



Cross cutting strategies to free the Mediterranean from Marine Litter

The Mediterranean Region has been recognized as one of the areas most affected by marine litter in the world. In an effort to take up the challenge of freeing its sea from marine litter, the Mediterranean countries are developing a common culture of innovation and progress based on care for the Mediterranean environment and the efficient and circular use of resources.

1. To lead the switch to non-toxic and circular economies

Non-toxic and circular economies are essential approaches to avoid marine litter. SCP/RAC's role is to prevent plastic items and non-sustainable goods from ending up in the sea by finding alternatives and innovative solutions, to boost eco-businesses and to support their implementation.

SCP/RAC is highly involved in providing knowledge, training, advice and networking opportunities to businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents, civil society organizations and governments to switch to a greener economy. The centre created the Switchers network of individuals, enterprises and civil society organizations already implementing innovative and ecological solutions that contribute to sustainable and fair consumption and production models.

3. To provide businesses with concrete tools and solutions that are easily replicable

25 eco-innovative solutions have been identified to prevent or minimize the use of persistent plastics liable to end up as marine litter, which can be easily replicated in the Mediterranean Region. These solutions are featured in a publication developed by SCP/RAC.

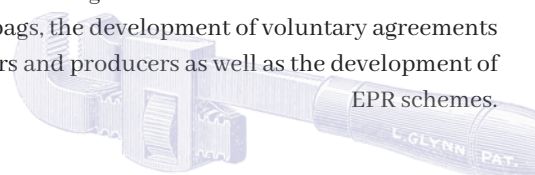
The center also collaborated with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation to develop a Mediterranean edition of the report: "The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastic and catalysing action". The report points out that while plastics and plastics packaging deliver many benefits, the current plastics system has significant economic, environmental and social drawbacks, such as marine pollution, that needs to be addressed.

5. To connect drivers for a healthier and prosperous Med

The Mediterranean has its own event for the circular economy community: the SwitchMed Connect gathers Mediterranean stakeholders to build synergies, exchange knowledge, and scale up eco and social innovations. The next edition will take place on 13-15 November 2018 in Barcelona.

2. To support governments in the development and implementation of national regulations to stop Marine Litter generation

SCP/RAC supports southern Mediterranean countries in the development of policy measures to prevent the generation of Marine litter such as the ban of single-use plastic bags, the development of voluntary agreements with plastic bags distributors and producers as well as the development of EPR schemes.



4. To implement concrete pilot actions and facilitate their scaling-up

Pilot Projects are an effective way to test innovative measures with businesses and CSOs and invite others to follow the path and lead the switch towards circular economies preventing marine litter. SwitchMed is currently supporting the implementation of pilot actions on alternatives to single-use plastic bags and the collection and recycling of beverage containers in Morocco. Others pilot projects are also in SCP/RAC pipeline.



It is our role to:

6. To engage food and & beverage packaging industries for tackling plastics value chain and preventing marine litter plastics

A very high percentage of the plastic waste generated is coming from the packaging industry and specially from the food and beverage sector. SCP/RAC is engaged to better understand the material flows and identify actions with industry on eco-design, eco-innovation to prevent single-use plastics in the Balkans region.

7. To provide direct support to Marine Protected Areas managers and marine litter practitioners

MPAs are the guardians of the reknowned Mediterranean biodiversity but they are affected by pollution and marine litter. MPAs managers need support to develop and implement innovative solutions to effectively fight against marine litter. SCP/RAC is involved in projects in direct collaboration with MPAs managers and marine litter experts.



Plastic Busters MPAs

#PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY FROM PLASTICS IN MPAs



Dates (start- end): 48 months (2018-2022)
 Main funder: European Union, ERDF
 Partners: 15 partners from the Med
 Where: Italy, France, Spain, Croatia, Albania & Greece

www.plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu

[f](#) [t](#) @PlasticbustersMPAs

ACT4LITTER

#EFFECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST MARINE LITTER IN MPAs



Dates (start- end): 18 months (2017-2018)
 Main funder: European Union, ERDF
 Partners: ARC-SCP/RAC, MIO-ECSDE, MedPAN, SSSUP
 Where: Northern Med countries

www.act4litter.interreg-med.eu

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Marine Litter Med

#REDUCING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS



Dates (start- end): June 2016- May 2019
 Main funder: European Union
 Where: Southern Med countries
 Partners: UNEP/MAP, UNEP/DEPI GPA, REMPEC, SCP/RAC, SPA/RAC, Black Sea Commission, ACCOBAMS

SwitchMed

#BOOSTING THE SWITCH TOWARDS CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Dates (start- end): 2013- 2018
 Main funder: European Union
 Partners: SCP/RAC, UNIDO, UNEP/MAP, UN Economy Division
 Where: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine

www.switchmed.eu

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The Switchers

#NETWORK & COMMUNITY OF CHANGE MAKERS

“The Switchers is a community of inspiring green entrepreneurs and change makers in the Mediterranean region. The platform www.theswitchers.eu tells their stories of sustainable transformation and change. The programme aims to contribute towards a more differentiated picture of the region, and shine a light on the people who are working on a greener economy.”

www.theswitchers.eu

[f](#) @wearethswitchers



SWIM H2020 SM

#EXPERT FACILITY FOR SCP IMPLEMENTATION



Dates (start- end): 36 months (2016-2019)
 Main funder: European Union (DG NEAR)
 Where: Southern Med Countries

www.swim-h2020.eu/
[f](#) [in](#) @SWIM H2020 SM project



About to start...

Engaging with the food & beverage industry in the Balkans

Collaboration with the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) to prevent marine litter caused by the plastic packaging in the Balkan countries.

Dates (start- end): half 2018 - end 2019

Main funder: IMELS

Where: Balkans countries

Publications

25 innovative and inspiring solutions to combat PLASTIC MARINE LITTER in the Mediterranean Region



FLASH & READ



THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY: RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF PLASTICS & CATALYSING ACTION

