

Welcome!

Dear **MED Solutions Partners** and **friends**,
We are very excited to present our first newsletter, MED Solutions News. We hope that you will be interested in knowing how MED Solutions has been developing lately and, if you would like to, how you can help. Our goal is to provide you with a useful communication tool providing insight in state-of-the-art developments in the field of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. Featuring key network events, research and training activities, publications, and calls for proposals, MED Solutions News will be the most important news source on MED Solutions. Complementing this newsletter is our website, where you can find additional information on our work. Network partners will also have the opportunity to join in the debate on SDGs by sharing their activities and experiences in the area of sustainable development and to enhance their visibility globally.

We welcome feedback on this issue and look forward to receiving your contributions.

Enjoy your reading!

*MED Solutions Secretariat, University of Siena
medsolutions@unisi.it*



The University of Siena acts as a regional hub of a network of universities, research centers and businesses interested in identifying and promoting Solutions Initiatives in the Mediterranean basin



MED Solutions. Our Strategic Framework

MED Solutions has recently updated its strategic framework.

Here are the highlights (the full version is available on our website). Tell us what you think!

Vision. MED Solutions' vision is of the Mediterranean as a highly interconnected region characterized by the conjunction of economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

Mission. MED Solutions' mission is to promote and strengthen local and national problem solving for sustainable development by empowering universities and research centers, and engaging private companies, public institu-

tions, NGOs and other networks to play more active and effective roles in facing common challenges in the Mediterranean.

Our Key Strategic Aims

Coordination. We will enhance network dynamics and reach out to new members valuing their expertise.

Education and Research. We will support sustainable development education and research.

Policy. We will engage strategically in policy environments.

SDGs. We will participate in the debate on SDGs.

Communication. We will enhance visibility and funding opportunities.

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Europe must not fail the Mediterranean



Since 1989 the **Mediterranean** seems to be home to two conflicting visions of the world. On the one hand it appears as a new frontier, a place where, according to the well-known theory of Huntington, Western and Islamic civilizations clash. On the other remains an image of a sea-cum-bridge, a sea “without rigid boundaries”, using the words of Fernand Braudel, which is crossed by a shared culture and home to a fully-fledged Mediterranean civilization. The tragedy of this meeting/clash is there for our eyes to see each day and night: the Mediterranean, a boundary zone between rich and poor, where the ancient vision of territorial sovereignty that States still insist on exercising conflicts with the right of every human to circulate freely in the “land of the people”.

Turning more specifically to the European Union, the Mediterranean has been a tough testing ground for European policies, at least since the launch of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, or Barcelona Process, in 1995. None have been more challenging than the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as amply highlighted by the fact that the revolutions collectively termed as the “Arab Spring” caught Europe unprepared.

The prevalent opinion among commentators is that the EU has responded slowly and tardily to the events of the most recent phase, which began on 17 December 2010 with the self-immolation of the Tunisian street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi in Sidi Bouzid. After this initial phase the EU

took a clear position in support of democratic transition, as testified by countless documents and the visits and declarations of Lady Ashton. Nonetheless, the EU’s difficulty in regaining legitimacy in the eyes of the inhabitants of the southern shores, having maintained friendly relations with their authoritarian regimes for years, remains evident.

Despite the newness of the situation, there has been no sign of reconsideration of the EU’s relations with the region. The instruments employed remain the bilateral agreements of the European Neighborhood Policy, into which conditions have been inserted that appear, in the abstract, more stringent than before. These interventions are guided by the principle of “more for more”, meaning that countries proceeding with greater haste and determination towards “thorough democratization” will be able to count upon more generous European assistance. Beyond access to individual programmes, the main reward has been summed up in the expression “money, mobility, market”, which are seen as incentives in exchange for democratic reforms. However, precisely these key words illustrate the difficulties that the EU’s Mediterranean policy is struggling with, also in relation to the new challenges.

“The Mediterranean is a difficult testing ground for European policies”



By Tania Groppi
Professor of Public Law
tania.groppi@unisi.it





Calls for Proposals

4 funding opportunities from the European Commission in the area of sustainable development

- **Water Innovation: Boosting its value for Europe**

H2020-WATER-2015-two-stage

Development of water supply and sanitation technology, systems and tools, and/or methodologies.

- Total Call Budget € 75,000,000
- Deadline: **16/10/2014**

- **Innovative, Sustainable and inclusive Bioeconomy**

H2020-ISIB-2015-2

Unlocking the growth potential of rural areas through enhanced governance and social innovation.

- Total Call Budget € 17,000,000
- Deadline: **24/02/2015**

- **Europe as a Global Actor**

H2020-INT-SOCIETY-2015

Re-invigorating the partnership between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

- Total Call Budget € 25,000,000
- Deadline: **07/01/2015**

- **Europe as a Global Actor**

INT-11-2015

European cultural and science diplomacy: exploiting the potential of culture and science in the EU's external relations

- Total Call Budget 25,000,000
- Deadline: **07/01/2015**



MedAdapt. ICCG-CMCC Summer School

Adaptation Policies and Practices in the Mediterranean Basin

The **International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG)** and the **Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC)** organized the 2nd edition of their Summer School for postgraduate students on Adaptation Policies and Practices in the Mediterranean Basin (MedAdapt), which took place from May 19-23 on ICCG premises in Venice, Italy. The overarching objective of the ICCG-CMCC Summer School is to provide advanced training for young researchers from developed and developing countries on the topic of climate change adaptation policies and best practices in the Mediterranean Basin.

Greening USiena

The Student environmental network in Siena

No progress in the way society and institutions deal with a changing world can be achieved without a strong effort to involve younger generations within a wider, far-reaching quest for sustainability that Universities need to embark on. With this in mind, the University of Siena is pioneering a model of cooperation between stakeholders, in which students play an active role thanks to **Greening USiena**, a student environmental network founded in November 2012. Refusing partisanship by principle, and focusing on science-based policies and in-depth knowledge instead, the network has developed a close working relation with professors and employees, bridging the gap between students and the institution with the creation of a lively cultural climate as well as the integration of the former in the University's policymaking process. More information on Greening USiena's activities can be found at <http://greeningusiena.org> and on its social pages.





✓ update



FispMed

Pledge of common people and organizations aimed to the Education for Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean and Black Sea

FISP MED, the Euro-Mediterranean Platform of Civil Society and MED Solutions member, a broad network composed of people and organizations, institutions and civil society, committed itself to establishing a *network-based office for permanent coordination* of ongoing initiatives aimed at promoting civic engagement in sustainable development choices and education in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The aim of this initiative is to *"Empower every individual through education - that is the goal of FISP MED - to contribute to sustainable development"*.

This initiative represents a very important opportunity that can help boost efficiently, an **educational process** targeting all citizens, adults and children, emphasizing how many good things already exist and have already been done in the countries of the Mediterranean/Black Sea. The initiative will include the following actions: dissemination of information and data, dialogue with political culture, organization of targeted meetings and seminars, promotion of an alliance for culture, engagement with schools and universities, visibility with media. A specific collaboration with project *Mediterranea* (see above) will ensure the delivery of results in the area of civic engagement. For more information on this initiative, please contact Roberto Russo, President of Fispmed (fispmed@gmail.com).

PlasticBusters' researchers monitor the Adriatic Sea, in collaboration with the "Mediterranea" project

From 27 to 30 May, researchers working on **PlasticBusters** (MED Solutions flagship solution 2013) participated in the **Mediterranea** sailing boat expedition (www.progettomediterranea.com) in the stretch of coast between Vieste and Otranto in Puglia using specific monitoring techniques. The aim of *Mediterranea* is to promote cultural, environmental and nautical ideas and solutions focusing on the Mediterranean Sea.

By Press Office



Our partners

- Association for Sustainable Innovation in Tunisia
- Bocconi University IEFE
- Bogaziçi University
- The Center for Agricultural Economic Research
- Centre de Recerca en Economia Industrial I Pública
- Consorzio ARCA
- Consorzio IPASS
- The Cyprus Institute
- Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)
- Fispmed Onlus
- Fondazione Achille Sclavo Onlus
- Institut Sup. des Sciences et Tech. de l'Environnement
- Istanbul University
- Laboratoire d'Excellence OT-Med
- OGS Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale
- Politecnico di Bari
- UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union
- Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
- Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
- Università degli Studi di Sassari
- University of Salerno
- University of Siena
- University of Ferrara
- Venice International University
- Water and Environmental Studies Institute

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you wish not to receive further copies of our newsletters, please reply to our e-mail address with NEWSLETTER STOP and you will be taken off the mailing list: medsolutions@unisi.it.

Image from "The Allegory of Good and Bad Government", which is included in the famous cycle of frescoes painted in 1338-39 by Ambrogio Lorenzetti in the Palazzo Pubblico of Siena, contrasting the effects of good and bad government on society and the environment.

Editorial staff:
MED Solutions Secretariat, Communication and Web Portal Office

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