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by the European Union



**UNECE**

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



**Regional activity on  
the Promotion of the Aarhus Convention in the whole of  
the Mediterranean**

*(Activity No: HE-4-REG / HE-4-P2P)*

**Regional Training  
Athens, Greece  
14-15 November 2023**

*(with live streaming)*

**Agenda**  
**(Final)**



## General Background

The "Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Neighborhood South Region" project is promoting Environmental Governance in the region by implementing the relevant Flagship Initiative of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) that encourages the accession to and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean countries and promotes stakeholder engagement. In doing so, WES has joined forces with the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat, the Secretariat of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), the Energy, Environment and Water Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) and the MEPIELAN Centre.

Through a WES Peer-to-Peer process that started in March 2023 and a regional training that will take place in Athens, Greece, this regional WES activity will provide technical assistance and networking opportunities and will strengthen the capacities of the WES Partner Countries to be familiarised, able to effectively prepare, and eventually (if they so wish) put in motion the mechanisms needed to accede to the Aarhus Convention.

## About the regional training

The regional training, co-organized by WES and the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat, will take place in **Athens, Greece on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2023** and will build on the Peer to Peer process. The main purpose of this 2-day regional training is to strengthen the implementation capacity of public authorities, country experts and NGOs on the main pillars of the Aarhus Convention:

- Access to Information
- Public participation in decision-making
- Access to Justice

as well as on the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international decision-making.

The peers from the WES partner countries are invited to physically participate in this regional training.

The **working languages** of the training will be **English** and **French** with simultaneous interpretation.

Any **documents related to the training** will be available via the WES website: [https://www.wes-med.eu/activities\\_type/he-4-reg-overall-environmental-governance-promotion-of-the-aarhus-convention-in-the-whole-of-the-mediterranean/](https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/he-4-reg-overall-environmental-governance-promotion-of-the-aarhus-convention-in-the-whole-of-the-mediterranean/)

Useful **documents of the P2P process** can be accessed via: [https://www.wes-med.eu/activities\\_type/he-4-p2p-overall-environmental-governance-promotion-of-the-aarhus-convention-in-the-whole-of-the-mediterranean/](https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/he-4-p2p-overall-environmental-governance-promotion-of-the-aarhus-convention-in-the-whole-of-the-mediterranean/)

A **draft Agenda of the training** is provided in the following pages.





## «Promotion of the Aarhus Convention in the whole of the Mediterranean»

*Regional Training in Athens, Greece, 14-15 November 2023*

*Venue: Wyndham Grand Athens*

### DAY 1: 14 November 2023

8:30-9:00	Registration for day 1	
Time	Session/Description	
9:00-9:30	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof. Michael Scoulllos, WES Team Leader</li> <li>- Ms Ella Behlyarova, Secretary to the Aarhus Convention, Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</li> <li>- Mr. Stavros Antoniadis, Associate Administrative Officer/Environmental Lawyer, UN Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit</li> <li>- Ms Alessandra Sensi, Head of Sector, Environment, Green and Blue Economy, Water Environment and Blue Economy Division, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (remote)</li> <li>- Dr. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection, Member of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)</li> </ul>	
9:30-10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Aarhus Convention and links with the Barcelona Convention and other international treaties and processes, Ms Summer Kern, WES Senior Expert on the Aarhus Convention (20 min)</li> <li>• The Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention, Prof. Michael Scoulllos, WES Team Leader (15 min)</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul> <p><b>Background material:</b> <a href="#">Quick Guide to the Aarhus Convention</a>   <a href="#">Implementation Guide</a></p>	
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-13:00	<b>Pillar 1: Access to Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the main provisions of the Aarhus Convention, Ms Summer Kern, WES Senior Expert on the Aarhus Convention (20 min)</li> <li>• Presentation by an Aarhus Party on its experience: Ms Chloe Galea, Senior Officer Legal Affairs, Environment and Resources Authority of Malta (remote) (15 min)</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Exercise on access to information</li> </ul> <p><b>Background material:</b> <a href="#">Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools</a></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	<b>Pillar 2: Public participation in decision-making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the main provisions of the Aarhus Convention, Ms Summer Kern, WES Senior Expert on the Aarhus Convention (20 min)</li> <li>• Presentation by an Aarhus Party on its experience: Ms Suada Nusic, Head of Department in the Sector for Environmental Permits, Federal Ministry for Environment and Tourism of Bosnia and Herzegovina (remote) (15 min)</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul> <p><b>Background material:</b> <a href="#">Maastricht Recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters</a></p>
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45-16:15	Pillar 2: Public participation in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise in groups on public participation in decision-making</li> </ul>





	decision-making (continued)	
16:15-16:30	Closing of Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap up and Closing remarks for Day 1 and introduction to Day 2</li> </ul>

## DAY 2: 15 November 2023

8:45-9:00	Registration for day 2	
Time	Session/Description	
9:00-11:00	<b>Pillar 3: Access to Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the main provisions of the Aarhus Convention, <i>Ms Summer Kern, WES Senior Expert on the Aarhus Convention (20 min)</i></li> <li>• Presentation by an Aarhus Party on its experience: <i>Ms Maja Raicevic, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro (remote) (15 min)</i></li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Exercise in groups on access to justice</li> </ul> <p><b>Background material:</b> <a href="#">Analytical studies and surveys</a></p>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-13:00	<b>Application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international decision-making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the main provisions of the Aarhus Convention, <i>Ms Summer Kern, WES Senior Expert on the Aarhus Convention (20 min)</i></li> <li>• Presentation by an Aarhus Party on its experience: <i>Ms Eirini Konstantinou, Head of European and International Affairs, Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus (15 min)</i></li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Exercise in groups on the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international decision-making</li> </ul> <p><b>Background material:</b> <a href="#">Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums</a>   <a href="#">Snapshot on the Almaty Guidelines</a>   <a href="#">Checklist of Measures</a></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-14:45	<b>Supporting capacity building and implementation on the ground</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aarhus Centres: a platform for multistakeholder cooperation, <i>Ms Ella Behlyarova, Secretary to the Aarhus Convention (10 min)</i></li> <li>• Aarhus Centre in Greece – a case in progress, <i>Prof. Evangelos Raftopoulos, WES Senior Legal/Policy Expert in International Environmental Law/President, MEPIELAN Centre. (remote) (20 min)</i></li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul> <p><b>Background material (courtesy of OSCE):</b> <a href="#">The Aarhus Centres - A Brief Introduction</a>   <a href="#">Aarhus Centres Guidelines</a>   <a href="#">Updated Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming in Aarhus Centres Activities</a></p>
14:45-15:30	<b>Next steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on further needs and next steps in the P2P process, <i>Ms Ella Behlyarova, Secretary to the Aarhus Convention and Ms Anastasia Roniotes, WES Environment Expert</i></li> </ul>
15:30-16:00	<b>Closing session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the training</li> <li>• Certificates</li> <li>• Wrap-up and Closing remarks of the training</li> </ul>

