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



**Peer to Peer exchange on  
Phasing out Single Use Plastic items  
(RE-1-P2P)**

# **Concept Note**

**Date: July 2020**

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## ACRONYMS

CN	Concept Note
EU	European Union
ENI	European Neighborhood Instrument
FPs	Focal Points
MIO-ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
NKE	Non-Key Expert
PCs	Partner Countries
P2P	Peer-to-Peer
SCP/RAC	Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Center
SUP	Single Use Plastic items
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Program/Mediterranean Action Plan
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
WES	Water and Environment Support

## 1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

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The "Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Neighbourhood South Region" project is a regional technical support project funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI South). WES aims to protect the natural resources in the Mediterranean context and to improve the management of scarce water resources in the region. WES mainly aims to solve the problems linked to pollution prevention and the rational use of water.

WES builds on previous similar regional projects funded by the European Union (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP, SWIM I and II, SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM), strives to create a supportive environment and increase the capacity of all stakeholders in the partner countries (PCs). The WES Partner Countries are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. However, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of EU funding or to promote regional cooperation, the eligibility of specific actions can be extended to neighbouring countries in the Southern Neighbourhood region.

As part of the WES project workplan related to the Regional Activities on Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter, a Peer-to-Peer (P2P) exchange will be supported, combined with a three-day regional training, tentatively planned to take place in Barcelona in late 2020 (dates and modality of delivery of the regional training will be reconsidered due to the restrictions and limitations related to the COVID-19 virus). This concept note presents the proposed elements for the facilitation of a Peer-to-Peer process for experience sharing and knowledge transfer on Single Use Plastics (SUP) reduction in the WES partner countries.

The **overall aim** of this activity is to provide technical assistance and strengthen the capacities of appointed Peers from the WES Partner Countries to elaborate and implement effective measures to reduce consumption and leakage of Single Use Plastics (SUP) into the environment. In fact, a growing number of countries are implementing or considering the adoption of measures to tackle SUP. At regional level, the EU, UfM and Barcelona Convention frameworks are making efforts to encourage and support countries in doing this.

The specific **objectives** of the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) activity, which involves direct exchange of experience between and among Peers from relevant institutions in the beneficiary countries and beyond, are:

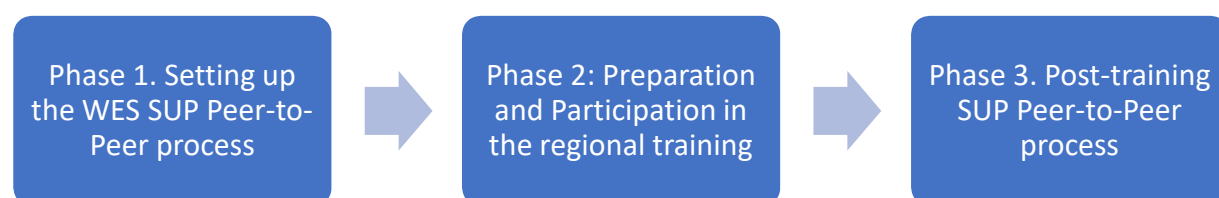
- Sharing knowledge among Peers on challenges related to SUP
- Sharing expertise on solutions to manage and reduce SUP
- Boosting south-to-south (and north-to-south) cooperation
- Building lasting relations and exchanges

Specifically under UNEP/MAP, **Regional Guidelines on SUP** are currently being developed and the P2P process will be directly linked to this process in a mutually beneficial way. It will channel the inputs of the Peers into the development of the UNEP/MAP "Regional SUP Guidelines". This active engagement of the Peers is expected to enhance the appropriation of the Guidelines, and in the medium term, will enable the implementation of the policy measures in the Partner Countries. The UNEP/MAP Regional SUP

Guidelines are expected to be adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their next Meeting in 2021.

## 2. P2P PHASES

The activity is composed of **three phases** where the Peers interact, share and receive training and expert advice at different stages. Phase 1 is conceived to set the foundation, define the content and type of interactions to be developed in the phases that will follow. Phase 2 is linked with the participation of the Peers in the regional training and Phase 3 is a follow-up post-training period. The order of phases 2 and 3 can be reversed<sup>1</sup>. During these phases, Peers will receive coaching and expert advice on the SUP topic. They will also have the opportunity to interact, learn from each other, share experiences, and build a regional peer support network in relation to SUP.



WES consortium members SCP/RAC and MIO-ECSDE will be supporting the P2P exchange with the additional support of the Key Experts of the WES project Prof. Michael Scoullas (Team Leader), Mr. Anis Ismail (Environment Key Expert) and Ms Pam Van de Bunt (Communication and Networking expert).

The following four Non-Key Experts (NKE) will coordinate, facilitate, support and guide this P2P activity.

NKE1	Technical Coordinator – Senior Expert in Plastic Pollution Prevention Measures	Mr. Pedro Fernández
NKE2	Senior Policy Expert in Plastic Pollution Prevention Measures	Mr. Chris Sherrington
NKE3	Senior Expert in Transformative System Innovation Learning Design	Ms Mónica Sánchez de Ocaña
NKE4	Senior Expert on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean	Ms Thomais Vlachogianni

The P2P will be coordinated and coached by NKE1 Mr. Pedro Fernandez (SCP/RAC).

<sup>1</sup> Due to the current uncertainties with COVID-19 in the region, the WES Team will consider the potential restructuring of the regional training around interactive remote learning modules with as similar learning impact as possible.

### 3. THE PEERS

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The **profile** of the participating Peers can be outlined as follows (with variations):

- Position: official from the Ministry in charge of Environment (or from an Agency under the supervision of the Ministry) working in the department related to waste management, circular economy, international cooperation.
- Previous experience in some of these areas:
  - Contribution to the elaboration of national regulations on environment/waste/circular economy.
  - Contribution to plans on waste management, including prevention measures and impact assessments.
  - Contribution to awareness campaigns in relation to waste and/or sustainable consumption and production.
  - Collaboration with private entities, including plastics industry, retail sector, environmental civil society organisations, consumers' associations, etc.
- Academic background: Science, Law, Engineering, Geography, Sociology, Business or equivalent.
- Previous engagement in other regional projects and activities<sup>2</sup> would be an advantage.
- Language: good command of English.
- Computer skills: capable to use online tools, including virtual meetings software.

WES encourages the participation of women and youth in all of its activities as appropriate, while more than 1 Peer per country can participate.

The expected **role** of the Peers is to:

- Provide information about their countries in relation to SUP, including case studies.
- Specify if there is particular interest on specific SUP items and policy measures to address them.
- Participate in the planned P2P virtual meetings (approximately one every two months).
- Exchange with other Peers and the Coach.
- Interact and channel inputs from other key policy makers and stakeholders across the plastics value chain in their country, from industry to consumers and civil society organizations.
- Contribute to the preparation and actively engage in the Regional Training, including through the presentation of particular experiences of his/her country.
- Provide feedback to the draft UNEP/MAP "Regional Guidelines on SUP" and other related documents/processes that may arise during the P2P implementation.

Dedication to the role is expected to amount to approximately 1-2 hours per fortnight throughout the duration of the P2P exchange as well as full participation in the regional training.

Peers must have access to reliable internet via a personal computer or other equivalent device.

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<sup>2</sup> Such as: Marine litter Med II, BlueMed Initiative, UfM labelled projects Interreg Med Green Growth Community and Plastic Busters MPAs, the CBC-Med COMMON project.

## 4. P2P IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY

The P2P process will be facilitated by virtual meetings and continuous e-mail communication among and between the NKEs and the Peers. The remote networking will be coordinated by the Coach (and his support team).

### PHASE 1: SETTING UP THE WES SUP PEER-TO-PEER PROCESS

Once appointed, the Peers will be linked through remote networking. They will be invited to complete a **short survey** to capture needs and expectations. It will have no more than 15-20 questions. It will address the following aspects:

- *Expectations* of the Peers from the P2P exchange
- Any *challenges or limitations* they may face as Peers of this P2P
- Confirmation of the *level of dedication*
- *Feedback* on planned P2P activities
- Assess their *level of understanding* of SUP issues

Based on the above, a **preliminary Agenda** of the Peer-to-Peer process will be developed by the Coach to be presented to the Peers for confirmation/adaptation (perhaps also an updated Concept Note of the P2P process).

A **1st virtual meeting of the P2P exchange** (webinar) will be organised to introduce all the participants (Peers, Experts, etc.), consolidate the workplan, roles and expectations. Follow up meetings with the Peers will be scheduled periodically (every two months but also *ad hoc*).

### PHASE 2: PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL TRAINING

The main purpose of the 3-day WES regional training on ‘Phasing out Single Use Plastic items’ is to strengthen the trainees’ capacity to elaborate and implement effective measures to reduce consumption and leakage of Single Use Plastics (SUP) into the environment, in line with the EU, Barcelona Convention and UfM frameworks. Although this regional training is planned to take place in Barcelona, tentatively in late 2020, it is most likely to take place virtually, over a period of a few weeks (during the same period) due to the global pandemic.

Early in Phase 2, the Peers will be consulted on the proposed agenda for the regional training. The Peers will also be asked to propose relevant case studies and/or lessons learned from their countries to be presented during the regional training.

If the timing coincides, the draft “Baseline situation study on SUP in the Mediterranean” currently underway by UNEP/MAP for the development of the UNEP/MAP “Regional Guidelines on SUP”, may be shared with Peers for their feedback.

During the regional training a dedicated session or side meeting of the Peers will take place to (a) assess the outputs of the regional training and the progress so far of the P2P, and (b) plan in more detail the next steps (Phase 3: Post-training SUP Peer-to-Peer process).

## PHASE 3: POST-TRAINING SUP PEER-TO-PEER PROCESS

Continuation of the P2P exchange process over a period of at least 3-4 months will follow after the regional training for (a) fine-tuning the draft UNEP/MAP “Regional Guidelines on SUP”, and (b) on-going provision of technical support to the Peers on SUPs related aspects. More specifically, the Peers will be invited to remotely review and provide comments to the UNEP/MAP “Regional Guidelines on SUP”. The P2P process will assist in identifying the most appropriate interventions to be included in the Guidelines. In parallel, the Peers will be directly supported by the experts with technical assistance (access to data, knowledge hubs, resource persons, bibliography) on a needs-basis.

At the end of Phase 3, the Coach will prepare and share with the Peers a Final Report on the P2P process. Peers will be invited to evaluate the P2P process and the results will be included in the final P2P report.

## 5. EXPECTED RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES

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The expected results of this Peer-to-Peer exchange will be:

- increased capacity and skills of the Peers to understand the challenges related to SUP and to initiate and implement measures to tackle SUP in their countries.
- enhanced networking of experts/Peers
- enhanced appropriation of the UNEP/MAP “Regional SUP Guidelines” (parallel process to the WES P2P activity) when eventually completed and approved by COP22.

The expected deliverables will be:

- a launching meeting in the form of a webinar (agenda, ppts, background materials, etc.) and follow-up on-line meetings
- information shared by the Peers and the Coach
- a report on the P2P activity, recapitulating the processes that took place throughout, the main learning achievements, the knowledge products shared, etc. The report will also include the results of an assessment exercise by the Peers themselves. Indicatively, the Report will contain the following sections:
  - Background and Objectives
  - Methodology followed
  - Activities and Outcomes
  - Evaluation results
  - Conclusions and Recommendations
  - Annexes

The coach, NKE1, will whenever possible keep brief accounts of conversations with or among the Peers (calls or e-meetings/conferences). Furthermore, he will:

- Conduct the analysis of the expectations and needs of the Peers.
- Encourage and facilitate the exchange between Peers, based on common interests.
- Present specific information and case studies responding to requests from the Peers.
- Ensure the inputs of the Peers are reflected in the UNEP/MAP “Regional SUP Guidelines”.



## 6. TENTATIVE P2P SCHEDULE

The implementation schedule is presented below. The total duration is 9-10 months.

P2P Phase	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9
Appointment of Peers by the WES Environment Focal Points		M		M		M		M	
Setting up the WES SUP Peer-to-Peer process with the Peers									
Preparation and Participation in the regional training									
Post-training SUP Peer-to-Peer process									R

**M:** meeting,    **R:** Report