

COP29 - UNFCCC

11-22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

EVENT CONCEPT NOTE**Localizing Climate Action through Sustainable Innovation Economies: Success stories from the Mediterranean**

15 November 2024

1. Objectives

Territorial economies are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, experiencing its harshest impacts while also driving innovative solutions to prepare, adapt, and mitigate. Through locally driven technologies, community-based knowledge, and sustainable entrepreneurship, these economies are charting new pathways to resilience. Multi-level and multi-scalar governance frameworks have the potential to amplify these efforts by fostering collaboration across society, industry, academia, and government. This side-event will explore how sustainable eco-innovations, focused on decarbonization and reduced material consumption, can be harnessed through the 4-ple helix model. Stakeholders from diverse sectors will discuss strategies to align these efforts with the Paris Agreement and the 1.5°C targets, ensuring inclusive, localized climate action across the Mediterranean. The event will also feature the upcoming Interreg NEXT MED call for green transition projects which has a specific thematic open to Mediterranean Green Transformation and Eco-youth projects in the field of Circular Economy.

2. Panel discussions / Event showflow

- **How sustainable eco-innovations, focused on decarbonization and reduced material consumption, can be harnessed through the 4-ple helix model**
- **Opportunities to finance Circular Economy projects in the Mediterranean**
- **Policy perspectives and new horizons ahead for climate action cooperation**
- **Wrap Up by**

Conclusions – Vincent Ernoux, Interreg NEXT MED Programme

3. Date and Venue

15 November 2024 | 16:30 – 17:45

The Mediterranean Pavilion, Blue Zone, F1B - COP 29

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4. Agenda

Important to flag who will be online and/or using PPTs /Videos

Time	
16:30 – 16:40	Opening remarks Objectives of the event by the Moderator. Vincent Ernoux , Coordinator for the Western Mediterranean, Interreg NEXT MED Programme Welcoming remarks: Jesús Maestro , Director, MedWaves
16.40 – 16.55	How sustainable eco-innovations, focused on decarbonization and reduced material consumption, can be harnessed through the 4-ple helix model Sergio Ponsá Salas , Director, Interreg Euro-MED Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission. Beta Technological Center
16:55 – 17:10	Opportunities to finance Circular Economy projects in the Mediterranean, Alejandro Lafarga , Programme Officer, Interreg NEXT MED Programme .
17:10 – 17:20	Policy perspectives and new horizons ahead for climate action cooperation, Sonsoles Letang Jiménez de Anta , Director General for Climate Change and Environmental Quality, Government of Catalonia
17:20 – 17:40	Roundtable among panelists & Q&A
17:40 – 17:45	Conclusions by the Moderator. Vincent Ernoux , Coordinator for the Western Mediterranean, Interreg NEXT MED Programme

5. Bios of speakers

Sergio Ponsá

Sergio Ponsá (PhD in Environmental Engineering), serves as the Director of the BETA Technology Center (UVic-UCC) since 2014. His expertise spans the circular economy and bioeconomy, with a focus on fostering sustainable development in rural areas and throughout the agrifood system value chain. Dr. Ponsá has extensive knowledge of technology and knowledge transfer to practitioners and policymakers, having contributed to over 150 R&D&I projects with

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companies and public administrations at various geographical levels, with a particular emphasis on the Mediterranean Basin. Additionally, he possesses substantial experience in interregional innovation programs, including Interreg Euromed and NextMed.

Vincent Ernoux

Currently Coordinator of the Interreg NEXT MED Programme Branch Office for the Western Mediterranean, he has previously been working in other EU programs like INTERACT or the Interreg Spain-Portugal Cross Border Programme. Between 2014 and 2017, he was the EU and International Projects Manager at the Valenciaport Foundation. He holds master's degree in Business Administration, EU Affairs and Human Resources.

Alejandro Lafarga

A Spanish national, Alejandro Lafarga holds two master's degrees in Business Administration and Market Research, and has 15 years of experience managing different funding mechanisms of the European Union.

He is a passionate about innovation and technology, always up to date on the latest developments for the green transition, energy, transport, and greening cities. He has worked at the Valencia Port Foundation (Spain), the University of Limoges (France), the Valencia Region representation to the EU in Brussels, and the multinational SGS. He currently works as Programme Officer for the Interreg NEXT MED Programme.