

SIMPEER: Simplified Peer Review Mechanism of National Strategies for Sustainable Development – Pilot Edition 2016-2017

The SIMPEER Pilot Edition 2016-2017 was carried out according to Decision IG.22/17 of the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016).

Through Decision IG.23/4 adopted at their 20th Meeting (Tirana, Albania, December 2017), the Contracting Parties are encouraged to participate in SIMPEER future editions, taking into account the lessons learned from the 2016-2017 exercise and with a view to enhancing the interlinkage with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) presented at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). A number of Contracting Parties have expressed their interest in participating in the SIMPEER during the biennium 2018-2019.

Background

The 15th Meeting of the MCSD (Floriana, Malta, June 2013) on the Reform of the MCSD and its mission, recommended the upgrade of the role of the MCSD as a regional platform for exchanges of experiences through the design of a simplified peer review mechanism to encourage the exchange of good practices on national implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

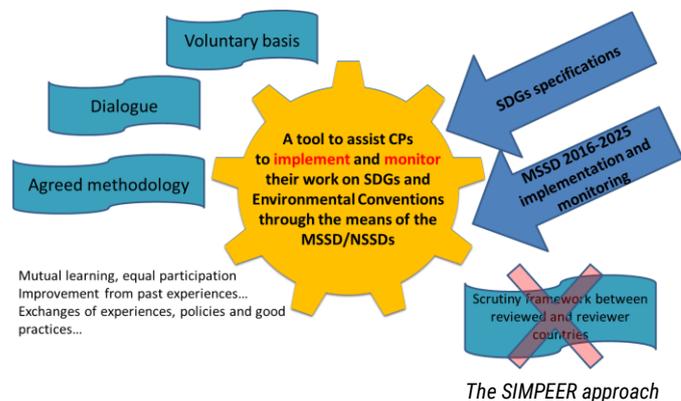
Based on this recommendation, Decision IG.21/12 of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Istanbul, December 2013) mandated the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the consideration of the MCSD on how a simplified peer review process could be put in place.

Objectives

SIMPEER is a framework for mutual learning and improvement of sustainable development structures and processes among Mediterranean countries, based on their voluntary and equal participation in sharing experiences and best practices through an agreed methodology. It aims to serve as a tool for streamlining the processes related to international commitments and their transposition in national legislations.

SIMPEER contributes to the development and review of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) and the monitoring of the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 as a regional translation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It also supports the preparation and follow-up of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) annually presented at the HLPF, and that will serve as input for the better alignment of the SIMPEER process with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

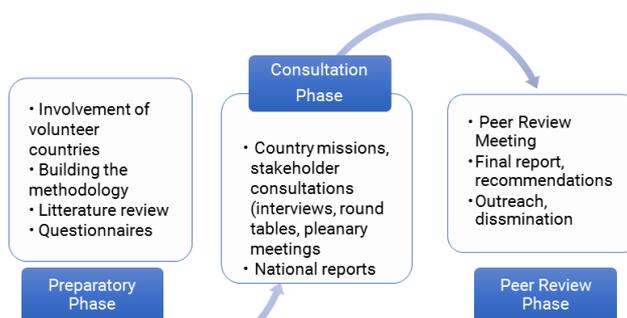


Main achievements, conclusions and recommendations

France, Montenegro, and Morocco participated in the SIMPEER pilot phase and confirmed that the process was beneficial for the fine-tuning of national processes and mechanisms for sustainable development, making them more effective in pursuing the active engagement of stakeholders and in maintaining the momentum for the follow-up of the VNRs they presented at the HLPF in July 2016.

- **Effective political leadership:** Environmental protection and sustainable development are reflected into the three countries' Constitutions. NSSDs are politically appropriated by the highest levels of the State and that represents a sufficient pre-condition. However, interlinkages between national administrations and the private sector need to be strengthened.

- **Integrated approach:** NSSDs are considered as “umbrella strategies”, guiding or comforting sectoral strategies. That ensures the integration of sustainable development into public policies, providing a common and shared vision of sustainability. However, much more is needed to break the “silo effect”.
- **Inclusive governance:** SIMPEER developed dialogue among stakeholders and between countries, achieving mutual improvement and learning process, and leading to the exchange of best practices.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Monitoring structures and agreed methodologies to follow progress on MSSD/SDG implementation are still lacking, necessitating agreed models, reliable data, and significant resources.



The three phases of the SIMPEER process

Best practices and lessons learned

In France, the Annual Environmental Conference is effective in mobilizing stakeholders and public participation in environmental dialogue. The annual submission to the Parliament of the report on NSSD implementation strengthens stakeholders’ participation. An effective institutional, technical and scientific environment supports the monitoring of the NSSD. For instance, the appointment of Senior Officials for Sustainable Development in each ministry plays an important role in integrating sustainability considerations into sectoral policies.

In Montenegro, the NSSD is structured around four resources, human, social, natural and economic, with governance and financing as cross-cutting dimensions. The NSSD was the first strategic document to incorporate and transpose the 17 SDGs to the national level, including monitoring and evaluation indicators. At the local level, the transposition of the NSSD in the 13 municipalities is an important challenge.

In Morocco, the NSSD provides the legal basis and mandate required to mobilize the necessary funding for its implementation. It has managed to incorporate sustainable development principles in sectoral policies related to major economic activities. For instance, cross-sectoral agreements have been established between the various ministries. National and local Environment Observatories also facilitate monitoring NSSD implementation.

Global/Regional interactions on sustainable development in the Mediterranean	
Global processes	Mediterranean regional processes
2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)
High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
Volunteer National Review (VNR)	Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)
SDG Index and Dashboards	Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard

Resources

SIMPEER: <https://tinyurl.com/y749et5v>

MSSD 2016-2025: <https://tinyurl.com/yb2whxcp>

PB-RAC: www.planbleu.org