the pollution of the air and economic inequalities derived from port activities. In this regard, mayors are preoccupied and gather to have their voices heard. Events like this are a celebration, he concluded.

**Barcelona, Izmir and Tunis** participated in the event, which was a milestone in identifying key topics and challenges to be further developed in the future, linking it with **the interest of many members to develop a working group city-port within MedCities**.



*SG UfM, Mr. Nasser Kamel, opening the port-city session*



## 📍 At the Water Experts Group in València: the sustainable water cycle policies

MedCities also participated in the **Water Experts Group of the Union for the Mediterranean** (UfM) held in the framework of the 40th Anniversary of the Mediterranean Water Institute, held in **València** on 19-20 September 2022. The UfM Water Experts Group is a space of cooperation and exchange between relevant stakeholders in the region. MedCities is contributing with the outputs of the Valeur Gabès project.



MedCities SG at the UfM water task force meeting in València



Mrs. Elisa Valia, Councillor of València Municipality



40th anniversary of de l'Institut Méditerranée de l'Eau in València

## 📍 At Ninth UNECE's Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Furthermore, MedCities accompany the members as observers at the **Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**, from 5 to 7 October 2022. The Ministers of Environment of the pan-European region met in **Nicosia** to consider the progress achieved in environmental protection.



MedCities SG, Josep Canals intervention at UNECE conference

A thousand delegates from more than 60 states, representing national and local authorities, international organisations, civil society, youth, women, academia, business and finance communities, talked about two key themes of the Nicosia Conference. Notably, greening the economy in the pan-European region and working towards sustainable infrastructure; and applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism. In addition to evaluating the state of affairs in these areas and considering available policy options, they exchanged good practices that not only go beyond the existing commitments but also can infuse changes towards transforming the planet. to state that local authorities are needed to accomplish all the challenges that the association and local governments share.

Among the representatives, **MedCities' Secretary General** had the opportunity to attend the **Ninth Environment for Europe ministerial conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** : Sustainable Infrastructure, Sustainable Tourism, Education for Sustainable Development **side event** to present the role of cities to support a circular economy transition.

At the side event ‘Towards a new Waste Management Governance: implementing circularity from the local to the regional level in the Mediterranean’ Mr. Canals had the opportunity to express: “Local authorities can do a lot for circularity and better waste management. And there are two key aspects: waste prevention and green purchasing, with an emphasis on the segregated treatment of the organic material, which creates more impact than plastic, for example”.

In this perspective, MedCities Secretary General also underlined that the local authorities association will help to mobilise municipalities to improve their waste policies in the framework of **Med4waste** and **ENSERES**, both **ENI CBC MED** projects.

During his intervention, Mr. Canals could also point out that municipalities are more successful if they work together, in coordinated waste policies, as the work done so far in Tunis and that cities are also living elements of the integration of actors: private, public and citizens, which need to work together.



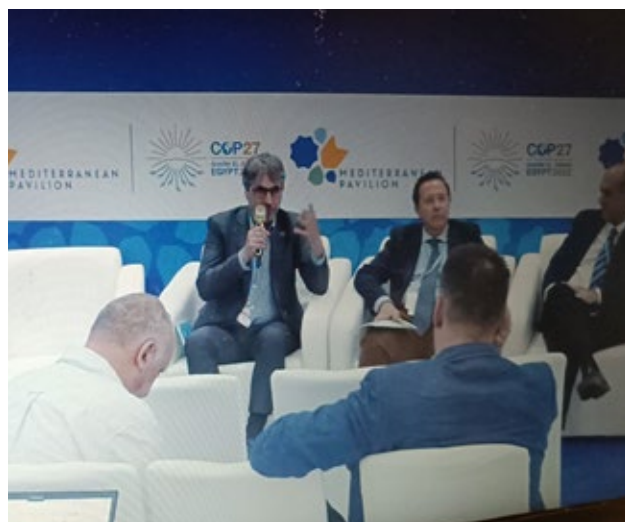
SG, Josep Canals talking about Med4Waste and ENSERES projects at UNECE

## 📍 At the COP27 of United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC)

As far as international fora participation concerns, MedCities has been present at the UNFCCC, **COP27, in Egypt**. A brand new Mediterranean pavilion was installed for the first time promoted by the Union for the Mediterranean.

The **Secretary General, Mr. Josep Canals, attended the event to take the voice of local authorities from the region to the world**. He was a panellist in 3 of the following sessions:

- “Towards decarbonized economies: a joint Euro-Mediterranean endeavour, against all odds”, organised by the IEMed.
- “Coastal adaptation across the Mediterranean: solutions driven by cities networks” organised by the Ocean Climate and Plan Bleu.
- “Mediterranean biodiversity challenges : acting against marine litter” organised by the Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (Interreg Med) from which MedCities is a partner.



MedCities SG, Josep Canals, participating at the IEMED session at the COP27



Mediterranean Pavilion inauguration at the COP27



## 📍 At the UCLG World Congress

The Secretary General also attended the **United Cities and Local Governments World Congress** in Daejeon, and intervened during the presentation of the **Lampedusa Charter** for a dignified and respected human mobility between states and regions. Some city members of the network were present in Daejeon, including the **Mayor of Tunis**, the **Mayor of Nabeul**, the **Mayor and the Vice-mayor of Sfax**, a representative from **Sousse**, **Barcelona Metropolitan Area** and the President of the **Provincial Council of Barcelona (Diputació de Barcelona)**.

The Congress also relies on contributions from government constituency pledges around the world. **For MedCities, this is an opportunity to express the needs and challenges of Mediterranean cities.** It is also a great time to meet other partners and exchange ideas with members and representatives of Mediterranean cities.



MedCities Secretary General with MedCities members at the Lampedusa charter session at the UCLG World Congress

The **Secretary-General, Mr. Josep Canals-Molina** participated in several sessions. In the first one, he attended the **Lampedusa Charter Meeting**, together with representatives from several countries, and accompanied by Totò Martello, former Lampedusa Mayor and the **vice-mayor of Sfax, Mr. Wajdi Aydi**, who promoted the charter and who said: *“The Lampedusa Charter, is a point of no return in the long path to building a better global society. If a person is at sea and needs help they must be rescued regardless of the reason, the colour of their skin or their status”*.

During the session, **Mr. Canals** read a paragraph from the **Charter of Lampedusa**: *“Through our action on the ground and our global defence of human rights, our commitment is to face mobility by including all people as neighbours, by redefining the notion of citizenship on the basis of belonging and the creation of a space within our communities rather than on the basis of an administrative condition”*.

Mr. Canals also shared a common vision with the other exhibitors and city representatives and MedCities is committed to disseminating all content to its members and to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

The Secretary General of MedCities also had the opportunity to share the scene and his impressions with representatives of **Tunis, Dannieh, Sarafand, Sfax, Sousse, Nabeul, Montpellier** and the **Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)**, and to discuss the future of some projects ongoing with ICMPD: the urban migration program (MC2CM) and the migration component of the **A'SIMA Tunis project**.

We had the opportunity to attend the conference of **Ms. Souad Abderrahim, Mayor of Tunis** (member of MedCities) during the General Assembly of UCLG. We would like to congratulate the city of **Mersin**, which was nominated for the UCLG Peace Prize, finally awarded to the city of Palmira (Colombia).



MedCities Secretary General participation to the Lampedusa charter session



## 📍 At the World Urban Forum for sustainable urban futures

MedCities kept promoting urban strategies as a means to localise SDGs and plan in a participatory way the future directions of the cities. MedCities had the opportunity to take part in the UN Habitat **World Urban Forum in the 11th edition in Katowice** where **Mr. Josep Canals**, the Secretary General, intervened in the dialogue 2 session about “Building resilience for sustainable urban futures“. The session focused on city examples of resilience strategies and innovative tools for succeeding in urban resilience and it opened a window to potential global partnerships and innovative platforms. MedCities pointed out how networks of local authorities are key to accelerating the changes we need to mitigate climate change and have more liveable cities and why local authorities need to be at the tables where the decisions are taken.



*MedCities SG speech at the WUF in Katowice*



*MedCities SG participated at the WUF in Katowice*

## 📍 At the Ocean Cities Network initiative session

Within the participation of MedCities at the **International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy (MARLICE 22)** held in Seville in May, MedCities was among others engaged at the **session organised by the Ocean Cities Network (OC-Net)**, to which it is a partner.



*MedCities SG participation at MARLICE event*



*MedCities as MBPC partner participated at MARLICE event in Sevilla*

The session, oriented to the preparation of an official draft of the manifesto called “Ocean Cities towards the Global Treaty on Plastic” for the Ocean Conference of Lisbon 2022, brought together experts and cities, with an intervention of MedCities Secretary General on the role of local governments on awareness raising, stakeholder engagement and preventive measures addressing land based sources of pollution and the need to engage the local needs and perspective in international agreements. The member cities of **Málaga** and **Dubrovnik** presented in this framework their strategies and actions to prevent plastic pollution. The session concluded on the

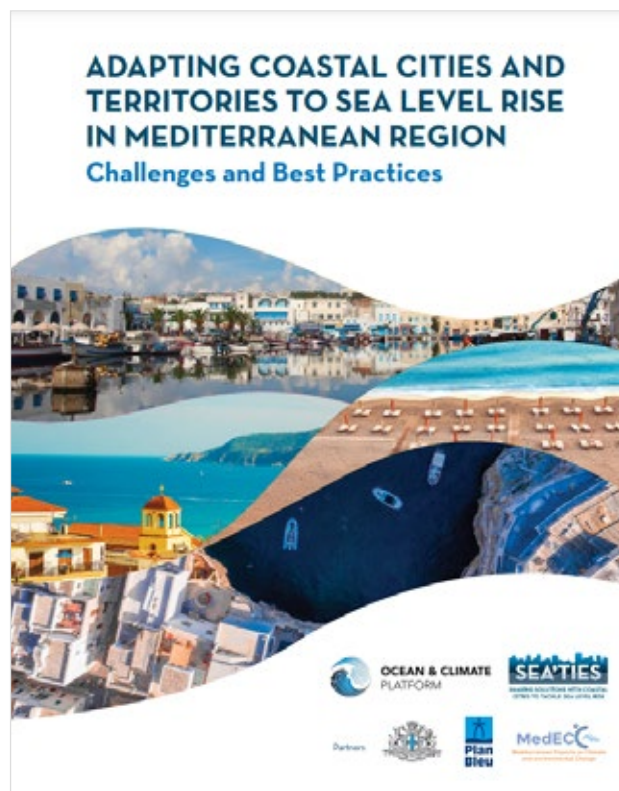
revision of the preliminary manifesto and the planning of its validation towards the UN Ocean Conference celebrated in June.

**OC-Net** is one of the 28 Programmes endorsed in the first call for action of the UN Oceans Decade. During the upcoming 5 years the programme, led by the **Marine Sciences Institute ICM-CSIC** and bringing together the **Barcelona City Council**, **MedCities**, and **C40** with six research centres, two multidisciplinary networks and one art and theatre company, will promote a transformative change on how coastal cities and their inhabitants perceive, interact and evolve with the ocean, from surrounding waters to the single global ocean.

## Engaging in Sea'ties Initiative by the Oceans & Climate Platform

MedCities started a collaboration with Sea'ties Initiative aiming to facilitate the development of public policies and the implementation of adaptation **solutions for coastal cities threatened by rising sea levels**. Developed by the **Ocean & Climate Platform**, the initiative is aimed at elected representatives, administrators and stakeholders involved in this transition as a forum for sharing experiences of sustainable solutions. MedCities Secretary General participated in the workshop *"Adapting coastal cities and territories to sea level rise in the Mediterranean region"* celebrated in April and co-organised by the Ocean & Climate Platform, **UNEP MAP Plan Bleu**, MedECC and the **municipality of Marseille**. Based on the main conclusions of this workshop, MedCities further contributed to the resulting report *"Adapting Coastal Cities and Territories to Sea Level Rise in the Mediterranean Region, Challenges and Best Practices"* and participated in the dedicated session that presented those conclusions in the Mediterranean Pavilion of the COP27 for Climate. This report provides an overview of current obstacles and features good practices contributing to

the sustainable adaptation of coastal cities and their territories in the region.



*Ocean and Climate report MedCities contributions*

In line with the mandate of the MedCities Strategic Plan, greater involvement of MedCities members who represent the organisation at international events has been highlighted. This measure was for example put into practice during the Mediterranean Mobility Forum, where Mr. Christodoulos Ioannou, member of the **Larnaka City Council**, represented the organisation during the opening session alongside the Secretary General.

Other examples are the Smart Villages Conference organised in Alicante (Valencian Country) by the Assembly of Citizens of the Mediterranean (FACM, observer member of MedCities) in collaboration with Casa Mediterráneo, where MedCities was represented by Mr. Mohamed Saadie, president of the **Union of Municipalities of Dannieh**.

As far as the association concerns, an effort has been done to consolidate and animate the **Knowledge Transfer Centers (KTC)**, concretely the one situated in Sfax.



# Medcities: an independent and diversely funded association of mediterranean local governments, consolidated organisationally and working regionally

## Strengthen the role of KTCs as tools for relations with member cities

On June 2nd 2022 the **Knowledge Transfer Centre of Sfax (Tunisia)** organised a prospection workshop in order to reinforce the role of the KTC as a **platform of political and technical dialogue among MedCities members in Tunisia**, identify actions and concrete knowledge transfer activities that the General Secretariat could support through the KTC and develop relevant recommendations for the operational **planning of KTC Sfax in 2022-2023**. With the presence of **11 representatives of Tunisian members** of the network, mainly mayors or municipal councillors, as well as the Secretary General of MedCities, the workshop was animated by the KTC Coordinator in a participatory way. The workshop was an **opportunity to bring MedCities closer to its members and to identify the thematic priorities** that should be prioritised in shared activities and interventions, according to the current context and the needs of the municipalities. As such, the issues of energy transition, digital transition, strategic urban planning, environmental protection and sustainable waste management, urban mobility and the management and valorisation of natural and cultural heritage were identified as common concerns, together with the transversal issues of communication and transparency, local finance, access to international funding and planning and implementation of strategic projects. As a result of the workshop a work plan has been drafted in order to create new opportunities for sharing existing knowledge and for capitalising successful experiences among the Tunisian members as

a means to creating a dynamic of reinforced exchanges and dialogue.

Furthermore, the **KTC Sfax participated actively in the preparation of knowledge transfer activities**, by capitalising the lessons learnt and the successful projects implemented in Tunisian cities. As an example, the **Municipality of M'Saken** participated on the 6th May in a national event organised by GiZ in order to explain its **experience in creating a Youth Council**, as an organ of democratic participation of youth in local affairs, and in co-implementing youth related projects.



*Workshop with Tunisian members- KTC Sfax*

The **Municipality of Nabeul** received on the 27th-29th June a delegation of Jordanian stakeholders working on the **integration of the informal sector of waste management**. Organised by GiZ Jordan, the delegation comprised by more than 30 persons had the opportunity to understand the good practices and challenges faced by the Municipality of Nabeul during and following Coop-Verd project implementation, which organised former informal waste pickers



around an Eco-Point for the valorisation of recovered plastic. The delegation visited several facilities of waste recycling and valorisation, discussed with Tunisian counterparts on the challenges of waste management and recycling and engaged in a direct debate with the waste pickers about the challenges faced in their day-to-day work. Such activities are an example of **the role of KTCs in disseminating good practices and promoting knowledge transfer among Mediterranean stakeholders.**

In March, the **Secretary General, Mr. Josep Canals**, visited several **members of MedCities in Lebanon** as part of the organisation of the **KTC Al Fayha**. The members visited were **Tripoli, UC Al Fayhaa, El Mina, Saida, Jounieh, Union of Municipalities of Dannieh, Zgharta-Ehden and Union of Municipalities of Jezzine**. The mission helped identify common challenges and better define the KTC's mission to support member cities in project identification.

## Proposal for setting up working groups for MedCities members

Alongside the Mediterranean Mobility Forum, seven members of MedCities met for the first time in the framework of the internal working group on sustainable mobility, in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly of 2021. The participating members (**Agadir, Tetouan, Nabeul, Sfax, Dubrovnik, Irbid and Antalya**) identified the common challenges and agreed to join their efforts in order to carry out actions of mutual interest in this direction. The activities of this group will resume in 2023.

On the other hand, MedCities Secretariat continued analysing the interest of all members, through a questionnaire of priorities, distributed in May 2022, in order to define a working groups plan to be developed with all members.



*Workshop with Tunisian members- KTC Sfax*



*Working session with members on sustainable mobility in Athens*



*Visit to Lebanese municipalities and members by SG and MedCities Director*

## The Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance continues its work

The MedCoopAlliance, the network of networks intended to encourage multi level political dialogue, continues its lobbying work with a view to becoming a crucial player in regional political dialogue.

In this context, the network was invited by the **Committee of the Regions of the European Union** to offer its point of view on the document “Towards a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean”. Its opinion consists of exploring and proposing concrete recommendations on how the macro-regional strategy can enable the states and regions of the Mediterranean to cooperate more effectively by promoting synergies between European programmes. Finally, the document presents the vision of the ACM as to how to promote a multilevel dialogue from the three coasts of the Mediterranean in order to ensure a better achievement of the common objectives.



MedCities Secretary General participation at the MedCatDays 2022

Also, in March, MedCities participated in the **MedCatDays 2022**, an event co-organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Catalan Government and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), with the collaboration of the MedCoopAlliance.

The **Secretary General of MedCities, Josep Canals** participated, together with all the members of the **Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance**, in the panel “A renewed governance in the Mediterranean: towards a macro-regional strategy”, during the session “The Green and Digital Transition in the framework of the new agenda for the Mediterranean”.

## MedCities in Izmir for the ARLEM General Assembly

The **13th plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM)** took place on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 November 2022 in Izmir, Turkey.

Members, and MedCities among them, discussed how to create more **inclusive and resilient cities in the Mediterranean** as well as what are the main actions for **climate action in the Mediterranean**, in view of drawing up the Assembly's message to COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.



MedCities Secretary General at ARLEM General Assembly



ARLEM General Assembly in Izmir



ARLEM Prize ceremony in Izmir



Mr. Canals participated in the roundtable: ‘Climate action in the Mediterranean: the ARLEM message to the COP27’ and he could intervene to express the view from local authorities on the matter: *“Cities are more similar to each other than States are. City councils are essential to implement the objectives set in international agendas. And it all depends on cities’ capacities and power to act to be successful. Without cities, it is not possible to advance and achieve the European Green Deal or to implement the SDGs”*.

In this regard, the Secretary General also thanked city member Izmir for the welcome and congratulated Mayor Soyer with whom MedCities shares the vision and actions based on **circular culture and circular urbanism**. Mr. Canals added: “We can not forget that actions have a human component as they are taken by people, and we all must have rights to be protected and to be able to find a better path in our lives; that is why at MedCities we will adopt the Charter of Lampedusa”.

The plenary session was followed by the **ceremony for the ARLEM Award 2022: Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean** from which MedCities Secretary-General was part of the jury. This year, the project **Banlastics** from Egypt won with an initiative based on recycling and banning single-use plastic in Egypt by offering alternative green products and by spreading awareness through workshops and beach clean-

ups. To end, a study visit to see the practical implementation of the actions discussed in the city of Izmir is also envisaged.

## The 18th annual General Assembly of MedCities. Election of a new board of directors

The 2022 MedCities General Assembly was held in Larnaca (Cyprus) in a hybrid format with the participation of a wide representation of members.

The first day was focused on the International Seminar which went deeper as far as projects were concerned and served members to better understand how they can apply for projects’ funds and get more from MedCities accompaniment.



MedCities General Assembly held in Larnaca



Members at Medcities general Assembly in Larnaca



The **Secretary-General of MedCities, Mr. Josep Canals**, explained the report of activities conducted by the association during 2022, regarding the financial balance, the updates and advances in the Strategic Plan of MedCities 2030, and the communications improvements of the association such as the translation from the website into Arabic or a new internal section for members. Also, Mr. Canals underlined the importance of the common vision of the association adopted and stated in the **Strategic Plan MedCities 2030: “MedCities must consolidate itself as an organisation managing sustainable development projects and new governance for local governments in the Mediterranean”**.

Additionally, **MedCities Director, Mr. Oriol Barba** exposed the projects developed during the year and their results, and he presented the new ones approved for the following year -**PRIMA, HORIZON, Interreg Euro MED programme** and others funded by the **Barcelona City Council**, the **Barcelona Metropolitan Area** or the **Government of Catalonia** (through its Cooperation Agency) as well as some projects funded by the **Provincial Council of Barcelona** (Diputació de Barcelona), some of which already started in 2022. **Mr. Barba also highlighted the will of MedCities to work closely with more members** and be able to count on them on the projects as the main beneficiary or, for instance, as pilot or replicable cities.

The members agreed on the acceptance of the candidatures of new cities which applied to join MedCities. Finally, the Assembly **welcomed 6 new members** that had the chance to present themselves in front of the former members. Those made the association grow until it reached 73 members.

**Hatay, Castelló de la Plana, Rethymno, Glyfada, Sarafand, Roskovec**

As far as the observer members concerned, it was agreed to include these institutions, so now, MedCities count on 7 observer members:

**Hariri Foundation, The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, MedPAN Network**

The members of the assembly discussed the importance of implementing gender equality in all their projects, as well as working from the metropolitan view, among other topics.

Additionally, during the sessions, Mr. Canals presented a declaration to be submitted and adopted: the **“Lampedusa Charter”** which expresses the commitment of local authorities in the dignification of human mobility and territorial sustainability.



MedCities members at the General Assembly in Larnaka

The General Assembly of MedCities represents an annual space for the members to express the needs of their cities and to discuss the results of the projects and activities developed during the year. This was the first year after the pandemic in which members and MedCities technical staff could meet again regularly in some physical missions. This fact was also underlined and was positively valued.

Nevertheless, the participation and implication of the members have assured the success of the assembly again and have put on the table the most important topics and problems to be tackled together during the following year. Also, this was an important year as the Board of Directors needed to be renewed and voted, but it was decided to celebrate the elections in 2023. Related to this fact Secretary-General, Mr. Josep Canals highlights that the high interest of members (19) to be part of the Board of Directors is a good sign of *“the great commitment that mayors showed to continue building a strong association in the future”*.

## Partnering with other institutions - SDG 17

MedCities operates as a reliable and cooperative actor together with other institutions working on urban sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. MedCities underlines the need to consolidate and grow local and global partnerships for sustainable development.

### Partners



### Observer members







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[www.medcities.org](http://www.medcities.org) | [www.medurbantools.com](http://www.medurbantools.com)





## Members

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>01</b> Agadir                           | <b>14</b> Bodrum                           | <b>27</b> Glyfada                              |
| <b>02</b> Alexandria                       | <b>15</b> Castelló de la Plana             | <b>28</b> Hatay, Metropolitan Municipality     |
| <b>03</b> Al Fayhaa, Urban Community       | <b>16</b> Chefchaouen                      | <b>29</b> Higher Chouf, Fed. of Municipalities |
| <b>04</b> Ancona                           | <b>17</b> Dannieh, Union of Municipalities | <b>30</b> Irbid, Municipality of Greater       |
| <b>05</b> Antalya                          | <b>18</b> Djerba Midoun                    | <b>31</b> Izmir                                |
| <b>06</b> As-Salt, Municipality of Greater | <b>19</b> Durres                           | <b>32</b> Jbeil / Byblos                       |
| <b>07</b> Barcelona                        | <b>20</b> Dubrovnik                        | <b>33</b> Jerash, Municipality of Greater      |
| <b>08</b> Barcelona Metropolitan Area      | <b>21</b> El Mina                          | <b>34</b> Jezzine, Union of Municipalities     |
| <b>09</b> Batroun                          | <b>22</b> F'nideq                          | <b>35</b> Jounieh                              |
| <b>10</b> Batroun, Union of Municipalities | <b>23</b> Gabès                            | <b>36</b> Kairouan                             |
| <b>11</b> Benghazi                         | <b>24</b> Gaza                             | <b>37</b> Koura, Union of Municipalities       |
| <b>12</b> Bethlehem                        | <b>25</b> Gaziantep                        | <b>38</b> Larnaka                              |
| <b>13</b> Bizerte                          | <b>26</b> Genova                           | <b>39</b> Lemesos / Limasol                    |





**40** Madaba, Municipality of Greater  
**41** Mahdia  
**42** Málaga  
**43** Marseille  
**44** Martil  
**45** M'Diq  
**46** M'Diq-Fnideq, U. of Municipalities  
**47** Mersin  
**48** Minieh, Union of Municipalities  
**49** Menzel Bourghiba  
**50** Monastir  
**51** Montpellier / Montpelhièr  
**52** M'Saken

**53** Nabeul  
**54** Oran  
**55** Palma  
**56** Rethymno  
**57** Rome  
**58** Roskovec  
**59** Saida  
**60** Sarafand  
**61** Sarajevo  
**62** Sfax  
**63** Sidi Bou Said  
**64** Sousse  
**65** Tangier

**66** Tataouine  
**67** Tétouan  
**68** Tirana  
**69** Tripoli  
**70** Tunis  
**71** València  
**72** Zarqa, Municipality of Greater  
**73** Zgharta Ehden