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



# INFO BULLETIN BEST PRACTICES IN ACHIEVING WASTE REDUCTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



LDK Consultants Global EEIG



## Overview

As part of the **Water and Environment Support (WES) project**, a regional activity took place throughout 2021 resulting in the identification of 20 Mediterranean **best practices focusing on municipal waste management**. These best practices cover various aspects of **circular economy**, including **prevention, re-use, and recycling** addressing different aspects (the involvement of citizens for waste reduction and source separation, collection systems, the relation with human health, and instruments: awareness raising, economic instruments, new legal requirements, incentives).

The cases are a mix of practices mostly from the eight WES partner countries with a few from EU Mediterranean countries, selected also based on their transferability within the region.

This bulletin aims to inform stakeholders about how WES co-designed and delivered this activity with other regional bodies such as the Union for the Mediterranean and UNEP/MAP and where to access the fact sheets on each of the good practices in English and French.

## Objectives

The objectives of this regional activity were to:



Conduct a **regional assessment**, through a stakeholder consultation, of high- and low-tech solutions that have been successfully implemented to achieve waste reduction, promote the principles of circular economy, and disseminate key best practices to improve the implementation of the 3Rs (reduction, recycling and reuse) for municipal waste in eight partner countries of the southern Mediterranean: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.



Develop a **web-based tool** to showcase the practices identified for waste reduction and circular economy and facilitate dissemination.

## Methodology and Implementation

A stakeholder consultation was organised to identify **key priorities of the partner countries**, namely:

Key fractions: biowaste, packaging waste, and plastic waste;

Key sectors: household waste and tourism and the hospitality sector;

Key topics: collection and source separation for recycling, awareness raising, inclusion of the informal sector; waste reduction and prevention of littering; capacity building of local authorities; economic instruments to finance waste management; regulation targeting single-use plastic.

**This consultation was conducted through an online survey (in English and French)** sent to key organisations within the WES partner countries, and complemented with **interviews** with WES Country Focal points, EU Delegations to the WES partner countries, and other stakeholders). The surveys and interviews were conducted to get a good overview on the key priorities, challenges, and needs of the different stakeholders in the eight countries; to collect information on existing good practices and frontrunners; and to ensure that the selection met a wide consensus.



Valuable information was provided by representatives of ministries, government agencies, EU Delegations, research institutes, international organisations, other national and local authorities, the private sector, and NGOs resulting with the following fractions being targeted: Paper and packaging waste, plastic waste including plastic packaging such as PET bottles and plastic bags; biowaste and residual waste in sectors such as households, tourism, retailers, and catering.

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The following criteria guided the WES experts and regional partners in their final selection of 20 out of 59 identified case studies:

Quality of information available; Effectiveness of the practice (in terms of actual results); Innovative character; Potential for replication and upscaling.

Although some practices proved to face quite significant challenges, and in many cases the achieved results were limited, when considering the context in which they were developed (lack of proper regulation, unfavourable economic settings, etc.), they have all improved the waste management situation and offer valuable lessons learned.

**These 20 Best Practices are mainly focused on waste collection and/or recycling, on awareness raising and communication activities, on waste reduction, re-use, and on Extended Producer responsibility (EPR) schemes.**

**WES then developed, with the support of the UfM, an on-line ‘repository’ of these 20 selected practices <https://bestpractices-waste-med.net/> to promote circular economy and waste reduction across the municipal waste management chain in the Mediterranean.**

Individual factsheets are available on-line and downloadable in pdf format with filters that can be used for users to quickly identify practices relevant to their needs and interests.

The repository offers the opportunity for new practices to be added via an “add a good practice” form, while all partners remain committed to its continual enrichment.

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## The selected 20 Best Practices

Title	Country	Key tags
The inclusion of the informal sector in the Oum Azza Landfill: The Attawafouk cooperative	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
Single-use plastic ban by the Red Sea Governorate	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Prevention</b>
Implementing source separation and recycling in Lebanese municipalities with the support of the NGO “Arcenciel”	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Re-use, Recycling</b>
“Clean Beaches” programme and Blue Flag label for well-managed beaches to prevent littering	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>No-littering, Recycling</b>
Eco-Lef: a national system for the recovery and recycling of post-consumer packaging that focuses on plastic waste	<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>Collection, Recycling</b>
Prevention of plastic bags: a ban on single-use plastic bags, and the Zero Mika Initiative in Morocco	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>Prevention, No-littering</b>
Landfill and incineration tax with a refund criterion to boost source separation of biowaste	<b>Spain</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
Fee modulation in the French Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for WEEE to promote re-use and recycling	<b>France</b>	<b>Re-use, Recycling</b>
A local NGO implementing an integrated waste management system in the cities of Hurghada and Marsa Alam, Egypt	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
Single-use plastics – Not in my Sea!	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Prevention</b>
La Brocante, a re-use centre for furniture and household items in Damour, Lebanon	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Re-use, Recycling</b>
Community composting to manage 100% of biowaste in a rural area of Spain	<b>Spain</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
Live, love, recycle initiative: an on-demand collection scheme	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
Climate and resource protection through circular economy in Jordan	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
Ekogeste, a digital collection service connecting waste producers with waste collectors	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>Collection, Recycling</b>
Sorting and recycling system in Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
Improvement of waste collection and treatment in Mascara, Mostaganem, and Sidi Bel Abbes, Algeria	<b>Algeria</b>	<b>Collection</b>
Green Chip, apprenticeship training program and e-waste management	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>Re-use</b>
Tunisie Recyclage, a selective collection service developed by a local NGO	<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>Collection</b>
Verynile initiative – Preventing marine litter and littering	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>No-littering, Prevention</b>



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## A visual snapshot of <https://bestpractices-waste-med.net>



This web site or 'repository' aims to promote waste reduction and circular economy across the waste management chain in the Mediterranean region. The cases included were selected out of many from different countries of the region via a stakeholder consultation to identify best practices. They are of varying scale and type from which a lot can be learned and that could inspire more actors to substantially reduce waste generation by 2030 through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

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prevention	re-use	recycling	collection	no littering	other
<p><b>The inclusion of the informal sector in the Oum Azza Landfill: the Attawafouk cooperative</b></p> <p>recycling</p>	<p><b>Single-use plastic ban by the Red Sea Governorate</b></p> <p>prevention</p>	<p><b>Implementing source separation and recycling in Lebanese municipalities with the support of the NGO "Arc-en-Ciel"</b></p> <p>re-use recycling</p>	<p><b>"Clean Beaches" programme and Blue Flag label for well-managed beaches to prevent littering</b></p> <p>no littering recycling</p>		
<p><b>Eco-Lef: a national system for the recovery and recycling of post-consumer packaging that focuses on plastic waste</b></p> <p>collection recycling</p>	<p><b>Prevention of plastic bags: a ban on single-use plastic bags, and the Zero Mika Initiative in Morocco</b></p> <p>prevention no littering</p>	<p><b>Landfill and incineration tax with a refund criterion to boost source separation of biowaste</b></p> <p>recycling</p>	<p><b>Fee modulation in the French Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for WEEE to promote re-use and recycling</b></p> <p>re-use recycling</p>		
<p><b>A local NGO implementing an integrated waste management system in the cities of Hurghada and Marsa Alam, Egypt</b></p> <p>recycling</p>	<p><b>Single-use plastics – Not in my Sea!</b></p> <p>prevention</p>	<p><b>La Brocante, a re-use centre for furniture and household items in Damour, Lebanon</b></p> <p>re-use recycling</p>	<p><b>Community composting to manage 100% of biowaste in a rural area of Spain</b></p> <p>recycling</p>		



## How the repository came to being

These best practices and the website contribute to the UfM's 2030GreenerMed Agenda and very specifically to the launching of a Flagship Initiative of UNEP/MAP's Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025). The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development of UNEP/MAP supports and monitors the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025.

WES (through consortium member MIO-ECSDE), UNEP/MAP, UfM and the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) launched this collective effort to set the MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiative 3.4.5 into motion.

WES consortium members ACR+ and LDK Consultants have also contributed in the development of the content, while the UfM has contributed by directly contracting ENT environment & management for the website design and development.

## Useful Links

For further background reading and useful documents, please refer to these links:

[https://www.wes-med.eu/activities\\_type/re-7-reg-regional-activity-on-best-practices-in-promoting-circular-economy-and-achieving-waste-reduction-in-the-mediterranean/](https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/re-7-reg-regional-activity-on-best-practices-in-promoting-circular-economy-and-achieving-waste-reduction-in-the-mediterranean/)

Promo Video on Waste Reduction Best Practices Website

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2q5YN4wYa1I>

## WES Project

The Water and Environment Support (WES) is a regional project designed to contribute to the implementation of an integrated approach to pollution reduction and prevention, in line with the Union for the Mediterranean agendas and the Barcelona Convention. WES is also meant to contribute to a more efficient management of scarce water resources in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region.

The project aims to do so by increasing the capacity of stakeholders that are involved in pollution reduction and water management and support them in formulating and implementing the environmental and water policies.

WES supports the shift to a more sustainable consumption and production model, promotes an integrated and efficient management of water, combats plastic pollution and marine litter and fosters dialogue on key environmental and sustainable development issues. In this way, WES also supports mutual understanding, cooperation and peace in the region.

The WES Project Countries are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. However, to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of EU funding or to promote regional cooperation, the eligibility of specific actions can be extended to neighboring countries in the Southern Neighbourhood region.

For further information on WES project, please visit: [www.wes-med.eu](http://www.wes-med.eu)

And follow us for all the latest updates via: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablemediterranean): @sustainablemediterranean

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/WesMed19): @WesMed19

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWesMed): @Wes med

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