



C1_REG-4: Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation

**Regional webinar on the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting
programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation**

Webinar Report

April 2026

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v.1	C1_REG-4: Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation - Webinar Report	Sana Ben Ismail Mirco Haseler	Anis Ismail Michael Scoullos

WATER ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT - BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SOUTH REGION

The regional EU funded “Water Environment Support-Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA)” project is the continuation of WES project and capitalises on the experience of three more successful predecessor regional EU funded projects SWIM-Horizon2020 SM, SWIM SM and Horizon 2020 CB/MEP. It supports the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood Region in addressing the improvement and protection of the environment, the restoration of biodiversity and the management of scarce water resources, while enhancing the resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean region, strengthening the formulation and enforcement of the relevant policies of the Partner Countries (PCs) and the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention. WES-BCA will enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders in order to support them in formulating and implementing policies in the aforementioned issues, raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve public understanding, stimulating behavioural changes needed for appropriate climate action and environmental protection.

WES-BCA has two components which will run hand-in-hand:

COMPONENT I (Water, Biodiversity and Environment) with the specific objectives:

- to promote an integrated approach to biodiversity protection/restoration and pollution reduction/prevention
- to manage more efficiently scarce water resources in the Southern Neighbourhood

COMPONENT II (Communication and Outreach) with the specific objective:

- to raise awareness and better understanding by the general public (and specific segments of the population) including youth and women are promoted stimulating adoption of appropriate behaviours and attitudes towards improved climate action and effective environmental protection.

DISCLAIMER:

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the WES-BCA Project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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ABBREVIATIONS

PB CAP	Plastic Busters CAP
CEDERE	Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution
ENI CBC	European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
MED POL	Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme
SPA/RAC	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
INFO/RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC)
TouMaLi	Touristic Marine Litter Project
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
AASTMT	Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport
HCMR	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
INSTM	L'Institut National des Sciences et Technologie de la Mer
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan
WB	World Bank
INSTM	L'Institut National des Sciences et Technologie de la Mer
EU	European Union
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan

1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Mediterranean Sea, a global hotspot of biodiversity and cultural heritage, is under increasing threat from marine litter and plastic pollution. This pressure persists despite growing political awareness and the adoption of regional frameworks such as the UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach and the Barcelona Convention's Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management. Nevertheless, significant implementation gaps remain particularly regarding insufficient long-term data, limited capacity for harmonised monitoring and reporting, and weak coordination among stakeholders.

The accumulation of macro- and microplastics in marine and coastal environments poses significant threats to biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and human health. It also affects key economic sectors such as tourism and fisheries, which are highly dependent on the quality and sustainability of marine ecosystems. In response, a range of regional and international initiatives have been developed to address marine litter through policy frameworks, monitoring programmes, and mitigation strategies. Initiatives under the Barcelona Convention, the European Union, and regional cooperation platforms have contributed to improving knowledge, harmonizing methodologies, and supporting the implementation of monitoring and reporting systems. However, several challenges remain, including gaps in data availability, inconsistencies in monitoring approaches, and limited coordination among stakeholders.

This webinar brought together a diverse audience, including national focal points from Ministries of Environment, regional organisations (EU, UNEP/MAP, MEDPOL, SPA/RAC, UfM, WB, etc.), academia, civil society, local authorities, and the private sector. The agenda featured four thematic sessions: an overview of policy advances; sharing of regional and national monitoring experiences; and data integration for decision-making.

This report presents a comprehensive summary of the webinar's proceedings, key presentations, interactive discussions, and the main outcomes. It also synthesises feedback collected from participants and outlines recommendations for strengthening marine litter monitoring and reporting programmes across the Mediterranean, in line with the WES-BCA project's commitment to environmental protection, climate action, and regional cooperation.

1.1 RATIONALE OF ACTIVITY

The Mediterranean Sea faces escalating pressure from marine litter pollution, which threatens not only coastal landscapes and deep-sea ecosystems but also key economic sectors such as tourism and fisheries. Plastics, particularly single-use items, are the dominant contributor, leading to entanglement, ingestion, bioaccumulation of toxins, and damage to benthic habitats, ultimately impacting human livelihoods and food security.

Despite important advances in recent years including the establishment of harmonised monitoring programmes under the UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach (Ecological Objective 10), the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, persistent challenges continue to hinder comprehensive marine litter assessments. These challenges include: insufficient long-term data on litter amounts, types, sources and impacts; limited capacity for harmonised monitoring, data collection and reporting; gaps in methodological guidance and quality assurance; and weak coordination among stakeholders.

Robust monitoring and reliable data are essential for informing effective policies and mitigation measures. Addressing these gaps has therefore become a priority for several regional and international initiatives, including the EU Plastic Strategy, the Single-Use Plastics Directive, and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) GreenerMed Agenda, and the Barcelona Convention's Regional Plan.

This regional webinar activity is therefore designed to directly respond to those needs by providing an accessible platform for Partner Countries to clarify questions, address challenges, and share practical case studies, while also collecting inputs for a subsequent Assessment Report that will support informed decision-making and policy development under the Barcelona Convention.

2 OBJECTIVES OF ACTIVITY

The WES-BCA regional activity on monitoring and reporting marine litter for risk prevention and mitigation (C1-REG 4) works on supporting Mediterranean partner countries to strengthen the implementation of marine litter monitoring and reporting programmes and to contribute to more effective mitigation and reporting measures, in line with the Regional Marine Litter Management Plan under the Barcelona Convention.

Specific Objectives :

- Promote the wide uptake and implementation of the marine litter monitoring methodologies (for all marine matrixes) that have been adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention;
- Support the implementation of regional and national marine litter monitoring and reporting programmes, enhancing informed decision-making and policy development.

3 EXPECTED RESULTS OF ACTIVITY

- **Enhanced understanding and uptake of harmonised monitoring methodologies:** Participating Partner Countries demonstrate a clearer understanding of the marine litter monitoring methodologies adopted under the Barcelona Convention (for all marine matrices), including improved knowledge of data collection, quality assurance, and reporting requirements aligned with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management and IMAP/Ecological Objective 10.
- **Strengthened regional exchange of national experiences and best practices:** Through the structured presentations and interactive discussions (including the tour de table and open sessions), at least 5 national case studies or project showcases (e.g., Plastic Busters CAP, TouMali, MedMarine Litter, etc.) are shared, facilitating cross-basin mutual learning and identifying replicable mitigation measures applicable to WES Partner Countries.
- **Informed roadmap and synthesis report for advancing national monitoring and reporting:** A post-webinar Assessment Report is prepared, compiling key challenges, gaps, priority actions, and recommendations gathered from the questionnaire and webinar exchanges. The report provides a practical basis for Partner Countries to strengthen their national marine litter monitoring programmes and inform decision-making, including future capacity-building (e.g., in-person working groups on national strategies).

4 ELEMENTS OF THE WEBINAR IMPLEMENTATION (for Regional webinar)

The regional activity was structured through a series of interconnected phases designed to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach to marine litter monitoring and reporting in the Mediterranean. It was initiated with a kick-off meeting **in November 2025**, which set the objectives, scope, and implementation framework of the activity. This was followed by the preparation of a background document and concept note, supported by a background assessment aimed at identifying key challenges, gaps, and priorities in marine litter monitoring and reporting across partner countries. This phase also included the collection of feedback through questionnaires, which contributed to shaping the content and structure of the webinar.

The core component of the activity was the organization of the regional webinar on the **3rd of February 2026**, structured into several thematic sessions covering policy frameworks, regional and national experiences, best practices, and data management and reporting approaches. These sessions facilitated knowledge exchange, stakeholder engagement, and discussions on technical and institutional aspects of marine litter monitoring.

Finally, the activity culminates in the preparation of the assessment report on marine litter monitoring and reporting, which compiles the outcomes of the webinar, the results of the background assessment, and insights gathered from participants and experts. The report aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of current practices and to formulate key recommendations to support improved monitoring systems and informed decision-making in the Mediterranean region.

No. of presentations on examples/case studies (sharing of experiences, good practices, etc.)	8
No. of international speakers from the Region	7
No. of international speakers from the EU	9
No. of webinar-oriented presentations (on concepts, methodologies, etc.)	5
No. of interactive/participatory activities (open discussions, brainstorming sessions)	4

5 PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

The main target group of the regional webinar included a diverse range of stakeholders involved in marine litter monitoring and environmental management in the Mediterranean region.

The profile of the 54 participants who attended the webinar is outlined as follows:

- National focal points for marine litter and pollution prevention from Ministries of Environment and related governmental institutions
- Representatives of regional organisations (e.g., UNEP/MAP, MEDPOL, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC, WB)
- Members of academia and research institutions working on marine and environmental sciences
- Representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), NGOs, and youth networks
- Local and coastal authorities involved in waste management and beach monitoring
- Private sector stakeholders, particularly from tourism and waste management sectors
- Media professionals and environmental communicators.

Participants from Mediterranean partner countries attended the regional webinar, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration among key stakeholders involved in marine litter monitoring and environmental management.

Webinar Demographics

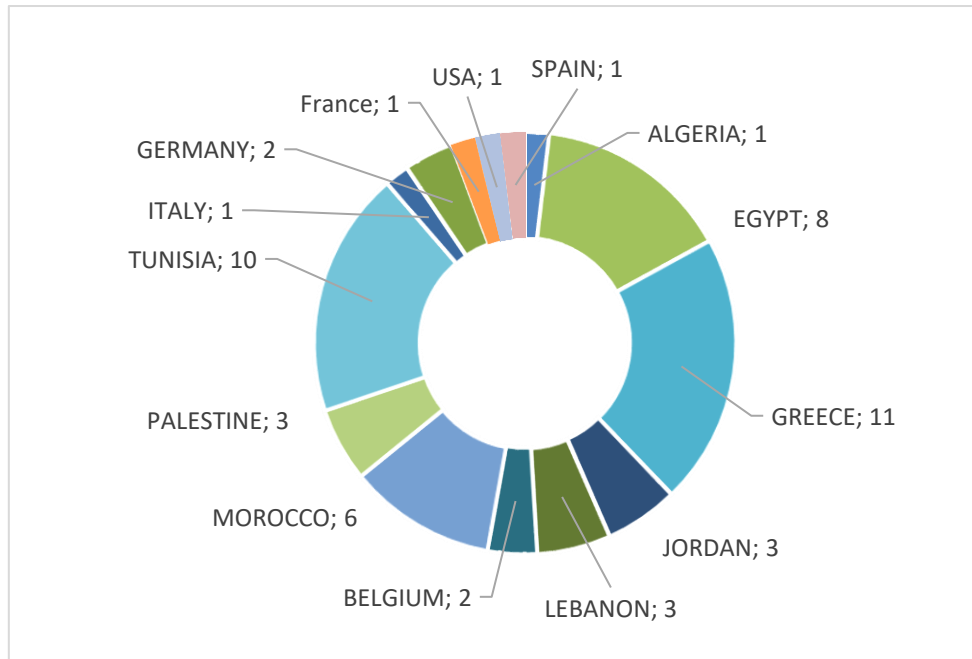


FIGURE 5-1: REPRESENTATION OF WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS PER COUNTRY

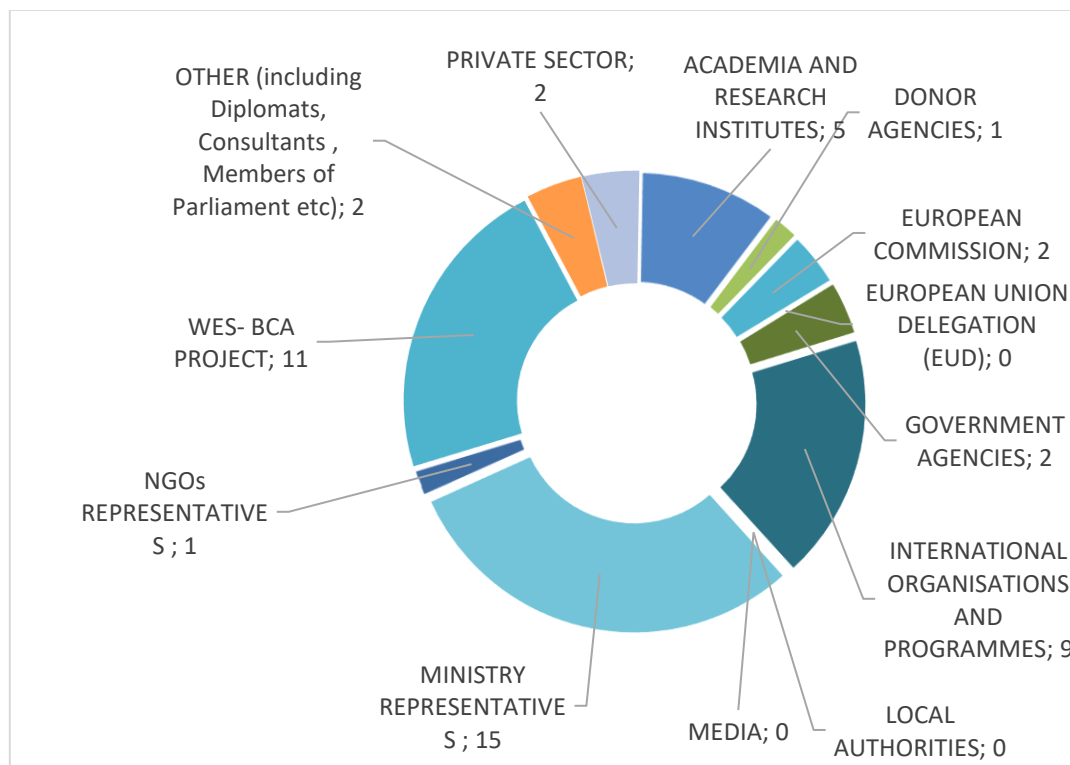


FIGURE 5-2: REPRESENTATION OF WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS PER TYPE OF INSTITUTION

6 STATISTICS GENDER AND YOUTH

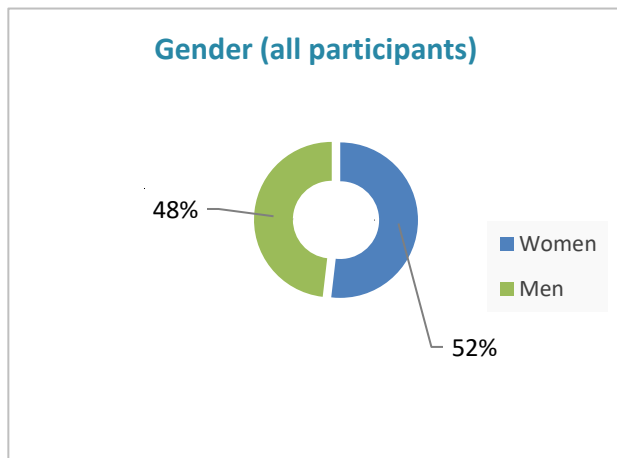


FIGURE 6-1: GENDER (ALL PARTICIPANTS)

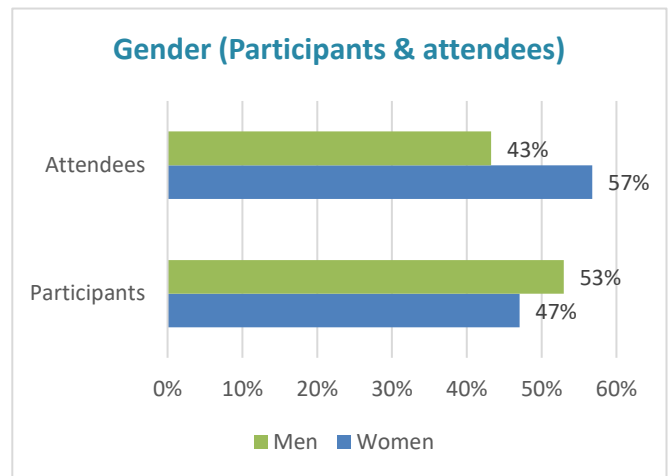


FIGURE 6-2: GENDER (PARTICIPANTS and attendees)

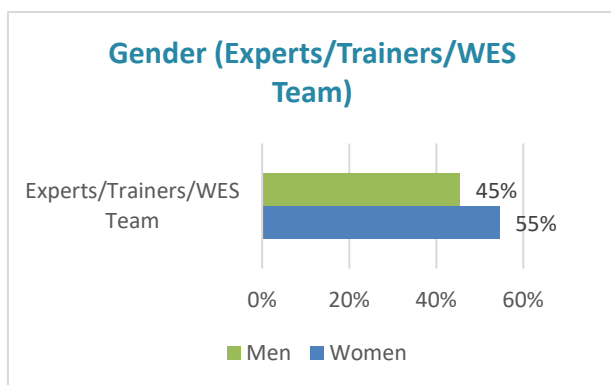


FIGURE 6-3: GENDER (EXPERTS/TRAINERS/WES-BCA TEAM)

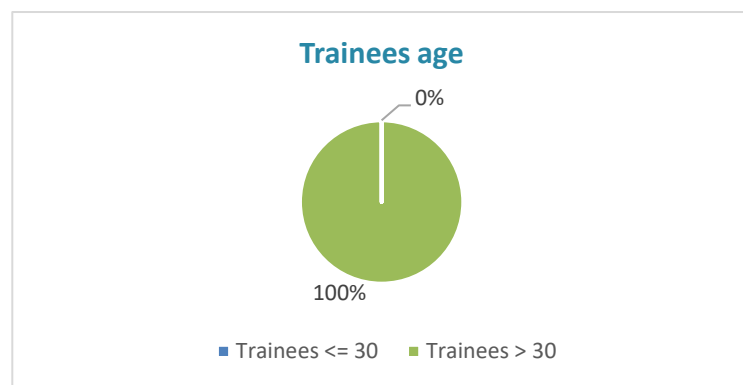


FIGURE 6-4: TRAINEES - AGE

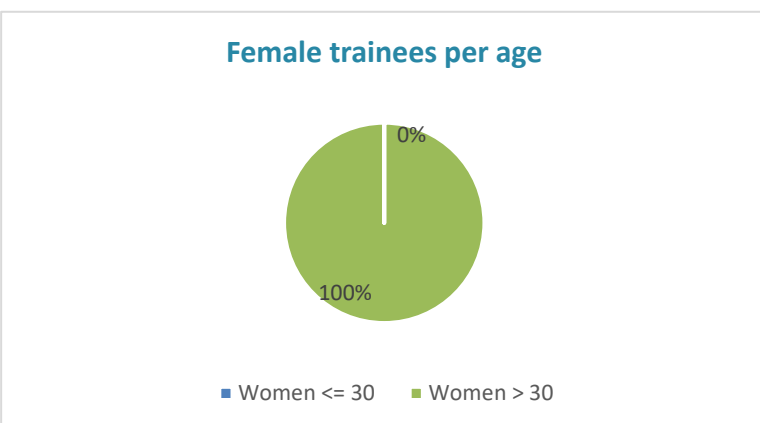


FIGURE 6-5: FEMALE TRAINEES – AGE

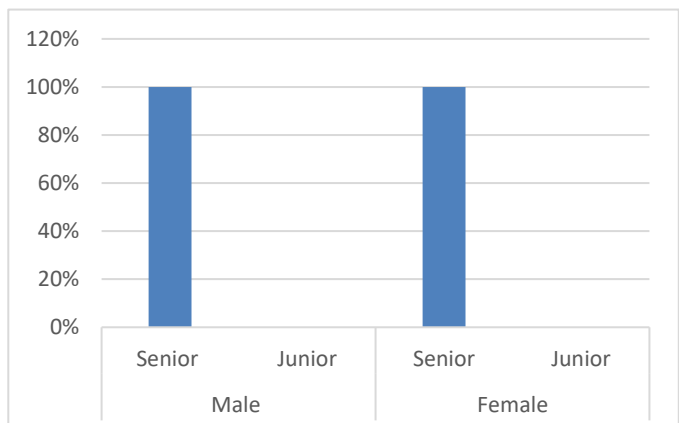


Figure 6-6 : GENDER - POSITION LEVEL

7 EVALUATION OF THE EVENT

A. Organisational, administrative and planning issues before and during the event

A set of 11 criteria; A1-A11 (See table below) were assessed by the participants, using a qualitative description ranging between “Excellent” to “Poor”.

A. ORGANISATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING ISSUES BEFORE AND DURING THE EVENT		EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	POOR	Total Replies	Average Score (max = 4)
A1	Appropriate handling of invitations, sharing information and addressing emerging difficulties	9	2			11	3,82
A2	Efficient logistics: user-friendly online platform and interpretation	10	2			12	3,83
A3	Provision of support (if requested) for participants' preparation for the event	6	4			10	3,60
A4	Efficient and effective follow-up of preparations and progress towards the event	8	4			12	3,67
A5	Planning for the event: selection and design of methodology, programme/daily agenda and work rules	6	5	1		12	3,42
A6	Smooth flow of programme, efficient handling of emerging needs and attentiveness to participants concerns	7	5			12	3,58
A7	Presentations correspond and contribute to the planned objectives and are conducive to enhanced shared understanding and participation on addressed topics	7	5			12	3,58
A8	Clarity, coverage and sufficiency of concepts, objectives, anticipated outputs	4	7			11	3,36
A9	The materials distributed were helpful	5	6			11	3,45
A10	Efficiency and effectiveness of the facilitation	8	4			12	3,67
A11	Overall rating of the event	9	3			12	3,75

A.1. Appropriate handling of invitations, information sharing and addressing emerging difficulties / Gestion appropriée des invitations, diffusion d'informations et aide à la résolution des difficultés
11 responses

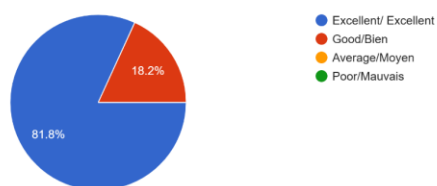


FIGURE 7-1: DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO THE WEBINAR (A.1)

A.2. Efficient logistics: user-friendly online platform and interpretation / Efficacité de la logistique plateforme en ligne facile à utiliser, qualité d'interprétation
12 responses

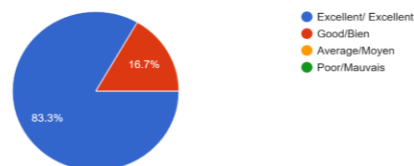


FIGURE 7-2: EFFICIENT LOGISTICS (A.2)

A.3. Provision of support (if requested) for participants' preparation for the event / Assistance fournie (si elle a été demandée) pour le travail préparatoire des participants pour l'évènement
10 responses

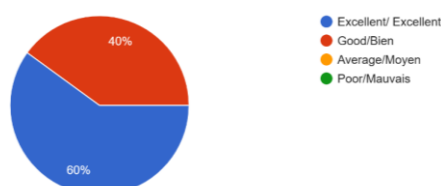


FIGURE 7-3: PROVISION SUPPORT FOR THE WEBINAR (A.3)

A.4. Efficient and effective follow-up of preparations and progress towards the event / Suivi efficace de la préparation et des progrès accomplis pour la tenue de l'évènement
12 responses

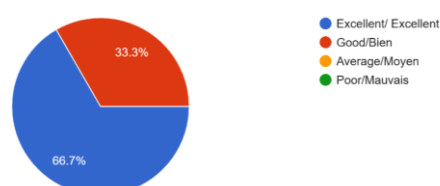


FIGURE 7-4: FOLLOW UP AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE WEBINAR (A.4)

A.5. Planning for the event: selection and design of methodology, programme/daily agenda and work rules / Planification de l'évènement: choix et ...logie, programme/ ordre du jour et règles de travail
12 responses

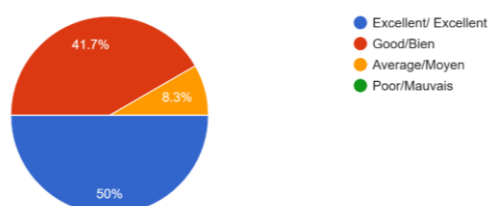


FIGURE 7-5: PLANNING FOR THE WEBINAR (A.5)

A.6. Smooth flow of programme, efficient handling of emerging needs and attentiveness to participants concerns / Bon déroulement du programme des besoins émergents et aide aux participants
12 responses

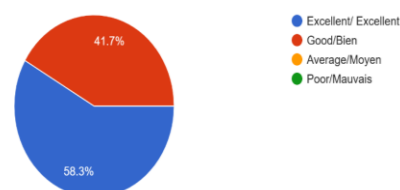


FIGURE 7-6: FLOW OF PROGRAMME, HANDLING OF EMERGING NEEDS (A.6)

A.7. Presentations correspond and contribute to the planned objectives and are conducive to enhanced shared understanding and participation on...tuelle et la participation aux questions abordées
12 responses

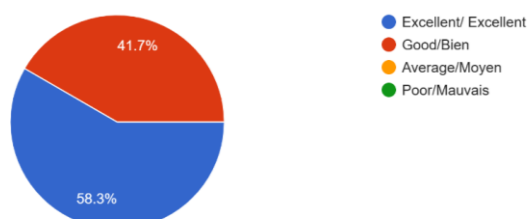


FIGURE 7-7: EVALUTION OF PRESENTATIONS (A.7)

A.8. Clarity, coverage and sufficiency of concepts, objectives, anticipated outputs and outcomes / Clarté, couverture et suffisance des notions, des objectifs, des produits et des résultats attendus
12 responses

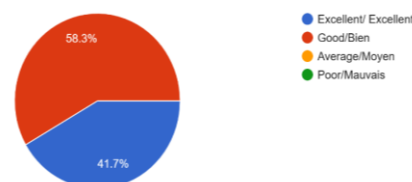


FIGURE 7-8: CLARITY, COVERAGE AND SUFFICIENCY OF CONCEPTS, OBJECTIVES, ANTICIPATED OUTPUTS (A.8)

A.9. The materials distributed were helpful / Les matériels distribués ont été utiles
 11 responses

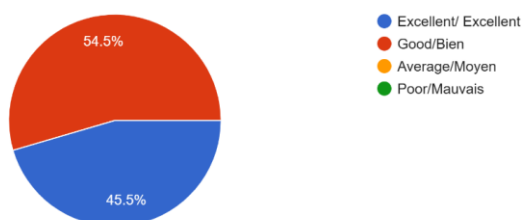


FIGURE 7-9: USEFULNESS OF THE DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL (A.9)

A.10. Efficient and Effective Facilitation / Modération efficace
 12 responses

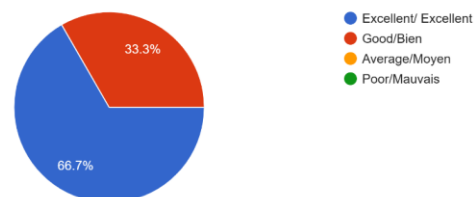


FIGURE 7-10: EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FACILITATION (A.10)

A.11. Overall rating of the event / Evaluation globale de l'évènement
 12 responses

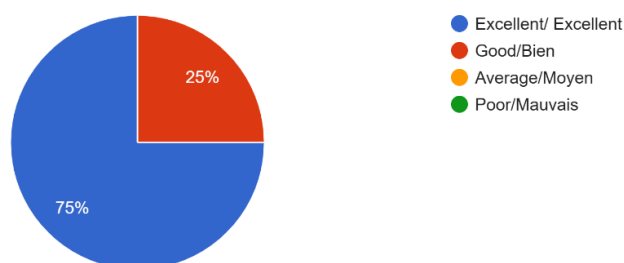


FIGURE 7-11: OVERALL RATING OF THE WEBINAR (A.11)

B. Feedbacks of the participants :

B.1. Coverage of the event. In your opinion did the event cover (tick one of the following): /
Couverture de l'évènement. A votre opinion l'atelier a traité (cochez une des options suivantes):
12 responses

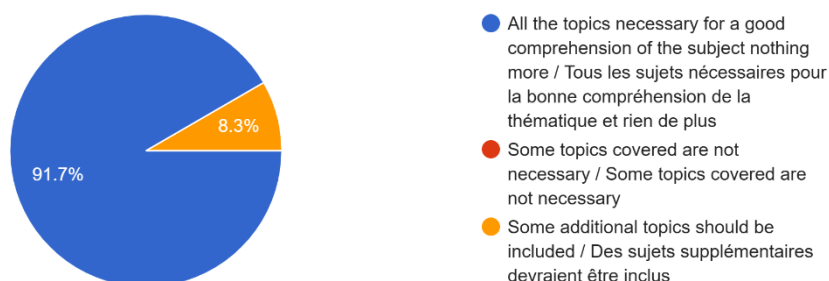


FIGURE 7-12: WEBINAR COVERAGE

B.2. Level of difficulty (tick one of the following): / Niveau de difficulté (cochez une des options suivantes):
10 responses

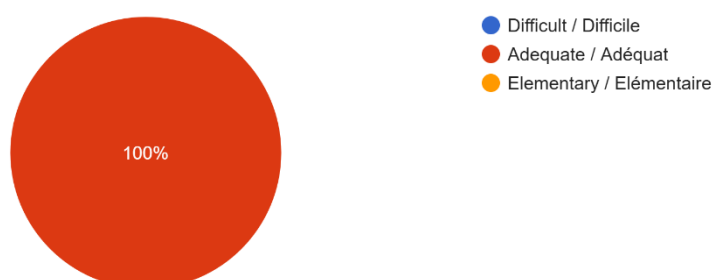


FIGURE 7-13: WEBINAR DIFFICULTY

B.3. Length of the training. In your view the workshop duration (tick one of the following): / Durée de l'atelier de formation. A votre avis, la durée de l'atelier était (cochez une des options suivantes):
12 responses

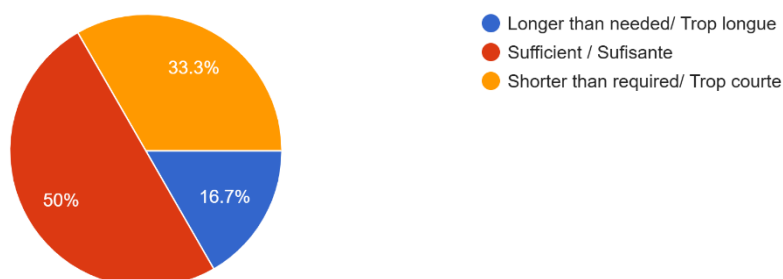


FIGURE 7-14: WEBINAR LENGTH

Summary of most frequent statements made by the participants

B1	Coverage of the event. In your opinion did the event cover?
	All the topics necessary for a good comprehension of the subject nothing more
B2	Level of difficulty?
	Adequate
B3	Length of the training. In your view the workshop duration?
	Sufficient
B4	What is the most valuable thing you learned during the workshop (knowledge or skills)?
	- The IMAP Info System presentation was very helpful. - The Harmonized Monitoring and Reporting Frameworks for marine litter in the Mediterranean, standardized indicators and data collection methodologies support evidence-based prevention and mitigation measures. - The importance of monitoring and reporting to effectively assess and reduce marine litter across the Mediterranean region. - The several programs and projects (outside the UNEP/MAP system) contribute directly and/or indirectly to the implementation of decisions adopted within the framework of monitoring and reporting on marine debris (including the development and testing of mitigation measures). - The different reporting systems of the different institutions - Sharing experiences on marine litter management - Examples of preventing and mitigating marine litter: environmental, social, and economic impacts that can affect human health.
B5	How do you think that the current event will assist you in your future work on the subject?
	- This event will support future work by improving my understanding of regional monitoring frameworks and reporting tools, and helping to apply standardized approaches to the assessment and reduction of marine litter. - Improves data processing and interpretation - Standardizes marine litter assessment methods and integrates experiments into a Master's course on ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) - Builds on awareness-raising efforts and projects already implemented in Mediterranean countries - Establishes synergies with programs and institutions working on this topic - This event was very useful. It highlighted the remaining weaknesses in the implementation of a harmonized and standardized long-term monitoring system. - The knowledge gained will contribute to improving data quality, strengthening inter-institutional coordination, and supporting the design of more effective, evidence-based prevention and mitigation measures.

Summary of most frequent statements made by the participants

B6	Please indicate whether (and how) you could transfer part of the experience gained from the event to your colleagues in your country? - The experience gained from this event can be transferred to colleagues through internal briefings and technical meetings to share key monitoring and reporting methodologies, standardized indicators, and regional best practices for marine litter management. - Support the preparation of concise guidance notes and integrate the lessons learned into ongoing national programs and inter-institutional coordination processes to ensure wider institutional uptake. - Through the many stakeholders we deal with - During participation in meetings, workshops or conferences related to coastal areas, ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management), and the problem of coastal pollution. - Sharing key lessons, monitoring methodologies, and reporting tools through internal meetings, brief presentations, and collaborative discussions to support consistent approaches at the national level. - Sharing the presentations and best practices shared during the webinar.
B7	What did you like most about this webinar? - Bringing all the actors in the field together. - Constructive exchanges, sharing of experiences - The well-organized structure of the event and the opportunity to interact with participants from different countries and professional backgrounds - Advancing regional best practices: Generating fit-for-purpose data for the Quality Status Report - The clear presentation of harmonized monitoring and reporting frameworks for marine litter in the Mediterranean, combined with practical examples and experiences from different countries. - The interactive discussions and exchange of regional best practices made the content highly relevant and applicable to real national contexts.
B8	What needs to be improved? - The event could be improved by allocating more time for interactive discussions, questions, and sharing experiences among participants. - Suggestions for site visits would enrich and deepen the experience. - It would have been beneficial to gather more information from those who collect waste (on the beach, seabed, etc.) to better understand their needs and conduct their surveys in a coordinated manner. - Sharing presentation materials and orientation documents in advance would also allow participants to better prepare and engage more fully during the sessions.

C. Remarks by the Speaker

A set of 9 criteria; B1-B9 (See table below) are assessed by the trainer(s). Please use either the qualitative descriptions used in Section A or open text, as appropriate.

B1	Efficient and effective performance and interaction by participants Excellent
B2	Efficient and effective cooperation and team spirit Excellent
B3	Level of achievement of planned objectives Excellent
B4	Did the event contribute to helping participants practice skills or gain knowledge related to course concepts The webinar effectively contributed to enhancing participants knowledge on marine litter monitoring and reporting methodologies, while fostering exchange of practical experiences and best practices.
B5	What worked well during the event The diversity of participants, the high level of engagement during discussions, and the sharing of regional and national case studies significantly enriched the webinar. The structure of sessions and expert presentations were also highly effective.
B6	What didn't work well and why Some minor technical connection problems were observed among some participants.
B7	What components/concepts did participants seem to understand well Participants demonstrated a good understanding of marine litter monitoring methodologies, regional policy frameworks, and the importance of data harmonization and reporting.
B8	Were there any components/concepts that participants appeared to not understand Some participants showed the need for further clarification regarding data standardization procedures and integration into regional reporting frameworks.
B9	What aspects of the event could be improved and what to be kept More time could be allocated for interactive discussions and practical examples. The high-quality presentations, diversity of stakeholders, and exchange of experiences should be maintained.

8 WEBINAR QUESTIONNAIRES AND QUIZZES

Pre-webinar questionnaires were sent to participants one week before the event, to allow them to identify the level of their knowledge and knowledge gaps about the mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation.

- Link for the wes-bca survey on marine litter monitoring and reporting:
<https://forms.gle/X9UySQUJeHWCpeFt8>

Links for the questionnaires:

- [Questionnaire A – National Coordination and Reporting \(Policy / IMAP Leads\)](#)
- [Questionnaire B – Beach / Coastline Litter Monitoring \(CI22\)](#)
- [Questionnaire C1 – Seafloor Litter Monitoring \(CI23\)](#)
- [Questionnaire C2 – Floating Microplastics Monitoring \(CI23\)](#)
- [Questionnaire C3 – Biota Impacts \(Candidate CI24 – Marine Turtles\)](#)
- [Questionnaire D – Data Management and IMAP Info System \(EO10\)](#)

Presented below are several screenshots showcasing the participants' answers, along with the total number of responses received. No responses were obtained for categories C1 and C2.

WES-BCA REG-4 Questionnaire A

Questions Réponses 2 Paramètres

A0.1 Country (please indicate your country): # Pays (veuillez indiquer votre pays):

2 réponses

Tunisie

Jordan

A0.2 Institution / ministry / agency: # Institution / ministère / agence :

2 réponses

Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement

ASEZA

A0.3 Your role / function # Votre rôle / fonction :

2 réponses

Pt Focal national MedPol

Air & Water quality division haed

WES-BCA REG-4 Questionnaire B

Questions Réponses 2 Paramètres

B0.1 Country (please indicate your country): # Pays (veuillez indiquer votre pays):

2 réponses

Tunisie

Tunisia

B0.2 Organisation / institution: # Organisation / Institution :

2 réponses

National Institut of Marin Sciences and Technology

national institute of marine sciences and technologies

B0.3 Type of organisation (tick one): # Type d'organisation (cochez une seule case):

2 réponses



☒ National authority # Autorité nationale

☐ Local authority / municipality # Collectivité territoriale / municipalité

☐ Research institute / university # Institut de recherche / université

[Copier le graphique](#)



WES-BCA REG-4 Questionnaire C3



Questions Réponses 1 Paramètres

C3.0.2 Organisation / institution # Organisation/Institution

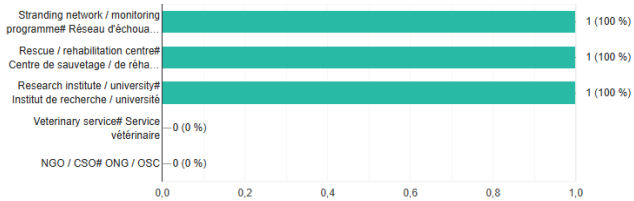
Une réponse

Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer - INSTM

C3.0.3 Type of organisation (tick all that apply) # Type d'organisation
(cochez toutes les cases applicables):

Copier le graphique

Une réponse



WES-BCA REG-4 Questionnaire D



Questions Réponses 1 Paramètres

D0.1 Country # Pays

Une réponse

Tunisie

D0.2 Organisation / unit # Organisation / unité :

Une réponse

Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement

D0.3 Your role # Votre rôle :

Une réponse

Point focal national MedPol

D1. National data management for marine litter # Gestion nationale des données sur les déchets marins

9 CONCLUSIONS & OVERALL ASSEMENT

The regional webinar on marine litter monitoring and reporting in the Mediterranean successfully brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from Mediterranean partner countries, including representatives from governmental institutions, regional organisations, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

Overall, the webinar achieved its main objectives by promoting the implementation of IMAP marine litter monitoring protocols and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices across the region. The high level of participation and engagement throughout the sessions reflected the relevance of the topic and the strong interest of stakeholders in improving monitoring and reporting systems.

The different sessions provided a comprehensive overview of current policy frameworks, regional initiatives, and practical case studies. Participants particularly benefited from the presentations on national experiences and regional projects, which highlighted concrete approaches and challenges in marine litter monitoring. The discussions also emphasized the importance of data harmonization, quality assurance, and the integration of monitoring results into decision-making processes.

The webinar further contributed to strengthening regional cooperation and fostering dialogue among key actors, encouraging cross-country collaboration and mutual learning. It also helped identify existing gaps and challenges, including the need for more standardized monitoring methodologies, (particularly in cases where no standards have yet been established), enhanced technical capacities, and improved coordination among stakeholders. It was also noted that, in several cases, the collected data does not meet Data Standards (DSs) and therefore cannot be integrated into the IMAP information system, thus highlighting the need for further alignment, information and capacity building to promote integration into IMAP across the region.

Despite the overall success, some limitations were noted, particularly the limited time allocated for in-depth discussions and interactive exchanges. Addressing these aspects in future activities could further enhance participant engagement and knowledge transfer.

In conclusion, the webinar represents an important step towards improving marine litter monitoring and reporting in the Mediterranean region. It provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and contributed to supporting informed decision-making and policy development. Future actions should build on these outcomes by promoting continuous capacity building, strengthening regional collaboration, and ensuring the effective implementation of monitoring programmes.

10 ANNEXES

10.1 AGENDA

Regional Webinar on the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation - Tuesday 3 February 2026 - 09:00-14:00CET (Online)

09:00-09:30	Connection to the platform Participants join and test audio/video connections
09:30-09:50 20min	Opening remarks ▪ Prof. Michael Scoulllos, Team Leader, WES-BCA ▪ Dr. Youssef Tadros, Programme Manager, DGMENA, European Commission
09:50-10:00 10 min	Introduction to the WES-BCA project and activity overview ▪ Mr. Anis Ismail, Environment Key Expert, WES-BCA
10:00-10:40 40 min	Session1: Overview of marine litter policy advances in the Mediterranean ▪ Mr. Patrick Wegerdt, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission ▪ Ms. Alessandra Sensi, Head of Sector, Environment, Green and Blue Economy, UfM ▪ Ms. Olfat Hamdan, MEDPOL Programme Management Officer, UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL Q&A
10:40-11:50 70min	Session 2: Sharing regional and national experiences on marine litter monitoring and reporting ▪ Perspective from the World Bank on Marine Plastic Pollution in the MENA Region through PROBLUE and Related Initiatives by Ms. Delphine Arri, Senior Environmental Engineer, World Bank ▪ From Pilot Monitoring Actions to Participatory Science on Marine Litter: The EUSWIM-H2020 SM, WES, and other Mediterranean showcases by Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, PhD, Senior Environmental Chemist and Ecotoxicologist, WES-BCA Invited Speaker ▪ UfM labelled Plastic Busters CAP: Insights and Tunisia Case Study by Ms. Sana Ben Ismail, Senior Researcher in Marine Sciences, WES-BCA/INSTM ▪ UfM labelled TouMaLi Project by Dr. Mirco Haseler, Senior Marine Litter Researcher, Postdoc Scientist, WES-BCA/IOW & Egypt case Study by Dr. Gasser Hassan, Associate Professor in Fluid Mechanics and Energy Resources, Local Project Manager, AASTMT-Egypt ▪ MedMarine Litter+ in Tunisia by Dr. Nouredine Zaaboub, Professor in biogeochemistry, researcher, National FP Marine Litter, INSTM- Tunisia Tour de table followed by Q&A
11:50-12:10	Healthy Break
12:10-13:10 60 min	Session 3: Advancing regional best practices: Generating fit-for-purpose data for the Quality Status Reports for the Mediterranean ▪ Mrs. Olfat Hamdan, Programme Management Officer, UNEP-MAPMEDPOL ▪ Ms. Lobna Ben Nakhla, Programme Officer, SPA/RAC ▪ Dr. Christina Zeri, Research Director, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) Institute of Oceanography, Greece ▪ Mr. Abdeslam Abid, Head of Water and Waste Pollution Analysis Department, National Laboratory for Pollution Studies and Monitoring (LNESP), Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco ▪ Dr. Camille Lacroix, Head of Aquatic Litter Monitoring and Studies Department, CEDRE, France Open discussion
13:10-13:40 30 min	Session4: Data availability and integration for decision-making: Connecting policies, institutions, and stakeholders across local, national, and regional levels ▪ The IMAP Reporting in the framework of the Barcelona Convention: Data collection and MAP Data Policy by Arthur Pasquale, INFO/RAC Deputy Director ▪ Open discussion
13:40-14:00 20 min	Conclusion & way forward ▪ Prof. Michael Scoulllos, Team Leader, WES-BCA

10.2 LINK OF THE MOST RELEVANT DOCUMENTS OF REFERENCE

C1_REG-4: Support for WES-BCA PCs in the Mediterranean for the monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation Background document on marine litter monitoring and reporting: [WES-BCA C1-REG-4 2026.02.03 Background Document](#)

Zeri, C., Adamopoulou, A., Bojani, D., Fortibuoni, T., Kova, M., Kr, A., Mandic, M., Mazziotti, C., Palatinus, A., Peterlin, M., Prvan, M., Ronchi, F., Siljic, J., & Tutman, P. (2018). Floating plastics in Adriatic waters (Mediterranean Sea): From the macro- to the micro-scale. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 136, 341–350. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2018.09.016>

Vlachogianni, T., Fortibuoni, T., Ronchi, F., Zeri, C., Mazziotti, C., Tutman, P., Bojani, D., Palatinus, A., Trdan, Š., Peterlin, M., Mandi, M., Markovic, O., Prvan, M., Kaberi, H., Prevenios, M., Kolitari, J., Kroqi, G., Fusco, M., Kalampokis, E., & Scoullou, M. (2018). Marine litter on the beaches of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas : An assessment of their abundance , composition and sources. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 131, 745–756. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2018.05.006>

Fortibuoni, T., Ronchi, F., Ma, V., Mandi, M., Mazziotti, C., Peterlin, M., Prevenios, M., Prvan, M., Somarakis, S., Tutman, P., Bojani, D., Kovac, M., Vlachogianni, T., & Zeri, C. (2019). A harmonized and coordinated assessment of the abundance and composition of sea floor litter in the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion (Mediterranean Sea). *Marine Pollution Bulletin Journal*, 139, 412–426. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2019.01.017>

Vlachogianni, T., Skocir, M., Constantin, P., Labbe, C., Orthodoxou, D., Pesmatzoglou, I., Scannella, D., Spika, M., Zissimopoulos, V., & Scoullou, M. (2020). Science of the Total Environment Plastic pollution on the Mediterranean coastline : Generating fit-for- purpose data to support decision-making via a participatory-science initiative. *Science of the Total Environment*, 711, 135058. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.135058>

Vlachogianni, T., & Scoullou, M. (2023). Assessing marine macrolitter on the coastline of the Asterousia Biosphere Reserve : Insights from a community-based study. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 195. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115474>

Vlachogianni, T., & Scoullou, M. (2024). Baseline assessment of macrolitter on the coastline of Algeria : Fit-for-purpose data for tailor-made measures to navigate the Plasticene Age. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 205, 116646. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.116646>

10.3 POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS

Regional activity: C1_REG-4: Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation:

https://www.wes-bca.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/C1_REG-4-2025.11.12-Presentations-1.pdf

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Introduction A. Ismail](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 1 P. Wergedt 1](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 1 A. Sensi 2](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 1 O. Hamdan 3](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 2 D. Arri 4](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 2 T. Vlachogianni 5](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 2 S. Ben Ismail 6](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 2 M. Haseler, G. Hassan 7](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 2 N. Zaaboub 8](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 3 O. Hamdan 9](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 3 L. Ben Nakhla 10](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 3 C. Zeri 11](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 3 A. Abid 12](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 3 C. Lacroix 13](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 4 A. Pascuale 14](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Introduction A. Ismail](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 1 P. Wergedt 1](#)

[2026.02.03 C1 REG-4 Session 1 A. Sensi 2](#)