



# **The ECOMED project: Environmental Coastal Cooperation for Metropolitan Eco-sustainable Development**

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# ECOMED at a glance

- UNESCO-IHP Metropolitan “ECOMED” Academy is an UNESCO-IHP initiative that will be hosted at the Cyprus Institute and will constitute a network of Local “ECOMED” Centers, established at the initiative of the interested Local Governments of the Mediterranean member-states concerned with the support of UNESCO-IHP experts and the collaboration of other UN agencies and International Organizations.
- *These centers involve:*
  - *Local, regional and global partnerships*
  - *Coastal metropolitan stakeholders*
  - *National agencies, municipalities, universities, corporate industry, water and sanitation utilities, civil society organizations, financial partners, and other stakeholders.*

# An overview on the UNESCO-IHP initiative

- UNESCO-IHP initiative will focus on the Mediterranean coastal region and it is expected to provide a pilot model for other regions in the world in order to:
  - Tackle the challenges imposed by climate change on water-scarce regions.
  - Review national climate change adaptation strategies
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of water-related adaptation policies and measures across the countries
  - Identify gaps in research, policy and knowledge related to climate adaptation in the water sector.

## **Main tasks :**

1. Capacity building across the centers
2. Pollution monitoring projects
3. Research partnerships on preservation measures for the Mediterranean coastal ecosystems
4. Societal education, professional training programs and the establishment of strategic partnerships.

# The Water Resources Task Force Report

- The Water Resources Task Force Report surveys the state of water resources in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East.
- It inspects the challenges imposed by climate change on a water-scarce region and identifies gaps in research, policy and knowledge related to climate adaptation in the water sector through:
  1. *Reviewing national climate change adaptation strategies*
  2. *Evaluating the effectiveness of water-related adaptation policies and measures across the countries of the region.*
  3. *A conceptual framework for achieving climate resilience and water security in the region.*

# The framework's lines of action for climate resilience and water security

The framework of action to face systemic aspects of climate change, water scarcity and shared water resources in the region:

- 1- Governance
- 2-Regional cooperation
- 3-Finance
- 4-Research and technology
- 5-Reconstruction and resilience
- 6-Capacity development.

***Research initiatives should consider the application of the climate-water-energy-food nexus for improving water governance and achieving climate resilience and water security.***

# UNESCO-IHP METROPOLITAN “ECO-MED» ACADEMY’s Strategic Development & Planning Colloquium

- The purpose of the Academy’s Strategic Development & Planning Colloquium is to provide a Mediterranean forum for bringing together the local governments concerned, water utilities, financial sector, UN Organizations, hydrological institutes, universities, municipalities, technical experts, and other interested stakeholders in order to:
- ***Create a Stakeholders’ Mediterranean Dialogue***
- ***Promote a mutual understanding based consensus towards a Mediterranean roadmap***
- ***Provide a UNESCO-IHP global forum of international expertise***
- ***Establish Terms of Reference for the Academy and its Network of “LoG” Centers in the member states concerned***
- ***Establish stakeholders’ mutual understanding***

# Academy's Colloquium 2022

The 2022 Academy's Colloquium and its detailed preparation with the local governments will include:

- Pre-Colloquium meetings with the member states and potential stakeholders
- Feasibility assessment of creating pilot "LoG" Centers in the interested member states
- Setting up initial terms of reference for:
  - 1-Governance
  - 2-Support resources
  - 3-Scope of programs and assessment measures
  - 4-Exploratory discussions with the UN sponsoring organizations and strategic partners

***The feasibility assessment of potential co-financing strategic partnerships, and planning the required activities will facilitate achieving the goal of launching the UNESCO-IHP METROPOLITAN "ECO-MED" ACADEMY.***

# Solutions exist!

- The use of Hydrodiplomacy and of the nexus tools were suggested as a prism of analysis and as policy approaches to foster cooperation at a regional level.
- Success cases in water diplomacy on transboundary waters were achieved.
- The establishment of good governance practices in the water sector based on public-private partnership is a must.
- Climate and Water Security in the Arab Region can turn concepts into actions.
- Cooperation is the only way forward for a sustainable and resilient future!

**Together we can do it!**





*Thank you!*

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