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الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



2030GreenerMed

AGENDA FOR A GREENER
MEDITERRANEAN

First Monitoring Report 2021-2022

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Acknowledgements



Union pour la Méditerranée
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الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

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List of Acronyms

CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CSF	Civil Society Facility
DMC	Domestic Material Consumption
ENI South	European Neighbourhood Instruments
EPPA	Environment Partnership Programme for Accession
EUSAIR	EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
Gha	Global hectare
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
H2020 RTD	Horizon 2020 Research and Technological Development
IPA II	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KA	Key Actions
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
MD	Materials directly used in the economy
ME	Materials exported
MedECC	Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change
MedPAN	Mediterranean Protected Areas Network
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
OHI	Ocean Health Index
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
RLI	Red list index of species survival
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
ToC	Theory of Change

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and context

This report is the first monitoring report of the [UfM 2030GreenerMed Agenda](https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20220510_Baseline-Report-2030GreenerMed_designed.pdf), analysing progress as compared to the baseline assessment published in 2021 with data from the baseline year 2020, available on the UfM Environment website at the following link: https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20220510_Baseline-Report-2030GreenerMed_designed.pdf.

The UfM 2030GreenerMed Agenda defines the post-2020 UfM Environment Agenda. Collaboratively developed and agreed by countries and stakeholders, 2030GreenerMed addresses key environmental issues in the Mediterranean that require cooperation across borders and sectors, linking international, national, regional and local level decision making and experience.

The UfM 2030GreenerMed Agenda provides a regional structured framework that, based on the coordination of existing and future programmes and projects, creates political and operational convergence to accelerate the transition of the Mediterranean region towards a greener/more circular economy and sustainable model of development, generating a virtuous socio-economic cycle and taking due care of the environment and its precious resources. It is a joint flagship agenda that supports the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change endorsed in 2021 in an inclusive and open spirit that reflects the collaborative nature of the Ministerial Declaration.

The core objective of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda is to set the framework to coordinate, streamline and promote the efforts in the Mediterranean region – involving UfM member countries and other relevant stakeholders, including regional partners and local authorities, through a participatory approach, to:



Figure 1. Thematic axes of the UfM 2030GreenerMed agenda

The agenda is a living document and was built on the conclusions and results of the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean, the SCP programmes and other relevant programmes. It contains three thematic axes with related key actions (KA) as well as a cross-cutting area on regional partnerships. It is also linked to the Agenda2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The KA under each thematic axis summarize the joint specific actions agreed by the UfM countries as per the 2030GreenerMed document.¹

Key Actions under 2030GreenerMed Thematic Axis 1

- KA1.1 Support Sustainable Consumption and Production
- KA1.2 Increase Resource Efficiency
- KA1.3 Adopt innovative solutions along the entire value chain (across sectors and industries, urban and rural)
- KA1.4 Promote changes in business practices, trade, public policy
- KA1.5 Promote changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles
- KA1.6 Engage all stakeholders (private, public and society/consumer level) and raise awareness

Key Actions under 2030GreenerMed Thematic Axis 2

- KA2.1 Strengthen mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction from different sources through application of a source-to-sea/ridge-to-reef approach
- KA2.2 Put a particular focus on plastic pollution and marine litter as well as other inorganic and organic pollution sources
- KA2.3 Facilitate investments in infrastructure
- KA2.4 Reduce chemical pollution
- KA2.5 Improve soil quality
- KA2.6 Reduce and control air pollution
- KA2.7 Reduce landfilled waste

Key Actions under 2030GreenerMed Thematic Axis 3

- KA3.1 Support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity
- KA3.2 Promote the sustainable management of landscapes, seascapes and coastal areas in the Mediterranean
- KA3.3 Promote an integrated ecosystem-based approach to managing terrestrial, coastal and marine natural resources
- KA3.4 Focus on safeguarding/improving key ecosystem functions and services (in protected and productive areas)
- KA3.5 Promote transboundary cooperation
- KA3.6 Mainstream biodiversity in key sectors
- KA3.7 Protect on-farm biodiversity in agro-ecosystems
- KA3.8 Promote Disaster Risk Reduction with a special focus on extreme events including droughts and floods, and forest fires
- KA3.9 Promote nature-based solutions

During the 5th meeting of the UfM Task Force on Environment on the 27th of May 2021, countries and other stakeholders agreed on a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach for 2030GreenerMed. The objective is to track progress of the 2030GreenerMed implementation and to assess short- and long-term results and the contribution of the agenda to the SDGs. It includes a Theory of Change (ToC) and an indicator framework for each of the three thematic axes and the cross-cutting area of partnerships.²

¹ A more extensive description of key actions is included in the [2030GreenerMed document](#).

² A ToC can be described as an analytical model that shows the causal results chain of any project, programme or intervention, linking activities with short-, medium- and long-term results and finally, the overall goal or impact that is expected to be achieved.

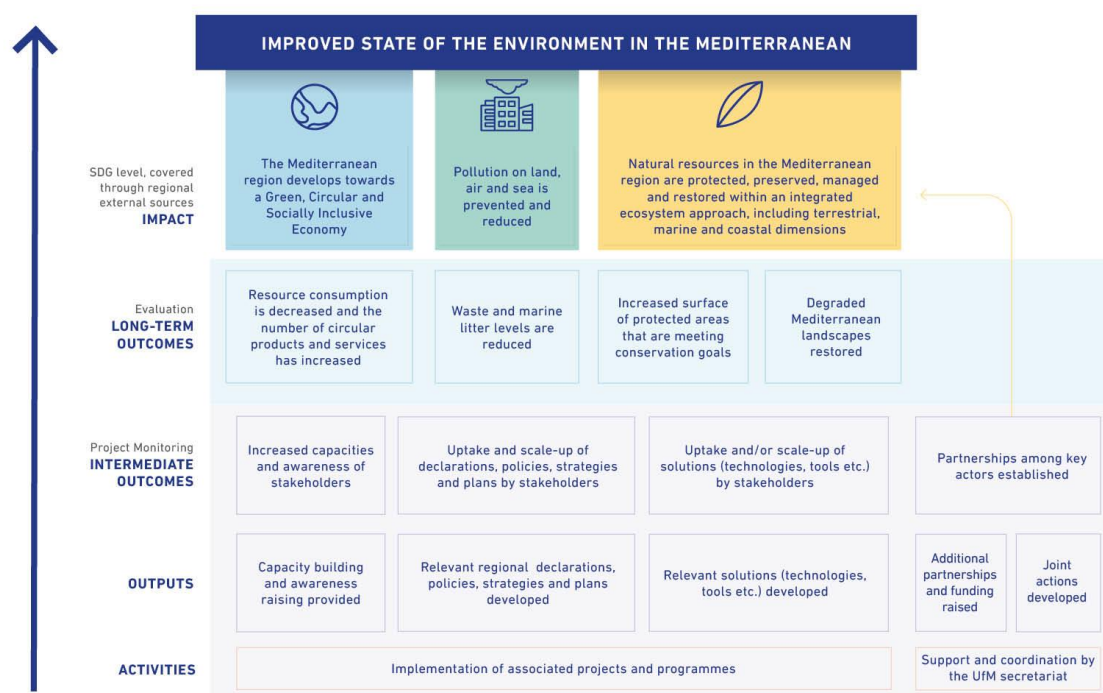


Figure 2. 2030GreenerMed high-level Theory of Change

The overall goal of 2030GreenerMed is to contribute to an improved state of the environment in the Mediterranean region through achievements under each thematic axis. Impact will be reached in the long term if the Euro-Mediterranean region is successful in (1) reducing resource consumption and providing green and circular products and services, (2) preventing and reducing pollution, in particular waste and marine litter, (3) increasing the surface of protected areas that meet conservation goals and restoring degraded landscapes.

The assumption is that the 2030GreenerMed regional supporting projects, programmes and initiatives, which UfM countries participate in, directly contribute to these long-term outcomes and impact by (a) providing capacity building, awareness raising and education for sustainable development, (b) supporting the development of regional / multi-country declarations, policies, strategies or plans, (c) supporting the development of concrete solutions, for example technologies, tools, methodologies, or other. These three key output areas are the same under each thematic axis of the agenda and in the mid-term should lead to increased knowledge, awareness and capacities of stakeholders, the uptake and/or scale-up of developed declarations, policies, strategies or plans, as well as uptake and/or scale-up of developed solutions.

In addition and complementary to 2030GreenerMed supporting projects and programmes, the UfM Secretariat provides coordination and support at the regional level, facilitates partnership building and access to financial resources, and participates in joint developed actions with stakeholders and partners that further promote the 2030GreenerMed key topics. These approaches that are cross-cutting among all thematic axes are expected to maximise positive impact.

In alignment with the evolving nature of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda, the ToC and indicator framework should be understood as flexible instruments. They give structure to the monitoring system but can be subject to adaptations over time to reflect the reality of 2030GreenerMed implementation.

1.2 Objectives of this report

This report has been mandated by the 5th UfM Task Force on Environment held on the 27th of May 2021, which decided among its “Final Agreed Conclusions” that a baseline assessment of 2030GreenerMed as well as subsequent monitoring reports and external evaluations should be elaborated.

It is the first monitoring report that covers the period 2021-2022 and presents:

- An update of the 2030GreenerMed mapping of relevant supporting programmes and projects, up until 30.09.2023
- An analysis of 2030GreenerMed indicators with data from 2021-2022 and comparison to the baseline, with information from a majority of the mapped programmes and projects for outputs and outcomes wherever possible; and
- An updated analysis of the contribution of 2030GreenerMed to the SDGs considering the new supporting projects added 2021-2022 and including a comparison with the baseline assessment, based on information from official external sources for the impact indicators.

Developments in the Euro-Mediterranean region are highly dynamic, with some initiatives finalising and others starting in parallel. Over the coming decade, it is envisaged that the UfM Secretariat conducts regular updates of the mapping of supporting initiatives and collects monitoring data from these initiatives. The aim is to keep information about supporting projects and programmes up to date and to assess activities and related results in the different thematic and geographic segments that constitute the 2030GreenerMed Agenda and the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Two external evaluations are planned for 2030GreenerMed, in 2025 and 2030. Doing so allows to also independently assess advancements towards the achievement of the agenda's objectives.

Both, the monitoring and evaluation of 2030GreenerMed shall contribute to a learning process. They also provide inputs to strategic decision-making of donors and other relevant stakeholders in the Euro-Mediterranean region to jointly work towards the achievement of the 2030GreenerMed goals.

2. Methodology

According to the three main elements included in this report, three distinct methodologies were used for research and analysis that are the same as used for the baseline assessment:

Mapping of 2030GreenerMed supporting programmes and projects

The mapping identifies relevant initiatives/programmes that facilitate and finance/co-finance projects relating thematically to at least one of the thematic axes of 2030GreenerMed and that have a regional scope and includes those that have expressed interest to associate to 2030GreenerMed as well as those identified in the scope of continuous online research. This resulted in the selection of 14 initiatives³ and related to these, a list of 229 projects that have been or are under implementation since 2020. Projects have been analysed to determine to which of the key actions of each of the thematic axes of 2030GreenerMed they contribute to, which countries and time frame they cover, which stakeholders they involve, and which sectors they address. One key criterion for the selection of contributing projects is that projects have a (sub-) regional approach, covering at least three countries including at least one non-EU country within the realm of [UfM member states](#).

It is important to note that the cut-off date for the monitoring part of this update report is December 31, 2022 given that projects that started in year 2023 (28 projects) have not yet produced any monitoring data. For the mapping sections, however, all projects identified until September 30, 2023 have been taken into account in order to provide a picture as complete as possible.

Monitoring for 2030GreenerMed supporting programmes and projects

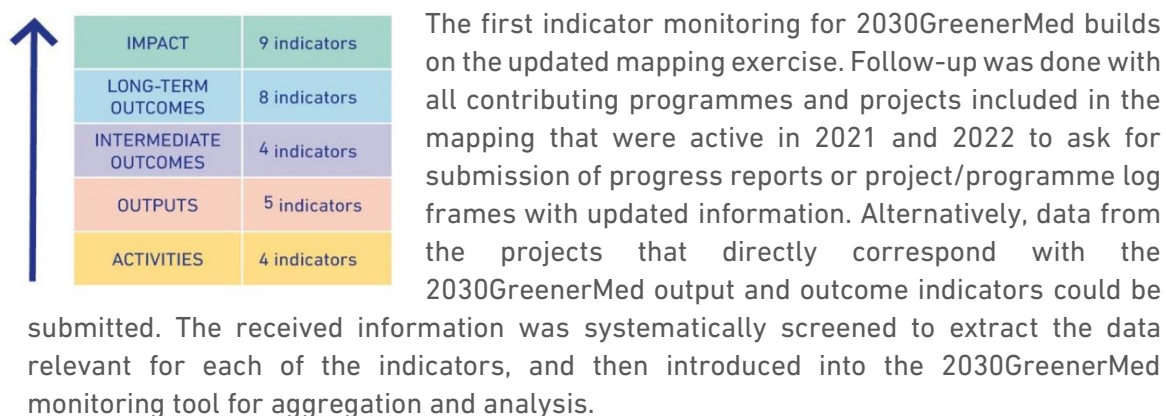


Figure 3: Methodological steps for 2030GreenerMed monitoring

It is important to highlight that for the monitoring, a clear cut was made at the end of 2022 and only those projects were considered that were active in the respective year. Thus, the total number of projects for monitoring in 2022 differs from the total number of projects

³ This can include programmes, finance instruments and organisations. A strict categorisation/ distinction is not made. Where multiple donors are contributing to the initiatives, only the main donors are listed as also information detailing the share of funding or type of contribution could not always be identified in detail.

included in the mapping (195 active projects as of end of 2022, 229 projects overall in the mapping as of 2023).

Impact level indicators have been compiled from secondary sources, especially the SDG indicators for the Mediterranean provided by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Mediterranean hosted by the Santa Chiara Lab at the University of Siena.

SDG contribution analysis

The analysis of the contribution of 2030GreenerMed to the SDGs was conducted by experts of the UN SDSN Mediterranean, using the same methodology as for the baseline assessment. It follows the methodology applied for the regional SDG report published by the SDSN Mediterranean, operationalizing the Six Transformations Framework presented by Jeffrey Sachs et al. (2019). Under each transformation, a set of challenges has been defined, expressed through and measured by various clusters of SDG indicators at regional level. The list of challenges has been taken as a guideline to determine a series of eight solutions to help address challenges and accomplish each transformation.

The latest report from 2020 of the UN SDSN Mediterranean on progress of the Med region towards the SDGs is available [here](#). A new report for 2021-2022 is currently under development and expected to be published at the end of 2023.

Methodological limitations

Some challenges need to be highlighted to contextualise the analysis. Regarding the mapping of initiatives, a clear attribution of projects to a single specific key action was not always possible as the definition of key actions within each thematic axis does not allow for a clear-cut differentiation. Also, some key actions have a broader character while others are very specific. Furthermore, the precise scope of projects can only be partially derived from the project summaries that have been used as the basis for the analysis. Additionally, the attribution of a project to a specific thematic axis under 2030GreenerMed must not necessarily correspond to or be limited to the category the project was listed under by the actual initiative the project is framed or embedded in⁴.

Regarding the monitoring, the following challenges persist that had already been present at the time of establishing the baseline:

Differences in reporting timelines – Projects apply different reporting cycles, mostly not aligned with the data collection approach of 2030GreenerMed (calendar year). For this reason, it was not always possible to include exact numbers for the years 2021 and 2022 for each of the indicators. In addition, some programmes work with longer reporting cycles, e.g. only every 2 years, so that some information gaps exist.⁵

Reporting on 2030GreenerMed indicators – Not all projects are able to report exactly on the indicators as defined in the 2030GreenerMed framework but submitted information according to their own monitoring frameworks. In several cases reported information was included in the analysis as proxy indicators for the defined 2030GreenerMed indicators, in

⁴ For instance, Interreg Med lists the project "FishMPABLue 2" under "Biodiversity protection", which falls under thematic axis 3 of the 2030GreenerMed and is listed here accordingly. However, it also comprises elements that contribute to Axis 1 of the 2030GreenerMed (green and circular economy) and is in this analysis therefore listed under both axes, indirectly promoting changes in business practices, contributing to SCP, engaging various stakeholders (organisations, policy makers, businesses) and raising awareness.

⁵ For example, PRIMA, the programme that provides the biggest share of 2030GreenerMed contributing projects, does not have any project reports available for 2021 and 2022. CBC Med, having the second biggest share of contributing projects, could only share a small number of reports. This information gap was partly filled by additional research and compilation of project results from available online sources.

line with what had already been done for the baseline analysis. For example, one indicator that InterregMed projects report on is "Number of regions and sub-regions engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in implementing sustainable tourism plans". This has been taken as a proxy for the 2030GreenerMed indicator "No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled". Likewise, InterregMed projects do not report on the 2030GreenerMed indicator "number of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising or education for sustainable development", but there is an indicator "Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support" which has also been considered as a proxy.

Disaggregation of information - To the extent possible, all indicators involving the number of stakeholders should be reported disaggregated per gender and age to facilitate differentiated analysis. However, most projects do not provide disaggregated information.

Causal results chain - Most projects focus their monitoring on activity and output level so that more limited information is available for intermediary and long-term outcomes, therefore leading to some weaknesses in the causal relation between 2030GreenerMed supporting initiatives' implementation and the desired higher-level results.

3. Overall findings

3.1 Cross-cutting area: partnerships

The aim of the partnership area is to monitor collaborative efforts and joint initiatives undertaken with a regional perspective. Moreover, it assesses the UfM Secretariat's facilitation role, fostering partnerships and promoting cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

In comparison to the baseline assessment where from the overall 82 projects considered in the mapping, 72 (88%) shared information on project implementation and results, a lower share of information was received for 2021 (42%) and 2022 (33%). This is however not due to any unwillingness of contributing projects and programmes that continue to express their support of the 2030GreenerMed agenda as a framework for regional collaboration and partnership building. Rather, the number of active projects has increased over 2021-2022 but the number of available reports has stayed more or less the same (2021) or decreased (2022) given that some of the bigger programmes such as PRIMA do not work with annual reporting cycles but request reporting from their projects every two years.



Long-term Outcome	Number of multi-country projects under implementation	Baseline 82	2021 180	2022 195
Outputs	Number of joint developed actions Volume of financial resources leveraged	21 ≈ EUR 300 mio	25 ≈ EUR 500 mio	19 ≈ EUR 536 mio
Activities	Amount of Environmental Task Force meetings No. of supporting programmes/projects that shared information on implementation progress ⁶ Number of support and coordination activities of the UfM Secretariat	1 72 10	1 75 22	1 65 12

Table 1: Partnership area monitoring results⁷

The volume of financial resources leveraged has increased from almost EUR 300 mio to EUR 536 mio as of 2022, which is due to the increase of multi-country projects under implementation included in the mapping for this reporting period.⁸

Beyond the funding of programmes and projects, in more general terms, SIDA continues to support the UfM Environment/2030GreenerMed through the UfM Secretariat, while the Italian Development Cooperation also continues to support FAO and CIHEAM with funds dedicated to Sustainable Food Systems. GIZ continues to support regional activities in sustainable green and blue economy at Med scale, with a special focus in particular on blue and green skills, careers, and jobs aspects. Moreover, programmes like Interreg Next Med

⁶ The name of the indicator has been changed to better reflect the reality of how supporting projects and programmes share information.

⁷ Note that the partnership area has a slightly different structure for results levels; no intermediate outcomes and impact is included as this is a cross-cutting supporting area for the three thematic axes.

⁸ This is the sum of all projects' and programmes' overall budgets that were active over the monitoring period, and it needs to be considered that these are usually multiple-year initiatives. Little information has been obtained on budget implementation of projects per year. Also, information on budgets for joint developed actions is not available.

(previously called ENI CBC Med) continue to contribute systematically to technical cooperation through their new programming in the Southern and Eastern Med, now including two new members, i.e. Türkiye and Algeria, while Interreg Euro-Med (previously called InterregMed), within the respect of its mandate and scope of activities, has progressively included the participation of the South Med countries in many more projects.

Throughout 2021-2022, the UfM Secretariat convened two Environmental Task Force Meetings (one per year) and supported member states and initiatives through at least 34 coordination activities. Most of these (38%) were cross-cutting while some others relate to specific key actions of the 2030GreenerMed agenda. Cross-cutting activities included for example the continued fostering of operational links of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda with other related UfM agendas and plans, such as blue economy, research and innovation, transport, energy, water and climate change; capacity building activities/webinars organized by UfM and Interreg Euro-Med to facilitate more involvement of UfM Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries into new programmes, such as the Interreg Euro-Med Governance Projects, also labelled by the UfM, where Southern Med countries are now included as Associated Partners; facilitating the elaboration of regional projects under the capitalization call of ENI CBC Med such as Plastic Busters CAP and Med4Waste, promoting North-South partnerships among organizations that were not cooperating before and capitalising on projects beyond the portfolio of the ENI CBC Med; showcasing different projects under the 2030GreenerMed Agenda and promoting partnerships.

The top three key actions that UfM activities focused most on in 2021-2022 were Axis 2-KA2 “Put a particular focus on plastic pollution and marine litter as well as other inorganic and organic pollution sources” (6), Axis 1-KA1 “Support Sustainable Consumption and Production” (4) and Axis 3-KA1 “Support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity” (3). In these areas the UfM organized trainings, webinars or side events at conferences, elaborated policy papers, mobilised technical assistance and engaged in communication and dissemination activities. Several other key actions were addressed by 1-2 activities each.

In addition, the UfM Secretariat together with partners and stakeholders participated in at least 44 joint developed actions over the reporting period. These included the participation in numerous events like conferences and webinars, support and dissemination actions for initiatives developed by UfM partners and stakeholders, for example FAO, PRIMA, CIHEAM, InterregMed, UNEP/MAP, IUCN, UNECE, among many others, or the co-organisation of events, for example the Mediterranean Forestry Week in March 2022 or the annual UfM-MedWet Conference on “The Restoration of Mediterranean Wetlands: the Wetland-Based Solutions”, which last was carried out in December 2022. The majority of joint actions (17) related to 2030GreenerMed axis 3 (biodiversity/natural resources/ecosystems), which was also the thematic area most addressed in the baseline assessment. Axis 2 (pollution prevention and reduction) was the second most addressed with at least 13 actions, while 10 actions related to axis 1 (green, circular and socially inclusive economy) and four were cross-cutting, the latter including important events such as the participation in multiple sessions at the MedPavillion of COP27.

Joint developed actions also include partnerships or processes that are not projects per se and thus were not counted under the mapping exercise, but still make a contribution to the objectives of 2030GreenerMed. Some long-term joint developed actions that already existed when the baseline assessment was established in 2021 include, for example, the [Sustainable Food Systems Platform](#), or the Mediterranean Committee of Education for Sustainable Development.

3.2 Mapping of 2030GreenerMed supporting initiatives

To date, the overall number of regional projects supporting the objectives of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda has almost tripled compared to the baseline report. Including the baseline year 2020, 229 projects that contribute to the 2030GreenerMed Agenda were identified along the 14 initiatives analysed.

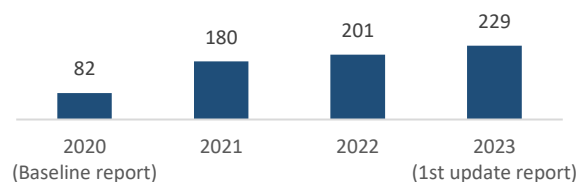


Figure 4: Number of projects contributing to 2030GreenerMed, 2020 - 2023 (cumulative)

Overall, about 30% of the projects have a cross-cutting character (i.e., contribute to more than one thematic axis). Only looking at projects identified since 2021, just 27% (40 of the 147 projects) address more than one thematic axis. This suggests a slightly stronger thematic focus of the projects added since the baseline considering that the baseline identified 35% cross-cutting projects. At the same time, the majority of projects is addressing several key actions within each thematic axis.

Almost half (43%) of the 229 projects were completed before 2023, i.e., are no longer operative at the time of the preparation of this report. 56 projects (24%) are running up to 2023, 17 projects (7%) up to 2024, 25 projects (11%) up to 2025, 22 projects (10%) up to 2026, and 8 projects (3%) up to 2029. For 3 projects the duration was not identified (see Figure 5).

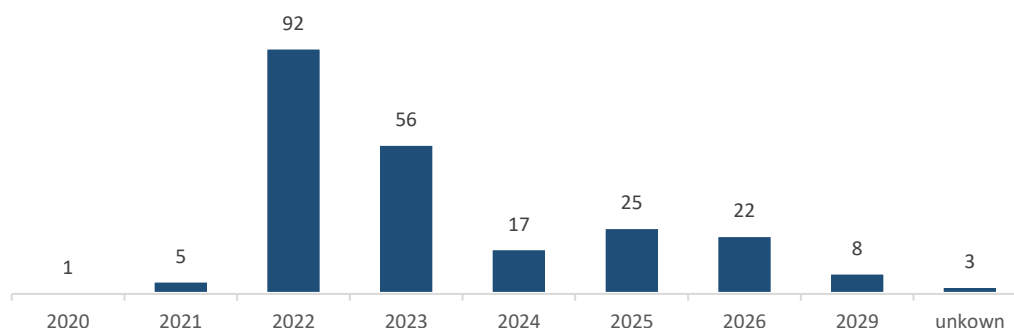


Figure 5: Number of projects ending in the respective year

Compared to the maximum project period of the baseline report (2024), the project-gap until 2030 thus has reduced considerably. Nevertheless, the number of projects going beyond 2023 is still comparatively small. As new projects are being designed and launched under different initiatives and financing schemes, the mapping will be updated on a regular basis to capture these new developments.

Coverage of the thematic axes⁹

Thematic axis 1 - Support the transition towards a green, circular and socially inclusive economy - is addressed most frequently, by 52% of the identified projects. This share became slightly smaller compared to the baseline, when 53% of all projects contributed to

⁹ Includes project double-counts, i.e., those that are cross-cutting through the different themes/ contributing to more than one thematic axis

axis 1. Strongest focus is given by the projects to supporting sustainable production and consumption as well as to increasing resource efficiency. Currently, 84 of the 156 projects contributing to this axis are still active.

Thematic axis 2 - Prevent and reduce pollution on land, sea and air – is least often-addressed. While overall the number of projects contributing to axis 2 increased from 20 to 42 projects, its share in overall projects contributing to the 2030GreenerMed Agenda reduced to 14% (from 19% at the baseline). Issues most frequently addressed under this axis include plastic pollution and marine litter, the reduction of landfilled waste, and the overall strengthening of mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction from different sources. Currently, 22 of the 42 projects are still active.

Thematic axis 3 - Protect, preserve, manage and restore natural resources in the Mediterranean region within an integrated ecosystem approach, including terrestrial, marine and coastal dimensions - is addressed by 34% of all projects, with 67 of 104 still being active. At the time of the baseline, 28% of projects were contributing to thematic axis 3, which indicates an increased focus of regional initiatives on natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity over the past three years. The support of actions that preserve, protect and/or restore ecosystems is by far most frequently addressed under this axis. With 26 projects at the baseline and 66 today, the number of projects under this key action increased 2.5-fold.

Figure 6 reflects these developments. It compares the relative share of projects under each thematic axis contributing to the 2030GreenerMed at the baseline year with the relative share at the time of this 1st update of the baseline report.

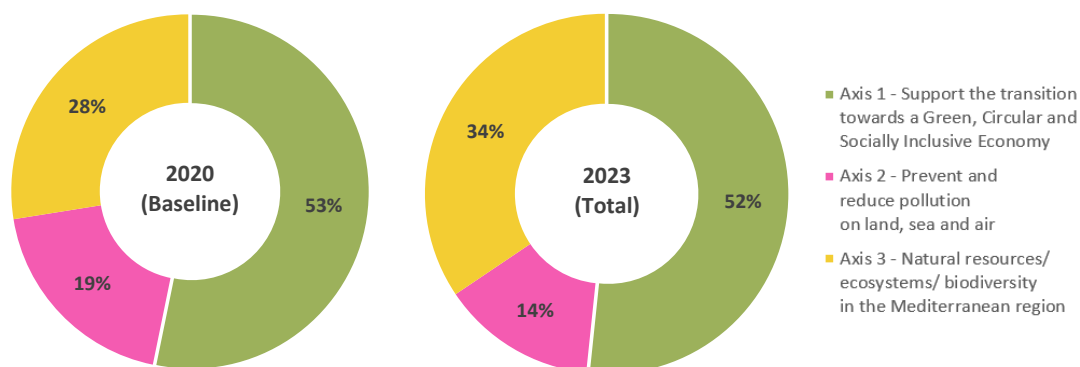


Figure 6. Share of projects under each thematic axis in percent of overall number of projects, 2020 vs. 2023

Geographic coverage per country

The analysis spans 22 Mediterranean countries. With 183 projects, Italy is the country that is most frequently involved. It also shows the highest increase in the number of projects in absolute terms when compared with the baseline. Spain, Tunisia, Greece, and France follow with 153, 107, 103, and 101 projects respectively. All other countries are significantly less often involved and none of them gets close to 100 projects. Monaco takes a special position (7 projects) given its extremely small size. Among the non-EU UfM countries, Palestine (18 projects) and Montenegro (19 projects) have the lowest representation in regional projects (see Figure 7).

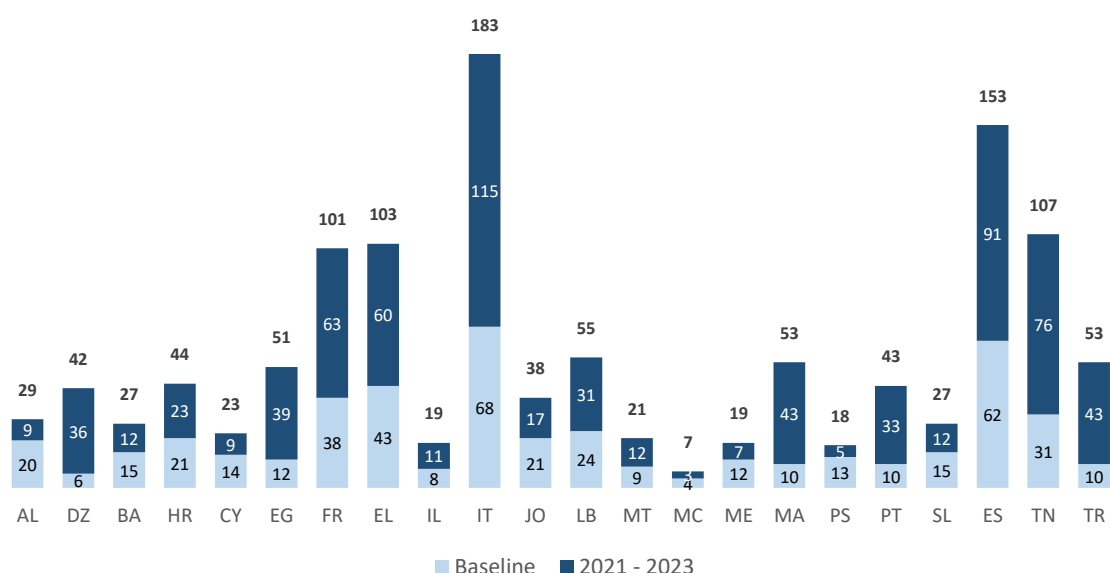


Figure 7. Number of projects per country

In contrast, the highest increases in the involvement in regional projects in relative terms are experienced by Algeria (7-fold, from 6 to 42), Morocco and Türkiye (each more than 5-fold, from 10 to 53 projects), by Portugal and Egypt (4-fold, from 10 to 43 and 12 to 51 respectively), and by Tunisia (3.4-fold, from 31 to 107 projects).

The picture changes considerably for some countries when normalising the number of projects along each country's population size (Figure 8).

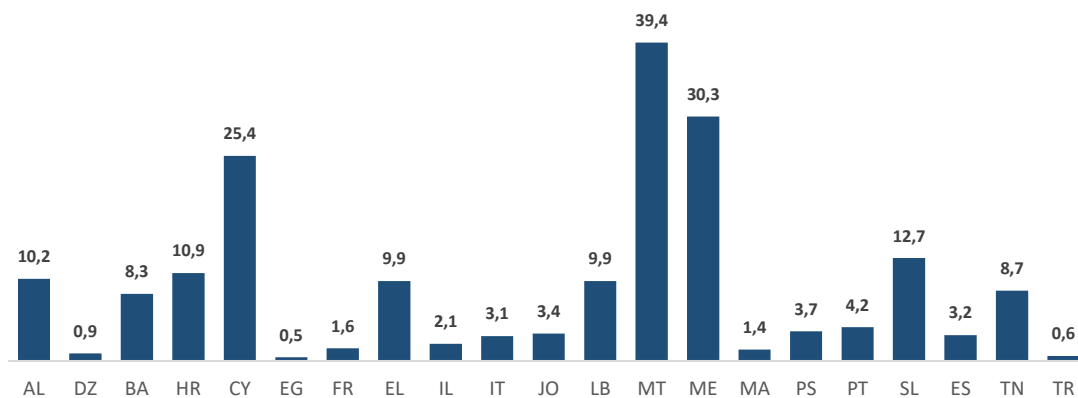


Figure 8: Overall number of projects contributing to 2030GreenerMed per 1,000,000 people by country

It becomes apparent that especially the small island states Cyprus and Malta as well as the sparsely populated Montenegro are showing the highest number of projects per 1,000,000 people (25.4, 39.4, and 30.3 respectively). These three countries are also the only ones¹⁰ that have a population size below 1,000,000. Interestingly, the outstanding position Italy, Spain, and France take in terms of the absolute number of projects is significantly smaller when taking into account these countries' population size, now ranking 15, 14, and 17 with 3.1, 3.2, and 1.6 projects per 1,000,000 people, respectively. In contrast, Slovenia, Croatia, and Albania show a considerably higher involvement in regional projects than in

¹⁰ Except Monaco, which, however, is excluded from this figure given that its extremely small size as city state with a population below 40,000 distorts the overall picture.

absolute terms, each with slightly above ten projects per 1,000,000 people. Egypt, Türkiye, and Algeria are participating in less than one project per 1,000,000 people.

Figure 9 below breaks down the share of projects each country is involved by thematic axis, juxtaposing the baseline situation with the current status.

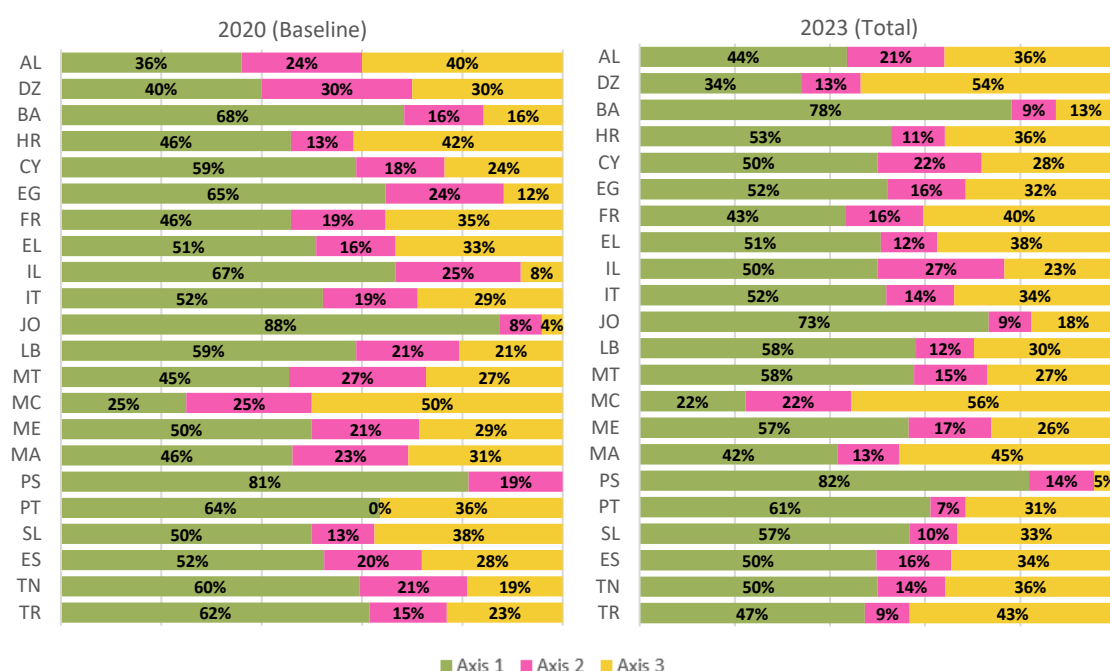


Figure 9: Share of projects per axis by country

In line with the overall picture on the share of projects under each thematic axis, Figure 9 reflects the increased share of projects that contribute to axis 3, natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. At the same time, the results suggest that countries' priorities have evolved over the last years: Compared to the baseline, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia, for instance, now show a higher share of projects contributing to axis 1 and a lower share of projects contributing to axis 2 and 3. Portugal started implementing projects addressing axis 2. Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Türkiye, in turn, decreased their project shares in axis 1 and 2 and instead put stronger focus on axis 3.

Geographic coverage by sub-region

As at today, the average number of regional projects per country contributing to the thematic axes of the 2030GreenerMed¹¹ is highest in the Mediterranean EU (70.5 projects) and lowest in the Western-Balkan Mediterranean (25 projects). At the baseline, in contrast, the lowest number of regional projects per country was to be found in the North-African Med region. For the latter, this value more than quadrupled during the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, showing the highest increase.

Setting the number of projects in relation to the population size of each sub-region instead of the number of countries of a region, the picture changes significantly: The Western Balkan Med countries show the highest (11.2) and the North-African Med the lowest number of projects per 1 million people (see Figure 10).

¹¹ Unweighted average (Sum of all projects within one sub-region divided by the number of countries the sub-region covers)

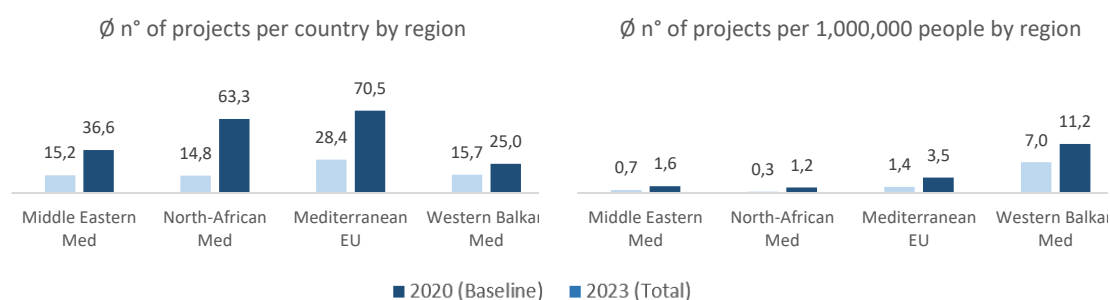


Figure 10. Average number of projects within each Med-sub-region, per country and per 1m people

Contribution to 2030GreenerMed by initiative

With 96 projects (42% of all projects), the highest number of regional projects contributing to the 2030GreenerMed are implemented under the umbrella of PRIMA. Second most projects are running under InterregMed (since 2023 Interreg Euro-Med), followed by ENI CBC Med (now Interreg Next Med). This constitutes a clear shift when compared with the baseline, where most regional projects were implemented under the umbrella of InterregMed (34 projects, 41% of all projects), and second most projects under CBC Med (26 projects, 32%), followed by PRIMA with 10 projects (12% of all projects).

# of projects 2023 (Baseline)	Initiative
96 (10)	PRIMA
60 (34)	InterregMed/ Interreg Euro-Med
46 (26)	ENI CBC Med/ Interreg Next Med
6 (1)	Horizon 2020
4 (1)	MAVA Foundation
3 (n/a)	EU Life
3 (3)	IPA II (incl. IPA II CSF) ¹²
3 (n/a)	Horizon Europe
2 (1)	BMU/ IKI
2 (2)	ENI South
1 (1)	BMZ
1 (1)	GEF
1 (1)	MedFund
1 (1)	MEDPAN

Figure 11. Number of projects per initiative

¹² Not taking into account its contribution to InterregMed

4. Findings per 2030GreenerMed Axis

4.1 Axis 1: Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy

Summary of key findings

- Axis 1 of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda - Green, circular and socially inclusive economy - remains the most covered axis in terms of the absolute number of regional projects. Axis 1, however, has a slightly smaller share in the total of 2030GreenerMed-contributing regional projects than at the baseline (52% vs. 53%).
- The most covered key actions are KA 1.1 'Support Sustainable Consumption and Production' with 130 (83%) projects and programmes, and KA 1.2 'Increase Resource Efficiency' with 96 (62%) projects and programmes. The key action with least associated projects is KA 1.5 'Promote changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles' with 57 (37%) projects and programmes. In summary, each key action under axis 1 is addressed by at least 37% of the projects. The countries with most projects in axis 1 are Italy (127), followed by Spain (101) and Tunisia (74).
- The most frequently addressed sector is agriculture (65 projects), followed by tourism as well as food and beverage which both are on a par (20 projects). Other sectors covered include fisheries, waste management, ICT, forestry, textile, trade, and culture and creative industries. Additionally, three projects addressing the construction sector were identified since the baseline.
- Sustainability is at the core of all the projects but not necessarily targeted to longer term or beyond project impact. Therefore, it is important that regional/national/local governments provide support beyond the lifetime of the projects to ensure sustainability over time. In that sense, also capitalization projects such as under CBC Med can play an important role for the uptake and scaling of different solutions developed in individual projects.
- Less official reporting is available on projects under this axis compared to the baseline where 93% shared information. However, with available reporting and additional research conducted, information was obtained for 60% of the active projects in 2021 and 2022, respectively. This means that the results achieved highlighted in this chapter show only a partial picture. At the long-term outcome level, still little to no information is available yet.
- As of 2022, PRIMA that was on third position in the baseline assessment has now the biggest share of active projects (45) followed by CBC Med (42) and InterregMed (35). Other relevant projects are under H2020, ENI South or from regional organisations such as MedPAN, MedWaves (former SCP/RAC) or Mava Foundation. While bilateral donors continue to play a smaller role for promoting regional projects, GIZ continued its initiative on waste and recycling management in the Western Balkans. Two GEF projects are also included (but no reporting available yet), one related to the prevention of the use of toxic chemicals in the MENA region that also integrates green economy aspects and another one related to marine protected areas, integrating sustainable economy aspects. Four projects closed in 2021 and are thus not monitored anymore for 2022.
- Some projects include an explicit focus on women and youth empowerment and inclusion but this cross-cutting aspect continues to be underrepresented and underreported by programmes and projects under this axis.

More overarching key findings are included in this report under Section 6 "Learnings & Considerations".

Mapping of initiatives

2030GreenerMed supporting programmes and projects are taking measures to drive progress towards a greener, circular and inclusive economy. Compared to the other axes, the topic green, circular and socially inclusive economy (axis 1 of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda) remains the most covered one, with a slightly smaller share than at the baseline (52% vs. 53%). Except for key action (KA) 1.5 (promotion of changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles), the key actions of this thematic axis are the most covered of all key actions of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda¹³. That is, five of the six key actions under this thematic axis are addressed by more projects than any other key action of the other two thematic axes.

Most projects are implemented under the umbrella of PRIMA with 56 projects (8 at baseline) and CBC Med with 42 projects (24 at baseline), followed by InterregMed with 39 projects (18 at baseline), Horizon 2020 with 4 projects (1 at baseline), MAVA Foundation with 3 projects (0 at baseline), and BMU (IKI) with 1 project (0 at baseline). No new projects were identified for IPA II, ENI South, GEF and BMZ (GIZ) since the baseline report (3, 3, 2, and 1 project respectively). While not included at all in the baseline report, 3 projects under EU Life and 1 project under Horizon Europe were identified as contributing to axis 1.

Of the 156 regional projects, 84 are still operational, while 4 were completed in 2021 and 68 in 2022. For 2 of the active projects the duration is not known. The remaining ones are spanning up to 2029 (2023: 37; 2024: 9; 2025: 20; 2026, 12; and 2029: 4 projects).

Coverage by key action

Most prominent among the key actions addressed under this axis are KA 1.1 “sustainable consumption and production” (130 projects) and KA 1.2 “increase resource efficiency” (96 projects), closely followed by KA 1.4 “Promote changes in business practices, trade, public policy” (90 projects). The least covered key action is KA 1.5 “promote changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles” (57 projects).

The development of the projects’ contribution to the different key actions (see Figure 12)¹⁴ suggests that the focus on the different topics in relative terms has changed slightly since the baseline report. It seems that especially the topic resource efficiency (KA 1.2) has received increased attention, while the number of projects promoting changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles grew disproportionally lower during the same period.

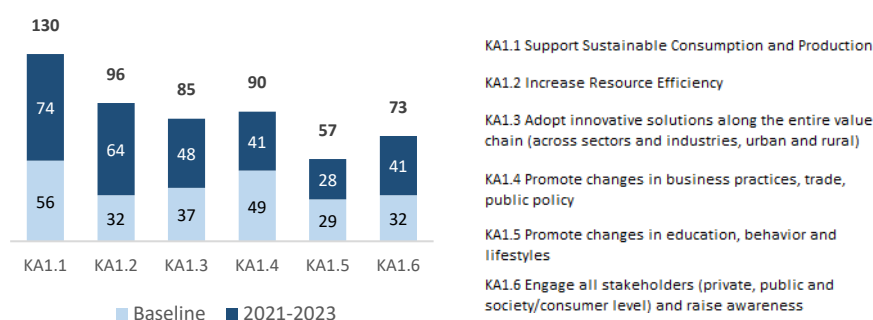


Figure 12: Coverage per key action (number of projects under axis 1)

¹³ Here and in the following includes both types of projects, those that were identified as explicitly addressing and those indirectly addressing the respective topic (key action).

¹⁴ Each project covers multiple key actions. The sum of the number of projects of all key actions therefore does not reflect the overall number of projects.

Sector coverage

The projects cover various sectors. Most frequently addressed sectors are agriculture (65 projects), tourism, and food and beverage (20 projects each). Least often addressed are culture and creative industries, and trade (2 projects each). About one third of the projects do not address or specify a specific economic sector, e.g., when economy in general is targeted, or do not clearly fall within any of the other sectors mentioned, e.g., artisanal salinas or manufacturers of EPS/XPS insulation panels ('others').

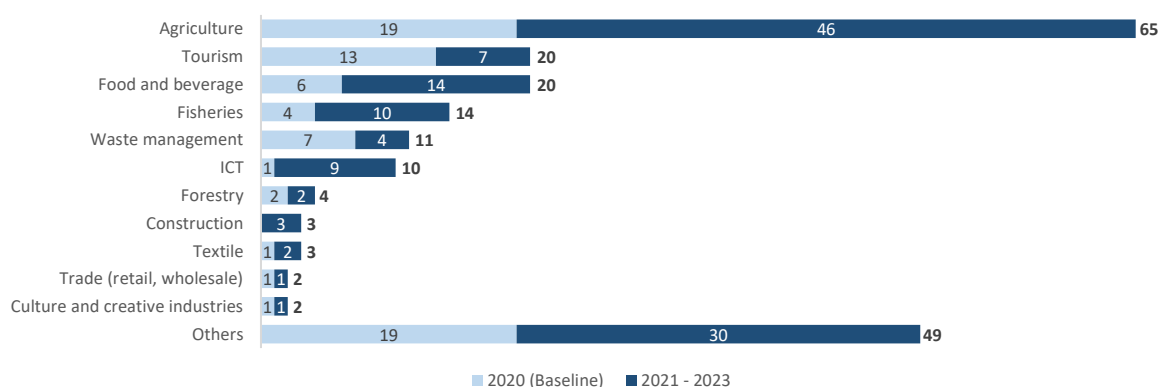


Figure 13: Main sectors addressed - number of projects per sector

Stakeholders involved

Overall, 1503 organisations¹⁵ were involved as partners in implementing the projects under axis 1, vis-à-vis 597 organisations at the baseline. The following figure shows the type of stakeholders involved. While at the baseline most of the projects' partners were CSOs, the share of academia and research organisations increased significantly, suggesting a stronger scientific backbone of the projects. Also, the number of businesses participating actively in the projects slightly increased since the baseline, although the overall share remains comparatively small.

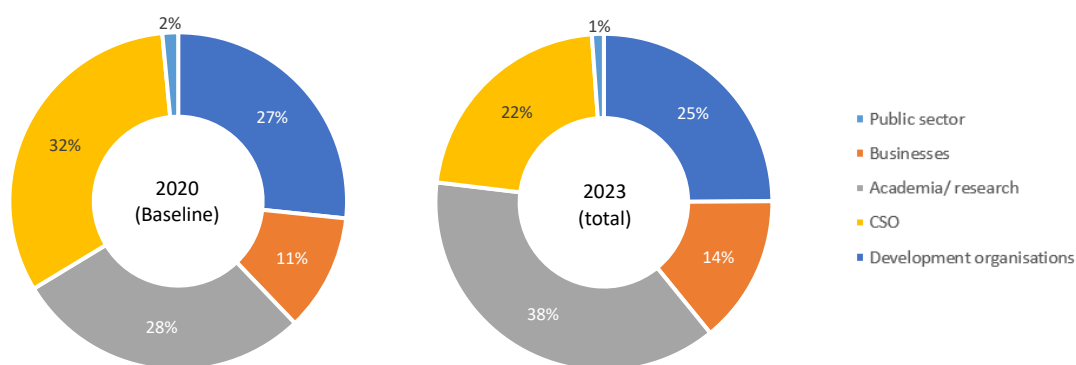


Figure 14: Type of actors involved (share of all partners and affiliated partners of projects contributing to axis 1)

Geographic coverage by country and sub-region

All countries are involved in and address each of the six key actions, except for Monaco with none of its two projects under this axis contributing to KA1.5 (Promote changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles). The country with most projects in the area of axis one

¹⁵ Can include multiple counts of the same organisation (if it is involved in several projects)

is Italy (126), followed by Spain (100), Tunisia (73), and Greece (72). Countries with less regional projects related to Green and Circular Economy are Monaco (2 projects), Montenegro (13 projects), Malta (14 projects) and Israel (15 projects). The pattern did not change significantly when comparing the baseline with the current status. Striking is, however, the – in relative terms – significantly higher number of projects Morocco, Portugal, Türkiye, and Algeria are involved in compared to the baseline.

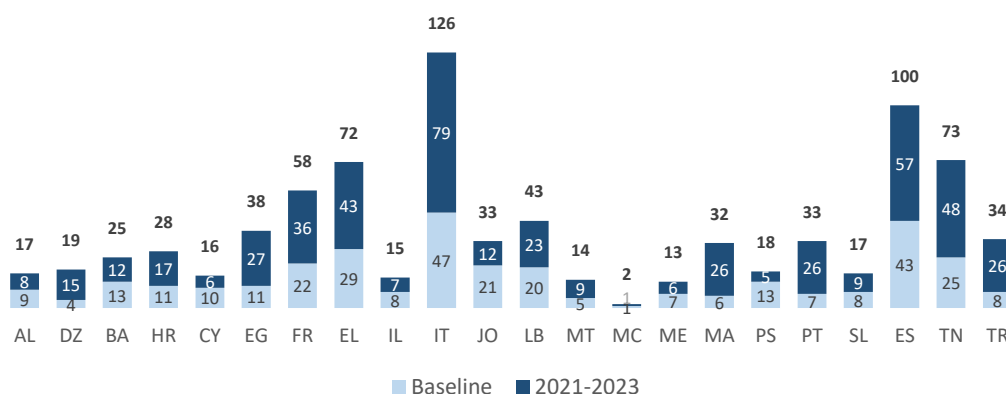


Figure 15. Number of projects per country in thematic axis 1

In terms of sub-regional coverage, this translates into the following unweighted average number of projects per country¹⁶: Med EU 46.6, Middle East 28.6, Northern Africa 41, Western Balkan 18.3 (see Figure 16). The most obvious difference between the baseline and this updated report is – next to the overall increase of projects within each region – that the countries of the North African Med now count more projects per country than the Middle Eastern Med countries, vice versa to the baseline situation.

Putting the number of projects under this axis into relation with the population size of each region, the picture changes in that the Western Balkan region is involved in the highest number of projects per 1,000,000 people, while the North-African Med region shows the lowest number of projects respectively.

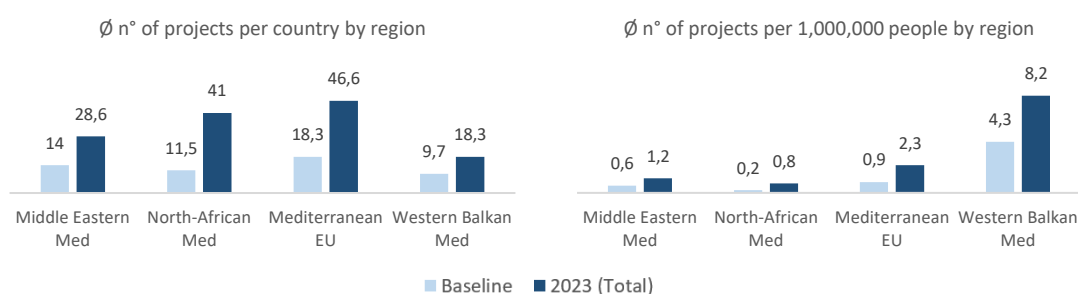


Figure 16. Average number of projects per sub-region in thematic axis 1

Among the North-African Med countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria), Tunisia stands out being involved in 73 projects (25 at baseline), while the others are taking part in 38 (EG) and less (MA 32, DZ 19) projects each. The coverage of the different key actions did not show strong differences in comparison to the baseline assessment; supporting sustainable consumption and production are still generally stronger represented than stakeholder engagement and awareness raising. The difference is now even more pronounced, especially in Algeria and Morocco, where both stakeholder engagement and awareness

¹⁶ Sum of all projects within one region divided by the number of countries the region covers

raising as well as the promotion of changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles are less covered by regional projects.

The Mediterranean countries of the Western Balkan are addressing this thematic axis with 17 (AL), 25 (BA) and 13 (ME) projects respectively. Maintaining the overall picture of the baseline, projects most frequently address the support of sustainable consumption and production and the promotion of changes in business practices, trade and public policy. Least covered in the Western Balkan are “adopt innovative solutions along the entire value chain” and the “promotion of changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles”.

Among the middle eastern countries (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Türkiye), the picture changed slightly compared with the baseline. While Jordan and Lebanon were most and Israel and Türkiye least frequently involved, Lebanon and Türkiye are now implementing the most projects under this axis (43 and 34 projects respectively), followed by Jordan (33), Palestine (18) and Israel (15). Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is the most addressed key action in all countries. In Lebanon and Türkiye this is followed by resource efficiency, in Jordan and Palestine by the promotion of changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles, and in Israel by the adoption of innovative solutions along entire value chains. In Türkiye, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan, the promotion of changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles is least often covered by regional projects; in Israel this is the engagement of stakeholders and awareness raising.

Among the Mediterranean EU countries, it stands out that Italy (126), Spain (100), and Greece (72) are particularly often participating in regional projects related to axis 1. Italy is more than 8 times as often involved as Malta, and 7 times more often than Cyprus and Slovenia. The least number of projects are implemented by Monaco (2) and Malta (14). Similar to the other regions, the thematic focus of the projects in Mediterranean EU countries is dominated by supporting sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency as well as by the promotion of changes in business practices, trade and public policy. The promotion of changes in education, lifestyles and behaviour is the least covered key action, closely followed by stakeholder engagement and awareness raising.

Activities, outputs and outcomes

The projects framed under axis 1 aim to implement practices, tools and patterns of sustainable consumption and production, while preventing and addressing environmental challenges along the entire value chains across different sectors and industries, in urban and rural contexts. To track progress towards the transition in the region, the monitoring framework under axis 1 includes three impact indicators, three long-term outcome indicators, three intermediate outcome indicators, three output indicators, and one activity indicator.

From all projects under implementation 2021-2022, which were 123 and 136, respectively, 41 (31% on average) shared information. This lower share is mostly because CBC Med (now renamed Interreg Next Med) and PRIMA that both contribute to a considerable share of supporting projects did have only few (CBC Med) or no (PRIMA) reporting available as they apply longer reporting cycles. Therefore, an additional 30% of projects, most of them under CBC Med, were covered by online research and compilation of available information from the project's websites, newsletters or social media channels, so that 60% of all projects

under this axis are covered.¹⁷ Interreg Med (now renamed Interreg Euro-Med) makes up for most of the information shared.

When looking at the compiled indicator information, it needs to be kept in mind that it represents only a share of project results and it can be assumed that the actual numbers are considerably higher.

As was the case for the baseline assessment, projects and programmes continue focusing their monitoring on the output level. However, implementation progress is evident as more information is becoming available on intermediate outcomes, while long-term outcomes are mostly not yet visible in the compiled information.

	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2020	2021	2022
<i>Long-term outcome</i>	Resource savings	No data available so far	No data available so far	No data available so far
	Number of public administrations applying SCP/green procurement			No data available so far
	Number of green jobs created			12
<i>Intermediate outcome</i>	Number of stakeholders with increased awareness/knowledge/capacity	750	No meaningful data available, see p. 29	
	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled	29	39	41
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) taken up or upscaled	8	46	93
<i>Outputs</i>	No. of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising events and ESD	30.231	136.353	15.114
	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed	53	22	27
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) developed	98	138	167
<i>Activities</i>	No. of projects and programmes implemented under the 2030GreenerMed framework per year	56	123	136

Table 2: Indicator results axis 1

Some **highlights** for each indicator category include:

Activities. This indicator measures the number of projects implemented. Over the reporting period, 84 projects were added, most from PRIMA followed by CBC Med and Interreg Med. Other projects added are under H2020, Mava Foundation and EU LIFE. At the same time, four projects closed in 2021 and are not counted anymore for the monitoring in 2022.¹⁸ It is noteworthy that many projects that are active in similar thematic areas are building synergies amongst each other, both within their respective programmes but also across them.

Solutions developed. This indicator includes a wide range of solutions that can be broadly categorised into a) knowledge products, e.g. policy, research, or technical reports and other publications such as case studies, guidelines, recommendations or data bases, b) training modules and capacity building materials, c) methodologies that are finding a practical application in the respective project, d) technological solutions, e) digital solutions such as online platforms, applications and tools, f) communication products and tools.

¹⁷ Once official reporting becomes available, the information now covered through online research will be validated for the next reporting period.

¹⁸ These are: NAGE and GEAR projects under IPA II, H2020 - MedAID - Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development, and EU Life - LIFE-AGROMINE.

Most solutions in quantity have been developed under CBC Med and Interreg Med – logically, as they provide a large share of contributing projects and more information has been compiled on them as compared to PRIMA. However, other individual projects have also developed solutions that are smaller in number but with high impact potential.

Examples of solutions developed

- The H2020MedAID project has developed numerous studies, guidelines, lessons learned and recommendations on promoting new aquaculture systems to reduce environmental impacts that are integrated in an internet-based toolbox with all key project deliverables. See <http://www.medaaid-h2020.eu/> and <http://www.medaaid-toolbox.eu/>
- The GEAR project under IPA II (finalised In 2021) has produced several publications and a mobile app on Green Economy and Green Entrepreneurship. See <https://gear.net.me/> and <https://forsmontenegro.org/en/cause/gear-green-economy-for-advanced-region/>
- The SIRCLES project under CBC Med has developed a best practice guide for successful biowaste recycling and launched pilot recycling facilities In Spain, Tunisia and Lebanon. See <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/sircles> library section and specifically the [good practice guide](#).

Solutions taken up or upscaled

As project implementation progresses, a number of solutions that oftentimes are developed as pilot applications have been taken up by others or scaled up. Capitalisation projects such as under CBC Med play a key role for leveraging solutions developed by other projects, as well as collaborations and synergies that individual projects are creating amongst each other. The same applies for the programmatic and capitalisation approach of the Interreg Euro-Med Governance Projects, 'umbrella' projects launched a few months ago and currently under activation - therefore, no reporting is available on them yet. The approval of the related thematic projects, which will be embraced by the Governance Projects, will further potentiate their multiplier effect.

Examples of solutions taken up or upscaled

- The H2020 HYDROUSA project has set up 6 demonstrations sites on Greek islands with different innovations for water management and reuse. The Lesbos demonstration site will be replicated at Gorgona island (Italy) with finance from the Fund for investments in Small Islands. There are also plans to replicate solutions in other water stressed areas in the Mediterranean and beyond. See <https://www.hydrousa.org/>
- Different InterregMed projects such as Co-Evolve, BLUEMED, CONSUME-LESS, MITOMED+ and TOURISMED have developed and applied sustainable tourism evaluation tools that are taken up by an increasing number of tourist sites in the Mediterranean.
- The capitalisation project WEF-CAP under CBC Med focuses on technology transfer and capitalisation related to the water, energy, food nexus. It selected 9 existing innovations that will be promoted through communication, in discussions and workshops. Among them are H2020 HYDROUSA and MAIA-TAQA (also under CBC Med). See <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/wef-cap>

Declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed. At this level, the scope are usually declarations, policies, strategies and plans within the respective multi-country projects that are applicable in the specific context of the respective initiative. Some are also open for others to join. In other cases, project activities support the development of national or

regional policies or plans. In most cases, projects develop strategies or plans while declarations are less used and policy development is mostly not evident in project reporting, although a contribution to policy development is often mentioned among projects' objectives.

Examples of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed

- The REUSEMED project under CBC Med has developed an action plan to build reuse circuits in Jordan and has developed a reuse plan for a municipality in Italy. See <https://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/reusemed>
- TEX MED ALLIANCES, also under CBC Med, has launched the TheMedNew Manifesto, a declaration of the values of the platform such as sustainability, inclusive creativity, a lifestyle that respects and promotes human diversity and minorities, and a commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets promoted by the UN for the Mediterranean, as well as respect for the natural environment. See <http://www.themednew.eu/>
- Within the NAGE project under IPA II, the Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN) participated in the National Rural Parliaments of Albania and Kosovo and supported processes and initiatives for approximation of the national rural policy development to the EU Common Agriculture Policy articulated in their respective National Parliaments' Declaration/Manifesto.

Declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled

As is the case with solutions, a number of declarations, strategies or plans have indeed been upscaled within the projects' contexts or they have been used as input for other actors to integrate them in other policies, strategies or plans.

Examples of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled

- The NAGE project reports that evidence based policy recommendations on green economy and a roadmap to green economy, documents developed by the project, were used by the Ministry of Agriculture In North Macedonia to initiate the process of incorporating recommendations in the national agriculture and rural development programs for 2022. It also introduced measures as incentives for practicing green entrepreneurship in agricultural production and rural economy.
- Different InterregMed projects such as Co-Evolve, BLUEMED, CONSUME-LESS, MITOMED+ and TOURISMED have developed sustainable tourism plans, charters and protocols that are taken up by an increasing number of tourist sites in the Mediterranean.

Capacity building/ Awareness raising events. Considering the reporting period and including the baseline, as of end of 2022 a total of approximately 180.000 actors have been reached with capacity building and awareness raising activities. The vast majority (92%) of actors have participated or been reached through awareness raising, while about 8% participated in technical capacity building and training courses. Education for sustainable development (ESD) is not covered by any projects under this axis.

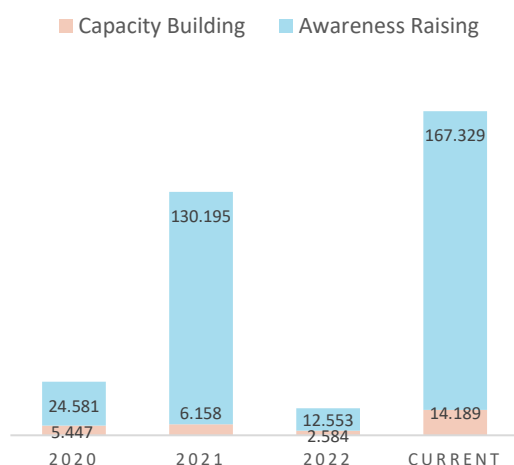


Figure 17. Axis 1 - Stakeholder participation in capacity building/awareness raising events

Again, it can be assumed that actual numbers are still higher as this number comes from 60% of all active projects, and several of those projects where information is available do report on their

activities (e.g., the number and type of events organised) but do not include the number of participants.

Project reporting in most cases does not differentiate between the output indicator of actors that *participated* in capacity building, awareness raising events and ESD, and the intermediate outcome indicator of stakeholders with *increased* awareness/knowledge/capacity. It is mostly assumed by projects that stakeholders that participate in such events would automatically have increased knowledge and capacities. Therefore, it was not possible to compile meaningful results for the intermediate outcome level as indicated in table 2 (page 26).

Examples of capacity building and awareness raising

- MedWaves, under the Switcher Support Programme has conducted training of trainers (ToT) on sustainable business development and supported almost 1000 entrepreneurs, among them 55% women, on sustainable business model development.
- Different InterregMed projects including the Interreg Med Green Growth Community, ESMARTCITY, ARISTOIL, EMBRACE, or GREEN MIND have provided technical support and capacity building to entrepreneurs and small businesses in different sectors.
- The H2020 CLAIM project - Cleaning Litter by developing and Applying Innovative Methods in European Seas has conducted workshops on the removal of marine litter and the circular economy.

Long-term outcomes. While many projects cover aspects of the circular economy and develop tools and strategies that aim to contribute to resource savings in terms of water, energy or materials, none of the projects where information is available has yet reported on actual resources saved through project activities. The same is the case for the indicator on public administrations applying sustainable consumption and production/green procurement.

Several projects aim to create green/circular jobs and foster green entrepreneurship in different sectors such as tourism, textiles, agriculture or in the waste management sector. However, as of 2022 only one project, SIRCLES under CBC Med, has reported on actual job creation within the project context (12 jobs so far). From the reporting of other projects it

is however foreseeable that more information on job creation will become available over the coming years as project implementation progresses.

A note on the inclusive economy aspect

Axis 1 does not only include fostering a green and circular economy but also has among its objectives to promote an inclusive economy, paying attention to vulnerable groups such as women and youth. Although some projects have a specific focus on these groups and state to promote women's and youth participation in the green and circular economy or also to specifically cater to NEETs (youth which are neither in employment nor in education or training), this aspect is not strongly integrated in the majority of projects and disaggregated data that could shed a light on the inclusion aspect is mostly unavailable in project reporting. This finding resonates with a recent publication by PRIMA on the gender dimension in PRIMA projects.¹⁹ The report concludes that there is only a moderate level of gender dimension integration and while project teams often consider gender equality in terms of a gender balance for example in team compositions, there is overall still a limited understanding of how to integrate a gender dimension more holistically into project design. From the available information of 60% of projects under this axis, a similar situation seems to exist also in other programmes.

¹⁹ Survey Report: Gender Dimension in PRIMA Projects 2018-2022, published 2023. As PRIMA projects are the biggest share of projects under this axis, this is a relevant study to consider.

Impact level

Note to the reader

The impact level analysis (below) of the agreed indicators has been prepared based on publicly available internationally recognized sources.

It aims to link and show how the 2030GreenerMed supporting projects contribute to the impact level.

Impact Indicators for Axis 1

To track progress towards the transition in the Mediterranean region, the monitoring framework under axis 1 includes three impact indicators, which have been jointly decided by relevant stakeholders: Ecological Footprint, Domestic Material Consumption and Ratio of female to male labour force participation.

- The **Ecological Footprint** framework aims at quantifying the natural resources and ecosystem services that a population consumes as well as the regenerative capacity the biosphere provides by means of two metrics: Ecological Footprint [EF] and Biocapacity [BC]. The measuring unit used is Global Hectare (gha) which is a biologically productive hectare with world average biological productivity for a given year. When the EF is lower than the BC, the country is in a situation of ecological remainder, meaning that there are enough natural resources to meet the citizens' demand. Contrarily, if a population's EF exceeds the BC, it is characterized by an ecological deficit. This situation occurs because a country can liquidate its own ecological assets (e.g., through deforestation or overfishing), import resources from outside its boundaries, or emit more CO₂ into the atmosphere than its land and the oceans are able to sequester. The Ecological Footprint has not been updated for this first monitoring report as a longer time span needs to be considered for the analysis.
Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) pertains to the quantity of materials utilized within an economy. This includes domestic extraction, harvesting, and imports while excluding exports. This indicator is also a component of Objective 5 - Transition towards a green and blue economy - within the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). DMC serves as a sub-indicator of SDG12, which focuses on sustainable consumption and production. Target 12.2 associated with DMC aims to achieve the sustainable management and efficient utilization of natural resources. The regional average is determined by giving weight to each country's data based on its population size. The method for calculating the regional average has been aligned with the approach used for SDG indicators, including considering the 22 Mediterranean countries exclusively. The baseline data has been adjusted accordingly.
- **Ratio of female to male labour force participation** measures the share of the female population aged 15 years and older that is economically active in proportion to the same share of men. A percentage closer to 100 indicates a higher equality, a percentage closer to 0 indicates a wider gender gap in terms of economic participation of women. The regional average is calculated by weighting each country's data by population size.

The first impact indicator, the *Ecological Footprint*, has not been updated for this initial monitoring report. The reason for this is that the data required to calculate this indicator is not available on an annual basis. It will take more time for a new analysis to reveal significant differences and trends compared to the baseline. Therefore, for the reporting period 2021-2022, the indicator value remains the same as at the baseline: the Ecological Footprint of the UfM region was 3.82 global hectares per capita, while the regional

biocapacity was 1.62 global hectares per capita, resulting in an ecological deficit of 2.20 global hectares per capita.

For the second impact indicator, *Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)*, latest available data²⁰ show that in the Mediterranean region, encompassing 22 countries²¹, the average DMC is 17,7 tonnes per capita, showing an increasing trend compared to the baseline of 11,2.

Looking at sub-regional data, Western Europe²² stands out with the highest average of 22.4 tonnes per capita, followed closely by the Middle East²³, which has an average of 19.6 tonnes per capita. Eastern Europe²⁴ follows with an average of 12.8 tonnes per capita. In contrast, North Africa²⁵ reports the lowest average value at 12.1 tonnes per capita.

The highest increase (>100%) has been registered for France, Morocco and Italy. But there are also countries that have decreased their DMC, especially Cyprus, Jordan and Lebanon (< -20%).

The DMC can be distinguished into the consumption of metals, non-metallic minerals (construction minerals, industrial minerals), biomass (wood, food) and fossil energy carriers²⁶. Non-metallic minerals have been the most used material in all Mediterranean countries. Over the period from 2015-2019 more than half of the 22 countries have reduced their fossil fuels consumption. Malta, Lebanon and Israel are leading the trend with a decrease of >1 tonnes per capita.

Among the Mediterranean countries, Türkiye has the highest per capita consumption of non-metallic minerals (16 tonnes per capita). Israel and France have the highest per capita biomass consumption (>7 tonnes).

The graphic below shows the trend in consumption for each type of material during the four-year period 2015-2019, with metal ores showing the most significant increase, followed by non-metallic minerals and fossil fuels, while biomass consumption saw the smallest percentage increase.

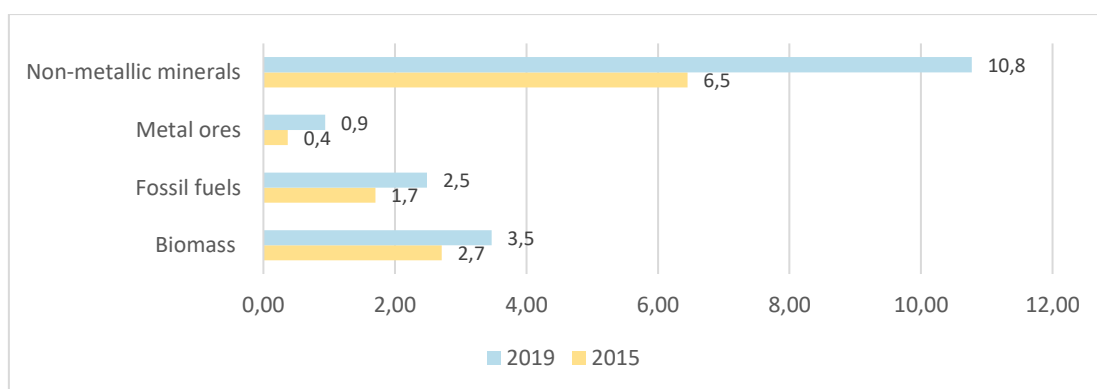


Figure 18 Domestic Material Consumption in the Mediterranean per type of material (Average per capita)

²⁰ These are data from 2019, the baseline data were based on 2015 which was then the latest year for which data was available.

²¹ Western Europe (6), Eastern Europe (7), Middle East (5) and North Africa (4).

²² France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain.

²³ Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Türkiye.

²⁴ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Montenegro and Slovenia.

²⁵ Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

²⁶ Source: OECD, n.d.



Figure 19. Domestic material consumption per country, tonnes per capita²⁷.

²⁷ Source: The [material flow analysis portal](#).

The third impact indicator, which falls under SDG5 on Gender Equality, assesses the *Ratio of female to male labour force participation*. In the context of the Mediterranean region, encompassing 21 countries²⁸, the initial baseline result stands at 50.35%. Over the past two years, there has been a slight positive shift for the regional average with an increase of almost 2 percentage points, bringing the figure up to 52.16%.

The weighted average percentages for different sub regions are as follows: Western Europe exhibits an average of 80.5%, Eastern Europe stands at 75.6%, the Middle East shows an average of 48.66%, and North Africa has the lowest average at 25.5%.

Five countries show results higher than 80% and demonstrate a positive trend towards equality in labour force participation: Israel, France, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. Cyprus also surpasses 80%, although it has experienced a slight decline in the past two years. In contrast, Egypt and Jordan lag behind, registering figures below 25%. Noteworthy is the substantial progress made by Malta, which has seen an increase of 10.33 percentage points, followed closely by Lebanon with +9.7. Egypt has witnessed a significant decline, experiencing a substantial decrease of 9.2 percentage points.

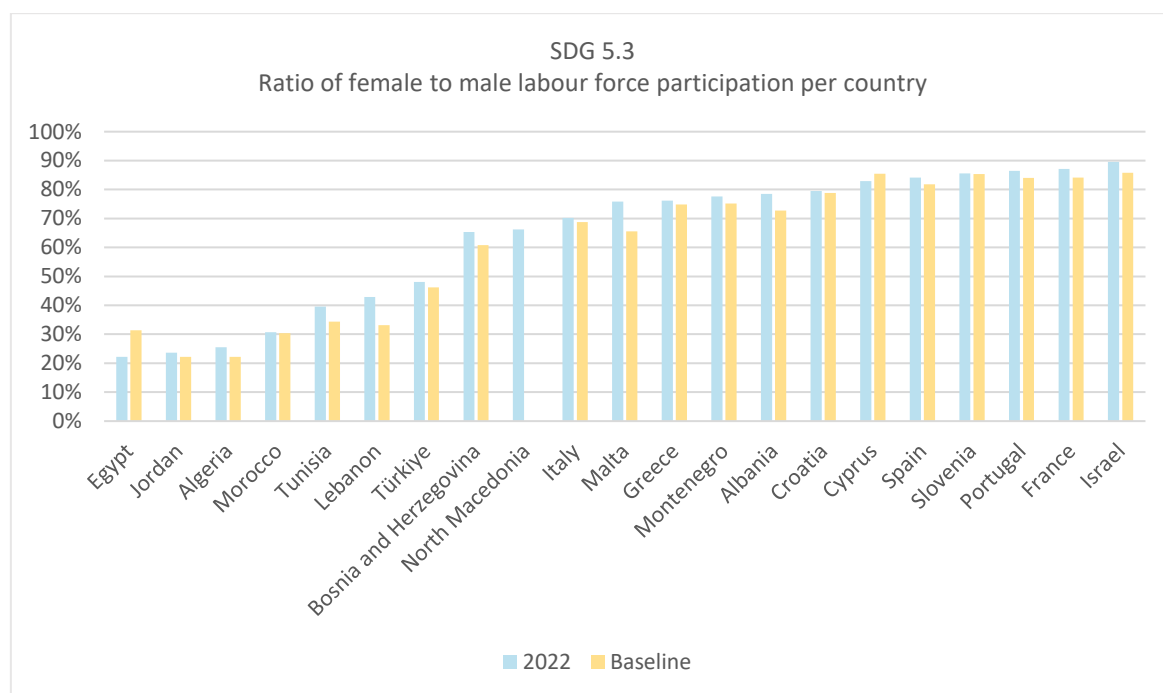


Figure 20. Ratio of female to male labour force participation per country²⁹

²⁸ Western Europe (6), Eastern Europe (7), Middle East (4) and North Africa (4). No data available for Palestine.

²⁹ Source: SDSN Mediterranean, 2023

4.2 Axis 2: Pollution prevention and reduction

Summary of key findings

- The number of contributing projects and programmes under axis 2 increased to 42 over the update period, from 21 at the baseline. Both in absolute and relative terms, the focus on plastic pollution and marine litter (KA2.2, 16 projects, 38% of all projects under this axis) as well as on pollution prevention and reduction mechanisms (KA2.1, 14 projects, 33%) has increased most noticeably. Key action KA 2.7 'Reducing landfilled waste' is also addressed by 13 projects (10 at baseline). Only one project was identified that clearly addresses the key action KA 2.6 'Reduce and control air pollution', i.e., no new regional project was identified since the baseline. Other key actions like KA 2.3 'Facilitate investments in infrastructure', KA 2.4 'Reduce chemical pollution of rivers and lakes' and KA 2.5 'Improve soil quality' are addressed by only a few projects (6, 4, and 9 projects respectively).
- All 22 countries covered by the mapping of relevant initiatives are involved in projects addressing this thematic axis with at least one project, including Portugal, which did not address this axis at the baseline. The country with most projects addressing this thematic axis is Italy (35), followed closely by Spain (32). Least often involved are Monaco (2), Slovenia (3), Malta (4), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), and Palestine (3). For the latter two countries, no new regional project contributing to axis 2 was identified since the baseline. From a sub-regional perspective, the participation in regional projects seems to be slightly more balanced compared to the baseline. Especially the North-African Med countries have increased the number of projects significantly. The average number of projects per country is 13.2 in the Med EU, 5 in Western Balkan Med, 12.3 in Northern Africa, and 6.2 in the Middle Eastern Med.
- Despite the overall positive trend in the number of projects, two key actions are standing out in that they are addressed by less than half of the 22 countries: KA2.4 (reduce chemical pollution) is addressed by regional projects of 10 countries, and KA2.6 (reduce and control air pollution) is addressed by regional project of 7 countries.
- Most of regional projects are financed by the EU, while bilateral donors are rather engaged in national level projects. Most projects are running under PRIMA (12) and Interreg Med (10), followed by CBC Med (9). Four projects are being implemented under H2020 and two are supported by a bilateral donor, namely Germany (BMU and BMZ/GIZ), focusing on waste management in Northern Africa and the Western Balkans, respectively. Additionally, GEF is engaged in an environmental project at Med scale, whose component on the use of toxic chemicals in the MENA region is managed by MedWaves (former SCP/RAC). One other project is financed under ENI South.
- Over the reporting period, information has been shared by 16 projects (2021) and 15 projects (2022), 48% of all projects (32) under this axis. This is a lower share of projects as compared to the baseline assessment where reporting was obtained from 67% of all projects mapped under axis 2. However, through additional online research of project websites, newsletters and other information sources, another 30% of projects is covered so that the analysis in this chapter relates to 78% of all projects that were active in 2021 and 2022.
- Only one project (WES) reported information disaggregated by vulnerable groups (e.g. youth or women).

More overarching key findings are included in this report under Section 6 "Learnings & Considerations".

Mapping of initiatives

42 projects (21 at baseline) have been identified that address pollution prevention and reduction (axis 2) with a regional approach. 12 of those are cross-cutting with other

thematic axes. This axis of the 2030GreenerMed agenda is the one that has least regional projects associated at this stage.

Most projects of this thematic axis are implemented under the umbrella of PRIMA (12 projects), which is the initiative with the highest increase in projects under axis 2 compared with the baseline (1 project). In terms of numbers of projects contributing to this axis, PRIMA is followed by Interreg Med (10 projects), CBC Med (9 projects), H2020 (4 projects), Horizon Europe (3 projects), GEF, ENI South, BMZ, and BMU (each 1 project).

Of the 42 projects, 1 was completed in 2021 and 19 in 2022. Of the 22 projects that are still operational, 7 will end this year, 1 in 2024, 2 in 2025 and 10 in 2026. For 2 projects the duration could not be identified.

Coverage by key action

Tackling plastic pollution and marine litter as well as pollution sources (KA2.2) is the most frequently addressed key action within this thematic axis. With 16 projects, it is receiving greater attention today than at the baseline (8 projects), when the most frequently addressed key action was the reduction of landfilled waste (KA2.7). The number of regional projects contributing to latter increased from 10 to 13.

14 projects are contributing to the strengthening of mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction from different sources (KA2.1). It shows the highest increase in projects among all key actions of this axis (+9 projects since the baseline). The reduction and control of air quality (KA2.6), in contrast, is addressed by 1 project only, which ended in 2022. Put differently, for the years 2021 to 2023 no new regional project was identified that is contributing to this key action.

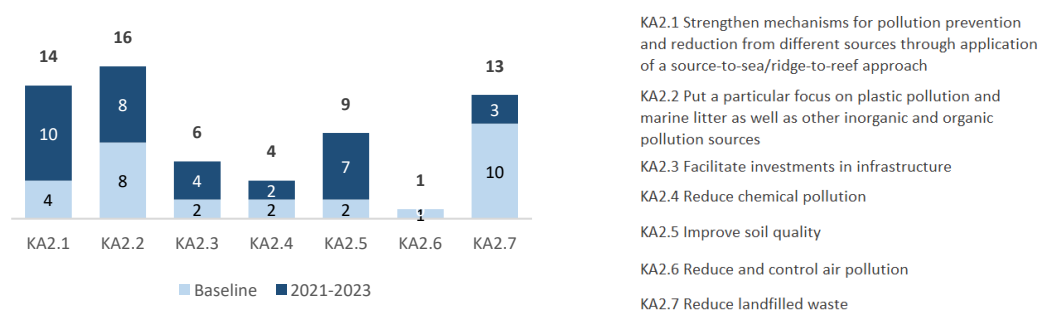


Figure 21: Coverage per key action (number of projects under axis 2)

Sector coverage

The projects cover 5 sectors. Most frequently addressed sectors are waste management (16 projects) and agriculture (10 projects). Least often addressed is the food and beverage sector with 1 project. Waste management being the most frequently addressed sector is in line with the aforementioned key actions that are being most contributed to by the projects under this axis. About one fourth of the projects do not address or specify specific economic sectors, e.g., when economy in general is targeted, or do not clearly fall within any of the other sectors mentioned ('others').

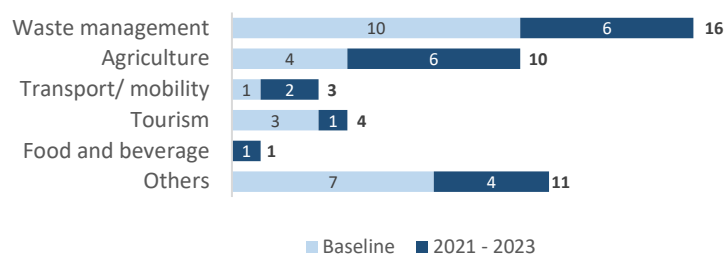


Figure 22: Main sectors addressed - number of projects per sector

Stakeholders involved

Overall, 412 organisations³⁰ are partnering in implementing the projects under axis 2, vis-à-vis 250 organisations at the baseline. The following Figure 23 shows the type of stakeholder involved. While at the baseline most of the projects' partners were CSOs, the share of academia and research organisations as well as of businesses increased noticeably, suggesting a stronger scientific backbone of the projects but also a stronger recognition of the relevance of the private sector. The share of both public sector and CSOs in turn decreased.

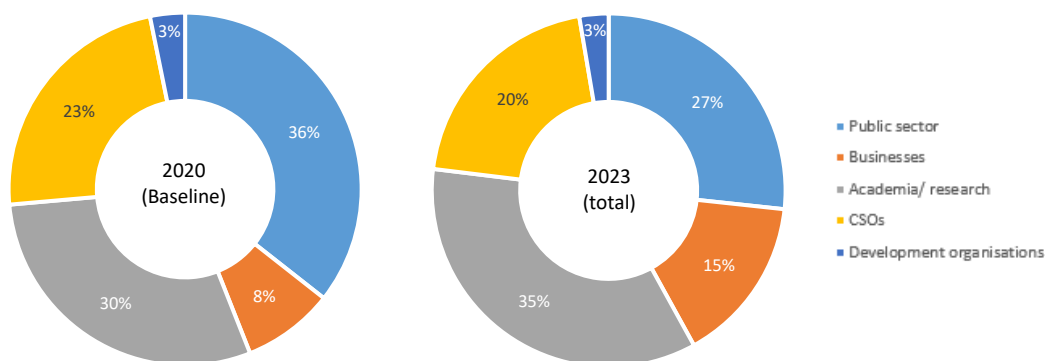


Figure 23: Type of actors involved (share of all partners and affiliated partners of projects contributing to axis 2)

Coverage by country/sub-region

All countries are involved in projects addressing this thematic axis with at least one project. Portugal, for which no project was identified at the baseline, now participates in 4 projects. In contrast, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Palestine did not join any new regional projects since the baseline assessment. The country with most projects addressing this thematic axis is Italy (35), followed closely by Spain (32). Least often involved is Monaco, participating in 2 regional projects.

³⁰ Can include multiple counts of the same organisation (i.e., if involved in several projects)

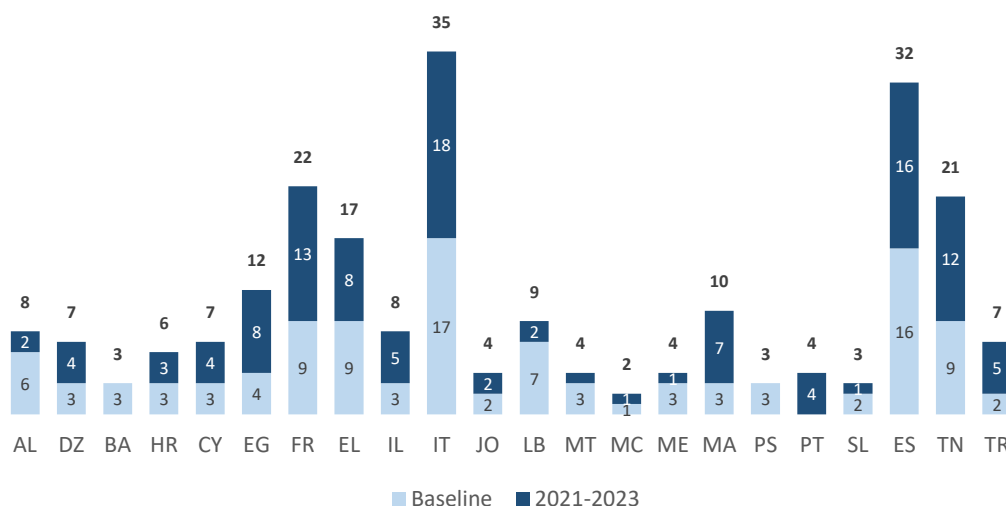


Figure 24. Number of projects per country in thematic axis 2

In terms of sub-regional coverage, this translates into the following unweighted average number of projects per country³¹: Med EU 13.2, Middle East 6.2, Northern Africa 12.5, Western Balkan 5 (see figure 22Figure 16). The most noticeable difference between the baseline and this update report is – next to the overall increase of projects within each region – that the countries of both the North African Med and the Middle Eastern Med now count more projects per country than the Western Balkan Med countries, vice versa to the baseline situation.

Putting the number of projects under this axis into relation with the population size of each region, the picture changes in that the Western Balkan region is involved in the highest number of projects per 1,000,000 people, while the North-African Med region shows the lowest number of projects per capita respectively.

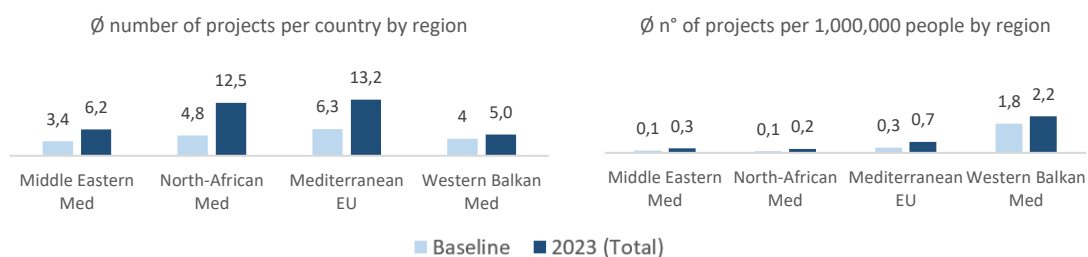


Figure 25. Average number of projects per sub-region in thematic axis 2

Among the North African Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria), Tunisia stands out with 21 projects compared to 12 projects in Egypt, 10 projects in Morocco and 7 projects in Algeria. Tunisia covers the key actions “reduce landfilled waste” as well as strengthening the “mechanism for pollution prevention and reduction” with 8 projects and “plastic and marine litter” with 7 projects. For all countries except Algeria, most of the new projects (added subsequent to the baseline) are addressing the latter two key actions (pollution prevention and reduction as well as plastic and marine litter). Three new projects in Tunisia focus on the facilitation of investments in infrastructure, which is also addressed by 1 new project each in Algeria and Egypt. None of the countries in this region participates in regional projects that seek to reduce and control air pollution.

³¹ Sum of all projects within one region divided by the number of countries the region covers

Reducing chemical pollution is addressed through new regional projects by all countries (each 1 new project) but Algeria, where regional projects do not cover this aspect yet.

Among the Mediterranean countries of the Western Balkan, Albania is involved in 8 projects, whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro are involved in 3 projects and 4 projects respectively. Projects in Albania most frequently focus on regional actions addressing plastics and marine litter as well as pollution prevention and reduction mechanisms (5 and 3 projects respectively). 1 project addresses air pollution control and reduction, and facilitating investments in infrastructure, while landfilled waste reduction is the focus of 2 projects. For Bosnia and Herzegovina, the picture did not change compared to the baseline. The country is involved in 1 project addressing landfill waste, 1 project focusing on plastic and marine litter, 1 project reducing landfilled waste, and 1 project addressing the reduction of chemical pollution. Montenegro added 1 regional project to its portfolio since the baseline that is addressing pollution prevention and reduction mechanisms as well as plastics and marine litter. The latter is covered by Montenegro now through 3 projects (2 projects at baseline). The country is also involved in 1 project that facilitates investments into infrastructure, especially into transport. The same project also addresses air pollution. Chemical pollution is addressed through only 1 regional project (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Among the middle eastern countries, Lebanon again is most involved (9 projects, compared to 7 at baseline), followed by Israel (8 projects), and Türkiye (7 projects). The key actions “Strengthen mechanisms for pollution prevention” and “plastic pollution and marine litter” are addressed by all countries now (compared to 2 countries at baseline). Türkiye, which was not involved in any project that addresses any key action other than “reduce landfilled waste” at baseline, now broadened its portfolio, also covering plastics and marine litter (3 projects). This is also Israel’s and Lebanon’s most frequently addressed key action (5 and 4 projects respectively). Chemical pollution and air pollution have not been addressed by any new regional projects within this region since the baseline. Soil quality, however, is now addressed by three regional projects implemented by Israel and one regional project implemented by Lebanon. One new project also contributes to landfilled waste, with Jordan, however, being the only country of this sub-region that participates in this regional project. The three projects Palestine participates in address the reduction of landfilled waste (2), pollution prevention and reduction mechanism (1), and plastic pollution and marine litter (1).

Among the Mediterranean EU countries, Italy (35 projects), Spain (32 projects), France (22 projects), and Greece (17 projects) are particularly often involved in regional projects under this thematic axis compared to the other countries (Croatia 6, Cyprus 7, Malta 4, Monaco 2, Slovenia 3, Portugal 4). It stands out that also in this region pollution reduction and prevention mechanisms as well as plastics and marine litter received significantly more attention, with all countries. Soil quality is addressed by Spain, France, Italy (6 projects) and Greece (2 projects, respectively). Air pollution is addressed only by Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, and Spain (1 project each).

Activities, outputs and outcomes

Axis 2 focuses on those actions that aim to prevent and reduce pollution on land, sea and air from different sources, applying a source-to-sea/ridge-to-reef approach with a particular focus on plastic pollution and marine litter as well as other inorganic and organic pollution sources.

For the monitoring, information was reported by 16 projects in 2021 and 15 projects in 2022, representing on average 48% of the active projects in Axis 2. With additional online research conducted, information is available for 78% of all projects, but it needs to be considered that this information might be incomplete. Like in the previous chapter, looking at the current analysis it can be assumed that the actual indicator results are higher, and the information now included will be verified and/or corrected once more official reports become available.

	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2020	2021	2022
<i>Long-term outcome</i>	Tons of waste treated	No data available	11,5	1,2
	Wastewater treated (m3/d)		No data available so far	
	Amount and type of toxic pollutants eliminated or reduced			
<i>Intermediate outcome</i>	Number of stakeholders with increased awareness/knowledge/capacity	2.737	No meaningful data available (see p. 43)	
	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled	11	30	14
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) taken up or upscaled	4	57	13
<i>Outputs</i>	No. of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising events and ESD	194.334	96.247	273.882
	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed	18	17	11
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) developed	40	41	48
<i>Activities</i>	No. of projects and programmes implemented under the 2030GreenerMed framework per year	21	32	32

Table 3: Indicator results axis 2

Some **highlights** for each indicator category include:

Solutions developed. Under this axis, solutions are more technical in nature and relate to a) knowledge products in the form of research reports and assessments, b) methodologies and models, for example for waste sorting and recycling, c) technology solutions. Digital solutions are less represented under this axis as compared to axis 1. However, a few projects have developed innovative online tools. Communication and awareness raising tools such as campaign concepts, videos etc. have also been developed by many projects.

Examples of solutions developed

- The TouMALI project has published [E-learning modules](#) provided by Leibniz Institute for Baltic Research Warnemünde, Germany on 'Coastal and Marine Management' and has developed beach litter monitoring and waste management concepts for tourist sites in Egypt and Tunisia.
- The COMMON project under CBC Med has created a coastal cities network with a [dedicated online space](#) where different cities and municipalities share best practices for waste management, reduction and recycling
- The Plastic Busters Capitalisation project, also under CBC Med and labelled by UfM, has produced training materials and a method for an international

workshop on marine litter monitoring in the Mediterranean. See <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/plastic-busters-cap> library section.

Declarations, policies, strategies, and plans developed. The development of declarations or policies is not the focus of a majority of the projects, although a few have done so. Strategies and plans or roadmaps have been developed by several.

Examples of declarations policies, strategies and plans developed

- The GIZ project "[Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans](#)" has developed a waste flow diagram (WFD) declaration signed by all participating countries, that promotes the use of the WFD tool also developed in the project context. The project has also contributed to the amendment of the law for Integrated Waste management to include a ban of carrier plastic bags thinner than 70 micron per side.
- The MED-INA project under CBC Med has developed new integrated waste management plans in pilot municipalities in Spain, Tunisia and Jordan. See <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/med-ina>
- The REUSEMED project (CBC Med) has defined action plan to build reuse circuits in Jordan as well as a reuse plan for a municipality in Italy. See <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/reusemed>

Capacity building/ Awareness raising events. About 565.000 actors³² were reached through capacity building, awareness raising and education for sustainable development (ESD) activities of projects. Almost all, 99%, were reached or participated in awareness raising events while a smaller share (2.640 actors)

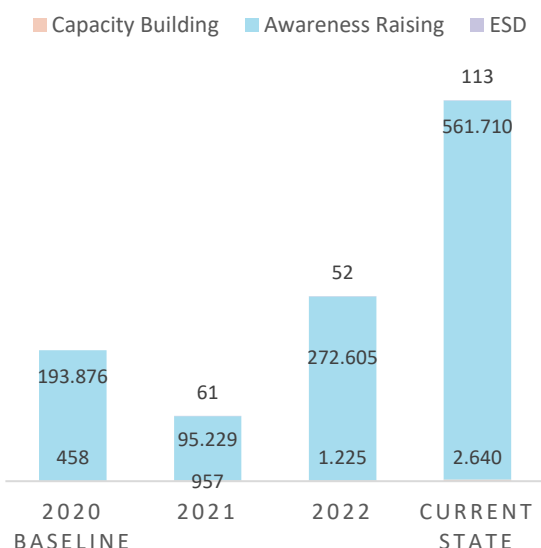


Figure 26. Axis 2 - Stakeholder participation in capacity building/awareness raising events

participated in technical trainings or capacity building workshops. Large awareness raising events include, among others, the "Clean Up the Med" campaign launched annually under the CBC Med COMMON project.

ESD is addressed by one project only, the EU funded "Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region", where so far 113 people have been involved in such activities. WES is also the only project that can be highlighted for providing gender and youth disaggregated data: of all people engaged in the various capacity building, awareness raising and ESD activities of this project over

2021-2022, 45% were women and 18% belong to the youth bracket.

³² Note that the total "current state" is not the exact sum of the totals of the individual years as numbers are controlled for duplication - that is, some projects engage the same people in capacity building over the course of several years, these are counted for each year but only once for the overall total.

Intermediate outcomes. Many projects apply their developed solutions in pilot or demonstration sites and it is still too early to report on intermediate results so that not much information is available yet on uptake or scale-up of solutions. Just a few cases are reported that relate to specific technologies or methods that have been developed by some of the projects. For example, the COMMON project under CBC Med states that its methodologies for the monitoring of floating debris has been taken up by the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in a state of the art report on Floating Marine Macro Litter (FMML).

The same is the case for declarations, strategies, policies or plans. The majority of plans taken up relate to InterregMed projects CONSUME-LESS, BLUEISLANDS and INCIRCLE and focus specifically on sustainable tourism plans adopted by regions and sub-regions of the Mediterranean, which include waste prevention and reduction as an important component but are also accounted for under axis 1.³³

Regarding stakeholders with increased knowledge and awareness, as is the case in axis 1 most projects do not differentiate this result level from the output indicator of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising and ESD. Thus, no reliable numbers can be reported for this indicator.

Long-term outcomes. Only limited information is available on long-term results, specifically tons of waste treated through the projects' activities. The numbers reported for 2021 and 2022 come from one single project, COMMON under CBC Med which organises annual "Clean Up the Med" campaigns where volunteers all around the Mediterranean collect beach litter. While the development of technologies and capacities for waste sorting and treatment is a strong focus of many projects under this axis, and several pilot sites have already been initiated, none of the projects has reported yet on the actual amounts of waste treated. Some projects like SIRCLES or DECOST (also under CBC Med) have quantified targets for waste treatment so that it can be expected that numbers will become available over time. No information is available on wastewater treatment, and it also needs to be highlighted that this is not a focus of projects mapped under this axis. Regarding the elimination of toxic pollutants, this indicator is relevant for the GEF-financed MedSea Programme in which MedWaves (former SCP/RAC) manages a child programme focusing on this topic. However, reporting on results is not available yet.

³³ In this case, an indicator of the InterregMed monitoring framework has been taken into account as proxy, which is the "Number of regions and sub-regions engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in implementing sustainable tourism plans". The assumption is that these plans have been developed and are now being taken up by a growing number of regions and sub-regions.

Impact level

Note to the reader

The impact level analysis (below) of the agreed indicators has been prepared based on publicly available internationally recognized sources.

It aims to link and show how the 2030GreenerMed supporting projects contribute to the impact level.

Impact Indicators for Axis 2

To track progress towards the prevention and reduction of pollution on land, sea and air from different sources in the Mediterranean region, the monitoring framework under axis 2 includes three impact indicators, all of them SDG indicators: Ocean Health Index, Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter and Municipal solid waste.

- **Ocean Health Index (OHI):** The Clean Water score of the OHI measures to what degree marine waters under national jurisdictions have been contaminated by chemicals, excessive nutrients (eutrophication), human pathogens, and trash. A score closer to 100 indicates less pollution and healthier oceans. Conversely, a lower score suggests greater challenges and threats to ocean health and sustainability. The regional average is determined by weighting each country's data based on the length of its coastline. The weighting factor coastline reflects the extent of the marine environment impacted by human activities and conservation efforts better than the weighting factor population size, which was used in the baseline. Baseline values have been adjusted accordingly.
- **Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter** is related to SDG11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities and measures air pollution as the population-weighted mean annual concentration of PM2.5 (tiny airborne particles or droplets with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or smaller) for the urban population in a country. These particles are small enough to be inhaled deep into the respiratory system and can pose health risks when present in high concentrations. The higher the value, the higher the levels of population exposure to this pollutant. The values for this indicator range from 0 to 100, with any value below 6.3 indicating progress towards achieving SDG targets. The regional average is calculated by weighting each country's data by its terrestrial surface area.
- **Municipal solid waste** measures the daily amount of waste collected by or on behalf of municipal authorities and disposed of through waste management systems, expressed in kilograms per capita (kg/capita). This indicator is related to SDG12, which focuses on Responsible Consumption and Production. It excludes agricultural and industrial waste. A lower value indicates more efficient waste management and reduced environmental impact, while a higher value may signal areas for improvement in waste reduction and recycling efforts. The regional average is calculated by weighting each country's data by population size.

The first impact indicator is the *Ocean Health Index* (OHI). This index was calculated for 20 countries of the Mediterranean region.³⁴ The average score reaches 66.64 in 2022 compared to 66.30 in 2020, which means overall seawater quality has improved by 0.34 points in the region.

³⁴ No data available for Palestine nor North Macedonia.

The sub region with the highest improvement is the Middle East, with 2.2 points, followed by North Africa with 0.54 points and Eastern Europe with 0.01 points since the baseline. Western Europe registers a slight decline of -0.07 points.

Algeria and Israel are the countries with the lowest score (≤ 50). High scores (>70) have been reached by Slovenia, Jordan, Albania, Portugal, Montenegro, Croatia, and Spain (Figure 27).

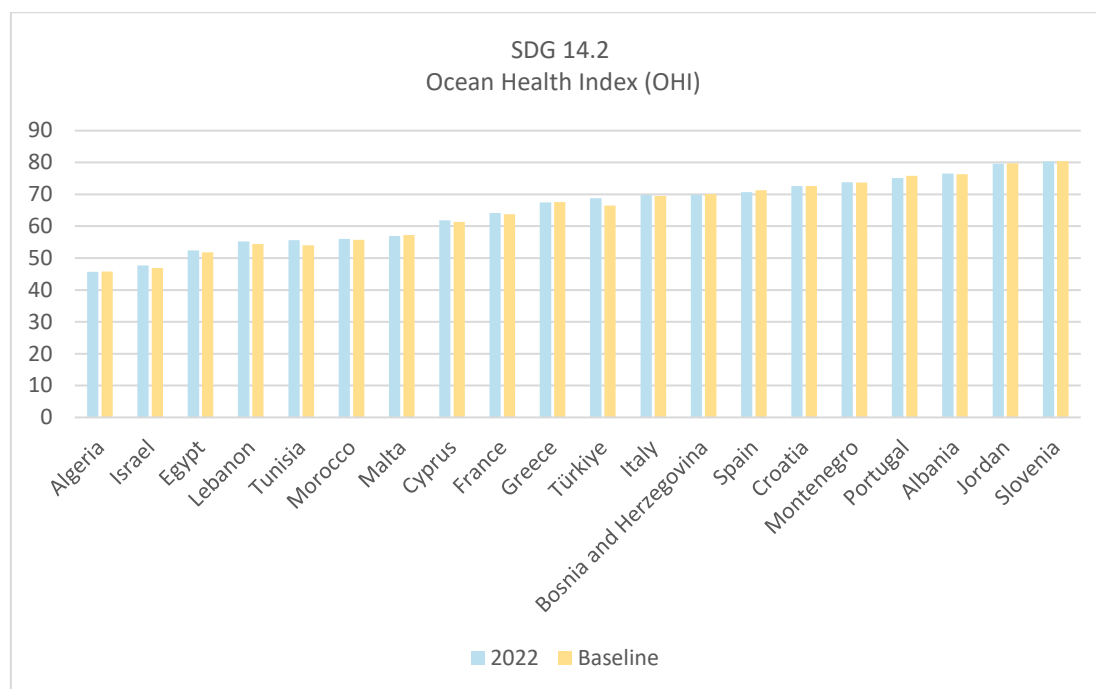


Figure 27. OHI per country³⁵

The second impact indicator is the *Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter*. In the Mediterranean region, the PM_{2.5} concentration stands at 40.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, showing minimal variation from the baseline level of 39.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Data shows that Portugal remains the country with the lowest value (7.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), followed by Spain (9.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Egypt still has by far the highest value, and additionally, it has the highest increase: it has risen from 87 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2020 to 91.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2022.

Weighted regional averages rank North Africa highest at 52.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, closely followed by the Middle East at 43 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Eastern Europe reports an average of 21 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, while Western Europe has the lowest concentration at 11.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

³⁵ Source: Ocean Health Index under: <https://oceanhealthindex.org>. No data for Palestine and North Macedonia available.

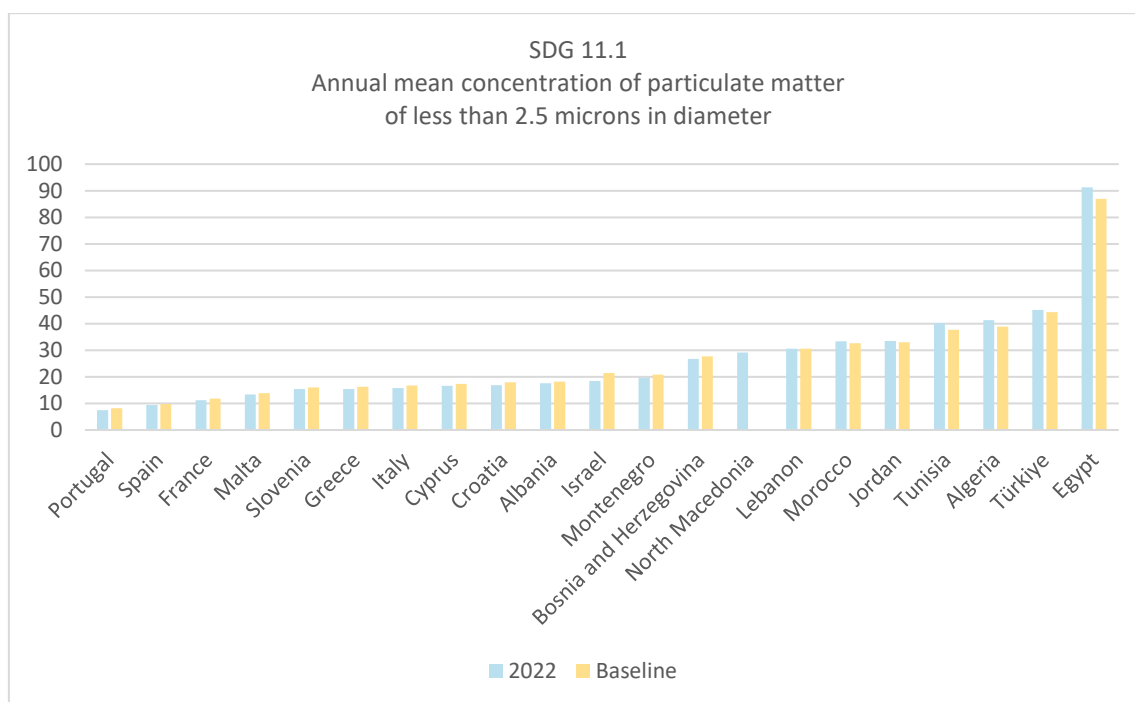


Figure 28. Annual mean PM_{2,5} concentration per country³⁶

The third impact indicator within Axis 2 is *Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)*. In the Mediterranean region, the initial baseline figure was 1.46 kg/day/capita. Over the past two years, there has been a positive change, with a decrease of 0.4 kg/day/capita, bringing the number down to 1.07 kg/day/capita.

The weighted sub regional average places North Africa as the best-performing sub region with the lowest result (0.68 kg/day per capita), followed by the Middle East (1.12 kg/day per capita), Eastern Europe (1.15 kg/day per capita), and Western Europe (1.42 kg/day per capita).

Data shows that Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia have values below 0.8 kg/day/capita. Malta has the highest value: 2.17 kg/day/capita and is the only UfM member state that has worsened its performance (Figure 29).

³⁶ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2023). Information on Palestine is not available.

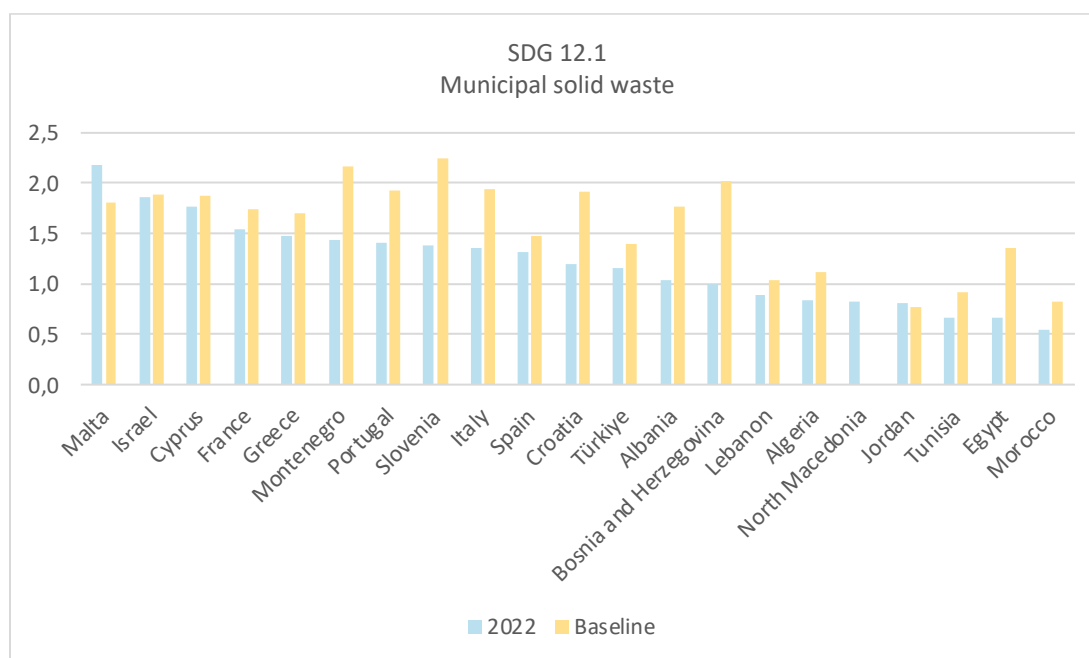


Figure 29. Municipal solid waste indicator³⁷

³⁷ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2023). No data for Palestine available.

4.3 Axis 3: Natural resources/biodiversity/ecosystems

Summary of key findings

- The 104 contributing projects and programmes under axis 3 focus mostly on the KA 3.1 'Support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity' (66 projects), and KA 3.9 'Promote nature-based solutions' (43 projects). KA3.1 also records the highest number of new projects since the baseline (+40). Key actions least addressed are KA3.2 "Promote Integrated ecosystem-based approach to managing terrestrial, coastal and marine natural resources" (13 projects) and KA3.2 "promote the sustainable management of landscapes, seascapes and coastal areas" (21 projects).
- KA 3.7 'Protect on-farm biodiversity in agro-ecosystems', and KA 3.8 'Promote disaster risk reduction with a special focus on extreme events including droughts and floods, an including forest fires' show the second and third highest increase in the number of projects (+28 and +23). Despite this strong uptake of these topics in regional projects, seven countries (AL, BA, CY, MC, ME, PS, SL) are not participating in any project addressing KA3.8.
- All 22 countries covered by the mapping of relevant initiatives are involved in at least one regional project, including Palestine, which did not address this axis at the baseline. The country with most projects is Italy (83), followed by Spain (70), France (55) and Greece (54). Palestine is involved in one project. From a sub-regional perspective, the average number of projects per country are: Med EU 32.9, Western Balkan 8, Northern Africa 35.3, and Middle East 14. In comparison with the baseline, thus, North-African countries increased its participation in projects the most significantly.
- The number of active projects under axis 3 has grown considerably since baseline, mostly due to projects added under PRIMA, now represented with 57 projects while only 4 were included in the baseline. Some more projects have been added under InterregMed, CBC Med, H2020 and EU LIFE, as well as Mava Foundation. Other important programmes that were already part of the baseline include MedPAN, MedFund and MedWet.
- Given the steep increase of PRIMA projects for which no reporting is available yet, axis 3 is the one least covered with information for monitoring. On average, over 2021-2022 reporting has been received by 32% of the projects and 19% were covered through online research so that overall, information is available on 51% of projects. For long-term outcomes, as was already the case in the baseline, data from MapaMed are considered (an initiative under MedPAN) that provides information on marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean.

More overarching key findings are included in this report under Section 6 "Learnings & Considerations".

Axis 3 of 2030GreenerMed aims to protect, preserve, manage and restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity, while promoting the sustainable management of landscapes, seascapes and coastal areas in the Mediterranean region. 2030GreenerMed also encourages the application of integrated ecosystem-based approaches to manage terrestrial, coastal and marine natural resources focusing on safeguarding and improving key ecosystem services and functions they provide to society, covering protected and productive areas.

Mapping of initiatives

Supporting actions that preserve, protect and/or restore ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity is the most frequently addressed key action within this thematic axis. With 66 projects, it is receiving significantly greater attention today than at the baseline. The second

most addressed key action is the promotion of nature-based solutions. The number of regional projects contributing to the latter increased from 25 to 43 since the baseline. The biggest increase in relative terms is seen for the promotion of disaster risk reduction, which might be a result of the increasing knowledge, awareness of as well as the need for adequate responses to the threats of climate change and environmental degradation. The key action focusing integrated ecosystem-based approaches (KA3.3) is least frequently addressed, both overall as well as in terms of new regional projects since the baseline.

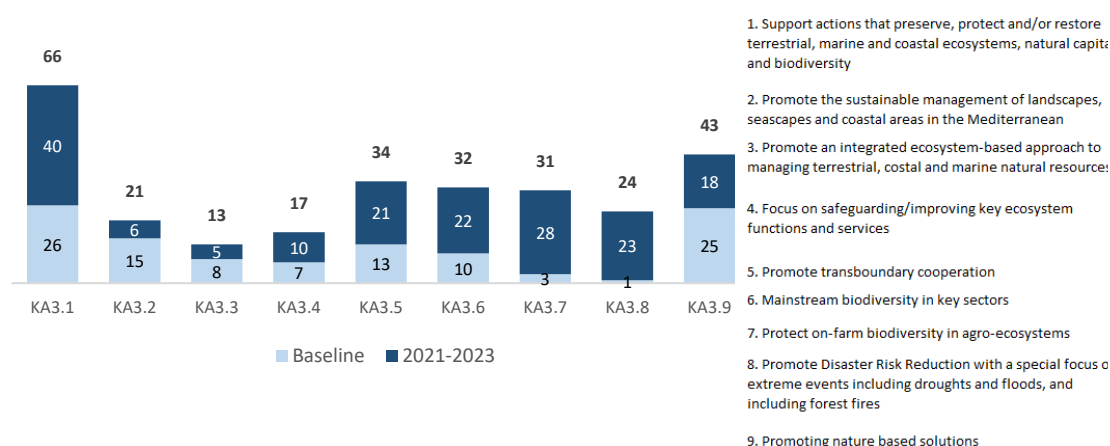


Figure 30: Coverage per key action (number of projects under axis 3)

Sector coverage

The projects cover 7 sectors. The most frequently addressed sector is agriculture (53 projects). The agricultural sector also shows the strongest increase in regional projects since the baseline assessment. In terms of the absolute number of projects, agriculture is followed by fisheries (12 projects) and by tourism (9). Least often addressed is waste management with 2 projects, a sector that was not addressed at the baseline. About one fourth of the projects do not address a specific economic sector (e.g., when economy in general is targeted) or do not specify the sectors addressed ('others').

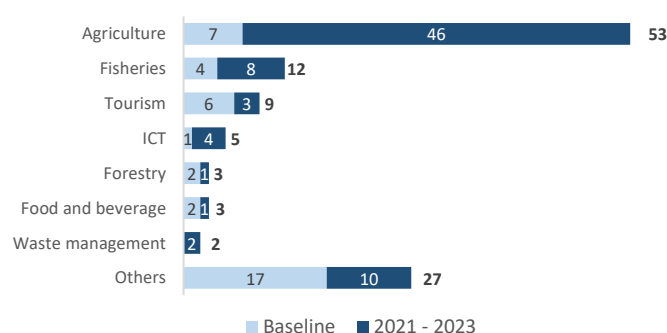


Figure 31: Main sectors addressed - number of projects per sector, axis 3

Stakeholders involved

Overall, 1096 organisations³⁸ are partnering in implementing the projects under axis 3, vis-à-vis 360 organisations at the baseline. The following Figure 23 shows the type of stakeholders involved. Both at the baseline and currently, most of the projects' partners

³⁸ Can include multiple counts of the same organisation (i.e., if involved in several projects)

are organisations from academia and research, followed by the public sector, CSOs, businesses and development organisations. This order has not changed when comparing the baseline with the current status. At the same time, the shares of academia and research and of businesses participating in regional projects has increased, suggesting a stronger scientific backbone of the projects but also a stronger recognition of the relevance of the private sector. The public sector, CSOs, and development organisation in turn decreased.

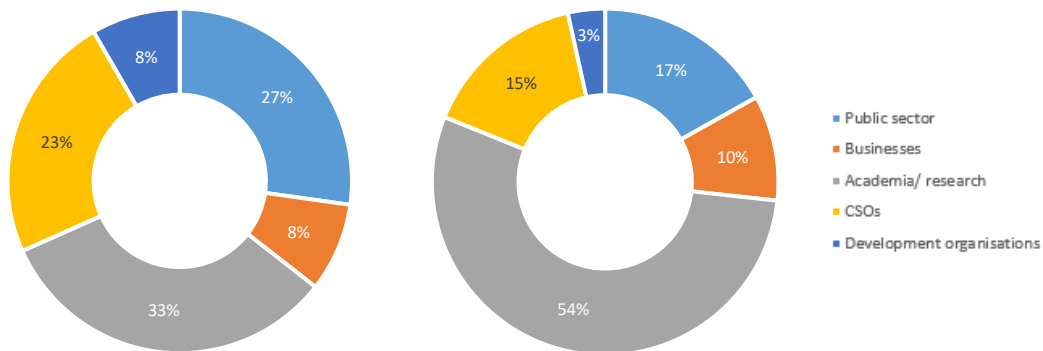


Figure 32: Type of actors involved (share of all partners and affiliated partners of projects contributing to axis 3)

Coverage by country/sub-region

All countries are involved in projects addressing this thematic axis with at least one project. Palestine, for which no project was identified at the baseline, now participates in 1 regional project that contributes to this axis. The country with most projects addressing this thematic axis is Italy (83), followed closely by Spain (70). Least often involved are – next to Palestine – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Monaco, and Montenegro, participating in 4, 5, and 6 regional projects, respectively. The most noticeable change in relative terms compared to the baseline include the increase by about a factor of 10 in regional projects in Algeria, Egypt, and Türkiye as well as the significant increase in Morocco.

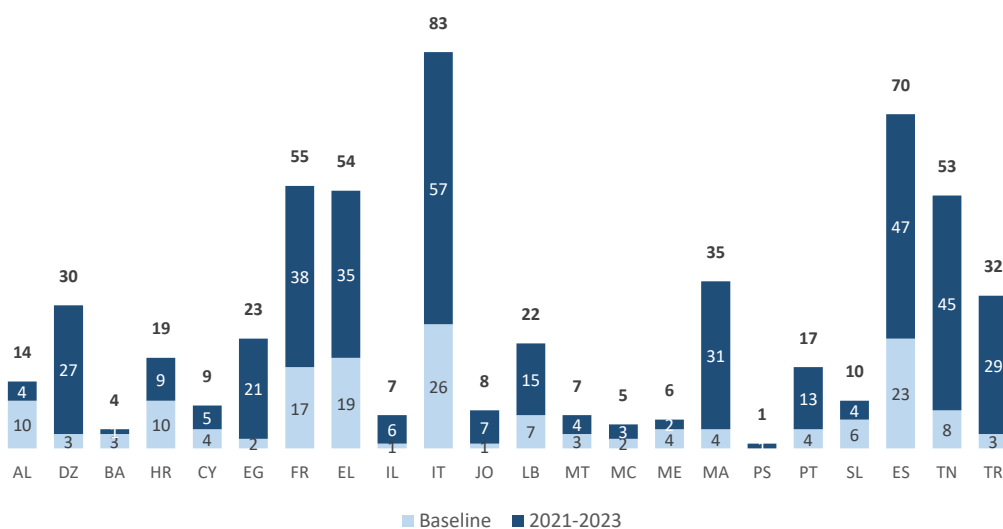


Figure 33. Number of projects per country in thematic axis 3

In terms of sub-regional coverage, this translates into the following unweighted average number of projects per country³⁹: Med EU 32.9, Middle Eastern Med 14, North-African Med 35.3, Western Balkan 8 (see Figure 34Figure 16). The most noticeable difference between the baseline and this update report is the strong role the North-African Med plays now, participating in more projects than the EU Med countries. Similarly, the Middle Eastern Med significantly increase the number of regional projects it participates in under this axis. The Western Balkan Med, at the baseline the region with the second most average projects per country, in contrast, currently shows the lowest number.

Putting the number of projects under this axis into relation with the population size of each region, the Western Balkan Med countries, however, are involved in the highest number of projects per 1,000,000 people, while the North-African Med region shows the lowest number of projects respectively.

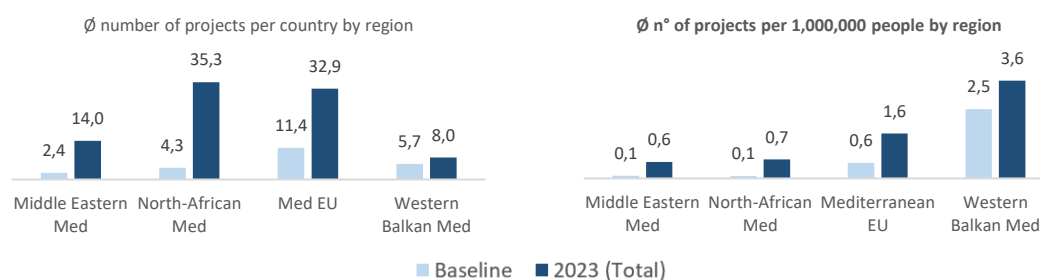


Figure 34. Average number of projects per sub-region in thematic axis 3

Among the North African Mediterranean countries, Tunisia is involved in most regional projects (53), followed by Morocco (35) and Algeria (30 projects). For Egypt 23 regional projects were identified that are contributing to this thematic axis, supporting each of the key actions. In terms of the increase in the number of projects since the baseline, the countries follow the same order (+45, +31, +27, and +21 projects, respectively). All countries most frequently support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marines and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity (KA 3.1). The least often addressed key action by all countries within this region are safeguards of key ecosystem functions and promoting an integrated ecosystem-based approach. While on-farm biodiversity and disaster risk reduction were barely addressed at the baseline, three of the four countries take part in more than 10 projects focusing on these issues now. Egypt is involved less often in comparison to its neighbouring countries, but the country now also includes several regional projects (4 addressing disaster risk reduction and 10 on-farm biodiversity).

Among the Mediterranean countries of the Western Balkan, Albania is involved in 14 (+4 since baseline), Bosnia and Herzegovina in 4 (+1) and Montenegro in 6 (+2) projects under this thematic axis. In all three countries, the most frequently addressed key actions are “Support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity” (AL 12, BA 3 and ME 3 projects). In Montenegro, the key action to “Promote transboundary cooperation” is covered as often as the aforementioned one, while in Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina it is the second most frequently addressed issue (AL 10, BA 2 regional projects). No regional projects that aim to protect on-farm biodiversity and promote disaster risk reduction were identified in the region.

³⁹ Sum of all projects within one region divided by the number of countries the region covers

Among the middle eastern countries, Türkiye and Lebanon are most involved (32 and 22 projects respectively), followed by Jordan (8 projects), Israel (7 projects) and Palestine (1 project). Türkiye also shows the highest increase in the number of regional projects it participates in compared to the baseline (+29), followed by Lebanon (+15). All countries are most often involved in projects that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems as well as in projects promoting the sustainable management of landscapes, seascapes and coastal areas as well as nature-based solutions. No project that promotes disaster risk reduction or mainstreams biodiversity in key sectors was identified at the baseline. Currently, all countries but Palestine address these actions with at least one project, with Israel and Jordan being least involved (1 project) and Türkiye most (12). Projects that promote transboundary cooperation now are also addressed by Palestine, which had no project at the baseline.

Among the Mediterranean EU countries, it stands out that, with 83 regional projects (+57), Italy is most often involved in projects under this thematic axis, followed by Spain with 70 (+47), France with 55 (+38), and Greece with 54 (+35) regional projects. While Croatia is participating in 19 (+9) and Portugal in 17 (+13) regional projects under this thematic axis, the remaining countries are involved in 10 or less regional projects, with Malta and Monaco making up the rear (7 and 5 projects respectively). Similar to the baseline, support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity, the promotion of nature-based solutions and of the sustainable management of landscapes, seascapes and coastal areas, the mainstreaming of biodiversity in key sectors as well as the promotion of transboundary cooperation are the most frequently covered key actions. Most new regional projects address transboundary cooperation, mainstreaming biodiversity in key sectors, and protecting on-farm biodiversity in agro-ecosystems. Also, disaster risk reduction experienced increased attention, but is not addressed at all by Cyprus, Monaco and Slovenia.

Activities, outputs and outcomes

As of 2022 there are 94 active projects under axis 3, which is considerably more than in the baseline (30). 48 projects were added from PRIMA, as well as some under CBC Med and Interreg Med, H2020, EU Life and Mava Foundation. One H2020 project, ODYSSEA, closed in 2021 and was therefore not considered anymore for the monitoring in 2022.

Information from 28 projects has been received in 2021 and 2022 to be considered for the monitoring, and additional research was conducted on a sample of 17 projects so that 51% of all projects are covered with information. The comparatively lower share of projects that are covered in this axis as compared to axis 1 and 2 is mostly due to the steep increase of the number of PRIMA projects for which no reporting is available yet.

The results of contributing projects under axis 3 is measured by two long-term outcome indicators, three intermediate outcome indicators, three output indicators and one activity indicator and are presented in the following table.

	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2020	2021	2022
<i>Long-term outcome</i>	No. of improved management practices	19	52	35
	Area of ecosystems improved or protected	20.930.337		
<i>Intermediate outcome</i>	Number of stakeholders with increased awareness/knowledge/capacity	No meaningful data available		

	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled	No data available	7	19
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) taken up or upscaled	1	18	25
Outputs	No. of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising events and ESD	1.381	103.523	95.628
	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed	29	44	73
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) developed	59	133	150
Activities	No. of projects and programmes implemented under the 2030GreenerMed framework per year	30	81	94

Table 4: Indicator results axis 3

Some **highlights** for each indicator category include:

Capacity building/ Awareness raising events. As of 2022, more than 200.000 actors were involved or reached with capacity building and awareness raising activities of projects under this axis. Like in the other axes, awareness raising makes up the bigger share of actors that participated or were reached (99%); however, still over 2.000 people took part in capacity building and training that covered diverse topics related to biodiversity and natural resources management, from the application of technical methodologies to policy aspects.

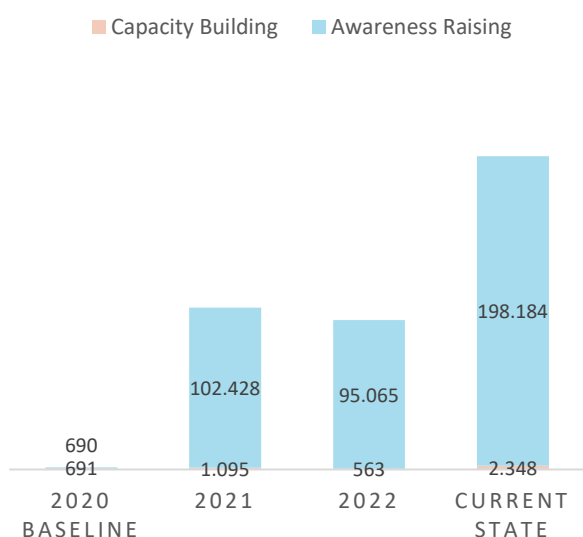


Figure 35. Axis 3 - Stakeholder participation in capacity building/awareness raising events

Therefore, it can be assumed that the actual number of actors that participated in capacity building and awareness raising is still higher than depicted here. Education for sustainable development (ESD) is not covered by any of the projects under this axis.

It also needs to be highlighted that for none of the projects where information was available disaggregated data on women or youth participation has been found.

Examples of capacity building and awareness raising

- The [H2020 REST-COAST](#) project - Large scale RESToration of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity has reached at least 7.400 people through participation in conferences and diverse communication and dissemination activities.

- The project "Scaling up forest and landscape restoration in order to restore biodiversity and promote joint mitigation and adaptation approaches in the Mediterranean" managed by FAO has conducted webinars with a focus on finance for forest and landscape restoration as well as 12 regional capacity-building workshops on carbon benefits, and has engaged in several awareness raising activities, among other the Mediterranean Forest Week or the World Forestry Congress.
- MedWet has conducted webinars on [economics of nature-based solutions](#) (NbS) and [ecological wetland restoration](#) as well as capacity building seminars for wetland managers, launched an advertising campaign and engaged in numerous events such as the online event on Mediterranean Wetland Restoration as NbS during the EU Green Week in 2022.

Declarations, policies, strategies, and plans developed. There is not as strong a focus on the development of policies or declarations under axis 3 but several projects have developed strategies or plans either on the regional, sub-regional or national level. These often include management plans for protected areas or roadmaps on biodiversity protection.

Examples of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed

- OENOMED (under CBC Med) has developed a regional MED charter that outlines good practices and principles of sustainable viticulture in protected areas. Likewise, 40 local charters have been signed (13 in Tunisia, 9 in France, 8 in Italy, 10 in Lebanon). See <https://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/oenomed>
- EU LIFE - BalkanDetox Life has contributed to the development of a National Anti-Poisoning Road Map to protect endangered wildlife that has been officialised in North Macedonia and is working on similar roadmaps in other participating countries. See <https://balkandetoxlife.eu/>
- Within the EPPA project - EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession in the Western Balkans and Türkiye, a regional plan for the development of green infrastructure and ecosystem connectivity in the Western Balkans has been developed. See <https://www.niras.com/projects/western-balkans-turkey-bolster-environmental-policies-with-eu-acquis/>
- MedPAN with other partners developed the [Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap](#) to guide conservation efforts in the Mediterranean Sea beyond the year 2020.

Solutions developed. More than 300 developed solutions have been accounted for overall. Similar to the other axes, they include a range of different products and tools with emphasis on knowledge resources such as research reports, assessments and studies, but also more practical products including best practices guidelines or specific methodologies that are then applied in the projects' contexts. Capacity building and awareness raising tools are also often developed within the projects, for example training methodologies and modules, fact sheets or videos.

Examples of solutions developed

- MedWet has developed the "Wetland Index", an innovative site-based tool to monitor these ecosystems across the Mediterranean, combining information and data on the biodiversity, natural habitats and pressures status and trends. See <https://medwetmanagers.net/monitoring-the-health-of-our-coastal-wetlands-the-wetland-index-case-studies-across-the-mediterranean/>

- The LIVINGAGRO project (under CBC Med) has launched two Living Labs (hosted on an ICT platform) on multifunctional olive systems and grazed woodlands to develop innovations for sustainable agriculture that preserve and regenerate biodiversity. See <https://www.livingagrolab.eu/>
- MedPAN, with its Cogito project has developed numerous tools including a training programme, videos on the value of MPAs, or a policy paper on MPA management effectiveness. MedPAN has also elaborated a [policy paper](#) in the frame of the EU MPA networks that provides recommendations at all the relevant decision-making levels on 7 key issues such as MPA governance, climate change, funding and tourism.

Intermediate outcomes. There are not yet many examples of either solutions or declarations, strategies, policies and plans taken up or upscaled beyond the project activities and sometimes, concrete information is not available on projects. However, some projects under InterregMed, CBC Med or Mava Foundation point to the uptake of methodologies or tools developed.

Examples of solutions taken up or upscaled

- ENSERES under CBC Med is a capitalisation project that focuses on transferring and mainstreaming existing ecosystem-based management tools to implement integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) processes in multi-level conservation and territorial practices. The ENSERES toolkit includes 40 different tools compiled from other projects and initiatives. See <https://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/enseres>
- The Medbycatch project financed by Mava Foundation implements monitoring programmes for incidental catch of vulnerable species in Croatia, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye. Thanks to the development of a common data collection methodology, similar monitoring programmes were also established in Cyprus and Greece. See <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/environment-and-conservation/med-bycatch-project/es/>

Long-term outcomes

Number of improved management practices. As was the case for the baseline assessment of 2030GreenerMed, this indicator is derived from MedPAN and SPA/RAC initiative's MAPAMED database (<https://mapamed.org/>), that provides information on the "Number of marine protected areas (MPAs) that have a management plan", which amounts to 197 (18%). This result cannot be attributed to any specific project although several InterregMed projects work on improving the management of MPAs. InterregMed applies the indicator "Number of protected areas engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in implementing management strategies" However, as concrete data on the exact areas of project implementation is not available, it needs to be assumed there is an overlap between the 197 MPAs reported from the MAPAMED database and the MPAs or protected areas that different projects work with. Therefore, the reported numbers need to be interpreted with caution. It also needs to be noted that MedPAN and SPA/RAC are currently working on an update of the database but it was not yet available at the time of report development. New data will be available for the next 2030GreenerMed monitoring.

It also needs to be highlighted that most projects under 2030GreenerMed focus on MPAs or coastal zone management. Little information is available on terrestrial (including inland water) ecosystems besides of the work of MedWet that focuses specifically on wetlands.

Area of ecosystems protected. The key reference for this indicator is again information from MedPAN's and SPA/RAC's MAPAMED database. The information from MAPAMED represents the overall surface of MPAs in the Mediterranean (20.930337 ha), which has not changed over the reporting period as an update of the MAPAMED data base is pending. Several InterregMed projects also reported information on the indicator "Surface of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status". As of 2022, it has been reported that 1.165.485 ha of surface habitats are being supported through InterregMed projects. This number cannot be simply added to the surface reported by MAPAMED, as potential overlaps exist. In addition, MedFund reported that it will support 15 MPAs⁴⁰ (an increase since baseline where 8 were reported) from 2020 to 2025 which represent 640.000 ha but again, it is unknown whether there are overlaps with other project areas.

Finally, MedWet shared in its latest report that 4 wetlands show an improvement of their conservation status as a result of MedWet's actions, 25 wetlands (30,000 ha) across the Mediterranean have benefited from restoration actions and nearly 10,000 ha of coastal wetlands have achieved a better protection.⁴¹

⁴⁰ As per MedFund's Progress Report to the UfM Secretariat, reporting period for the second semester 2022.

⁴¹ As per MedWet's Progress Report of the UfM labelled project "Enhancing the conservation of coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean Basin", first and second semester 2022.

Impact level

Note to the reader

The impact level analysis (below) of the agreed indicators has been prepared based on publicly available internationally recognized sources that are provided by the UN SDSN Mediterranean.

It aims to link and show how the 2030GreenerMed supporting projects contribute to the impact level.

Impact Indicators for Axis 3

To track progress towards ecosystem protection in the Mediterranean region, the monitoring framework under axis 3 includes three impact indicators, all of them SDG indicators: *Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity*, *Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity* and *Red list index of species survival*.

- **Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity** measures the average proportion (in percent) of each marine Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) that has been designated as a protected area. KBAs “are sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity and are identified following global standard criteria for the identification of KBAs by IUCN in 2016 applied at national levels”⁴². They do not have a protection status per se, but these marine sites can include marine protected areas (MPAs), wildlife reserves, and other conservation zones. The regional average is determined by weighting each country's data based on the length of its coastline. Coastal areas are ecologically rich and often serve as critical habitats for biodiversity. The weighting factor of the baseline has been adjusted because weighting by the length of the coastline provides a more comprehensive view of marine biodiversity protection within a region, in contrast to the previously used weighting factor, which was based on terrestrial surface area.
- **Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity** measures the mean percentage area of terrestrial KBAs that is protected. The higher the value the better because there is more terrestrial area protected. The regional average is calculated by weighting each country's data by its terrestrial surface area.
- **Red list index of species survival** measures on a scale of 0 to 1. 1 is the maximum contribution that a country/region can make to global species survival, equating to all species being classified as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, and 0 is the minimum contribution that a country/region can make to global species survival, equating to all species in the country or region having gone extinct. The regional average is calculated without applying any weighting, a departure from the baseline method which had initially relied on population size adjustments. This shift is due to the absence of reliable and up-to-date data to determine a reasonable weighting factor.

The first impact indicator is *Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity* under SDG14 Life below water. In the Mediterranean region, the weighted average of *Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity* is 67%. An increase of 3.1 percentage points compared to the baseline (63.9%).

Comparing the regional performance data shows that the Middle East has, by far, the lowest percentage (4.4%) of mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity. North Africa ranks as the region with the second lowest percentage (53.7%). Both of these regions continue to face significant challenges in achieving SDG14. In

⁴² Source: [IUCN website](#). No data on the overall surface area or number of marine KBAs in the Mediterranean has been found.

contrast, within Europe, Western Europe boasts the highest percentage (83.1%), closely followed by Eastern Europe (81.7%).

At country level⁴³, Türkiye, Lebanon, and Israel have the lowest percentages, all falling below 15%. On the other hand, countries with the highest percentages, exceeding 80%, include Malta, Greece, Spain, Croatia, and France (see Figure 36).

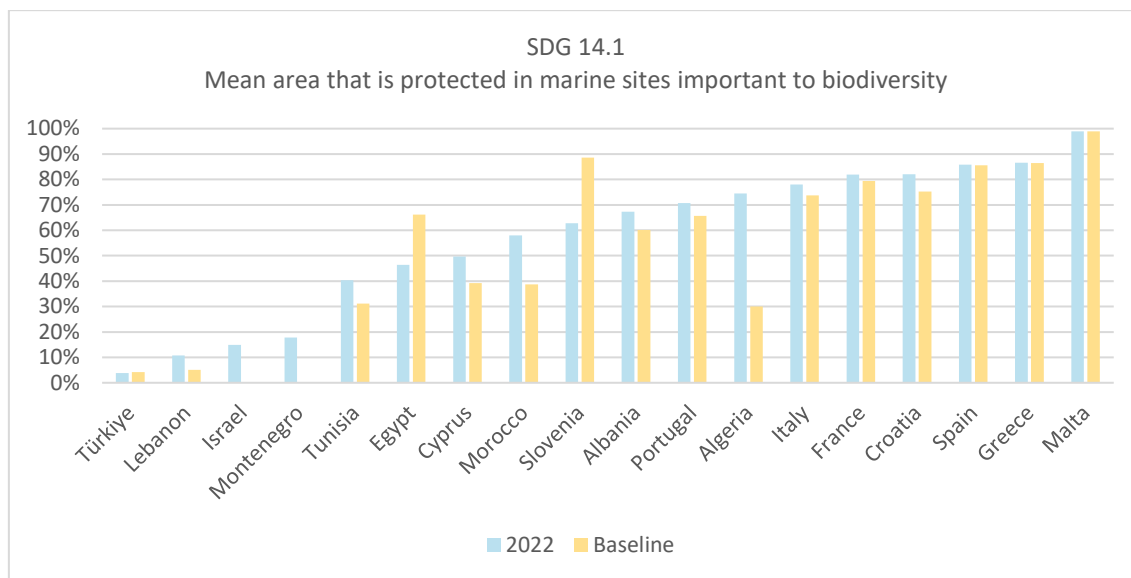


Figure 36. Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity⁴⁴

Complementary to this indicator, it is relevant to highlight that in the Mediterranean Sea there are 1,087 MPAs⁴⁵. According to MedPAN, UN Environment/MAP and SPA/RAC, MPAs covered 209,303 km² in 2020 which placed a surface of 8.33% of the Mediterranean Sea under a legal designation (MAPAMED database), close to the global Aichi 11 and SDG 14 target of 10% coverage. Furthermore, according to the 2020 Mediterranean MPA status the percentage of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)⁴⁶ covered by MPAs had increased from 12.2 % at the end of 2016 to 16.4 % at the end of 2019.

However, only about 18% of the MPAs have an implemented management plan (partially or totally), i.e. about 4% of the Mediterranean, due to the lack of financial resources and skilled staff, as well as legal and policy gaps.⁴⁷

The second impact indicator is *Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity*, under SDG 15 Life on land. The average percentage for the Mediterranean region has remained relatively stable over the past two years, with only a marginal change (an increase by 1.8%) from 44% in 2020 to 45.8% in 2022.

⁴³ Data available for 18 countries only.

⁴⁴ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2023). No data for Palestine available.

⁴⁵ Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were defined by the Convention on Biological Biodiversity as: "any defined area within or adjacent to the marine environment, together with its overlying waters and associated flora, fauna and historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by legislation or other effective means, including custom, with the effect that its marine and/or coastal biodiversity enjoys a higher level of protection than its surroundings".(Source: Conference of the Parties, 2004)

⁴⁶ EBSAs are areas of the ocean that have special importance in terms of its ecological and/or biological characteristics, for example, as essential habitats, food sources or breeding grounds for particular species. For more Information, see [Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas \(EBSAs\) \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/ebas/)

⁴⁷ The System of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas in 2020, MedPAN and UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC, November 2021. Accessible at <https://medpan.org/en/system-mediterranean-mpas-2020>.

The Middle East maintains the lowest percentage at 3.7%, followed by North Africa at 44.2%, and Eastern Europe at 50.7%. Western Europe continues to lead with the highest percentage, standing at 73%.

Looking at individual countries, the data indicates that Türkiye and Lebanon report the lowest percentages, both falling below 10%, while Malta, Greece, France, and Croatia achieve scores exceeding 80% (see Figure 37).

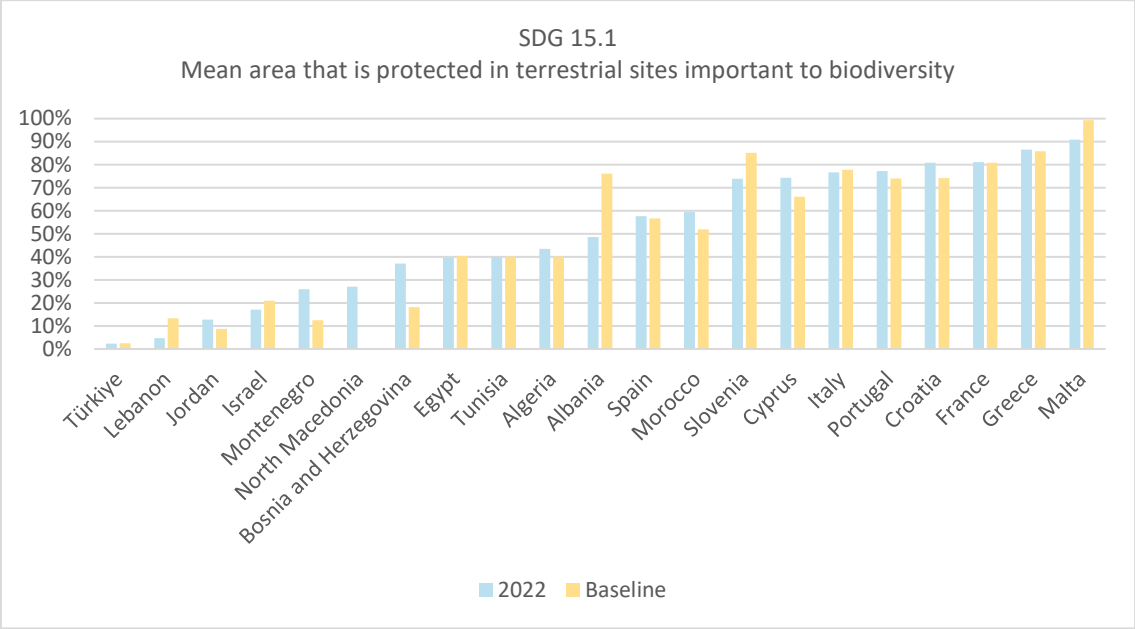


Figure 37. Mean terrestrial KBA protected per country⁴⁸

The third impact indicator is *Red list index of species survival* (RLI), which is framed under SDG15. Data shows that the situation in the Mediterranean region has remained the same: the average remains at 0.89.

The sub region with the lowest value is now Western Europe (0.86), followed by the Middle East (0.88) and Eastern Europe (0.90), and best performing sub region with the highest value is North Africa (0.92).

From a country perspective Israel still has the lowest value (0.72) and Cyprus still the highest (0.99) (see Figure 38).

⁴⁸ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2023). No data for Palestine available.

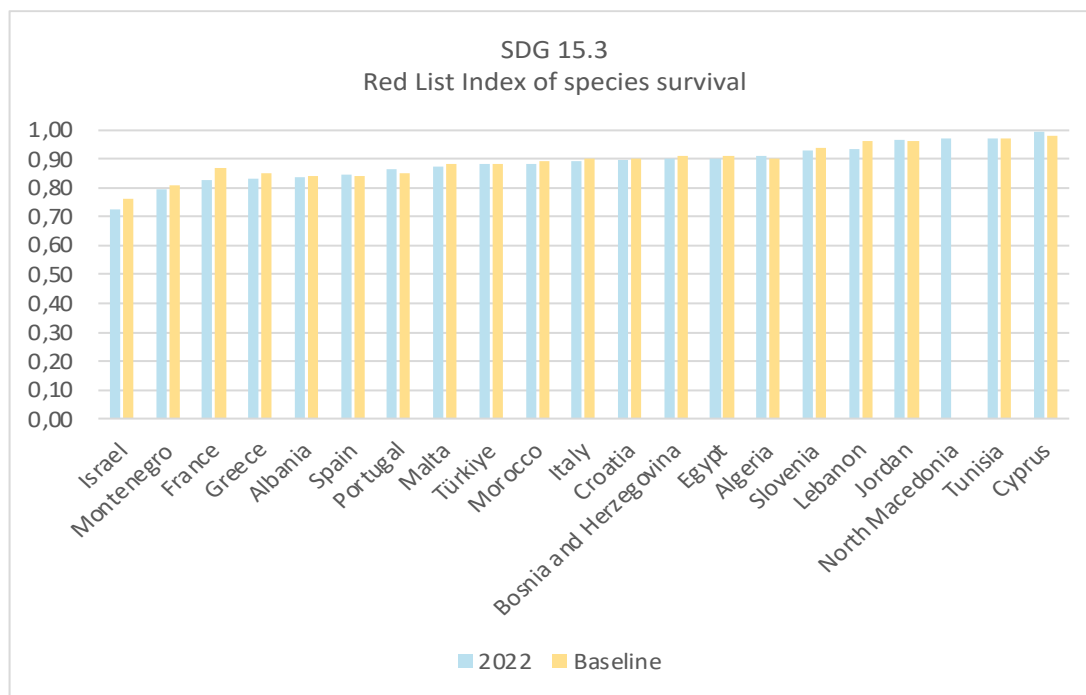


Figure 38. RLI per country⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2023). No data for Palestine available.

5. SDG Contribution of 2030GreenerMed

Introduction

This chapter analyses the overall contribution of 2030GreenerMed supporting projects and programmes to the SDGs, beyond the individual SDG indicators included in the monitoring framework. It enriches the quantitative analysis provided in previous chapters with a qualitative analysis based on the 2020 SDSN (Sustainable Development Solutions Network) Mediterranean Report methodology. The 2020 SDSN Mediterranean Report presents the SDG Index and Dashboards for the 24 countries of the Mediterranean area, a complex environment, shared by three continents, seriously affected by global warming, being the most vulnerable to climate change in the world, after the Arctic.

This study is based on the analysis of 154 projects that are focusing on the Mediterranean as funded by different cross-border, regional, European and international Programmes. In addition to the analysis of the projects, clustered along three thematic axes of the 2030GreenerMed agenda, the following pages also include a comparison with the baseline conducted two years ago with the same methodology.

It emerges clearly that issues related to sustainable agriculture, climate change and environmental protection are key aspects that are addressed by the analysed projects. While SDG 2, 13, 14, 15 are those on which the projects mostly focus, the interlinkages among SDGs and challenges are evident. The analysis conducted along all three axes shows that almost every project addresses simultaneously two or more SDGs and related challenges. This also confirms the scientific nexus that exists among different disciplines and fields (e.g. water-food-ecosystem-energy). If this mirrors the complexity of the problems that the Mediterranean area has to address, the solutions themselves are proposed in a combined way, with the awareness that the response to complex problems shall also be multilayered and articulated.

In short, the main findings of the analysis and comparison with the baseline

- Each axis addresses a great number of SDGs. Almost all SDGs are cumulatively covered.
- Projects tend to emphasize the scientific nexus among different disciplines and challenges. Coherently, they often propose a combined set of solutions.
- The challenges related to sustainable agriculture and food systems (under SDG n.2 - zero hunger), environmental concerns (especially under SDG 12 - sustainable consumption and production) and climate change (SDG n.13 - climate action) are those that are mainly addressed. A significant attention is dedicated to environmental protection as connected to life on land and below water.
- Many of these topics resonate with the main findings of the baseline which focused essentially on similar topics.
- Similarity between current and baseline analysis prevails also in terms of solutions, though differences exist at axis level (e.g. in axis 1 greater reference to clean and sustainable energy; in axis 3, market development not emphasized, while digital tools strongly proposed among the projects added 2021-2022).

The two years covered by the first part of the analysis, 2021-2022, are characterized by different nuances: positive and negative at the same time, with many issues still unsolved. In particular, on the one hand ongoing geopolitical conflicts have endangered international

cooperation, while on the other hand significant advancements have been registered, such as the CoP15 on Biological Diversity with the landmark international agreements on effective conservation and management of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans. In many other areas, we have to acknowledge still insufficient progress towards the achievement of Agenda2030, as registered in the Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment held in Rome in July 2023. The current analysis is conducted while the International Community convenes at the level of the United Nations General Assembly in New York to monitor the progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals at national and global level in its midway to 2030.

Methodology

The methodology of the current analysis follows the one adopted in the [SDSN MED Report \(2020 edition\)](#). The Report introduces two significant concepts that help the understanding of the Mediterranean scenario as well as the potential instruments to be activated to address the most critical issues.

In particular, the SDSN MED Report identifies specific challenges (more than one for each SDG) that are emerging from the analysis of the 17 SDGs and their respective indicators as key lenses through which to understand the progress of the Mediterranean countries in the implementation of the Agenda 2030. In addition, the SDSN MED Report focuses on solutions, meaning a series of actions, tools or strategies that can be put in place in order to address the specific Med-related challenges.

The “challenges” are specific issues that relate to one or more of the 17 SDGs, are easy to grasp, concrete aspects or problems that are implicitly behind the targets and indicators used by SDSN to measure the progress and implementation of Agenda 2030. In fact, the challenges reflect those sectors where more actions are needed. With a clear and structured connection with the SDGs, the concept of “challenges” can be seen as a complementary tool through which an analysis on the Mediterranean area can be conducted.

As for the “solutions/tools”, they do not constitute an all-comprehensive package of actions, but they are able to illustrate the main ways usually adopted or proposed by different actors, including research centres and universities, to enhance the implementation of the Agenda 2030. In particular, the main tools include:

- Regulations and protocols to be applied by public authorities at both transnational and national level, as part of a cooperative action shared by all the Mediterranean countries or specific Mediterranean regions;
- Policies and governance aimed at improving performance of public-private partnerships and services through sectorial planning, including urbanism, natural resource and waste management (e.g. energy and water supply networks), mobility in all its forms, coastal and marine governance, ecosystem services, or climate change mitigation. For the scope of the following analysis, this category has been interpreted as also encompassing management plans being proposed either by public institutions or private entities;
- Incentive schemes and supporting programmes for sustainable development, aimed at deploying best practices and scaling-up, financial support, and public-private initiatives;

- Education and knowledge transfer programmes including awareness raising campaigns, trainings, capacity building activities and uptake of innovations, especially targeting young generations, enterprises, value chain operators in any productive sector. For the scope of the current analysis, all types of research-based actions proposed by the analysed projects are also included under the “education and knowledge transfer” category, as they imply knowledge creation, circulation of new ideas, creative practical and theoretical suggestions, thus being “education and knowledge transfer” the ideal category to be connected with;
- Stakeholder engagement mechanisms to promote broad public support, also favouring the involvement of different value chain actors;
- Digital and technological development to implement systems as decision-support tools and data sharing systems at local, national and transnational level. In this category, the analysis has included the great majority of innovation-based solutions proposed by the projects with the exception of those clearly referring to nature-based approaches;
- Economic and market development by fostering innovation through the engagement of value chain actors and providing information directly to consumers thus promoting healthier and more sustainable behaviours. This category also includes those solutions that envisage an active involvement of private actors, companies and businesses.

Based on the two variables (**challenges** and **solutions**), a qualitative analysis has been conducted. The matrix used shows the challenges in the Y-axis and the solutions in the X-axis. The analysis conducted along the matrix highlights which challenge, or challenges are mostly addressed by the projects within each group. It also illustrates which are the solutions that are very often proposed by the projects to deal with the respective challenge. The qualitative analysis, conducted by systematically screening the descriptions of each project, shows which specific challenge or challenges and which given solution or solutions are mainly proposed .

By contrast, it also highlights which solutions are only rarely adopted and which challenges for the Mediterranean are neglected or only lowly considered. When completing the qualitative analysis, only the challenge/challenges and solution/solutions directly addressed by the projects were considered, without taking into account some potential indirect impacts or positive spillover originating from the activities of the projects. However, when a project was addressing more than one issue or referring to one or more tools, multiple challenges and solutions were selected.

The 2030GreenerMed contributing projects deriving from the main Euro-Mediterranean programmes and initiatives have been analysed using the described matrix. Regardless of their thematic specificity, with some of them focusing on research and innovation while others emphasize technical cooperation, the projects have been grouped along three different clusters that correspond with the 2030GreenerMed agenda thematic axes, namely:

1. Transition to a green, circular and socially inclusive economy based on sustainable consumption and production practices and nature-based solutions;
2. Prevention and reduction of air, sea and on land pollution;

3. Protection, preservation, management and restoration of natural resources in the Mediterranean area.

Each of these axes is addressed separately and then combined in a joint analysis. Each axis is described by three figures and accompanying narrative: (1) a dashboard crossing challenges with solutions, (2) a bar chart highlighting the solutions proposed compared with the baseline and (3) a bar chart highlighting the most addressed challenges (top 5) of the current analysis compared with the baseline.

The values of solutions and challenges, both expressed as share of the respective totals, represent actions or activities of the analysed projects, aiming to address the challenges. Usually, each project addresses more than one challenge and proposes more than one activity/solution.

The following four chapters consider projects active in 2021 and 2022 (and a few in 2023) clustered per Axis and compare challenges and solutions with the baseline. The fifth chapter includes the combined analysis, including the baseline.

Axis 1: Analysis

The axis clusters 58 projects that were added in the mapping 2021-2022 related to the transition to a green, circular and socially inclusive economy based on sustainable consumption and production practices and nature-based solutions. The issues identified as well as the solutions proposed deal with some of the main most debated issues today at European, Mediterranean and global level. In fact, circular economy, green transition and inclusiveness are among the main priorities worldwide. Significantly, this cluster includes the three traditional dimensions of sustainable development: social, environmental and economic. This axis intends, in particular, to detect the different contributions that regional projects offer to resource efficiency, innovation along entire value chains at rural and urban level, changes in behaviours and lifestyles, as well as business practices and public policies.

The analysis conducted reveals that a great number of SDGs have been addressed by the projects. It also confirms that a large number of projects are contributing to supporting the transition towards a green, circular and socially inclusive economy based on **sustainable consumption and production practices and nature-based solutions**. Similarly, the projects analysed identify **sustainable agriculture and food systems as a high priority challenge** they intend to address, followed by the management and reduction of **waste**. Interestingly, through the lens of projects it emerges that **affordable and clean energy** constitutes a central issue, largely present. The latter is addressed approximately by one third of the projects analysed, constituting a significant difference with the baseline assessment done based on information from 2020.

Within this context, **SDG 12**, with particular reference to waste reduction and recycling, represents a clear primary focus that the projects are trying to address by a mix of solutions which include innovation, business models and governance plans, with the role of education as supporting activity to shape new skills and competence in the field.

Logically, some connected aspects and SDGs, such as **environmental protection**, both in the context of life below water and on land, and **climate change** are also acknowledged as key challenges that many of the projects of this axis consider.

The main solutions proposed relate to **market development**, the main instrument for supporting a green and circular transition. This aspect confirms the importance of addressing issues related to low market dynamism, stagnant productivity, high percentage of unemployment (especially among the youth), limited cooperation between business and academia, as well as the need to supporting mechanisms and actions in favour of the private sector, business communities, and SMEs so as to enable them to fully express their potential positive contribution for the achievements of the SDGs.

This is not accompanied by a comparable attention towards the solution **incentive schemes**, which might have been perceived as complementary actions, but in fact are too often out of scope for research and cooperation projects as they relate more to government action.

Another important aspect relates to **the role of digital technologies**, confirming that the digital transition is somehow advancing, as well as the need thereof, and that technologies are considered a key instrument to invest in and to promote to rapidly address the sustainability challenges ahead. The focus on digital technologies is even more noteworthy if we think that the sectors of agrifood or management of natural resources are traditionally not characterized by strong digital innovations. Perhaps, precisely for that reason and to bridge the digital gap that certain fields still experience, digital technologies and innovations, in light also of the large diffusion of digital access and the greater relevance of data, are proposed by many projects as an effective solution to be adopted. This is an interesting trend as it was not so evident in the baseline analysis.

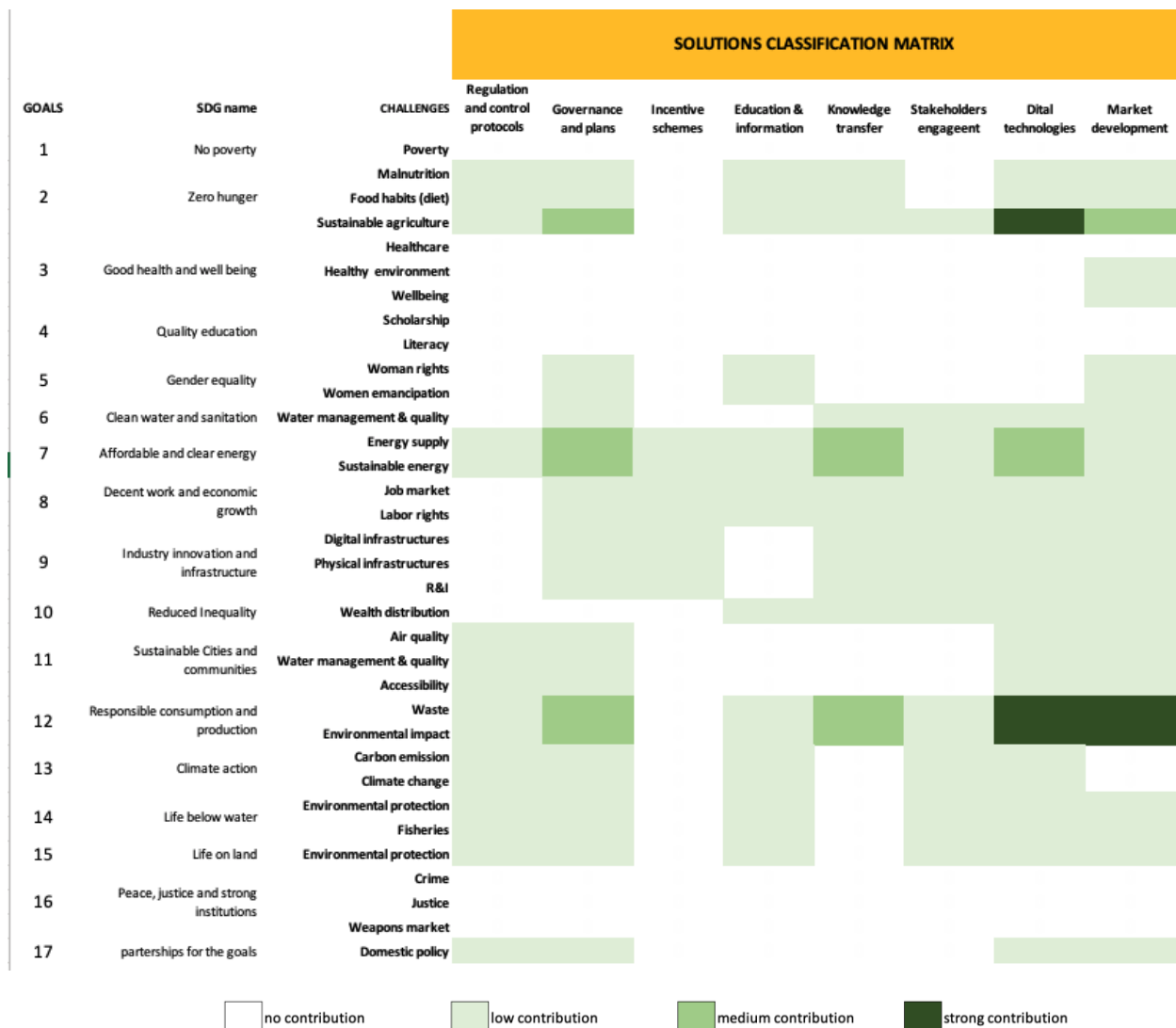


Figure 39: Axis 1 dashboard of challenges and solutions

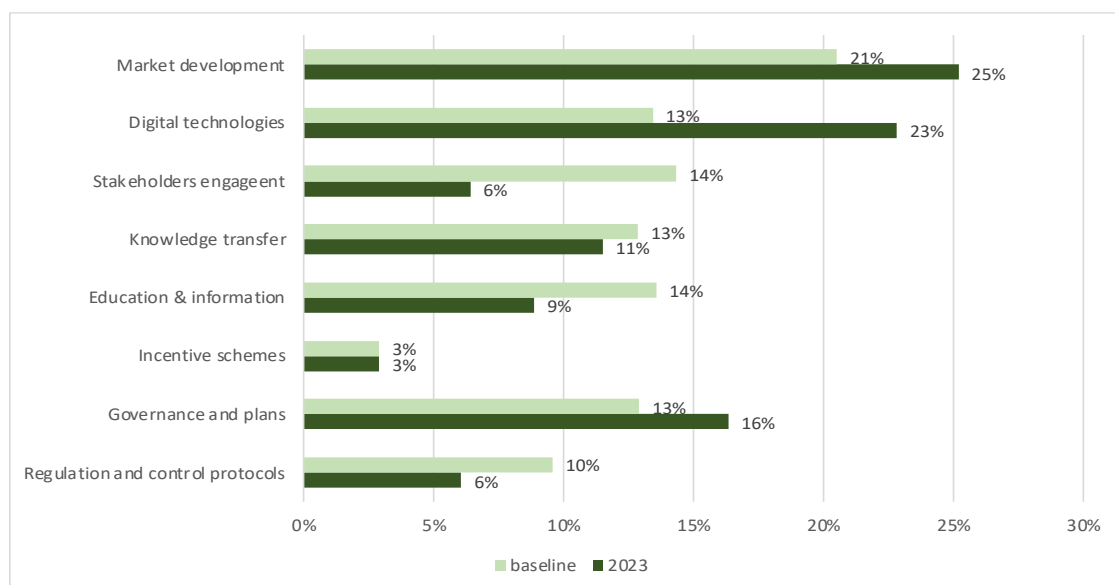


Figure 40: Axis 1 solutions (baseline and 2023 analysis) (%)

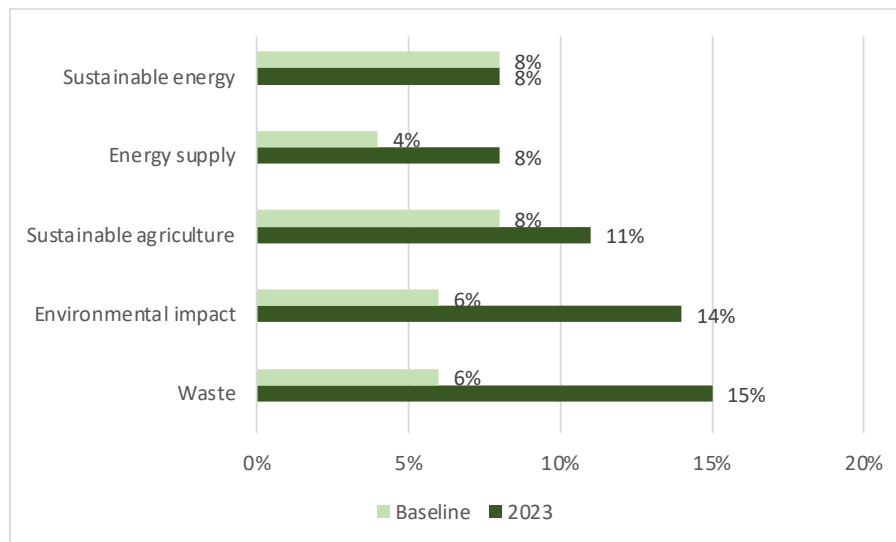


Figure 41: Axis 1 top 5 challenges (baseline and 2023 analysis) (%)

Axis 2: Analysis

The second axis focuses on the prevention and reduction of pollution on land, sea and air which includes actions related to marine litter, plastic pollution, organic, inorganic and chemical pollution, reduction of landfilled waste as well as promotion of nature-based solutions and soil health quality. The 10 projects that were added under this axis in the mapping 2021 and 2022 address 9 out of 17 SDGs, two of them (SDG 2 and 3) only partially. Three of them deal with **agriculture** by proposing to implement **knowledge transfer**, the use of technologies and the active involvement of the business sector. Similarly to Axis 1, the issue of **responsible consumption and production** (Goal 12) is quite relevant with proposals of solutions for reducing, reusing and recycling of waste and for monitoring and reducing the environmental impact. According to the focus of the Axis, the **preservation of the environment**, both of the land and marine, is the issue mostly addressed for implementing a green agenda with particular regard to goals 14 and 15, with solutions that range from policies and plans to information, training, knowledge transfer, the use of innovative technologies and the engagement of all the stakeholders.

In comparison with the baseline, axis 2 proposes more actions for improving sustainable fishery and the protection of marine and land environment but also waste and the environmental impact or production and consumption processes are addressed.



Figure 42: Axis 2 dashboard of challenges and solutions

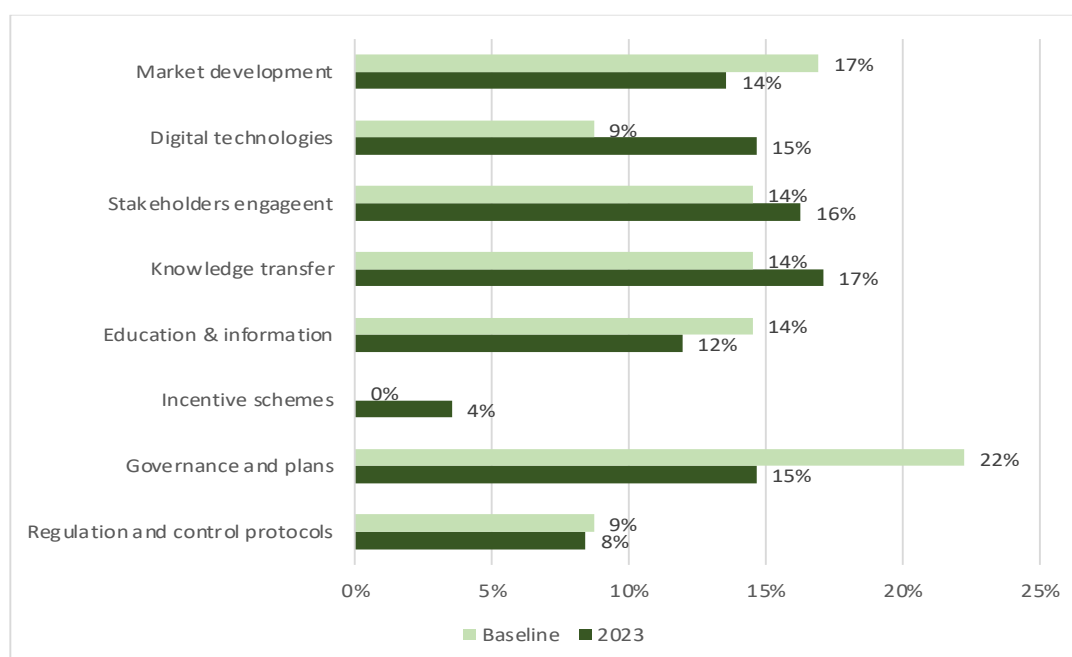


Figure 43: Axis 2 solutions (baseline and 2023 analysis) (%)

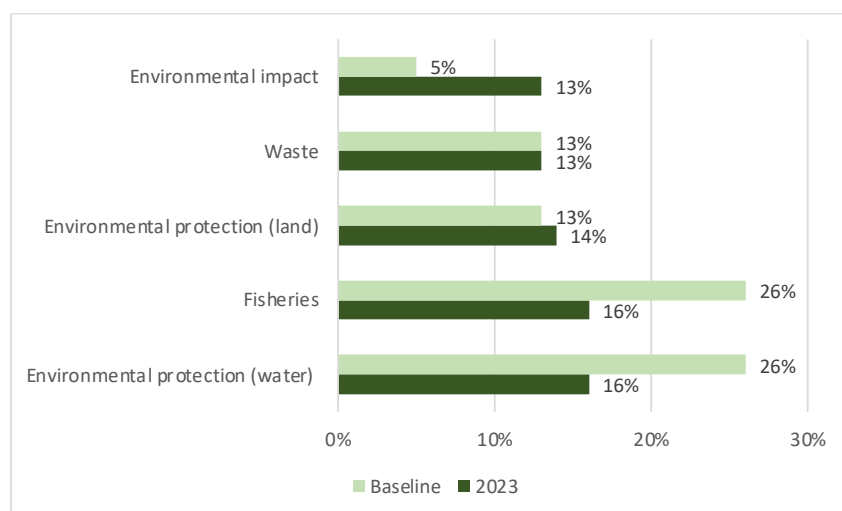


Figure 44: Axis 2 top 5 challenges (baseline and 2023 analysis) (%)

The environmental challenges and the improvement of responsible production and consumption, addressed by the majority of the actions proposed by the Axis 2 projects, are tackled basically by the **knowledge transfer, initiatives of stakeholder engagement, the use of innovation and digital technologies and the implementation of measures of governance and plans, including the private sector.**

Axis 3: Analysis

The third axis includes 88 Euro-Mediterranean projects that were added in 2021 and 2022 in the mapping and refers to protection, preservation, management and restoration of natural resources in the Mediterranean region within an integrated ecosystem approach, including terrestrial, marine and coastal dimensions. This axis includes sustainable management of landscapes and coastal areas, the promotion of ecosystem-based approaches to natural resources, biodiversity, and risk reduction practices for extreme weather events.

The analysis highlights that the promotion of **sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, environmental protection** (both in land and below water) and **climate change** are the challenges mostly addressed (Figure xx). An important focus is also on the promotion of **sustainable cities and communities**, with particular regard to the management of water resources for coastal communities and urban areas. The quality of marine biodiversity constitutes a key challenge for the Mediterranean region. All challenges are addressed by more than one solution, confirming that researchers/project partners are aware that the complexities of the problems require the combination of multiple tools. Significantly, sustainable agriculture is tackled by all solutions.

The analysis identifies as main solutions **research and knowledge transfer** together with **stakeholder engagement**. The latter is the same as in the baseline analysis, while the role of regulations and policies, often addressed by projects included in the baseline, is not so evident in the current analysis of newly added projects. **Governance and plans**, including the management plan of a business, are also often proposed as solutions, since they are perceived instrumental to a better performance of natural resources management. **Research, education and knowledge transfer** are by far the most frequently used instruments. The role of **market development** and **incentive schemes** are not considered very often by the projects. The role of **digital technologies**, online platforms and IoT

(Internet of Things) instruments are applied as increasingly important solution. The same relevance of these aspects was not so evident in the baseline analysis.

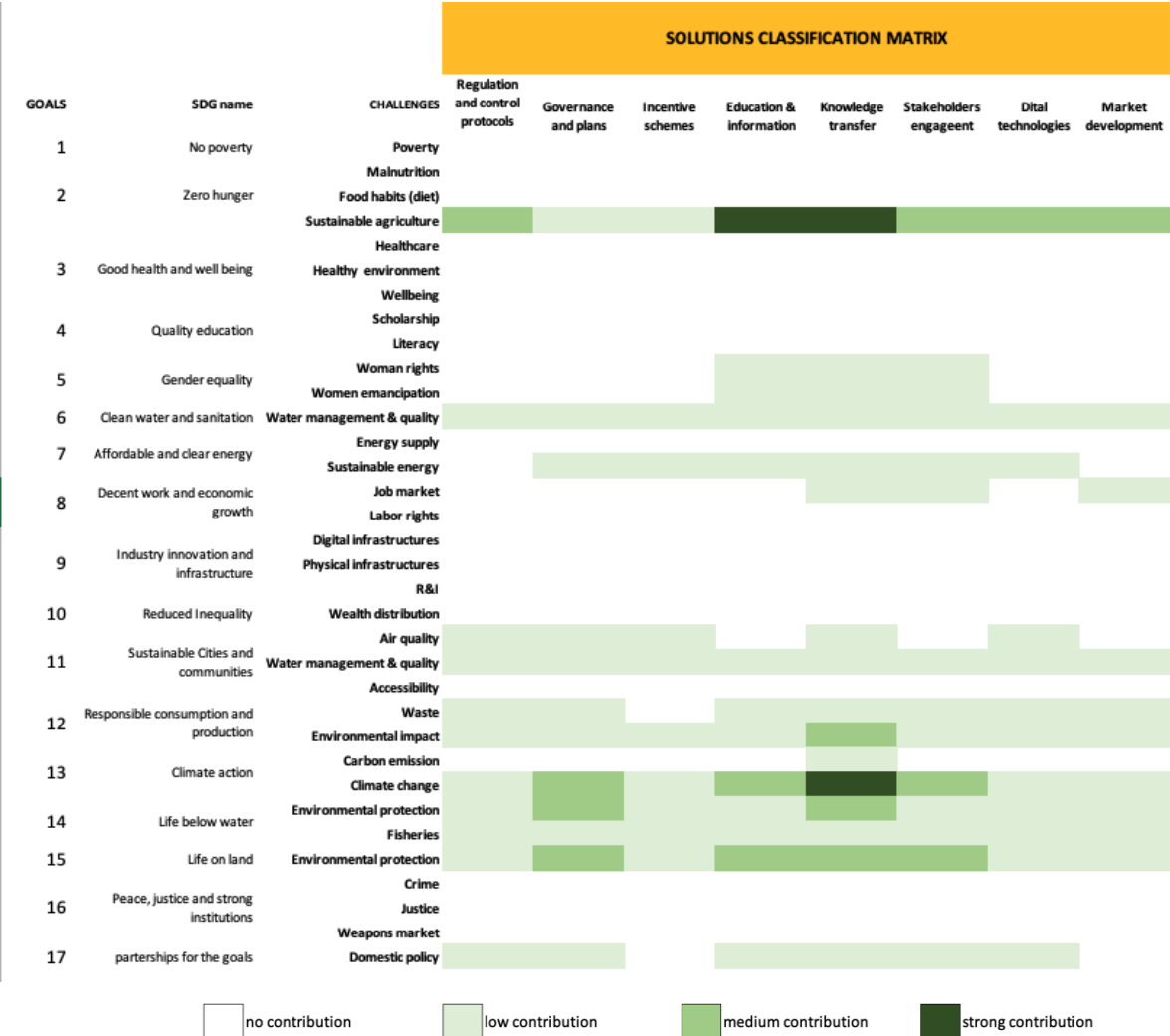


Figure 45: Axis 3 dashboard of challenges and solutions

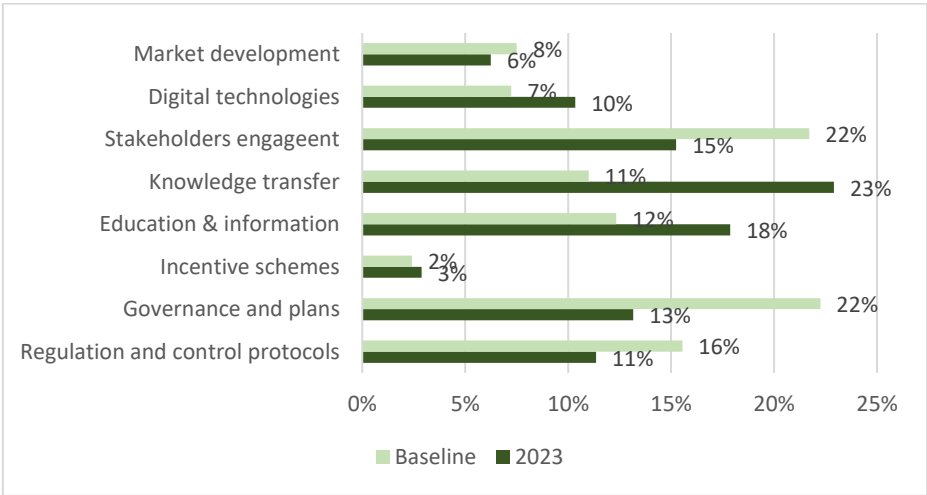


Figure 46: Axis 3 solutions (baseline and 2023 analysis) (%)

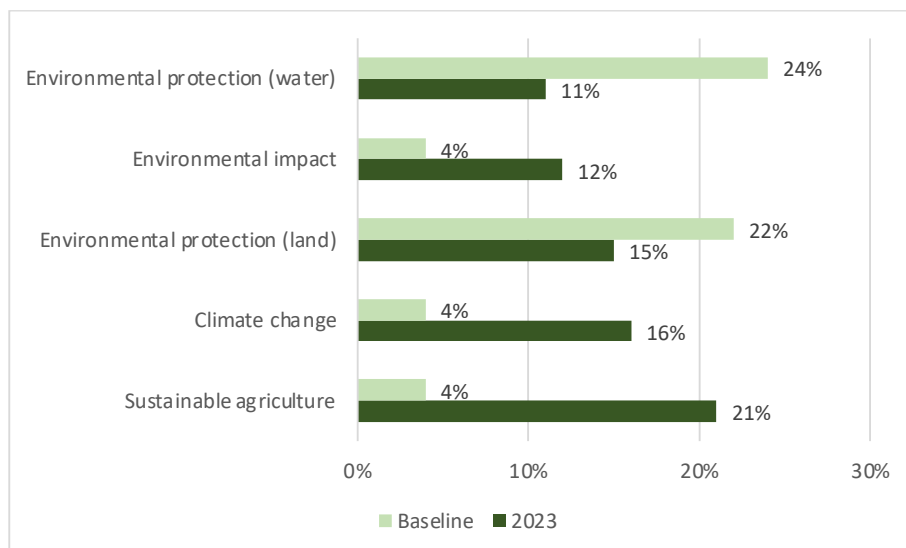


Figure 47: Axis 3 top 5 challenges (baseline and 2023 analysis) (%)

Axis 1 to 3: analysis and comparison with the baseline

As a whole, from the integrated analysis of the three axes emerges that **the great majority of the SDGs are addressed** by the analysed projects that contribute to the 2030GreenerMed agenda.

The challenges related to **sustainable agriculture and food systems** (under **SDG 2** - zero hunger), **environmental concerns** (especially under **SDG 12** - sustainable consumption and production) and **climate change** (**SDG 13** - climate action) are those that are most frequently addressed. Significant attention is given to **environmental protection** as connected to life on land and below water, and **sustainable consumption and production**, among which specifically circular economy is often addressed. Many of these topics resonate with the main findings of the baseline which focused essentially on the same topics.

Most used solutions are those related to **digital innovation, research and education**, as well as **knowledge transfer**, including capacity building development and trainings. In line with the baseline, the projects analysed do not focus very much on health and healthcare, poverty, physical infrastructure, and neither on education nor women empowerment. Similarly, the reference to economic development, decent work conditions, job creation and the fight against inequality is addressed by some projects but does not constitute the main entry point, even though somehow considered implicitly by some project actions. This is partially different from what emerged in the baseline when the focus on job creation was more emphasized.

Incentive schemes are not often made use of as viable solutions both in the current and baseline analysis. This is probably because they are often out of scope of the projects as this topic is rather a prerogative of policy makers at the national or regional level. Compared to the baseline, the current analysis also confirms the significant role attributed to **market development**, as well as to **stakeholder engagement** which remains a recurrent solution.

To sum up, it is the combination of government interventions, research and innovation-based ideas, and private-centred solutions the overarching instruments that, often in a combined way, are proposed by the different projects.

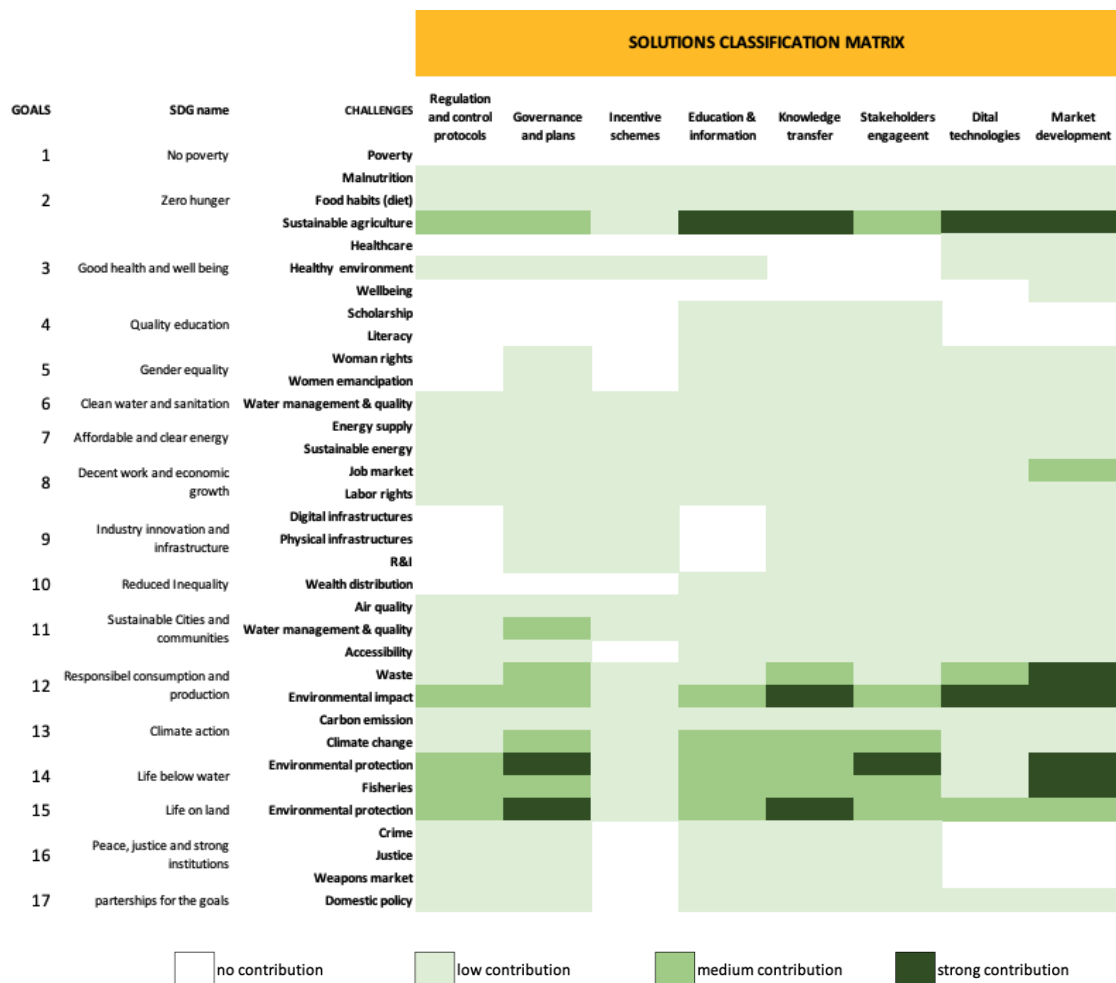


Figure 48: Axis 1 to 3 dashboard of challenges and solutions

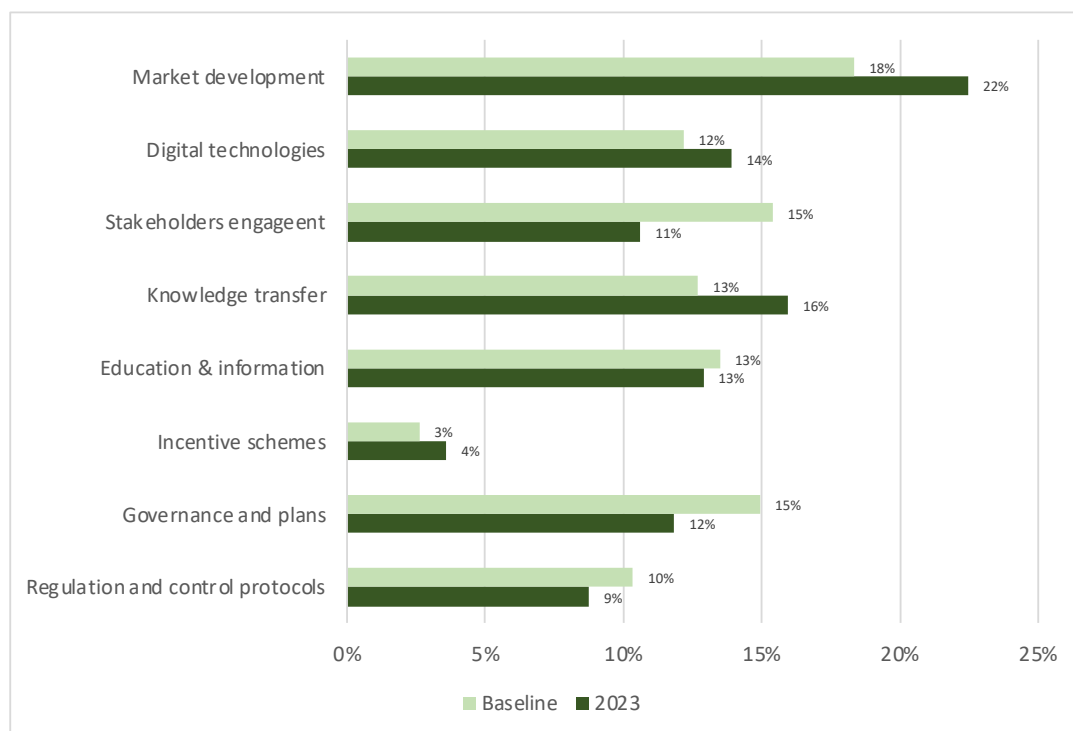


Figure 49: Axis 1 to 3 solutions (baseline and 2023 analysis) (%)

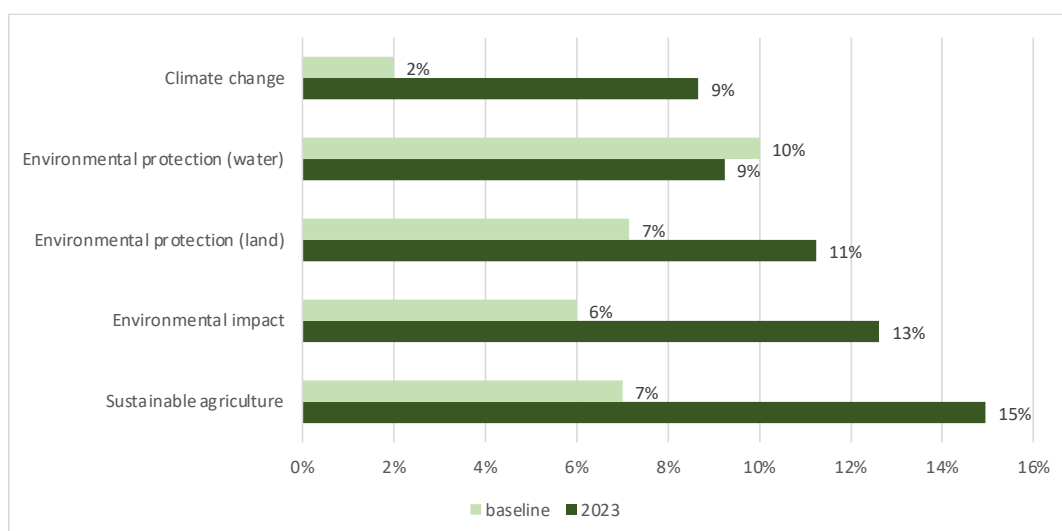


Figure 50: Axis 1 to 3 top 5 challenges (baseline and 2023 analysis) (%)

Joint overall Analyses of baseline and new projects added

The combination of baseline information from 2020 and the newly added information 2021-2022 shows that overall, all SDGs have been addressed and considered directly or indirectly by the concerned projects.

SDGs 2, 12, 13, 14, and 15 are those mostly targeted by the projects. In particular, under SDG 2 related to zero hunger, the issue of sustainable food systems and agriculture is largely addressed by a variety of solutions. Similarly, the promotion of sustainable consumption and production models to reduce environmental impact is largely considered, with a variety of solutions proposed.

Environmental protection is the main issue under SDG 14 and 15 (life below water and on land, respectively). The projects also significantly emphasize the need for climate action, under SDG 13.

The solutions proposed are diverse and often jointly articulated. Those related to knowledge creation, exchange and transfer are dominant. Similarly, very relevant are solutions related to market development and governance and plans. The creation of protocols and, even more clearly, incentive schemes are less addressed. Stakeholder engagement, on the other hand, is often included in the projects' actions.



Figure 51: 2030GreenerMed supporting projects and programmes dashboard - overall

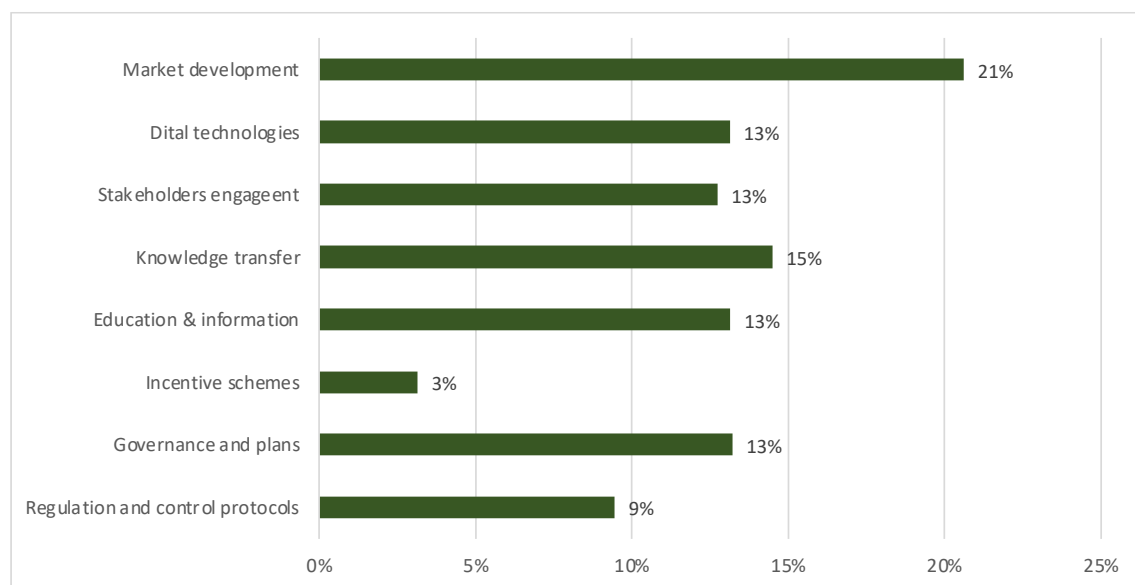


Figure 52: 2030GreenerMed most applied solutions (%)

6. Learnings & Considerations

6.1 Related to the monitoring process

The monitoring 2021-2022 has been conducted applying the same methods and processes as for the baseline assessment. It can be confirmed that the 2030GreenerMed monitoring framework is feasible to implement and can count on the support of the majority of 2030GreenerMed contributing programmes and projects. Nevertheless, certain challenges remain that had already been present at the time of the baseline assessment but that cannot easily be addressed in the short term. The main issues include:

- **Diversity of project cycles and reporting periods**

For the purpose of 2030GreenerMed monitoring, information on programme and project implementation is collected annually, following a calendar year cycle. However, many projects do not follow this logic and report annually or semi-annually based on their starting date. In other cases, as under PRIMA, reporting is done only every two years. This leads to some information gaps for the monitoring at annual level that can only be filled over time.

- **Diversity of monitoring standards and frameworks**

As diverse as the programmes and projects are that contribute to the 2030GreenerMed agenda, as diverse their respective log frames and monitoring standards. The 2030GreenerMed monitoring framework has therefore been built as a flexible instrument with rather generic indicators to be able to integrate information from diverse projects. Still, exact data are often not available in reporting and sometimes proxy indicators need to be used. While PRIMA has already integrated 2030GreenerMed indicators in its own reporting platform, and more alignment is expected of 2030GreenerMed indicators with the new Interreg Euro-MED framework starting in 2023, there is still an opportunity to find more alignment among the different programmes and projects in the region in terms of basic indicators that all projects could report on. If this would be achieved, a more complete picture on results in the Mediterranean region regarding the 2030GreenerMed could be drawn.

- **Limitations for reporting on high-level results**

With the advancing implementation in 2021, more information has become available at the intermediate outcome level. Still, many projects and programmes focus their monitoring on activities and outputs and therefore the evidence base for making sound assessments of the contribution of 2030GreenerMed supporting initiatives to long-term objectives, impact and contributions to specific SDGs remains limited. Contributing initiatives could gradually adopt a more results-based monitoring approach to address this issue.

- **Lack of disaggregated data for women and youth inclusion**

Only a few 2030GreenerMed supporting projects include information on the number of women and youth that participate in their project activities, thus limiting the possibility to analyse how vulnerable population groups are included in regional multi-country collaborations. It is suggested to prioritize the inclusion of data disaggregation

in the monitoring frameworks of all projects and programmes to be able to better reflect this Important aspect.

6.2 Related to baseline results

It is important to reiterate that the 2030GreenerMed mapping and monitoring only includes an analysis of contributing (sub-)regional projects, programmes and initiatives, and does not look at bilateral or individual country level initiatives. It therefore focuses on the initiative/programme/project level and related financing by topic, thus providing a complementary picture next to other monitoring done in the region.

It also needs to be highlighted again that the monitoring cannot provide a 100% accurate picture on results achieved by 2030GreenerMed supporting projects. Rather, it is an approximation and information gaps can only be filled over a longer period of time.

Nevertheless, the mapping and monitoring information and the comparison with the baseline assessment provide some interesting insights on trends over time:

- **While the number of projects of all three axes of 2030GreenerMed increased noticeably, thematic axis 2 might need more attention in the future**

While according to impact indicators pollution is one of the most pressing issues in the Mediterranean area, with most countries having considerable challenges remaining for the achievement of SDG targets, axis 2 again is the least addressed by contributing projects and programmes. In comparison with the baseline, the share of regional projects that address this axis is even smaller, despite an increase in the number of projects in absolute terms. More projects especially in the Western Balkan and Middle Eastern Med countries could help the boost the efforts in preventing and reducing pollution on land, sea, and air. As already done by many initiatives, this can also be implemented in a cross-cutting manner, combining approaches for instance of pollution prevention and green and circular economy.

- **Among projects and initiatives under axis 2, there is a strong focus on actions to mitigate and reduce plastic pollution and its environmental impacts, while air and chemical pollution are less frequently addressed**

Although overall axis 2 is least frequently addressed, in absolute terms noticeably more projects and programmes address 'mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction' as well as the challenges posed by 'plastic pollution and marine litter in the Mediterranean' than at the baseline. However, only a few regional projects work on chemical pollution, while air pollution was not addressed at all through new projects since the baseline. In the future, more attention should be given to chemical and air pollution considering the earlier causes pollution of water and life onshore and offshore and the latter poses significant health risks to society.

- **More private sector and academia involved but government and CSOs still play important role**

In all three axes, the share of academia and businesses participating in regional projects has noticeably increased, indicating the recognition of the important role both can play in pursuing the objectives of a greener Mediterranean. At the same time, government participation decreased since the baseline, especially in axes 2 and 3. It is important to maintain an adequate level of government involvement to translate and transfer the projects' insights for the development of a conducive enabling environment on policy and

regulatory level. A similar development can be seen for CSOs, which hold a smaller share among the different stakeholders involved in projects compared to the baseline, particularly in axes 1 and 3. At the same time, their participation is important to bring a grassroots perspective and local knowledge to the projects, which can lead to more relevant and sustainable solutions. Additionally, their involvement can foster greater public engagement and accountability, ensuring that the projects are more transparent, inclusive, and likely to garner even broader societal support.

- **The "just" transition aspect of projects and programmes might need more attention**

While axis 1 of the 2030GreenerMed agenda prioritizes the shift towards an environmentally responsible, circular and equitable economy, it has been observed - consistent with the baseline assessment - that the explicit integration of vulnerable populations into project design remains limited. To enhance the effectiveness of forthcoming projects and programs, there is an opportunity to prioritise the consistent inclusion of marginalized demographics, such as youth and women.

- **Participation of Western Balkan and Middle Eastern countries in Med regional cooperation programmes and projects could still be strengthened**

The 2030GreenerMed contributing initiatives, programmes and projects already show some good levels of participation of non-EU countries. However, similar to the baseline assessment, in all three thematic axes, (South-)Western EU countries - especially Spain, Italy, Greece and France - are the ones with most participation in projects and programmes. At the same time, the Northern African Med subregion significantly increased its participation in regional projects, driven especially by Tunisia. In the Western Balkan Mediterranean, however, the number of projects did increase only slightly compared to the other regions.

- **Capitalisation is taking place but piloting remains the norm**

Compared to the baseline, more projects that focus on capitalisation, scale up and transfer of knowledge and solutions are visible, although results are still limited given the short time frame that has passed (2 years since baseline). Still, the majority of projects focus on piloting activities. Given the urgency of scaling viable solutions to address the environmental, social and biodiversity crises in the region, still more emphasis could be given to capitalising/scaling up in the coming years.

There is also an opportunity for other stakeholders in the region including countries to learn from regional projects and their locally implemented activities and take up solutions that have proven to be successful.

Similarly, it may be beneficial to both efficiency and effectiveness of actions to define and implement a tool or mechanism that fosters enhanced coordination/cooperation among the various projects.

- **Financing sources could still be diversified in the future**

No significant changes since the baseline can be seen with regards to the diversity of financing sources, except that the spread became even larger.

The biggest initiatives financing most of the projects, such as Interreg Med, CBC Med, PRIMA or ENI South, are EU funded. Only a few projects under 2030GreenerMed are financed by other multilateral donors (e.g., GEF) or bilateral agencies (e.g., BMU, BMZ/GIZ). Germany and Sweden can be highlighted as an important donor to the UfM Secretariat in

general, thus supporting the cross-cutting area of partnerships. Likewise, Italy has made important contributions, for example to the joint developed action on Sustainable Food Systems.

Other relevant regional contributions come from the MAVA Foundation, which is phasing out its operations, and the MedFund, which "aims to mobilize public and private stakeholders to promote the development and effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs"⁵⁰. Closer contacts with donors, highlighting the strong progress and importance of devoting more attention to regional cooperation, could open up windows of opportunities in supporting the transition towards a more sustainable Mediterranean region.

⁵⁰ <https://themedfund.org/en/about-us/>



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