



ACTIVITY REPORT 2016





The current annual report takes as a structure the Action Plan for 2016 presented and approved at the MedCités General Assembly held in Dubrovnik in 2015. Although entitled “2016 Annual Report”, it describes the activities carried out between the Dubrovnik General Assembly (November 2015) and the Tétouan General Assembly (December 2016).

# INDEX

<b>MedCities, a platform for projects</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Support cities in defining and implementing City Development Strategies .....	6
Support members in implementing strategic projects .....	8
Promote and implement multilateral and bilateral cooperation project. ....	14
<b>MedCities, a network of Mediterranean cities</b> .....	<b>18</b>
Strengthen the network .....	18
Reinforce communication activities .....	19
Consolidate regional antennas of the network .....	20
<b>MedCities, a lobby of cities</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Establish international alliances for the promotion of Urban Sustainable Development .....	22
Advocate for local authorities in the Mediterranean .....	23



Dear members,

One year after the General Assembly of Dubrovnik, the MedCités network is presenting its annual report with the conviction that great efforts have been made to achieve the main objectives and overcome the challenges identified in 2015 through our three strategic priorities.

First, as a **platform of projects**, the network has continued to promote and foster bilateral and multilateral cooperation. During the last year, several projects have been launched, often in partnership with a wide range of national and international institutions. In the field of capacity building and knowledge exchange, MedCités has focused on exchanges of experiences such as the seminars to prepare the new EU's ENI call for projects in the Mediterranean basin.

Second, during 2016 MedCités has been working on **strengthening the network** by making a significant effort in setting up the new association. This work, often invisible, will make our cooperation more efficient at the service of our cities.

As we are a network of cities, our regional antennas in the Maghreb and Mashreq have been empowered to deliver more and closer assistance to our members. In line with what was done in recent years, communication activities have been increased to foster ownership of MedCités by the members, placing special emphasis on our 25th Anniversary.

Third, as a **lobby of cities**, we have participated in the main international debates affecting Mediterranean cities, such as MedCOP Climate, Habitat III and the preparation of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development scheduled for next spring in Cairo.

MedCités has also reinforced the alliances with international organizations and networks. I would like to highlight the agreement signed with the Mediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), which will allow us to reinforce the regional dimension of different domains of our city action.

Mediterranean cities are undergoing continuous and intense transformation. The reality of the region, shaken by political, social and economic turmoil, forces cities to rethink their future continuously. I am convinced that through the implementation of projects and other activities related to knowledge and best practice sharing we will be able to provide a comprehensive response to ensure long-term and resilient solutions to this pressing situation.

I hope we will continue strengthening together the commitment of MedCités to its mission, as has been done for the last 25 years.

Mohamed Idaomar – President



Dear Members,

The activity report shows that 2016 has been a year of intense work at the MedCities General Secretariat. The Action Plan for this year was ambitious and I am proud to announce that most of the tasks the Assembly assigned to us were successfully carried out.

It has been a year of intense debate at international level affecting the Mediterranean and its cities, with the holding of important events such as Habitat III, MedCOP Climate and COOP 22. In parallel, stubborn reality has shown us that long-term strategies need to be combined with immediate action to face the pressing situation of our region: how to tackle climate change, how to deal with the refugee crisis and how to build energy-efficient, resilient and smart cities are only a few examples. In MedCities we have tried to implement and design new projects to deal with this situation. Interesting projects, such as the drafting of new city development strategies in Tunisia under the umbrella of the Cities Alliance and other international stakeholders, show us that we are working in the right direction.

During this year the General Secretariat has worked hard to allow MedCities to operate as an independent and legal association. We are looking forward to starting the new year fully operative with this new status.

In the year of our 25th Anniversary, the General Secretariat and the regional antennas have also been preparing to face the wide range of funding opportunities for new cross-border cooperation programmes and projects. The Mediterranean is still within the focus of the 2014-2020 EU financing period. We have achieved the first positive results with the selection of different projects under the Interreg MED cooperation programme. The future call for project proposals of the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme, together with other bilateral and multi-country programmes, offer an excellent opportunity to enhance cooperation between Mediterranean cities through project partnerships.

Finally, intense efforts have been made to reinforce the Secretariat and its capacities, in order to continue providing useful and informed assistance to our members. We are satisfied with the work done but we believe that we can do it much better in partnership with our member cities and our international allies.

I am convinced that the work carried out so far has prepared us for a very fruitful year for our cities and the Network as a whole, with new and better projects to contribute to the development of our cities.

Xavier Tiana – Secretary General

# MedCités, a platform for projects

## Support cities in defining and implementing City Development Strategies (CDS)

### TO ACCOMPANY CITIES IN ELABORATING NEW CDS AND IMPLEMENTING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICES

**MedCités accompanies Gabès and Kairouan in elaborating their City Development Strategy in the framework of a new multilateral project launched by the Cities Alliance in Tunisia.**

Launched in the framework of the Cities Alliance Country Programme, the project aims to carry out strategic urban planning initiatives, particularly in inland cities.

The project proposal was submitted by the National Federation of Tunisian Cities and was developed after months of intense teamwork in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), VNG-CILG, GIZ and MedCités and in collaboration with Tunisian authorities to guarantee that the proposal is aligned with government priorities. The project provides a common methodology for dynamic, consistently integrated local development through participatory planning. During its lifetime, eight participatory urban strategies will be drafted.

MedCités will be leading the process in the cities of Gabès and Kairouan; and Monastir, another MedCités member, will also benefit from this project. The objective of the project is to generate spillover effects to other Tunisian cities.

The implementation of the project started in October 2016 with an internal partnership meeting, and the planned duration is 18 months.



### Organization of two seminars on Urban Development Strategies in Tunisia

In order to promote strategic urban planning in Tunisia, two local seminars were organized in the cities of Kairouan and M'saken, which have a special interest in launching strategic city planning.

Both seminars had a strong methodological component in order to raise awareness on the importance of urban planning and the processes to follow. They were based on the presentation of previous experiences of the cities of Sfax and Sousse and the preparation of their own strategy by Kairouan and M'saken.

The seminars took place on 22 and 26 March 2016, respectively, with more than 80 participants in Kairouan and more than 50 in M'Saken, bringing together various sectors from the city and stakeholders from civil society, local governments and the private sector.

### **MedCities supports the city of Sousse in the definition of the Local Development Office**

Following a demand from the city of Sousse, the Knowledge Transfer Centre (KTC) of Sfax has provided support to the city of Sousse in reviewing the terms of reference for the implementation of the Local Development Office that will implement the Urban Development Strategy of Sousse. The Local Development Office has guaranteed funding through international cooperation and will be launched in early 2017.

## **TO REVIEW AND UPDATE EXISTING CDS**

### **MedCities accompanies the city of Sfax in updating the Strategy for Grand Sfax**

On March 12th, a seminar was organized by the KTC of Sfax and the Municipality of Sfax in order to initiate a discussion among the stakeholders of the city for the update of the Strategic Plan of Grand Sfax. The seminar was aimed at launching the review and updating of the strategy jointly with local stakeholders.

Nearly 45 participants attended the seminar, and the debates were quite active and fruitful. As a result of this seminar, the municipal government has decided to launch the review of the Strategy and has set out a roadmap for this process, in which MedCities will be also involved.

### **Study for the review of the Urban Development Strategic Plan of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa (AFSDS)**

As part of the KTC Al Fayhaa action plan, an expert was recruited to carry out a diagnosis for updating the Urban Development Strategy of Al Fayhaa, elaborated in 2011. Since then, some elements have occurred which recommended an update.

The report was elaborated after meetings and interviews with local stakeholders of the towns

that make up the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa, including mayors and council members. The study identified the implemented AFSDS actions and their impact on the cities and listed the important projects that need to be integrated in the strategic planning process. Finally, a review of the priorities proposed by the AFSDS was drafted in light of the development of the situation.

As a result of this assistance, the report was presented to the President of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa on 29 February 2016.

### **Training in strategic planning and definition of strategic projects, including a workshop on updating the Strategic Plan of Jerash.**



A four-day training course on methodologies of strategic planning and definition of strategic projects was organized in the city of Jerash by the KTC Al Fayhaa, focusing on the work and role of the Local Development Office. The fifth day the training was focused on a workshop on the Update of the Strategic Plan of Jerash, in order to review the strategic objectives and projects already executed.

The training was addressed to representatives of the City Council and municipal Directors, employees in the Local Development Unit and other technical municipal departments and local stakeholders (civil society and economic actors). In total, 37 persons attended the training course.

## Support members in implementing strategic projects

### TO CARRY OUT CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

#### Technical assistance to Agadir in the framework of Urban Mobility Plan.

On 1 December 2015, MedCités undertook a technical mission to the city of Agadir (Morocco) in order to discuss possibilities of collaboration and technical assistance related to the Agadir Urban Mobility Plan (2016-2020).

The delegation of the technical mission included representatives of the Barcelona Regional Agency for Local Development (BR), who met both political and technical representatives of the municipality in order to decide on the objectives and terms of collaboration.

After consultation and technical exchanges, it was decided to focus on a Plan for Parking Management in the coastal and commercial zone of the city, an ongoing project to be completed in 2017.

#### Technical assistance for the valorization of the architectural and cultural heritage of the Medina of Sfax

A study was drafted to identify buildings with heritage value in the Medina of Sfax and to detect opportunities for valorization/restoration and reutilization for cultural and tourist activities. The results of these actions were the creation of a database of buildings (phase 1), the drawing up of a complete inventory of buildings with potential to be valorized through a field study and a specific survey, and the drafting of an action plan. The objective is to budget the projects in order to set up accompanying

measures – especially with regard to regulatory issues – to facilitate interventions in private heritage properties. From the 38 identified households, 18 are taking part in this action plan, and proposals for non-residential buildings are also included. Both the initial study and the proposals for the action plan were submitted to consultation of the local stakeholders at a seminar held on 30 March.



#### Technical assistance for handicraft promotion in the city of Chefchaouen

In cooperation with the CoMun programme of the GIZ, technical assistance was provided during 2015 and the first quarter of 2016 to promote intangible heritage and traditional know-how in order to increase territorial excellence, tourism and economic promotion in Chefchaouen.

The last phase of this technical assistance was the implementation of a pilot project for the promotion of local craftsmanship through the creation of a platform of actors. This consultation process began in September 2015 and was



completed in March 2016 with the establishment of a “Union of Artisans”. During this process, almost 50 craftspeople participated in specific training sessions on business management, trade and promotion of the digital tools available for this purpose.

The Urban Community of Chefchaouen, as well as two local partners, the Ibn Rashid Foundation and the Municipal Agency for Local Development of Chefchaouen, were actively involved in this project, increasing the commitment of local actors in the economic development of the city and the promotion of local craftsmanship and tourism activities.



### **Support for the optimization of waste management in the Medina of Sfax**

Together with the CoMun programme of the GIZ, technical assistance was provided to promote the optimization of waste management in the Medina of Sfax in order to encourage recycling and waste valorization, reduce the amount of waste intended for landfill, and improve healthiness, thus helping promote the Medina for tourism.

The last phase of this assistance was the launching of an awareness-raising campaign on recycling



and on the functioning of the new eco-point set up in the Medina, aimed at the general public and particularly at the craftspeople of the Medina. This campaign accompanied the establishment of the new eco-point, in collaboration with the SMOT Project, and was accompanied by an awareness-raising seminar, held on 5 March, to promote the involvement of the actors in the project's success. Nearly 50 representatives from entities and users of the Medina participated in the seminar.

### **TO ENGAGE IN REGION-WIDE CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES (CISUD, CMI, ETC.)**

#### **CISUD Project**

MedCities has intensively participated in the drafting of a region-wide project on capacity building for municipal staff and council members based on integrated management. This project is intended to be labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in early 2017.

The objective of the project is to enhance local administrations in their managerial capacities, and it is promoted by a multi-partner consortium in which MedCities acts as a lead partner.

The General Secretariat of MedCités and the consortium have celebrated different working meetings with the UfM and the ARLEM. A joint MedCités-UfM mission went to Helsinki in January 2017 to present the project to the Finnish authorities, and visits have been made to other international institutions interested in contributing to the project.

#### **Urban Hub of the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)**

MedCités is an active member of the Urban Hub of the CMI led by the World Bank and other international partners. The Secretariat participated in a meeting in Marseille on 20 June 2016 for the definition of a strategy and specific interventions in the domain of Territorial Cohesion, to be implemented in 2017.

### **TO ACCOMPANY MEMBERS IN SEEKING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

One of the services that MedCités offers is to identify funding options for its members. MedCités looks for opportunities and matches the interests of the cities and those of the donors. In 2016 MedCités achieved funding for the implementation of the following projects:

#### **The project “Vous en dire long sur la Médina de Tunis”**

The MedCités General Secretariat has worked together with the Tunisian Association for the Safeguarding of the Medina (ASM), the Municipality of Tunis and the Provincial Council of Barcelona to draw up a project of bilateral cooperation.

The project will be implemented in 2016 and 2017 and is funded by the Barcelona Provincial Council. It seeks to improve the positioning of the Medina

as a cultural platform by highlighting all cultural facilities and activities to attract cultural investors and tourists.

The main objective will be to map and analyse all cultural and tourist attractions of the Medina of Tunis in order to better communicate it to visitors through

- a tourist map, with historical accounts and logistic infrastructures;
- indications in QR codes with historical, architectural and cultural information; and
- the creation of new tourism circuits.

#### **Creation of the Cultural Observatory of Al Fayhaa**

MedCités General Secretariat and the Barcelona Provincial Council have worked together with the BIAT Foundation and the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa to draw up a project of bilateral cooperation between these institutions.



The project will be carried out in 2016-2017 and will be funded by the Barcelona Provincial Council and seeks to improve the design and implementation of cultural policies in the area of Al Fayhaa by developing a Cultural Observatory. This observatory will be responsible for collecting data and documentation, promoting local culture of the areas of the Urban Community, launching a cultural

strategy, mobilizing the cultural and heritage actors within the proposed strategy, and linking it with the development of the tourism sector.

Other funded projects aimed at mitigating the effects of the refugee influx in Lebanon are listed in the corresponding section.

## TO DISSEMINATE GOOD PRACTICES OF THE CITIES IN STRATEGIC PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

During 2016, the MedCities General Secretariat published on its website the projects presented during the international seminar held in Tetuan in April 2015, and other experiences that

These projects and experiences are as follows:

- Integrated management of the Oued Martil Plain, Tétouan**  
An integrated project on sustainability and environment for the reconciliation of the Oued Martil River and its plain with the Grand Tetuan Area. It aims to alleviate the consequences of the main problems of the Oued Martil River, such as water pollution, urban sprawl, uncontrolled flooding, and environmental and landscape degradation of this short river.
- Citizen Agreement for an Inclusive Barcelona**  
A social cohesion project of the Municipality of Barcelona. It is aimed at creating a space for participation, public and private cooperation and joint action between institutions and organizations in the city

that are working to build a more inclusive Barcelona for a better quality of life for all.

- Participatory prioritization of projects dealing with public space in Gabès**  
A social cohesion projection of the Municipality of Gabès, Tunisia, in collaboration with “Action Associative” and GIZ. It is aimed at boosting citizen participation and ownership through a participatory process to establish a part of the municipal budget.
- From the Zitouna Mosque to Sidi Ibrahim Erriahi**  
An urban planning, social cohesion, tourism and culture project promoted by the Tunisian Association for the Safeguarding of the Medina, in collaboration of the Municipality of Tunis. The project was a pilot operation based on intensive design and restoration work with the collaboration of residents, users and utility companies.
- Palais Kheireddine Pasha restoration**  
A tourism and culture project promoted by the Tunisian Association for the Safeguarding of the Medina, in collaboration with the Municipality of Tunis. The aim is to restore the historic palace converted into the Museum of the City of Tunis.

members shared with the General Secretariat. The presentations, discussions and conclusions shared on the “International Seminar on Historic Cities” held in Dubrovnik on the occasion of the MedCities Annual Conference were included in a publication that has been disseminated through the MedCities website and is also available in hard copy.

## TO IMPLEMENT URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

### GeDeTun – A waste management project implemented in the cities of Bizerte and Kairouan



The MedCités' General Secretariat, jointly with the Waste Prevention and Management Section of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB), are implementing a project to improve waste management in the municipalities of Bizerte and Kairouan.

The project aims to improve the waste management capacities of the municipal staff, to exchange experiences and knowledge about efficient waste management, and to raise public awareness.

In Bizerte the pilot project will focus on the extension of door-to-door collection to a new neighbourhood and the elimination of points of uncontrolled waste discharge. In Kairouan the pilot project is focusing on the optimization of the waste management service offered by the municipality and the elimination of points of uncontrolled waste discharge. In 2016 the project has carried out two technical missions of the Waste Management Service of the AMB in Bizerte and Kairouan. The project is scheduled for completion by March 2017.

The GeDeTun project is financed by the Barcelona City Council, the AMB and the two local counterparts: Bizerte and Kairouan. The total budget is €146,500.

### Green economy and informal waste recycling in Nabeul

The MedCités General Secretariat has worked together with the city of Nabeul in Tunisia to identify a project for the improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of the population linked to informal waste recycling activities. It is scheduled to start in December 2016 and to last for 13 months.

The project will be funded by the Municipality of Barcelona and the city of Nabeul and forms part of ACTE (*Alliance des Communes pour la Transition Énergétique*), a broader strategic programme launched in Tunisia on energy issues, whose pilot project includes activities for the promotion of green jobs and the improvement of waste management in the city of Nabeul. The total budget of €110,680 is pending final approval.

## TO INTEGRATE THE REFUGEE DIMENSION IN THE DEFINITION OF NEW URBAN PROJECTS

One specific mandate of the Dubrovnik General Assembly was to include the refugee dimension in MedCités projects. MedCités has been working with its members in Lebanon and Jordan who are most affected by this crisis and with other international organizations in order to identify experiences and projects and discuss the need to empower cities to face this crisis.

### Identification of projects with a refugee dimension in Lebanon

From 24 to 27 November 2015, MedCités carried out a mission to bolster the work carried out with Lebanese municipalities. One of the priorities was to hold several

meetings to identify possible actions for mitigating the impact of Syrian refugees in Lebanese municipalities.

Two of the identified initiatives were selected to receive funding:

- Implementing a baling facility in Tripoli**  
This project aims at building a baling facility in Jabal Mohsen (Tripoli) to reduce the bulky wastes in street containers and to valorize the fraction of recyclable materials (cardboard, paper, plastic and aluminium cans) by minimizing its flow to the Tripoli Landfill. It is a pilot cooperation project engaging the Municipality of Tripoli, the NGO that is carrying out the activities and the awareness campaign, and the private sector represented by the final recipient of baled recycled materials. The total budget of €40,000€ will be financed by the AMB through the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project of UNDP Lebanon.
- Saida Vocational Training Centre**  
The Vocational Training Centre project aims to build the capacities of Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese youth to equip them with a profession and employability skills that enable them to enter the workforce as skilled employees. The project will prevent young people from being affected by the risks arising from the social and economic problems, help prevent conflicts, and enhance the social cohesion among Syrian refugees and hosting communities. The project is managed by the Municipality of Saida and the Hariri Foundation and the AMB is financing it. The total budget of the project for the first phase is €55,631.

### **Collaboration with the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project, UNDP Lebanon**

Taking into consideration the analysis on how the Syrian refugee crisis is affecting hosting communities of bordering countries, since 2014 UNDP Lebanon has been carrying out the **Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP)**, aimed at increasing and sustaining stability in the areas affected by Syrian crises. The objective is to support economic recovery, community security and social cohesion in Lebanese communities through an inclusive, community-based approach which will increase livelihood options and local level service delivery. The main partners of this programme are local authorities in Lebanon and with the Ministry of Social Affairs.

MedCities has been working together with the UNDP to reinforce this programme with a financial contribution from several Catalan authorities (the Barcelona City Council, the Government of Catalonia, the AMB and the Catalan Fund for Cooperation). It has also been identifying initiatives from members of the network affected by this refugee crisis in order to enlarge the list of projects implemented thanks to the LHSP programme.



### Participation in the CMI Refugees Host Programme

MedCities has been engaged in the initiative of the CMI to bring together stakeholders committed to the refugee response all over the Mediterranean. The result has been the development of a programme that coordinates a variety of initiatives to support hosting of local communities.

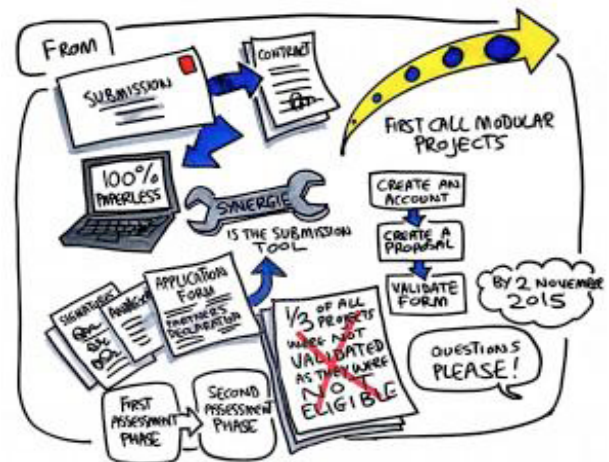
One of the activities provided for in this programme was a regional workshop on the role of municipalities in the response to the refugee crisis. The workshop took place in Amman, Jordan, on 30 and 31 May. MedCities co-organized the event with the CMI, the World Bank, UN HABITAT and other international organizations. Saida, Byblos and Zarqa participated in this event on behalf of MedCities.

### Meeting with the Mayor of Lesbos

On a political visit to Barcelona, MedCities met the Mayor of Lesbos, who expressed his willingness to join the network to work from a development perspective on the future of the island, beyond the critical period that it has gone through in the last years due to the influx of refugees.

## Promote and implement multilateral and bilateral cooperation project

### TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERREG MED CALL FOR PROJECTS



### EU PANACeA project - Streamlining Efforts Networking and Management in Mediterranean Protected Areas for Enhanced Capital and Conservation of Natural Heritage.

MedCities will be participating as a partner in the Panacea project of the EU MED Programme. This project is led by the European Topic Centre of the University of Malaga and is about the enhancement of Mediterranean protected areas. Although this programme is focused on Mediterranean EU partners, MedCities will have the chance to involve non-EU Mediterranean cities in some of its activities.

The total budget of the project is €1,461,073.48, of which 85% (€1,241,912.48) is co-financed by the European Union and the remaining 15% (€219,161.00) by the partners.

**Go-SUMP - Improving Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans & Measures in the Med is a project focused on increasing the visibility and impact of projects that promote sustainable urban mobility.**

The city of Malaga has been selected to lead this project in the framework of the EU MED Program and MedCities will be one of the project partners. The project is about sustainable mobility in the Mediterranean. Although it focuses on Mediterranean EU partners, MedCities will have the chance to involve non-EU Mediterranean cities in some of its activities.

The total budget of the project is €1,165,000, of which 85% (€990,250.00) is co-financed by the European Union and the remaining 15% (174,750.00€) by the partners.

Moreover, MedCities will be involved in two more EU MED projects as an associate partner. These are the MEDNICE project on energy efficiency in the Mediterranean and BleuTourMed on maritime tourism.

**TO PRESENT PROJECTS AT ENI CBC MED AND ENI MID ATLANTIC THROUGH THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS**

**MedCities trains Tunisian and Lebanese municipalities in the upcoming ENI Programme for the Mediterranean Basin**

On 21 September MedCities and the KTC of Sfax organized in Sousse a seminar on the opportunities of funding through the ENI CBC Med programme and more than 11 member cities of MedCities in Tunisia participated.

The Programme Expert, Mr Rafik Halouani, presented both the ENI Mediterranean Sea Basin programme and the ENI Italy-Tunisia programme, focusing on the objectives and priorities of the programmes, the opportunities for municipalities and the administrative and management issues that should be taken into consideration. A representative of the MedCities General Secretariat presented the priorities for the network and the type of the support that the network could provide to its member cities.



On 4 October, more than 50 people representing MedCités members and stakeholders in Lebanon participated in a seminar on the opportunities of funding through the ENI programme. The workshop was organized by the KTC of Al Fayhaa and the MedCités General Secretariat.

Mr Albert Sorrosal, an expert of the European Commission, presented the ENI Mediterranean Sea Basin programme, focusing on the objectives

and priorities, the opportunities for municipalities, and the administrative and management issues that should be taken into consideration. Also, a representative of the MedCités General Secretariat presented the priorities for the network and the type of the support that the network could provide to its member cities. The participants shared their concerns about participating in the programme and also their ideas and possible future projects.





## TO PROMOTE BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN MEMBERS

MedCities has been acting actively as a linking point in order to promote direct cooperation among its members. Some of the bilateral exchanges in which MedCities has participated in one way or another are:

- Marseille - Tanger (9-13 December 2015)
- Al Fayhaa - Zarqa - Jerash (2-4 March 2016)
- Zarqa - Izmir (11-12 May 2016)
- Barcelona - Tanger (19 July 2016)
- Barcelona - Saida (26 October 2016)
- Barcelona - Tétouan (26 October 2016)
- Marseille - Tripoli (2-5 November 2016)

## TO PARTICIPATE IN OTHER MULTILATERAL PROJECT CALLS

### Europe for Citizens Programme

MedCities participated in the drafting of a project proposal on the main challenges for the future of Europe, presented at the last call of the Europe for Citizens Programme on 1 September 2016.

This initiative is led by the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI). MedCities is participating as a partner together with the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) and the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC). The resolution of the call has not been published yet (November 2016).

### “PROMARE” Protection and sustainable development of maritime resources in Lebanon

MedCities supported the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa and its partners in the preparation of a project proposal for the optimization of waste management under the PROMARE call for projects.

The project “Integrated Management and GovernancE of solid waste (IMAGE)” was prepared by the BIAT Foundation in partnership with the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa, MedCities and its strategic ally ACR+, among others, but unfortunately it was not approved for implementation. Support was also offered to the cities of Saida and Byblos for the same call for projects.

### EU DEAR Programme: Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education in the European Union

MedCities offered the city of Larnaca and the city of Dubrovnik the possibility of participating as partners in two project proposals submitted under the call of the EU DEAR Action.

The Larnaca project was promoted by the Catalan Agency of International Cooperation and focused on “Empowering Communities to Mitigate Climate Change – EC2MICC”. The Dubrovnik project was promoted by the City of Madrid and focused on “Education for peace against violence in cities”. Unfortunately, neither of these projects reached the second phase.

# MedCités, a network of Mediterranean cities

## Strengthen the network

### TO INCREASE OWNERSHIP OF MEDCITIES BY ITS MEMBERS

MedCités has 44 cities of 16 Mediterranean countries. However, for various reasons the level of involvement of the member cities is not the same in all cases. As analysed at the last General Assembly, some members of the network do not participate actively in MedCités activities. To boost the active participation of all of them, the General Secretariat has started to contact them to find out what they expect from the network.

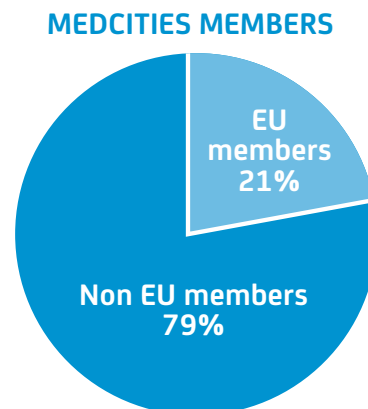
The strengthened relationship between the General Secretariat and the KTCs has helped enhance ownership by some of our members. Better information is needed in order to better follow up the opportunities that may arise for drafting new projects and attracting the interest of these cities.

### TO MAKE THE MEDCITIES ASSOCIATION FULLY OPERATIVE

Intense internal work has taken place in order to get the MedCités association fully operative by early 2017. During the Steering Committee meeting held in March 2016 in Marseille, a proposal of Internal Rules of Procedures was presented. Moreover, some amendments to the Statutes were also introduced. The objective of this process is to increase efficiency in the management of the association and its projects.

### TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY FROM EU COUNTRIES

The MedCités General Secretariat designed an expansion strategy that emphasized the need to attract new European cities to participate in the network. In collaboration with the Steering Committee, a list of European municipalities was drawn up in order to establish the targets to contact. The municipalities of Catania (Italy), Lesbos, Thessaloniki (Greece) and Podgorica (Montenegro) were contacted and the General Secretariat is still waiting for their final reply.



To achieve this objective, the Secretariat worked together with Larnaka to establish its active role in the expansion in the Greek-spoken region. The result was an initial approach to the 'Anfiktionia' network of Greek cities.

## TO CONSOLIDATE THE BET TO ENLARGE THE NETWORK IN THE BALKANS AND ADRIATIC REGION

The Municipality of Dubrovnik has been playing an important role in targeting and contacting other cities. Split, Zagreb and Mostar all participated in the MedCities International Seminar held in Dubrovnik in 2015.



Dubrovnik also helped the General Secretariat to formalize the adhesion of the Municipality of Sarajevo, which was approved during the last General Assembly.

On 4 November the General Secretariat met a political delegation from Sarajevo in Barcelona to exchange views about the network and its aims.

## TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THE NEW FUNDING FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASSOCIATION

A new fee scheme was presented for discussion at the Steering Committee meeting held in Marseille in March. The objective, to be further enriched during the General Assembly of Tétouan, is to move towards a more equitable fee system that guarantees greater autonomy and sustainability of the network.

## Reinforce communication activities

### TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY OF MEDCITIES

In 2016 the communication strategy was revised and efforts were made to improve the image of the network and its internal communications.

The General Secretariat introduced periodic internal communication to all members. With regard to the external image, an effort was made to continue drafting communication materials, including those translated into Arabic, as well as thematic publications such as the Historic City Centres International Seminar Conclusions, published in both hard and soft copies.

### TO ENGAGE MEMBERS IN STANDARD COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES (NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE, ETC.)

The consolidation and expansion strategy approved at the MedCities Steering Committee meeting held in March 2016 took into consideration the need for more participation from members in the communication strategy. Some efforts were made to communicate more activities carried out by the members. Marseille, Zarqa, Dubrovnik, Byblos, Tripoli, Sfax, Al Fayhaa, Barcelona and the AMB were particularly active in this domain.

A site for the new members of the network was published on the MedCities website to allow them to share the most important information of their municipalities. The KTCs played an active role in engaging cities in the communication of their activities through the network.



## TO DEVELOP THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN INVOLVING ALL MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK

The 25th Anniversary has been present in all activities of the network through the logo designed for this purpose and approved at the last General Assembly. This initiative has helped raise awareness of MedCités activities among a wide range of actors.

The event hosted by the Municipality of Barcelona and the AMB on 26 October was also a good occasion to highlight the importance of city-network cooperation in the same venue where MedCités was created in 1991. The participants in the event included high-level panellists, such as the Mayor of Barcelona and President of the AMB, Ada Colau, the Vice- President of the AMB, Alfred Bosch, the President of the Committee of the Regions and co-president of ARLEM, Marku Markula, the General Secretary of the UfM, Fattallah Sijilmassi, and mayors of the MedCités members Tetuan, Saida, Tripoli, Sfax, Sousse, Malaga, Larnaka and El Mina.

The General Assembly of Tétouan, with all members present, serves as the final point of one year of commemoration.

## Consolidate regional antennas of the network

### Organization of internal meetings of the MedCités General Secretariat and representatives of KTCs

On 27 and 28 April, the General Secretariat of MedCités held an internal meeting in Barcelona with representatives of the territorial antennas in the Maghreb, led by Sfax, and in the Mashreq, led by Al Fayhaa. The aim was to analyse together the major challenges of the network and discuss the planning of future activities, in order to integrate the actions and activities of the territorial antennas in the general working plan of MedCités.

Furthermore, the MedCités team worked together to set out future project ideas, in preparation for the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin programme of the EU scheduled for the end of the year. As a result of this meeting, the General Secretariat identified the need to work intensively for a better understanding of this programme by the members of the network and organized two informative seminars that took place in September and October 2016 in Tunisia and Lebanon, respectively.

Another meeting was held on 27 October in Barcelona in order to review and discuss the action plan of the network for 2017, set priorities of actions, and identify the challenges that the network will be facing in the process of constitution of the Association during the following months.

## TO ORGANIZE KNOWLEDGE-SHARING ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING ACTIONS ON URBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK

### Training on Urban Observatories launched by the KTC Al Fayhaa for the cities of Jerash and Zarqa

As a result of the missions organized by the KTC Al Fayhaa in Jordan in 2015, a one-day training session on Urban Observatories was organized in the cities of Zarqa and Jerash on 2 to 3 March 2016.

The session revolved around the mission and goals of urban observatories and the identification of issues, sectors and indicators. In Zarqa, the main issues were the industrial sector, disaster and risk management, and the cultural sector. In Jerash, the main issues were the tourism, cultural and agricultural sectors.

With the participation of more than 30 persons in each city, including municipal councillors, local development officers, other municipal officers and local stakeholders, this was an activity with a strong South-South dimension because the training was carried out directly by the KTC Al Fayhaa experts and based on the experience of the Tripoli Urban Observatory.

## TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF THE CITIES AND NEW PROJECT IDEAS

After several missions in the member cities of MedCities, the two KTCs identified the following needs for the implementation of urban projects and worked together with the municipals teams to prepare some project concept notes:

**1. Tripoli:** Project on the creation of a Cultural Observatory in Tripoli, mainly focusing on the phase of preparation and implementation of this

structure. The Observatory aims at gathering information and documenting and disseminating the cultural life of the towns of Al Fayhaa, and will be the first of its kind in Lebanon.

Following consultation with the Barcelona Provincial Council, the project of the Cultural Observatory of Tripoli will be financed through direct cooperation. The total budget is €70,000, but the amount is pending final approval.

**2. Union of Municipalities of Dannieh:** Preparation of a detailed draft project on the modernization of the agricultural sector in the region, identified as one of the priorities of the Strategic Plan of the Dannieh Union of Municipalities.

**3. Zgharta-Ehden:** Preparation of a draft project for the creation of a tourism promotion office of the city and the revitalization of the tourism sector through the involvement of local actors. Identification of a non-detailed list of projects emanating from the Strategic Plan.

**4. Tunis:** Preparation of three proposals of small-scale urban projects on the cultural sector and urban rehabilitation, including historic centres. After consultation with the Barcelona Provincial Council, the project for the promotion of the Medina of Tunis for tourism will be financed through direct cooperation. The total budget is €70,500, but the amount is pending final approval.

**5. Nabeul:** Three projects were identified on GIS-Data Management, mobility and waste management through the promotion of recycling and the improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of the informal recycling sector. Following consultation with the Municipality of Barcelona, these projects will be financed and implemented directly by the MedCities network.

# MedCités, a lobby of cities

## Establish international alliances for the promotion of Urban Sustainable Development

### TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATING IN MULTI-ACTOR COOPERATION SCHEMES ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: THE CMI URBAN HUB AND THE UfM EXPERTS GROUP

MedCités has continued to participate in multi-actor schemes in the domain of urban development in the Mediterranean region. First, the work of the Urban Experts group of the UfM at the two meetings held in the period covered by this report was aimed at preparing the Second Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development to be held in spring 2017 in Cairo.

Second, MedCités has participated in the three meetings held this year by the Urban Hub of the CMI, an important platform of interaction of international actors operating in the Mediterranean region in the field of urban development.

### TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH STRATEGIC ALLIES TOWARDS A GREATER INTEGRATION OF ACTIONS

#### **Collaboration with the Global Water Partnership (GWP)–MED**

On 21 December 2015, MedCités participated in the GWP-MED Partnership Council Meeting held in Athens, Greece, in representation of local authorities in the Mediterranean.

The Partnership Council meets annually to discuss the progress of the activities of GWP-MED and to approve the action plan and budget of the coming year. During the meeting the GWP-MED Secretariat presented some key issues related to the advancement of the global GWP agenda in the Mediterranean for discussion by the members and agreed to explore possible synergies and collaboration. The working agenda of GWP-MED includes the design and advancement of interventions on integrated urban water management in the Mediterranean, an issue under which there could be opportunities for engagement of MedCités members.

#### **Collaboration with AVITEM**

MedCités and the Agence des Villes et Territoires Méditerranéennes Durables (AVITEM) have a useful cooperation in domains such as projects, training activities and lobbying. In 2016 two important activities were organized. In July 2016 both entities organized a plenary session in the framework of MedCOP Climate in Tangier. In October 2016 Barcelona hosted the celebration of an AVITEM training session on the metropolitan process and several speakers from the Barcelona institutions participated in it.

#### **Collaboration with UNIMED**

MedCités has established a regular collaboration with UNIMED, the Euro-Mediterranean network of Universities. Several exchanges on how to work together in future calls for projects have taken place and MedCités participated in two workshops that form part of EU projects led by UNIMED on 18 April and 29 September.

### **Collaboration with the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME)**

On 26 November 2015, MedCities and the ASCAME celebrated the Seventh MedaCity Forum in the framework of the 9th edition of the Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders held from 25 to 27 November in Barcelona and organized by ASCAME.

The event focused on the values of Mediterranean cities in designing the future, an analysis of the challenges that Mediterranean cities are facing in that regard, and the challenges to be faced on the path to achieving smart solutions. MedCities invited representatives from the Municipalities of Dubrovnik and Sousse to share their experiences and discuss future projects for implementing smart solutions in their municipal public policies.

### **Increasing strategic alliances**

The space on the website dedicated to MedCities Strategic Alliances has also been increased with the profile site of ACR+, the international network of cities and regions for the promotion of smart resource consumption and sustainable management of municipal waste through prevention at source, reuse and recycling.

## **Advocate for local authorities in the Mediterranean**

### **TO REPRESENT MEDITERRANEAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: ARLEM, UCLG, THE MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE**

#### **Participation in the Seventh Plenary Session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) in Nicosia**

On 18 and 19 January MedCities participated in the seventh session of ARLEM, represented by the Mayor of Tétouan, Mohammed Idaomar. During the meeting, the thematic reports of 2015 on Employment and territorial development in the Mediterranean region and the report on the sustainable urban agenda for the Mediterranean region were approved. Members also participated in a discussion on migration in the Mediterranean, the situation of local authorities in Libya, the revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the adoption of the recommendations and action plan for 2016.

#### **Participation in MedCOP Climate 2016 in Tangier (18-19 July) to discuss sustainable urban renewal and the role of cities**

On 18 and 19 July, state and non-governmental entities in the Mediterranean met in Tangier to take part in the MedCOP Climate conference. The aim was to find synergies to preserve the Mediterranean region and generate proposals so that the 22nd World Climate Conference (COP 22), which will be held in Marrakesh from 7 to 18 November, can achieve powerful and feasible environmental commitments to mitigate the impacts of climate change.



MedCités participated by organizing a plenary session on “Urban transformation to face climate challenges”, during which it presented the challenges faced by Mediterranean cities and was represented by the President, Mohammed Idaomar. This conference, organized together with AVITEM, allowed participants to address the role of local governments and the challenges faced in implementing policies with a view to resisting the effects of climate change and designing sustainable regional projects. The conclusions of the debate were sent to international organizations active in sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

#### **Participation of MedCités in climate finance debates during MedCOP Climate**

MedCités was present in the debates and parallel events on climate change and climate finance that took place during MedCOP Climate. In particular, the network was present in the Regional Climate Finance Meeting organized by the UfM in order to propose tools for the funding of climate change at regional level. The Secretary General of MedCités and other members of the network were also present in a targeted seminar on climate finance for the cities of the Maghreb that was held in parallel to MedCOP Climate (19-20 July).

#### **Participation of MedCités in the Smart City Expo Casablanca**

On 18 and 19 May, MedCités participated in the First Edition of the Smart City Expo of Casablanca organized by Smart City Expo - Fira de Barcelona. MedCités was invited to take part in a parallel session entitled “Facing climate change: renewable energy local commitments”, in which different experiences from Mediterranean cities were presented, and the need to include local governments in the search for smart solutions to city challenges was highlighted. Two other members of the network, Marseille and Tétouan, also participated in this event.



#### **Participation in the third ASCIMER workshop on Smart Cities in Casablanca**

MedCités was present in the debates and parallel events. On 11 October MedCités participated in the third workshop of the project Assessing Smart Cities in the Mediterranean Region, promoted by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and implemented by the Technical University of Madrid. MedCités made a presentation on the state of the art of smart cities in the region using a capacity-building approach.

The event, organized by the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) and GIZ, was addressed to political representatives of local and regional administrations from developing and emerging countries, and their technical staff. It aimed at improving the capacities of these actors to draw up resilient urban projects and mobilize financial resources for their implementation.



### **MedCities contributed to the conferences of the Mediterranean Commission of the UCLG in Tunisia**

On 22 and 23 September, Sousse (Tunisia) hosted the Workshops for the Development of the Mediterranean Basin, in preparation for the 4th edition of the Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean, which will be held in March 2017.



Mayors, experts and representatives from local Mediterranean governments debated on urban development in the region. The participants included the Secretariat General of MedCities, which supported the Mediterranean commission of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in organizing the conference, jointly with NALAS, CIM-CPMR and Arco Latino.

The workshops dealt with integrated regional development from different perspectives: the environment (climate and energy), the promotion of socioeconomic development (cultural and sustainable tourism, social economy) and regional development, and also included sessions on youth job placement, mobility and local finances in the Mediterranean. Sfax, Sousse and Tangier – three cities in the MedCities network – participated actively by sharing their experiences on these issues.

### **MedCities participates in the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSDD)**

On 17 October MedCities participated, as a member of the MCSDD Steering Committee, in the technical workshop “How to monitor the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD) and the Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP AP)”, which was held in Barcelona.

The workshop gathered Mediterranean country representatives, nominated by Plan Bleu and the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) focal points, MCSDD members, international experts and MAP representatives. The overall objective of these activities was to develop a Mediterranean Sustainability dashboard to be adopted by the Barcelona convention COP 20 by the end of 2017.

## **TO STRENGTHEN THE NETWORK VIS-À-VIS EU INSTITUTIONS**

### **The Structured Dialogue of territorial Associations with EU institutions**

During 2016, MedCities has participated in two meetings of the Structured Dialogue with EU Associations in Brussels. This is an important platform for orienting EU actions in the neighbourhood and Regional Policy and bringing the needs of our members closer to EU institutions.

In February 2016 MedCities participated in the review process of the European Neighbourhood Policy, launched by the European Commission. The General Secretariat engaged in an open debate with its members in order to obtain inputs for its contribution. The need to take into account the

administrative problems of local authorities in EU projects was one of the main concerns expressed, in addition to the need to treat local governance as a priority for the EU in the region.

## **TO REINFORCE COOPERATION WITH MEDITERRANEAN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ARCO LATINO, CRPM, FORUM OF ADRIATIC AND IONIAN CITIES**

### **Collaboration with Arco Latino**

On 3 and 4 March, MedCités participated in the Arco Latino General Assembly and in the workshop organized by Arco Latino on the “Challenges of local governance in the Mediterranean”. After the workshop, MedCités also participated as a guest in a discussion on the future of Arco Latino, the needs of the members, and initiatives for strengthening and enlarging the network of regions. MedCités is also participating in the EU project BleuTourMed led by Arco Latino in the field of tourism.

### **Collaboration with the CPMR**

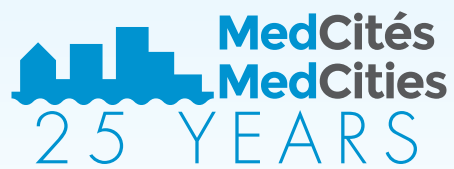
The two Mediterranean networks of cities and regions signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the CPMR General Assembly held on 30 June and 1 July in the Veneto region of Italy.

The agreement focused on the need to share strategies, positions and discussions on Mediterranean and European policies affecting regional and local governments. Both networks identified topics for working together in order to establish new common projects and activities and share best practices and ideas. One of the first results of this cooperation is the common participation in projects under the EU MED Programme.

Moreover, a CPMR site profile with information on the organization has been added to the MedCités website.







MedCités  
MedCities  
25 YEARS



 **AMB** Àrea Metropolitana  
de Barcelona

 **Ajuntament  
de Barcelona**