

An Arab Accountability framework for Post-2015



MED Solutions participated in the **Arab Consultative Meeting on an Accountability Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda**, organized by the **UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia** (ESCWA), which was held in Tunis on September 15-16.

The Consultative Meeting aimed to seek regional views and proposals from a wide spectrum of stakeholders in the Arab region, including **ESCWA member States**, civil society, the private sector and regional organizations, regarding the elements of an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda. In particular, the meeting explored the potential for a regional framework for accountability, anchored at the national level and feeding into the global level. The meeting resulted in a **Chair's Summary**, which informs the ongoing intergovernmental deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. The Chair's Summary will be transmitted to the **Secretary-General** before mid-October 2014 and will constitute an important contribution to the Secretary-General's planned Synthesis Report.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of an accountability framework at the regional level, as countries in the same region share similar challenges and are likely

to make greater progress by collectively addressing them.

As highlighted with the experience of **Millennium Development Goals**, the main challenges concern lack of reliable, real-time statistical data, insufficient national reporting mechanisms, and limited capacities for monitoring and evaluation.

Accountability is a key theme of **SDGs** as they are enunciated and supported globally by **SDSN**. In particular, accountability is featured in the work of **Thematic Group 11 Global Rules and Mechanisms for Sustainable Development**.

Sustainable development requires good governance to achieving the three other dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental, based on virtuous interactions between the public sector, business and other stakeholders.

As prescribed by **SDG 10**: the public sector, business, and other stakeholders as well as civil society organizations commit to good governance, including transparency, accountability, access to information, participation, an end to tax and secrecy havens, and efforts to stamp out corruption. The advancement of accountability mechanisms is part of the work of **MED Solutions** in the **Mediterranean Area**, especially in Arab states where these processes have recently attracted major attention due to internal changes in the political and social balances.



- More information: www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNUM=3510e

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MED Solutions supports the Sustainability Literacy Test

The **Rio+20 Conference** confirmed sustainable development as the international framework for action and cooperation. In the **Higher Education Sustainable Initiative** (HESI), launch in Rio+20, Chancellors, Presidents, Rectors, Deans and leaders of **Higher Education Institutions** and related organizations, acknowledged the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development. They agreed to teach sustainable development concepts, encourage research on sustainable development issues, green their campuses, support sustainability efforts in the communities in which they reside and engage with and share results through international frameworks. But there was no tool to ensure that universities were producing sustainability literate graduates before the Sustainability Literacy Test. The **“Sustainability Literacy Test”** is a tool for the various initiatives on sustainability lead by



HEIs to assess and verify the sustainability literacy of their students when they graduate. The test consists in a free on-line Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) assessment developed thanks to support by Foundation for Sustainable Leadership (Kedge Business School) and Degetel. It assesses, in 30 minutes, the minimum level of knowledge in economic, social and environmental responsibility, applicable all over the world, in any kind of Higher Education Institution (HEI), in any country, for students from any kind of tertiary-level course (Bachelors, Masters, MBAs, PhD). Questions are customized by more than 20 regional committees and available in 7 languages.

- On October 8, 2014, the University of Siena will administer the first session of the Sustainability Literacy Test for its students. To register: www.sulite.org/it/subsustainability_home
- More information: www.sustainabilitytest.org

Agreement between France and the United Nations Environment Programme on the coastal development of Var Department

On behalf of the French Government, **Mr. Xavier Sticker, Ambassador for the Environment**, signed on 4 September 2014, an agreement with the **United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan** (UNEP/MAP) on the **coastal zone management of the department of Var**, located in the Southeastern region of Provence (France). With this agreement, the Var becomes the first French department of the Mediterranean coast to lay the foundation for a fully integrated coastal zone management program, with the close coordination of all stakeholders: the government departmental services, local authorities, and in particular the General Council, the Conservatoire du Littoral, the Regional Water Agency, the regional environmental Agency, IFREMER, the National Park of Port-Cros as well as the UNEP/MAP, which will provide assistance. The agreement signed with **UNEP/MAP** will be imple-

mented over the period 2014-2017.

A budget of 825,000 Euros is allocated to particularly finance studies and concretely



prepare the management and enhancement of **Manteau port** (La Seyne sur Mer), the development of ecological moorings for sailing in the **Bay of Pampelonne** (Ramatuëlle) and the relocation of activities in the coastal plain of **Ceinturon** (Hyères), confronted with coastal risks.

A “sea and coastline” unit was set up in Var with the participation of public and private stakeholders to plan all these concrete projects. This will contribute to create a better access to the sea for all, along our coastline, through better coordination of the seaside and maritime activities.





Opportunities

 **update**



• Fundraising Opportunities in "Food Security"

From the EU Commission

Open calls (until 24.02.2015) include a vast number of topics that could be of interest to MED Solutions Partners.

- SFS-02b-2015: **Assessing soil-improving cropping systems**
- SFS-05-2015: **Strategies for crop productivity, stability and quality**
- SFS-10b-2015 **Scientific basis and tools for preventing and mitigating farmed mollusc diseases**
- SFS-13-2015: **Biological contamination of crops and the food chain**
- SFS-16-2015: **Tackling malnutrition in the elderly**
- SFS-20-2015: **Sustainable food chains through public policies: the cases of the EU quality policy and of public sector food procurement**
- SFS-01c-2015: **Assessing sustainability of terrestrial livestock production**
- SFS-07b-2015: **Management and sustainable use of genetic resources**
- SFS-11b-2015: **Consolidating the environmental sustainability of European aquaculture**
- SFS-18-2015: **Small farms but global markets: the role of small and family farms in food and nutrition security**

• More information: <http://bit.ly/1wUSLZg>

“Best climate practice for energy poverty alleviation” contest

Deadline: October 15th, 2014

In an effort to harness the collective brilliance and promote a wide range of valuable proposals, every year the Best Climate Practices observatory invites the users to submit innovative best practices to tackle climate change or to face a related challenge.

The Best Climate Practices Observatory (BCP) is a project of **MED Solutions** Partner **International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG)** in collaboration with the **Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC)**.

BCP invites you to submit innovative proposals focusing on energy poverty alleviation.

The scope of the 2014 BCP Contest “Best Climate Practices for Energy Poverty Alleviation” is to promote and support actions that can help to close the “modern energy gap” in an environmentally and economically sustainable way.

The 2014 BCP contest will assign **two different awards**. The author of the most voted practice through the BCP website, involving a voting method based upon quantitative rates, will receive the Users’ Choice Award. A Panel of Experts will select the Experts’ Choice Winner.



• More information: www.bestclimatepractices.org





✓ update

Hunting Plastic in the Mediterranean



Italian and French scientists on board the oceanographic ship Astrea to study the impact of plastic materials on the marine environment



Plastic Busters researchers continue their investigations in the Pelagos Sanctuary to monitor sentinel organisms

Plastics are among the main pollutants in the **Mediterranean Sea**, posing a major threat both for the marine environment and for the organisms that inhabit it. In order to advance their knowledge on the situation, on September 8 Italian and French scientists embarked the oceanographic ship **Astrea** – owned by the **Institute for Environmental Protection and Research** (ISPRA), on a trip whose route included the most sensitive areas of the **Pelagos Sanctuary**. The starting point was Leghorn harbor, followed by La Spezia, Genova, San Remo, and later by the harbors of Corsica, Asinara, and finally Elba and Capraia. The expedition was finalized on September 18 with arrival in Leghorn. Thanks to support by Astrea, each research group focusing on specific research activities in the marine environment had the opportunity to collect data on the presence of plastics and the pollution caused by them. Beside ISPRA researchers and researchers from the **University of Siena** (Plastic Busters), French re-

searchers from the **Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer** (IFREMER) and the Groupe Tortues Marines - **Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle** (Paris) joined the expedition. On board the ship there were also researchers from the **Consortium LaMMA** (CNR and Tuscany Region) and the **University of Ferrara**.

In particular, ISPRA researchers focused on aspects related to the role of microplastics in the food chain, as well as on the presence and incidence of plastic fragments in the stomach content of pelagic and benthic fish species, which was sampled during the expedition with trawl nets (Plankton hamburger net) as well as other fishing tools.

Researchers from the pilot project **Plastic Busters**, which was launched last year by the **University of Siena** within the framework of the global **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, furthered their investigations on sentinel organisms, particularly focusing on the incidence of substances such as phthalates, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals on the tissues of fish, mollusks and turtles.

On the evening of September 9, Prof. **Maria Cristina Fossi** from the University of Siena, Prof. **François Galgani** from Ifremer and Dr. **Teresa Romeo** from ISPRA held a meeting to illustrate the objectives of the expedition and the situation of pollution from plastics in the Mediterranean Sea. The Astrea mission was an ideal opportunity to deepen scientific knowledge as well as to sensitize the public opinion and trade, business and tour operators with which the entire Astrea team interacted while in the harbors.

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- More information
Joint press release University of Siena - Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
- <http://www.medsolutions.unisi.it/>
- www.isprambiente.gov.it

Image from "The Allegory of Good and Bad Government", which is included in the famous cycle of frescoes painted in 1338-39 by Ambrogio Lorenzetti in the Palazzo Pubblico of Siena, contrasting the effects of good and bad government on society and the environment.

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