



The Mediterranean local voice to the world

September 2021 - Newsletter #71

## BARCELONA METROPOLITAN AREA AND MEDCITIES RENEW THEIR ANNUAL AGREEMENT

### APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMB AND MEDCITIES FOR 2021 PROJECTS

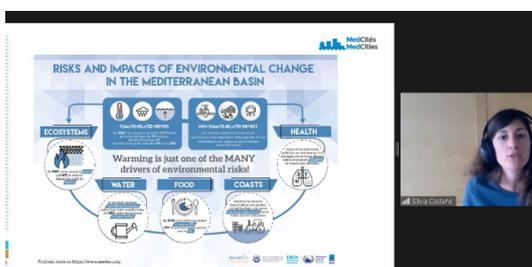
#### AMB AND MEDCITIES AGREEMENT



The **Barcelona Metropolitan Area** (AMB) renews its commitment to **MedCités** through the **2021 collaboration agreement** with a contribution to MedCités for project development. Once again, the AMB and MedCités have signed an agreement that binds them to work together on projects in the Mediterranean. [Read](#)

## OUR MEDITERRANEAN PROJECTS

### MEDCITIES' CAPACITY BUILDING CYCLE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY, MOBILITY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ARRIVES TO AN END



#### MEDCITIES MEMBERS MENTORING

12 **MedCités municipalities members** benefited from a set of one-to-one sessions with the experts of the training module between June and July. The mentoring finished and these are some of the main challenges addressed by participant representatives. [Read](#)

## COHESIMED PROJECT FOR THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN OLD SAIDA



### COHESIMED PROJECT

Through the 'Sustainable Tourism Promotion Study', the **Municipality of Saida** wishes to strategize touristic promotion, draw comprehensive touristic measures, develop a touristic brand, and support it through the identification – and implementation of a number of targeted projects. The first actions implemented address two of the identified strategic priorities: The **development** of an **International and National Promotion** and the **amelioration** of **Saida's Image** and **Branding**. [Read](#) <sup>+</sup>

## MIGRATION RECEPTION IN MEDITERRANEAN CITIES: EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



### MIGRATION SEMINAR

**MedCities** organized a webinar series to discuss the challenges of the reception of migrants in Mediterranean cities that focused on the **exchange between member cities** on migration management and identify and delve into the issues that most concern member cities in this area and to collect proposals for action and find collaboration in the framework of the network's work for the future. [Read](#) <sup>+</sup>

[Read the final report](#)

## SFAX SHARES ITS SUMP IN THE INTERNATIONAL JASPERS SEMINAR ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION



### JASPERS AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION SEMINAR

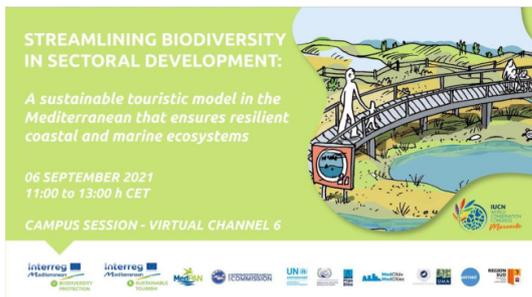
The participation of the **City of Sfax**, through Ms Imen Karoui, Member of the Municipal Council, contributed to enlarge the scope of the analysis and was positively received by the audience on the measures and projects the city is delivering in regards to the **adaptation of the city's mobility planning** to monitor its contribution to the fight against climate change. [Read](#) <sup>+</sup>

## M'SAKEN AND MEDENINE YOUTH COUNCILS GATHER TO SHARE IDEAS, EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNT



The local **Youth Councils of M'Saken** and **Medenine** met on September 25th and 26th in **Sousse** for a youth exchange organized by **UNDP Tunisia** and **MedCities**. The encounter count with the director at the **Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development**, the intervention from the UNDP team and from **Mr. Josep Canals, MedCities' Secretary-General**. [Read](#)

## **MEDCITIES PARTICIPATES IN THE IUCN WORLD CONGRESS AS PART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMUNITIES**



### INTERREG MED PROJECT

The online campus session: "[Streamlining biodiversity in sectoral development: a sustainable touristic model in the Mediterranean that ensures resilient coastal and marine ecosystems](#)" held during the IUCN World Congress was led by the **Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community**, in collaboration with the **Sustainable Tourism Community**, has shown the need to work together to achieve a more sustainable Mediterranean for people and nature. [Read](#)

## **BLUEFASMA THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS KICKS-OFF**

**Policy Recommendations and Key messages**  
A draft structure proposal

- PREFACE (Project info)
- INTRODUCTION / STATE OF ART
  - Summary from White Paper Analysis
- HOW TO FOSTER CE IN FISHING AND AQUACULTURE: KEY ISSUES AND GOOD PRACTICES
  - Key messages including GP examples, particularly BLL
  - Value Chain

↓

- POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Each PP defines recommendations for its territories' relevant regional policy




### INTERREG MED PROJECT

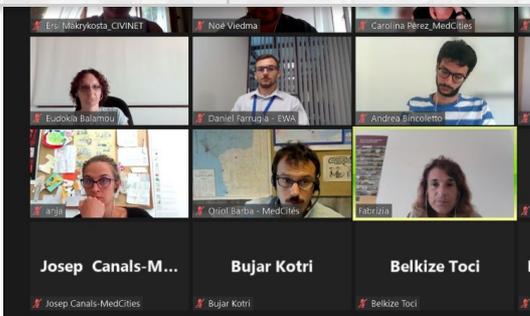
The aim of the **BLUEfasma Thematic Working Groups** is to bring the experience of testing and transferring activities to draw joint recommendations and key messages on how to better integrate circular economy into the fishing and aquaculture sector. Participants discussed the draft **structure proposal of policy recommendations** and key messages. [Read](#)

Read the BLUEfasma Living Labs booklet

## **6 MEDITERRANEAN TERRITORIES SELECTED AS REPLICATORIS OF THE INCIRCLE PROJECT**

### INTERREG MED PROGRAMME

[INCIRCLE Technical partners](#) (AIT, Anetel, Area, Civinet, EWA, and **MedCities**) reviewed a total of 14 eligible candidatures according to the [open call's criteria](#), which



## **THE OCEAN CITIES NETWORK HAS BEEN LAUNCHED, MEDCITIES INVOLVED**



### **UN OCEANS DECADE**

**MedCities Secretary General, Mr. Josep Canals**, participated in the virtual workshop "OC-NET Ocean cities: challenges & solutions" aimed to answer the question: 'How we can manage and share methods and practices to support the ocean cities transition?' OC-Net is one of the 28 Programmes endorsed in the first call for action of the **UN Oceans Decade**. During the upcoming 5 years the programme, led by the [Marine Sciences Institut ICM-CSIC](#) and bringing together the [Barcelona City Council](#), [MedCities](#), and [C40](#) with 6 research centres. [Read](#) 

## **MEDCOOPALLIANCE, MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION AT THE EU REGIONS WEEK**



### **MEDCOOPALLIANCE/ EU REGIONS WEEK**

The **Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance** will be present on the next **14th of October** in the workshop: "[MedCoopAlliance: how multilevel governance fosters green transition](#)" during the [EU Regions Week](#) in which it will present practical examples of multilevel governance & innovating approaches to foster green transition. [Read](#) 

## **OTHER MEDITERRANEAN VOICES**



### SDG'S LOCALISATION IN TUNISIA

This is the [Fédération Nationale des Villes Tunisiennes](#) report (in French) on the location of the **SDGs in Tunisia** which refers to **A'SIMA Tunis** and **Madinatouna** projects lead by MedCities.

[Read here the document](#) ⊕

## EDITORIAL

### ***NEW AUTUMN WITH PLENTY OF ACTIVITIES AND CHALLENGES***

We are facing the final stretch of the year and **MedCities** is optimistic about the immediate future, full of commitments and projects.

During this quarter we see the conclusion of a two years process of the definition of the **Strategic Plan MedCities 2030**, which marks the roadmap of the association during the decade of implementation of the **UN 2030 Agenda**. It is the result of the active commitment of all members led by the mayors themselves who feel that our network is a useful tool for the well-being of citizens.

As for the projects, we will launch the **Med4Waste** led by the Universitat of Vic, a project that aims to improve waste management in the Mediterranean and **EnSeres**, led by Universidad de Málaga, that aims to visualize -with a cross-cutting approach- how cities have a prominent role in the biodiversity protection on its nearest coastline, especially in Marine Protected Areas taking into account an Ecosystem-Based Management. Two diverse projects show the commitment of the network to visualize the role of local authorities as drivers of changes towards more sustainable development. As the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) reminded us in its report this summer, the situation is extreme but we still have time to significantly reduce the impacts of the climate crisis. MedCities is no stranger to that challenge.

The role that our association plays in the ability to transform plans and projects into actions draws the attention of **actors in the region** that offer us **alliances**: this is the case of the [Konrad Adenauer Stiftung](#), with which we promote a meeting of mayors from all over the region in Tunis to discuss the role of municipalities in common challenges. [UNEP-MAP](#) has also asked MedCities to help rethink and improve the iconic [Instabul Award](#), one of the eleven flagships of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy.

Finally, the [COP of the Convention in Barcelona](#) will concentrate on Antalya the actors that want to advance in the definitive protection of the bond that unites us, this sea between lands, the Mediterranean.

Josep Canals Molina  
MedCities Secretary-General



## EVENTS CALENDAR

**OCTOBER 14, 2021**

### MedCoopAlliance: how multilevel governance fosters green transition

This year, the **MedCoopAlliance** from which MedCities is a member will have a specific session (9:30h - 11h CET) during the European Week of Regions and Cities during which cities and regions showcase their capacity to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local and regional level for good European governance.

[More information](#)



**OCTOBER 20-21, 2021**



Seminar in Tunis organised by KAS PoDiMed and MedCities  
*Local voices towards permanent dialogue in the Mediterranean*  
October 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2021

KAS PoDiMed, in partnership with the Mediterranean network of cities **MedCities**, organizes a seminar in **Tunis** which aim is to gather mayors from different South Mediterranean countries in order to discuss the needs and priorities of municipalities, with a regional perspective.

[More information](#)

**OCTOBER 26-27, 2021**

### ISTAMBUL ENVIRONMENT AWARD

In the framework of the Istanbul Environment-Friendly City Award, promoted by the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environmental Program (**UNEP/MAP**), in collaboration with **MedCities** a **Regional Workshop** on Lessons learned and perspectives organized will take place on 26th and 27th October 2021 in a hybrid format. First session will be focused on '*Rethinking the Istanbul Environment friendly city award*' and the 2nd on '*City to City cooperation*'.



**OCTOBER 27-28, 2021**



The 6th edition of the Forum under the overarching theme "***From pandemic to recovery: challenges and best practices in migration management***" will in particular focus on the digital divide and digital disadvantage of migrants, access to education for migrant children, safe legal pathways for those in need of international protection and how to maximise their integration in hosting societies.

[More information here](#)

**NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

The WestMED Steering Committee, with support from the WestMED Assistance Mechanism, is organising this first edition of the WestMED Project Awards.

The winners will be announced during the next WestMED Stakeholders Conference on 9 November 2021 in Cagliari, Italy and online.

[More information here](#)

### WestMED Project Awards 2021

To honour excellent projects that strengthen the Blue Economy in the WestMED region



**Save the dates!**

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