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2030 Greener Med

AGENDA FOR A GREENER
MEDITERRANEAN

2nd Results-based Monitoring Report 2023-2024

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Executive Summary

Background and context

This report is the second results-based monitoring report of the [UfM 2030GreenerMed Agenda](#), analysing progress as compared to the [baseline assessment](#) published in 2021 with data from the baseline year 2020, available on the [UfM Environment website](#). It also follows and builds on the [first monitoring report](#) published in 2023 that analysed data mainly covering 2021-2022.

The UfM 2030GreenerMed Agenda constitutes the 2021-2030 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 Agenda is a living document and contains three thematic axes with related Key Actions (KA) as well as a cross-cutting area on regional partnerships. Its overall goal is to contribute to an improved state of the environment in the Mediterranean region through achievements under each thematic axis.



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 implementation and to assess short- and long-term results and the contribution of the agenda to the SDGs. This shall contribute to a learning process, providing inputs to strategic decision-making of donors and other relevant stakeholders to jointly work towards the achievement of the 2030GreenerMed goals.

Methodology

The report uses three different complementary methodologies:

- **Mapping of supporting initiatives:** identification of regional projects that contribute to the 2030GreenerMed objectives (minimum 3 Mediterranean countries, including at least 1 non-EU country).
- **Indicator monitoring:** compilation of data from mapped programmes and projects on 5 levels (activities, outputs, intermediate results, long-term results, and impact), aligned with the developed Theory of Change (ToC) and indicator framework of 2030GreenerMed.
- **Analysis of contribution to the SDGs:** qualitative evaluation conducted by experts of the UN SDSN Mediterranean of how the mapped projects address regional specific challenges through “solutions” like regulation, education, and market development.

Key findings - Cross-cutting Area: Partnerships

This area monitors collaborative regional efforts and assesses the UfM Secretariat's facilitation role in fostering Euro-Mediterranean partnerships. The period 2023-2024 saw **major programmatic changes**: CBC Med and Interreg Med ended, while Interreg NEXT MED and Interreg Euro-MED started. Additionally, several PRIMA projects ended while new ones began. These transitions significantly impacted indicators—particularly active multi-country projects, leveraged financial resources, and project reporting.

Active projects showed continued 2030GreenerMed Agenda commitment, with 68% sharing progress information in 2023 and 42% in 2024. The 2024 drop reflects Interreg Euro-MED projects that started implementation but had not yet reported.

Leveraged financial resources (active project budgets) increased to approximately €592 million in 2023 but decreased to roughly €521 million in 2024, primarily because CBC Med projects ended by late 2023 and Interreg NEXT MED projects only started in 2025. SIDA continues supporting 2030GreenerMed through the UfM Secretariat. AICS funding ended in 2024, but other donors like AECID are following up. GIZ continues supporting regional green and blue economy activities, focusing on skills, careers, and jobs.

The UfM Secretariat fostered collaboration by organizing two Working Groups on Environment and flagship events including "Med Green Week" and "Med Talks" to reinforce policy dialogue and align priorities, processes, and projects. During 2023-2024, UfM supported member states through at least 15 coordination activities and engaged in at least 38 joint actions with regional partners, including conferences, webinars, technical assistance, and publications.

Regarding **funding access**, the Blue Mediterranean Partnership was initiated with UfM participation as a coalition supporting sustainable blue economy investments. UfM represented the Euro-Med region at key events like Ecomondo, the international ecological transition and green economy reference event.

As part of the 2030GreenerMed monitoring framework, UfM conducted the **Agenda's first external evaluation** in 2025. The evaluation found the participatory governance structure enabled constructive collaboration and recommended enhancing visibility, strengthening implementation and results dissemination, and updating the Agenda narrative to reflect evolving global and regional contexts.

Analysis per thematic axis

Axis 1: Green, circular, and socially inclusive economy.

Axis 1 represents 55% of all projects, confirming the green economy's key role under the Agenda. Currently, 123 of 241 mapped projects contributing to this axis remain active. **Sustainable consumption and production, and resource efficiency are top focal areas**, while education, lifestyle and behaviour changes remain least covered. Top sectors were agriculture (87 projects), food and beverage (40 projects), and waste management (39 projects). Geographically, Italy, Spain, Greece and Tunisia lead in project numbers.

Major EU programmes drive Axis 1 initiatives. Interreg Euro-MED, PRIMA, and CBC Med/NEXT MED account for most projects. No significant new programmes emerged since the last monitoring cycle; other funding sources (Horizon 2020, ENI South/NDICI-Global Europe, LIFE, MAVA) each support few projects. These include BlueMissionMed CSA, WES regional project and its 2024 follow-up WES-BCA, the Switcher Support Programme under MedWaves

(UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP), and a GEF project on toxic chemical prevention in MENA integrating green economy aspects. **Bilateral donor projects are limited**, though GIZ continued its Western Balkans waste and recycling management initiative.

By end-2024, **monitored projects created 1.160 technical solutions, reached 327.681 actors through awareness raising and capacity building, and developed 290 declarations, policies, or strategies**. While 201 solutions were identified as scaled or taken up, this refers mostly to dissemination through platforms, networks or communities of practice; project reporting shows **little evidence of actual large-scale uptake** of developed technologies or methods by other actors.

At outcome level, **successes include contributing to 1.017 green jobs, promoting 56 government initiatives for sustainable consumption and production, and saving over 7 tons of resources**. While outcome-level results are becoming slightly more visible, only a small share of monitored projects report them, meaning numbers show only a fraction of achievements.

Greening business practices through conducive policies, education and lifestyle change remain under-addressed. Funding organizations may consider strategically targeting these gaps, including greater focus on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and fostering private-sector involvement. Additionally, women and youth empowerment and inclusion in the green and circular economy remain underrepresented or underreported by programmes and projects.

Regarding **impact indicators**, trends show the **that still more efforts are needed in the Mediterranean region to achieve a green, circular and inclusive economy by 2030**, consistent with global outlooks. Although ecological footprint and deficit slightly improved, they remain high, and domestic material consumption shows an increasing trend. Female labour force participation shows slight regional decline, indicating no overall gender equality advancements in the economy.

Axis 2: Pollution prevention and reduction

This axis remains least addressed (14% of projects) **but has seen the highest relative growth** since baseline. **Plastic pollution and marine litter are high priorities**. Pollution prevention mechanisms is now the most targeted key action, with roughly double the projects since 2023. Overall key action coverage is more balanced than before, but air pollution control remains a clear gap (addressed about half as often as other topics).

All 22 countries now participate in at least one Axis 2 project. Italy and Spain lead participation, while some countries (e.g., North Macedonia with one project) remain marginally engaged. North African and Middle Eastern countries significantly increased project counts since 2021, contributing to more balanced regional participation.

EU-funded programmes dominate Axis 2 initiatives, with CBC Med/Interreg NEXT MED showing largest growth since 2023. Interreg Euro-MED and PRIMA are also major contributors, while only a handful of projects are supported by Horizon Europe, H2020 or bilateral/global sources (e.g., GEF, Germany's BMZ/BMU).

For 2020-2024, **projects developed 378 solutions, reached at least 591.000 actors through awareness raising and capacity building, and created 85 declarations, policies, strategies, or plans**. As with Axis 1, solution uptake or upscaling remains low and local. **At outcome level, little information exists** on waste treated, wastewater treated, and toxic pollutants eliminated or reduced, indicating a reporting gap by monitored projects. One example: the GEF Mediterranean Sea Programme Child Project "Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and

Wastes in Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts" reported disposing 389 tons of mercury in Tunisia and collecting 722 tons of PCBs. Additionally, over 70,000 tons of waste were treated through CBC Med and Horizon Europe projects. Only one project (WES) reported data disaggregated by vulnerable groups (e.g., youth or women).

Underrepresented Axis 2 areas needing greater focus include air pollution control, and certain sectors like fisheries and food & beverage (one project each).

Regional **impact indicators** show **pollution levels remain high**, with worsening seawater quality trends but improving air quality trends, notably in the Middle East and North Africa sub-region. However, almost no country achieved air quality levels demonstrating significant progress toward WHO recommendations. No waste generation and disposal data updates exist since the first monitoring report.

Axis 3: Natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems

The 133 contributing projects under Axis 3 **focus mostly on preserving, protecting and/or restoring terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity, and promoting nature-based solutions**. Integrated ecosystem-based resource management and sustainable landscape/seascape management are least addressed. **Disaster risk reduction gained stronger attention**, registering the second-highest project increase since 2023, reflecting growing climate resilience emphasis.

All 22 Med countries participate in at least one regional Axis 3 project, including new participation from North Macedonia. Italy remains most active, followed by Spain, Greece, and France. North African, Middle Eastern and Western Balkan countries saw notable participation increases, though the Western Balkans still average fewest projects per country.

The **Axis 3 portfolio expanded significantly since baseline**, driven largely by PRIMA. Interreg Euro-MED saw highest growth since the last report, and ENI CBC Med/Interreg NEXT MED added 8 projects. Other initiatives (e.g., GEF, FFEM, Horizon Europe) also contributed new projects.

For 2020-2024, **project reporting shows 1.067 solutions developed, 183 policies or plans created, and at least 1 million actors reached** through awareness raising and capacity building. Growing cases report specific technologies or methods taken up or upscaled, with CBC Med and Interreg Med reporting 48% of these.

For long-term outcomes, data from MAPAMED (a MedPAN and SPA/RAC initiative on Mediterranean MPAs) shows that as of 2024, **24% of MPAs have partially or fully implemented management plans, improved from 19%** in the last reporting period.

Despite overall progress and significant project increases, **several thematic areas remain underrepresented**, including integrated ecosystem-based resource management and sustainable landscape/seascape management. Future programming might prioritize these neglected topics and encourage projects in geographies and sectors with lower engagement for more balanced Axis 3 coverage.

Impact-level data show slight improvements in marine and terrestrial ecosystem protection; however, **progress is too slow to meet 2030 goals**. Positively, species survival probability in the Med region is comparatively high (above world average).

SDG contribution

The UN SDSN Mediterranean analysis of 2030GreenerMed supporting programmes and projects shows alignment with all SDGs, with a clear focus on sustainable agriculture (SDG 2), environmental protection (SDG 13), life below water and on land (SDG 14 and 15), and waste management and environmental impact under responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).

Projects mostly address agricultural sector sustainability, waste and loss reduction, and environmental impacts of production and consumption systems. Climate change mitigation and adaptation plays a central role, unsurprising given the Mediterranean region experiences higher average temperature increases than other planetary regions. Each project proposes multiple actions ranging from research and innovation to cooperation, best practice adoption, and partnership creation. These materialize in concrete solutions featuring technological innovation and stakeholder engagement. All are relevant, though incentive schemes play a minor role, rarely central to analysed research and innovation projects. Digital technology and innovation, knowledge transfer, stakeholder engagement, governance, and market development are all significant, with market development overall most referenced, though not always consistently.

Several SDGs are rarely prioritized, including health, infrastructure and justice issues. Energy-related challenges also receive relatively low priority overall, despite their importance for the Mediterranean region and the green agenda.

Learnings and strategic considerations

The 2030GreenerMed Agenda and monitoring framework are relevant instruments for effectively analysing regional and subregional projects, programs, and initiatives. However, the mapping and monitoring excludes bilateral or individual country-level initiatives. It concentrates on regional, multi-country initiatives, offering a complementary perspective to other regional monitoring activities. The monitoring can only approximate results achieved by supporting 2030GreenerMed projects.

With the 2030GreenerMed Agenda mid-way through its implementation, the number of regional projects supporting the Agenda has more than quadrupled since baseline, reaching a cumulative total of 345. These initiatives have leveraged over 500 million in funding, primarily driven by major EU-funded programs like PRIMA, Interreg Euro-MED, and Interreg NEXT-MED. The following key Insights can be derived from the analysis conducted:

- **2030GreenerMed maintains its high relevance under evolving global and regional contexts.**

The three thematic axes remain well aligned with regional priorities. Given latest global and regional developments, linkages with emerging frameworks will be proposed to be integrated in the GreenerMed narrative.

- **Donors, programmes, and projects need to pay more attention to implementing results-based monitoring and scaling to strengthen mid-to long-term outcomes.**

Advancements in the development of solutions, declarations, policies; and in awareness raising and capacity building under all thematic axes. Some long-term results are becoming more visible although not at the expected (or necessary) scale, needing more attention in projects' monitoring frameworks.

- **Although there is strong alignment with SDGs, positive contributions of 2030GreenerMed Agenda supporting programmes and projects are not directly visible at Indicator level.**

Impact-level data highlight the urgent need for acceleration and scale up of solutions and efforts to achieve 2030GreenerMed objectives.

- **Fostering an inclusive economy is still needed**

To improve the impact of future work, regional projects and programmes need to prioritize gender and youth responsive design and implementation.

- **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) can be more systematically addressed**

There is an opportunity for more systematic integration of this important topic, also in alignment with the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

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

Pollution is one of the most pressing issues in the Mediterranean, but axis 2 again is the least frequently addressed, with more focus on pollution prevention than on reduction.

- **Projects and initiatives under axis 2 cover key actions in a more balanced way, while air pollution remains less frequently addressed.**

Despite progress elsewhere, regional engagement on air pollution remains limited.

- **Increased engagement from private sector and academia, but also government and CSOs remain essential.**

Important to maintain an adequate level of public sector involvement to create a conducive enabling environment on the regulatory level, while CSOs are key to anchoring projects in local communities.

- **Participation of Non-EU Med countries could still be strengthened**

Programmes and projects already show higher levels of participation of non-EU countries than previously, but this can still be strengthened, with special focus on Western Balkans.

- **Despite advancements in coordination of funding, financing sources could still be diversified.**

Coordination of different funding sources has been progressively advanced but there is mostly continuity of funding sources since baseline; indicating opportunities for diversification.

List of Acronyms

AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation	MD	Materials directly used in the economy
BC	Biocapacity	ME	Materials exported
BMU/IKI	International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry for the Environment	MedECC	Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation	MedPAN	Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies	MSESD	Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development
COP	Conference of the Parties	MPA	Marine Protected Areas
CSA	Coordination and Support Action	MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
CSF	Civil Society Facility	MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	NbS	Nature-based Solutions
DMC	Domestic Material Consumption	NEET	Neither in Employment nor in Education or Training
EF	Ecological Footprint	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
EFIMED	Mediterranean Facility of the European Forest Institute	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument	OHI	Ocean Health Index
EPPA	Environment Partnership Programme for Accession	PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund	POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development	PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
EU	European Union	RLI	Red list index of species survival
EUSAIR	EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region	SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation	SCP/RAC	Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Gha	Global hectare	SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	SFS-MED	Sustainable Food Systems Platform
H2020 RTD	Horizon 2020 Research and Technological Development	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies	SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
IPA II	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance	ToC	Theory of Change
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
KA	Key Actions	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area	WEFE	Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	WES	Water and Environment Support

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and context

This report is the second results-based monitoring report of the [UfM 2030GreenerMed Agenda](#), analysing progress as compared to the [baseline assessment](#) published in 2021 with data from the baseline year 2020, available on the [UfM Environment website](#). It also follows and builds on the [first monitoring report](#) published in 2023 that analysed data mainly covering 2021-2022.

The UfM 2030GreenerMed Agenda constitutes the 2021-2030 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 2030GreenerMed Agenda aligns closely with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Rio Conventions—including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and the Paris Agreement—as well as other key international frameworks such as the UNEA resolutions and decisions, the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Wuhan Declaration on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), and the Plastic Treaty under negotiation. It also reinforces commitments under key regional frameworks and instruments such as other UfM Ministerial Declarations, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, as well as strategies adopted through previous Ministerial processes, such as the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (2014), approved alongside the 1st UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change. Further, 2030GreenerMed aligns with the Pact on the Mediterranean of the European Commission, as well as the Ocean Pact, supporting its environmental component.

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 Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) programme 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

¹ A more extensive description of key actions is included in the 2030GreenerMed Agenda document.

- 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 (NBS)

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



Figure 2. 2030GreenerMed high-level Theory of Change

The overall goal of 2030GreenerMed Agenda 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 associated/supporting projects, programmes and initiatives, which UfM countries participate in, directly contribute to these

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.

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 associated projects and programmes - 345 by now - , 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 maximize 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 second monitoring report that covers the period 2020-2024 and presents:

- An update of the 2030GreenerMed mapping of relevant supporting programmes and projects, up until 13.11.2025
- An analysis of 2030GreenerMed indicators with data from 2023-2024 and comparison to the baseline and the first monitoring report, 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 2023-2024 and including a comparison with the baseline assessment and the first monitoring report, based on information from official external sources for the impact indicators.

Developments in the Euro-Mediterranean region are highly dynamic, with some initiatives finalizing and others starting in parallel. 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 for 2030GreenerMed, one carried out in 2025 and another planned for 2030 will 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 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 and the first monitoring report:

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. They have a regional scope and include 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 345 projects that have been or are under implementation since 2020. Projects have been analysed thematically to determine to which of the key actions under each of the thematic axes of 2030GreenerMed they contribute, 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 they have a (sub-) regional approach, covering at least three countries including at least one non-EU country within the realm of [UfM member states](#).

Monitoring for 2030GreenerMed supporting programmes and projects. The indicator monitoring for 2030GreenerMed Agenda builds on the updated mapping exercise. Follow-up was done with all contributing programmes and projects included in the mapping that were active in 2023 and 2024 to ask for submission of progress reports or project/programme log frames with updated information. Alternatively, data from the projects that directly correspond with the 2030GreenerMed output and outcome indicators could be submitted. The received information was systematically screened to extract the data relevant for each of the indicators and then introduced into the 2030GreenerMed monitoring tool for aggregation and analysis.



IMPACT	9 indicators
LONG-TERM OUTCOMES	8 indicators
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES	4 indicators
OUTPUTS	5 indicators
ACTIVITIES	4 indicators

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Figure 3. Methodological steps for 2030GreenerMed monitoring

For the monitoring, a clear cut was made at the end of 2024 and only those projects were considered that were active in the respective year. Thus, the total number of projects for monitoring in 2024 differs from the total number of projects included in the mapping (137 active projects as of end of 2024, 345 projects overall in the mapping as of 2025, including projects that have already concluded).

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. The [Global Footprint Network](#) provided an update on the Mediterranean region's ecological footprint, biocapacity and ecological deficit data. Information on Domestic Material

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.

Consumption (DMC) was retrieved from the materialflows.net platform hosted by Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Vienna) – Institute for Ecological Economics.

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 and the first monitoring report. 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.

Methodological limitations

It is important to note that the cut-off date for the *monitoring* part of this update report is December 31, 2024 given that projects that started in the year 2025 (54 projects) have not yet produced any monitoring data. For the *mapping* sections, all projects identified until November 13, 2025 have been taken into account in order to provide a picture as complete as possible. This corresponds to the approach applied for the mapping part in the first monitoring report. Because of time lag between project start (and integration into the data base) and actual project monitoring, it is important to note that the referenced periods in the mapping sections slightly differ from those in the monitoring sections: In the context of the mapping, the baseline refers to 2020, the first Results-based GreenerMed Monitoring Report to the period 2021 to 2023 (while the actual monitoring refers to 2021 to 2022), and this second Results-based GreenerMed Monitoring report to 2024 to 2025 (whereas the actual monitoring refers to the period 2023-2024).

Some additional challenges need to be highlighted to contextualize the analysis. Regarding the *mapping* of initiatives, a clear attribution of projects to a single specific key action was not always possible, as i) the key actions within each thematic axis often are defined rather broad, thus not allowing for a clear-cut differentiation, and ii) a project might address several key actions simultaneously. 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 annual numbers for each of the indicators. In addition, some programmes work with longer reporting cycles, e.g. only every 2-3 years, so that some data gaps exist.

⁴ For instance, Interreg NEXT MED lists the project "MEDWISE" under "Circular Economy", which falls under thematic axis 1 of the 2030GreenerMed and is listed here accordingly. However, it also comprises elements that contribute to Axis 2 of the 2030GreenerMed (pollution prevention and reduction) and is in this analysis therefore listed under both axes.

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 line with what had already been done for the baseline analysis and the first monitoring report.

Disaggregation of information - To the extent possible, all indicators involving the number of stakeholders should be reported disaggregated per gender, age and type of activity (e.g., capacity building, awareness raising and / or education for sustainable development) 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.

Especially, the experience from the last four years of monitoring showed that none of the programmes and projects makes a distinction between the output indicator "Number of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising events and education for sustainable development" and the intermediary outcome level Indicator "Number of stakeholders with increased awareness/knowledge/capacity". Therefore, monitoring of this indicator at intermediary outcome level has been discontinued.


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.

On active projects, the period 2023-2024 saw major changes with the programmatic cycles of CBC Med and Interreg Med coming to an end, and the new programmes Interreg NEXT MED and Interreg Euro-MED starting. In addition, a number of Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) projects ended in 2023 and 2024 while several new ones started. These developments regarding the three main contributing programmes for 2030GreenerMed have had a major influence on indicators under the partnership area, especially the number of active multi-country projects, volume of financial resources leveraged, and the number of reports or information shared by active projects.

Regarding the latter, an indicator on activity level, a good part of active projects has shared information on their implementation progress over 2023 and 2024, showing continued commitment to contribute to the 2030GreenerMed Agenda and its monitoring system. Percentage wise, there was a peak in 2023 with 68% of projects submitting reports and data while in 2024, 42% of active projects did so, consistent with the level reached for the first monitoring report. The drop from 2023 to 2024 is mostly due to a number of Interreg Euro-MED projects that started implementation in 2024 but for which reporting has not yet been available. This is also the case for some individual projects such as Water and Environment Support – Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) launched in 2024 upon the end of its predecessor project WES (2019-2024).



Long-term Outcome	Number of multi-country projects under implementation	Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024
Outputs	Number of joint developed actions	21	25	19	27	11
	Volume of financial resources leveraged	≈ EUR 300 mio	≈ EUR 500 mio	≈ EUR 536 mio	≈ EUR 592 mio	≈ EUR 521 mio
Activities	Amount of Environmental Working Group meetings ⁵	1	1	1	1	1
	No. of supporting programmes/projects that shared information on implementation progress ⁶	72	75	65	89	58
	Number of support and coordination activities of the UfM Secretariat	10	22	12	8	7

Table 1. Partnership area monitoring results

⁵ In previous reports, the indicator counted the number of Environmental Task Force Meetings. In 2024, the Task Force was renamed Working Group.

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

The volume of financial resources leveraged (= the overall budget of *active* projects) has increased to about 592 mio in 2023 but then decreased to roughly 521 mio in 2024. This is mostly because by end of 2023, all CBC Med projects had ended and the new programme cycle of the successor programme Interreg NEXT MED was initiating in 2024, with new projects selected and starting only in 2025.⁷ Since and including 2020, the overall budget leveraged through all regional projects that were identified until November 2025 as contributing to the 2030GreenerMed amounts to EUR 897 million.

Beyond the funding of programmes and projects, in more general terms, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) continues to support the UfM Environment/2030GreenerMed through the UfM Secretariat, while The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) in support of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) ended in 2024 but other donors, such as the Spanish cooperation agency AECID are following up. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) continues to support regional activities in sustainable green and blue economy at Med scale, with a special focus on blue and green skills, careers, and jobs aspects.

Throughout 2023-2024, the UfM Secretariat convened two Working Groups on Environment (formerly called Environmental Task Force Meetings). While the 2023 meeting was held as a stand-alone event in Brussels, in 2024, the Environment Working Group and the UfM Regional Platform on Environment and Climate Change were organized during the [Med Green Week](#), a new format launched by the UfM in Istanbul in partnership with The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Med Green Week 2024 convened over 150 participants to tackle the region's urgent environmental, climate, and energy challenges. The objective of the 8th Working Group on Environment in that context was to continue and reinforce the policy dialogue and ensure a constant alignment among priorities, processes and supporting projects. The Working Group was specifically dedicated to circulating and discussing policy papers on waste management and on education for sustainable development; to launch a report on the [Green Circular Economy in the Mediterranean](#) and to present the highlights of the 2030GreenerMed First Monitoring Report together with the proposed follow-ups. These included, among others, a closer integration of aspects related to climate change, the just transition and civil protection.

Further, during 2023-2024 the UfM supported member states and initiatives through at least 15 coordination activities and engaged in at least 38 actions developed jointly with regional partners. Most of the UfM-led support and coordination activities were cross-cutting, consistent with previous years. A special focus has been put on strengthening the operational links of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda with other related UfM agendas, particularly for this period with the Sustainable Blue Economy dossier and the Working Group meeting on Youth Engagement in Environment, and Urban and Rural Development.

Another priority has been enhancing project-based partnerships throughout the entire Mediterranean basin. To this end, the UfM constantly bridged among partners to help expand contacts and partnerships to the whole Mediterranean. UfM also labelled the entire governance axis of the Interreg EURO MED programme, activating as direct contribution a dedicated

⁷ 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. No information has been obtained on budget implementation of projects per year. Also, information on budgets for joint developed actions is not available.

technical assistance on governance to support the North-South Med collaboration, sharing and amplifying the projects' results. This included the organisation of the yearly gathering with southern Med countries on governance projects' progress, the so called Med Talks. Other coordination and support actions relate more specifically to thematic axes 2 and 3 of 2030GreenerMed, such as mobilizing technical assistance on fundraising in order to carry on the UfM activities on marine litter through active projects, or updating the Plastic Busters policy paper and information and communication materials. The UfM also labelled the [TouMaLi project](#) in 2023 to support sustainable waste management systems in the tourism sector for the protection of marine ecosystems, and organized webinars to promote and discuss measures in support of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

In addition, the UfM Secretariat together with regional partners and stakeholders carried out a wide series of jointly developed actions including numerous events like conferences and webinars, support and dissemination actions for initiatives developed by UfM partners and stakeholders such as The Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network (MedPAN), Interreg Euro-MED and Interreg NEXT MED, FAO, The Mediterranean Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED), The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), among many others. Together with some of these partners the UfM co-organized events, for example the [8th Mediterranean Forest Week](#), or the 3rd online Conference on “[The Restoration of Mediterranean Wetlands: the Wetland-Based Solutions](#)” together with Medwet. Further, the UfM participated in several publications, including a contribution to a Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) report on [Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks in the Mediterranean](#), as well as a MedECC report on [Interlinking Climate Change with the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems \(WEFE\) nexus](#), and a contribution to FAO's international journal of forestry [Unasylva 255](#) - Restoring the Mediterranean region: status and challenges.

Topic wise, the priorities of the UfM have remained the same as for the previous monitoring report: the majority of joint actions (14) related to 2030GreenerMed axis 3 (biodiversity/natural resources/ecosystems), which was also the thematic area most addressed in the baseline assessment and the first monitoring report. Axis 2 (pollution prevention and reduction) was the second most addressed with at least 10 actions, while 8 actions related to axis 1 (green, circular and socially inclusive economy) and five were cross-cutting, such as the organisation of the [first](#) and [second](#) editions of the MED Talks together with Interreg Euro-MED.

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 an important 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](#) (SFS-MED). For this partnership with FAO, CIHEAM, UfM, PRIMA and One Planet, efforts were maintained in supporting directly and through a newly launched two-years dedicated technical assistance. On the occasion of the Day of the Mediterranean 2023, the SFS-MED Platform launched the interactive tool “Sustainable agrifood systems in the Mediterranean – Levers for transformation”, that showcases catalytic levers for transforming agrifood systems in the Mediterranean.

Also in 2023, the [Blue Mediterranean Partnership](#) was initiated at COP27 in Egypt with UfM's participation as a unique coalition of international financial institutions and donors that aims at supporting sustainable blue economy investments that crowd-in public and private sector

finance with a focus on plastic waste reduction, coastal resilience investments, sustainable tourism, wastewater treatment, circular economy, and marine biodiversity.

In addition, the UfM participated and represented the Euro-Med region in other important events such as Ecomondo, an international reference event on ecological transition and the green and circular economy, bringing together companies, innovators and policymakers.

As part of the 2030GreenerMed monitoring and evaluation framework, the UfM conducted the first external evaluation of the Agenda in 2025. The evaluation confirmed the important role of the Agenda as a pivotal regional framework that unites Mediterranean countries around shared environmental priorities. It highlights that the three thematic pillars—Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy, Pollution Prevention and Reduction, and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration—remain highly relevant and well-aligned with both regional needs and global frameworks. The evaluation found that the Agenda’s participatory governance structure has enabled an open and constructive environment for collaboration across diverse stakeholders, reinforcing its role as a convening mechanism. Based on key findings, it recommends actions to enhance the Agenda’s visibility and added value, to further strengthen implementation and dissemination of results, as well as to update the narrative of the Agenda document to better reflect the evolving global and regional context as well as emerging topics.

3.2 Mapping of 2030GreenerMed supporting initiatives

To date, the overall number of regional projects supporting the objectives of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda has more than quadrupled compared to the baseline report. Including the baseline year 2020, 345 projects that contribute to the 2030GreenerMed Agenda were identified along the 14 initiatives analysed (+116 projects since the first monitoring report).

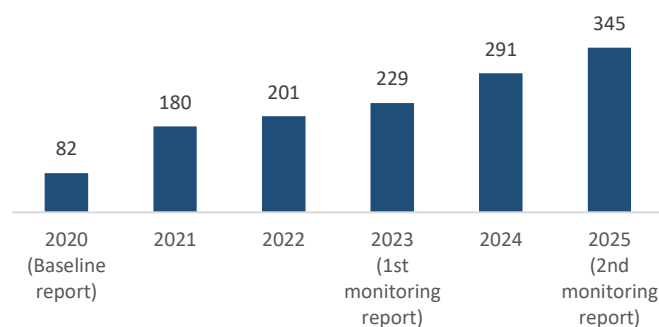


Figure 4. Number of projects contributing to 2030GreenerMed, 2020 - 2025 (cumulative)

Overall, about 25% of the projects contribute to more than one thematic axis, i.e., have a cross-cutting character. Only looking at projects identified since 2021, just 21% (56 of the 263 projects added from 2021 to 2025) address more than one thematic axis. The baseline report, in contrast, identified 35% and the first monitoring report 30% of cross-cutting projects. This suggests that the trend to a slightly stronger thematic focus of the projects continues also with this update of the monitoring report. At the same time, the majority of projects keeps addressing multiple key actions within each thematic axis.

Almost half (49.6%) of the 345 projects were completed before 2025, i.e., are no longer operative at the time of the preparation of this report. 25 projects (7%) are running up to 2025, 86 projects (25%) up to 2026, 21 projects (6%) up to 2027, 28 projects (8%) up to 2028, and 8 projects (3%) up to 2029. For 6 projects the duration was not identified (see Figure 5).

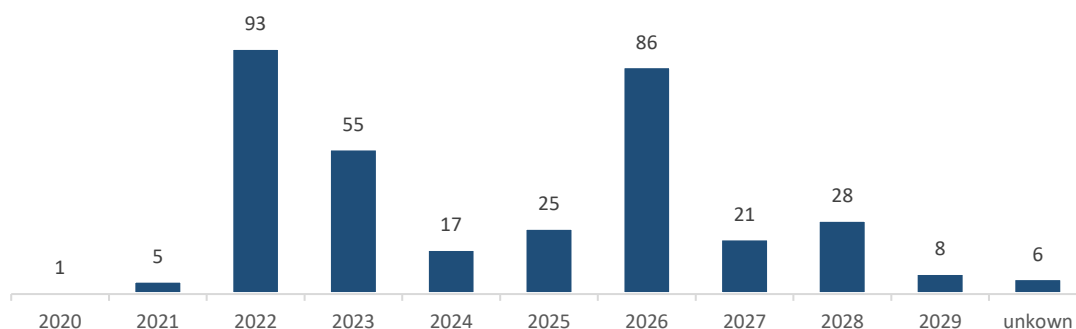


Figure 5. Number of projects ending in the respective year

By comparison, in the baseline report, no project was planned to run past 2024, while the number of projects running beyond 2025 was considerably smaller (55). The project-gap until 2030 thus has reduced considerably. Nevertheless, the number of projects going beyond 2027 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 axes⁸

Thematic axis 1 - Support the transition towards a green, circular and socially inclusive economy - is addressed most frequently, by 55% of the identified projects. This share became slightly bigger compared to both the baseline and the first monitoring report, when 53% and 52%, respectively, of all projects contributed to axis 1. Strongest focus is given by the projects to supporting sustainable production and consumption as well as to increasing resource efficiency - in line with both previous reports. Currently, 123 of the 241 projects contributing to this axis are still active.

Thematic axis 2 - Prevent and reduce pollution on land, sea and air – remains least often addressed. Overall the number of projects contributing to axis 2 rose from 20 projects at baseline to 42 projects in the first monitoring report and further to 61 now in the second monitoring report. Its share in overall projects contributing to the 2030GreenerMed Agenda, however, stays at 14% (19% at baseline). The key action most frequently addressed under this axis is the overall strengthening of mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction from different sources, followed by projects focusing on plastic pollution and marine litter, on the facilitation of investments in infrastructure and on the improvement of soil quality. Also, the share of projects contributing to the reduction of chemical pollution increased significantly. Currently, 34 of the 61 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 31% of all projects, with 58 of 133 still being active. At the time of the baseline, 28% of projects were contributing to thematic axis 3, while this share increased to 34% in the first monitoring report. which indicates a slightly smaller 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 remains by far most frequently addressed under this axis. With 26 projects at baseline, 66 in the first monitoring cycle (2023) and 133 today, the number of projects under this key action increased more than 5-fold since the baseline report and doubled in the last two years.

Figure 6 reflects these developments. It compares the relative share of projects under each thematic axis contributing to the 2030GreenerMed at the baseline year (2020) with the relative share at the time of the first (2023) and the second monitoring report (2025).

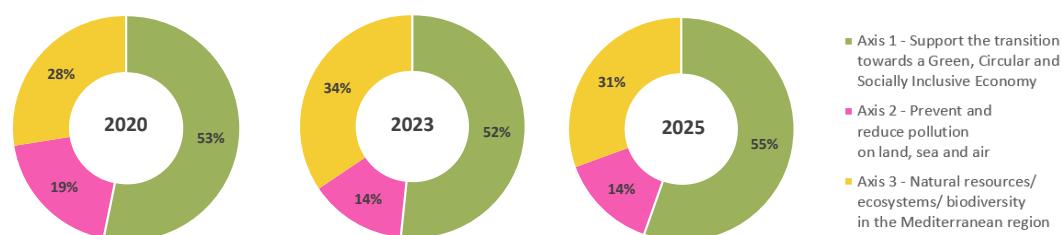


Figure 6. Share of projects under each thematic axis in percent of overall number of projects, 2020 vs. 2023 vs. 2025

⁸ Includes project double-counts, i.e., those that are cross-cutting through the different themes/ contributing to more than one thematic axis

Geographic coverage per country

The analysis spans 23 Mediterranean countries. With 286 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, Greece, Tunisia, and France follow with 240, 185, 151, and 147 projects respectively. All other countries are significantly less often involved. Türkiye is the country that gets closest to 100 projects. Monaco takes a special position (7 projects) given its extremely small size. North Macedonia, which became UfM member at the end of 2022 and for which no project was identified in the first monitoring report, now is represented with three regional projects. Among the non-EU UfM countries, Israel (23 projects) and Palestine (30 projects) have the lowest representation in regional projects (see Figure 7).

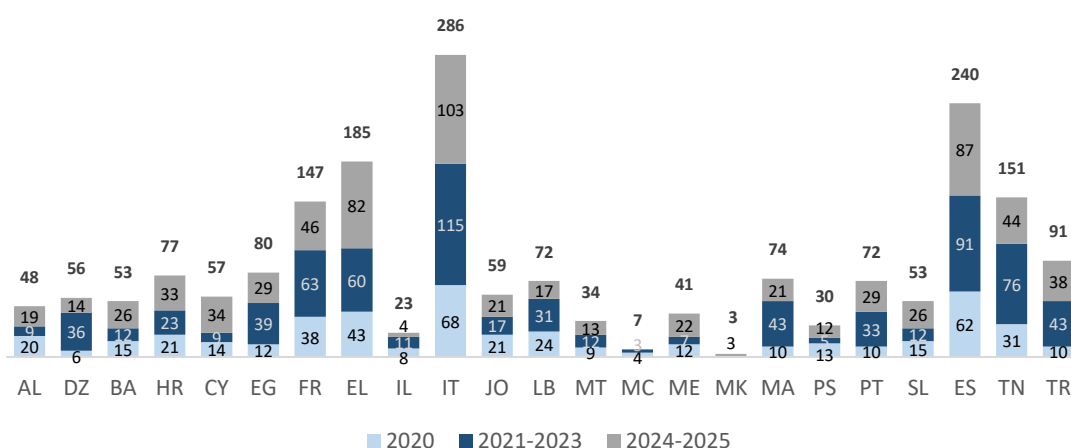


Figure 7. Number of projects per country⁹

The highest increases since the baseline in the involvement in regional projects in relative terms are experienced by Algeria (9.3-fold, from 6 to 56), closely followed by Türkiye (9.1-fold, from 10 to 91 projects), by Morocco and Portugal (slightly above 7-fold, from 10 to 74 and 10 to 72 respectively), and by Egypt (6.7-fold, from 12 to 80 projects).

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

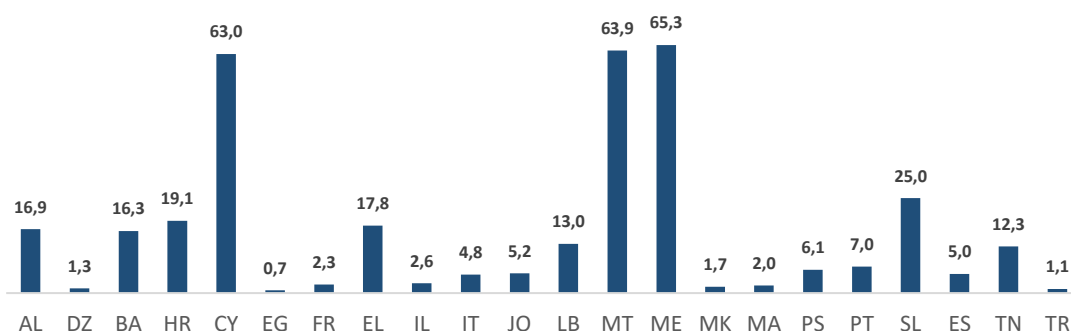


Figure 8. Overall number of projects contributing to 2030GreenerMed per 1,000,000 people by country

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

⁹ The abbreviations used correspond to the official ISO 3166-2 (A-2) country subdivision code.

people (63, 63.9, and 65.3 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. In contrast, Slovenia, Croatia, and Albania show a considerably higher involvement in regional projects than in absolute terms. North Macedonia, Türkiye, and Algeria are participating in less than two, Egypt even 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.

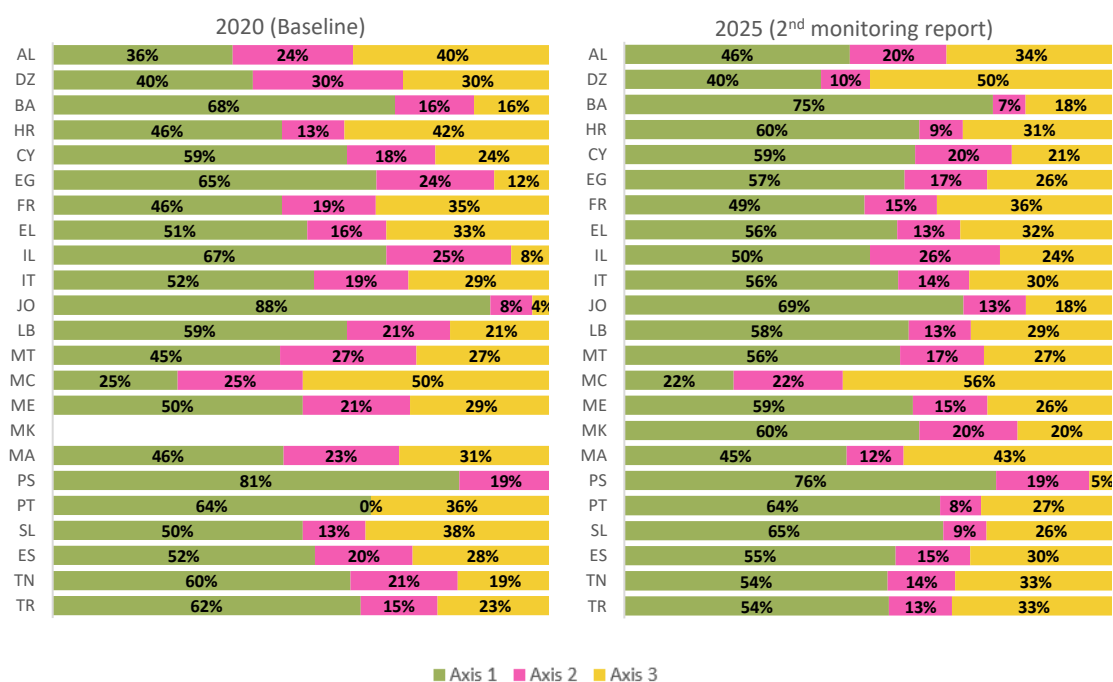


Figure 9. Share of projects per axis by country, 2020 vs. 2025

In line with the overall picture on the share of projects under each thematic axis, Figure 9 reflects the slightly increased share of projects that contribute to axis 1 in most of the countries. At the same time, the results suggest that some countries' priorities have evolved towards axis 2 and/or 3 over the last years: Compared to the baseline, Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, and Portugal, for instance, now show a higher share of projects contributing to axis 2. Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Monaco, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia, and Türkiye, in turn, 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 2030GreenerMed¹¹ follows the same pattern as in the first monitoring update. It is highest in the Mediterranean EU (115.8 projects) and lowest in the Western-Balkan Mediterranean (47.3 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, ranking

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.

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

second in absolute terms, this value saw a sixfold increase since the baseline, showing the highest increase in relative terms.

Setting the number of projects in relation to the population size of each sub-region instead of to the number of countries of a region, the picture changes significantly: The Western Balkan Med countries show the highest (21.1) and the North-African Med the lowest (1.8) number of projects per 1 million people (see Figure 10).

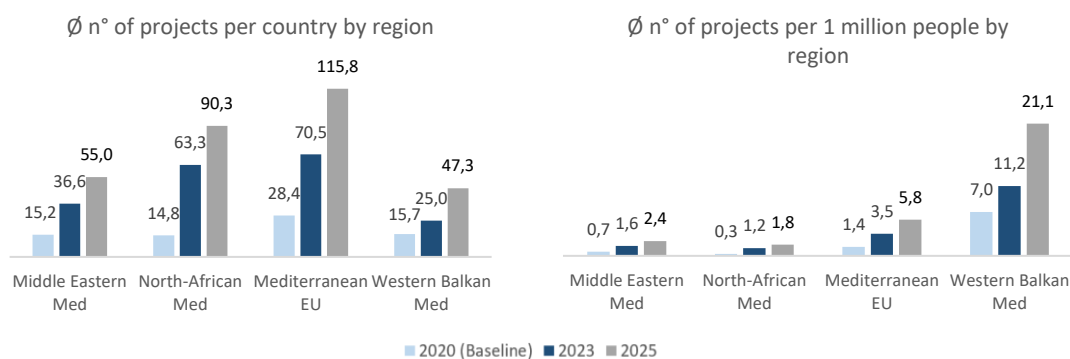


Figure 10. Average number of projects within each Med-sub-region, per country and per 1m people

Contribution to 2030GreenerMed by initiative

With 118 projects (34% 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 maintains the shift already observed in the 1st monitoring report, when PRIMA moved from 3rd most important contributing initiative at baseline to the top of this list.

# of projects 2025 (1st monitoring; Baseline)	Initiative
118 (96; 10)	PRIMA
113 (60; 34)	InterregMed/ Interreg Euro-MED
81 (46; 26)	ENI CBC Med/ Interreg NEXT MED
7 (3; n/a)	Horizon Europe
6 (6; 1)	Horizon 2020
4 (4; 1)	MAVA Foundation
3 (3; n/a)	EU Life
3 (3; 3)	IPA II (incl. IPA II CSF) ¹²
2 (2; 1)	BMU/ IKI
2 (2; 2)	ENI South (succeeded by the NDICI–Global Europe)
2 (1; 1)	Fonds Français Pour L'environnement Mondial (FFEM)
2 (1; 1)	GEF
1 (1; 1)	BMZ
1 (1; 1)	MedFund

Table 2. 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 remains the most covered axis. Accounting for ~55% of all 2030GreenerMed regional projects (up from ~52% in the first monitoring cycle and 53% at baseline), this confirms that Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy continues to play a key role under the 2030GreenerMed agenda.
- Key Action 1.1 (sustainable consumption & production) and KA 1.2 (resource efficiency) are still the top focal areas, with 207 and 162 projects respectively, whereas KA 1.5 (education, behaviour & lifestyle changes) remains the least covered (86 projects). Nevertheless, each of Axis 1's six key actions are addressed by at least ~35% of all projects, reflecting a well-rounded thematic reach. Geographically, Italy (200 projects), Spain (164), Greece (130), and Tunisia (105) lead in number of Axis 1 projects.
- Agriculture dominates the sectoral focus. It is by far the most targeted sector under Axis 1 (87 projects), well ahead of food & beverage (40 projects) and waste management (39). In contrast, sectors such as culture & creative industries and trade are barely addressed (only 2 projects each). Notably, roughly one-third of Axis 1 projects take a cross-sectoral approach with no single sector specified (about 70 projects).
- Major EU programmes drive Axis 1 initiatives. Interreg Euro-MED (including its 4 key missions and 4 of the 8 governance projects), PRIMA, and CBC Med/NEXT MED together account for the bulk of Axis 1 projects (78, 73, and 71 projects respectively). No significant new contributing programme has emerged since the last monitoring cycle, and other funding sources (e.g., Horizon 2020, ENI South/NDICI – Global Europe, LIFE, MAVA) each support only a small number of projects. These include among others the BlueMissionMed Coordination and Support Action (CSA), the Water and Environment Support (WES) regional project and its follow-up project WES-BCA launched 2024, the Switcher Support Programme under MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP, as well as a GEF project related to the prevention of the use of toxic chemicals in the MENA region that integrates green economy aspects. While bilateral donor projects are not strongly represented, GIZ continued its initiative on waste and recycling management in the Western Balkans. This points to a continued reliance on large multilateral EU initiatives to fund and sustain green and circular economy actions in the region.
- As at end of 2024, 1.160 technical solutions have been created by the monitored projects and programmes, 327.681 actors have been reached via awareness raising and capacity building, and 290 declarations, policies, or strategies have been developed. At the long-term outcome level, results on resource savings (7 tons), public administrations applying sustainable consumption and production/public green procurement (56), and the number of green jobs created (1.017) are becoming slightly more visible but are still only reported by a small share of the monitored projects.
- Women and youth empowerment and inclusion in the green and circular economy continue to be underrepresented and underreported by programmes and projects under this axis.
- Certain thematic areas remain under-addressed. For example, Key Action 1.4 (greening business practices, especially through conducive policies) saw the smallest growth in projects and, along with KA 1.5 (education & lifestyle change), continues to be comparatively less represented. Likewise, sectors like trade have only a small presence (2 projects). Funding organisations may consider strategically targeting these gaps and foster greater private-sector involvement (currently limited in project partnerships) to achieve a more balanced and inclusive green economy transition.

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 higher share than previously (55% vs. 52% in the first monitoring and 53% at baseline). Also, the key actions of this thematic axis are the most covered of all key actions of the 2030GreenerMed Agenda. That is, each of the key actions under this thematic axis is addressed by more projects than any other key action of the other two thematic axes.

Most projects are implemented under the umbrella of InterregMed/ Interreg Euro-MED with 78 projects (39 in the first monitoring report, 2023, and 18 at baseline, 2020), PRIMA with 73 projects (56 in 2023, 8 in 2020), and CBC Med/ Interreg NEXT MED with 71 projects (42 in 2023, 24 in 2020). No new projects contributing to axis 1 were identified for any other initiative since the first monitoring report, hence, reflecting the same status as in 2023 as follows: Horizon 2020 with 4 projects, IPA II, ENI South, EU Life, and MAVA Foundation with three projects each, GEF with two projects, and Horizon Europe, BMU (IKI) and BMZ with one project each.

Of the 241 regional projects, 123 are still operational in 2025, while 4 were completed in 2021, 69 in 2022, 36 in 2023, and 9 in 2024. For 4 of the active projects the duration is not known. The remaining ones are spanning up to 2029 (2025: 20; 2026: 60; 2027: 13; 2028: 22; and 2029: 4 projects).

Coverage by key action

Most prominent among the key actions addressed under this axis remain KA 1.1 “sustainable consumption and production” (207 projects) and KA 1.2 “increase resource efficiency” (162 projects), with some distance followed by KA 1.6 “Engage all stakeholders and raise awareness” (116 projects). The least covered key action remains, as in the first monitoring update and at baseline, KA 1.5 “promote changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles” (86 projects).

The development of the projects’ contribution to the different key actions (see Figure 11)¹³ suggests that the focus on the different topics in relative terms has changed slightly over time. It seems that especially the topic resource efficiency (KA 1.2) has received increased attention since the baseline report, while the number of projects promoting changes in education, behaviour and lifestyles likewise grew constantly but at the comparatively same small rate in absolute terms as in the previous reporting period. The smallest increase in projects over the current reporting period, however, can be observed with KA 1.4, promoting changes in business practices and trade on the policy level.

¹³ 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.

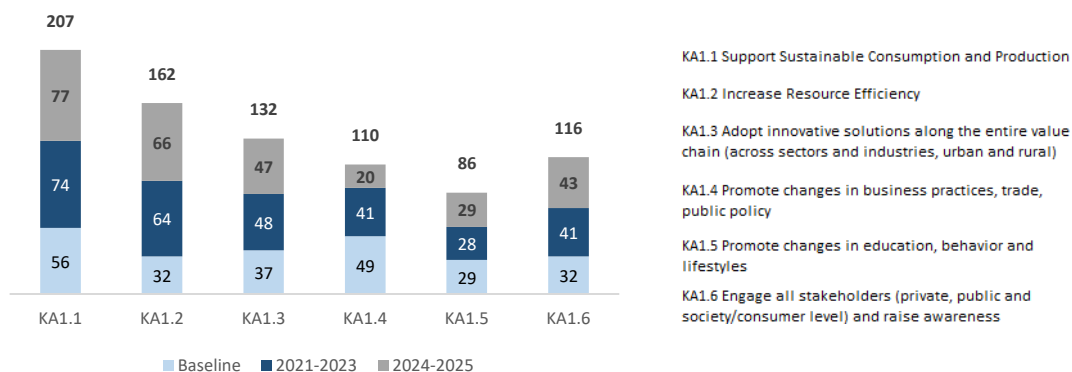


Figure 11. Coverage per key action (number of projects under axis 1)

Sector coverage

The projects cover various sectors. By far the most frequently addressed sector is agriculture (87 projects), suggesting agriculture is a consistent strategic priority across the region. This is followed by food and beverage (40 projects), and waste management (39 projects). Least often addressed are culture and creative industries, and trade (2 projects each). This low representation likely reflects their comparatively smaller direct environmental footprint and more limited leverage for systemic green-economy transitions. At the same time, about one third of the projects (70) do not address or specify a specific sector, e.g., when economy in general is targeted. This might be due to a growing emphasis on cross-sectoral or transversal issues (e.g., circular economy, innovation, governance) and or the recognition that many environmental and economic challenges require multi-sector approaches.

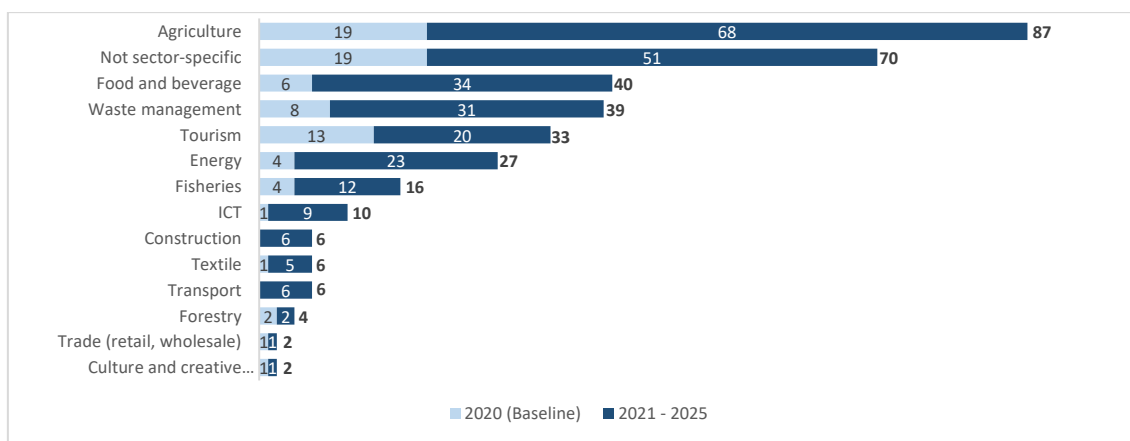


Figure 12. Main sectors addressed - number of projects per sector

Stakeholders involved

Overall, 2159 organisations¹⁴ were involved as partners in implementing the projects contributing to axis 1, vis-à-vis 1503 organisations at the first monitoring cycle and 597 organisations at the baseline. The following figure distinguishes the type of stakeholders involved. While at the baseline most of the projects' partners were CSOs, their share reduced over time whereas the participation of academia and research organisations increased significantly, suggesting a stronger scientific backbone of the projects. Also, the number of

¹⁴ Can include multiple counts of the same organisation (if it is involved in several projects)

businesses participating actively in the projects slightly increased since the baseline, although the share remains stable since the 1st monitoring update and, overall, comparatively small.

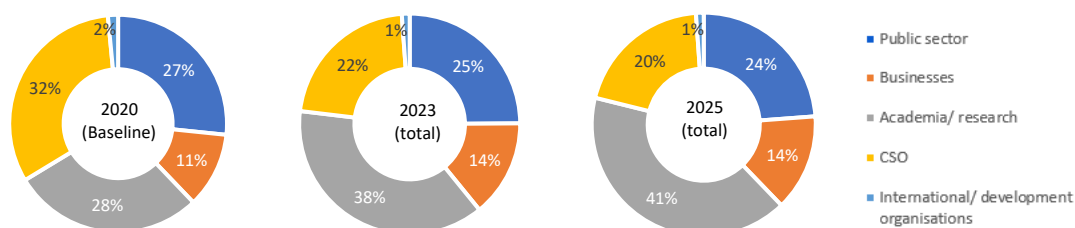


Figure 13. Type of actors involved (share of all project partners contributing to axis 1)

Geographic coverage by country and sub-region

All countries are involved in and address each of the six key actions. The country with most projects in the area of axis one is Italy (200), followed by Spain (164), Greece (130) and Tunisia (105). Countries with less regional projects related to Green and Circular Economy are Monaco (2 projects), North Macedonia (3), Israel (17 projects), Malta (23 projects), and Montenegro (27 projects). The pattern did not change significantly when comparing the development over time. Striking is, however, the – in relative terms – significantly higher number of projects Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, and Montenegro are involved in as at this monitoring update.

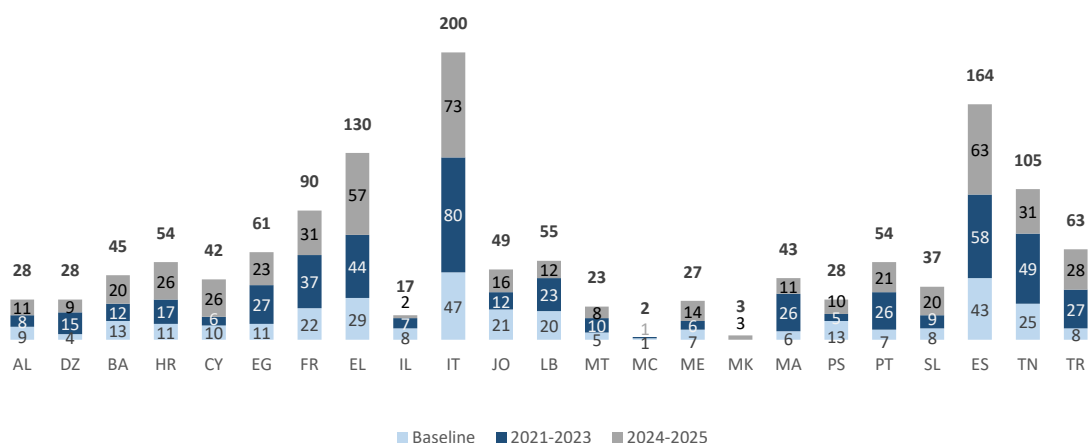


Figure 14. Number of projects per country in thematic axis 1

In terms of sub-regional coverage, this translates into the following unweighted average number of projects per country¹⁵: Med EU 79.6, Middle East 42.2, Northern Africa 59, Western Balkan 33.3 (see Figure 15). While Mediterranean EU countries still account for the highest averages in absolute terms, the difference becomes more pronounced over time.

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. In contrast, the North-African and Middle Eastern Med regions show the lowest project intensity per capita, despite the overall growth in absolute numbers. This highlights the effect of considering population size when interpreting regional engagement levels.

¹⁵ Sum of all projects within one region divided by the number of countries the region covers

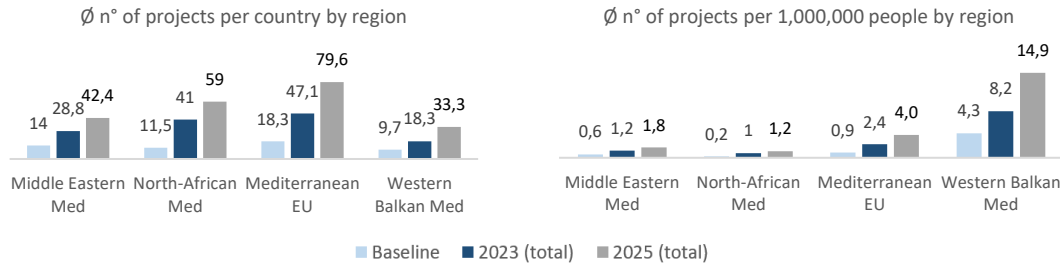


Figure 15. Average number of projects per sub-region in thematic axis 1

Across the three monitoring cycles, North African countries (DZ, EG, MA, TN) show a clear expansion in their engagement across most key actions, with Egypt and Tunisia consistently showing the strongest increases. Growth is particularly visible in Key Action 1 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), Key Action 2 (Resource Efficiency) and Key Action 3 (Innovative Solutions), which remain the region’s most prominent thematic areas from 2020 through 2025. Notably, Key Actions 4 and 5 (Business practices, trade, public policy; Education behaviour and lifestyles) shows improvement but remains comparatively less represented than the leading actions, indicating an area where uptake is still moderate relative to the region’s broader project involvement. Similarly, Key Action 6 (Stakeholder engagement and awareness) shows gradual improvement but continues to trail behind the region’s top three priorities. Overall, North Africa progresses toward a more diversified profile, yet Key Actions 4, 5 and 6, continue to represent less frequently addressed thematic areas compared to the stronger focus on sustainable production, resource efficiency and innovation.

Across the three monitoring cycles, the Western Balkan countries show steady but moderate growth in their engagement, with Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina generally contributing the most (e.g., AL rising from 9 projects in 2020 to 24 in 2025; BA from 13 to 45). KA 1 remains the sub-region’s dominant area, while KAs 3 and 4 also strengthen gradually after 2023. In contrast, KA 2 remains more modest, yet is the second most frequently addressed key action. The weakest thematic area continues to be KA 5, where involvement remains very low (AL 7, BA 11, ME 7 projects, and MK 1 project), while KA 3 is also trailing despite some improvement. Overall, the region broadens its thematic footprint, but KAs 3, 5 and to a lesser extent 6 remain underdeveloped relative to the projects' stronger focus on KAs 1, 3 and 4.

Across the two monitoring cycles, Middle Eastern countries (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Türkiye) show steady but uneven growth in their involvement, with Lebanon and Türkiye showing the highest project numbers (e.g., LB increasing from 20 projects in 2020 to 55 in 2025, and TR from 8 to 63), while Israel, Jordan, and Palestine show more moderate increases. At the same time, Israel is significantly less often involved in any of the projects under axis 1. KA 1 and closely behind KA 2, remain the most prominent thematic areas under this axis across the sub-region, with all countries showing expansion over time, and KA 3 also strengthening, particularly in Lebanon and Türkiye. The weaker thematic areas continue to be KAs 4 (changes in business practices, trade, public policy), 5 (education, behaviour and lifestyle) and 6 (engage all stakeholders), although differences are seen between countries: Among those KAs, IL and LB are least frequently involved in projects contributing to KA 6, while JO is least frequently involved in KA 4, and TR in KA 5.

Like in the first monitoring update, among the Mediterranean EU countries, it stands out that Italy (200), Spain (164), and Greece (130) are particularly often participating in regional projects related to axis 1. Italy is more than 8 times as often involved as Malta, and about 5 times more

often than Cyprus and Slovenia. The least number of projects are implemented by Monaco (2) and Malta (23). Similar to the other regions, the thematic focus of the projects in Mediterranean EU countries is dominated by supporting sustainable consumption and production (KA 1), and resource efficiency (KA 2). The promotion of changes in education, lifestyles and behaviour is in all countries but Cyprus the least covered key action. In Cyprus, least covered instead is the promotion of changes in business practices, trade, and public policy, closely followed by projects promoting changes in education, behaviours and lifestyles.

Activities, outputs and outcomes

To track progress towards the green, circular and inclusive transition in the region, the monitoring framework includes three impact indicators, three long-term outcome indicators, two intermediate outcome indicators¹⁶, three output indicators, and one activity indicator.

For the period 2023-2024, 109 and 117 active projects were tracked with similar patterns regarding report sharing as in previous years. While for 2023, 47 projects (43%) were covered by reporting, numbers for 2024 dropped to 24 projects (20%). The lower share for 2024 is mostly because 30 Interreg Euro-MED thematic projects that started in 2024 have no reporting to share

	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2020	CURRENT STATE (2020-2024)
Long-term outcome	Resource savings (tons)	No data available	7.05
	Number of public administrations applying SCP/green procurement		56
	Number of green jobs created		1.017
Intermediate outcome	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled	29	153
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) taken up or upscaled	8	201
Outputs	No. of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising events and ESD	30.231	327.681
	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed	53	290
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) developed	98	1.160
Activities	No. of projects and programmes implemented under the 2030GreenerMed framework per year	53	117

yet.

Table 3. Indicator results axis 1

In addition to the reporting received, six projects were covered by online research and compilation of available information from the project's websites, newsletters or social media channels. Overall, the monitoring covers 45% of active projects in 2023 and 24% of active projects in 2024.

¹⁶ The third intermediate outcome indicator, number of stakeholders with increased awareness/knowledge/capacity has been discontinued as none of the projects monitored makes a distinction between this indicator and the one at output level number of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising events and ESD.

Thus, 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.

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

Activities. This indicator measures the number of projects implemented. Taking into account the whole period since baseline establishment, 2022 was the year with more activities with 135 active projects. A reduction of active projects is registered in 2023 due to the closure of the Interreg Med programme and subsequently, the CBC Med programme in 2024. From 2023-2024, there was a total increase of 8 active projects, due to the new programme cycle of Interreg Euro-MED under which 30 thematic projects were added that started in 2024; however, no reporting has been available yet for this monitoring round. Most active projects in 2024 (76) correspond to PRIMA.

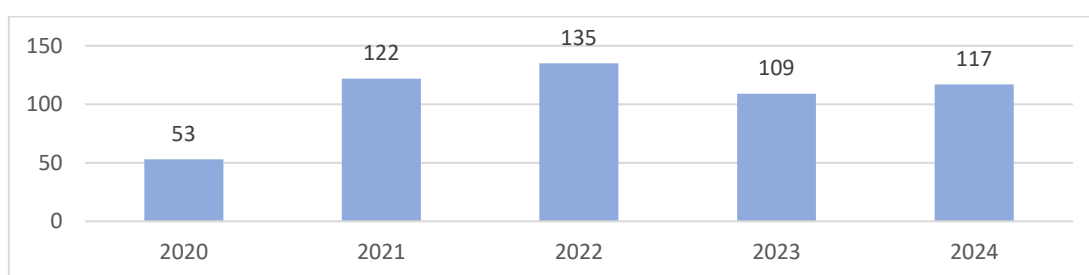


Figure 16. Number of active projects from 2020 to 2024 under Axis 1

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.

Among the active projects monitored a total of 1.160 solutions developed have been identified for the period 2020-2024. 2023 was the year with more solutions registered, mostly from the CBC Med and PRIMA programmes. For 2024, the lowest number of solutions were reported, most of them coming from PRIMA projects that closed that year. Other individual projects have also developed solutions that are smaller in number but with high impact potential.

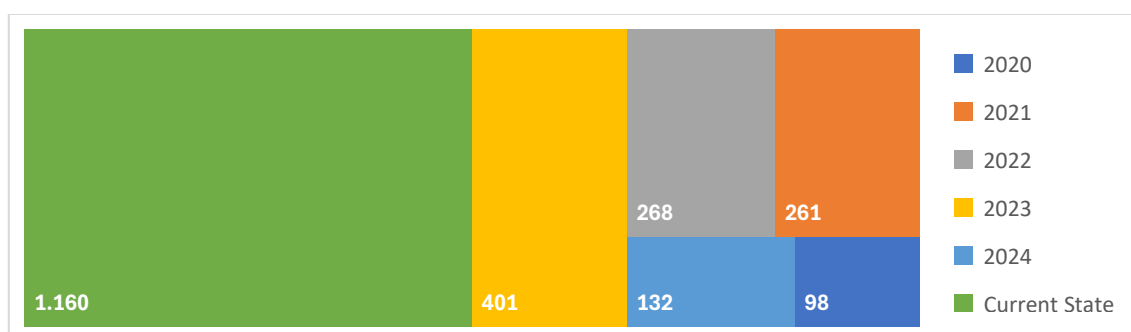


Figure 17. Axis 1 – Number of solutions developed from 2020 to 2024

Examples of solutions developed

- The [Switcher Support Programme](#) implemented by MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP, developed six Sustainable Business Development Tools that are

freely available online at www.theswitchers.org (The Switchers Toolbox) and include: 1. Sustainable Business Model; 2. Sustainable Business Plan; 3. Eco-design; 4. Finance Toolkit; 5. Access to market; 6. Impact measurement Toolkit. Through the switchers.org, entrepreneurs and SMEs have also access to two additional platforms focused on green products and services promotion: 1. [The Switchers Products](#) and 2. [The Open Eco-Innovation Platform](#).

- Several [PRIMA](#) projects developed technological innovations to boost resource efficiency, circularity and resilience in food production. For example:
 - The [AWESOME](#) project introduced sustainable agriculture solutions through the development of hydroponic and aquaponic systems. These systems can reduce freshwater consumption by up to 90% compared to traditional farming methods. The project also developed a WEFE (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem) Nexus Management Platform to optimize resource use across sectors.
 - The [BioFreshCloud](#) and [FEDKITO](#) projects developed prototypes of innovative packaging materials that can extend the shelf-life of fresh food, thus mitigating food waste and reducing plastic waste.
- The [SME4SMARTCITIES](#) project under CBC Med created a toolbox for developing an Urban Innovation Ecosystem for Sustainability as well as additional guidelines and methods that can help Mediterranean cities to establish “innovation zones” and provide support services for innovative and technological SMEs.

Solutions taken up or upscaled. As project implementation progresses, several solutions that oftentimes are developed as pilot applications have been taken up by others or scaled up. During 2021-2023 capitalisation projects under CBC Med played a key role for leveraging solutions developed by other projects, as well as collaborations and synergies that individual projects are creating amongst each other.

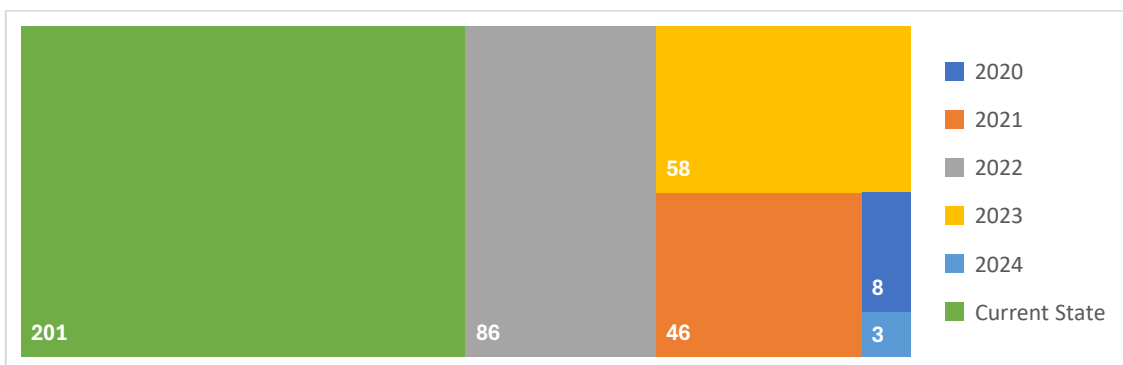


Figure 18. Axis 1 - Number of solutions taken up or upscaled from 2020 to 2024

Over the period of this report 201 solutions have been identified as taken up, extending project results to other Mediterranean stakeholders than the ones directly involved during project implementation. The year with more solutions upscaled was 2022, followed by 2023, in both years most scaled solutions were registered under the CBC Med Programme. 2024 saw a decline with only 3 identified solutions upscaled, which is again due to the closure of the CBC Med Programme and the related end of available reporting. It can also be highlighted that most solutions upscaled refer to their dissemination beyond project end through platforms, networks or communities of practice, but there is little evidence in the project reporting of actual uptake of developed technologies or methods by other actors at larger scale.

Examples of solutions taken up or upscaled

- The Switcher Support Programme reported 55 challenges launched by public authorities and companies and 22 green solutions upscaled via the [Open Eco-Innovation Platform](#). Solutions that received financial (vouchers) and non-financial support have been implemented in five Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Italy, Spain) within the textile, agrifood and sustainable tourism sectors.
- Under the CBC Med Programme, the development of sustainable tourism solutions has been one of the priority topics. The project [RESTART Med](#) has developed an [online platform](#) as a spin-off capitalizing on solutions developed by other projects such as CROSSDEV, MEDUSA, MED GAIMS and MED PEARLS projects, showcasing a database of Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Products and other resources.
- [Transferability of HYDROUSA](#) solutions will be demonstrated in Mediterranean water stressed places, coastal areas and islands in Italy, Spain, Cyprus, France, Egypt, Croatia, Israel, Turkey, Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia and at least 6 water stressed rural or peri-urban areas from Bulgaria, China, United Arab Emirates, Australia, Mexico, Chile, Malaysia, and Argentina, who have signed letters of support.

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.

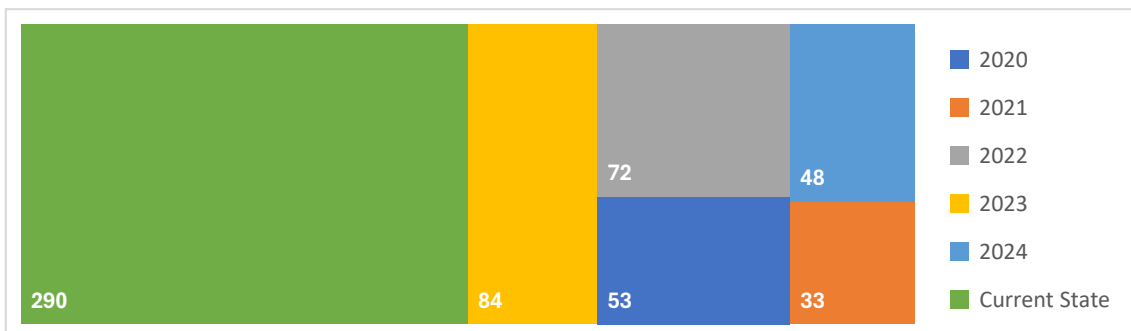


Figure 19. Axis 1 - Number of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed from 2020 to 2024

Over the period 2020-2024, the number of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed amounts to 290. 2023 was the year with more declarations and policies registered, followed by 2022 and 2024. Again, CBC Med projects account for almost the entirety of developed declarations, strategies and plans in 2023, while for 2024 the Switcher Support Programme contributed most through mainstreaming SCP into a number of policies, regulations or legislation.

Examples of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed

- The Water and Environment Support (WES) project launched a [PEERS MANIFESTO](#) towards sustainable organic waste management in the MENA region.
- The BlueMissionMed Coordination and Support Action (CSA) delivered an [Operational Implementation Roadmap](#) that serves as a guiding framework for Mediterranean stakeholders in achieving the EU Mission Ocean objectives.
- MedWaves, in partnership with the GIZ project Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention Programme in the Western Balkans, advanced circular economy implementation at local levels through the Low Plastic Zone initiative, providing technical assistance to municipalities and businesses to phase out single-use plastics and adopt

prevention and reuse solutions across the Balkans, and signed a declaration on the Low Plastic Zone initiative in Pristina.

- The [INVESTMED](#) project under CBC Med developed five [policy papers](#) that analyse challenges and opportunities of entrepreneurial landscapes in participating countries Egypt, Tunisia and Lebanon and highlight recommendations to improve support for (green) MSMEs and entrepreneurs.

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.

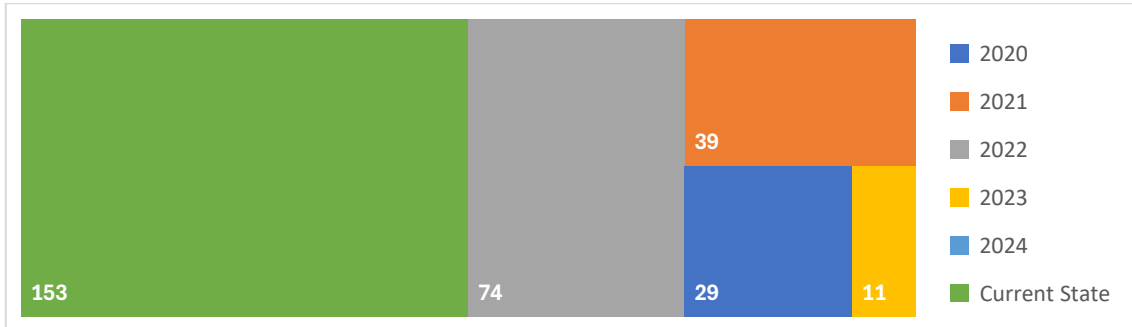


Figure 20. Axis 1 - Number of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up from 2020 to 2024

A total of 153 declarations, policies, strategies and plans have been identified as taken up or upscaled based on the available information since baseline. 2022 was the year with more upscales registered, followed by 2021 with 25% of the total. However, for the period 2023-2024 the reported uptake of such documents has been considerably lower, which can again be attributed to the closure of Interreg Med programme cycles.

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

- MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP, reported a contribution to the development of a [set of regional measures](#) to support the development of green and circular businesses and to strengthen the demand for more sustainable products in the Mediterranean, adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
- Under the [CROSSDEV](#) project (CBC Med) that aimed to support sustainable tourism practices in the Mediterranean, five action plans were adopted by local authorities.¹⁷
- During the final event of the [MEDARTSAL](#) project (CBC Med), a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by 29 organisations and enterprises from the four project countries. This agreement formalized the MedArtSal network, creating a collaborative framework for continued cooperation, shared knowledge, and sustainable development efforts within the Mediterranean artisanal salt sector.

Capacity building/ Awareness raising events. Considering the entire reporting period 2021-2024 and including the baseline, as of end of 2024 over 1.5 million actors have been reached with capacity building and awareness raising activities. The vast majority (98%) of actors have participated or been reached through awareness raising, while about 2% participated in technical capacity building and training courses. While ESD is not explicitly addressed by most projects, it is covered by the project WES under this axis with a representation of 23 individuals that participated as trainers of others or are ministry officials deciding on school curricula at

¹⁷ According to the CROSSDEV [final evaluation report](#), 2023.

national levels. Overall, over 2023 and 2024 the PRIMA programme has contributed most to the number of actors reached, accounting for 75% of the total. PRIMA projects usually address a wide range of actors, with a focus on the scientific community but also including industry stakeholders, policy makers, civil society, investors, customers, media and the general public.

Again, it can be assumed that actual numbers are still higher as the total number is derived from reporting of only a part of 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. In other cases, projects report very high numbers for awareness raising but it remains unclear how these have been measured. Such exceptional cases have not been included in the official indicator measurement.

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, the monitoring of the indicator at intermediate outcome level has been discontinued.

Examples of capacity building and awareness raising

- The project by GIZ on Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans for 2024 informed outreach to 250 business representatives
- For 2024 the project LIFE MEDTURTLES conducted numerous [awareness raising campaigns](#) and meetings with more than 1.500 fishermen to educate on reduction of bycatch and providing first aid to sea turtles, 1.190 of them received a fisher kit for the onboard best practices of turtle handling, 453 for hot-spot areas, and 128 for fishing gear modification.
- Between November and December of 2023 the project [BlueMissionMed](#) launched a series of [events](#) in Spain, Greece, Malta, Turkey, Tunisia, France and Italy organizing national HUBS to inform and engage the local stakeholders on BlueMissionMed activities. The project also organized [events for 2024](#) in these national HUBS to showcase and demonstrate selected transformative innovative solution to prevent and reduce pollution, collect stakeholders feedback, and facilitate the solutions' adoption and implementation.

Long-term outcomes. For Axis 1 the indicator framework set the number of green jobs created, public administrations applying SCP/ green procurement, and the amount of resource savings as foreseeable results of the solutions, declarations and capacity building developed through the projects.

While information is still scarce as many projects do not report information at this level, it can be positively observed that more information is available for the period 2023-2024 as compared to the previous reporting period 2021-2022.

Although 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, few projects reported information on actual **resources saved** through project activities. For 2023 the projects MAIA-TAQA, SOLE, SIRCLES, GREENBUILDING and Med-EcoSuRe, all of them under the CBC Med programme, reported contributions in terms of resource savings with 7.052 tons of material saved, 791.662 of energy in kWh, and 7 million litres of water.

Examples of reported resource savings:

- The [MAIA-TAQA](#) project contributed to water and energy savings through six innovative resource efficiency services piloted in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, including different types of photovoltaic systems and a solar-powered wastewater plant in Lebanon that allows for water reuse.
- The [SIRCLES](#) project reported that a pilot demonstration on circular economy in Puglia contributed to reduced impurities in 7.000 tons of biowaste per year, thus allowing for recycling of such waste.
- The [GREENBUILDING](#) project reported a total of 351.562 kWh saved using renewable energy applied to public buildings. The project helped to install photovoltaics in Greece, solar water heaters in Tunisia, and solar power in Jordan contributing to save around 186.000 tons of CO2 per year.

For the indicator on **public administrations applying SCP/green procurement**, the CBC Med programme contributed most in 2023, with the projects SIRCLES, SME4SMARTCITIES, SOLE and REUSEMED implementing measures delivering reuse circuits, eco-innovations and support for Green Public Procurement.

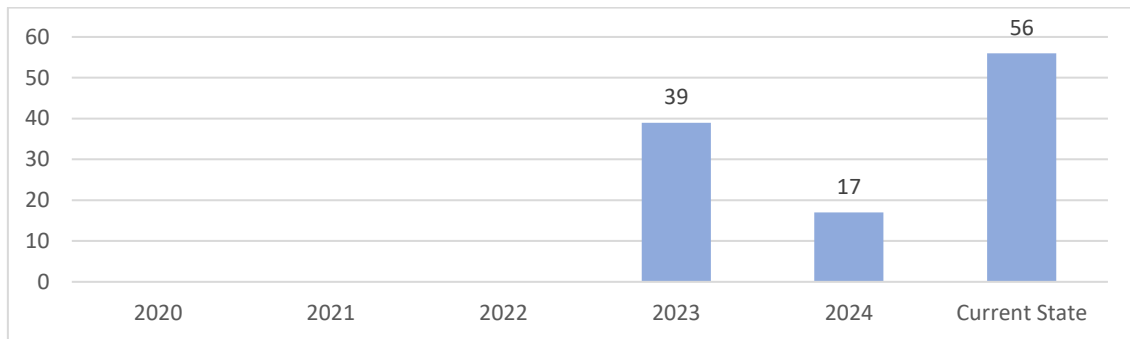


Figure 21. Number of public administration applying SCP/Green procurement

In 2024, the project WES contributed by supporting the Tunisian government in implementing a Sustainable Public Procurement operation in the construction sector, and the Switcher Support Programme promoted 16 government initiatives for SCP, thus amounting to a total of 56 government initiatives for SCP in the Mediterranean since 2020 to date.

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. As of 2024 a total of 1.017 green jobs has been created according to the information obtained. Most of the green jobs reported come from the CBC Med Programme: from 2022 to 2023 the programme accounted for more than 800 green jobs through projects such as InnovAgroWoMed, GIMED, SIRCLES, INNOMED-UP, MEDUSA, RESMYLE, among others. Some of the measures include the employment of trainees, creation of new businesses and jobs created as result of SMEs supported. The indicator considers the number of short-and long-term contracts either full- or part-time signed by target groups as result of project activities. The Switcher Support Programme has also contributed to this indicator, mostly through the promotion of green and circular entrepreneurship initiatives.

For other UfM-led or co-coordinated initiatives to support and enhance results under Axis 1, see the chapter 3.1 Cross-cutting area: partnerships.

Promoting an inclusive economy

Axis 1 also has among its objectives to promote an inclusive economy, paying attention to women and youth. Some projects have a specific focus on these groups. However, as noted

already in the first monitoring report, this aspect is still 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. The following highlights some positive examples:

Examples of good practices on gender and youth inclusion

- The CBC Med programme included some projects aiming to support specifically women and youth population:
 - [GIMED](#) aimed to support youth and women led existing ideation - and early-stage ventures to better access finance and to grow their share of the market for green products and services.
 - [GREENLAND](#) aimed to increase employability of NEETs (up to 30 years old) and women (all ages) by providing these target groups with marketable skills and qualifications to prepare them for skill-based occupations.
 - [INVESTMED](#) aimed to support the development of new, sustainable entrepreneurship and business initiatives in order to create new economic opportunities and jobs for young people and women.
 - [RESMYLE's](#) objective was to promote the social and professional integration of young people in the Mediterranean, particularly those with fewer opportunities, by addressing the challenges of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.
- The PRIMA programme, with its focus on scientific research, monitors gender equity in project teams. In addition, some PRIMA projects also promote women's participation and empowerment¹⁸:
 - For the active projects monitored under axis 1, PRIMA shows good results for gender equity with an average of 52% women and 48% men among research teams.
 - The project [NEXUS-NESS](#) empowers women farmers for sustainable WEFEE Nexus transition, using tailored stakeholder engagement through participatory and innovation ecosystem approaches.
 - [HALOFARMS](#) promotes women empowerment, entrepreneurship and job creation, focusing on stakeholder engagement and inclusion of women in decision-making processes within the saline agricultural sector.
- The WES project still stands out as one of the few that has included gender-disaggregated data into its results reporting, along with the GIZ - Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans project.

Despite these positive examples, a more holistic approach to youth and women inclusion and empowerment is still missing among the 2023GreenerMed supporting programmes and projects. They can take a more proactive role by integrating an inclusion lens in project design, implementation and monitoring and reporting frameworks. This also needs to be donor driven, making it a mandatory requirement to mainstream such cross-cutting aspects.

¹⁸ Examples taken from the [PRIMA Portfolio Analysis 2018-2023](#) report.

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; no attribution claims are made. This level is also influenced by developments outside of the sphere of influence of 2030GreenerMed.

For a detailed definition of each indicator, please see the Annex.

Highlights - 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.

Indicator trends overall show that still more efforts are needed in the Mediterranean region to achieve a green, circular and inclusive economy by 2030. Although the ecological footprint and ecological deficit have slightly improved they remain high, and domestic material consumption shows an increasing trend. Female participation in the labour force shows a slight decline for the region, pointing to no overall advancements in gender equality in the economy.

- The **Ecological Footprint** per capita has slightly decreased in the Med region. However, at the same time there is a loss in the capacity of ecosystems to regenerate what people demand from surfaces. This results in an ecological deficit of 2,04 for 2024 that compared with the 2,46 for 2017 means a slight improvement. Yet, the EF for the Mediterranean region remains unsustainably high.
- The average **Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)** is 13,38 tonnes per capita, showing an increasing trend. Non-metallic minerals remain as the most used material in all Mediterranean countries but also the consumption of fossil fuels and biomass has risen.
- Over the past four years, there has been a negative shift in the **Ratio of female to male labour force participation** for the regional average with a decrease of more than 2 percentage points, bringing the figure down to 50.13%, with marked differences per sub-region: there is some improvement in Western Europe and Eastern Europe of 2.49% contrasting with a reduction of 4.59% in North Africa.

The first impact indicator, the **Ecological Footprint** for the reporting period 2020-2024, follows the updated data reported through the [National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts 2025 Public Data Package](#) that contains data accounting from 2017 and the estimate for 2024. In that sense, from 2017 to 2024 the EF per capita has slightly decreased in the Mediterranean region from 3,62 to 3,11 referring to a reduction in the consumption of goods and services including everything used along the production chain. This reduction could be related with consumption patterns during the pandemic. The data set also shows that the BC per capita in the region has reduced from 1,16 to 1,08, expressing a loss in the capacity of the ecosystem to regenerate what people demand from surfaces. This results in an ecological deficit of 2,04 for 2024 that compared with the 2,46 for 2017 means a slight improvement of 0,42 points. Yet, the EF for the

Mediterranean region remains high, indicating that unsustainable consumption models prevail.¹⁹

For the second impact indicator, **Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)**, latest available data show that in the Mediterranean region, encompassing 24 countries²⁰, including new information from Syrian Arab Republic, Palestine and Libya for 2024, the average DMC is 13,38 tonnes per capita, showing an increasing trend compared to the baseline of 11,2.

Looking at sub-regional data, Middle East²¹ stands out with the highest average of 24.4 tonnes per capita, followed by Eastern Europe²², which has an average of 14,3 tonnes per capita. Western Europe²³ follows with an average of 10,3 tonnes per capita. In contrast, North Africa²⁴ has the lowest average value at 10 tonnes per capita.

The highest increase (>100%) has been registered for Israel with 32,5 tonnes per capita. But there are also countries that have decreased their DMC, especially Italy, and Spain (< -20%).

The DMC can be distinguished into the consumption of metals, non-metallic minerals (construction minerals, industrial minerals), biomass (wood, food) and fossil energy carriers²⁵. Non-metallic minerals remain as the most used material in all Mediterranean countries. Among the Mediterranean countries, Cyprus has the highest per capita consumption of non-metallic minerals (25,9 tonnes per capita). Israel and France remain with the highest per capita biomass consumption (>7 tonnes).

Over the period from 2015-2024 just five of the 24 countries have reduced their fossil fuels consumption. Italy, Spain, Morocco and Tunisia are leading the trend with a decrease of >1 tonnes per capita.

The average DMC in the region has increased 2,18 tons per capita in the period for this report. The graphic below shows the trend in consumption for each type of material during the period 2015-2024, with non-metallic minerals showing the most significant increase, followed by fossil fuels, biomass, while metal ores consumption saw the smallest percentage increase of 0,57.

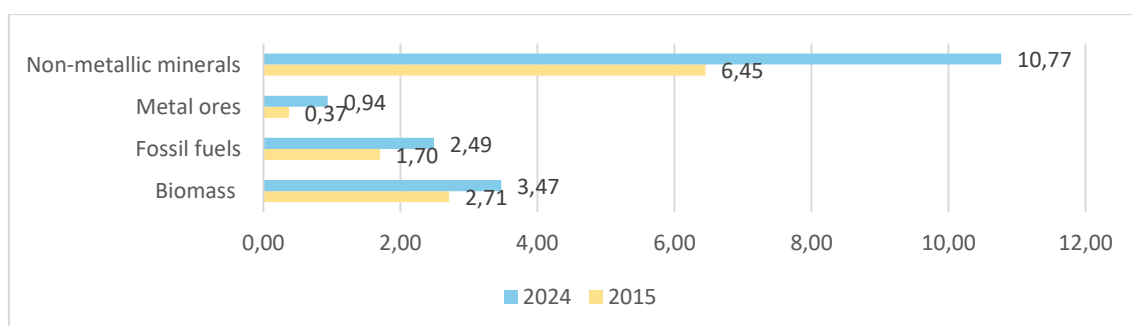


Figure 22. Domestic Material Consumption in the Mediterranean per type of material (Average per capita)

¹⁹ Data provided by the Global Footprint Network. The baseline value has been updated, considering latest updates in the source data, and also now only takes into account the 24 Mediterranean countries and not the overall 42 UfM member states.

²⁰ Western Europe (6), Eastern Europe (7), Middle East (6) and North Africa (5).

²¹ Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestina, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye.

²² Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Slovenia.

²³ France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain.

²⁴ Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia.

²⁵ Source: OECD, n.d.

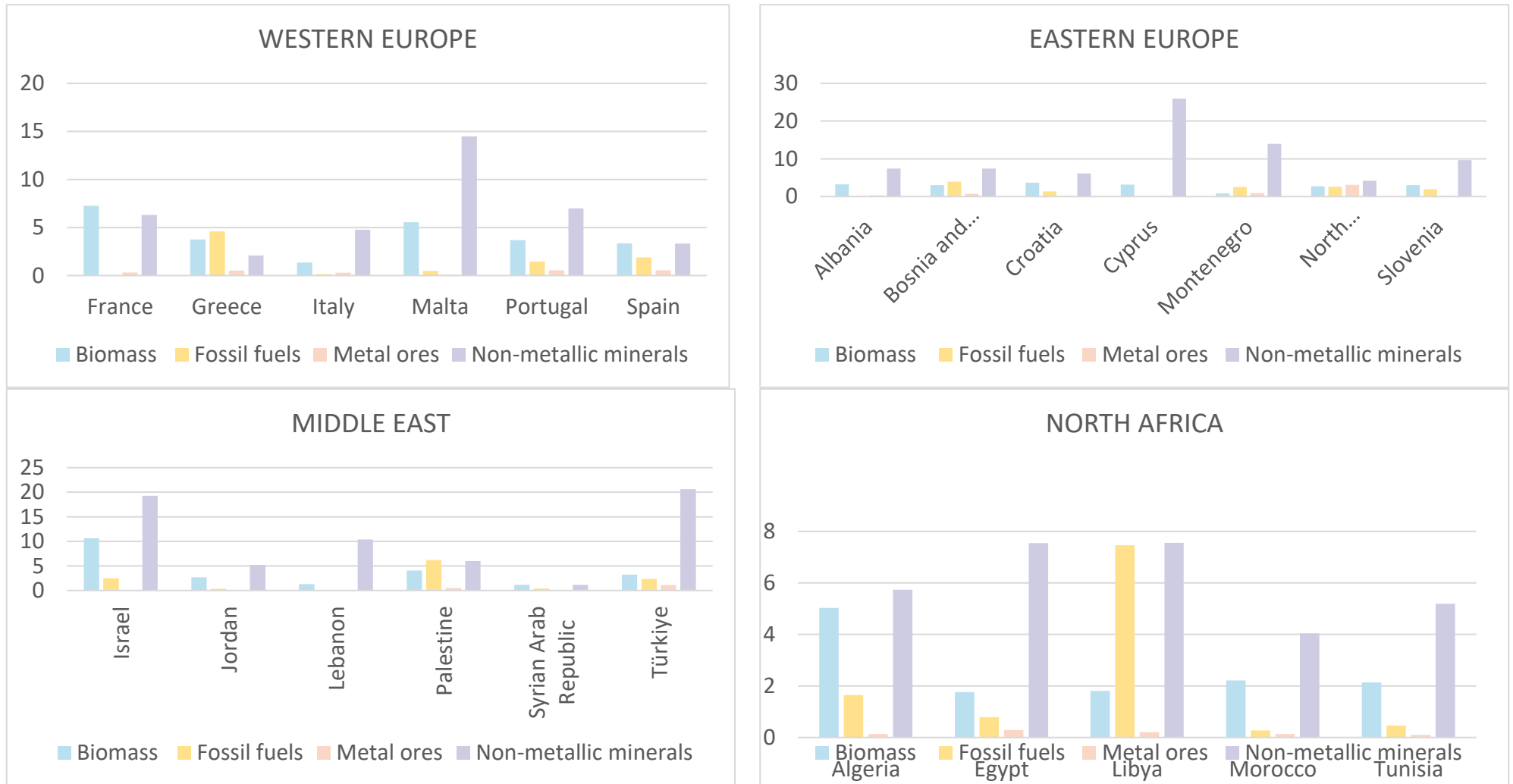


Figure 23. Domestic Material Consumption per country, tonnes per capita²⁶.

²⁶ Source: The MaterialFlows.Net, n.d. Data are estimates from 2024.

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 23 countries²⁷, the initial baseline result stands at 52.65%. Over the past four years, there has been a negative shift for the regional average with a decrease of more than 2 percentage points, bringing the figure down to 50.13%.

The weighted average percentages for different sub regions are as follows: Western Europe exhibits an average of 80.6%, Eastern Europe stands at 76.3%, the Middle East shows an average of 44.26%, and North Africa has the lowest average at 24.72%. This shows an improvement in Western Europe and Eastern Europe of 2.49% contrasting with the reduction of 4.59% in the female ratio in North Africa.

Six countries show results higher than 80% and demonstrate a positive trend towards equality in labour force participation: Israel, France, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia and Spain. Cyprus also surpasses 80%, although it has experienced a slight decline in the past years. In contrast, Egypt, Algeria, Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan lag behind, registering figures below 25%. Noteworthy is the substantial progress made by Malta, which has seen an increase of 11.81 percentage points, followed closely by Lebanon with 8.6. Egypt has witnessed a significant decline, experiencing a substantial decrease of 9.7 percentage points.

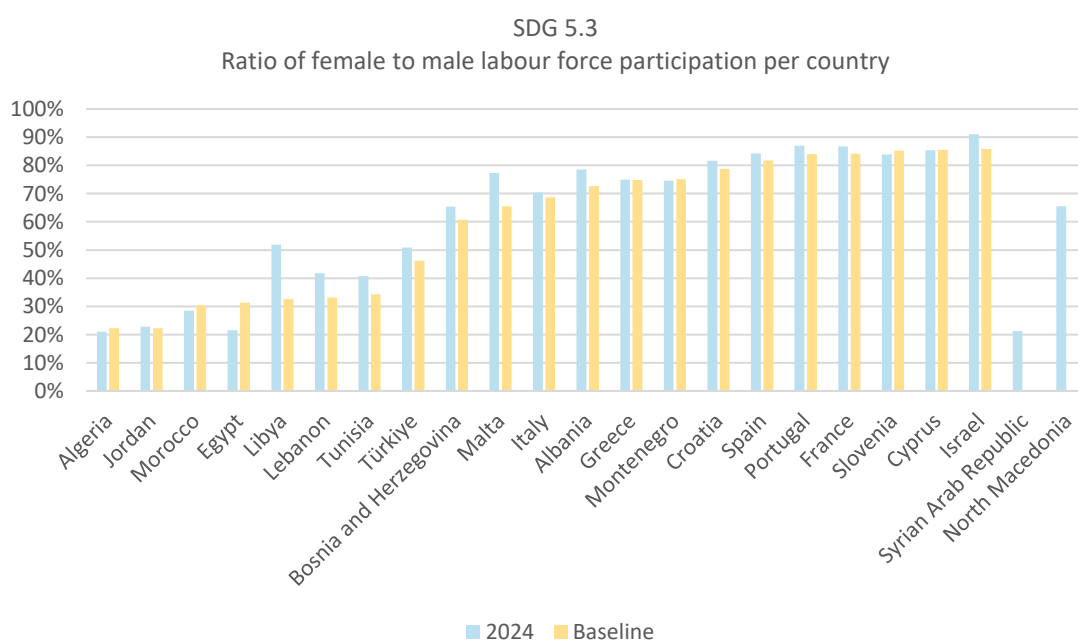


Figure 24. Ratio of female to male labour force participation per country²⁸

However, this impact indicator does not specify on green jobs in the region. In that sense, the FAO report "Women in fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region" argues that just 28% of women participate in the labour force in fisheries²⁹. Similarly, the Plan Bleu booklet "Female labour participation and energy subsidies in the Mediterranean" expresses that the female sectoral employment remains below 20%³⁰.

²⁷ Western Europe (6), Eastern Europe (7), Middle East (5) and North Africa (5). No data available for Palestine. For 2024 North Macedonia and the Syrian Arab Republic published information in this regard for the first time.

²⁸ Source: SDSN Mediterranean, 2025

²⁹ Source: Merayo, Vakhitova, & Carlson, 2024

³⁰ Source: Plan Bleu, 2024

4.2 Axis 2: Pollution prevention and reduction

Summary of key findings

- Despite a growing number of projects addressing pollution prevention and reduction, it remains the least represented thematic axis in the 2030GreenerMed Agenda.
- Pollution prevention mechanisms (KA 2.1) is now the most targeted key action, with roughly double the number of projects since 2023. Overall coverage across key actions is more balanced than before, but air pollution control (KA 2.6) remains a clear gap (addressed only about half as often as other topics).
- All 22 countries are now involved in at least one Axis 2 project (Portugal joined with four projects in the first monitoring cycle from zero at baseline and another three since 2023). Italy and Spain still lead participation (52 and 45 projects respectively), whereas a few countries (e.g., North Macedonia, with one project) remain still marginally engaged. North African and Middle Eastern countries have significantly increased their project counts since 2021, contributing to a more balanced regional participation, especially Tunisia, Türkiye, and Egypt.
- EU-funded programmes dominate Axis 2 initiatives, with CBC Med/Interreg NEXT MED showing the largest growth (18 projects, up from 9 in the first report) since 2023. Interreg Euro-MED (16 projects) and PRIMA (13) are also major contributors, whereas only a handful of projects are supported by Horizon Europe, H2020 or bilateral/global sources (e.g. GEF, Germany's BMZ/BMU).
- For the period 2020-2024, 248 solutions have been developed, at least 592,248 actors reached by awareness raising and capacity building activities, and 85 declarations, policies, strategies, or plans have been created.
- At the outcome level, little information is available on results regarding tons of waste treated, wastewater treated and the amount and type of toxic pollutant eliminated or reduced, indicating a reporting gap by the monitored projects. One of the few examples was the GEF Mediterranean Sea Programme Child Project "Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts" that reported the disposal of 389 tons of mercury in Tunisia and the collection of 722 tons of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs). In addition to over 70.000 tons of waste has been treated through a few projects under CBC Med and Horizon Europe. Only one project (WES) reported information disaggregated by vulnerable groups (e.g. youth or women).
- Underrepresented areas in Axis 2 might benefit from greater focus going forward - especially air pollution control (KA 2.6) remains comparatively neglected in regional projects, and certain sectors such as fisheries and the food & beverage sector are barely addressed with only one project each.

Mapping of initiatives

61 projects (42 in the first monitoring report and 21 at baseline) have been identified that address pollution prevention and reduction (axis 2) with a regional approach. 45 of those are cross-cutting with other thematic axes. This axis of the 2030GreenerMed agenda remains the one that has least regional projects associated at this stage.

Most projects of this thematic axis are implemented under the umbrella of CBC Med/ Interreg NEXT MED (18 projects), which is the initiative with the highest increase in projects under axis 2 compared with the first monitoring report (nine projects). In terms of numbers of projects contributing to this axis, CBC Med/ Interreg NEXT MED is followed by Interreg Med/ Interreg Euro-Med (16 projects), PRIMA (13 projects), Horizon Europe (6 projects), H2020 (four projects), GEF, ENI South, BMZ, and BMU (one project each).

Of the 61 projects, 34 are still operational In 2025, two will end this year, 17 in 2026, two in 2027 and eight in 2028. For two projects the duration could not be identified.

Coverage by key action

In the first monitoring report, KA2.2 (tackling plastic pollution and marine litter) was the most frequently addressed key action within this thematic axis. Since 2023, most attention has been given to KA 1, strengthening mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction from different sources. The number of projects addressing this KA is twice a high today.

For the remaining key actions, the number of projects added since 2023 differs significantly. When excluding KA 2.1, KA 2.4 (reduce chemical pollution) emerges as the most frequently addressed key action, whereas KA 2.2 was least addressed in 2024–2025. As a result, when looking at the entire monitoring period, the distribution is much more balanced than before. KA 2.6 (reduce and control air pollution) is the only other outlier. Overall, it is only about half as often addressed as the other KAs, given that in the period covering the first monitoring report no project was identified contributing to this KA.

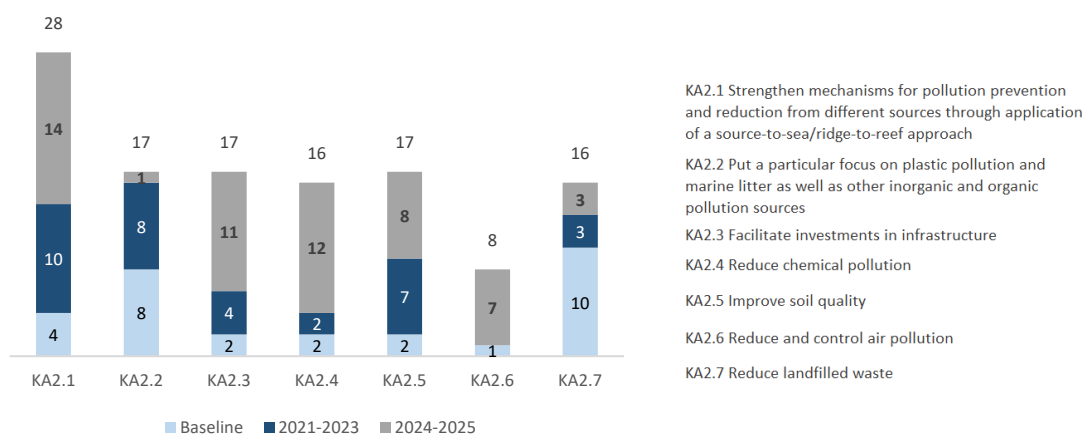


Figure 25. Coverage per key action (number of projects under axis 2)

Sector coverage

The projects cover seven sectors. Most frequently addressed sectors are waste management (26 projects) and agriculture (18 projects), which is in line with being a source for various types of pollution. Least often addressed are the food and beverage and the fisheries sector, each with one project. Projects addressing the energy and agriculture sector have increased most in relative terms over the years compared to the baseline. About one fourth of the projects (15) does not address or specify any economic sector, e.g., when mapping and assessing the actions in place regarding marine plastic pollution.

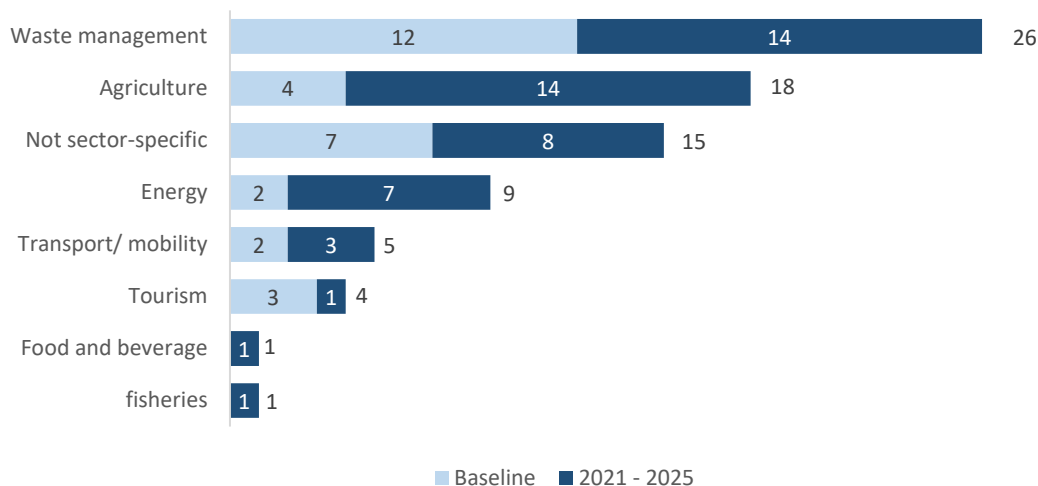


Figure 26. Main sectors addressed - number of projects per sector

Stakeholders involved

Overall, 567 organisations³¹ are partnering in implementing the projects under axis 2, vis-à-vis 412 organisations in the first monitoring report and 250 organisations at the baseline. The following Figure 27 shows the type of stakeholders involved. While in 2020 most of the project partners belonged to the public sector, the share of partners from academia and research organisations as well as from businesses increased noticeably over time. This trend may reflect the nature of the calls in later years and an evolving recognition of the important roles played by academic and private sector partners. The share of both public sector and CSOs in turn slightly decreased.

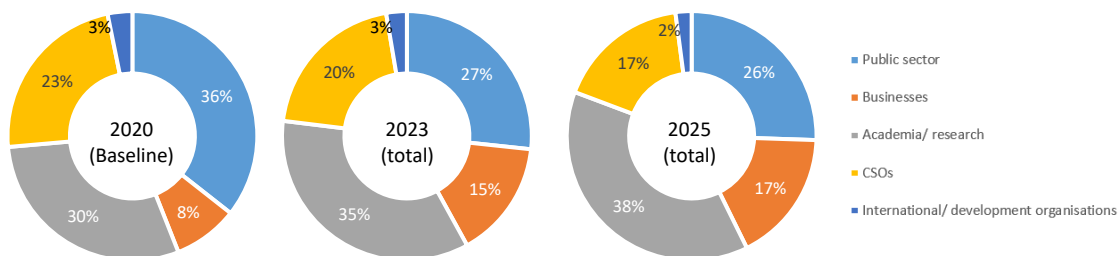


Figure 27. Type of actors involved (share of all project partners contributing to axis 2)

Geographic 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 seven projects. While Bosnia and Herzegovina and Palestine did not join any new regional projects under this axis from 2021 to 2023, both countries are involved in projects since. The only countries for which no new projects were identified after the first monitoring report, in contrast, are Algeria and Monaco. The countries with by far the most projects addressing this thematic axis remain Italy (52) and Spain (45). Least often involved is North Macedonia, participating in one regional project.

³¹ Can include multiple counts of the same organisation (i.e., if involved in several projects)

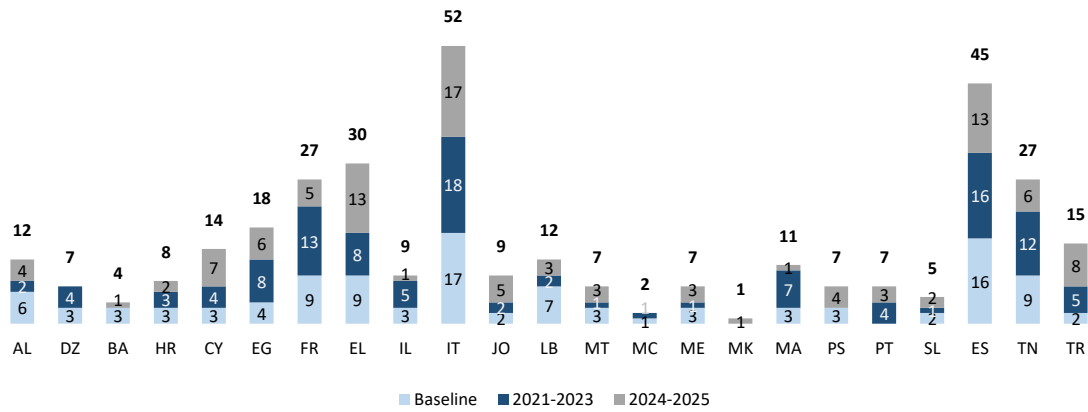


Figure 28. Number of projects per country in thematic axis 2

In terms of sub-regional coverage, this translates into the following unweighted average number of projects per country³²: Med EU 19.7, Middle East 10.4, Northern Africa 15.8, Western Balkan 7.7 (Figure 29). The most noticeable development is that the number of projects in absolute terms grew most in the Mediterranean EU, while in relative terms, the Middle Eastern Med region shows the highest increase since the first monitoring report.

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.

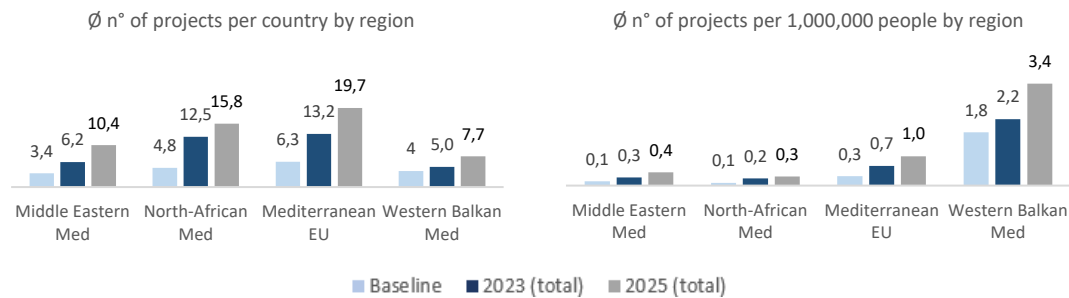


Figure 29. Average number of projects per sub-region in thematic axis 2

Among the North African Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria), Tunisia stands out with 27 projects compared to 18 projects in Egypt, 11 projects in Morocco and seven projects in Algeria. All countries address KA 2.1 (strengthen mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction) most frequently, with projects added since 2023 mainly by Egypt (now 10, previously 5) and Tunisia (now 14, previously 9). During the same period, Morocco and Tunisia also started to participate in 1 project each that addresses plastic pollution and marine litter (KA 2.2). Algeria is the only country in this sub-region region for which no new project was identified since the first monitoring report under this axis. While in the previous monitoring period none of the countries in this sub-region participated in regional projects that seek to reduce and control air pollution (KA 2.6), Egypt now is addressing this topic with four projects and Tunisia with one project. Reducing chemical pollution (KA 2.4) and improving soil quality (KA 2.5) also see increased attention during the past two years, with several new projects by all countries but Algeria.

³² Sum of all projects within one region divided by the number of countries the region covers

Among the Mediterranean countries of the Western Balkan, Albania is involved in 12 projects, whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro are involved in four projects (+1 since 2023) and seven projects (+3 since 2023), respectively. North Macedonia participates in one project under this axis, which contributes to KA 2.1 (strengthen mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction from different sources) and KA 2.3 (facilitate investments in infrastructure). Bosnia and Herzegovina does not participate in any project that addresses these two key actions - only one additional project was identified since 2023, focusing on the reduction of air pollution. Projects in Albania most frequently focus on KA 2.1 as well as on KA 2.2 (regional actions addressing plastics and marine litter), with six and five projects, respectively. Since the previous monitoring cycle, the country now also partners in projects addressing chemical pollution (KA 2.4) and soil quality (KA 2.5).

Among the middle eastern countries, Türkiye is now most involved (15 projects), followed by Lebanon (12 projects), and Israel and Jordan (nine projects each). Palestine more than doubled its projects under this axis since 2023, from three to seven. Compared to the first monitoring update, now all key actions are addressed by each country in this sub-region, broadening their portfolio. 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 (three projects). The key action most frequently addressed by all countries is KA 2.1, strengthen mechanisms for pollution prevention and reduction from different sources through application of a source-to-sea/ridge-to-reef approach. Landfilled waste reduction, in contrast, is most addressed by Jordan and Lebanon with five projects each (previously three and four, respectively), while this topic is covered by Palestine with four (previously two) projects and by Türkiye with two projects (previously one).

Among the Mediterranean EU countries, Italy (52 projects), Spain (40 projects), Greece (30 projects), and France (27 projects) are particularly often involved in regional projects under this thematic axis compared to the other countries (Croatia 8, Cyprus 14, Malta seven, Monaco two, Portugal seven, Slovenia five). It stands out that also in this sub-region the strengthening of mechanisms for pollution reduction and prevention received significantly more attention than other key actions, across all countries. Projects addressing plastic pollution and marine litter receive diverse attention - more by Italy and Spain (14 and 12 projects), and less by the other countries. No project addressing landfilled waste was identified for Portugal, Slovenia, and Monaco. The latter is not involved in any new project under this axis since the first monitoring update.

	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2020	Current State (2020-2024)
Long-term outcome	Tons of waste treated	No data available	70.038
	Wastewater treated (m3/d)	No data available	
	Amount and type of toxic pollutants eliminated or reduced (tons)	No data available	722

Intermediate outcome	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled	11	57
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) taken up or upscaled	4	100
Outputs	No. of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising events and ESD	194.334	591.000
	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed	18	85
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) developed	40	248
Activities	No. of projects and programmes implemented under the 2030GreenerMed framework per year	21	25

Activities, outputs and outcomes

Table 4. Indicator results Axis 2

For the monitoring, information was reported by 42% of projects in 2023 and 72% of projects in 2024. With additional online research conducted, information is available for 77% of all projects. Like in the previous chapter, looking at the current analysis, it can be assumed that the actual indicator results might be higher but not reported.

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

Activities. This indicator measures the number of active projects implemented. Taking into account the whole period since baseline establishment, over the last year reported, 2024, there was a decrease of 9 projects, compared with 2023. This is due to the closure of Interreg Med and CBC Med programmes in 2023. Five thematic projects under the new Interreg EURO Med programme have been added, for which no reporting is available yet. As of 2024, the PRIMA programme contributes most to axis 2 with 13 active projects.

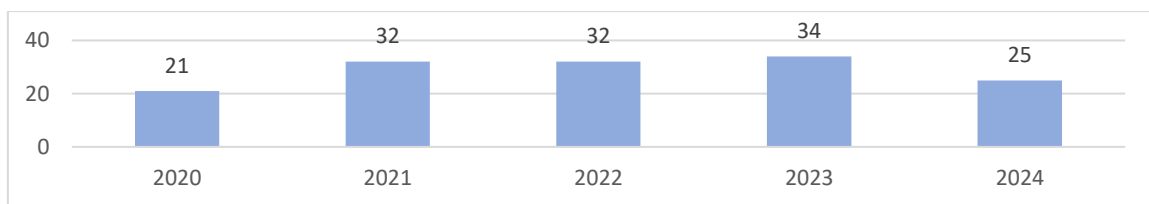


Figure 30. Number of active projects from 2020 to 2024 under Axis 2

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.

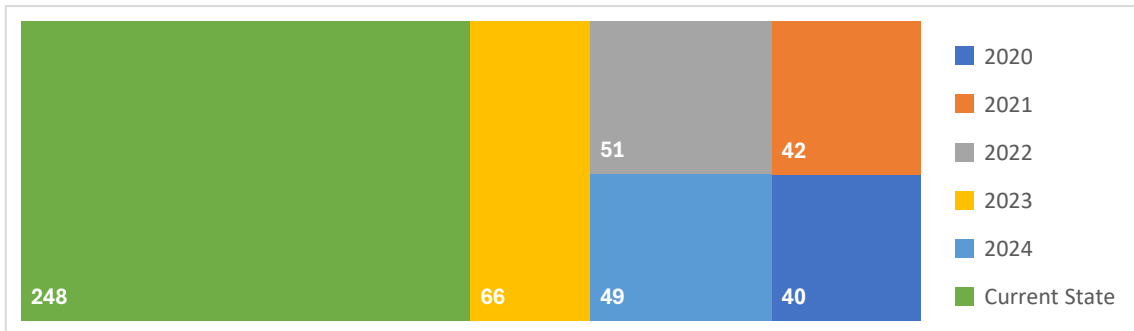


Figure 31. Axis 2 – Number of solutions developed from 2020 to 2024

From 2020 to 2024 axis 2 registered 248 solutions with 2023 being the year with most of the solutions reported, followed by 2022 and 2024.

Examples of solutions developed

- The [BlueMissionMed](#) project under the Horizon Europe framework aims to support a well-functioning innovation ecosystem, connecting existing initiatives to disseminate and upscale solutions and mobilize relevant actors. Two main actions of the project are highlighted:
 - The project has looked for novel products or methodologies that contribute to transformational change to restore the Mediterranean, particularly in terms of prevention and elimination of pollution from our oceans and waters. In that sense they created the [Repository of Innovative Transformative Solutions](#) that gather a portfolio of evaluated initiatives from seven economic sectors (agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, ports and transport, plastic industry, tourism, WWTP and SWM in cities).
 - The [Support Programme](#) provides tailored support in acceleration, scale-up, matchmaking and support to potential solutions implementers based on the already identified tools and products in the Repository.
- [REMEDIES](#) project under the Horizon Europe initiative has developed the [REMEDIES Innovations-Impact Evaluation Dashboard](#). A powerful digital tool designed to track and assess the effectiveness of effort to reduce marine plastic pollution.
- The [TouMaLi](#) project developed the [PROMAR BlueBox](#), a compilation of instruments, tools, guidelines, tutorials, trainings, dissemination materials, success stories and best practices to reduce marine litter and promote Extended Producer Responsibility.

Solutions taken up or upscaled. Many projects apply their developed solutions in pilot or demonstration sites. As compared to the first monitoring report, more information is becoming available on the uptake or scale-up of solutions. Yet still a smaller number of cases are reported that relate to specific technologies or methods that have been developed by some of the projects.

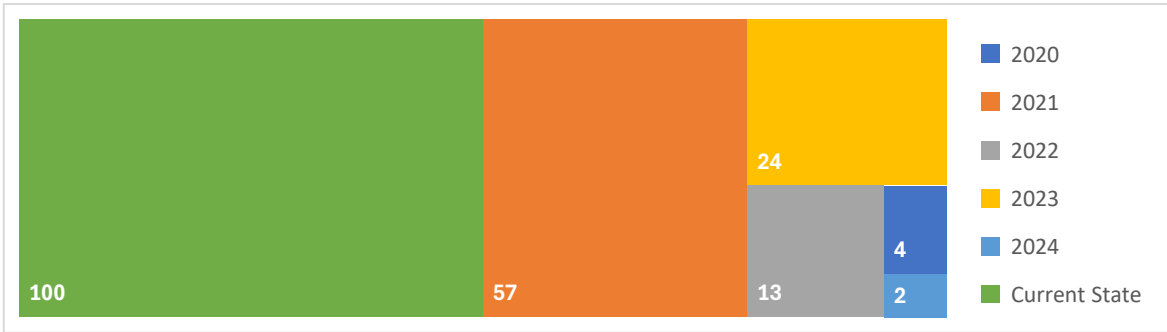


Figure 32. Axis 2 – Number of solutions taken up or upscaled from 2020 to 2024

For the period 2020-2024 a total of 100 solutions have reported to be upscaled. 2021 was the year with more solutions upscaled registered stemming mostly from CBC Med projects, followed by 2023 and 2022. Like under axis 1, the scope of uptake or upscaling remains rather low and at local levels.

Examples of solutions upscaled:

- The [CEOMED project](#) (CBC Med) aimed to develop solutions for the separated collection and valorisation of the organic components of waste that are specifically tailored to the needs of open local markets in the Mediterranean region. Pilot application in Tunisia has attracted stakeholders to adopt the developed methanisation technology for biogas and bio-fertilizer production. The project also reported the successful experience of Greater Amman Municipality in generating biogas from solid waste. Accordingly, decision-makers started considering adopting an anaerobic digestion system to manage wastes produced from large generators such as wholesale markets, slaughterhouses, big restaurants and hotels.
- The project [DECOST](#) (CBC Med) reported that a composting pilot was implemented in Palestine and the number of composters was enlarged since there was a great interest from more citizens, schools and associations to be part of the project.
- The [RESIDUE project](#) under PRIMA developed an innovative technology that significantly reduces the risks of transferring organic contaminants to agricultural products in countries which are obliged to use waste materials for irrigation and fertilization of crops. The project reported that the largest sewage sludge treatment plant in Israel announced that they plan to use the new technology for the benefits they experienced during the project experiments.

Declarations, policies, strategies, and plans developed. The development of declarations or policies is not the focus of most of the projects, although a few have done so.

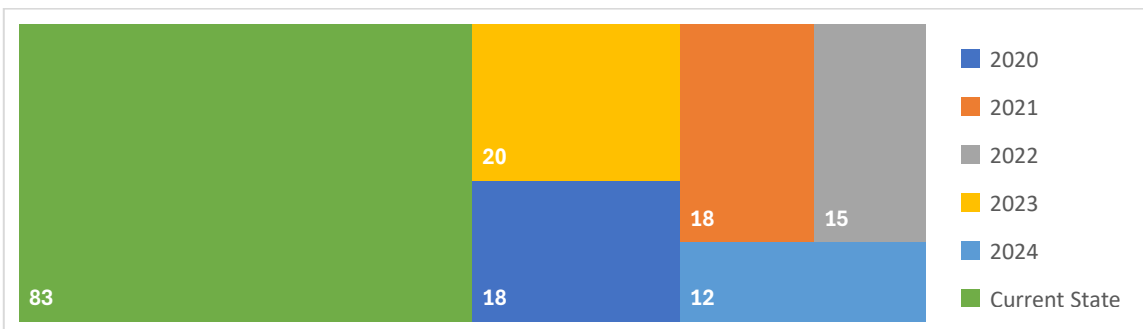


Figure 33. Axis 2 – Number of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed 2020 to 2024

A total of 83 declarations, policies, strategies and plans have been developed from 2020 to 2024. 24% of the initiatives identified correspond to the year 2023, follow by 2020 and 2021. Projects that have contributed to developing strategies or plans under this axis include WES, TouMaLi, a child project under the GEF financed Mediterranean Sea Programme on reducing toxic pollutants, next to several CBC Med projects and other individual ones.

Examples of declarations policies, strategies and plans developed

- The GIZ project [Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans](#) has reported the [Regional Joint Statement](#) on prevention of plastic pollution, including marine litter for the Western Balkans.
- The project [Med4Waste](#) (CBC Med) contributed to the integration of Municipal Waste Management Plans in 2023, supporting municipalities in developing comprehensive waste management’s strategies tailored to their unique contexts in Lebanon, Jordan, and Tunisia. The project consolidated its experience in the [MED4WASTE Policy Toolkit on Municipal Waste Management](#).
- Also under the CBC Med Programme, the project [PlasticBusters](#) CAP by 2023 published [a Roadmap for marine litter policy priorities](#).
- For 2024, under the PRIMA Programme, the project [RESIDUE](#) delivered a [Position Paper](#) to Harmonize Policies and Practices, with the project title “Risk reduction of chemical residues in soils and crops – impact due to wastewater used for irrigation”.

Declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled. 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 It needs to be noted that project websites in many cases are discontinued, limiting access to valuable deliverables and results.

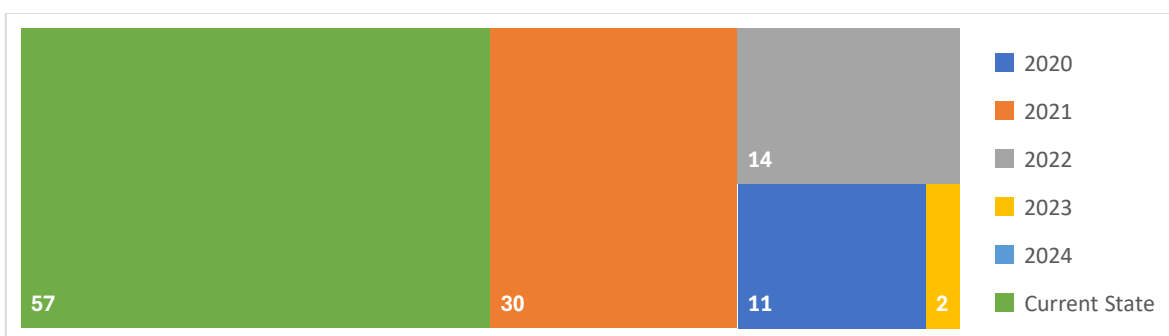


Figure 34. Axis 2 – Number of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled from 2020 to 2024

Overall, 57 declarations, policies, strategies and plans have been identified to be taken up over the entire period 2020-2024. More than half of these results were reported in 2020-2021 as included in the First Monitoring Report. Little data has been registered for 2023-2024, indicating that there might be more need to promote such frameworks that are especially relevant in the area of pollution prevention and reduction.

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.

Capacity building/ Awareness raising events. About 591.000 actors³⁴ were reached through capacity building, awareness raising and ESD activities of projects. Almost all, 98%, were reached or participated in awareness raising events while a smaller share 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 and the Annual Stocktaking Meeting of the GEF-UNEP Mediterranean Sea Programme.

WES and the GIZ project "Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans" are the only projects that can be highlighted for providing gender and youth disaggregated data. As for stakeholders with greater knowledge and awareness, as in axis 1, most projects do not differentiate this level of result from the outcome indicator and monitoring is therefore discontinued.

Long-term outcomes. For axis 2 the indicator framework set the amount of toxic pollutants, wastewater and tons of waste treated as foreseeable results of the solutions, declarations and capacity building developed through the projects.

Regarding the first indicator, toxic pollutants treated or eliminated, during the period of study a total of 722,2 tons have been reported. All are associated to the year 2024 as previously, no reporting on this indicator was available.

This corresponds to the results published for the GEF financed Mediterranean Sea Programme [Child Project](#) "Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts". For 2024 the project reported that 722 tons of PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) were collected, and 389 tonnes of mercury were confirmed for disposal in Tunisia. The programme expects for 2026 to dispose of 2.000 tons of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP), an increase in volumes of water treatments, and improvements in coastal and water management.

As for the second indicator, no relevant information is available on wastewater treatment, and it also needs to be highlighted that this is not a focus of most projects mapped under this axis.

The amount of tons of waste treated registered reached 71.418 tons. This corresponds mostly to the results reported by [REUSEMED](#) under the CBC Med programme, that contributed to 66.510 tons. For 2024 two other projects contributed to 10 tonnes, REMEDIES and [SeaClear 2.0](#) (both under Horizon Europe). REMEDIES supported more than 100 beach clean-ups across the Mediterranean with participation of over 2.000 citizens with the objective to collect more than 20 tons of plastic litter. SeaClear 2.0 developed a community driven initiative, involving students and volunteers in four locations in Spain and Italy where they removed over 1.5 tons of diverse waste.

For other UfM-led or co-coordinated initiatives to support and enhance results under Axis 2, see the chapter 3.1 Cross-cutting area: partnerships.

³⁴ 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.

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; no attribution claims are made. This level is also influenced by developments outside of the sphere of influence of 2030GreenerMed.

For a detailed definition of each indicator, please see the Annex.

Highlights - 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.

Average regional data show that overall, **pollution levels in the Med region remain high**, with **worsening trends for seawater quality** but **improving trends for air quality**. No data updates on waste generation and disposal are available since the first monitoring report.

- The average regional score of the **Ocean Health Index (OHI)** is 56.68 in 2024 compared to 66.30 in 2020, which means overall seawater quality has deteriorated, with most critical changes in Western Europe as compared to other sub-regions.
- Trends on average regional data for the **Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter** indicate improvements in air quality, with notable reductions in the Middle East and North Africa sub-region. However, with a regional average of 19.96 µg/m³, almost no country has managed to achieve a measurement closer to 5 µg/m³, which would demonstrate significant progress towards meeting WHO recommendations.
- No recent update on the indicator **Municipal solid waste** has been available for the Med region; information used for the first monitoring report from 2019-2020 had shown a slightly decreasing trend.

The first impact indicator is the **Ocean Health Index (OHI)**. This index was calculated for 22 countries of the Mediterranean region.³⁵ The average score reaches 56.68 in 2024 compared to 66.30 in 2020, which means overall seawater quality has deteriorated by almost 10 points in the region.

All sub-regions present a reduction in their OHI. The most critical change was the status of the indicator in Western Europe where there was a reduction of -12.42 points, followed by -8.34 in Eastern Europe, -7.94 in the Middle East and a lower impact with -0.27 in North Africa.

Algeria, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malta, Israel and Slovenia are the countries with the lowest score (≤ 50). Slovenia was the country with the highest OHI

³⁵ No data available for Palestine nor North Macedonia.

reduction with -51.57, followed by Portugal with almost -22. High scores (>70) have not been reached by any country in the region (Figure 35).

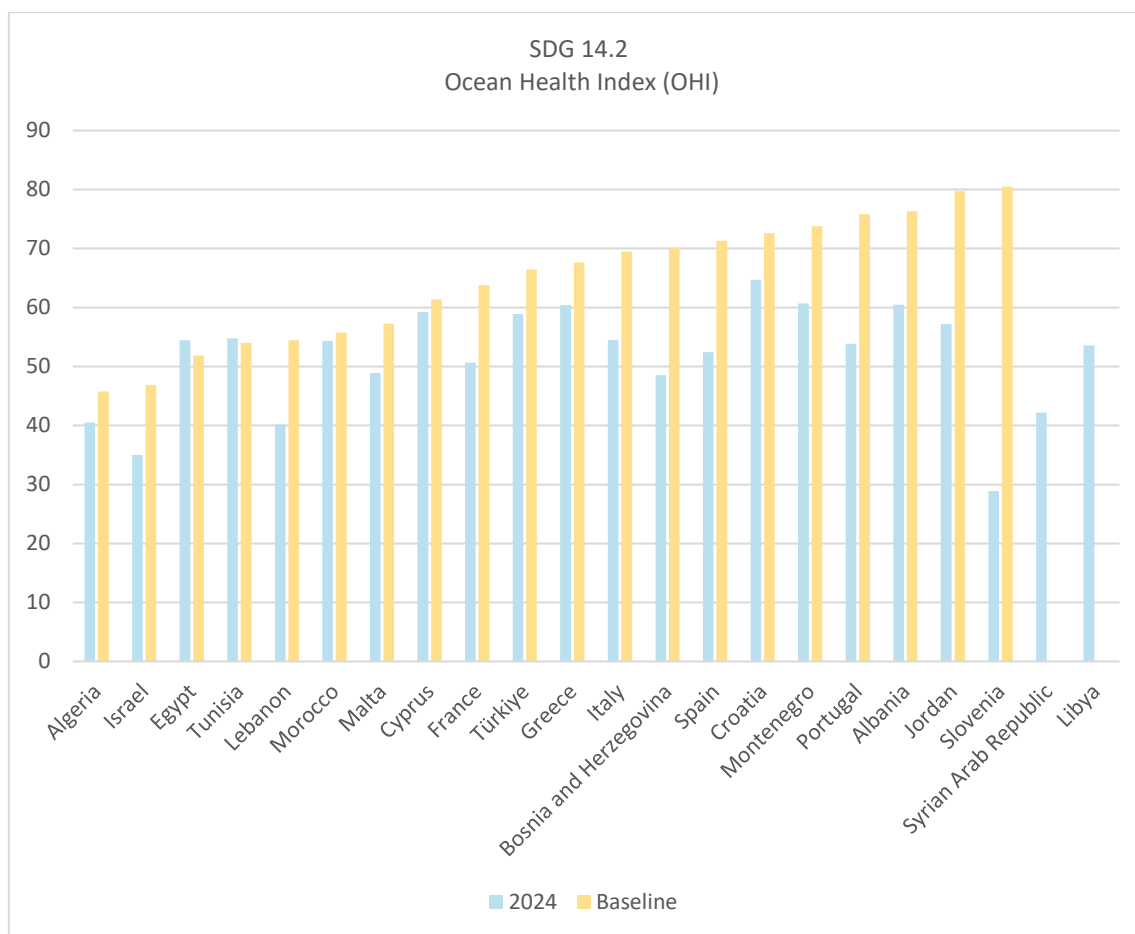


Figure 35. Ocean Health Index per country³⁶

The second impact indicator on air pollution is the **Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter**. In the Mediterranean region, the PM2.5 concentration for 2024 stands at 19.96 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, showing a significant 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 (8.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), followed by Spain (10.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Egypt still has the highest value, with 87 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2020 and 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2024, although showing a significant improvement of -47 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for the latest information available.

Weighted regional averages rank the Middle East highest at 26.05 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, closely followed by North Africa at 22.28 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Eastern Europe reports an average of 17.98 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, while Western Europe has the lowest concentration at 10.84 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This shows a significant reduction in the Middle East and North Africa region with 25.73 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ less compared with the baseline, due to the results presented by countries like Egypt³⁷ and Türkiye with measures of -47 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and -

³⁶ Source: Ocean Health Index under: <https://oceanhealthindex.org>. No data for Palestine and North Macedonia available.

³⁷ According to the OECD Green Growth Policy Review of Egypt (2024), the country remains as an air pollution hotspot, considering national statistics, although the annual average concentration of PM2.5 has decreased over the past decade and dropped below Egypt's national limit value of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2022. The governments also launched the Air

18.41 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as difference between 2020 and 2024. However, almost no country in the region has managed to achieve a measurement closer to 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, which would demonstrate significant progress towards meeting WHO recommendations.³⁸

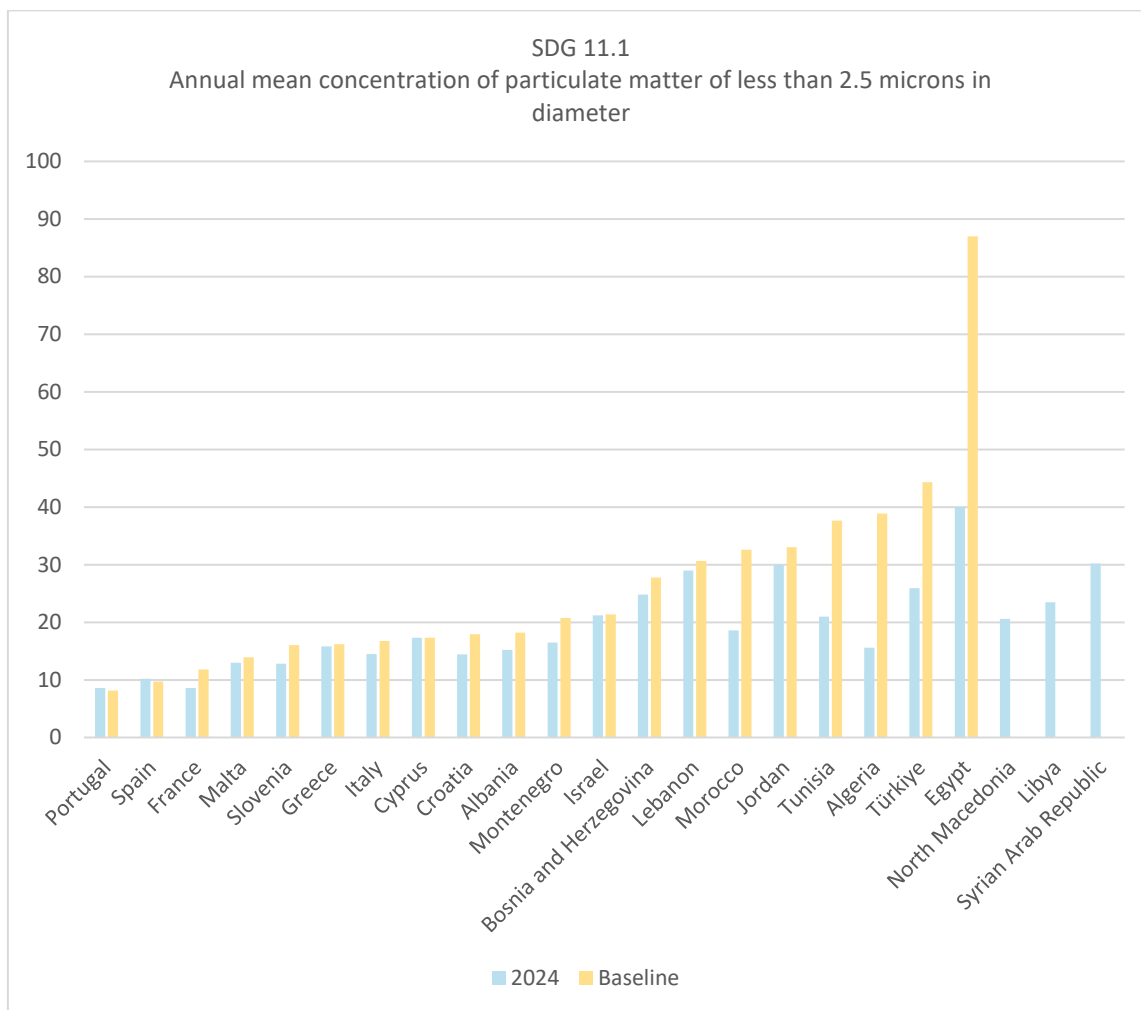


Figure 36. Annual mean PM 2,5 concentration per country³⁹

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. There had been a slight positive change, with a decrease of 0.4 kg/day/capita, bringing the number down to 1.07 kg/day/capita, already highlighted in the first monitoring report 2021-2022. No update on the values for the current reporting period is available.

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).

Pollution Management and Climate Change project in 2021 and other measures to contribute to improve air quality by regulating emissions, improving solid waste management, upscaling public transport and integrating electric buses in their public transport system.

³⁸ According to updated WHO guidelines 2021, accessible at

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240034228/>.

³⁹ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2025). Information on Palestine is not available.

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, with Jordan, the only UfM member states that have seen their performance deteriorate (Figure 37).

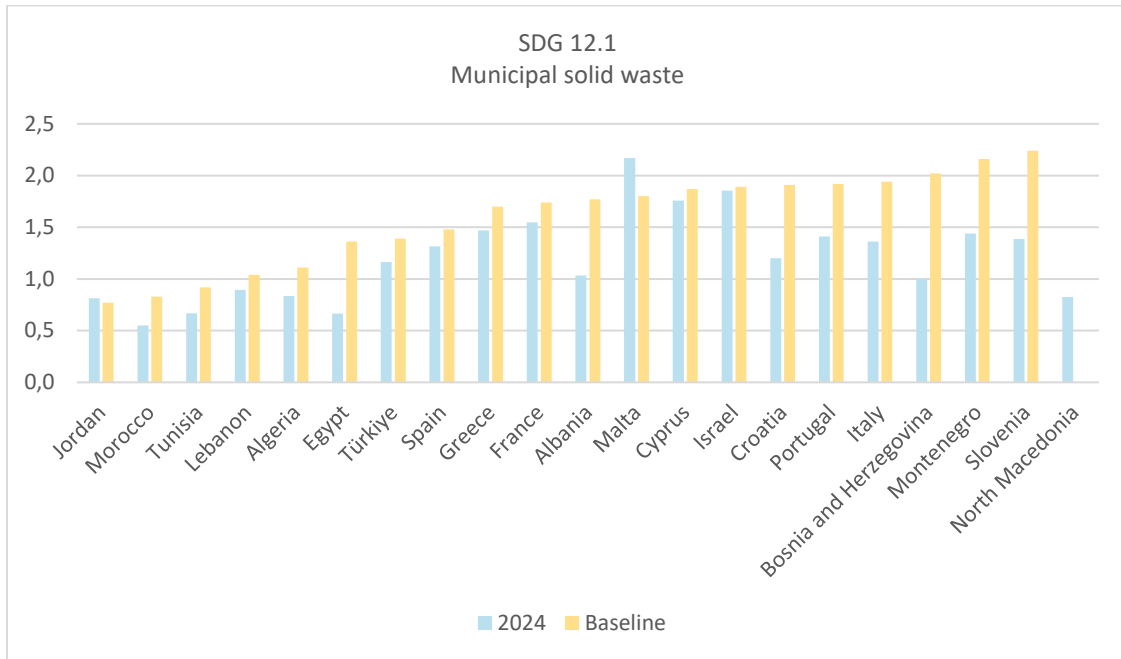


Figure 37. Municipal solid waste⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2025). No data for Palestine, Libya and Syrian Arab Republic available.

4.3 Axis 3: Natural resources/biodiversity/ecosystems

Summary of key findings

- Among the projects mapped as at November 2025, the 133 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' (83 projects) and promoting nature-based solutions (KA3.9, 51 projects). In contrast, integrated ecosystem-based resource management and sustainable landscape/seascape management (KA3.3 and KA3.2) are among the least addressed areas, without project uptake in the latest cycle.
- Disaster risk reduction (KA3.8) has seen stronger attention, registering the second-highest increase in project numbers since 2023 (+13 projects). This reflects a growing emphasis on climate resilience. Only Palestine and Monaco are not participating in any of the projects related to this key action.
- Overall, all 22 UfM countries are involved in at least one regional project under Axis 3, including new participation from North Macedonia. Italy remains the most active country (107 projects), followed by Spain, Greece, and France. Also North African countries, Middle Eastern and Western Balkan countries saw a notable increase in project participation during this monitoring cycle, although the Western Balkans still have the fewest projects per country on average.
- The Axis 3 project portfolio has expanded significantly since the baseline, driven largely by the PRIMA programme (now 61 projects, up from 4 at baseline and 57 after the 1st monitoring cycle). Interreg Euro-Med saw the highest growth since the last report (+14 new Axis 3 projects, including 4 of the 8 governance projects), and the ENI CBC Med/Interreg NEXT MED programme added 8 new projects. Other initiatives (e.g. GEF, FFEM, Horizon Europe) also contributed new projects during this cycle.
- Among the projects monitored as at December 2024, there are 72 active projects under axis 3, which is considerably more than in the baseline (30) but less than for the previous reporting period; the decrease being due to the closure of CBC Med and Interreg Med programmes as well as some projects under PRIMA, H2020, and Mava Foundation.
- For the period 2020-2024, based on the project reporting reviewed 1.067 solutions have been developed, 183 policies or plans created, and at least 1 million actors and stakeholders have been reached through awareness raising and capacity building.
- For long-term outcomes, as was already the case in the baseline and first monitoring report, data from MAPAMED are used, an initiative under MedPAN and the SPA/RAC that provides information on marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean. As of 2024 there are 24% of MPAs that have partially or fully implemented a management plan, showing an improvement since the last reporting period (where it was 19%).
- Despite the overall increase in projects contributing to this axis, several thematic areas remain underrepresented. Future programming and funding might consider prioritizing these neglected topics and encourage projects in the geographies and sectors with lower engagement, in order to ensure a more balanced and comprehensive coverage of Axis 3.

Mapping of initiatives

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.

Most projects of this thematic axis are implemented under the umbrella of PRIMA (61 projects), of which 4 are new projects identified in this current monitoring cycle. Interreg Med/ Interreg Euro-Med is the initiative with the highest absolute increase in projects under axis 3 compared with the first monitoring report (14 new projects). Under CBC Med/ Interreg NEXT MED, eight new projects were launched since 2023 that contribute to this axis. Other initiatives which contribute with new projects during this monitoring cycle are GEF (1 project), FFEM (1 project) and Horizon Europe (1 project).

Of the 133 projects in total since the baseline, 58 are still operational In 2025, 17 will end this year, 20 in 2026, eight in 2027, six in 2028, and four in 2029. For three projects the duration could not be identified.

With 84 projects, supporting actions that preserve, protect and/or restore ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity is again the most frequently addressed key action within this thematic axis. The second most addressed key action is the promotion of sustainable management of landscape, seascapes and coastal areas (KA 3.2 with 59 projects), followed by the promotion of nature-based solutions (KA 3.9 with 51 projects). KA 3.2 also shows the greatest absolute increase in projects (+38) since the previous monitoring cycle, while the number of regional projects contributing to KA 3.9 increased from 43 to 51 since 2023. The promotion of disaster risk reduction again shows a significant increase in projects as well (+14 since 2023), 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 on-farm biodiversity in agro-ecosystem (KA 3.7) shows the smallest increase in new projects (+1 since 2023).

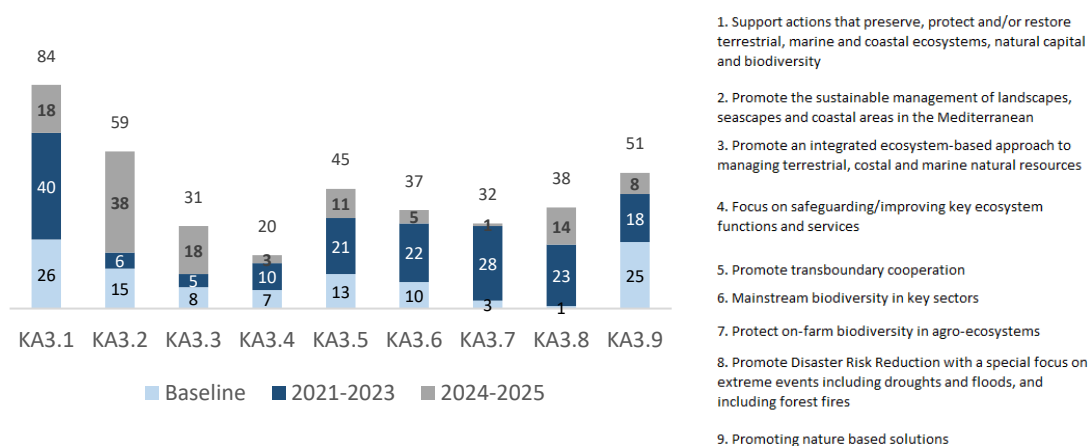


Figure 38. Coverage per key action (number of projects under axis 3)

Sector coverage

The projects cover seven sectors. The most frequently addressed sector is agriculture (54 projects). While this is only one additional project since the previous monitoring cycle, the agricultural sector overall still shows the strongest increase in regional projects since the baseline assessment. In terms of the absolute number of projects, agriculture is followed by fisheries (14 projects, vs. 12 as at 2023), by tourism (10 projects, vs. nine as at 2023), and by forestry (eight projects, vs. three as at 2023). The latter, therefore, was the most frequently addressed sector in this latest monitoring cycle, with the highest increase in projects both in

absolute and in relative terms. The least often addressed sector is waste management (marine litter-focused to protect marine ecosystems and benefit ecosystem services) with two projects, a sector that was not addressed at the baseline. For the same sector, as well as for ICT and food and beverage production, no projects were identified in this latest monitoring cycle addresses. 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').

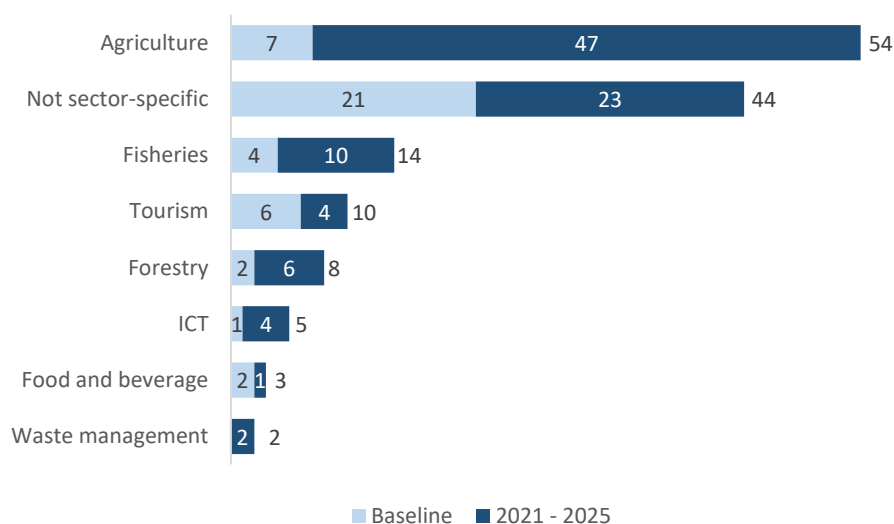


Figure 39. Main sectors addressed - number of projects per sector, axis 3

Stakeholders involved

Overall, 1291 organisations⁴¹ are partnering in implementing the projects under axis 3, vis-à-vis 1096 organisations as at 2023. The following Figure 40 shows the type of stakeholders involved. Over the entire monitoring period, most of the projects' partners are organisations from academia and research, followed by the public sector, CSOs, businesses, and development organisations. This order has not changed over time. At the same time, the share of academia and research has slightly decreased in this latest monitoring cycle but remains above baseline level and makes up more than half of all partners, maintaining a strong scientific backbone for the projects. In contrast, the share of both public sector partners and CSO project partners increased slightly during the latest reporting period. The share of businesses as well as of international/ development organisations participating in regional projects has remained stable since 2023.

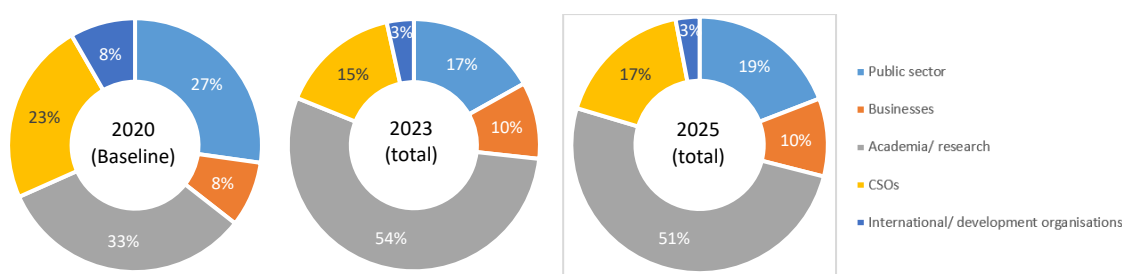


Figure 40. Type of actors involved (share of all partners and affiliated partners of projects contributing to axis 3)

⁴¹ Can include multiple counts of the same organisation (i.e., if involved in several projects)

Geographic 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 and one in the previous monitoring cycle, now participates in two regional projects that contribute to this axis. The country with most projects addressing this thematic axis is Italy (107), followed closely by Spain (88). Least often involved are – next to Palestine – North Macedonia (one project), which was registered for this mapping the first time with this new monitoring cycle, Monaco (five projects - none since 2023), and Israel (eight projects - one since 2023). The most relative increase compared to the status of the previous monitoring cycle shows Montenegro, which doubled its projects since 2023. In absolute terms, Italy has participated most in new projects under axis 3 in the period 2024-2025.

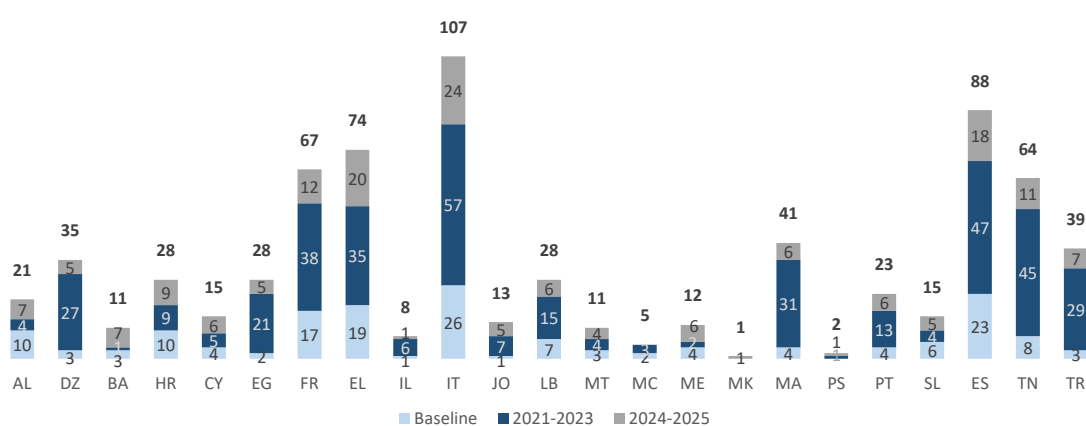


Figure 41. Number of projects per country in thematic axis 3

In terms of sub-regional coverage, this translates into the following unweighted average number of projects per country⁴²: Med EU 43.3, Middle Eastern Med 18, North-African Med 42, Western Balkan 14.7 (see Figure 42). The most noticeable differences between the previous monitoring period and this update report are that: i) all regions increased their efforts by means of participating in regional projects to a smaller extent than between the baseline and the first monitoring report, except for the Western Balkan countries, where the number of projects increased comparatively stronger, and ii) the EU Med countries now on average are involved in slightly more projects again than the North African countries (vice versa to the status as at 2023), with the latter, however, maintaining their strong role. The Western Balkan Med, in contrast, currently show the lowest average number of projects per country.

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 and the Middle Eastern Med sub-regions show the lowest number of projects respectively.

⁴² Sum of all projects within one region divided by the number of countries the region covers

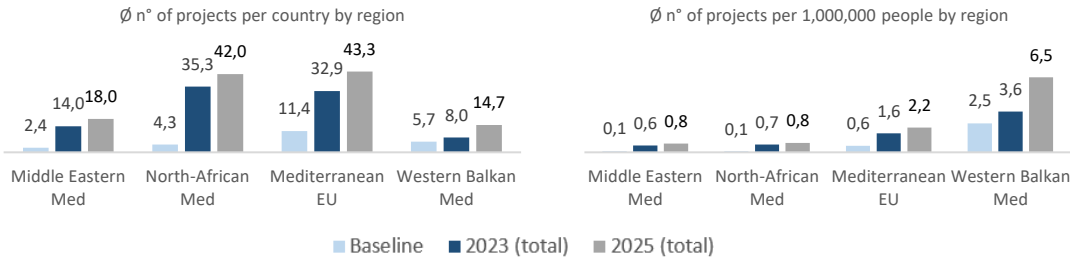


Figure 42. Average number of projects per sub-region in thematic axis 3

Among the North African Mediterranean countries, Tunisia is involved in most regional projects (64), followed by Morocco (41) and Algeria (35 projects). For Egypt 28 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 2023, the countries follow the same order (+11, +6, +5, and +5 projects, respectively). All countries most frequently support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine 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. Since 2023, no new projects were identified across all countries that address on-farm biodiversity. In contrast, all countries except Morocco partnered in at least one new project addressing disaster risk reduction. Similarly, in the same period, all countries increased their participation in projects focusing nature-based solutions, except for Egypt.

Among the Mediterranean countries of the Western Balkan, Albania is involved in 21 (+7 since 2023), Bosnia and Herzegovina in 11 (+7), and Montenegro in 12 (+6) projects. In all three countries, the most frequently addressed key action remains “Support actions that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity” (AL 18, BA six and ME eight projects). All countries increased their participation in projects addressing the key action “Promote transboundary cooperation” (AL +4, BA +1, ME +4 regional projects). Also mainstreaming biodiversity received some attention, with each country adding at least one new project addressing this key action. Promoting disaster risk reduction was not addressed as at the first monitoring update but now is reflected in the project portfolio of all countries (AL 1, BA 5, ME 4). Additionally, North Macedonia, is for the first time captured by the mapping, participating in one project under this thematic axis that addresses KAs 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3.8, and 3.9.

Among the middle eastern countries, Türkiye and Lebanon remain most involved (39 and 28 projects respectively), followed by Jordan (13 projects), Israel (eight projects) and Palestine (two projects). Türkiye also shows the highest increase in the number of regional projects it participates in compared to the baseline (+7), followed by Lebanon (+6) and Jordan (+5). Israel and Palestine participate in one new project each since 2023. All countries are most often involved in projects that preserve, protect and/or restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems (KA 3.1). Except for Palestine and Israel, all countries also increased their participation in projects that promote disaster risk reduction. Similarly, for all countries but Israel one new project was identified that promotes transboundary cooperation in topics related to this axis.

Among the Mediterranean EU countries, it stands out that, with 107 regional projects (+24), Italy remains most often involved in projects under this thematic axis, followed by Spain with 88 (+18), Greece with 74 (+19), and France with 67 (+13) regional projects. Similar to the other sub-regions and to the previous reporting cycle, support actions that preserve, protect and/or

restore terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, natural capital and biodiversity, is the most frequently covered key action. It is worthwhile mentioning that several new regional projects address transboundary cooperation, disaster risk reduction and the promotion of nature-based solutions. No new project was identified that mainstreams biodiversity in key sectors.

Activities, outputs and outcomes

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 **Error! Reference source not found.**

Reporting has been obtained for 75% of active projects in 2023 and 71% of active projects in 2024. With additional online research on projects that did not share information, 77% and 82% of projects have been covered, respectively.

	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2020	Current State (2020-2024)
Long-term outcome	No. of improved management practices	38	176
	Area of ecosystems improved or protected	20.930.337	
Intermediate outcome	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled	No data available	27
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) taken up or upscaled	1	79
Outputs	No. of actors that participated in capacity building, awareness raising events and ESD	1.381	1 mio
	No. of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed	29	183
	No. of solutions (tools, technologies, etc.) developed	59	1.067
Activities	No. of projects and programmes implemented under the 2030GreenerMed framework per year	30	72

Table 5. Indicator results Axis 3

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

Activities. This indicator measures the number of projects implemented. As of 2024 there are 72 active projects under axis 3, which is considerably more than in the baseline (30). For 2022 the highest number of active projects was registered with 94; the decrease is due to the closure of CBC Med and Interreg Med programmes as well as some projects under PRIMA, H2020, and Mava Foundation. At the same time, eight thematic and four governance projects are added under the new Interreg EURO MED programme, for which reporting is however not available yet.

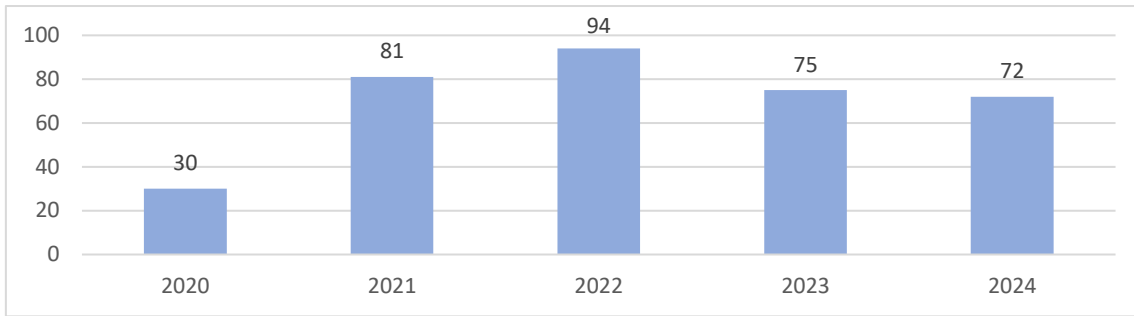


Figure 43. Number of active projects from 2020 to 2024 under Axis 3

Solutions developed. At least 1.067 developed solutions have been accounted for overall from 2020-2024. 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.

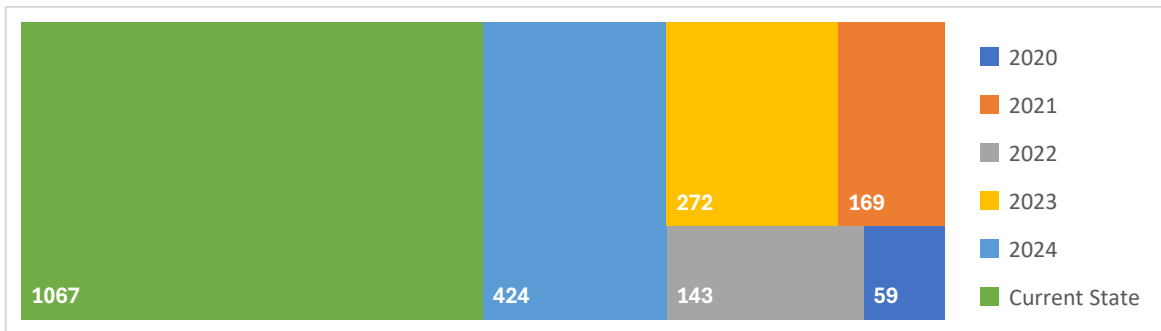


Figure 44. Axis 3 – Solutions developed from 2020 to 2024

2024 is the year with more solutions reported with 424, followed by 2023 with 272. Almost half of the solutions identified for the entire period were reported under the PRIMA programme while in 2024, 30,6% of the solutions reported correspond to the GEF financed project “Build Back a Blue and Stronger Mediterranean” that provides technical materials supporting Marine Protected Areas (MPA) management practices.

Examples of solutions developed

- Under the [MedFund](#) initiative 20 MPAs receive support across nine countries, which represent 9.605 km² of coastal and MPAs, with a total investment of 6.3 million euros over the past five years.
- For 2024 the [REST-COAST](#) project developed the [NbS Building Blocks Framework](#) to inform restoration upscaling in largescale coastal restoration pilots.
- A considerable number of PRIMA projects have conducted research to advance climate resilience, sustainable resource use, and biodiversity in Mediterranean agriculture under changing climate conditions. For example:
 - [VEG-ADAPT](#) developed drought- and heat-tolerant vegetable varieties, paired with advanced irrigation and soil enhancement techniques to address increasing climatic pressures

- [CerealMed](#) and [FREECLIMB](#) projects produced crop varieties capable of withstanding climatic challenges, providing a foundation for biodiversity-focused cereal and fruit farming.
- The [AZMUD](#) project developed energy- and water-efficient greenhouse systems to reduce the environmental footprint of controlled-environment agriculture.
- The [SUSTAINOLIVE](#) project promoted biochar and composting techniques to advance sustainable olive farming.

Solutions taken up or upscaled. A growing number of cases are reported that relate to specific technologies or methods that have been taken up or upscaled. CBC Med and Interreg Med reported 48% of these cases.

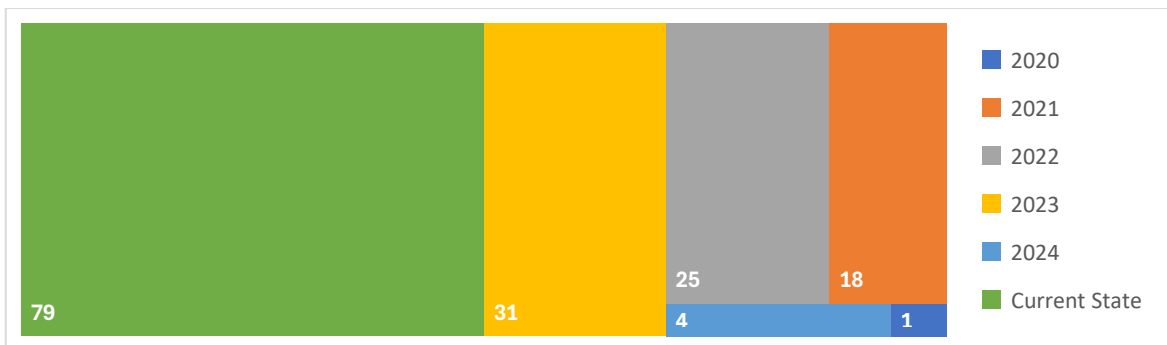


Figure 45. Axis 3 Solutions taken up from 2020 to 2024

79 solutions have been reported from 2020 to 2024, with 2023 being the year with more solutions identified, followed by 2022.

Examples of solutions taken up or upscaled

- In 2023 the [COGITO](#) project created the Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity ([CMB](#)). This partnership is now building on results achieved through the project and continues activities through the RESCOM project. In addition, some activities are taken up through the [CAIPIM](#) project and the GEF financed [Building Back a Blue and Stronger Mediterranean](#) project (implemented by MedPAN/MedFund).
- The [EU-Life-BalkanDetox Life](#) project launched in 2021 the [Wildlife Crime Academy](#), and started the second phase from 2024 to 2028 including activities in 15 countries across Europe, North Africa and the Caucasus. The programme offers specialized training, knowledge-exchange workshops, and collaborative efforts with governmental authorities, NGOs, and forensic experts, to improve investigation and processes for combating wildlife crime.
- The [CAMA](#) - Conservation Agriculture in the Mediterranean Area project under PRIMA reports that innovations derived from the project have been transferred to and adopted by farmers, also through farmers' associations involved in the project. In addition, advisors, extensionists, administrations' officers and policy makers have been reached through dissemination and training activities and provided with better tools and reasons for promoting and supporting conservation agriculture.

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.

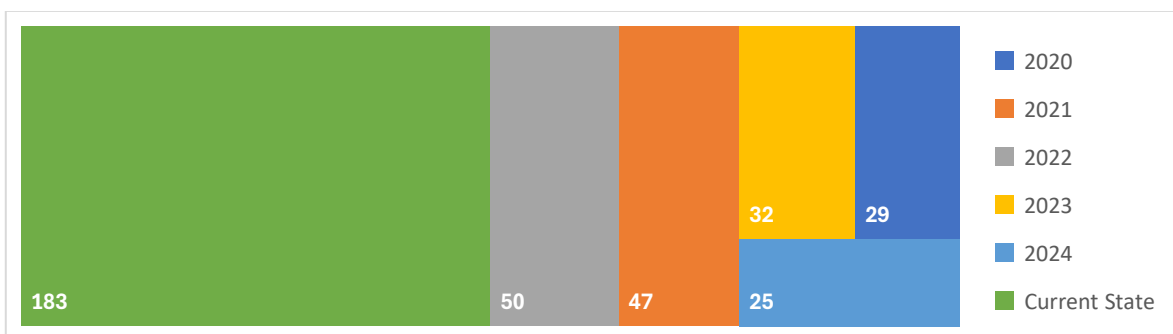


Figure 46. Axis 3 – Declaration, policies, strategies, and plans developed from 2020 to 2024

A total of 183 declarations, policies, strategies and plans were developed during 2020-2024. A majority of these have been identified for 2022, followed closely by 2021. A lower number of such strategies, declarations, policies or plans have been registered for 2023 and 2024, in line with the decrease of active projects in these years.

Examples of declarations, policies, strategies and plans developed

- The FAO project [“Scaling up forest and landscape restoration in order to restore biodiversity and promote joint migration and adaptation approaches in the Mediterranean”](#) supported the development of a management plan to include participatory approaches and a socio-economic development plan, promoting the central role of local populations in restoration and conservation efforts to rehabilitate the Maâmora Forest.
- After years of collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders, with the support of the [BalkanDetox](#) LIFE project, Albania adopted its first [Action Plan](#) for the Protection from Poisoning of Endangered and Endemic Species of Wild Fauna in Albania for the period 2025-2035.
- In 2024, under the CBC Med Programme, the project Co-Evolve4BG developed several action plans for sustainable tourism development in pilot areas and launched a comprehensive [Transferability Plan at Mediterranean Scale](#), aiming to ensure dissemination of the project’s impact and exchange of knowledge and experience from local pilot areas to the Mediterranean and international levels.

Declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled. As of 2024, 27 declarations, policies, strategies and plans have been reported as taken up under this axis. In 2022 about 70% of these cases were registered and none for the last year of monitoring, 2024.

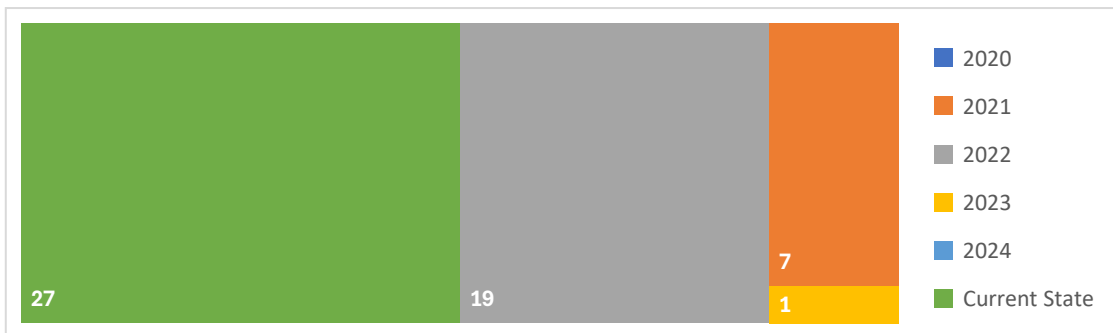


Figure 47. Axis 3 – Declaration, policies, strategies, and plans taken up or upscaled from 2020 to 2024

81% of the strategies and plans identified as upscaled or taken up were developed under the framework of the Interreg Med Programme, for example from projects such as TOURISMED, CO-EVOLVE, LABELSCAPE and [EMbleMatiC Plus](#), mostly focused on developing sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean (also accounted for under axes 1 and 2).

Example of declarations, policies, strategies and plans taken up or upscaled:

- Under the MedWet project "Enhancing the conservation of coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean Basin" a draft of the Ramsar Resolution on wetland restoration as a NbS was submitted and adopted by the parties (Spain, Italy, Croatia and Lebanon) at RAMSAR COP 14 in Geneva in November 2022.

Capacity building/ Awareness raising events. As of 2024, almost 1 million actors were 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 were reached (99%); however, still over 6.000 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. Most of the actors reached were under the PRIMA programme with more than 600.000 actors during the period 2020-2024.

In many cases, projects - especially those for which no official reports were available and information was researched online - report information on events organized but the number of participants is not available and thus cannot be accounted for in the monitoring. Like in the other axes, it can therefore be assumed that the actual number of actors that participated in capacity building and awareness raising is still higher than depicted here. ESD continues to be covered only by the WES project according to information submitted.

Long-term outcomes. For Axis 3 the indicator framework set improved management practices for protected areas and protected or improved ecosystems as foreseeable results of the solutions, declarations and capacity building developed through the projects.

Regarding the 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](#), that provides information on the "Number of MPAs that have a management plan". 'As per latest information shared by MedPAN and the SPA/RAC, as of 2024 there are 24% of MPAs that have partially or fully implemented such a plan. 'This is an improvement compared to the last reporting where 19% (197) of MPAs had fully or partially implemented their management plan.

This result cannot be attributed to any specific project although several InterregMed projects worked on improving the management of MPAs. InterregMed applied the indicator "Number of

protected areas engaged (through charters, protocols, MoU) in implementing management strategies". In the same vein, MedFund aims to mobilize public and private stakeholders to promote the development and effectiveness of 20 MPAs. Additionally, the project Build Back a Blue and Stronger Mediterranean reported a contribution of 177.520 ha of MPAs under improved management effectiveness.

However, as detailed spatial information on the exact areas of project implementation is not systematically available, it is assumed that the MPAs targeted by the different projects are included in the MAPAMED database, which compiles all officially designated MPAs in the Mediterranean. As a result, there is likely overlap between the MPAs reported through MAPAMED and those supported by the various projects. Therefore, the reported figures should be interpreted with caution. It also needs to be noted that MedPAN and SPA/RAC are currently working on the final verification of the update of the database. Verified 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 and FAO forest project (see above).

As for the 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 in the baseline represents the overall surface of MPAs in the Mediterranean (20.930.337 ha). Recent provisional information suggests that currently the MPAs represent 8.8% of the Mediterranean Sea, showing a slight increase of 0.8% compared with the baseline. This percentage would represent a total of 23.023.371 ha, with an increase of roughly 2 million ha in the period 2020 to 2024. Yet, the 8.8% are still far from the goal of reaching 30 % of effectively protected sea by 2030.

Several projects have contributed to the protection of ecosystems other than MPAs. For 2023, the biggest contribution was reported under the MED4EBM project, accounting for more than 12.000 ha of coastal areas in Lebanon, Tunisia and Jordan. Similarly, the project REST-COAST reported that it restored 1.500 ha of coastal wetland in the Rhone Delta, and 250 ha of saltmarshes coastal fringe for 2024.

For other UfM-led or co-coordinated initiatives to support and enhance results under Axis 3, see the chapter 3.1 Cross-cutting area: partnerships.

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; no attribution claims are made. This level is also influenced by developments outside of the sphere of influence of 2030GreenerMed.

For a detailed definition of each indicator, please see the Annex.

Highlights - 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.

Data trends under this axis show **slight improvements for indicators on the protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems**; however, **progress is too slow** to meet goals by 2030. The **probability of species survival in the Med region is comparatively high** (above world average).

- There has been an increase in 3.64% of the **Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity**, with Western and Eastern Europe showing highest values. Complementary to this Indicator, according to MedPAN and SPA/RAC, only 8.8 % of the Mediterranean Sea had been designated as Marine Protected Areas, which is a slight Improvement since the first monitoring report but still far from the goal of reaching 30% by 2030.
- There has only been a marginal change - an increase by 1.67% - regarding the **Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity**. Again, Western and Eastern Europe show higher percentages than the other Mediterranean sub-regions.
- As no recent update on the **Red list index of species survival** has been available this indicator average remains at 0.89 for the region, which is, positively, above the world average indicating comparatively higher survival probability for a diversity of species in the Mediterranean. Best performing sub-region with the highest value is North Africa.

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 67.54%. An increase of 3.64percentage 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 (52.16%). Both of these regions continue to face significant challenges in achieving SDG14. In contrast, within Europe, Western Europe boasts the highest percentage (83.65%), closely followed by Eastern Europe (78.2%).

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 48).

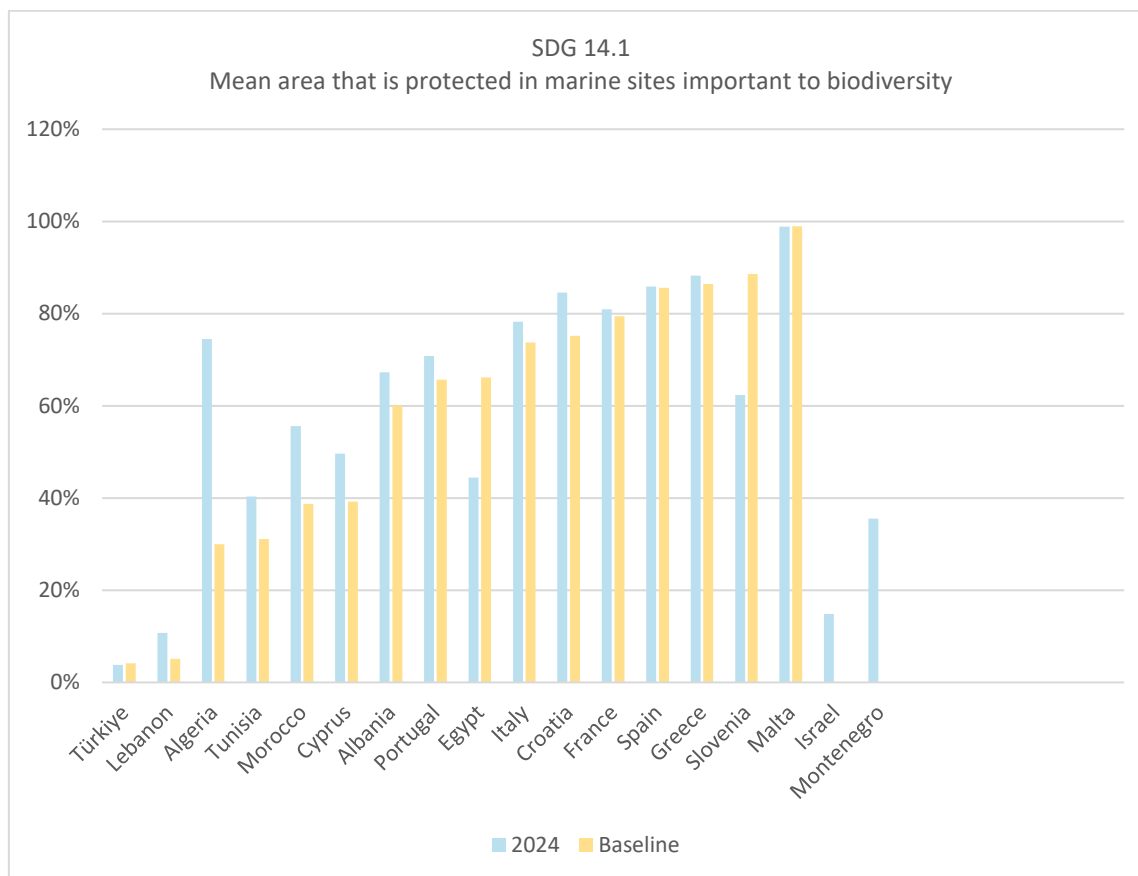


Figure 48. Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity⁴⁴

Complementary to this indicator and as mentioned in the previous section, it is relevant to highlight that in the Mediterranean Sea there are 1,233 MPAs⁴⁵. According to MedPAN, UN Environment/MAP and SPA/RAC, as of 2025, only 8.8 % of the Mediterranean Sea had been designated as Marine Protected Areas. However, only about 24% of the MPAs have a management plan partially or totally implemented due to the lack of financial resources and skilled staff, as well as legal and policy gaps.

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 1.67%) from 43.98% in 2020 to 45.65% in 2024.

⁴³ Data available for 18 countries only.

⁴⁴ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2025). No data for Palestine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, Libya, North Macedonia, and Syrian Arab Republic available.

⁴⁵ Data according to [UNEP](#). 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)

The Middle East maintains the lowest percentage at 3.69%, followed by North Africa at 43.94%, and Eastern Europe at 51.1%. 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 49).

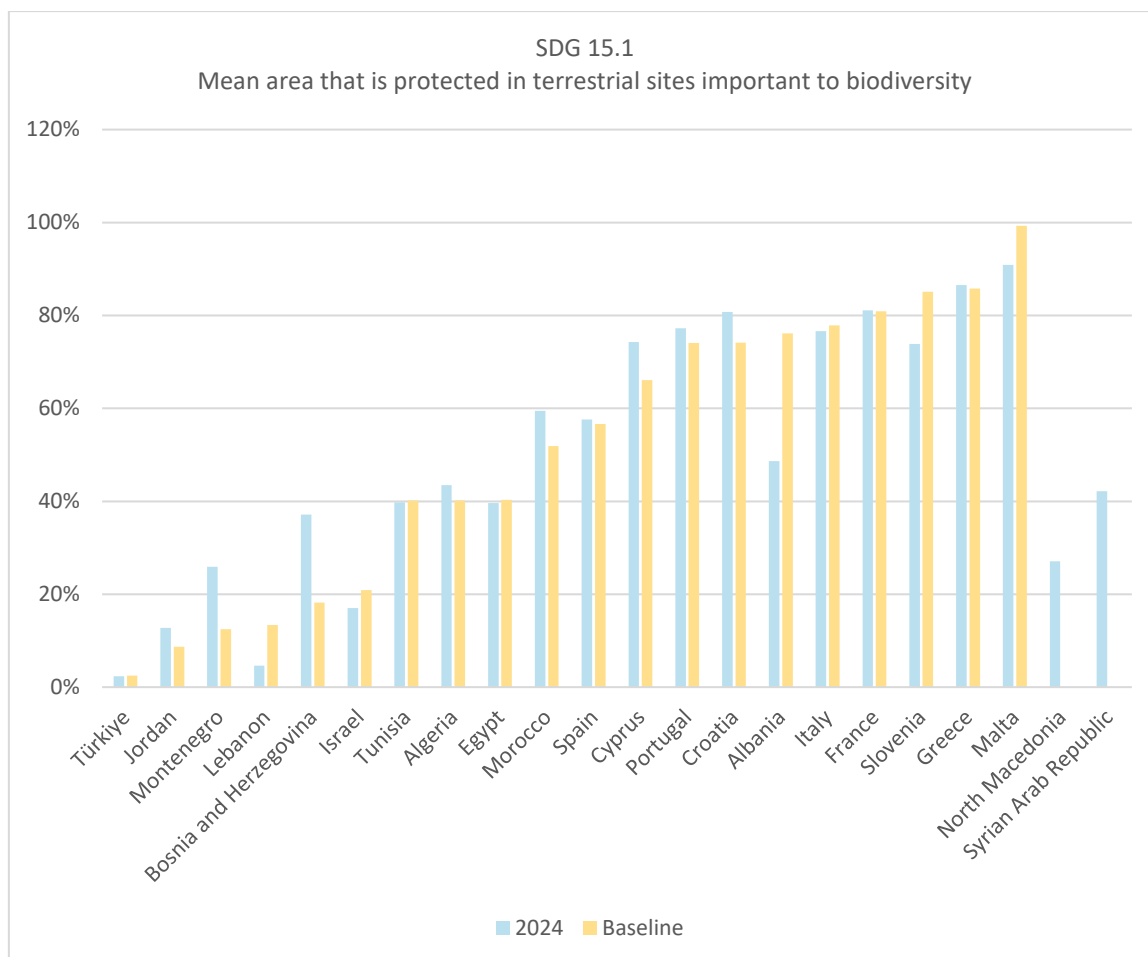


Figure 49. Mean Terrestrial KBA protected per country⁴⁶

The third impact indicator is **Red List Index of species survival (RLI)**, which is framed under SDG15. No update of this indicator for 2024 is available⁴⁷ and data in the Mediterranean region has remained very similar to the baseline: the average remains at 0.89, which is, positively, above the world average indicating comparatively higher survival probability for a diversity of species in the region.

The sub region with the lowest value is 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 50).

⁴⁶ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2025). No data for Palestine and Libya available.

⁴⁷ As included in the dataset provided by the SDSN Mediterranean, latest data are from 2023.

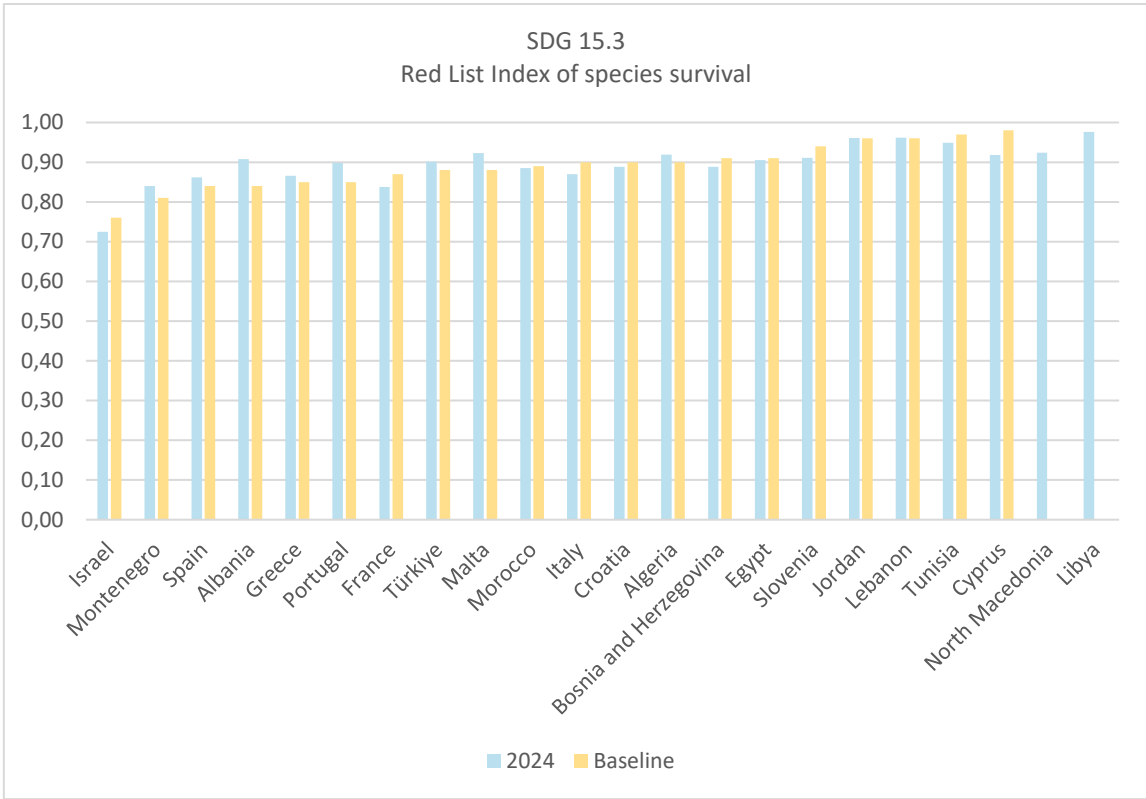


Figure 50. RLI per country⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Source: SDSN Mediterranean (2025). No data for Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic available.

5. SDG Contribution of 2030GreenerMed analysis from 2021 to 2025

Introduction

This chapter analyses the overall contribution of 2030GreenerMed supporting projects and programmes to the SDGs. 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, with a framework that incorporates and goes beyond the individual SDG indicators.

This study focuses on 117 projects⁴⁹ that are targeting the Mediterranean area, as funded by different relevant cross-border, regional, European and international programmes. In addition to the analysis of the projects, clustered along the three thematic axes of the 2030GreenerMed agenda, the following pages also include a comparison with the baseline (2021) and the analysis conducted two years ago (2023, as included in the [first monitoring report](#)) with the same methodology.

The analysis reveals that **responsible consumption and production** (SDG 12), **sustainable agriculture**, and **climate change** are the key aspects addressed by the analysed projects. While SDGs 2, 12 and 13 are those mostly addressed, the interconnections among challenges addressed by these goals are evident. Issues such as environmental protection, both on land and below water are rather significant.

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

- All SDGs are touched but clear prioritization emerges.
- Interconnections among challenges and issues remain evident in the approaches adopted by the projects. Multiple solutions are often proposed.
- The role of sustainable cities and communities is particularly targeted in the 2025 analysis, while comparison with previous analyses (2023 and baseline of 2021) confirms a similar thematic focus along the years (e.g., on sustainable agriculture and food systems, environmental concerns, and climate change).
- Trust towards digital technology and innovation is growing, while positively, knowledge transfer and stakeholder engagement remain strong as proposed solutions
- Incentive schemes including subsidies and other financial support are solutions often not considered, while the role of public actors remains high.

The current analysis has been conducted in a moment of serious geopolitical tensions and conflicts that have endangered international cooperation. Attention towards the progress of

⁴⁹ Based on the mapping of 2030GreenerMed supporting projects conducted by GlobalCAD. The 117 projects analysed in this chapter belong to the three thematic axes according to the following scheme:

Axis 1: 72 projects in total of which 16 with were added to the mapping in 2023; 47 with in 2024 and 9 in 2025.

Axis 2: 16 projects in total of which 10 mapped in 2023; 5 in 2024 and 1 in 2025.

Axis 3: 29 projects in total of which 9 mapped in 2023; 14 in 2024 and 6 in 2025.

SDGs is steady but domestic and international policies have been revised in a way that makes SDGs rather marginal in the international political agenda. Regulations related to climate are often softened in a variety of sectors. The UN General Assembly, despite the 10-year anniversary of agenda 2030, has not spotlighted the attention on the achievements of the goals. As the study is concluding, the CoP 30 on Climate Change began with limited engagement by the states mainly responsible for carbon emissions. As main results, countries prioritized the “Tropical Forest Forever Facility”, tripling adaptation finance, and indigenous rights. While securing USD 1.3 trillion for developing nations, COP30 could not reach agreement on a binding fossil fuel phase-out roadmap. Notwithstanding, long-term strategies confirm the centrality of sustainability that might constitute a positive cornerstone around which the Mediterranean region can build unity and prosperity.

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, concrete aspects or problems that relate to one or more of the 17 SDGs. They are easy to grasp and represent the underlying problems connected to 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 of 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 sub-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 encompassing also 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 information 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 information” category. These actions imply knowledge creation, circulation of new ideas, creative practical and theoretical suggestions, making “education and information” the ideal category to be connected with);
- Knowledge transfer programmes promote the systematic sharing of expertise and best practices across stakeholders. These actions include the enhancement of communities of practice and professional training opportunities designed to strengthen competencies and support continuous learning.
- 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 is conducted by systematically screening the descriptions of each project as it is given by the abstract. Where the abstract was not available, the analysis is based on the key words and topics mentioned in the title or short description of the project.

The analysis also highlights which solutions are only rarely adopted and which challenges for the Mediterranean are neglected or only marginally 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 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 to 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: i) a dashboard crossing challenges with solutions, ii) a bar chart highlighting the solutions proposed compared with the baseline (2021) and the analysis conducted in 2023, and iii) a bar chart highlighting the most addressed challenges (top 5) of the current analysis compared with the baseline (2021) and the analysis from 2023. 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 proposes more than one activity.

The following four chapters consider projects active in 2023 and 2024 (and a few in 2025) clustered per axis and compare challenges and solutions with the baseline (2021) and 2023 analysis, one chapter per single axis and one cumulatively. The fifth chapter includes a comment on the three analyses (2021, 2023, 2025) combined.

Axis 1: Analysis

The first axis clusters 72 projects of the period 2023-2025. The figure below shows that, despite certain areas that are clearly prioritized, the green transition is largely characterized by multisectoral, multifactorial approaches that result in a plurality of challenges and SDGs addressed, thus confirming the interconnection among them.

In addition, the analysis shows great coherence between the topics included in the axis and the main targets of the projects. In fact, while the projects refer to a variety of challenges and SDGs with only few of them not addressed, the focus of their proposals highlights the importance of supporting the transition towards a green, circular and socially inclusive economy based on **SCP** practices and **NbS**. Within this context, **SDG 12**, with particular reference to waste reduction and environmental protection, represents a clear primary focus that the projects address, relying greatly on digital innovations and technologies.

The analysis also confirms that for properly addressing the inclusive economy, great attention is to be dedicated to sustainable agriculture and food systems as a high-priority challenge, thus confirming the relevance of the sector for the green transition.

The role of **cities, communities and urban life (SDG 11)** is acknowledged as of great relevance when promoting green, circular, socially inclusive economy. How to make cities and urban life more sustainable (economically, environmentally and socially) is the underpinning question of a large number of projects. Within SDG 11, air quality (while overall comparatively rarely addressed), water management and accessibility (e.g., mainly in terms of public transport or other public services) are equally addressed challenges. To face them, projects propose a variety of solutions, which include innovation, governance and plans, and stakeholder engagement recognizing that the challenges require a combination of instruments to address them effectively.

While reduction of carbon emissions and climate change remain overarching challenges (climate action SDG 13) addressed by many projects, a more specific focus is given to the energy sector and its transition towards sustainability. As a whole, the challenges addressed in axis 1 are similar to those emerging in the previous analyses, showing coherence and continuity of efforts

under the 2030GreenerMed Agenda. As regards to the solutions, projects propose digital innovation and technologies as main drivers for change. Also, the role of governance, plans, or public policies is acknowledged as a key factor when addressing the complexity of the Agenda 2030 goals. Public actors, institutions and authorities are, in fact, fundamental actors to determine a positive outcome of the green transition. In parallel, projects avoid using fiscal incentives or market-development solutions.

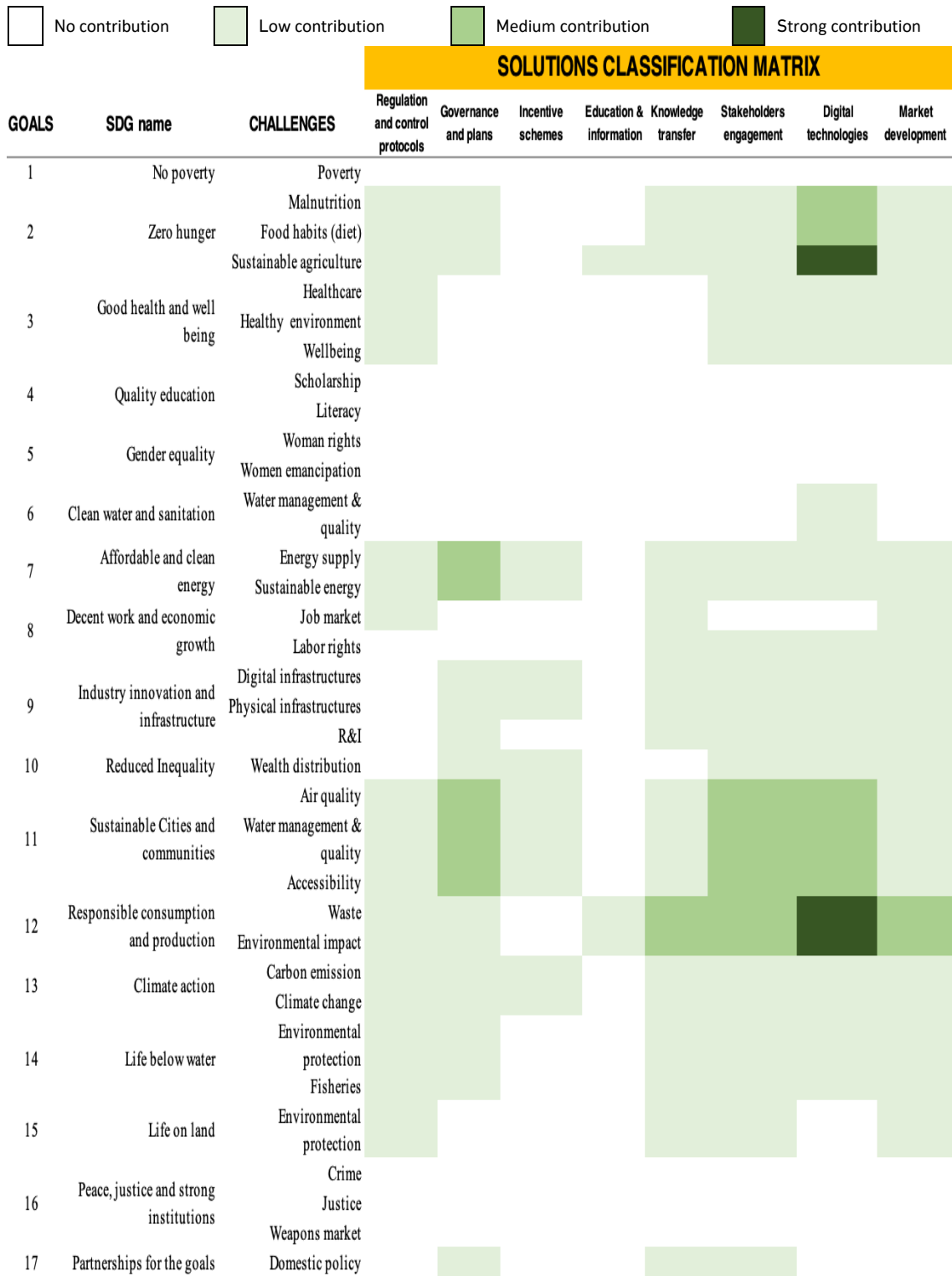


Figure 51. Axis 1 dashboard

Comparing the analysis with the previous ones (2023 and 2021, being the latter the baseline), we notice a growing trend in terms of digital innovation and technologies as solutions to promote the transition to a green, circular and socially inclusive economy. We also notice an increase in the role of public authorities, which is balanced by a reduced role of market-based solutions and regulatory systems. The analysis seems to suggest a greater trust in the role of public actors that might refer to a different understanding of the green transition and the determining factors thereof compared to the previous years. Knowledge transfer remains central, while stakeholder engagement increases significantly as a strategic tool.

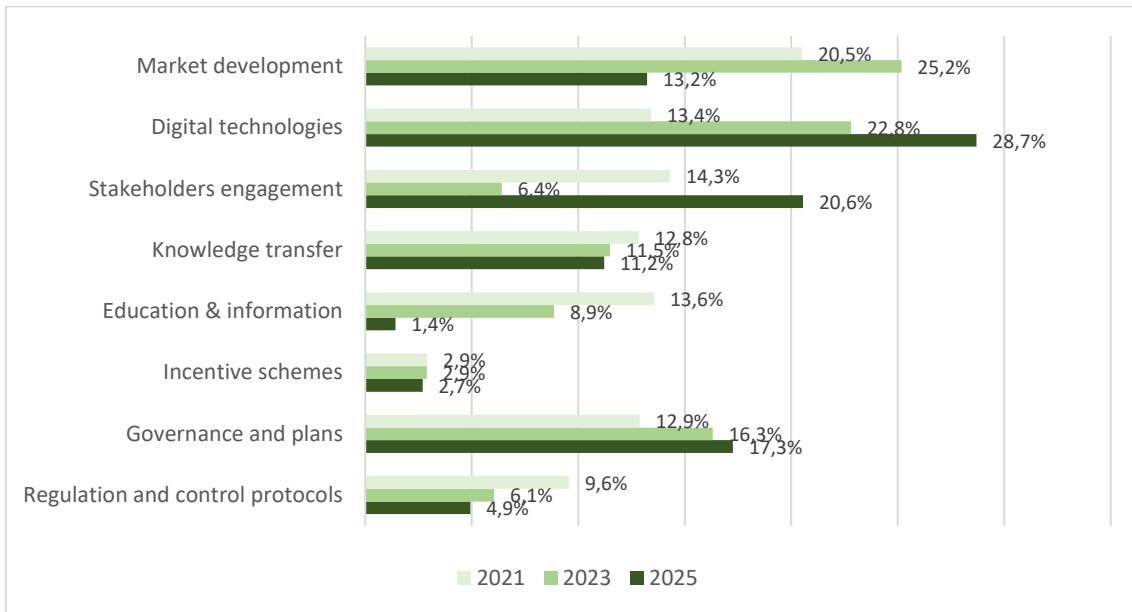


Figure 52. Axis 1 solutions (2021, 2023,2025)

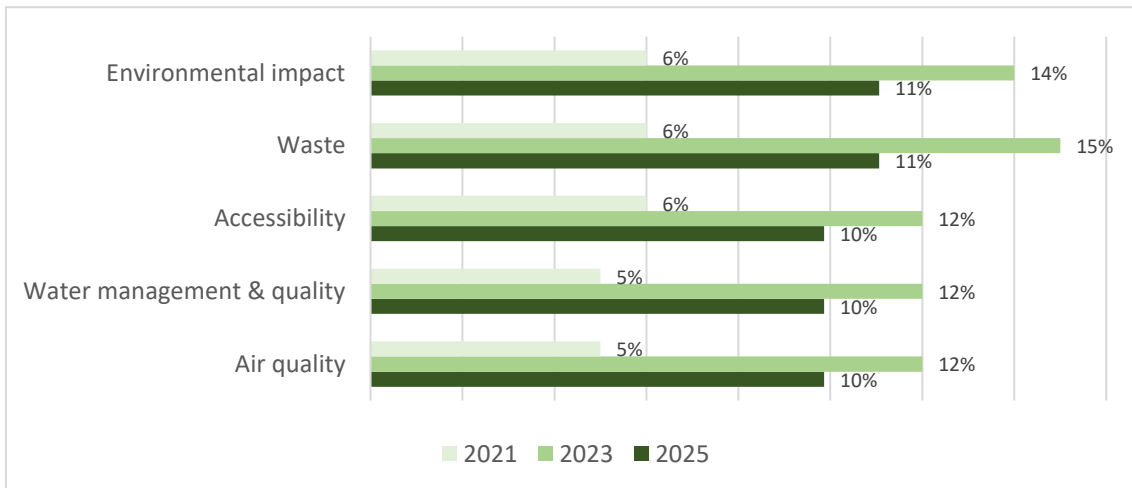


Figure 53. Axis 1 top 5 challenges

Axis 2: Analysis

The second axis focuses on the *prevention and reduction of pollution on land, sea and air*. The 16 projects analysed address 9 out of 17 SDGs, with some of them (SDG 7, 9 and 11) with very few references. Differently from the last analyses, a large number of projects focus on **sustainable agriculture** (SDG 2) proposing a variety of tools and solutions. Digital technology

and knowledge transfer (including community of practices, training, living labs) are the solutions mostly proposed.

In parallel with sustainable agriculture, also **responsible consumption and production** (SDG 12) emerges at the centre of the analysis. Many projects, in fact, focus on the interaction between consumption/production and environmental protection, proposing again knowledge transfer as a main tool to incentivize and promote greater awareness and the diffusion of good practices with positive impacts on the environment.

The reduction of **carbon emissions** remains relevant, addressed through a variety of forms and tools. Both SDGs on protection of life on land and below water are addressed, with the exception of fisheries which remains rather marginal, showing the interconnections among challenges and the multilevel approach adopted by the projects.

 No contribution  Low contribution  Medium contribution  Strong contribution

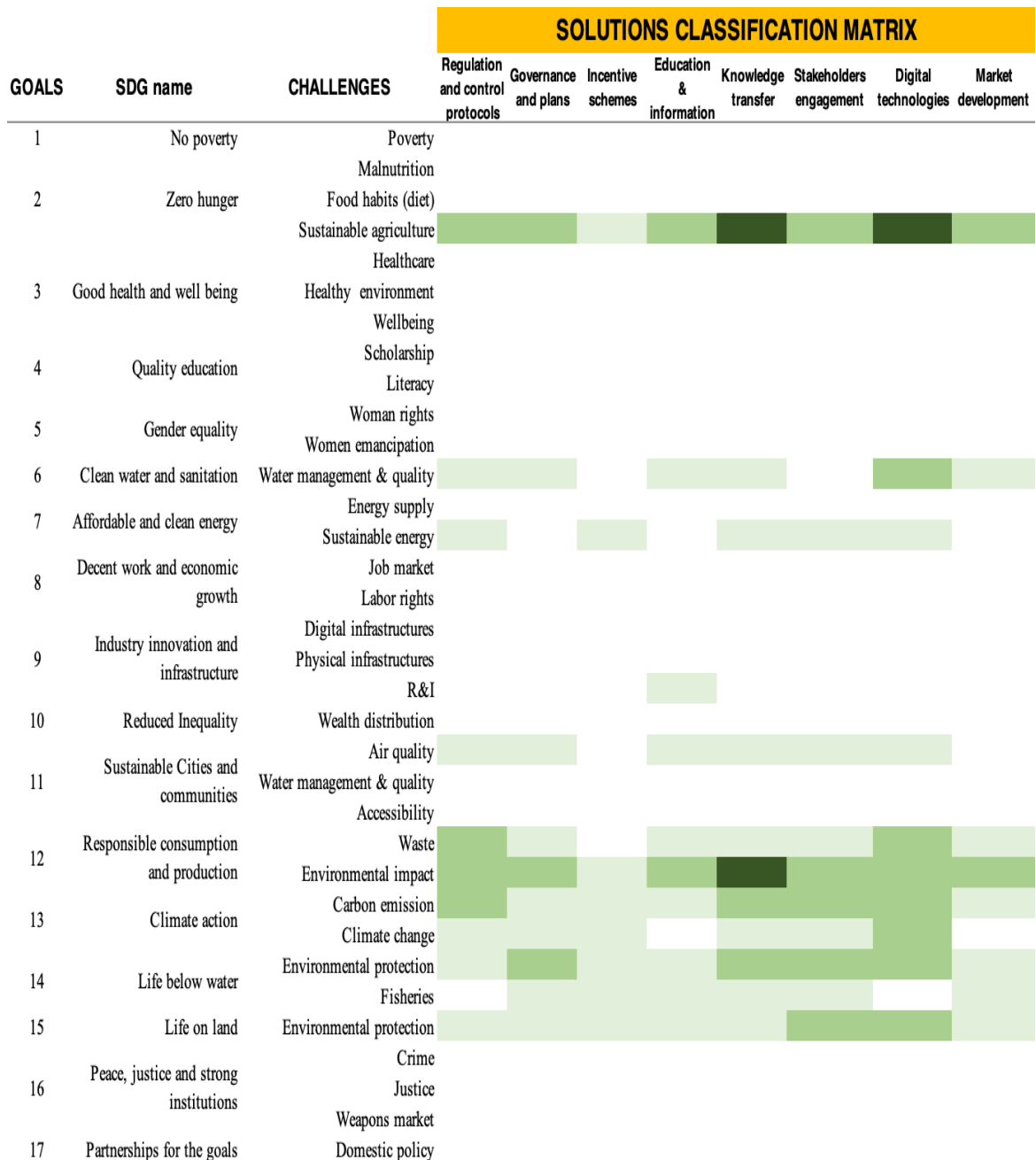


Figure 54. Axis 2 dashboard

As for the solutions, **digital technologies and innovations** are those that are mainly proposed together with **knowledge transfer and regulations**. On the latter, it is interesting to note the difference compared with axis-1 where the regulatory solution is proposed only partially. While stakeholder engagement, education, governance and plans, and incentive schemes (with the latter being used very marginally) have similar trends as compared with the previous analyses (baseline of 2021 and 2023), market development is not proposed as often as it was on previous occasions. We also notice that in almost all projects more than one solution is proposed.

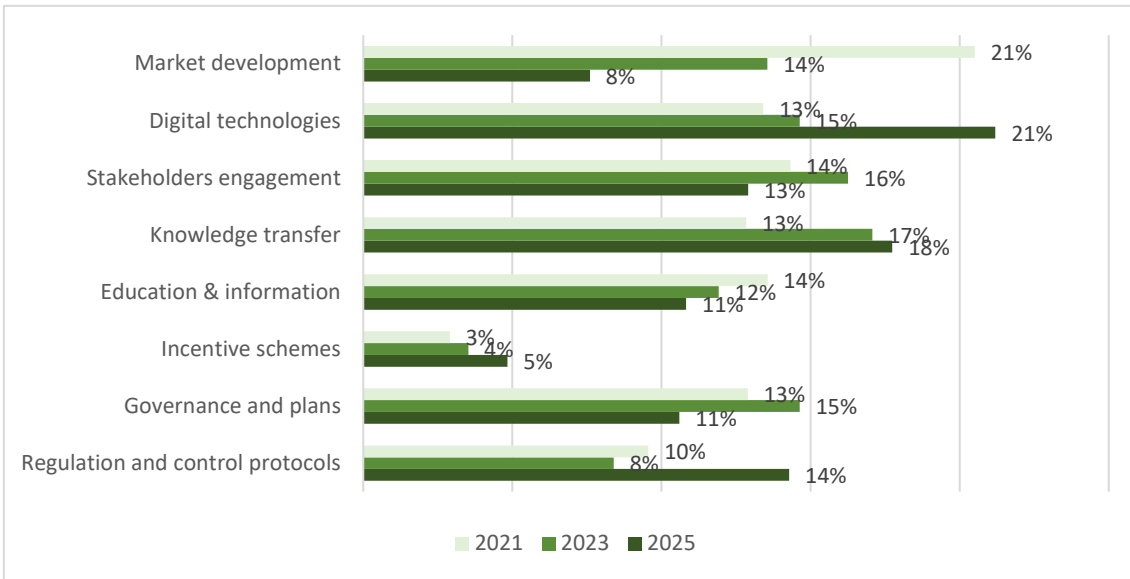


Figure 55. Axis 2 solutions (2021, 2023,2025)

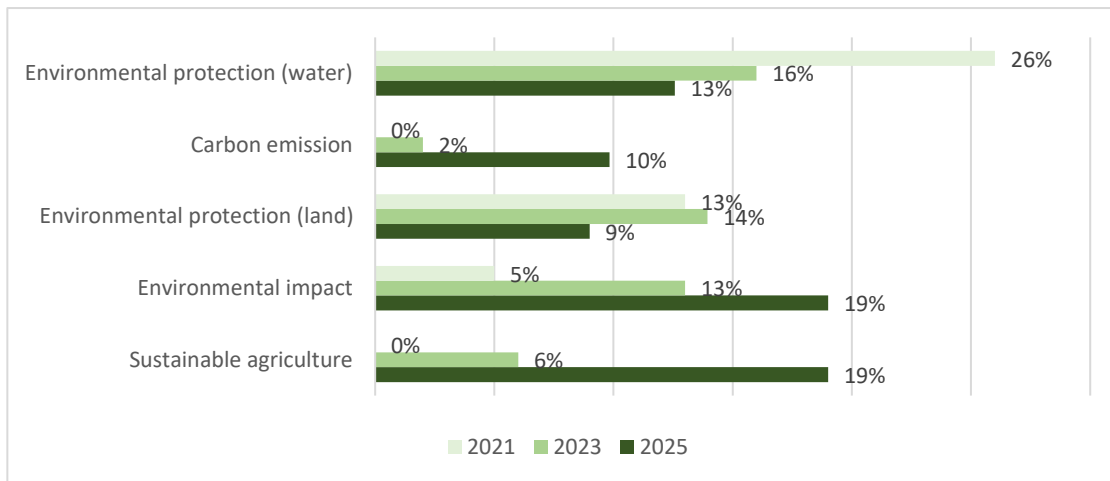


Figure 56. Axis 2 top 5 challenges

Axis 3: analysis

The analysis of axis-3, which deals with the *protection, preservation, management and restoration of natural resources in the Mediterranean area*, shows that projects clearly focus on specific challenges related to climate action and protection of life on land and below water (SDG13, SDG14 and SDG15). The SDGs addressed are 9 out of 17, but some of them are addressed only marginally. The identified challenges are dealt with transversally by a variety of parallel solutions.

Within this frame, the **reduction of carbon emission, climate actions** and the **environmental protection of life** on land are significantly addressed. **Sustainable agriculture** is also a correlated relevant challenge, while water management and quality has not yet received sufficient attention.

Considering the rather limited number of challenges addressed, the analysis shows that the 29 projects are homogenous, focusing on targeted issues.

Significantly, the analysis reveals an interesting attention to **domestic policy**, the need of cooperation and synergies among actors and levels of governance to promote the Agenda 2030. Such instrumental goal (SDG17) which rightly emphasizes the need for collaboration and partnerships is addressed as the third main challenge, while in the other two axes it seems to play a much smaller. The same is true for the challenges related to SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15 that had been rather at the margin in the previous analyses (baseline 2021 and 2023).

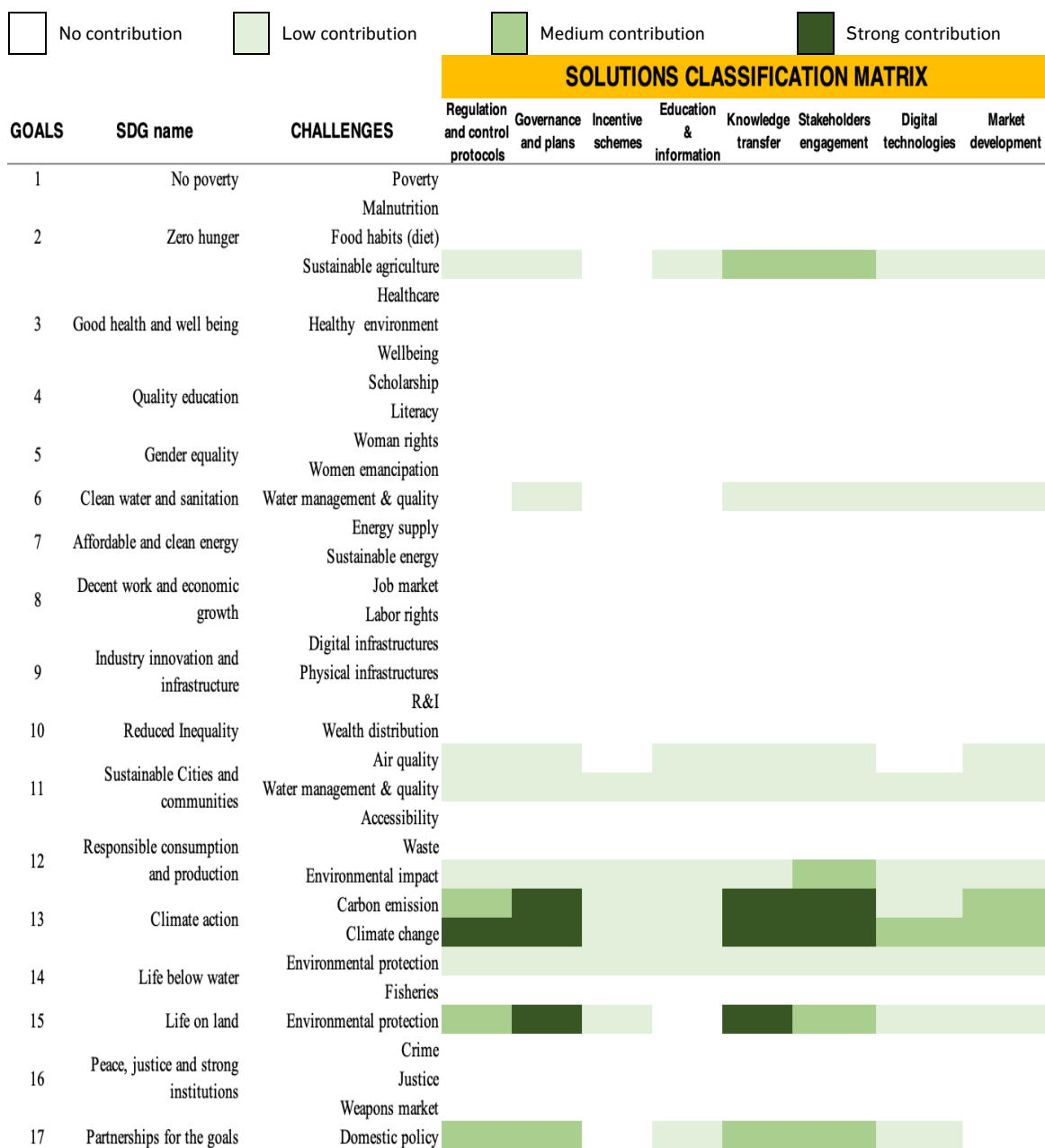


Figure 57. Axis 3 dashboard

In terms of solutions, **knowledge transfer** and **stakeholder engagement** are considered the main tools to be implemented, while digital technologies and innovation is not considered as relevant as in the previous axes. Governance, plans and regulations are also considered useful solutions to invest in, thus, confirming the trend that sees the role of public actors influential in promoting the green agenda.

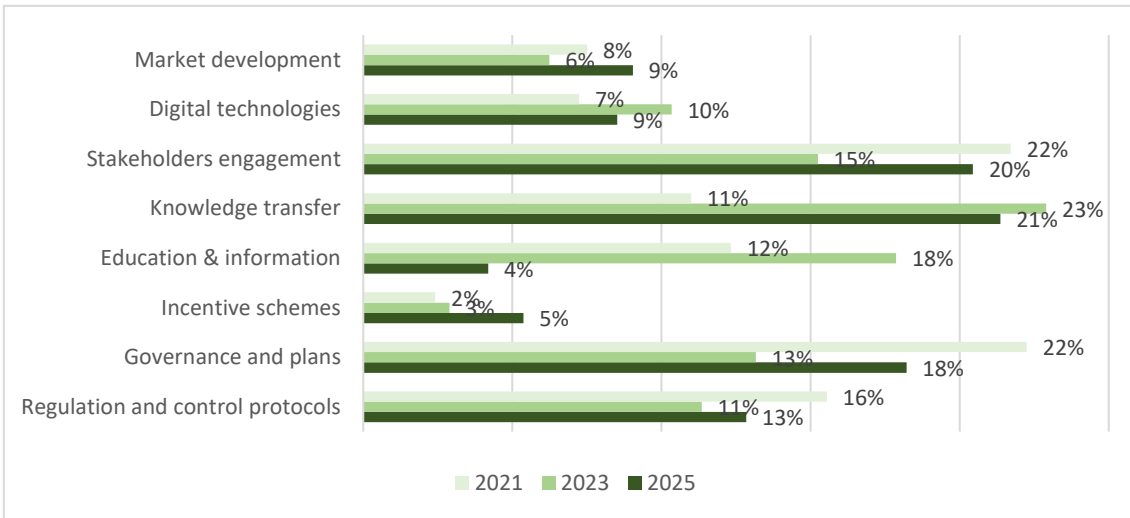


Figure 58. Axis 3 solutions (2021, 2023,2025)

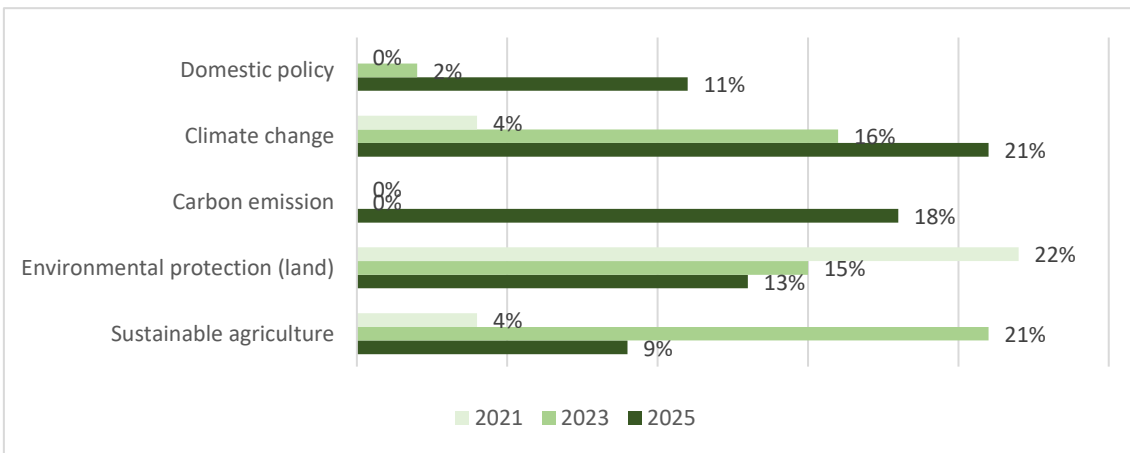


Figure 59. Axis 3 top 5 challenges (absolute values)

Analysis of Axis 1 to 3 and trend 2021-2025

From a general observation of Figure 60, which represents the overlap of axes 1, 2 and 3 in which the 117 projects that are the object of this section are distributed, strong attention is confirmed for the contribution to SDGs 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. Interestingly, they touch the three dimensions of sustainability: the environmental sphere (**Responsible consumption and production, life below water, life on land**), the economic one (**Sustainable cities and communities**) and the social one (**zero hunger, reduced inequalities, partnership for the goals**).

Confirming the analyses of the individual axes in the previous paragraphs, the challenges mostly addressed by the projects are **the sustainability of the agricultural sector**, the **reduction of waste and losses**, the **reduction of the environmental impacts of production and consumption systems** (strong increase). Also, the **mitigation and adaptation of climate change** (Figure 60) plays a central role, which is not surprising given that in the Mediterranean region climate change is causing a higher increase in average temperatures than in other regions of the planet.

Each project proposes multiple actions ranging from research and innovation to cooperation, the adoption of best practices, and the creation of partnerships. These actions materialize in **concrete solutions** that, confirming the observations made in the analyses of the individual axes,

see the emergence of technological innovation and stakeholder engagement. Both are gaining importance, especially in the areas of sustainable agriculture, the transformation of production and consumption systems, while only stakeholder engagement gains importance with respect to climate impact. Solutions such as knowledge transfer and new policies or regulatory frameworks also prove relevant.

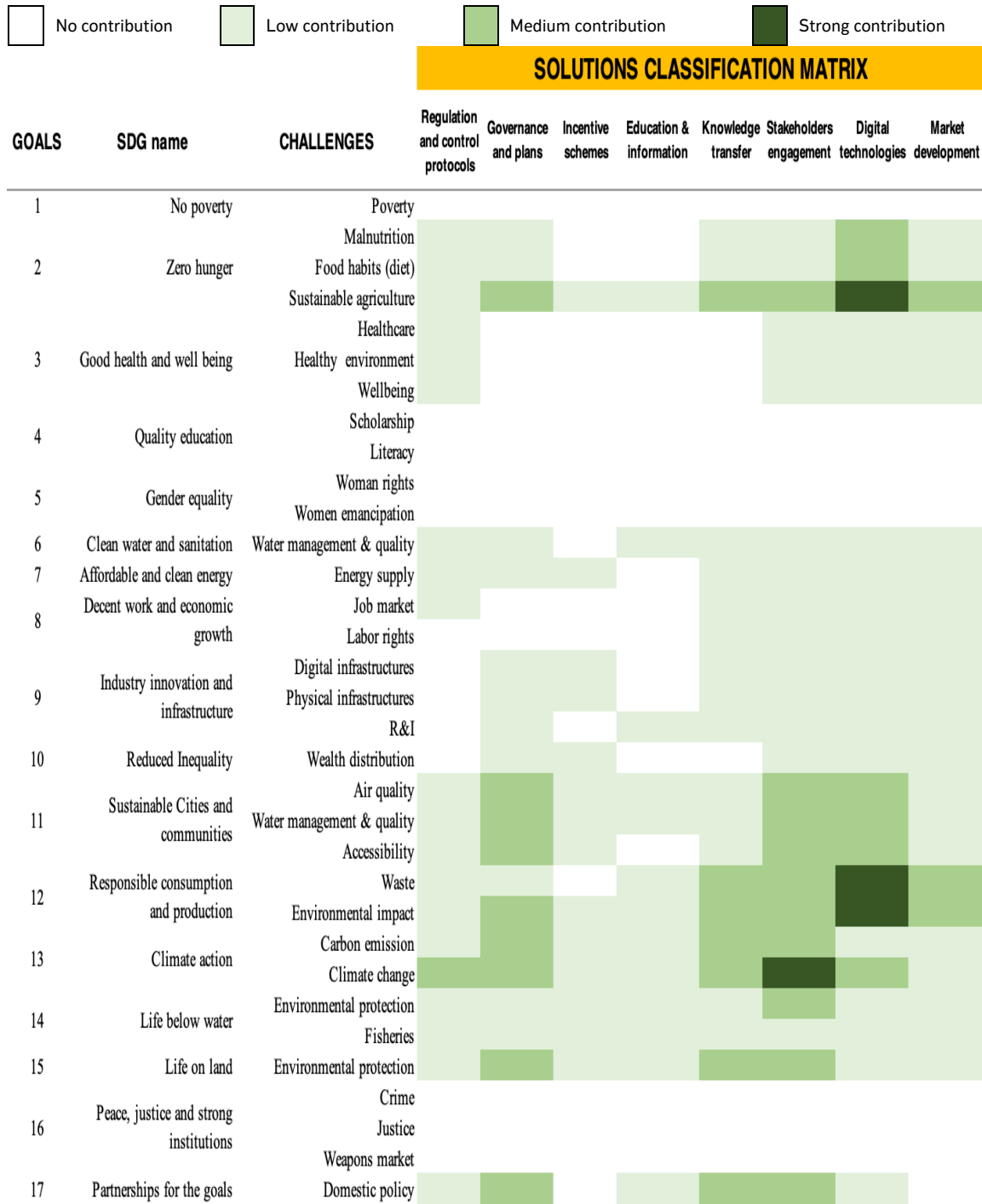


Figure 60. Axis 1 to 3 dashboard

Analysing the solution trends from 2021 to 2025 across all three axes (Figure 61), we see a strong and steady increase in **innovation and digital technologies**, as well as **stakeholder engagement** despite a slowdown in 2023. Positively, knowledge transfer as well as the use of fiscal incentives

and regulatory, governance, and control tools remain stable as proposed solutions while a declining trend is observed for the use of market opportunities.

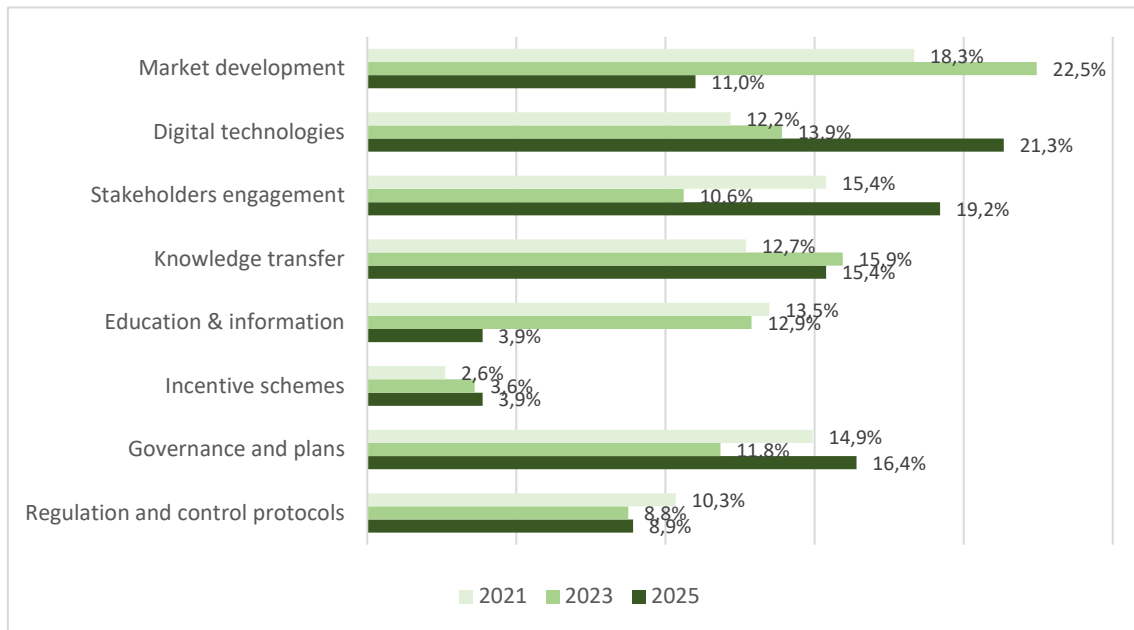


Figure 61. Axis 1 to 3 solutions

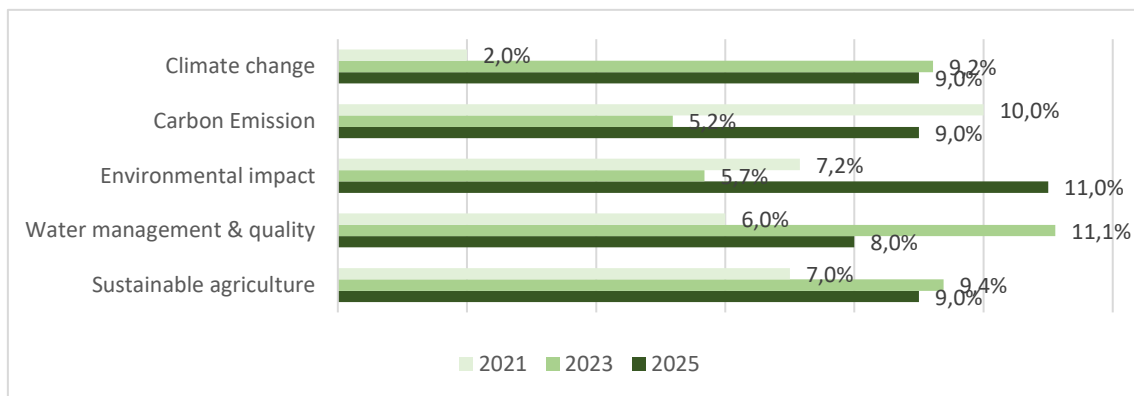


Figure 62. Axis 1 to 3 top 5 challenges

Joint analysis

This last section describes the main relevant data emerging from the analyses conducted in 2021 (baseline), 2023 and 2025. The dashboard below (Figure 63) merges the results obtained in the three single analyses and highlights both the challenges and the solutions that the projects (almost 400) propose to address and implement.

As noticed all SDGs and related challenges are addressed with a clear focus on sustainable agriculture, under SDG 2, environmental protection SDG 13, both below water and on land under SDG 14 and SDG 15, waste management and environmental impact under SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production. Significant attention is also given to job market related challenges as they strongly affect the Mediterranean region. They are addressed in the frame of a larger effort to reduce inequalities and increase economic opportunities.

In contrast, several SDGs are rarely prioritized. This includes, for instance, issues related to health, infrastructure and justice. Interestingly, also energy-related challenges and issues are of relatively low priority overall, despite their importance for the Mediterranean region and the green agenda as a whole.

However, regardless of how frequent a challenge has been addressed, the analysis shows that multiple solutions are often proposed. This is particularly true for sustainable agriculture and the environmental impact of consumption and production patterns.



Figure 63. Greener Med dashboard – overall

As regards the solutions, the figure (Figure 64) shows that all are proposed and relevant, although a minor role is played by incentive schemes, which are rarely at the centre of the

research and innovation projects analysed. Digital technology and innovation, knowledge transfer, stakeholder engagement, governance, and market development are all rather significant, with the latter being the most referred to, even though not always consistently (e.g. 2025 results).

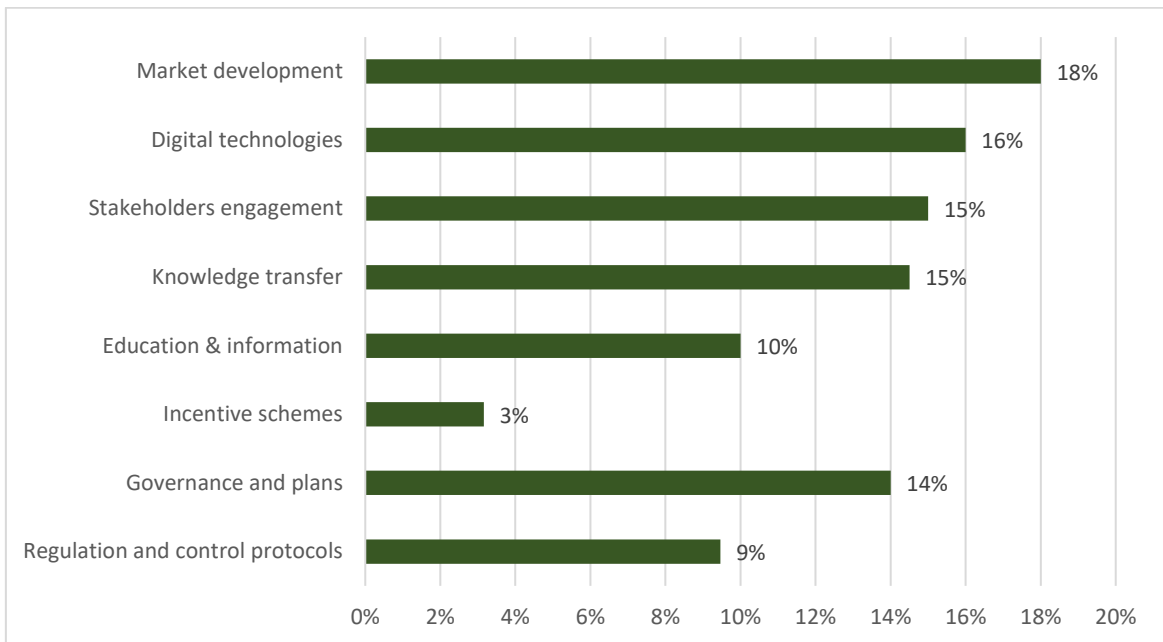


Figure 64. Greener med solutions

6. Learnings & Considerations

The monitoring for 2023-2024 utilized the identical methods and processes previously applied for the baseline assessment (2020) and the first monitoring report (2021-2022). The 2030GreenerMed Agenda and its monitoring framework are deemed a relevant and valuable instrument through which regional and subregional projects, programs, and initiatives can be effectively analysed. However, it needs to be kept in mind that the scope of the 2030GreenerMed mapping and monitoring focuses on regional initiatives and does not encompass the bilateral or individual country-level initiatives. Instead, it concentrates on the level of regional, multi-country initiatives, programmes, or projects, and the corresponding financing by topic, thereby offering a complementary perspective to other regional monitoring activities. It must also be acknowledged that the monitoring can only provide an approximation of the results achieved by the supporting 2030GreenerMed projects. Within these parameters, the results of the 2023-2024 mapping and monitoring exercise provide the following key insights:

The 2030GreenerMed agenda has supported regional collaboration amongst a wide range of stakeholders, strengthening partnerships and alignment on goals.

In addition to the collaborative nature of the supporting programmes and projects, under the partnership area of the agenda the UfM has continued reinforcing partnerships with other regional stakeholders, creating linkages through engagement in joint developed actions aligned with the three thematic axes, fostering dialogue and bridging between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, continuing the implementation of UfM Environmental Working Groups and the UfM Regional Platform on Environment and Climate Change, and introducing new regional formats such as the Med Green Week or the Med Talks. These diverse activities have helped to create alignment amongst countries and regional stakeholders on common goals, and to sustain support for the 2030GreenerMed agenda also evidenced by the collaborative information sharing for the purpose of monitoring the agenda's implementation.

2030GreenerMed maintains its high relevance under evolving global and regional contexts

The three thematic axes Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy, Pollution Prevention and Reduction, and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration remain highly relevant and well-aligned with both regional needs and global frameworks, as indicated by the 2025 2030GreenerMed external evaluation.

Given the latest global and regional developments, explicit linkages with emerging frameworks such as the UNEA resolutions and decisions, the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Plastic Treaty under negotiation, the Pact on the Mediterranean of the European Commission, as well as the EU Ocean Pact as it supports the environmental component will be proposed to be integrated in the GreenerMed narrative.

Mid-way into the 2030GreenerMed agenda Implementation, the supporting programmes and projects have produced impactful short-term results and solutions, scalable across the wider Mediterranean region.

Steady advancements have been identified in the development of solutions, declarations, policies, strategies and plans; and in the awareness raising and capacity building of actors and citizens under all three thematic axes. Aligned with the number of active projects tracked, more

such results have been achieved under Axis 1, followed by Axis 3 and lastly by Axis 2. Some results at the longer-term outcome level are becoming more visible although not at the expected (or necessary) scale, for example, in terms of number of green jobs created, tons of waste treated, or surface area of ecosystems improved or protected. In addition, results produced in quantitative terms depend on programme and project cycles, with 2023 and 2024 seeing a moderate decline due to the transition period between the larger contributing programmes CBC Med (now Interreg NEXT MED) and Interreg Med (now Interreg Euro-MED).

Donors, programmes and projects need to pay more attention to implementing results-based monitoring and scaling to strengthen mid- to long-term outcomes.

The above limitation related to longer-term outcomes is conditioned by most projects and programmes primarily focusing their monitoring efforts on activities and immediate outputs. Consequently, the evidence required to make sound assessments regarding how 2030GreenerMed supporting initiatives contribute to long-term objectives remains limited. To address this, contributing programmes and projects could gradually adopt a more robust results-based monitoring approach. This also needs to be incentivized by the respective donor organisations.

Additionally, while many projects have adopted measures for uptake or scaling of developed solutions such as capitalization or dissemination strategies and plans, the results of those are mostly not visible given that they are implemented towards the end of the project cycle. Commonly, scaling of solutions seems to be promoted by the creation of knowledge platforms and repositories to make information publicly available, but concrete results of such actions remain mostly unknown. Reported evidence of take-up or scaling of solutions has so far been at a smaller scale.

Although there is strong alignment with SDGs, positive contributions of 2030GreenerMed Agenda supporting programmes and projects are not directly visible as significant advancements of the regional SDGs and other impact indicators

There is definitely a strong thematic alignment and contribution of 2030GreenerMed supporting projects and programmes to the agenda's defined objectives and impact areas. However, despite sustained efforts of regional, multi-country projects and programmes under all three thematic axes, it is not possible to state that direct significant advancements can be observed regarding the regional SDG and other impact indicators. This is of course also conditioned by the overall global and Mediterranean context and developments outside the sphere of influence of 2030GreenerMed.

Under Axis 1, while the ecological deficit of the Med region has slightly reduced it remains high, domestic material consumption has been increasing, and the female to male labour force participation rate has decreased, meaning less participation of women in the economy as compared to the baseline. Under Axis 2, air pollution has overall improved in the region but the ocean health index is showing a negative development. Under Axis 3, the protection and restoration of marine and terrestrial sites important to biodiversity is advancing too slowly.

While this cannot be attributed to the regional collaboration alone which is the focus of analysis of this report, it highlights the urgent need for acceleration and scale up of solutions and efforts to achieve 2030GreenerMed objectives, which are further linked to other important regional and international agendas such as the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development,

the European Green Deal, the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and the Paris Agreement, among others.

Fostering an inclusive economy is still needed

Axis 1 of the 2030GreenerMed agenda aims for an environmentally responsible, circular, and equitable economy. Over the past two years, the UfM has made efforts to create more linkages between 2030GreenerMed and other relevant UfM agendas, including on gender equality and youth. However, as noted in the baseline assessment and the first monitoring report, the explicit incorporation of youth and women into project design and implementation is limited and results on these beneficiary groups remain mostly invisible. To improve the impact of future work, regional projects and programmes need to prioritize gender and youth responsive design and implementation. , especially under Axis 1 that includes the aim of creating an inclusive economy, but also the other thematic areas. This should go hand in hand with the integration of more disaggregated data into monitoring frameworks.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) can be more systematically addressed In future programmes and projects

While the vast majority of monitored programmes and projects that contribute to the 2030GreenerMed Agenda include diverse forms of awareness raising and capacity building activities and communication strategies, very few explicitly incorporate a focus on ESD. There is an opportunity for more systematic Integration of this important topic, also In alignment with the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and respective country strategies and policies.

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 frequently addressed by contributing projects and programmes, with more focus on pollution prevention than on reduction. In comparison with the 1st monitoring report, the share of regional projects that address this axis remains stable but is still on a lower level than at baseline, 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 to 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.

Projects and initiatives under axis 2 cover key actions in a more balanced way, while air pollution remains less frequently addressed

Although overall axis 2 is least frequently addressed, in absolute terms the number of projects still increased noticeably. Chemical pollution and infrastructure investment, both previously underrepresented key actions, are now addressed as frequently as the other key actions. Despite progress elsewhere, regional engagement on air pollution remains limited. In the future, more attention should be given to air pollution considering it poses significant health risks to society and although the impact indicator on air quality shows some improvements, values in the region are still far higher than levels recommended by the WHO.

Increased engagement from the private sector and academia, but also government and CSOs remain essential

Academia's involvement saw continued growth especially under axes 1 and 2, while under Axis 3 the share dropped slightly since 2023 but remained the most frequent project type of partner (above 50%). Overall, this strong academic engagement helps reinforce the projects' scientific backbone. Private sector participation remained stable since 2023 under axes 1 and 3 but expanded its presence under axis 2. At the same time, public sector and CSO participation has declined overall since the baseline, with particularly pronounced reductions under axis 2. It is important to maintain an adequate level of public sector involvement to translate and transfer the projects' insights for the development of a conducive enabling environment on the policy and regulatory level, while CSOs are key to anchoring projects in local realities, fostering community ownership, and ensuring the inclusiveness and social relevance of outcomes.

Participation of Non-EU Med countries in Med regional cooperation programmes and projects could still be strengthened

The 2030GreenerMed contributing initiatives, programmes and projects already show higher levels of participation of non-EU countries than previously. However, similar to the baseline assessment and 1st monitoring report, 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. Among the non-EU countries, the Northern African Med subregion showed the strongest increase in participating 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.

Despite advancements in coordination of funding, financing sources could still be diversified in the future

Coordination of different funding sources has been progressively advanced through the project mapping under 2030GreenerMed, leading to a clearer picture about which topics, which countries and which key actions receive funding by different donors and funding sources. The biggest initiatives financing most of the new projects since 2023, such as Interreg Med, CBC Med, PRIMA or Horizon Europe, are EU funded, showing continuity of funding sources since baseline. Only one new project under 2030GreenerMed is financed by other multilateral donors (GEF). This shows ongoing opportunities to further diversify funding sources.

Another new relevant regional contribution comes from the Fonds Français Pour L'environnement Mondial (FFEM), while Germany (GIZ), Sweden (SIDA) and more recently Spain (AECID) can also be highlighted as important donors to the UfM Secretariat in general, thus, supporting regional cooperation and the cross-cutting area of partnerships.

Despite a challenging geopolitical context and funding landscape, coordination efforts among IFIs have led to the set-up of innovative financial solutions such as the Blue Med Partnership dedicated to sustainable blue economy and environment. The partnership's multi-donor fund has launched its first investment projects in three countries (Morocco, Jordan and Egypt) in 2025.

7. ANNEXES

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7.2. List of 2030GreenerMed Supporting Projects, Programmes and Initiatives

Project lists per thematic axis are provided as separate annexes and can be accessed through the following links:

[Axis 1](#)

[Axis 2](#)

[Axis 3](#)

7.3. Impact Indicator Definitions

Impact Indicators for Axis 1

- 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.
- **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.
- **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.

Impact Indicators for Axis 2

- **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 PM_{2.5} (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.

Impact Indicators for Axis 3

- **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”⁵⁰. They do not have a protection status per se, but these marine sites can include 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.

⁵⁰ Source: IUCN website. No data on the overall surface area or number of marine KBAs in the Mediterranean has been found.



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