



MEDITERRANEAN GREEN WEEK



14-16 MAY 2024 / ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE



**Water and
Environment Support**
in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

Policy papers:

- The UfM and Education for Sustainable Development
- The Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention (MAAAC)

Presented by: Professor Michael J. Scoullos, WES Team Leader

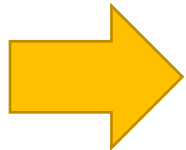
UfM Working Group on Environment, 14 May 2024



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The UfM and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Mediterranean Committee on ESD



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United Nations Environment Programme



Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention



UNECE



POLICY PAPER: UfM & EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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- Since its launching by the UfM Ministers of Environment and Climate Change in 2014 and through different areas of action, the UfM has advanced the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) at the highest levels.
- This publication:
 - encapsulates the considerable work achieved to date (since as early as 2014).
 - explains the connection of ESD and the implementation of the **2023 GreenerMed Agenda, Blue Economy Roadmap, Water Youth Strategy, the Research and Innovation Roadmaps, etc.**
 - presents how the UfM is promoting the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD and its Action Plan towards 2030.



CONTENTS OVERVIEW



**Water and
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- Education for Sustainable Development
- The Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)
- The Action Plan of the MSESD (2016) & its revision (2022)
- The role of the UfM in promoting the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD
- UfM approaches in promoting ESD
- Interlinkages with other relevant ESD processes at regional and global levels
- The way forward

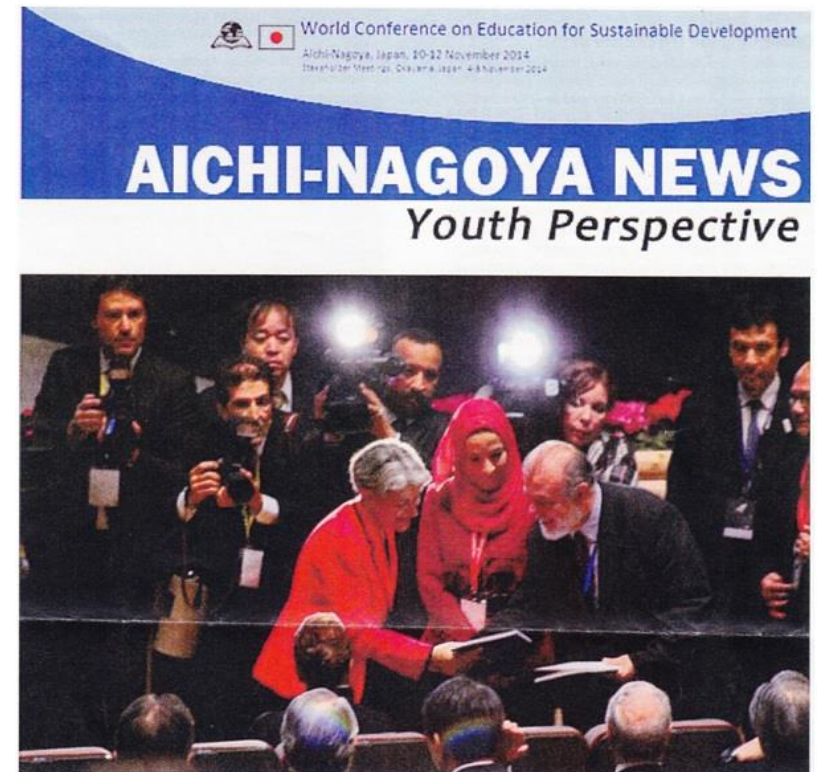


The Mediterranean Strategy of ESD (MSESD)

- Endorsed by the UfM Ministers of Environment and Climate Change (Athens, 2014)
- Presented in World ESD Conference of UNESCO in Nagoya Japan (2014).



Athens, 2014



Nagoya, 2014

The MSES Action Plan towards 2030

Takes into consideration the key **updates** of the international and regional frameworks that the Strategy is linked to: the UfM GreenerMedAgenda, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD, 2016-2025), the UNESCO ESDfor2030, the Recommendation on learning for environmental sustainability of the European Council, the UNECE Framework for the implementation of the Strategy for ESD (2021-2030).



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Since the adoption of the MSED, the UfM has been supporting, mainstreaming and integrating ESD approaches across its different sectoral dossiers and specific thematic areas, along three pillars of action:

1. Supporting relevant transdisciplinary initiatives on sustainable development.

- the UfM 2030GreenerMed Agenda, the Roadmap for the Implementation of the UfM Ministerial on Sustainable Blue Economy, the Water Youth Strategy, the Research and Innovation Roadmaps and their Implementation plan, Horizon Europe's Mediterranean Initiative, etc.

... all provide strong frameworks for the UfM Member States and stakeholders to be guided in promoting transdisciplinary capacity-building and research projects, connecting ESD priority themes with research and educational practices.



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2. Creating an enabling environment for cross-fertilization of ESD practices through thematic platforms of dialogue involving all stakeholders.

- promotes and works through thematic platforms to advance dialogue and initiatives strongly connected to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with many connections to the relevant education, science, and capacity-building aspects (e.g. multi-stakeholder initiative for Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean (SFS-MED Platform)).

- seeks to advance efforts for a higher political engagement on Higher Education, promoting the MSES across universities, research and learning centres.

- uses education and science as vectors for promoting dialogue on sustainability (science diplomacy and the science-to-policy interface and their connection to climate negotiations, or on water, food security and green/blue economy).



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3. Promoting capacity building and knowledge sharing by organizing workshops and educational seminars on sustainable development issues.

- pilots awareness raising and training activities, strengthening competences to conceptualize ESD and the implementation of the SDGs in specific fields, also as a tool for developing understanding and consensus among countries and citizens;
- webinars on Research and Innovation in the fields of climate change, renewable energy and health;
- capacity building on employability and sustainability.
- support on how to include green skills in academic curricula, by choosing pilot sectors of significance for the Mediterranean region, such as food and energy.



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- Showcasing the potential of connecting sustainability to education and innovation, the UfM has recently published “Green Innovation and Employability in the Med through the Triple Helix” , where the greening of the economy is set in relation to environmental challenges alongside socio-economic ones, such as unemployment and the need for ‘new’ skills. These areas require, as a prerequisite, the reorientation and updating of the education and research sectors.
- The simultaneous promotion of green economy and ESD (formal, non-formal and vocational) provides an opportunity for supporting Mediterranean Youth in finding career paths, and countries towards a strategic green transition.

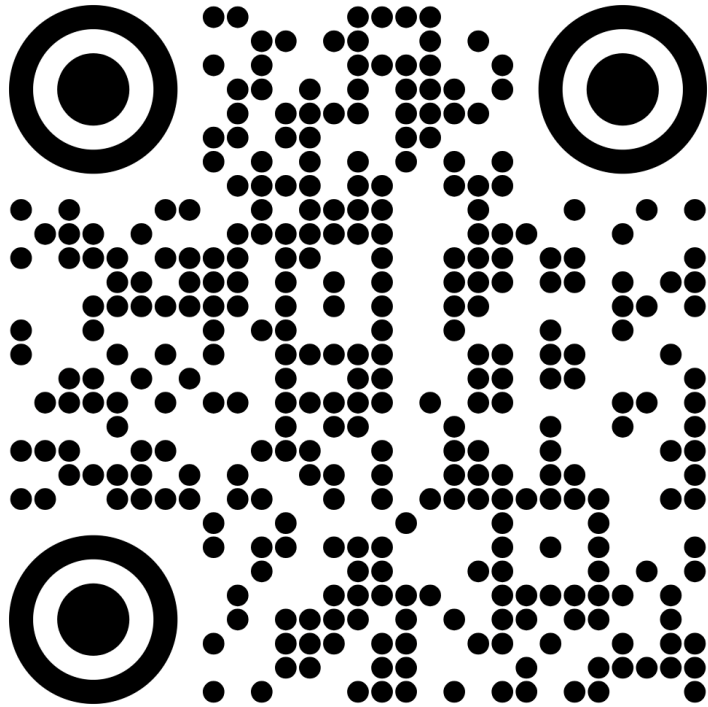


POLICY PAPER: UfM & EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

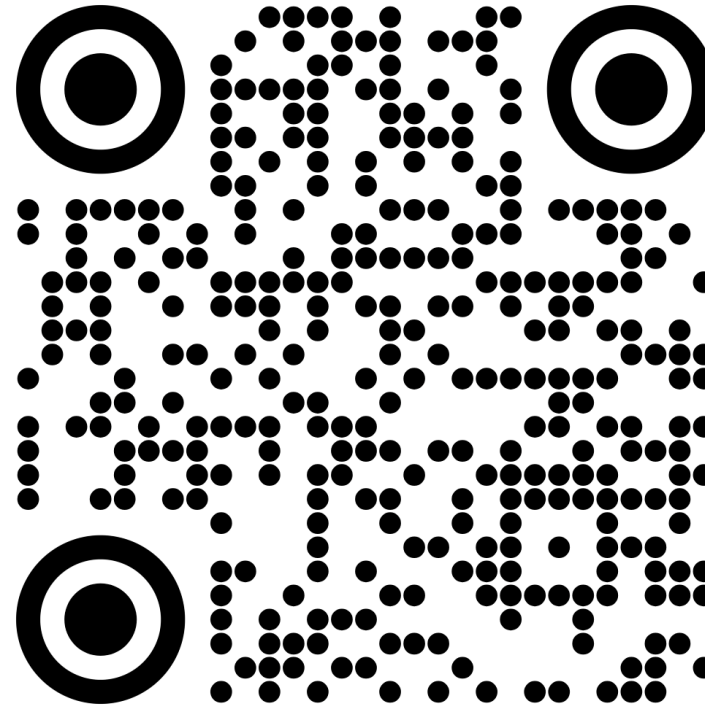


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THE “MEDITERRANEAN
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TO THE AARHUS
CONVENTION



THE “MEDITERRANEAN ACCESSION AGENDA” TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION

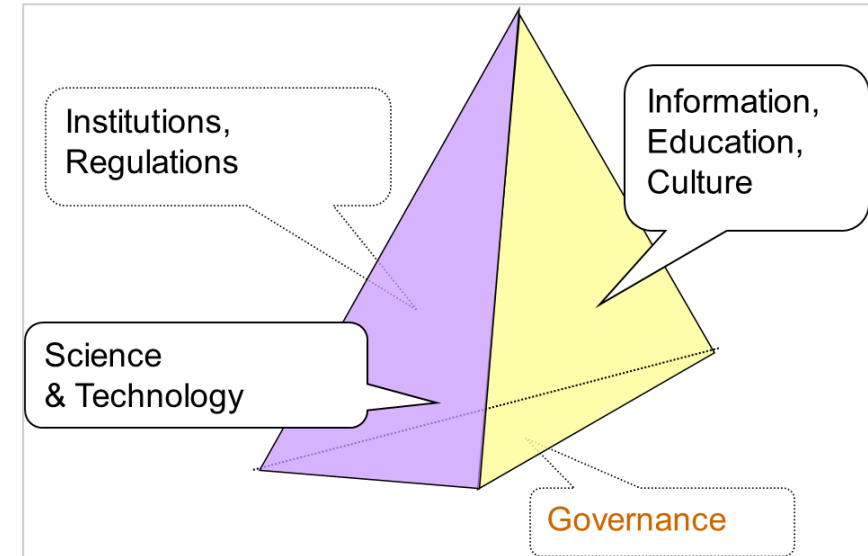


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- The **Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention (MAAAC)** is a guide for Mediterranean countries that are not Parties to the Aarhus Convention (Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters) to do so. The MAAAC provides all the information needed for a country to prepare and eventually put in motion the mechanisms needed to accede to the Aarhus Convention.

With EU support via the WES project and via a multi-stakeholder effort, the MAAAC was developed with the secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, the Union for the Mediterranean, the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat, the UfM Parliamentary Assembly (Energy, Environment and Water Committee), the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development, the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment and Sustainable Development and the MEPIELAN Centre.

‘Tools’ of Governance



This Project is funded
by the European Union



THE “MEDITERRANEAN ACCESSION AGENDA” TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION

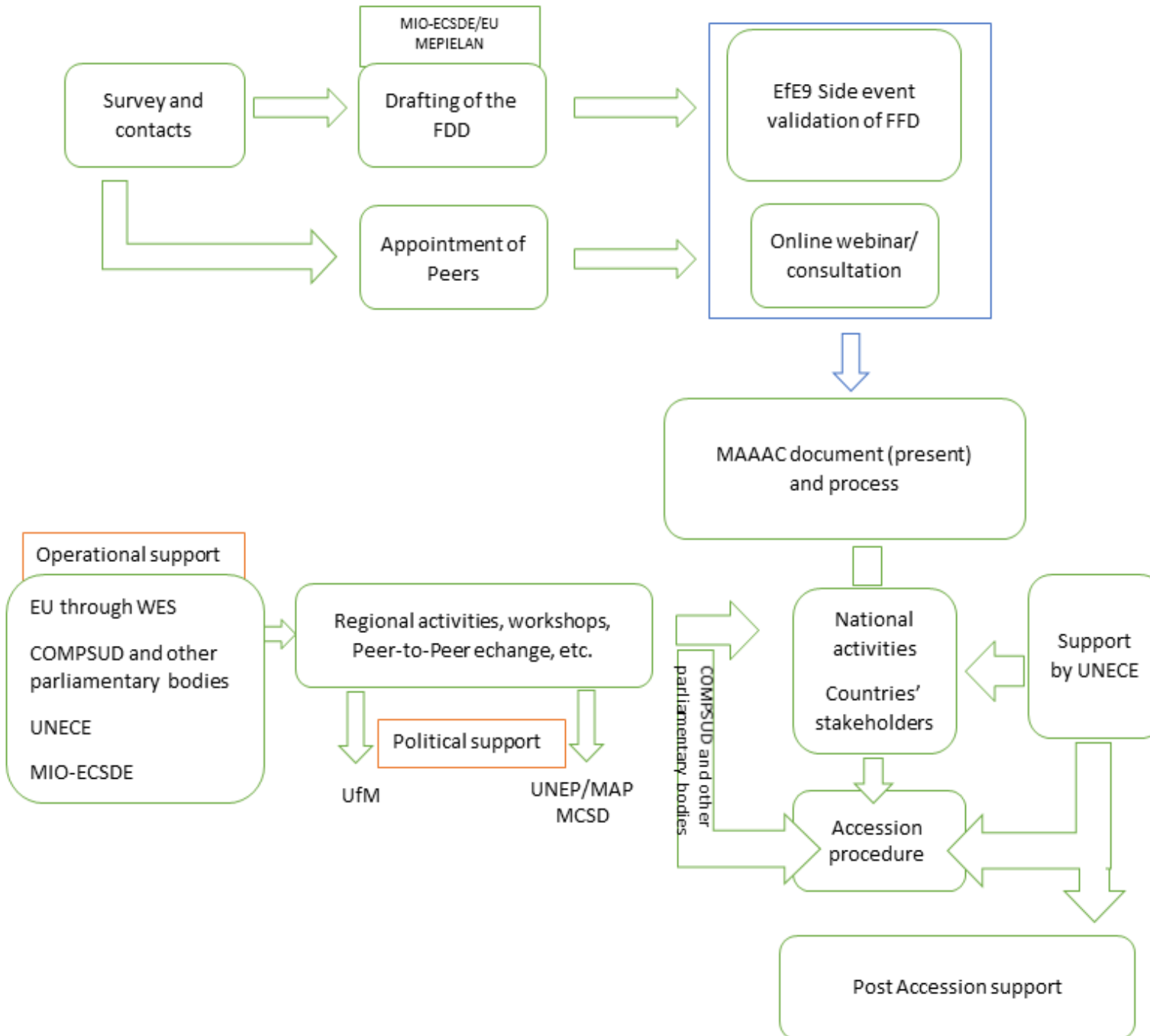


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CONTENTS

- A COMMON VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN
- ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNANCE
- THE NEED FOR AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
- THE MOBILISATION FOR A MEDITERRANEAN ACCESSION AGENDA TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION (MAAAC)
- THE WES PEER-TO-PEER (P2P) APPROACH; THE FUNCTIONS AND ROLE OF THE PEERS
- THE PROVISIONS OF THE MAAAC
- BENEFITS OF ACCESSION TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION AND THE PROTOCOL ON PRTRs
- ANNEX
- REFERENCES & LINKS





GRAPHICAL DEPICTION OF THE PROCESS: “MEDITERRANEAN ACCESSION AGENDA” TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION (MAAAC)

The MAAAC is meant to be a major contribution to encouraging the accession to and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean countries and promoting the engagement of relevant NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in advancing environmental governance.

- For a wide accession of Mediterranean countries to the Aarhus Convention several years will be needed.
- The MAAAC is a ‘living’ document/process



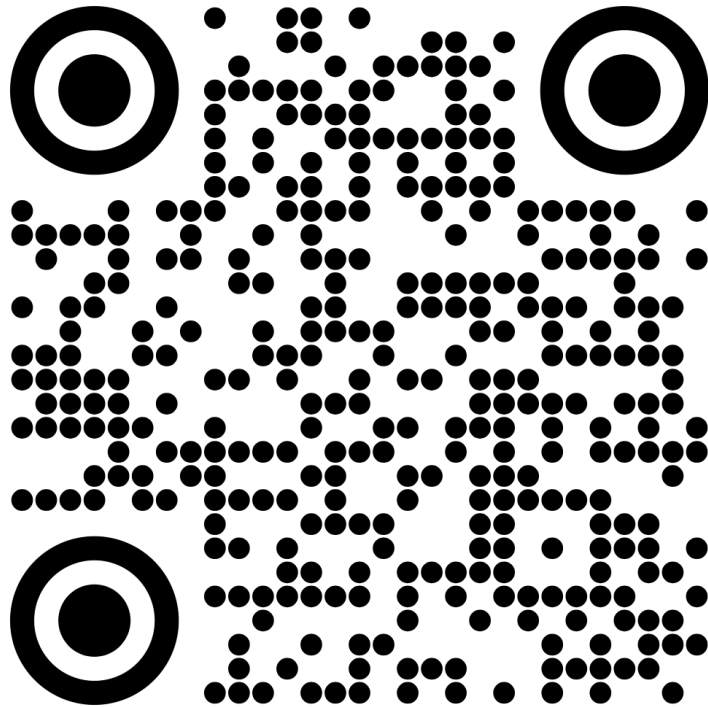
TO ACCESS THE “MEDITERRANEAN ACCESSION AGENDA” TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION



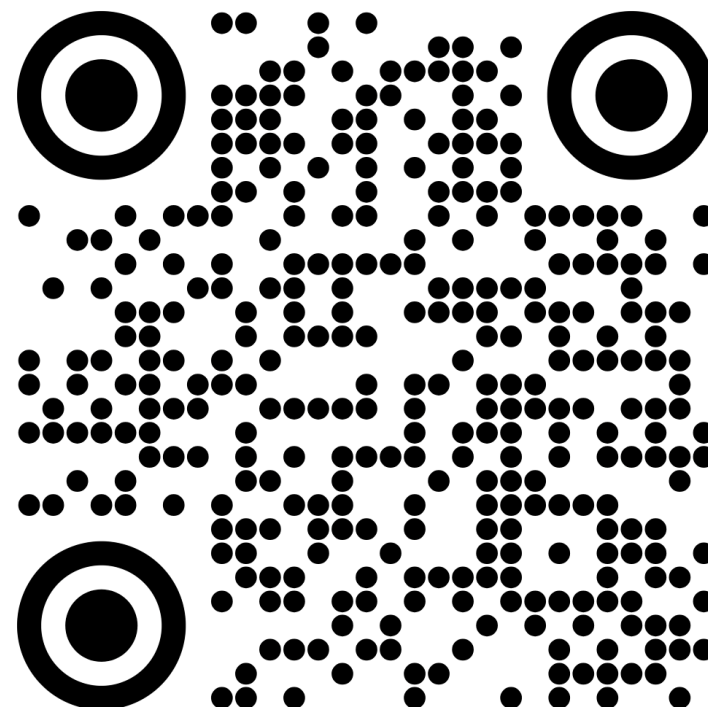
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Already several countries have confirmed their interest to learn more and proceed with assessment of their relevant legislation

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For more information:



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