



WES-BCA

Webinar

“Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks for Plastics and Circular Economy Alignment”

22 July 2026



Funded by
the European Union



WES-BCA Regional Activity C1_REG-1

Regional Webinar on Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks for Plastic Pollution and Circular Economy Alignment

22 July 2026

Webinar

Introduction to the WES-BCA project: Overview of the activity and key insights on plastics-related actions

Presented by:

Mr. Anis Ismail, Environment Key Expert, WES-BCA

WES-BCA in a snapshot



- WES-BCA aims to improve the 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 and the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention.
- It strives to enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders in order to support them in formulating and or implementing policies in the issues mentioned above.
- It is meant to raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve public understanding, stimulating behavioural changes needed for appropriate climate action and environmental protection.
- WES-BCA is the continuation of the WES project (2019-2024) and also capitalises on the experience of previous successful EU funded regional projects (SWIM-Horizon2020 SM, SWIM SM; Horizon 2020 CB/MEP).

WES-BCA Identity



Partner Countries: 8 Countries in North Africa and the Middle East



Duration: November 2024 - November 2027



Budget: 7.000.000 Euros



Team Leader: Professor Michael Scoulllos, scoulllos@wes-med.eu

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WES-BCA Consortium



LDK CONSULTANTS S.A. (Leader)



Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)



Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+)



Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM Bari)

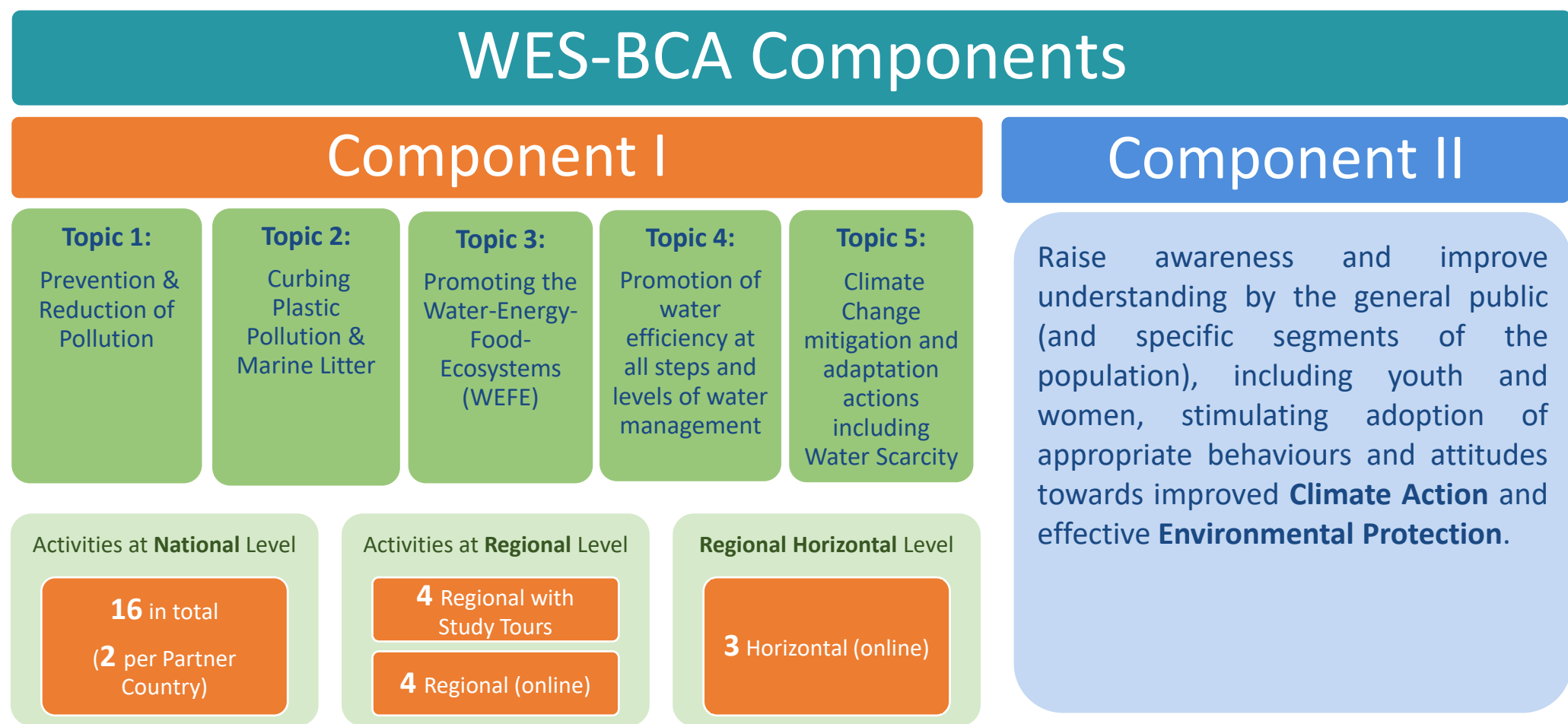


Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)



MedWaves, the Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/MAP for Sustainable Consumption and Production

WES-BCA Components and Outputs



COMPONENT I: Workplan for activities under Topics 1 and 2

National Activities



Country	Activity
Algeria	Advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and action planning for plastic waste reduction in Algeria (on hold)
Egypt	Sustainable plastic waste management focusing on SUPs in the tourism sector
Israel	Prohibiting the free distribution of single-use items
Jordan	Pre-conceptualization and support to establish a Plastic Waste Recycling/Upcycling Hub near existing waste management infrastructure
Lebanon	Advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and action planning for plastic waste reduction in Lebanon
Morocco	Financial impact assessment and economic implications of the proposed EPR model
Palestine	Support for EQA in preparing the Palestine 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
Tunisia	Enforcement of political and legal measures for the reduction and eventual prohibition of certain types of shopping plastic bags

COMPONENT I: Workplan for activities under Topics 1 and 2

Regional and Horizontal Activities

Country	Code	Topic	Activity	Tentative timeline
Regional (online)	C1_REG-4	Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter	Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation	Nov 2025 Completed
Horizontal (online)	C1_HOR-3	Topic 5: Climate Change mitigation and adaptation actions	Support for WES-BCA PCs in preparing their 7th National Biodiversity Reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)	Feb 2026 Completed
Regional (online)	C1_REG-1	Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter	Strengthening regional regulatory frameworks for plastics and Circular Economy alignment	July 2026
Regional (Study tour)	C1_REG/ST-2	Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter	Regional event on advancing Green, Blue, and Circular Economies in the Mediterranean through multi-sector collaboration (Sustainable Tourism)	Nov 2026
Regional (Study tour)	C1_REG/ST-3	Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter	Fostering regional collaboration and circular economy solutions to address land-based plastic pollution and marine litter in the mediterranean: policy guidance on tackling riverine plastic pollution.	Apr 2027

Objectives of this Regional Activity

Support Mediterranean Partner Countries in **strengthening and aligning national regulatory frameworks for tackling plastic pollution, promoting sustainable alternatives and eco-innovation, in line with circular economy principles, regional commitments, and emerging international policy directions.**

Specific Objectives:

- Enhance awareness and **understanding** of global, regional and EU frameworks on plastic pollution, including policy directions, eco-innovation and sustainable alternatives.
- Support **practical legal and regulatory alignment** in Partner Countries **to address plastic pollution** through peer learning, good practices and identification of priority gaps for effective plastic pollution policies.



Activity Implementation



Target group

This activity will target mainly national decision makers at national level, including:

- Legal advisers to Ministries of Environment and related ministries;
- Parliamentarians in charge of environment and sustainable development Committees/Commissions;
- Senior policymakers and directors responsible for plastics, waste, or circular economy;
- National focal points and negotiators involved in international plastics discussions (including INC);
- Representatives of regional organisations and relevant international partners;
- Private sector representatives involved in plastics production and eco-innovation
- Representatives of Academia and Civil society involved in sustainable management of plastics.

Questions to address during the webinar

- How are **existing global and regional Mediterranean policy provisions/commitments** and developments shaping national responses to plastic pollution?
- **Which international benchmarks and innovative policy tools** can best support the shift toward sustainable alternatives to plastics?
- What **key lessons emerge from national experiences in regulating and enforcing measures** on plastic pollution?
- What are the **main regulatory gaps and challenges in aligning national frameworks with international circular economy approaches**?
- **How can regional cooperation better support harmonised** legal frameworks and help identify priority needs for technical assistance?

Insights and lessons learnt from WES/WES-BCA actions

- Address plastics through a **full lifecycle approach**: prevention, reduction, reuse, sustainable alternatives, recycling and circularity.
- Ensure **SUPs reduction and avoidance measures** are explicitly integrated into national strategies, roadmaps and regulatory frameworks.
- Promote **multi-stakeholder engagement** involving governments, municipalities, private sector, plastic industry, tourism operators, academia and civil society.
- Accelerate the development of **fit-for-purpose EPR systems**, with clear institutional roles, legal frameworks, financing mechanisms and enforcement arrangements.
- Build on regional experiences with **EPR, Deposit Return Schemes, sustainable financial models** to design effective policy mixes adapted to national contexts.
- Strengthen **marine litter prevention, monitoring and reporting**, including improved data systems and increased attention to microplastics sources and impacts.



Recommendations and future priorities for the region

- Foster **public–private partnerships and innovation** to promote circular business models, sustainable alternatives and plastic waste prevention solutions.
- Continue investing in **capacity building, regional cooperation and knowledge exchange** to replicate successful approaches and harmonize methodologies.
- Scale up **awareness, behavioural change and citizen engagement initiatives**, including youth-focused campaigns and participatory science approaches.
- Mobilize **green finance, green banking and circular economy investments** to support sustainable solutions and infrastructure development.
- Strengthen links between plastic pollution prevention, **biodiversity protection, climate action, green/blue circular economy transition and the sustainable tourism**.



WES project Repository on 'Best practices in achieving waste reduction in the Mediterranean'



This website or 'repository' aims to promote waste reduction and circular economy across the waste management chain in the Mediterranean region. The cases included were selected out of many from different countries of the region via a stakeholder consultation to identify best practices. They are of varying scale and type from which a lot can be learned and that could inspire more actions to substantially reduce waste generation by 2030 through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

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[Useful links](#)

prevention	re-use	recycling	collection	no littering	other
The inclusion of the informal sector in the Oum Azza Landfill: the Attawafouk cooperative	Single-use plastic ban by the Red Sea Governorate	Implementing source separation and recycling in Lebanese municipalities with the support of the NGO "Arc-en-Ciel"	"Clean Beaches" programme and Blue Flag label for well-managed beaches to prevent littering		
Eco-Lef: a national system for the recovery and recycling of post-consumer packaging that focuses on plastic waste	Prevention of plastic bags: a ban on single-use plastic bags, and the Zero Milka Initiative in Morocco	Landfill and incineration tax with a refund criterion to boost source separation of biowaste	Fee modulation in the French Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for WEEE to promote re-use and recycling		
A local NGO implementing an integrated waste management system in the cities of Hurghada and Marsa Alam, Egypt	Single-use plastics - Not in my Sea!	La Brocante, a re-use centre for furniture and household items in Damour, Lebanon	Community composting to manage 100% of biowaste in a rural area of Spain		

WES Videos

 “Plastic Pollution and single-use plastics (SUPs)”

 “Circular Economy”

All versions of the videos with subtitles in English, French and Arabic are accessible via the WES-BCA YouTube page and Website.

WWW.WES-BCA.EU



Thank you for your attention!

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and keep up with our latest news!**

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