



# Water and Environment Support

in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region



## Overview on the WES activities on plastic pollution and circular economy in the Mediterranean

Presented by:

Prof. Michael Scoullou, WES Team Leader

Session: Towards a green, circular economy / Waste and plastic waste

*15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024*



# WES objectives



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



WES aims at protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean.



It strives to address the country needs for creating the enabling environment and enhancing the capacities of stakeholders in the Partner Countries (PCs) to tackle problems related to pollution prevention and water use efficiency.





# WES at a glance



**Partner Countries:** 8 Countries in North Africa and the Middle East



**Duration :** May 2019 – November 2024



**Budget:** 9.5 Million Euros



**Activities:** Technical Assistance, Capacity Building, Enhancement of Enabling conditions



# The policy framework for WES marine litter and plastics related actions



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



EU Green Deal

New Agenda for the Mediterranean

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy

Single-Use Plastics Directive

.....



UfM Ministerial Meetings on Environment and Climate Action

The UfM's 2030 GreenerMed Agenda

*WES linked to Axis 1 and 2: Green and Circular Economy/ Pollution Prevention, Management, Removal*



COPs and 2-year Programmes of Work (PoW)

Ecosystem Approach & IMAP

Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (revised)

International legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

*Direct contribution of WES to e.g. the Regional Guidelines on measures to phase out Single-Use Plastic items*





## Component 1: Pollution prevention topics

- **Reduce plastic pollution and marine litter**
- **Promotion of mechanisms, tools and conditions for the transition to a circular economy**
- **Prevent and reduce Pollution reaching the Mediterranean from specific industrial sectors**
- **Support for the implementation of integrated environmental management**

### **Specific activities on the reduction of plastic pollution:**

- Successful approaches on **EPR**
- Policy guidance to **ban plastic polymers** that disrupt the sorting and recycling of plastics
- Separate **collection and plastic waste recycling based on good practices**
- Regulatory and technical measures for the **reduction and gradual elimination of SUPs**
- **Public awareness campaigns**



# Overview of the activities on **Marine Litter Monitoring** in **ALGERIA** and **MOROCCO**



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

Macrolitter surveys on the **sea surface & the seafloor**

Assessment of the **amounts, types, composition and sources** of marine litter

Identification of management options to feed into a **marine litter action plan**

Capacity building for targeted professionals and for **informed decision-makers on how to properly monitor marine macrolitter** (particularly SUPs) (and also microliter) and **on operationalizing best practice marine litter measures**

**June 2024:** National 2-day workshops contributing to the operationalization of marine litter measures addressing the whole management cycle from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation.



Synergy ensured with the UfM-labelled and other EU funded projects: Plastic Busters, TouMaLi, Med4Waste, Med WEFE Nexus S2S approach...



# Overview of the activities on Single Use Plastics (SUPs)

in **JORDAN, ISRAEL, MOROCCO, EGYPT, LEBANON, PALESTINE** and **TUNISIA**



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

Definition of the **baseline situation** (production and consumption) for selected SUPs

Identification of priorities and **recommendations for policy measures** for the reduction of SUPs

Support the Ministries of Environment in the development of **policies and roadmaps to take action to reduce SUPs** (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia)

Also activities on **Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR)** applied to selected SUP items (Morocco, Lebanon, Palestine)

**July 2024: Regional: SUPs-free coastal and Marine Protected Areas (linked to tourism and recreation sector and using participatory science interventions)**

9-12 July 2024, Thessaloniki, Greece



- Compendium of cases and categories of EPR schemes
- EPR application in the EU and MENA
- EPR Types, Pros and Cons
- Deposit Refund Schemes : General lessons and success factors
- Taxes and levies : General lessons and success factors





prevention re-use recycling collection no littering other

The inclusion of the informal sector in the Oum Azza Landfill: the Attawafouk cooperative

Single-use plastic ban by the Red Sea Governorate

Implementing source separation and recycling in Lebanese municipalities with the support of the NGO "Arc-en-Ciel"

"Clean Beaches" programme and Blue Flag label for well-managed beaches to prevent littering

Eco-Lef: a national system for the recovery and recycling of post-consumer packaging that focuses on plastic waste

Prevention of plastic bags: a ban on single-use plastic bags, and the Zero Mika Initiative in Morocco

Landfill and incineration tax with a refund criterion to boost source separation of biowaste

Fee modulation in the French Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for WEEE to promote re-use and recycling

A local NGO implementing an integrated waste management system in the cities of Hurghada and Marsa Alam, Egypt

Single-use plastics – Not in my Sea!

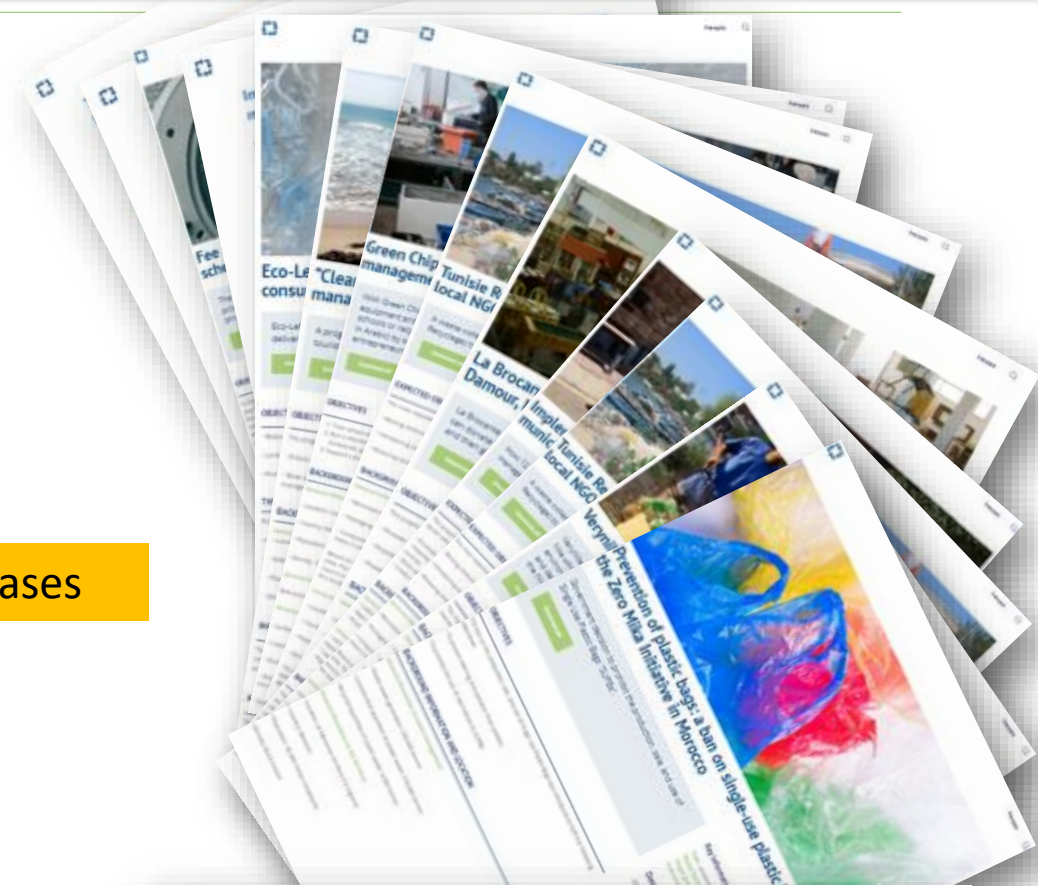
La Brocante, a re-use centre for furniture and household items in Damour, Lebanon

Community composting to manage 100% of biowaste in a rural area of Spain

<https://bestpractices-waste-med.net>

Contribution to the UfM's 2030GreenerMed Agenda and to the launching of a Flagship Initiative of UNEP/MAP's Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025).

20 cases



This Project is funded by the European Union





# Overview of the activities on the Promotion of green and circular economy in EGYPT, MOROCCO, JORDAN, ALGERIA and TUNISIA



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

Support for university training on **green entrepreneurship** and **circular economy** in Algeria

**Green banking** and support to green investment opportunities to curb plastic waste in Jordan

Identify small scale approaches of **separate collection** and **plastic recycling** for further replication in Lebanon, Palestine and also Algeria

**Regional activities** on Awareness raising and Education for Sustainable Development: training of trainers on campaigns for sustainable consumption and follow-up mentoring

**Regional activity** on Innovative Circular Economy Business Models in the Mediterranean region

**Regional campaign** on Mediterranean “Champions” of plastic pollution prevention

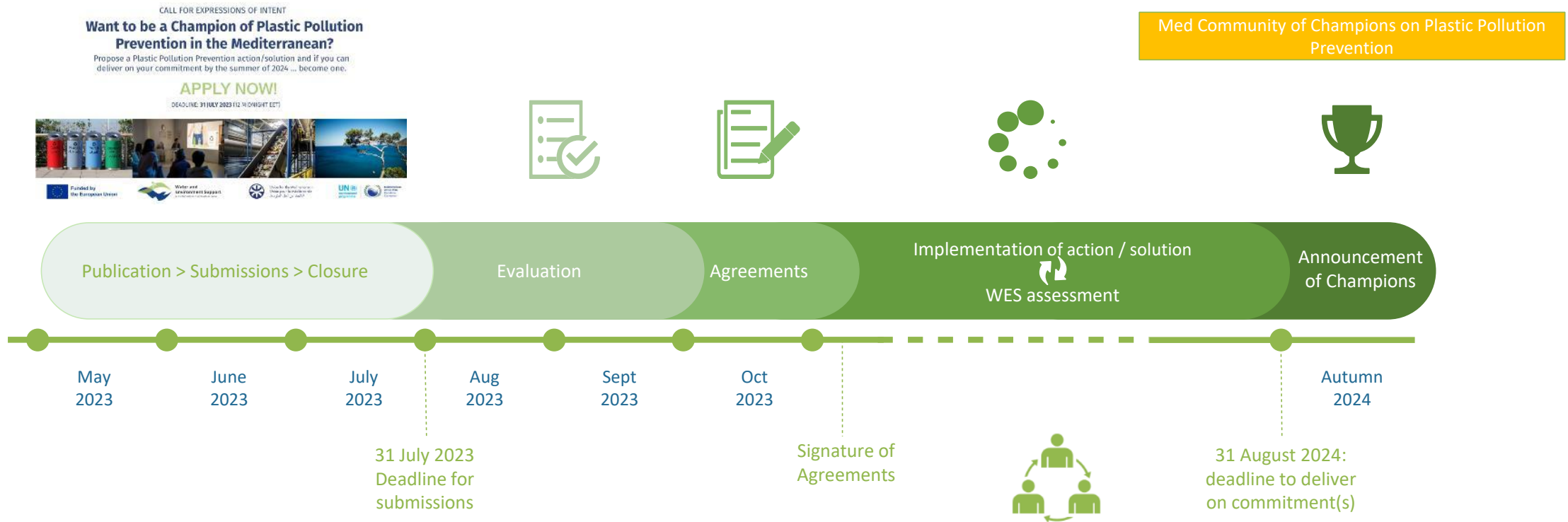


# “Champions of Plastic Pollution Prevention in the Mediterranean”



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

## THE TIMELINE: FROM APPLICANT, TO CANDIDATE, TO CHAMPION



109 applications

87 eligible

50 Cooperation Agreements to date



# “Champions of Plastic Pollution Prevention in the Mediterranean”



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

**50** Cooperation Agreements to date

## The geographic distribution:

- **MENA countries:** 42 agreements (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia)
- **Other initiatives implemented in the Mediterranean Basin:** 8 agreements (Albania, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, Turkey)

## The thematic areas:

- **Governance related:** 3
- **Innovative product/method/technology:** 18
- **Improved waste collection:** 16
- **Education and public awareness:** 10
- **Mobilization of synergies between different stakeholders:** 3



# Relevant WES videos on youtube



The WES video “Construction and demolition waste”



The WES video on “Circular Economy”



The WES video on “plastic pollution and single use plastics”

<https://www.wes-med.eu/library/videos/>

# WES' EXPECTED IMPACT TOWARDS ADDRESSING MARINE LITTER AND SUPs



- 1 Comprehensive diagnosis of the marine litter and SUPs problem** (data from more compartments, further consolidation of existing data, etc.)
- 2 Proposed targeted marine litter and SUPs prevention and mitigation measures**
- 3 Enhanced capacity of Ministries of Environment** to respond to the challenges posed by plastic pollution and waste, with emphasis on SUPs
- 4 Trained and mobilized core set of professionals** on aspects related to marine litter, SUPs and circular economy
- 5 Contribution to the upgrading of the national legislation addressing marine litter and SUPs**
- 6 Proposed nationwide strategies for the gradual ban of SUPs**

# WES Social Pages



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



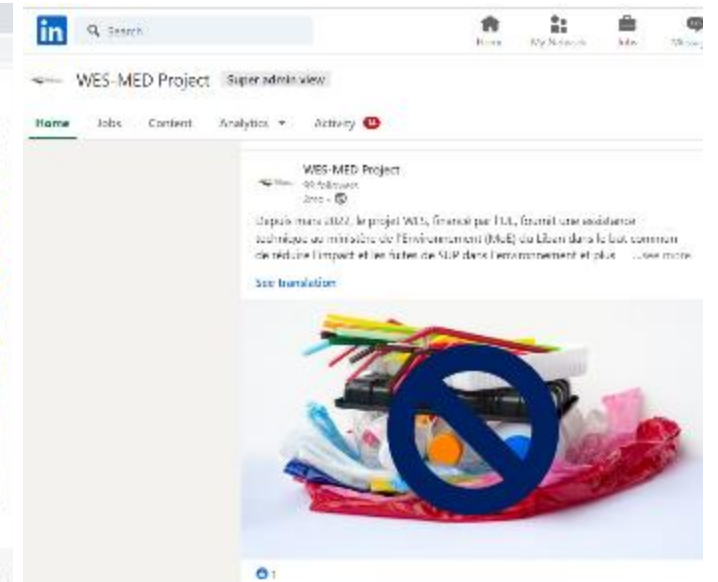
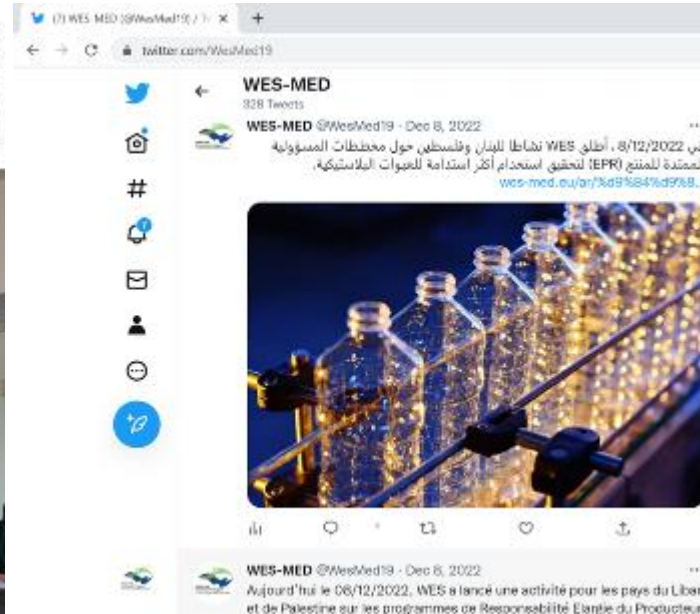
@sustainablemediterranean



@WesMed19



@wes-medproject



For more information:



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

Visit our Website

[wes-med.eu](http://wes-med.eu)

[info@wes-med.eu](mailto:info@wes-med.eu)

and follow us on Social Media

