



Water and Environment Support in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region (WES)

ACTIVITY: RE-1-P2P (SUPs)

3rd P2P Meeting Report 15 April 2021, 11.30 – 13.00 h (CET). Online

INTRODUCTION

This last meeting served to (a) discuss with the Peers the Regional SUP Guidelines and (b) wrap up the learnings from the whole P2P process, draw conclusions and recommendations on future capacity building priorities, and opportunities for follow-up and continued collaboration.

The first draft of the Regional SUP Guidelines was shared with the peers prior to the meeting, both in English and French. During the meeting itself, the coach provided an update on the contributions received via the survey that followed webinar 4 of the regional training, as well as other inputs received during the P2P process. There was a presentation on the overall structure and content of the guidelines, and a presentation per chapter that allowed for questions and comments to and by the Peers.

To wrap up the P2P process that was launched in November 2020, the WES team shared the results from the training webinars' evaluation (on-going), explored the possibilities to follow-up this collaborative work and allowed time to complete the final evaluation of the entire process.

PARTICIPANTS

For the list of participants, please see ANNEX 1.

AGENDA

| Item | Speaker |
|---|--|
| How we will work on the virtual platform | Ms Mónica Sánchez, <i>Facilitator and Expert, SCP/RAC-WES</i> |
| Revision and inputs to the Regional SUPs Guidelines | Mr. Pedro Fernández <i>SUP Technical Coordinator and Coach, SCP/RAC-WES</i> |
| Feedback on the regional training webinars | Ms Mónica Sánchez, <i>Facilitator and Expert, SCP/RAC-WES</i> |
| Follow up and final evaluation | Ms Marta Junquera <i>SCP/RAC-WES Project Manager</i> |
| Closure | Mr. Anis Ismail <i>WES Key Environmental expert</i> |





SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Working on the virtual platform

The meeting started on time. The facilitator, Ms Mónica Sánchez, made a brief introduction to the zoom meeting functions and basic proposed rules and conducted an ice-breaking exercise to allow interaction among participants. The facilitator also introduced the aims and expectations of the session.

2. Review and inputs to the Regional SUPs Guidelines

Mr. Pedro Fernández, made a presentation on the first draft of the guidelines. He recalled the process of the Guidelines' elaboration that was presented during webinar 4 by Ms Magali Outters, i.e. 1. The information document; 2. Peer review (under WES); 3. Official review by SCP/RAC Focal Points; 4. Submission to the next COP of the Barcelona Convention in December 2021 for adoption, probably as an annex to the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter that is currently being reviewed; 5. Support to the countries.

Objective of this session: General review of the structure and content of the guidelines; Expert assessment by the WES Peers of certain elements of the document and identification if additional content is necessary.

In order to compile the draft Guidelines all of the following steps have been conducted:

1. Literature review of case studies
2. Development of the Information Document (by SCP/RAC)
3. Interviews particularly with France on experience based on the implementation of measures
4. Lessons learned from other guidelines
5. Input from WES Peers through the regional webinars and P2P meetings/process.

The Guidelines are composed of 4 main chapters:

1. Introduction/ Priority Single-Use Plastic products to be tackled in the Mediterranean
2. Policy options to tackle SUPs
3. Roadmap to tackle SUPs in the Mediterranean region: a 6-step approach

Presentation and feedback from the Peers on the three chapters:

1. Chapter "Introduction":
 - 1.1. Scope: Mandate, target group, additional and complementary resources
 - 1.2. Issue: Facts about SUPs





After this presentation, Mr. Fernández gave the floor to the Peers to comment on the first chapter. No questions or comments were raised.

2. Chapter “Single-use plastic products to be tackled in priority in the Mediterranean”:

Determining priority: beach litter was used as a proxy of SUPs prone to littering.

Considerations about the listing of priority items:

- Some SUPs may also contain materials that are toxic which means it has to be considered/treated differently;
- New COVID-19 related items: masks and gloves;
- Grouping the items by product, meaning that if we consider PET bottles as an item of concern we will consider the lid too, or by pathway, meaning for example including all items flushed down the toilet.

Suggested Mediterranean Top-10 SUPs of concern per group of items

| Group of items | Items |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Smoking-related | Cigarette filters |
| Food and beverage packaging | Drink bottles, caps and lids |
| | Crisp packets and sweet wrappers |
| On-the-go food and beverage packaging | Cutlery, plates and trays |
| | Straws and stirrers |
| | Drinks cups and cup lids |
| WC flushed items | Food containers including fast food packaging |
| | Sanitary applications, including cotton buds, wet wipes and sanitary towels |
| Miscellaneous | Bags |
| Personal protective equipment | Masks and gloves |

After the overview of the content of the chapter, the Peers were asked how they felt about the identified list, if the items were also priorities in their respective countries, or if any items were missing. Lastly, they were asked if peers welcomed the idea of adding an annex to the guidelines with the definition of each of the items.

Comments of the participants:

- Mr Emad Adly said he was fine with the list of items. He clarified that in Egypt plastic bags are the most prominent items seen, so the order of the list does not reflect the priority items in their case. Also, the category ‘miscellaneous’ may be a bit confusing. Mr. Fernandez clarified that miscellaneous means that the items originate from different sources.





- Ms Faiza Ameziani: in Algeria the first priority items are single use plastic bags, the second would be plastic packaging, particularly PET bottles.
- Ms Awatef Larbi Messai: Average Tunisian consumption is 400 plastic bags per year, so the first item for Tunisia would be plastic bags, then packaging. There is a tendency for over-packaging, and bad management of masks and gloves. There is also a tendency for restaurants to use single use items associated with take away, such as cutlery, straws, glasses and plates.
- Mr. Anis Ismail: 1. packaging, plastic films in agricultural products, could be included as they constitute in the region a big source of plastic pollution. 2. Regarding drink bottles he thinks there should be a differentiation between water bottles and other type of bottles such as juice or beverages. In his opinion this differentiation is important when addressing the solutions or the management of these two types as they could be different in the guidelines.
- Mme. Abir Sassi: In Tunisia the “[eco-lef](#)” system has long been in place. The system is able to collect and recycle a lot of plastics but not all. The problem comes from the types of plastics that cannot be recycled in Tunisia. For her it is a priority in Tunisia to address those types of plastics. It is important to apply reduction policies, prevent the use of plastic bags and the sensitize citizens and industrialists as there is over packaging both in plastic and paper. Establish an action plan, work with the industrialists and establish a norm on packaging.

Mr. Fernández confirmed that they will take into consideration all comments, especially the order of the priority items such as plastic bags, that are obviously a regional priority. He mentioned that the proposed ranking is based on empirical quantity of SUP items (cigarette filters are by far the most numerous item found).

3. Chapter “Policy options to tackle SUPs”:

3.1. Policy responses to SUPs in the Mediterranean: Barcelona Convention and EU (when applicable)

3.2. Potential measures: 9 measures are presented, in order of increasing level of ambition, as the list goes down but are less and less accepted by stakeholders and public authorities. These measures have been explained in previous meetings.

3.3. Alternatives to SUPs:

- Reduce the need for an item when consumption of the SUP item in question is for convenience only
- Single-use non-plastic options (cardboard, metal, sugar cane...)
- Multi-use options, business models supporting circular economy
- Biodegradable plastic options are **not** considered credible alternatives
- Life-cycle thinking approach is advised, considering national context





Degree of availability of alternatives for suggested top-10 SUPs

| Items with none or difficult alternative | Items with some alternatives | Items with clear alternatives / convenience use |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cigarette filters • Drink bottles, caps and lids • Crisp packets and sweet wrappers • Sanitary applications (sanitary towels) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food containers including fast food packaging • Drinks cups and cup lids • Sanitary applications (wet wipes) • Personal protective equipment (masks and gloves) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary applications (cotton buds) • Cutlery, plates and trays • Straws and stirrers • Plastic bags |

SUPs have been classified in three categories of availability of alternatives. To better address them Mr. Fernández asked the peers if they considered correct the classification of the table on the availability of alternatives in their context. The approach is similar to the one conducted at EU level. Sustainable alternatives should be promoted if they are available.

Ms Messai expressed a concern about the feasibility of these options and alternatives in the developing countries, for example using glass cups and bottles, as they require water and detergent. She enquired whether these alternatives are adapted to each country. In Tunisia for example, there is water scarcity so why should they opt for washing and using extra water for alternatives? Mr. Fernández mentioned that of course there can be differences and particularities at country level. Studies have looked into the water consumption issue linked to SUPs alternative (he will share resources).

3.4. Feasibility of measures in the Mediterranean context.

A table was shown associating the type of SUPs and the kind of measures. A practical exercise using the ‘annotate’ option of the zoom platform was then proposed to the Peers on the preferred option for drink cups and cup lids.

- Mr. Fernández also raised the question if in Tunisia for example, the producers of drink cups, have been involved in the eco-lef system. Mr. Ismail clarified that they are not integrated in the eco-lef system and regarding the voluntary agreement maybe there is some engagement with the distribution sector in the big supermarkets.

A very fruitful discussion on voluntary agreement took place:

- Mr. Fernández clarified that a voluntary agreement for drink cups could be considered not only with the distribution sector to supermarkets but also with restaurants/catering and hotels.
- Ms Yosra Abdelaziz mentioned that the voluntary agreement in Egypt was possible with the help of concerned NGOs, as more than 150 shops stopped using plastic bags with the support of NGOs.





3.5. Environmental (efficacy) and socio-economic effects

The main objective is to reduce the quantity of litter. Therefore, the measure that reduces the most plastic waste is considered the most effective.

4. Chapter on the Roadmap to tackle SUPs in the Mediterranean region:

It is very important to convey that the exercise requires a multi-dimensional, progressive approach to ensure that:

- Governmental mechanisms are in place to enforce and monitor
- Economically/environmentally/technically sound alternatives are available, as well as related relevant standards and norms
- Relevant industry has time/incentives/access to technology to (re)convert
- Incentives for the development of alternatives
- Consumers are incentivized to modify their consumption patterns
- The waste management system in the countries is adapted to accompanying the shift of products. New alternatives put in the market.

A 6 step-by-step approach is proposed:

Step 1: Problem definition: baseline of SUPs of concern in the country

Step 2: Define policy objectives and pre-select measures

Step 3: Conduct an impact assessment

Step 4: Draft and adopt the policy measures

Step 5: Implement policy and accompanying measures

Step 6: Monitor progress and review

Two key aspects were highlighted in Step 2 and Step 5:

Step 2: the coach explained the table that is used to prioritize the measures and clarified that depending on the main policy objective some measures will be more suitable than others.

Step 5: the list of proposed accompanying measures is based on the feedback received from the Peers after the last webinar (through a questionnaire):

- Information, awareness and education
- Enhance overall waste management
- Ensure inter-governmental coordination
- Ensure a level playing field: standardization and labelling
- Promote collaboration across the value chain





- Provide incentives to industry and entrepreneurs
- Implement nationwide potable water/refill systems

Mr. Fernández mentioned that some annexes are foreseen to be included in the guidelines and asked the Peers what annexes they considered as necessary. In the end, no comments or additions were made to the proposed list of annexes:

- Terminology (especially in relation to bio-plastics)
- Definition of Top-10 SUPs + photos
- In-depth information on alternatives to Top-10 SUPs
- Discussion on bio-plastics

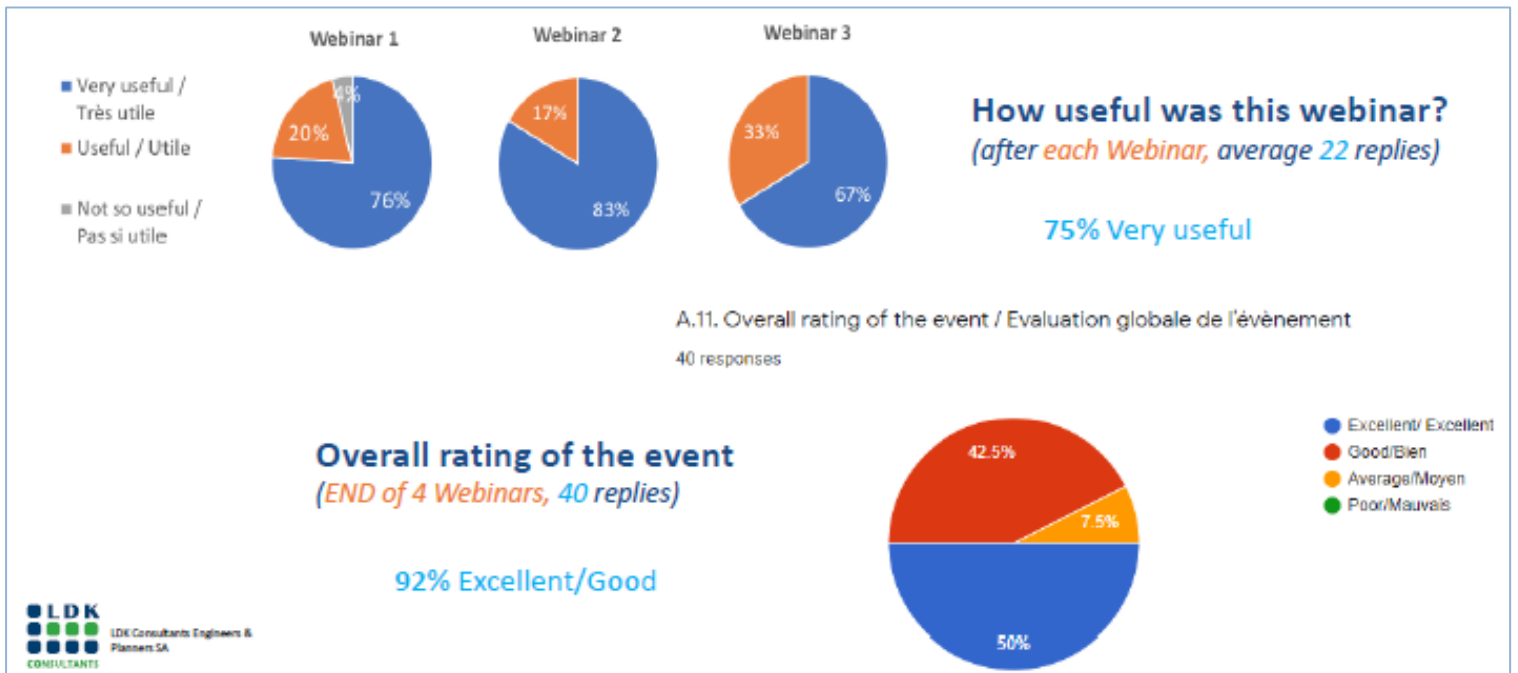
Zero leakage in the ocean is probably idealistic but through education, as the main condition, it is possible to significantly reduce the leakage.

The coach thanked the WES project for the possibility of sharing knowledge and experience through this activity.

3. Feedback on the regional training webinars and Evaluation of the overall Peer to Peer activity

Feedback on the regional training webinars:

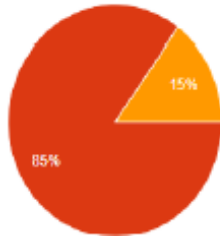
The team wanted to share the information collected thus far on the feedback received as part of the learning process and methodology used. First of all, Ms Sanchez presented the results of the evaluation of the regional training:





B.2. Level of difficulty (tick one of the following): / Niveau de difficulté (cochez une des options suivantes):

40 responses



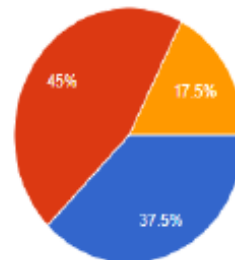
- Difficult / Difficile
- Adequate / Adéquat
- Elementary / Élémentaire

“Depth was adequate”
85% Adequate difficulty

A.8. Clarity, coverage and sufficiency of concepts, objectives, anticipated outputs and outcomes / Clarté, couverture et suffisance des notions, des objectifs, des produits et des résultats attendus

40 responses

“Delivery was optimal”
82% Good/excellent delivery

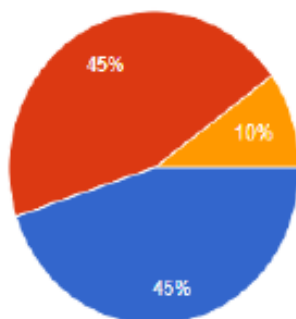


- Excellent/ Excellent
- Good/Bien
- Average/Moyen
- Poor/Mauvais



A.7. Presentations correspond and contribute to the planned objectives and are conducive to enhanced shared understanding and participation on addressed topics / Les présentations correspondent et contribuent aux objectifs fixés et favorisent la compréhension mutuelle et la participation aux questions abordées

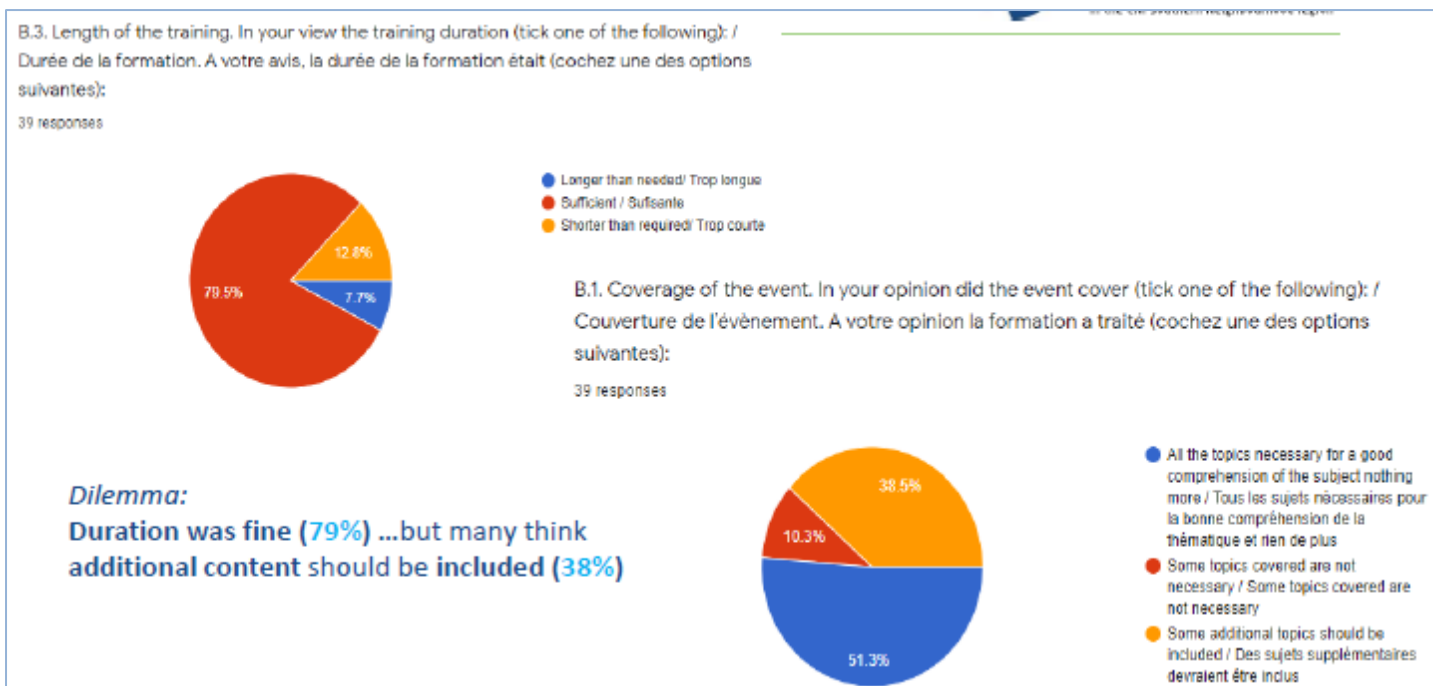
40 responses



- Excellent/ Excellent
- Good/Bien
- Average/Moyen
- Poor/Mauvais

“Content met objectives”
90% Good/ Excellent





The results highlighted a good delivery, an appropriate level of difficulty, adequacy, usefulness and objectives were all met. These results will inform future activities.

Evaluation of the overall Peer-to-Peer activity:

A very quick overview of the workplan, objectives, and expectations of the P2P process was reminded by Ms Junquera so that Peers had it in mind when completing the final evaluation of the process. Also, the results of the questionnaire shared with the Peers at the beginning of the activity (it served to shape the contents of the P2P meetings and process) were shown on the screen.

As after each P2P meeting a very short evaluation was completed, Ms Junquera also presented the results so far obtained.

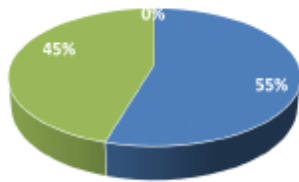




How useful were these 5 sessions ?

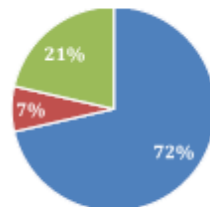
90% quite useful

1st P2P



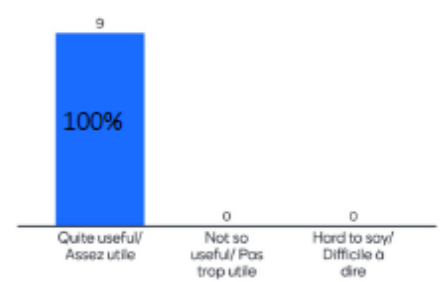
■ Very useful ■ Useful ■ Not so useful

2nd P2P



■ Quite useful/ Assez utile ■ Not so useful/ Pas trop utile ■ N/A

Thematic P2P on GPP

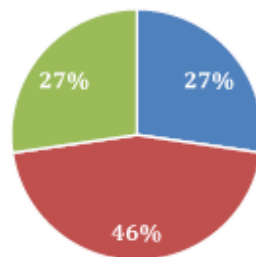


Are you better prepared to implement the various SUP policy measures?

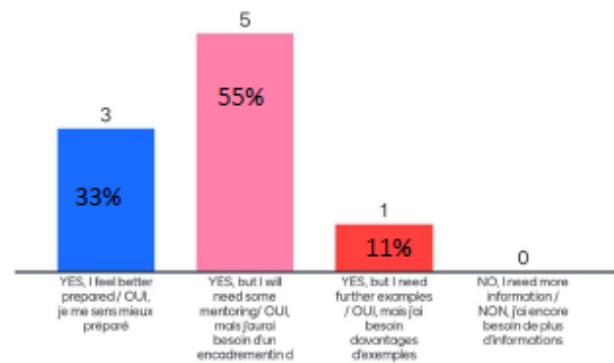
41% would like mentoring, 30% feel better prepared, 28% would like more examples

2nd P2P

- YES, although I will need some mentoring/ OUI, mais j'aurai besoin d'un encadrement
- YES, but I need further examples that match my context/ OUI, mais j'ai besoin d'exemples d'exemples qui soient plus adaptés à mon contexte
- YES, I feel better prepared / OUI, je me sens



Thematic P2P on GPP



The Peers were given time to complete the online final evaluation form as part of the requirements of the WES project.





5. Wrap up/follow up:

Mr. Ismail provided an overview of the next steps foreseen in the thematic under the WES project. He also asked the Peers how they want to continue this P2P exchange and strengthen the network. He asked if they had any ideas or intention to reinforce this exchange, not only at regional but also at national levels and how do they wish to engage further to strengthen this collaborative regional network.

Ms Messai mentioned that a good team has been shaped and she shared the concern too on how to move ahead together. She addressed a question for the WES on how the project will directly help countries to provide concrete solutions as the concepts are clearer but there is a need to adapt them to each country. She also shared an initiative (supported by the World Bank and with links to the WES project): “littoral sans plastique” of blue economy.

Mr. Ismail asked about the progress of the P2P exchange between Algeria and Tunisia. Ms Ameziani mentioned that she is willing to continue and develop this exchange as there is a real need to act on plastics. Ms Awatef is also willing to continue this exchange and look for solutions together.

Ms Junquera mentioned that Peers can still inform the WES team if they continue their exchanges or if they develop joint initiatives on the topic.

Mr. Ismail recalled that Peers are also active and involved in other WES activities. They are also key players in their ministries in writing norms, proposing strategies and working on transforming the problematic of plastics. He made the recommendation to go for simple but effective solutions, for example voluntary agreements, among ‘mature’ stakeholders, setting up easy steps that can make quick changes.

From the WES project there will be more activities, regional and national on plastic waste and circular economy. Currently a gap analysis in all the WES partner countries and at regional level is being conducted to provide more specific contributions.





ANNEX1: PARTICIPANTS LIST

| Role | TITLE | FIRST NAME | LAST NAME | POSITION/ FUNCTION | ORGANISATION/ INSTITUTION | EMAIL |
|------|-------|------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Peer | Mme. | Fazia | AMEZIANI | Sous directrice des déchets ménagers, assimilés et inertes | Ministère de l'Environnement | ameziani_67@yahoo.fr |
| Peer | Eng. | Hanadi Ali | AL-RABIAH | Chemical Engineer | Department of Solid Waste Management | haalrabaieh12@gmail.com |
| Peer | Ms | Yousra | Abdelaziz | In charge of the plastics file | Ministry of Environment-Technical board | yosraabdelaziz15@gmail.com |
| Peer | Ms | Awatef | LARBI MESSAI | Sous-Directrice Environnement Urbain | Direction Générale de l'Environnement et de la Qualité de la Vie du Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement | aouatef.larbi@mineat.gov.tn awatef.messai@yahoo.fr |
| Peer | Ms | Hafsa | LAKHLIFI | Chef de Division des Filières de Valorisation des Déchets | Département de l'Environnement Ministère de l'Energie des Mines et de l'Environnement | lakhlihafsa.dd@gmail.com |
| FP | Mme. | Bouali | MALIKA | Directrice Générale en charge | Conservatoire Nationale des Formations à l'Environnement (CNFE) | chebhakima@yahoo.fr |
| Peer | Ms | Abir | SASSI | Sous-Directeur | Direction Recyclage et Valorisation Agence Nationale de Gestion des Déchets (ANGED) | abir-sassi@anged.nat.tn |
| | Mr. | Anis | ISMAIL | Key Environmental Expert | WES Key Environment Expert | a.ismail@wes-med.eu |





Water and Environment Support

in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

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|-------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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