

Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Sustainable Infrastructure, Sustainable Tourism, Education for Sustainable Development
5-7 October 2022, Nicosia, Cyprus

MCESD - Mediterranean Committee on Education for Sustainable Development



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High Level Event of Education and Environment Ministers on the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and its Action Plan towards 2030

6 October 2022, 15.30-19.15 pm, Keryneia Room, Filoxenia Centre

Concept Note and Agenda

Background

Despite the Mediterranean ecoregion being an active north-south, east-west interface facing serious environmental, socio-economic crises, since the mid-2000s, the Ministries of Education and Environment work jointly in close collaboration with stakeholders in the framework of the [Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development \(MSESD\)](#). The inclusive bottom up/top down approach taken in developing and implementing the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD, [approved](#) by the Ministers of Environment and Climate Change of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2014, and its [Action Plan](#) (endorsed by the Mediterranean Ministers of Education in 2016) have been acknowledged within the region, as a [flagship initiative](#) of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, but also at global level, as a [flagship project](#) of the Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP) of UNESCO (2015-2019).

Taking into account:

the adoption of the [2030 Greener Med Agenda of the Union for the Mediterranean \(2021\)](#);

the launching of the [UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-30\)](#) having Ocean Literacy among its key elements;

the World Conference on ESD by UNESCO (Berlin, 17-19 May 2021) & its [Berlin Declaration on #ESDfor2030](#) and [the Roadmap of ESDfor2030](#)

the adoption by the Council of the EU of the [Recommendation on learning for environmental sustainability \(2022\)](#);

the (expected) adoption of the [Framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2030](#);

and,

in view of the significant challenges, changes and reflections on the educational conditions and systems affected by rapid socio-cultural, political and economic alterations, stimulated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the instability, wars and conflicts and the economic crises, all of which are also connected to crisis of values, it is widely recognized that

ESD remains a safe and powerful instrument: (a) to facilitate the achievement of all SDGs, and (b) to keep humanity united for the big transformation needed. ESD could be critical for enacting changes both of individual choices and lifestyles as well as in collective action for creative re-organization of societal structures and educational institutions towards sustainability.

This High-Level event aims to update, adjust and expand the Mediterranean ESD Action Plan to the horizon of 2030 to better serve the achievement of the SDGs in each one of the countries of this unique region and for the region as a whole.

The event comes following a series of actions that have been undertaken by the Mediterranean Committee on ESD (MCESD)¹ and its Secretariat to collect the necessary evidence and feedback for updating the Action Plan, and namely:

- The results of the [First \(2017\)](#) and the [Second Meeting](#) of the MCESD (2019) monitoring the progress of the AP/MSESD and their accompanied Regional ESD Workshops;
- The outcomes of the [Mediterranean Preparatory Webinar on ESDfor2030](#) & its Statement (April 2021);
- The online surveys addressing competent stakeholders in the context of the EU funded WES ESD Trainings of Trainers ([2021](#), [2022](#));
- The outcomes of the Webinar entitled “[Distilling priorities & updating the ESD Action Plan for 2030 in the Mediterranean](#)” (14 June 2021);
- The outcomes of the round table discussion “[Rebalancing people, planet and prosperity: ESD as key enabler for the 17 SDGs and Agenda 2030](#)” in the framework of the [UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (7 April 2022)
- A series of targeted communication and exchange with stakeholders by the Secretariat of the Committee.

¹ The Mediterranean Committee on ESD (MCESD) was formed in the Nicosia Ministerial Conference on ESD (2016). It is open to all Mediterranean countries and includes representatives of all relevant major Intergovernmental Organizations. The work of the MCESD is guided by a Bureau to support and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development at regional level. Its current members are: The Ministries of Education of: Cyprus (Chair), Croatia, Greece, Malta, Portugal, the Ministry of Environment of Jordan, and, the international organizations: UNESCO, UNEP/MAP, UNECE, UfM and LAS. The Technical Secretariat is provided by the MEDIES of MIO-ECSDE and the Scientific Secretariat is offered by the UNESCO Chair & Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens). During the High-Level Event countries may state their willingness to join the Bureau.

Objectives

The High-Level Event of Education and Environment Ministers in the Mediterranean aims to provide the opportunity, for an open and interactive discussion amongst High-level Officials of Mediterranean countries and stakeholders regarding the future of ESD in the region. This high-level event aims to operate as a platform of communication, sharing and highlight good practices (past and in the pipeline) on ESD; to harvest insights, and agree on the updated MSES Action Plan towards 2030; to motivate the countries as well as the organisations and stakeholders in undertaking concrete transformative ESD action based on the Action Plan towards 2030 of the MSES, to strengthen bilateral and multilateral collaborations and mobilize the processes and resources for effective joint actions among the Mediterranean Countries.

Participants

- Ministers of Education, Ministers of Environment & High-Level Officials
- International/Regional Organizations
- CSOs/NGOs
- Academia

Provisional Agenda

15.30 - 15.40 Official opening by HE the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth of Cyprus and Chairman of the MCESD, Mr. Prodromos Prodromou

15.40 – 15.50 Welcome messages by the MCESD representatives:

Ms. Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores, Director, Liaison Office in Geneva

Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator

Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Secretary to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, UNECE

Dr. Farraj Alajami, Minister Plenipotentiary/Director of Education and Scientific Research Department, League of Arab States (LAS)

Mr. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

15.50 – 16.05 Report of activities (2019-2022) by Dr. Aravella Zachariou and Prof. Michael Scoullos

16.05 – 17.45 Tour de table (i) Ministers of countries followed by high level officials (ii) IGOs (iii) NGOs. Short interventions/reflections on activities related to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD and its Action Plan (3-5 minutes).

17.45 – 18.00 Presentation of the updated Action Plan of the MSES towards 2030, Prof. Michael Scoullos

18.00 – 18.30 Discussion followed by **the adoption of the updated Action Plan of MSES towards 2030**

18.30 – 19.00 Key Regional Initiatives for the implementation of the updated Action Plan

(a) The HYDRIA virtual museum: a powerful educational tool, Iro Alampeï, MIO/MEDIES

(b) Ocean Literacy, Mr Jonathan Baker, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

(c) Mediterranean food & sustainability, Mr Ziyad Alawneh, LHAP

(d) Climate Change Education, Dr Emad Adly, RAED

(e) The Sustainability Charter of the Greek Universities as a good practice to inspire similar action at regional level, Prof Andreas Floros, Rector of Ionio University, Hellenic Universities Rectors' Synod

19.00 – 19.05 Expression of interest of countries to participate in the MCESD Bureau

19.05 – 19.15 Proposals for a next meeting in 2024 & closing remarks

Background documents

Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) 2014 ([link](#))

Action Plan of the MSESD, 2016 ([link](#))

ESDfor2030: A roadmap, 2020 ([link](#))

Mediterranean ESD Statement, by the Mediterranean Committee on ESD, (conveyed to the World Conference on ESD, May 2021) 2021 ([link](#))

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) Implementation Plan Summary, IOC/UNESCO 2021 ([link](#))

Framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD: 2021 to 2030, 2021 ([link](#))

Draft revised MSESD Action Plan 2030, English ([link](#)), French ([link](#))