



Urban Seascapes: Celebrating sustainable coastal communities

ENSERES final event Report

Hotel Ramada Plaza (Gammarth)

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18 and 19 October 2023

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Glossary

ACE	Association for Community and Environment
ACG	Association pour la Continuation des Générations / Association for the Continuity of Generations
AFDIL	Association des Femmes pour le Développement des Iles et du Littoral / Association of Women for the Development of the Islands and Coastline
APET	Association for Preserving the Environment in Tyre (APET)
Barcelona Convention	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Regional of the Mediterranean and its seven Protocols
BioConnect	Ensuring effective management and governance in Sites of Ecological Importance and expanding biodiversity protection in Southern Lebanon
BlueTourism	Initiative towards sustainable coast and maritime tourism around marine regions
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CoEvolve	Promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems for the development of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism
COGITO	Project to Enhance integrated and sustainable management of coastal, insular and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean
EBM	Ecosystem-based Management
ENI CBC MED	European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross Border Cooperation Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme
ENSERES	Project Enhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas
ETC-UMA	European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis-University of Malaga
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
Interreg NEXT MED	Interreg NEXT Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme (transnational cooperation programme on the EU external border for the Mediterranean region)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUCN-MED	IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
MARISTANIS	Project for defining an integrated management model for the coastal wetlands of the gulf of Oristano in Italy
MEET	Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism
MEDCITIES	Network of Mediterranean towns and cities
MEDPAN	Network of marine protected area managers in the Mediterranean
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
Nbs	Nature-based Solutions
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
ORES	Observatoire Régional Écologique de Sfax / Regional Ecological Observatory of Sfax
PA	Protected Area
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
SAPBIO	Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean
SPA	Specially Protected Area
SPA/BD	Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
SPA/RAC	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
SPAMI	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance

TCNR	Tyre Coast Nature Reserve
The MedFund	Environmental trust fund for marine protected areas in the Mediterranean
TUNE UP	Project on Promoting multilevel governance for tuning up biodiversity protection in marine areas
UMA	University of Malaga
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP MAP	United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WP	Work package
WETNET	Project for Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The final event of the ENICBC MED project ENSERES "ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal area" took place at the Hotel Ramada Plaza in Tunis (Tunisia) on 18 and 19 October 2023, concluding the implementation of the project from October 2021 till November 2023. The ENSERES capitalizes on existing transferable models and tools to promote the application of integrated governance and management approaches across administrative boundaries, and sustainable financing instruments across scales and users.

The final event of ENSERES gathered around 60 participants including project partners, associated institutions, international and national bodies, civil society organizations, marine protected area managers, researchers and Mediterranean players concerned about the effective conservation of the Mediterranean shores and its communities, both from urban and rural areas.

The objective of the final event was the communication of key results and lessons learned and the showcasing of major activities implemented, ranging from the updating of an ENSERES toolkit - being a catalogue of a wide typology of tools supporting monitoring, management, geospatial, and financial tools - in several languages to the enhancement of local capacities for the development of actions on the ground by local civil society organizations and public administration actors concerning the project pilot areas. Across the lifetime of the project, several exchange visits across Mediterranean protected areas and ports and the promotion of conservation solutions within and outside marine protected areas, with an ecosystem-based approach for a more effective conservation.

The continuation of collaborative actions created through the project is a key outcome which will further involve the networks of Mediterranean marine protected areas and cities in the transfer and implementation of participative solutions to common challenges like coastal and marine pollution and unsustainable fishing practices and the impacts of climate change and tourism. This collaboration will be consolidated through a Memorandum of Collaboration proposed to be signed on 22 November 2023 with MedPAN during the General Assembly of MedCities.



KEY MESSAGES

- The **socio-ecological resilience** of Mediterranean coastal communities can be enhanced by using evidence-based approaches to guide **cooperation on the ground between civil society, public and private constituencies**.
- Ensuring resilient coastal and marine ecosystems **in and outside protected areas** is dependent on policies and measures affecting communities across the whole Mediterranean region, in cities, in rural areas and among sectors.
- **Active engagement of local communities in co-managing** natural and urban areas increases their sense of ownership supporting more effective management in the long term.
- Common environmental challenges like pollution and climate change count with **international** and regional **policy** instruments to facilitate action, a **responsibility** whose implementation corresponds to countries, which should **transpose them into local** activities and measures through various mechanisms.
- **An improved coordination** across different existing **policy instruments** at Mediterranean, national and sub-national levels, as well as **across different economic sectors**, are requirements to achieve an integrated coastal zone management and encourage a wise use of marine and coastal areas and resources.
- Evidence shows that **protected areas are an effective tool to reduce land development pressure** along Mediterranean coasts, and that the joint use of some existing biodiversity conservation tools, namely the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol and the ICZM Protocol, tend to further reduce pressure from artificialisation on coastal areas. However, results also showed that the ICZM Protocol was not effective in reducing land development on the coast on its own, which suggests that some reflection on the reasons for this should be made and addressed for the sake of Mediterranean coastal biodiversity.
- Transformative changes to conserve the services provided by healthy ecosystems need to be supported by **education and raising awareness** from early childhood to professional levels, including capacity building opportunities for public administrations, the civil society actors and protected area managers.
- The combination of **legislative and voluntary measures** aiming at conserving natural resources can help increasing cooperation between actors, and **alleviating conflicts of interest**.
- The adoption of relevant / adequate **knowledge and tools** by Mediterranean countries and communities needs to be embedded in management plans and supported with enough sustainable / long term / multi-annual **funding** resources ensuring a **longer-term vision**.

- **Cultural and ecological knowledge** on the values of species and ecosystems in urban and natural areas by the population at large can **foster changes in behaviour** leading to more socio-ecological resilient areas and communities.
- **Exchanges and dialogue** across countries and different stakeholders help the transfer of solutions, the understanding of the challenges, and the building of synergies for participatory ways to address conservation for the benefit of all.
- Projects can offer the **testing grounds** for promoting new conservation **measures** whose results should be **adapted and adopted** by the parties concerned after the project ends, through new longer-term collaboration agreements and funding formula where needed.



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- The Mediterranean coast, with its cities and protected areas, is facing unprecedented challenges with most of the population gathered along its shores coupled with the environmental impacts associated to climate change and the overexploitation of its natural and coastal resources.
- The ENSERES project co-funded by the EU cooperation programme ENI CBC MED is an initiative whose objective is to build bridges between Mediterranean, national and subregional actors for a more effective socio-ecological resilience of coastal communities, particularly in Lebanon and Tunisia, whose experience could be transferred and adapted in other Mediterranean areas.
- There are international efforts, financial and policy instruments like the Convention on Biological Diversity aiming at reducing pressures and conserving biodiversity. The Mediterranean, a hotspot for endemic species, counts with various policy instruments for nature conservation at regional level since 1975, developed in the frame of the United Nations Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP MAP) and the creation of the Barcelona Convention as a legally binding Treaty with seven related protocols, and the Regional Seas programme based in Athens.
- There are several regional activity centres supporting Mediterranean countries in a joint effort to protect it against pollution and the negative impacts of global changes through the MAP implementation, among which the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) based in Tunis and partner in the ENSERES project dealing with the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol), and the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) based in Croatia, an associated partner to the project, dealing with the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) protocol in the Mediterranean.
- The Barcelona Convention's regional strategies and plans provide support to Mediterranean countries to conserve biodiversity by coordinating and implementing monitoring programmes, by identifying species and sites for conservation and by enhancing national capacities.
- Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) are marine and coastal protected areas that are "of importance for conserving the components of biological diversity in the Mediterranean; contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or the habitats of endangered species; are of special interest at the scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational levels". SPAMIs are included in the "SPAMI List" that was established since 2001 under the Barcelona Convention SPA/BD Protocol. The SPAMI List includes presently 39 SPAMIs declared by 11 contracting Parties.
- The Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Mediterranean (Post-2020 SAPBIO), adopted in 2021, is the Mediterranean's strategic blueprint to tackle biodiversity loss in the region and to halt "business as usual" among concerned actors.
- Though UNEP MAP regional institutions can provide financial and technical support, it is the responsibility of the Contracting Parties/countries to implement concrete actions on the ground, reaching local level activities.
- According to the latest report by SPA/RAC and MedPAN, in 2020 marine protected areas covered 8,3% of the Mediterranean, with 0,04% under strict protection. However, only 3,2% of the Mediterranean is protected at national level, falling behind the 10% coverage target/Aichi target 11 which aims to comprehend a quantitative and qualitative level of protection. Only 25% of protected areas have a

management plan, which points to a need to do more to achieve the ambitious 30X30 protection target.

- The integrated solutions for transformative changes promoted by ENSERES has supported the launch of the second phase of the SPAMI twinning programme and the use of the toolkit within them. Exchange visits organized between The Côte Bleue Marine Park in France and Kneiss Islands in Tunisia; and between Medes Islands Integral Nature Reserve in Spain and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in Lebanon have indeed led to the ongoing preparation of collaborative action plans for traditional fisheries and ecotourism sustainable solutions in collaboration with civil society organizations.
- The Ministry of Environment of Tunisia is committed to address the current challenges and opportunities in implementing conservation tools in Tunisia and the protection of the shared natural resources of the Mediterranean Sea. Major national efforts for a sustainable development include the hosting of SPA/RAC since 1985; the decentralization and active management of marine protected areas with the support of the Mediterranean environmental fund – The MedFund based in Monaco - whereby MPAs are comanaged with local actors and local authorities, engaging scientific actors and actions on the ground.
- Furthermore, Tunisia has developed a national plastic-free coastline strategy against plastics pollution and others aiming at an ecological transition, fighting climate change, conservation, restoration and a commitment to preserve national resources. Tunisia supports the existing legal frameworks and has ratified most international agreements including the ICZM protocol signed in 2022.
- Tunisia will keep supporting cooperation for a better management and protection of its natural resources, with 1000 Km in coastal areas that could benefit from the favourable echo's coming from the ENSERES activities and workshop.



CONTRIBUTIONS PER SESSION

01. CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ZONE – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The ENSERES project implemented between October 2021 and November 2023 is framed under priority B.4.4. for an integrated and transboundary approach to conservation and management of coastal areas, both within and outside marine protected areas. To illustrate this approach, a study on ICZM in the Mediterranean was implemented in summer 2023 by ETC-UMA to foster the debate during the final event.
- The ecosystem services provided by coastal zones and their protection can but only benefit other economic areas, particularly tourism and fisheries, and the population at large. The pressures over and the overuse of natural resources imply a decline in the ecosystem's health, which need of a regional instrument for the coastal zones to be sustainably managed and conserved.
- The Barcelona Convention's Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol involving urban development and land-use strategies is set up to promote the sustainable development of coastal areas and prevent natural hazards to harm the coastal areas and its population. The Mediterranean SPA/BD Protocol with its SPAs and SPAMIs also offers tools for in-situ conservation. An analysis on the effectiveness of the scales based on the index of **artificialization of coastal areas and land development dynamics** in the region based on spatial data analysis of land development between 2015-2019 have provided some general conclusions associating the level of land development with countries having ratified the ICZM Protocol. When considering pilot areas, there is a need to combine different measures with stakeholder participation. Coordination among these two protocols is utterly necessary to achieve an integrated management of coastal areas that promotes nature conservation.
- The ICZM Protocol has been ratified by 13 countries, with Tunisia having shown a great effort since its ratification in 2022. This protocol has biodiversity protection at the core, but it is addressed to all sectors and human activities on the coastal areas. **Governance and coordination** remain a pending issue, with coordination between national, subnational and local communities being necessary, together with horizontal coordination across all economic sectors too.
- **Dialogue is key** in sectoral planning. Plans and strategies need to be prepared also at local level, not only at Mediterranean or national level, with nature playing a crucial role.
- The assessment of the ICZM Protocol effectiveness based only on one land use/cover indicator is a bit simplistic i.e. constructing inside/outside protected areas, as it is a complex process and a broader analysis should be implemented so that effectiveness at local level could also be assessed. In fact, only two IUCN protected area categories forbid construction in protected areas.
- The **lack of sectoral coordination** at regional, national and subnational levels needs to be better addressed. Whereas in the case of the SPA/BD Protocol is easier with the declaration of MPAs with a management plan and clear structures, ICZM work is much harder. A study implemented in 2019 seeking coherence between both protocols proved that the tools do exist, such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), but their application remains a challenge. However, the Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation process targets this weakness and proposes 42 actions, many of which aim to mainstream biodiversity into cross-sector policies, and is better integrated at national level, though further integration is still needed.

- To be applied on the ground at national and local levels, the Mediterranean **ICZM Protocol** could benefit from the **transposition into national legislation**, even if changes in legislation and approval by Parliament are needed. Governance and coordination are crucial: no sector should go ahead without coordination with others, meaning both vertical and horizontal coordination together with cross border and transboundary cooperation in MSP.
- Ecosystems have no boundaries and therefore integration of all sectors needs to be sought, which needs more training and capacity building, and **better communication and coordination** among different focal points among RACs to cooperate better and so take better decisions. Coastal zones have land and sea areas and should not be considered separately – i.e. watersheds could be regarded as units rather than country level approaches as an option. However, the competent coastal units are the administrative units with the decision making powers as a preferred option according to the ICZM Protocol. .
- When it comes to implementation at national and territorial level, with the protocols as tools now in place, the key is at governance level, and more **power should be given at local level**. More upstream possibilities of planning could improve the situation.
- The instruments at hand to demonstrate complementarity and synergy between Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Protected Area/Conservation policies at national/territorial level could be a common programme of coastal management with communication between coastal and marine actors. Institutions at different levels can be complementary and help linking the terrestrial and marine realms. The tools exist but coordination at national level to facilitate implementation of budget is needed. It was suggested to have a pilot project **to explore better coordination and common planning between the two protocols**.
- In the case of Tunisia, the sustainable management of its coastal zone using these tools is pursued. Many natural and anthropogenic challenges remain with quick action needed to stop changes becoming irreversible. The Ministry of environment has a strategy for an ecological transition calling for political transformation and actions to guarantee the wellbeing of people and ecosystems in the face of climate change, illegal fishing, territorial planning, energy, maritime transport and tourism. 80% of the Tunisian population lives along the coast. But the Ministry acknowledged that it cannot advance alone – **together, we can be quicker and better**.
- Financing is also at the core of governance. Some cities have been asked to develop strategies to diminish the gap between decision makers and local actors, though they also need the intervention of international bodies working in cooperation.
- On the role that cities can play to support these policies and actors, it was agreed that working in silos is not possible anymore: a combination of instruments is necessary. **Centralization and articulating synergies between different administrations are necessary**, as both are part of the same process. The cost of action is hidden, to cover a Blue Economy strategy: integration is part of the solution, having a common goal with a common approach. MedCities can help develop strategies at local level but national and local level strategies should work together.
- The role of **citizens** and NGOs is critical to introduce **innovation** in the strategies, as they can push public administrations and help mainstream innovation, an area where public administrations sometimes arrive last.
- In brief, coordination among sectors and levels is needed, with different responsibilities under international conventions which facilitate the process, and the parties/countries which are the actors to

implement the actions. The integration of actors and institutions with the recognition of a higher commitment can help continue after the project building on the lessons learned through the project.

- Coordination is therefore key to keep further cooperation.



02. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN AND AROUND PROTECTED AREAS

- The application of the ICZM Protocol is not easy according to the Mediterranean networks of cities and marine protected areas, both partners in the ENSERES project.
- To facilitate the identification and implementation of common tools by different actors towards better socio-ecological resilience in the Mediterranean with an **ecosystem-based and integrated approach**, ENSERES has promoted a [toolkit](#) in the form of a platform and tools catalogue, available in several languages and covering a wide range of topics and methodologies. This toolkit has been explored by key actors in the two project pilot sites, **Tyre in Lebanon and the Gulf of Gabes/Sfax in Tunisia**, which led to the identification of the most relevant for them, namely participatory governance processes like the **coastal/environmental contracts** and climate change monitoring, fisheries stakeholders' involvement in conservation, **pollution** monitoring and management, **ecotourism** and supporting **subgrants** for further actions by **civil society** actors.
- Through the ENSERES project, citizens, public authorities and marine protected area managers have participated in common activities including awareness campaigns, **exchange visits** and **mentoring** processes, such as the visit of the Barcelona port by Sfax representatives.
- **Capacity-building** activities brought benefits to the managers of the participating MPAs. Training workshops can be a concrete tool to transfer results and knowledge. MedPAN counts with five training centers in Mediterranean protected areas, with sessions supported by ENSERES concerning sustainable financing held in Monastir (Tunisia) and participatory governance in Tyre (Lebanon) also dealing with traditional fisheries and marine mobile species like turtles.
- There is a high **demand for trainings** and a clear interest to continue the mechanism of a regular training programme of MedPAN and to increasingly decentralise it to the five training centers, based on MPAs needs' assessment.

- The "**cube**" methodology capitalised by the COGITO project involving managers, fishers and local authorities has proved to be very effective especially in a training aimed at governance of MPAs where key stakeholders had the opportunity to meet and discuss for one week main issues regarding the MPAs, taking time to dialogue and debate with a combination of theory and practice. The "**train the trainers**" approach is followed and other subjects like climate change and restoration will be added as topics for future training activities.
- The **dialogue between cities and MPAs** needs however to be strengthened to better preserve and manage MPAs. A good relationship with the city (municipality) allows MPAs an easier access to higher authorities and more rigorous implementation of the rules allowing conservation. This can be achieved by setting up consultation meetings or local committees that can meet periodically, especially when MPA management depends on two or more municipalities.
- Carrying out activities with **young people**, sensitizing them to the preservation of MPAs has also proved to be necessary, encouraging the involvement of **civil society** organizations. Moreover, strengthening the role of women and local associations can enhance their role in marine conservation, building on their knowledge and competencies.
- To support actions on the ground, "cascade" financing (sub-grants) is also very important as it allows to implement concrete activities in pilot sites though administrative procedures for civil society organizations should be simplified for this type of local implementers, as they may lack the human resources to follow them and therefore benefit from this type of support.
- The role that cities and MPA networks in the Mediterranean can play to help consolidate the project's approach and achievements will be acknowledged and moved forward through the coming signature of a **Memorandum of Collaboration between MedPAN and MedCities**, a relevant outcome of the project. In the frame of this "alliance" the definition of peri-urban MPAs will be agreed and the work on joint governance aspects will be pursued.
- In the case of **Tyre** as **pilot area in ENSERES**, an example of a protected area in proximity to a city which exerts pressures on the MPA, this site in southern Lebanon focused on three main ecological and cultural pillars: tourism linked to the use of plastics and **eco-geotourism, agriculture** and the use of illegal pesticides and the **fishing/diving community** as providers of **citizen's science** with their knowledge and monitoring. In this case, the link to the Municipality is crucial involving also economic resources for the reserve, with a joint committee established to help engage local stakeholders and assist in fighting pressures on the area and setting up concrete measures like no jet skiing allowed in summer to protect turtles.
- The role of joint Municipality/MPA committees can help in agreeing the zoning of the area where human activities are allowed; the implementation of conservation actions in collaboration with the Municipality and the direct support of a local committee for the MPA management, with jointly agreed periodic activity plans and the engagement of different stakeholders is proving very useful.
- In the case of the **Kerkennah archipelago in Tunisia**, it was agreed that coastal traffic and a big affluence of tourists in summer cause important impacts related to the increase of waste and natural resources consumption in general, leading to a change from traditional fishing techniques like the Charfia to more disruptive practices and an increase in the demand of summer residencies for tourists, which can lead to infractions in constructions along the coast. For this recently designated MPA, the municipality has actively participated in supporting the signature of a **management plan agreement** including beach cleaning campaigns, containers for plastics and a coastal development plan with shared responsibilities, supported by international projects.

- From the point of view of the **Municipality of Sfax**, the second largest city in Tunisia, agreements with several sectors are sought in the realm of the ENSERES topics, such as for **fisheries** and the sale of fish in the market through municipal representatives (“mandataires”). Moreover, the efforts to **depollute the coastal area** build on previous efforts implemented with support of the World Bank. The ENSERES project has particularly contributed through the mentoring process whereby local capacities have been enhanced and synergies created via exchanges with the port of Barcelona and other cooperation projects with Italy related to plastic pollution and the identification of litter accumulation areas along the coast, in particular in the port.
- Coastal and marine pollution by plastics was acknowledged as a common Mediterranean challenge where all the countries need to cooperate, with young generations better empowered and prepared so that behavioural changes can be achieved also through education. Indeed, the ENSERES toolkit offers an online source of information for youth and any other stakeholder interested in contributing to conservation, including marine litter related tools.
- From MedCities point of view, youth and economic development are always on the agenda, with the new Interreg NEXT MED programme offering financial opportunities to continue the efforts at Mediterranean level. Though youth has engaged in the ENSERES project mainly through the subgrants scheme, the main targeted actors have been cities and MPA managers. In the case of Tyre, **environmental education** was considered as something necessary as part of the national education programme and the ENSERES tools put at the disposal of the young and the communities to use them against pollution and in the promotion of sustainable tourism practices.
- At national level, the **Tunisian Ministry of Environment** is working on its **plastics strategy**, cleaning beaches and sorting waste, aiming to increase composting and recycling capabilities and reduce impacts on biodiversity. It was suggested that these efforts, coupled with efforts by the Ministry of Education in incorporating environmental topics in the curricula could increase the rate of success and enhance capacities in the future.
- The need for **ministerial and sectoral coordination in the devise and deployment of public policies and measures** to tackle global change impacts and common pressures reinforced by the dialogue between city and MPA stakeholders was identified as potential solution and conflict resolution at local level.

03. TOOLS DEVELOPED AND EXPERIENCE GAINED ON THE GROUND – HOW HAS ENSERES CONTRIBUTED TO BETTER CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN COASTAL AREAS?

- The importance of **knowing your local reality and applying feasible solutions** on pilot sites in partnership with the different communities can create a common sense of ownership over the natural resources. This in turn can help to achieve a common understanding of common pressures, the acceptance of regulations and laws and a mutual learning process both across community sectors and across different regions in the Mediterranean, as proved by the **exchange visits** organized between SPAMIs during the ENSERES project which also gave visibility to marine coastal challenges all across the region.
- The exchange visit organized to Oristano in Italy to explore the voluntary coastal wetlands contract developed under the MARISTANIS and other Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection projects like WETNET and TUNE UP proved to partners and pilot sites representatives the commonalities in facing **private-public multilateral governance challenges** to common pressures like climate change, coastal erosion

and agricultural practices. Solutions like new technologies such as drones for agriculture monitoring and restoration methods were examples that can be adopted by other Mediterranean countries.

- Through the SPA/RAC led programme on **SPAMI twinning**, the second phase has been launched with the support of the ENSERES project, with exchange visits organized for the pilot sites for Tyre/Lebanon and Medes Islands/Spain and Kneiss/Tunisia and Côte Bleue/France. The knowledge gained from similar protected areas has helped realize a preliminary assessment on **potential solutions** applied to foster sustainable tourism practices in summer and illegal fisheries so that the MPA managers could learn from each other on practices like artificial reefs, the use of particular seeds in agriculture or the need to ensure certain economic/budgetary independence. Building on these exchanges, new action plans are being devised for the Lebanese and Tunisian SPAMIs, pilot sites in ENSERES, to tackle **sustainable tourism** and **fishing practices** respectively, beyond the lifetime of the project. Furthermore, participants in the exchange visits insisted on the need to **maintain these collaborative networks and exchanges** to build on the knowledge and experience gained on MPA management on both shores of the Mediterranean.
- Among the achievements of the ENSERES project implemented through the subgrantees, in Lebanon, thanks to an initiative by the Association for the Community and Environment (ACE), the cultural and natural/geological heritage and values of Tyre were highlighted, based on science, to reunite different municipalities and local populations in the acknowledgement of its value and promote a different type of tourism, more engaged in the **protection of the environment**. The Association for Preserving the Environment in Tyre (APET) on the other hand is playing a mentor role towards farmers and the agricultural sector, and helping organize cleaning campaigns on the beach with the participation of university students and civil society organizations, helping **raise awareness** on the use of certain pesticides and seasonal seed harvesting among the population, and the importance of avoiding plastics around the reserve.
- Among the Tunisian subgrantees, Kantara Save Earth has been supported by the project to help organize activities with **children and youth** promoting the protection of Posidonia meadows, beach cleaning campaigns, waste collection and recycling into handicrafts, and the protection of turtles in the Gulf of Gabes in collaboration with Tunisian authorities and the University of Sfax. In Kerkennah, with no university and limited access, efforts are being invested in educating local populations and the creation of environmental clubs among youth to achieve a potential green tourism in the area. The Association des Femmes pour le Développement des Iles et du Littoral (AFDIL) on the other hand has been active on artisanal fisheries and women, promoting alternative job creation in the face of diminishing fisheries and exploring socio-economic aspects linked to the value chain of Solen bivalves and seasonal harvesting together with ACG.
- The subgrants scheme and the twinning programme were considered very important as a way to **engage civil society organisations** who are prolific in ideas and are willing to work for a better environment and society. Even if these initiatives may be perceived as small, they constitute concrete steps and inspirational for continuing along the same path, as far as enough funding can be secured. In the case of the SPAMI Twinning Programme, four other SPAMIS will be coupled with support from the Italian Ministry of Environment during its third phase. The ENSERES project has helped to improve the SPAMI collaborative platform with further exchanges, more information and the creation of a discussion forum for MPAs to facilitate online exchanges.
- From the point of view of MedCities, the subgrant amounts (10000 euro) could be increased to allow not only the implementation of activities but also the investment in the equipment and infrastructures necessary to continue after the project finishes. Indeed, networking among sites and projects to seek connectivity at various levels can also help **optimize and complement knowledge and the use of**

resources taking into account different socioeconomic realities. Investing in educating children and young people in areas where no associations exist can help advance environmental awareness and conservation as they will become key players in their local communities, including considerations for the role that women can play to consolidate transformative changes.

- Nature conservation would benefit from a **valorization strategy** which can become the source of further project ideas. Appreciation of natural resources and ecological connectivity with other sites as in the case of the BioConnect initiative in Lebanon, together with a **direct dialogue with nature users** such as the agricultural sector for the creation of labelled and ecotourist products, can support further conservation initiatives. Likewise, understanding that tourism has an impact on protected areas and that it can also provide a source of income for them can assist shaping conservation measures related to ecotourism.
- The ENSERES subgrants scheme has proved very useful in implementing actions by local actors on the ground however the **administrative/reporting procedures need to be simplified** as they are very challenging for both the project partners and the civil society organizations which most times lack the human resources to comply with certain reporting procedures required by the donor and should therefore be simplified to engage further local actors i.e. timesheets, mode of payment. For future similar initiatives, it was recommended to allocate more financial and time resources to the partners managing grants so that they could implement actions in due time and play an **accompanying role to the grantees**.
- The ENSERES WP3 synthesis report of lessons learned under finalization, implemented through direct interviews with stakeholders involved together with an analysis of main activities and publications implemented, points to the need to target **capacity building programmes** over a longer period of time. Concerning the ENSERES toolkit, training the trainers for further uptake of the solutions proposed was recommended, as the toolkit could have been further explored with more time.
- Other recommendations raising from the synthesis analysis referred to a need to increase the **visibility** of the project outside the partnership, with subgrants providing a link to local realities; an increased interest in exchange visits rather than webinars; more emphasis to be put on **actions on the ground** and **equipment for local beneficiaries** and less theory; promotion of the use of local languages; anchoring the project in governance networks i.e. Sfax Committee on marine litter as part of the project's Steering Committee; **avoid competition** among NGOs and provide grants as separate modules so that each NGO can be masters in their own field and complement each other.
- Diving tourism was brought to the debate highlighting the role of divers in promoting biodiversity values along the Mediterranean and supporting environmental monitoring and litter collection. As such, it was suggested that diving clubs could play an important role as project partners in future initiatives.



04. THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS IN COASTAL BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

- The new Interreg NEXT MED programme replacing the ENI CBC MED was introduced, with Algeria and Turkey as new Mediterranean countries participating in the programme. Though coastal management will not be a priority per se, there are other priorities such as climate change adaptation for ENSERES to obtain co-funding for future activities.
- **Four calls for proposals by NEXT MED** are planned during the 2023-2026 period covering relevant actions related to climate change adaptation, circular economy and local governance models, which could integrate actors in the field, waste management actions to test previous pilots, joint actions to improve institutional capacities and further tools and platforms accessible by citizens.
- Public administrations will remain as key players, with youth oriented projects included in the first call for proposals with 20% budget allocated to them (at least two partners with staff under 30 years old) and not many associated partners required. All projects need to be based on what has been done (not reinventing the wheel) and should require cooperation to achieve results.
- Interreg NEXT MED governance projects will focus on the provision of quality public services, with most types of organizations eligible and certain geographical considerations. The same organization cannot be the Lead Beneficiary in more than two projects, and 50% of the budget should be spent in eligible countries. The next call is scheduled for mid-November, with one info day per country to be organized during the same month. The programme has enabled an online platform to facilitate the search for partners and share project ideas.
- Oncoming opportunities for capacity building will be supported by MedPAN through the **Post-2020 Roadmap platform** supported by ENSERES to raise awareness on commitments expressed during the last Mediterranean MPA Forum (2021). It is planned to include new topics related to MPA management, to reinforce the existing training centres and to collect further data in order to update the MPA status report at Mediterranean level. Support will be provided to subregional and Mediterranean networks, with MedPAN participating in several international missions and Horizon projects.
- Nature-based Solutions to current climate, biodiversity and society challenges continue to be fostered by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. In particular, the MEET Network gives a voice to protected areas and their communities related to tourism. Linking cities and urban issues with the protected areas 30X30 agenda, the urban nature index and the IUCN Green List standards are at the core of activities, with the implementation of NbS in urban settings. Furthermore, the **BlueTourism** initiative will shortly produce relevant work related to tourism in protected areas in collaboration with ETC-UMA and the impact of tourism to be presented during the COP23 taking place in Slovenia in December 2023. The CoEvolve project is also working on tourism issues in Tunisia with IUCN-Med as a partner, whose final event will feature ENSERES results.
- The **rapprochement of the two ENSERES partner networks, MedCities and MedPAN**, beyond the current project cooperation which might be diluted in the future, was deemed as a long-lasting achievement. Encouraged by ETC-UMA, finding a cooperation path among both organizations has now materialized in the drafting of a Memorandum of Collaboration with annexes including concrete actions, to be renewed on a yearly basis. In fact, the Governing board of both organizations is meant to approve the Memorandum in November 2023 with the subsequent public signature to be broadly communicated. Other potential collaboration opportunities identified include the UN Decade

conference taking place in Barcelona and other international events i.e. Nice in 2025. This new working together approach will start with an agreement on the definition of a peri urban protected area.

- Final remarks by ETC-UMA, ENSERES lead beneficiary, highlighted the efforts on **providing evidence at regional scale on environmental issues**, but also at a pan-European scale to **fill existing gaps** in other world regions. The project has proved that there are some data-poor areas, a challenge faced by many other countries, and that there is a need to fill those gaps with evidence at regional level. To find out what is not working in conservation, if policies are working or not, more research is needed to understand the reasons behind it, as in the case of ICZM. The coming agreement between the cities and protected areas networks is a positive outcome, after two years of ENSERES work, that may become a roadmap for testing results on the ground. At site level, the difficulties and the successes will be taken into consideration in the implementation of concrete actions.
- To close the meeting, emphasis was put on the benefits of **reaching out to local organizations** through subgrants while overcoming the administrative burden implied and facilitating the partners' accompanying role to civil society in the implementation of actions on the ground.
- The ENSERES final event concluded thanking Tunisian hosts for their hospitality and all the partners and collaborators involved to prove the ENSERES approach for a more socio-resilient Mediterranean by working together to go further and faster.



THE WAY FORWARD

Participants agreed that **a multidisciplinary approach to coastal protection is needed to reach an effective conservation and management, based on science and coordination and cooperation efforts.**

The Mediterranean networks of cities and marine protected areas have commenced a common path to exchange on collaborative ways to enhance the conservation of urban coastal areas and communities, seeking a mutual understanding and capacity building opportunities for the members of both networks.

Current Interreg NEXT MED calls for proposals will be screened by ENSERES partners and new formal/informal partnerships will be encouraged to give continuity and enough financial and human resources support for the implementation of a multidisciplinary ecosystem-based approach to effective conservation.



LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

Abdallah SINAOUI	GYLO - Global Young Leaders Organization	Tunisia
Abdelhamid HASSAIRI	Association de Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement Sfax	Tunisia
Abderrahmen CHAKCHOUK	Kantara / Discover Kerkennah	Tunisia
Ahlem BELHAJ	Municipality of Tunis	Tunisia
Ahlem BELHIY	Start Mouv	Tunisia
Ahmed GUIDARA	Municipality of Sfax	Tunisia
Alba GUITART	MedCities	Spain
Alejandro LAFARGA	Interreg NEXT MED Programme	Spain
Ali BADREDDINE	Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (TCNR)	Lebanon
Ali BEN ATITALLAH	Interprofessional Group of Fishery Products-GIPP	Tunisia
Amel SININI	BELL association	Tunisia
Amira BEN ABDALA	Start Mouv	Tunisia
Anas GHZAIEL	TunSea	Tunisia
Arnau TEIXIDOR COSTA	IUCN Med / MEET Network	Spain
Asma KHERIJI	SPA/RAC	Tunisia
Awated MESSAI LARBI	Ministry of Environment	Tunisia
Aymen KILANI	APAL	Tunisia
Ben OSMAN FELL	Société Civile	Tunisia
Bilal KASHMAR	Tyre Coast Nature Reserve	Lebanon
Bilel FOURATI	Start Mouv	Tunisia
Chahrazed CHOUBA	Global Young Leaders Organization	Tunisia
Chaima BEN GRIRA	Bleupsol	Tunisia
Christoph SCHRÖDER	Universidad de Malaga	Spain
Dania ABDUL MALAK	ETC-UMA	Spain

Dorra MAAOUI	SPA/RAC	Tunisia
Emna DEROUICHE	SPA/RAC	Tunisia
Fethi BEN MIMOUN	Cross-border cooperation and ENI CBC MED programme focal point – Ministry of Economy and Planning of Tunisia	Tunisia
Fethy ABDELMOULA	ORE	Tunisia
Francesca MARCATO	MedPAN	France
Giulia BALESTRACCI	Ecounion	Spain
Habib DLENSI	ORES	Tunisia
Hatem AYADI	Municipalité de Sfax	Tunisia
Hedi CHEBILI	Ministry of Environment of Tunisia	Tunisia
Hedi FANTAR	SonoVision	Tunisia
Imen TRABELSI	Institut national agronomique de Tunis	Tunisia
Irene MORELL RODRIGUEZ	ENI CBC MED programme	Online
Issa KARAMI	Sfax el Mezyena	Tunisia
Khalil ATTIA	SPA/RAC	Tunisia
Khouloud NEIFAR	Start Mouv	Tunisia
Lassad NEIFAR	University of Sfax	Tunisia
Lobna BOUDAYA	Faculty of Sciences of Sfax	Tunisia
Luca FOSCHI	MEDSEA	Italy
Mahdi MAKHLOUF	Commune de Kerkennah	Tunisia
Marko PREM	PAP/RAC	Croatia
Mejdeddine KRAIEM	ATS Mer	Tunisia
Melek KHALDI	U.E.	Tunisia
Mohamed Ali REBAI	Fishing Port of Sfax (APIP)	Tunisia
Mohamed Ali REBAI	Fisheries Port of Sfax	Tunisia

Mohamed Amine BEN CHOUBBI	OMMP	Tunisia
Mohamed Karim BEN KHOUJA	Sfax Faculty of Science	Tunisia
Mohamed Slim ABBES	ENIS	Tunisia
Mohamed Taha GHORBEL	Association Sfax Outdoor Sports	Tunisia
Mohammad DAHER	Association for Preserving the Environment in Tyre (APET)	Lebanon
Moncef KRIMS	GIPP	Tunisia
Morsi FEKI	APAL	Tunisia
Nabil KAROUI	Port de commerce de Sfax	Tunisia
Nawel BENALI	Kraten association of sustainable development, culture and leisure	Tunisia
Nejla BDIOUI	Direction générale de la pêche et de l'aquaculture Tunisie	Tunisia
Nourhene REBAI	Faculty of Sciences Sfax	Tunisia
Oriol BARBA	Managing Director, MedCities	Spain
Oumaima HARBAOUI	INAT	Tunisia
Piera PALA	MedSea	Italy
Rania REHIHA	Bell Association	Tunisia
Ridha ABBES	ECO AUDIT	Tunisia
Rim HAMZA	Sfax el Mezyena	Tunisia
Saba GUELLOUZ	WWF North Africa	Tunisia
Sabeh AYADI	Municipalité de Sfax	Tunisia
Sahar NZID	Artist	Tunisia
Salma BEN DHAYA	INSTM	Tunisia
Salma MHIRI	Association des femmes pour le développement des îles et du littoral (AFDIL)	Tunisia
Sarra HIHI	Municipality of Sfax / Consultant	Tunisia
Sendra LAZREK	National agronomic institute of Tunis	

Slim MEJRI	Start Mouv	Tunisia
Slim SAIDI	Association Tabarka pour écotourisme et pêche artisanale	Tunisia
Sondes HAMDJ	SonoVision	Tunisia
Sonsoles SAN ROMAN	ETC-UMA	Spain
Souha EL ASMI	ECOVERSE Environmental Consulting	Tunisia
Soumaya AYADI	Association for Community and Environment (ACE)	Lebanon
Walid FEKI	Start Mouv	Tunisia
Wassim CHAABANE	Re-Sweep	Germany
Youssef JUNDI	Association Amwaj	Lebanon
Youssef WALHA	Municipalité de Sfax	Tunisia

Note: In bold participants included in the signature list



MEETING MATERIALS

- a. [Agenda ENSERES 19 October 2023](#)
- b. [ENSERES event presentations](#)
- c. [ENSERES final event - speakers booklet](#)
- d. [ENSERES subgrantees – poster cards](#)
- e. **Visuals and photo gallery**
 - [Photo Gallery](#): 18 and 19 October 2023
 - YouTube Video: [Full event](#) 19 October 2023
- f. **ENSERES Project Social media**

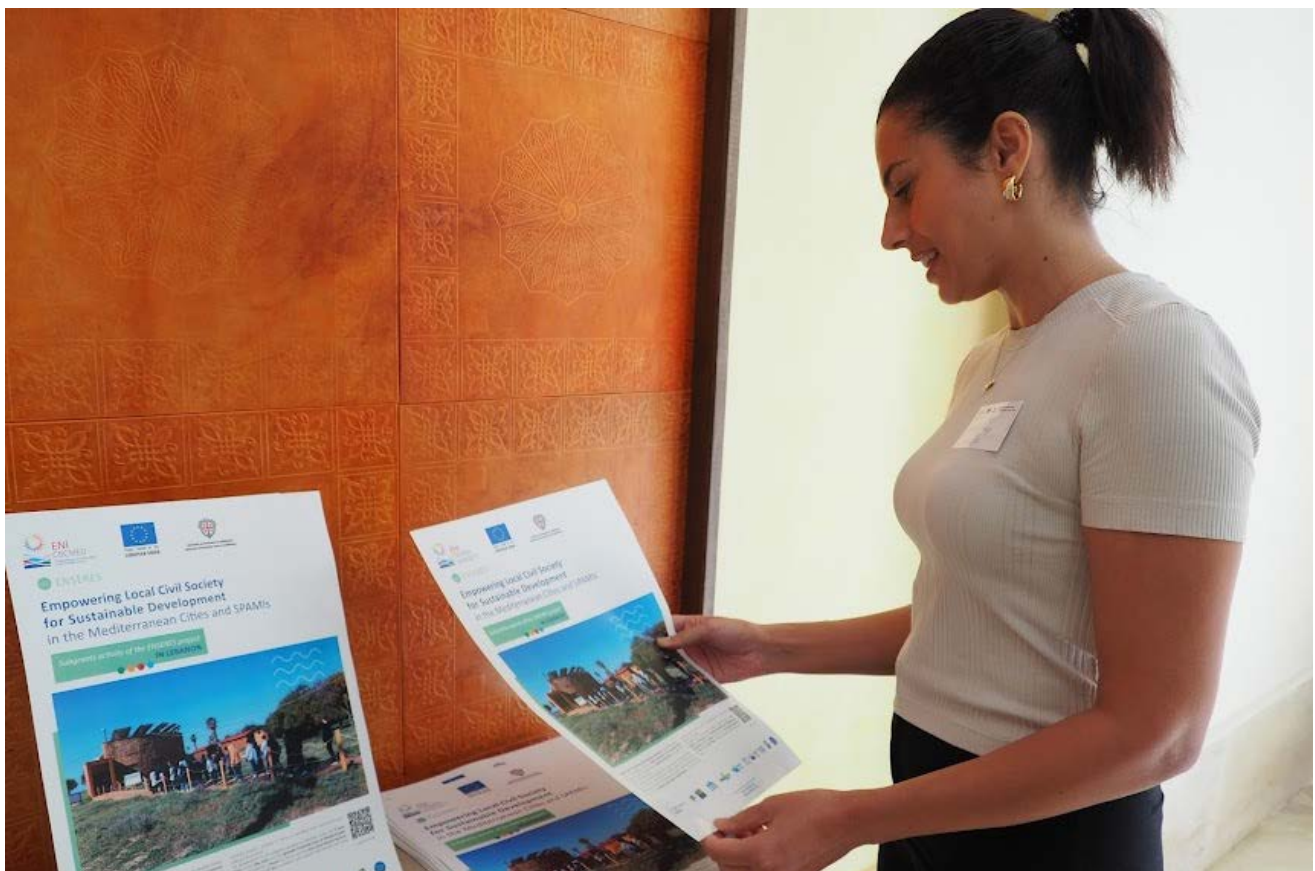
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 enseres@uma.es  <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/enseres>

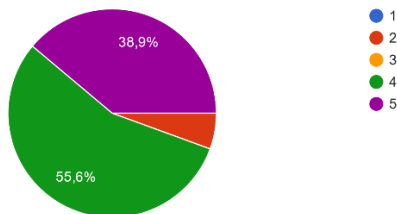


SATISFACTION SURVEY

MEETING CONTENTS / CONTENU - VERY BAD / TRÈS MAUVAIS (1) to VERY GOOD / EXCELLENT

(5)

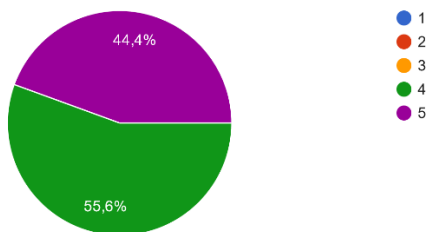
18 respuestas



Maybe use a combination of panels and classic PPT so to dynamise a bit the event. Although the panels were very interesting, however some topics of less importance could be presented with PPT - I don't have comments on the contents, as they tried to reflect the contents and achievements of the project - I missed a hands-on demonstration session - we want more video and photo in the presentations.

SPEAKERS / ORATEUR(E)S - VERY BAD / TRÈS MAUVAIS (1) to VERY GOOD / EXCELLENT (5)

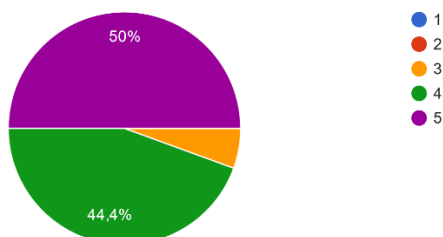
18 respuestas



Some less important topics could have less attention - More dialogue between the institutional speakers and the ones involved in the project activities' implementation - some improvements would include focus the questions to speakers so to extract few tangible replies linked to main project achievements - The speakers' list was quite balanced. I especially liked the attendance of subgrantees - pour les choses à développer est d'avoir plus un retour l'expérience, les défis, l'avancement du projet pour nous s'inspirer plus, à éviter la prochaine fois qui est la durée de se déplacer du monde entier pour à peine (un jour de travail?).

FORMAT - VERY BAD / TRÈS MAUVAIS (1) to VERY GOOD / EXCELLENT (5)

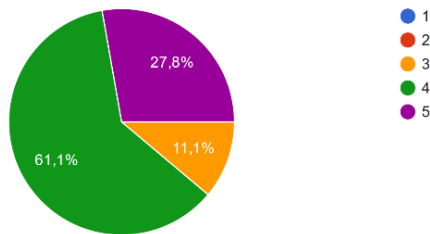
18 respuestas



Having these roundtables and avoiding to have PowerPoint presentations (only talks and videos) proved to be a very good idea - idem, I missed some more interactivenss in demonstrating tangible tools / practices implemented in the case studies of ENSERES - Il faudra développer des sessions de networking et mettre à disposition des fonds pour des mini -actions de networking pour assurer la durabilité du projet.

METHODOLOGY / MÉTHODOLOGIE - VERY BAD / TRÈS MAUVAIS (1) to VERY GOOD / EXCELLENT (5)

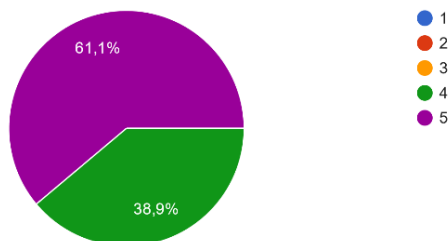
18 respuestas



I would have liked to see more participants from outside the project, but I can understand budget/logistical constraints - I would have liked to see more involvement from all project partners besides the project leader, but I can fully understand the time/workload constraints, especially at the end of the project(s)/year - The only thing I missed in the event was more audience from outside the project network: citizens or people who is just interested on the topic, although I know it's difficult to make these people come to the event - La méthode manque de présentations, en plus y avait des personnes qui ont parlé trop longtemps sans rien dire, il aurait fallu avoir plus de visuels.

ORGANIZATION - VERY BAD / TRÈS MAUVAIS (1) to VERY GOOD / EXCELLENT (5)

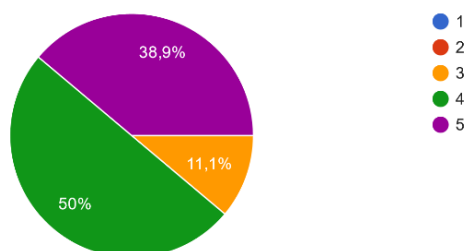
18 respuestas



Was perfect. - I regretted that many people didn't stay for the afternoon session. Perhaps next time other types of schedules could be tested (even if all formats would have pros and cons), e.g. the 2 days could have been an afternoon session on day 1 + the gala dinner + a morning session on day 2. This would allow people to travel on day 1 in the morning and day 2 in the afternoon (domestic flights and short-/direct flights). In anyway, high-level officials who come only for openings will continue to do so. - Organization was great - Je dirais que c'est bon, juste le temps du forum est très limité

VENUE and CATERING / LIEU et CATERING - VERY BAD / TRÈS MAUVAIS (1) to VERY GOOD / EXCELLENT (5)

18 respuestas



Everything was fine.- Nice that there was not much single use plastic.- Ideally a venue closer to the city, more accessible to people - Le restaurant du centre ville n'était pas au niveau attendue, il aurait fallu aller dans un restaurant dédié qui n'appartient pas à un hôtel, ça aurait été mieux.

REFERENCES

- [ENSERES capitalization and mainstreaming strategy](#)
- [ENSERES factsheet: Effective conservation of coastal habitats across the Mediterranean: A stakeholder approach](#)
- [ENSERES toolkit](#)
- [MedUrbanTools](#)
- [ENSERES Project website](#)
- [ENSERES brochure](#)





Urban Seascapes: Celebrating sustainable coastal communities – ENSERES final event report

Prepared by ETC-UMA supported by speakers' reviews.

Photos by Smart.Mouv and participants

Available from: <https://www.enicbmed.eu/projects/enseres> and <https://www.etc.uma.es/>