



**Water and
Environment Support**
in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

MSSD Flagship Initiative: Environmental Governance - Encourage the Accession to and Implementation of the Aarhus Convention

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The Aarhus Convention

Globalisation, proliferation of electronic media and increasing complexity of challenges, many of which (see COVID-19 pandemic) cannot be addressed by governments alone, have changed radically the role and mode of governance at all levels, from global to regional, national and local.

Good, effective governance is necessary to address new and accumulated challenges. This requires trust of Societies in leadership. Trust is obtained via understanding through education and truthful provision of information, evidence based decisions, transparency and accountability all of which form the backbone of the Aarhus Convention.

Accession to the “Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters” (Aarhus Convention) is encouraged as a flagship initiative because it provides a solid and comprehensive overall framework for governance to engage the public effectively.

The Aarhus Convention

Accession to the Aarhus Convention of as many as possible Mediterranean countries will not only significantly improve the quality and efficiency of

- Environmental Governance in the region
- but will also contribute to the achievement of practically all SDGs:



ending poverty (Goal 1);



health protection (Goal 3);



water and sanitation management (Goal 6);



clean energy (Goal 7); green economy (Goals 8, 9 and 12);



the reduction of inequalities (Goal 10);



sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12);



climate action (Goal 13);



tourism (Goals 8, 12, 14 and 15) and urban planning (Goals 11 and 13).



promoting effective, accountable and transparent institutions; effective access to information; (Goal 16)

MSSD Flagship Initiative 6.2.3

MSSD Flagship Initiative 6.2.3	Owners	Time frame	Indicators
Encourage the accession to and implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.	International institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society	2016-2020	No of countries adopting the AC

Target: by 2025 two-thirds of Mediterranean countries have acceded

Current status: 12 out of the 22 Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention are already parties to the Aarhus Convention, i.e. 54,5%

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Further strengthen efficient/good governance and promote a green, circular and, to the extent possible, carbon neutral economy, based on sound scientific evidence-based decision making, by prioritizing integrated environmental planning and management (land-sea-air), **participatory processes, including accession to the Aarhus Convention and by introducing and improving relevant legal/institutional frameworks and market incentives.**

*The Rabat Declaration
14th COMPSUD Meeting “Launching a new Decade of
Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean”, Dec. 2019*

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More than 180 Mediterranean stakeholders from high-level Moroccan officials, representatives of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UNEP/MAP, the League of Arab States (LAS), Parliamentarians, Journalists, Scientists and and NGOs met at the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, on the 17th of December 2019.



Preparation: 2020

Implementation: 2021

The Water and Environment Support project in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region aims at protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean.

www.wes-med.eu



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MIO-ECSDE is a consortium member of WES and with the support of COMPSUD, the UNECE-Aarhus Convention Secretariat and MEPIELAN will organise a regional training in 2021.

Target group: MPs, officials of Ministries of Environment and Water, governmental departments dealing with International Conventions, NGOs

Method: sharing of experiences between peers from countries that are already members of the Aarhus Convention with those that are not.

Thank you!



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Our Social media

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