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19th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Videoconference, 7–9 June 2021

Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

d) Mid-Term Evaluations of the MSSD and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation: Outputs from the Stakeholder Consultation

Mid-Term Evaluations (MTE) of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP Regional Action Plan)

Outputs from the Stakeholder Consultation

Draft Report

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Date: 24 March 2021

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1. Objective, Methodology and Timeline

1.1. Objective

The **consultation phase** aimed at collecting comments, opinions and ideas from key Mediterranean stakeholders involved in the implementation and follow-up of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP RAP). Through inclusive, participatory and open discussions, the outcomes will contribute to the final reports of the Mid-Term Evaluations (MTE) of those forward-looking policy documents.

1.2. Stakeholders and Methodology

A **clustering of relevant stakeholders** has been undertaken to ensure an inclusive, participatory and open consultation process, based on the consultation of the following groups:

- **Tier 1:** UNEP/MAP Components / Regional Activity Centres (RACs)
- **Tier 2:** MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Partners
- **Tier 3:** MCSD Members, UNEP/MAP Partners, Members of the SwitchMed Community, and other relevant stakeholders involved or interested in the MSSD and SCP RAP.

For each target group, a specific **methodology** has been defined in order to ensure a timely, effective and fruitful exchange based on the assumed level of expertise, tentative availability and potential interest:

- **Tier 1 - Bilateral or multilateral interviews:** Semi-structured interviews to collect opinions and suggestions from UNEP/MAP institutional actors based on the preliminary assessment and transversal issues identified.
- **Tier 2 - Participatory workshops:** On-line webinars around transversal issues identified in the preliminary assessment (state of play and gap analysis draft report) to trigger, in a structured, collective and constructive manner, ideas and proposals from participants towards MSSD and SCP RAP implementation.
- **Tiers 1, 2 and 3 - On-line survey:** series of multiple-choice questions regarding perception on the level of implementation of the MSSD and SCP RAP, with the possibility to share any meaningful initiatives, proposals or recommendations that could be relevant for the mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and SCP RAP.

The **list of stakeholders** invited to the consultation has been defined to ensure a diverse, inclusive and richfull representation of different groups of interest based on:

- Geographical scope (regional, sub-regional, national)
- Gender and institutional responsibility
- Sector of origin (academia, NGO, IGO, private sector/businesses, etc.)
- Issues covered (environment, climate change, circular economy, social affairs, etc.)
- Proximity and knowledge of the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention system

1.3. Calendar of consultation

Date	Stakeholders	Type	Number of Participants
Nov-Dec. 2020	Tiers 1, 2 and 3	On-line Survey	69
16/12/21	Tiers 1 & 2: Specific session during the 22nd Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee	Online Workshop	7
14/01/21	Tier 1: SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC	Online Interview	3
14/01/21	Tier 1: Plan Bleu/RAC	Online Interview	2
09/02/21	Tier 2: MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Partners (1st group)	Online Workshop	7
11/02/21	Tier 2: MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Partners (2nd group)	Online Workshop	9
17/02/21	Tier 1: SCP/RAC	Online Interview	3
25/02/21	Tier 1: INFO/RAC and MEDPOL	Online Interview	2
25/02/21	Tier 1: REMPEC	Online Interview	1

2. Results from the on-line survey

2.1. Characteristics of participants

69 responses were received through the online survey opened during November-December 2020 and shared by the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat with MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Partners (93 entities)¹ and by SCP/RAC with Members of the SwichMed community.

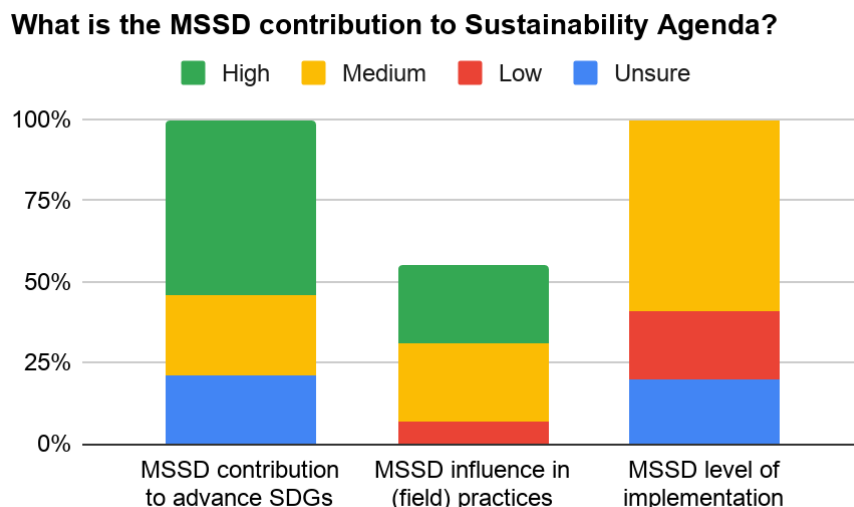
Respondents came from most of the **Mediterranean countries**: Italy (16%), Spain (14%), France (10%), Tunisia (9%), Lebanon (7%), Greece (6%), Egypt (4%), Bosnia & Herzegovina; (4%), Turkey (3%), Israel (1%), Algeria (1%), Croatia (1%), Malta (1%), Montenegro (1%), Morocco (1%), Monaco (1%). 16% were from non-Mediterranean countries (mainly related to international organizations).

Regarding the gender distribution, **55% of the respondents were female** and 42% were male (3% preferred not to say). Related to the age distribution, **48% were between 41-50 years old**; 26% between 31-40; 12% between 51-60; 6% between 21-30 and 6% between 61-70. Regarding the **sector of origin**, 27% were from international or regional organizations (IGOs); 27% from NGOs; 26% from the public administration/local authority; 12% from the scientific community; and 7% from the private sector.

2.2. MSSD contribution and level of achievement

The following charts are showing the aggregated responses from participants to the survey, noting that it was possible, for some of the questions, to select several answers (see annex for full details of the survey).

a. MSSD Contribution to Sustainability Agenda

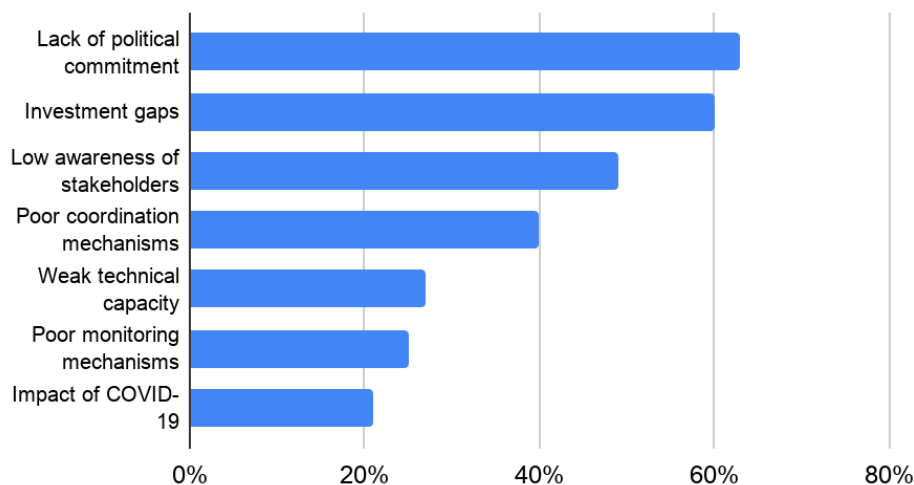


On a positive note, the participants considered that the **MSSD contribution to the (regional) sustainability agenda is high** (54%). However, they were more cautious about the **influence in (field) practices**, between high (24%) and medium (24%). Regarding the **level of implementation**, they were rather unsatisfied (medium: 59%, low: 21%, high: 0%, 20%: unsure/lack of information).

¹ 40 MCSD Members and 53 MAP/NGOs Partners. UNEP/MAP Focal Points (national governments) were also copied for information and might have answered or disseminated the survey.

b. Obstacles towards MSSD and SDGs implementation

What are the main Obstacles towards MSSD and SDGs implementation?

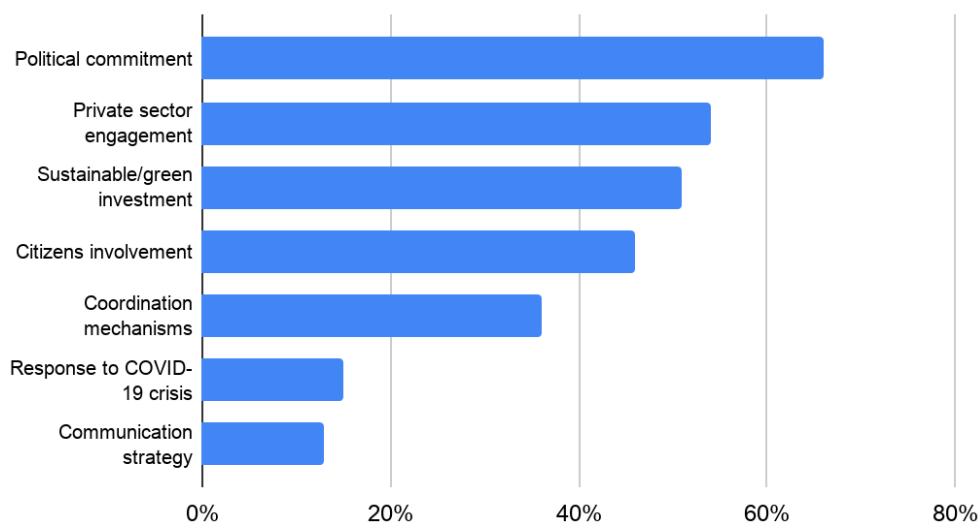


According to the participants, the **main obstacles towards the implementation of the MSSD** are:

- Lack of political commitment (63% of respondents)
- Investment gaps (60%)
- Low awareness of stakeholders (49%)
- Poor coordination mechanisms (40%)

c. Drivers towards MSSD and SDGs implementation

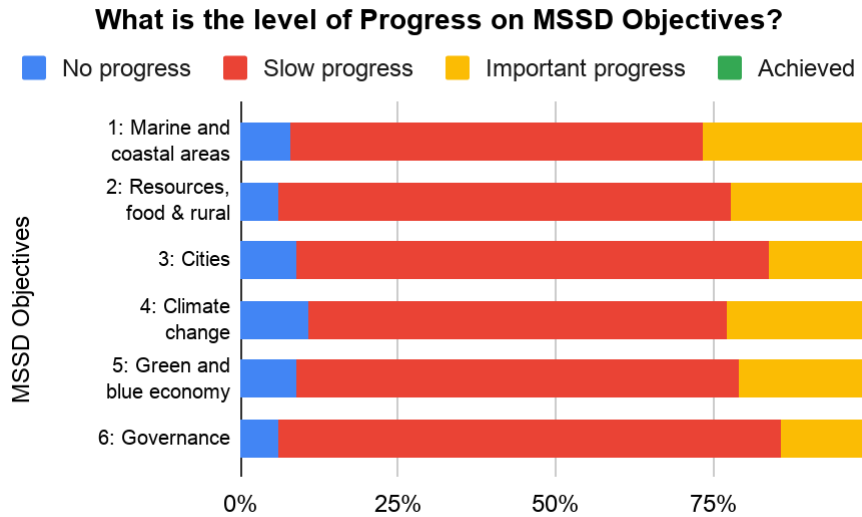
What are the Main Drivers towards MSSD and SDGs implementation?



Regarding the identified obstacles, the **main drivers towards the implementation of the MSSD** are:

- Political commitment (66% of respondents)
- Private sector engagement (54%)
- Sustainable/green investment (51%)
- Citizens´ involvement (46%)
- Coordination mechanisms (36%)

d. Progress towards MSSD Objectives

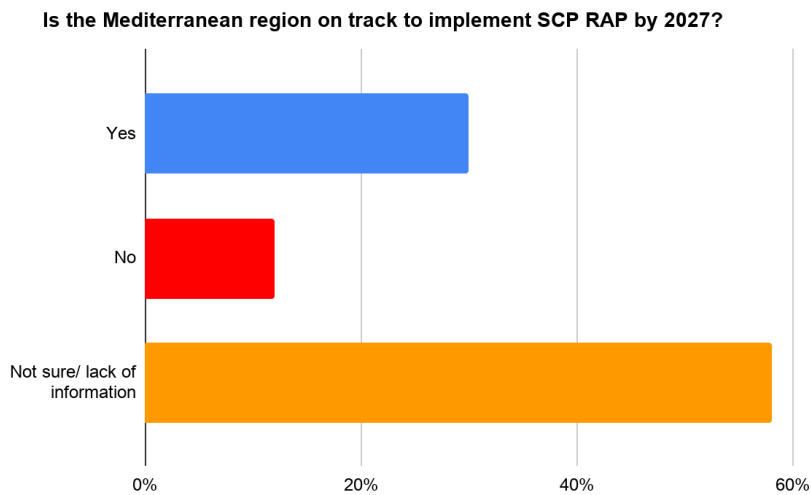


When looking at the level of progress towards the MSSD Objectives, the respondents are in general highlighting the **lack of speed for MSSD Objectives implementation** (for 66 up to 79% of the respondents). **Governance** (Objective 6) and **Cities** (Objective 3) are a bit better evaluated; and **Marine and Coastal Areas** (Objective 1) are a bit worse, even if the differences are rather small.

2.3. SCP Regional Action Plan level of achievement

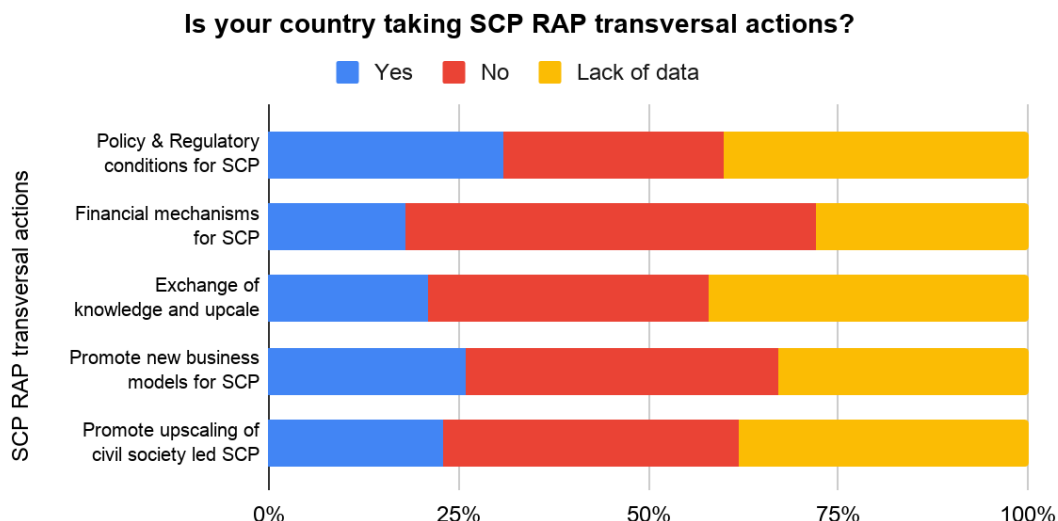
The following charts are showing the aggregated responses from participants to the survey, noting that it was possible, for some of the questions, to select several answers (see annex for full details of the survey).

a. General progress of the SCP RAP



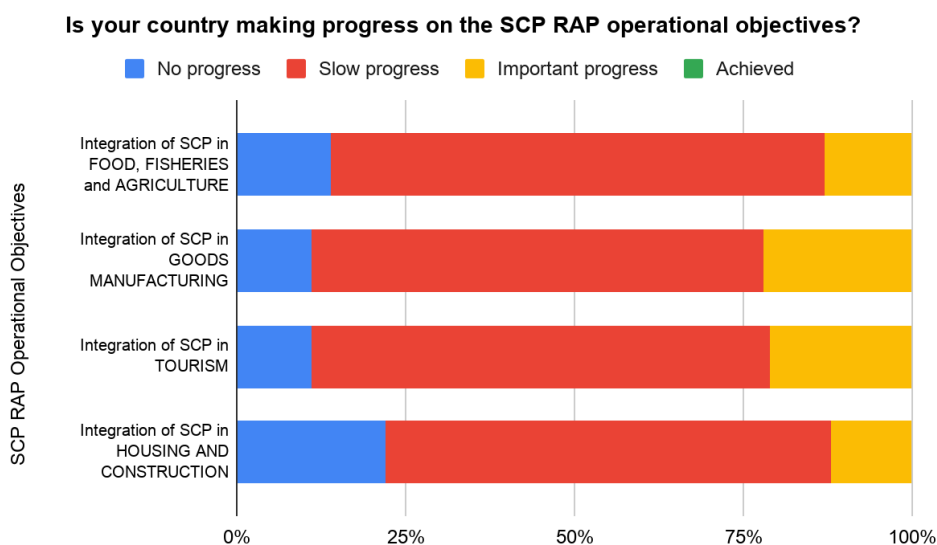
Most of the respondents (58%) **do not know if the SCP RAP is on track** to meet its objectives by 2027, followed by 30% of respondents that answered in a positive manner.

b. Progress on SCP RAP transversal actions



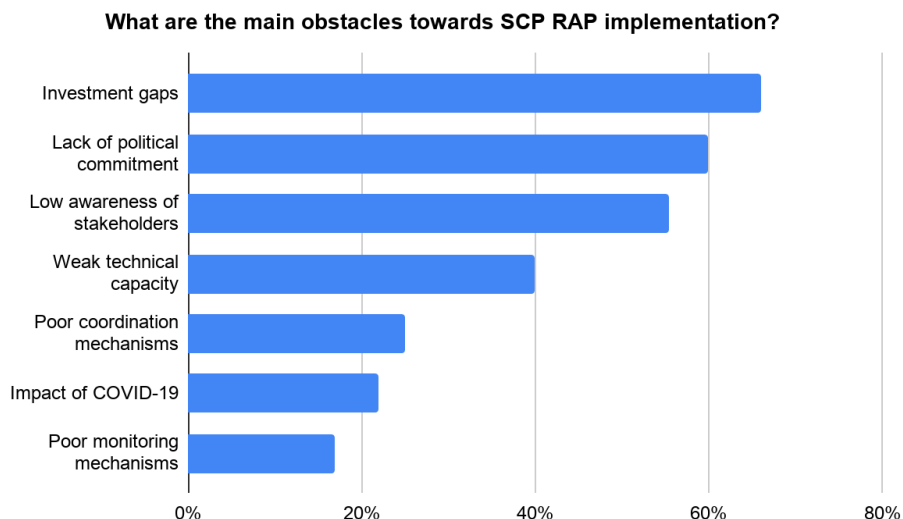
When checking responses on the SCP RAP transversal actions by countries, respondents highlighted the **“enabling of policy and regulatory conditions to promote SCP”** as the main positive response (31% of respondents answered “Yes” and 29% responded “No”). The rest of responses on transversal actions to be taken by countries are predominantly negative or respondents lacked information.

c. Progress on SCP RAP operational objectives



When analysing responses on the progress on SCP RAP operational objectives by countries, respondents highlighted the **“slow progress”** made in all key sectors as the main response (73%, 67%, 63% and 66% of respondents).

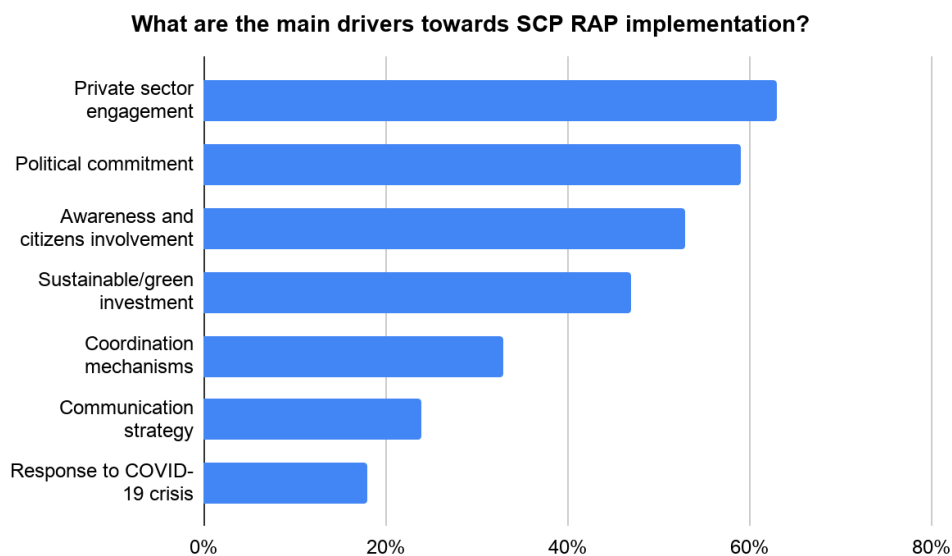
d. Obstacles towards SCP RAP implementation



According to participants, the **main obstacles towards the implementation of the SCP RAP** are:

- Investment gaps (66% of respondents)
- Lack of political commitment (60%)
- Low awareness of stakeholders (55%)
- Weak technical capacity (40%)

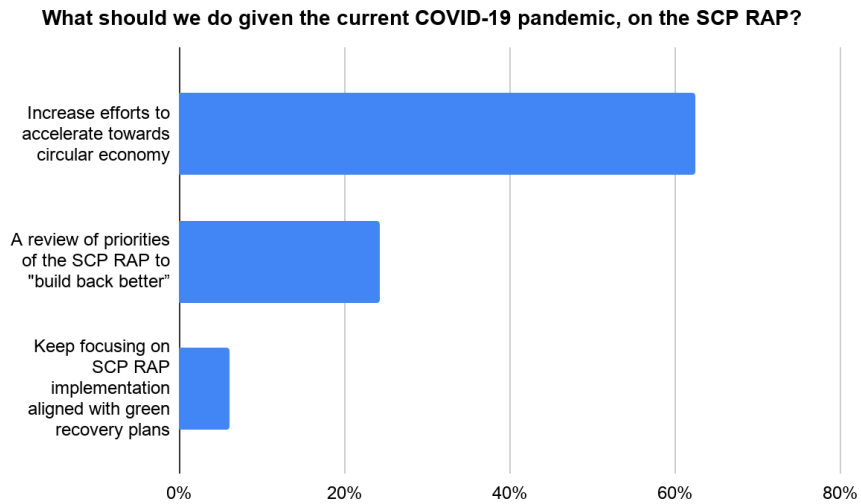
e. Drivers towards SCP RAP implementation



According to respondents, the **main drivers towards the implementation of the SCP RAP** are:

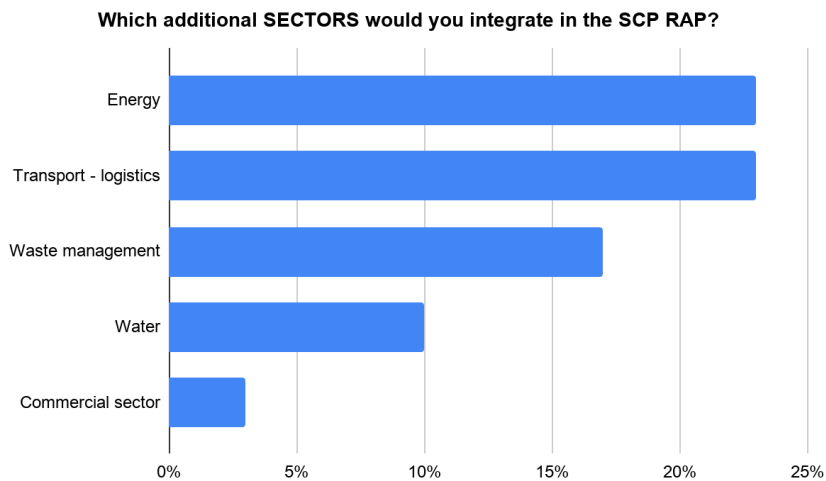
- Private sector engagement (63% of respondents)
- Political commitment (59%)
- Awareness and citizens involvement (53%)
- Sustainable/ green investment (47%)

f. Actions given the current COVID-19 pandemic



When checking responses on proposed actions, 63% of respondents stated that **“increase substantially efforts to accelerate the transition towards circular economy as an effective approach to move towards SCP”** as the main response. 24% of participants also stated **“a review of some priorities of the SCP Action Plan is necessary to build back better”**.

g. Proposed additional sectors to the SCP RAP



According to participants, the following **additional sectors** could be added to the SCP RAP:

- Energy (23% of respondents)
- Transport - Logistics (23%)
- Waste management (17%)
- Water (10%)

3. Results from the Online Workshops

3.1. Methodology and Participants

Several workshops were organized to ensure diverse and representative participation from key stakeholders related to the MSSD and SCP RAP:

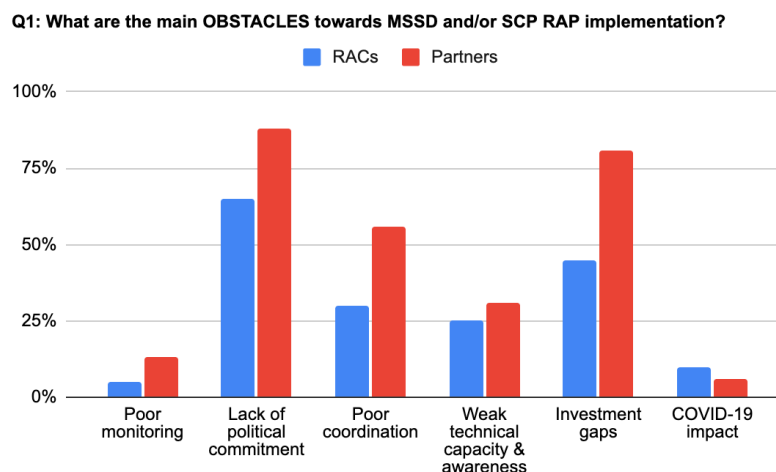
- (5) individual and collective online interviews/workshops with UNEP/MAP Components (Plan Bleu, SCP/RAC, SPA/RAC & PAP/RAC, REMPEC, MED POL & INFO/RAC)
- (2) collective online workshops with MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Partners

The **Agenda of discussion** (see Annex II) was divided into different phases to cover the main issues identified in the preliminary assessment of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan. The workshop combined open and closed questions to be answered and discussed during the session through an on-line platform (**Mentimeter**) and verbally by the participants. To guarantee active and fruitful participation, the meeting was held under the **Chatham House Rule**: facilitators were free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s) may be revealed.

3.2. State of Progress and Implementation

The main comments received around the state of progress and implementation of the MSSD and SCP RAP at regional and national level, including financial mechanisms and policy instruments, are detailed below.

a. Main Obstacles towards MSSD and SCP/RAP implementation

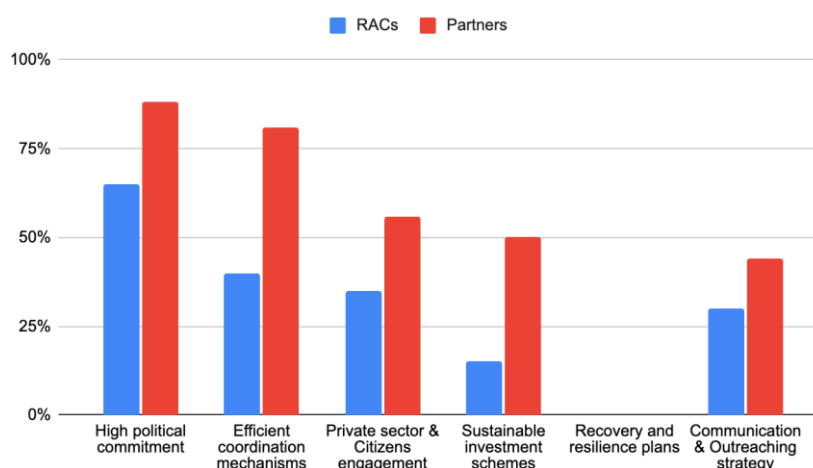


The **main Obstacles** identified by the participants were the following:

- Lack of political commitment (65% and 88% of RACs and Partners respondents respectively)
- Poor coordination mechanisms (30%, 56%)
- Investment gaps (45%, 81%)

b. Main Drivers towards MSSD and SCP/RAP implementation

Q2: What are the main DRIVERS towards MSSD and/or SCP RAP implementation?



The main Drivers identified by the participants were the following:

- High political commitment (65% and 88% of RACs and Partners respondents respectively)
- Efficient coordination mechanisms (40%, 81%)
- Private sector & Citizens' engagement (35%, 56%)
- Communication & Outreaching strategy (30%, 44%)

c. Renewed political leadership is needed

- **Political commitment** is crucial to drive actions. (Some) decisions and commitments could/should be binding.
- Only a few governments are approaching sustainability as a **cross ministerial issue** or at the Cabinet level. It is driven mainly and/or exclusively by the ministries in charge of the environment, usually lacking (technical/political/financial) power.
- There is a weak **political governance** with a **lack of coherence, consistency and coordination** among processes at global, regional, and national levels.

d. Governance and coordination mechanisms to be improved

- The MSSD represents a relevant **regional platform for dialogue** between stakeholders that could be leveraged.
- It is necessary to complete and/or create a (new) governance structure based on **multi-level processes and integrated, systemic approaches (nexus)**.
- The **MSSD is not effectively implemented and monitored at the national level**. Coordination mechanisms could/should be improved.
- Better **cooperation** between existing sustainability initiatives is needed. Successful flagship initiatives should be **more promoted** as good practices, **scaled-up** through adequate funding, and replicated.

e. Private sectors and consumers to become more involved

- Efforts to **raise awareness of consumers** on SCP related issues should be intensified.
- **Access to investment** is a priority to scale-up initiatives.
- **Key role of the private sector** needs higher attention, in particular in the agri-food sector (role of green SMEs).

f. MSSD should be better funded, visible and attractive for stakeholders

- The MSSD is suffering from a **lack of resources** for implementation. It should identify better **who has to do what and how**.
- **MSSD is not well known and recognized** outside the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention system. It is difficult to find information for those not already connected. It should be (re)structured in a better way to make it more visible and attractive.
- **Adequate investment and funding schemes** are needed for the strategy: roadmap for real implementation, with adequate funding should be developed.
- **Stakeholders contributing to the MSSD are not sufficiently supported** by the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention system. They should be involved more closely and be better recognized.

g. Flagship initiatives as a key driver to advance the MSSD recognition and implementation

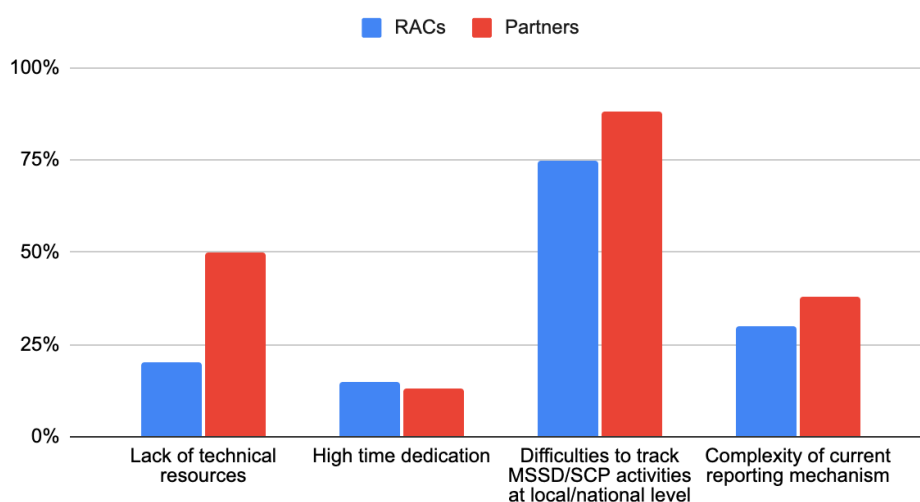
- Flagship Initiatives **increase MSSD visibility** but need greater **political leadership** and are too dependent on voluntary achievements from stakeholders.
- **Policymakers (Contracting Parties) should promote/endorse better the Flagship Initiatives**, putting them at the core center of sustainability policies.
- Flagship Initiatives should be **better supported by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat**. They should be captured in the MAP monitoring/reporting system.
- Flagship Initiatives can **attract donors** looking for tangible results.
- A process of **labelling MSSD initiatives** (like UfM) would increase MSSD visibility and attractiveness.
- A process of **integrating new Flagship's initiatives** (such as **Med SOx ECA**) should be developed.

3.3. Monitoring and Evaluation

The main comments received around the relevance, accuracy and efficiency of mechanisms to supervise and monitor the implementation of the MSSD and SCP RAP, including the tracking of policy and field projects, are detailed below.

a. Main Obstacles towards Monitoring and Evaluation

Q3: What are the main OBSTACLES towards the Monitoring and Evaluation of the MSSD and/or SCP RAP?

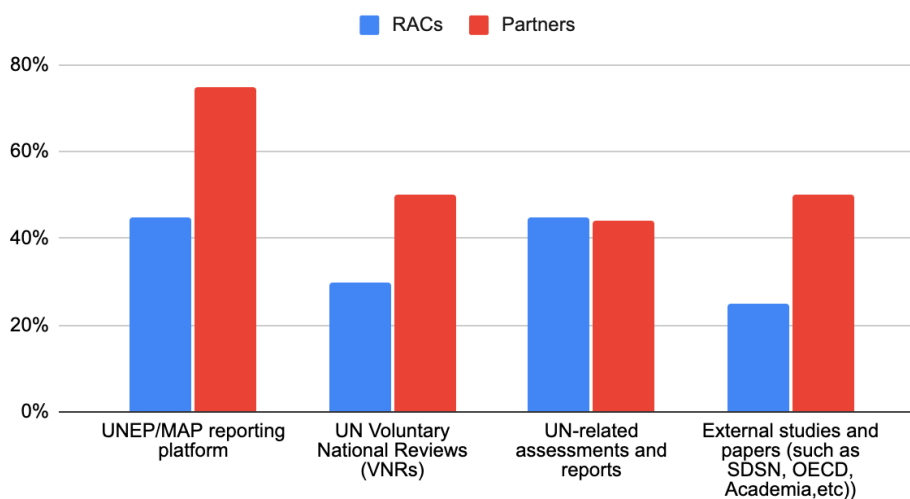


The **main Obstacles** identified by the participants were the following:

- Lack of technical resources (20% and 50% of UNEP RACs and Partners respondents respectively)
- Difficulties to track MSSD/SCP activities at local/national level (75%, 88%)
- Complexity of current reporting mechanism (30%, 38%)

b. Main Drivers towards Monitoring and Evaluation

Q4: What are the main DRIVERS towards the Monitoring and Evaluation of the MSSD and/or SCP RAP?



The **main Drivers** identified by the participants were the following:

- UNEP/MAP reporting platform (45% and 75% of RACs and Partners respondents respectively)
- UN Voluntary National Reviews (30%, 50%)
- UN-related assessments and reports (45%, 44%)
- External studies and papers (such as SDSN, OECD, Academia, etc) (25%, 50%)

c. Too many reporting platforms and lack of commitment/capacities

- **Multiple reporting systems** with different platforms increase **reporting fatigue by/from countries**.
- **Reporting commitment, interest and/or capacities** from Parties is very variable.
- As UN reporting depends on data provided (or not) by **national representatives**, secretariat could collaborate directly with **national data institutes** and relevant stakeholders²
- Reporting should be **consistent** with what is existing at national and local level – to be shared at regional level.

d. Focus on relevant and missing data / initiatives

- Many initiatives contributing to MSSD and SCP RAP are **not correctly reported or identified**, at national or local levels.
- Contextual **socio-economics data** and background information are often missing, so it is difficult to describe the whole situation and identify the right drivers. Focus could be put on DPSI(R) mapping.
- **Capacity to track** the drivers/issues at regional/national level is lacking, with mismatch between UNEP/MAP level and national monitoring (SCP RAP).
- It is essential to identify **who does what** vs what is notified in terms of reporting and monitoring.

e. Integrate new sources of data (from stakeholders, Citizen Science, Big Data, etc.)

- Support and **ownership on indicators** by/from stakeholders and countries should be promoted.
- **Stakeholders** should/could be more involved in data collection and monitoring.
- **Non-official sources** (citizen sciences, big data, academia, etc..) should be considered to track field progress.
- **Legal indicators** related to compliance and enforcement. should also be integrated.

h. Alignments of MSSD Indicators with SDGs

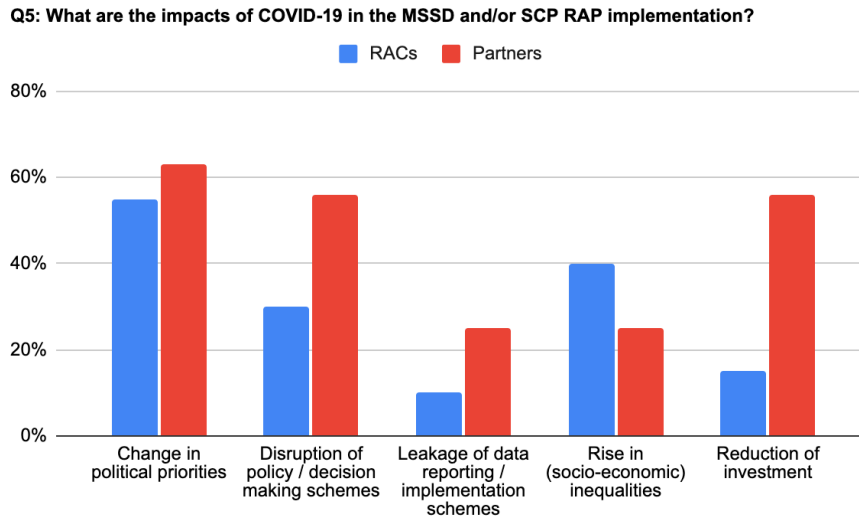
- MSSD indicators should be even more **integrated** and/or aligned with SDGs indicators.
- Indicators are very **sectoral** with a lack of synergies with other monitoring processes.
- Outcomes from indicators should be **communicated** to the public and policymakers to increase knowledge sharing and MSSD commitment.

² In Montenegro, 26 institutions are responsible to collect data to report on SDGs, but only 8 are official statistical bodies. It is therefore complex to coordinate many actors to collect the right information.

3.4. COVID-19 and Sustainability Agenda

The main comments around impacts of COVID-19 crisis towards the implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan, MSSD and SDGs in the Mediterranean region and countries are detailed below.

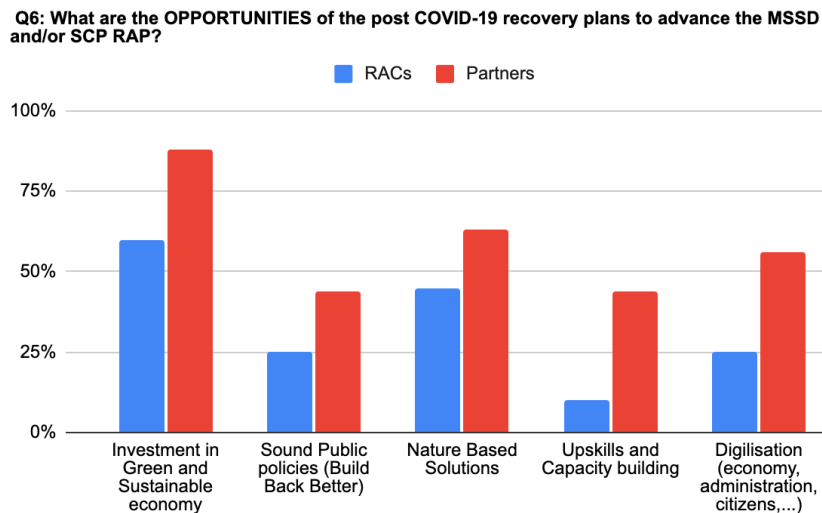
a. Impacts of pandemic



The **main impacts** identified by the participants were the following:

- Change in political priorities (55% and 63% of RACs and Partners respondents respectively)
- Disruption of policy / decision making schemes (30%, 56%)
- Rise in (socio-economic) inequalities (40%, 25%)
- Reduction of investment (15%, 56%)

b. Opportunities from post-covid recovery plans



The **main Opportunities** identified by the participants were the following:

- Investment in Green and Sustainable economy (60% of RACs and 88% of Partners respondents)
- Sound Public policies - Build Back Better (25%, 44%)
- Nature Based Solutions (45%, 63%)
- Digitalisation (25%, 56%)

c. New governance schemes during and after the pandemic

- Governance is/will change under the influence of COVID-19 with a need for a more **integrated and participatory approach**.

- Governance should be based on **collective intelligence**. For instance, national Post-COVID strategies should integrate local authorities.
- Mediterranean is a heterogeneous area working as an interface between North/South. It offers a real opportunity for driving **global change** (e.g. One Mediterranean Summit).
- EU policies provide a **long-term vision** (Green Deal and Recovery Funds) to address sustainability issues. However, there is a lack of information and/or equivalent strategies from other (non EU) countries.

d. Opportunities for better policies and scaling up of (sustainable) investment

- Recovery plans should focus on (green/blue) investment, targeting **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)** and including conditionalities as well as (green) fiscal reforms.
- **Digitalization** as an opportunity to advance a more green/circular economy activities (stimulus package), although that may be more difficult for some (non EU) countries.
- Post-COVID19 could capitalize and build on **existing MSSD initiatives**. Existing initiatives should be leveraged, instead of creating new ones.

e. Awareness on the connection between environment and health

- The awareness of the interactions between **Human and Planetary Health** (One Health approach) to address global problems is growing, thanks to the pandemic.
- **Capacity building** is also needed, as well as citizens awareness and stakeholder's participation.
- It is necessary to better understand the relationships between/within SDGs and go beyond GDP approach to address large scientific deficits.

f. Opportunity for systemic transformation

- The pandemic is showing that **major changes in a short period of time is possible**. It could help to spread the sustainability message.
- Countries should take advantage of the recovery plans to address **behavioural changes and SCP related approaches**.
- Synergies with **global and regional policy or governance platforms** (5+5, WestMed, etc.) should be promoted.

4. Conclusions

The consultations with the MSSD and SCP RAP stakeholders brought various comments and suggestions that could significantly benefit the implementation of the strategies.

In line with recent environmental assessments³, the MSSD and SCP RAP **level of advancement is perceived insufficient** to reach the targeted objectives in 2025 (MSSD), 2027 (SCP RAP) or 2030 (SDGs).

In particular, the need to **engage more closely with policy and decision-makers** was repeatedly highlighted to improve policies and practices.

The **investment in communication** has been often proposed to increase the visibility and influence capacity of the strategies.

The growing "**reporting fatigue**" could be addressed through **better alignment** with SDGs indicators and the collection of other sources of data (Big Data, Citizens Science, Academic works, etc).

Finally, the **National and European Recovery Plans** were considered as unique opportunities to promote a more sustainable economy and society in the Mediterranean region.

³ Among others: State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, 2020.

5. ANNEX 1: List of participants of the online workshops

Mid-Term Evaluations of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan

Stakeholder Consultation – Webinars

List of Participants

Webinar 1 on Tuesday 9 February 2021, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (CET)

Name	Organization
Mr. Emad Adly	Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
Mr. Josep Canals	Med Cities
Mr. Vangelis Constantianos	Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
Ms. Camille Loth	WWF Mediterranean
Ambassador Sergio Piazzi	Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)
Ms. Cecile Roddier-Quefelec	European Environment Agency (EEA)
Ms. Marie Romani	MedPAN
Ms. Alessandra Sensi	Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat

Webinar 2 on Thursday 11 February 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)

Name	Organization
Mr. Oriol Barba	Med Cities
Ms. Merce Boy	Interreg MED Green Growth / BETA Tech. Center, University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia
Mr. Simone Cresti	SDSN Med – University of Sienna
Ms. Carla Danelutti	IUCN Mediterranean
Mr. Sami El Iklil	The Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection
Ms. Sylvie Fontaine	European Commission – DG NEAR
Mr. Alessandro Galli	Global Footprint Network
Mr. Evangelos Raftopoulos	MEPIELAN Centre
Ms. Anastasia Roniotes	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)
Mr. Ronan Uhel	European Environment Agency (EEA)

Secretariat:

Consultants: Jérémie Fosse (jfobcn@gmail.com) and Manuel Clar (mclar@planeting.es)

UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and SCP/RAC

6. ANNEX 2: Agenda of the online workshops

Mid-Term Evaluations of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan

Stakeholder Consultation – Webinars

Tuesday 9 February 2021, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (CET)

and

Thursday 11 February 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)

Provisional Agenda

Introduction (by the facilitators): Presentation of the mid-term evaluation process, description of the methodology and objectives of the session, presentation of participants – 15 minutes

A- State of Progress and Implementation: Discussion around state of progress and implementation of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan at regional and national level, including financial mechanisms and policy instruments – 20 minutes

B- Monitoring and Evaluation: Discussion around the relevance, accuracy and efficiency of mechanisms to supervise and monitor the implementation of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan, including the tracking of policy initiatives and field projects – 20 minutes

C- COVID-19 and Sustainability Agenda: Discussion around impacts of COVID-19 crisis for the implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan, MSSD and SDGs in the Mediterranean region and countries – 20 minutes

Closing of the session (by the facilitators): Summary of the main outcomes, next steps – 15 minutes

7. ANNEX 3: Full results from the online survey

MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan Mid-Term Evaluations – Results of the Online Survey

Objectives of the consultation

This **consultation process** aims at collecting comments, opinions and proposals from relevant stakeholders involved in the MSSD and SCP Action Plan implementation through inclusive, participatory and open processes. This methodology is the result of adapting, coordinating and whenever possible merging the two individual consultation processes related respectively to the MSDD and the SCP Regional Action Plan. As most of the stakeholders are common for both topics (e.g. MCSD Members, UNEP/MAP Partners) and the timeline is very similar, this integration should increase operational synergies and consolidate learnings from the two Mid-Term Evaluations (MTE). If this integration might reduce slightly the level of details collected during the consultation, it should overall improve the number and quality of inputs from relevant stakeholders.

Classification of stakeholders

The MTE aims to be inclusive, participatory and involve all relevant stakeholders at different levels. Therefore, an **identification and classification of key stakeholders** has been carried out. The preparatory mapping resulted in the setting-up of up to **three stakeholder groups** (Tiers 1, 2 and 3) to be approached and consulted. Tier 1 stakeholders will be consulted through semi-structured interviews. Tier 2 will be invited to participate in a focus group (e-workshop). Tiers 1, 2 and 3 will be asked to fill-in an on-line survey with open and closed questions.

The classification of stakeholders is foreseen to be the following:

- **Tier 1:** UNEP/MAP Components / Regional Activity Centres (RACs)
- **Tier 2:** MCSD Members (40) and a selection of UNEP/MAP Partners
- **Tier 3:** MCSD Members, UNEP/MAP Partners (53), the SwitchMed Community, and any other relevant stakeholders involved or interested in the MSSD and SCP Action Plan implementation.

Open online survey

Regarding the open online survey, TIERS 1, 2 and 3 identified stakeholders were invited to fill in an **online survey**, where they had to answer a series of questions regarding their opinions on the level of implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan, MSSD and SDGs in the Mediterranean region and countries. They were asked to share any relevant proposal and recommendation that could be valuable for the mid-term evaluations.

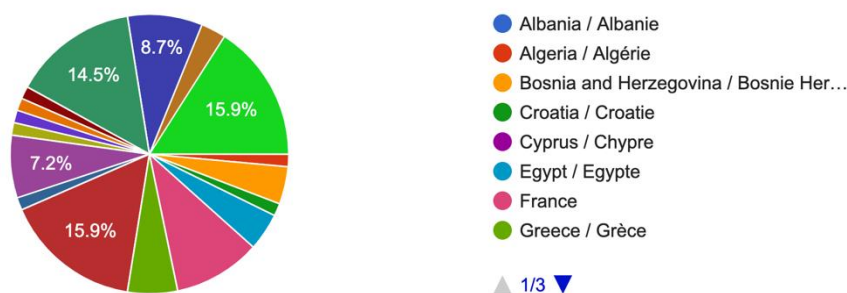
Results

A. Respondent's profile

The total number of respondents was 69 with the following main characteristics:

Country / Pays

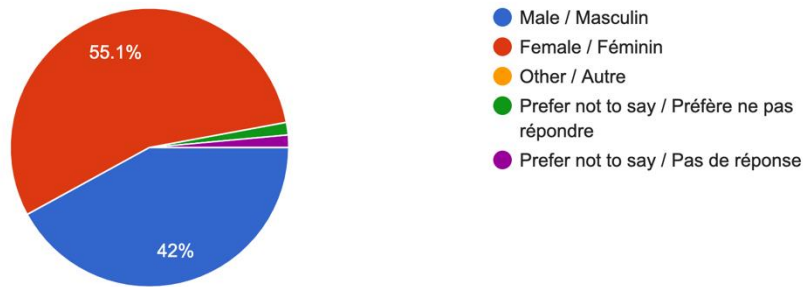
69 responses



Regarding the country of origin: eleven (11) respondents (16%) were from Italy; 11 respondents (16%) were from non-Mediterranean countries, 10 respondents (14%) were from Spain; 7 respondents (10%) were from France; 6 respondents (9%) were from Tunisia; 5 respondents (7%) were from Lebanon; 4 respondents (6%) were from Greece; 3 respondents (4%) were from Egypt; 3 respondents (4%) were from Bosnia & Herzegovina; 2 respondents (3%) were from Turkey; 1 respondent (1%) was from Israel; 1 respondent (1%) was from Algeria; 1 respondent (1%) was from Croatia; 1 respondent (1%) was from Malta; 1 respondent (1%) was from Montenegro; 1 respondent (1%) was from Morocco; and 1 respondent (1%) was from Monaco.

Gender / Genre

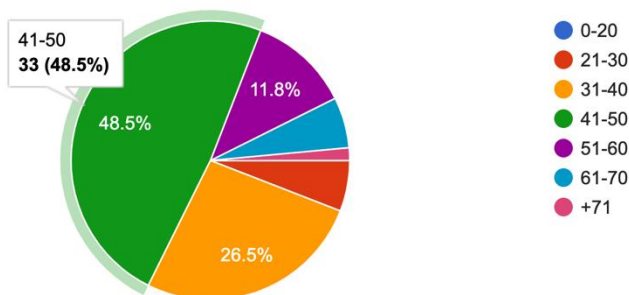
69 responses



Regarding the gender profile, thirty-eight (38) respondents (55%) were females; 24 respondents (42%) were males; 2 respondents (3%) preferred not to say.

Age / Age

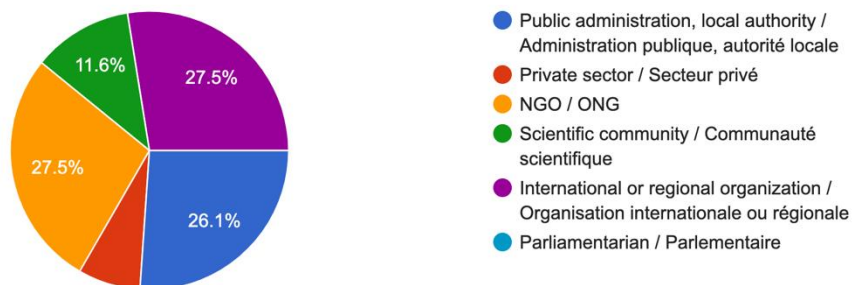
68 responses



Regarding the age, 33 respondents (48%) were between 41-50; 18 respondents (26%) were between 31-40; 11 respondents (12%) were between 51-60; 4 respondents (6%) were between 21-30; 4 respondents (6%) were between 61-70; 1 respondent (1%) was above 71.

Sector / Secteur

69 responses



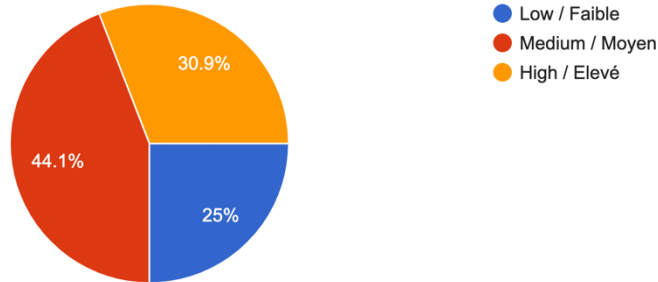
Regarding the work sector, 19 respondents (27%) were from International or regional organizations; 19 respondents (27%) were from NGOs; 18 respondents (26%) were the public administration/ local authority; 8 respondents (12%) were from the scientific community; and 5 respondents (7%) were from the private sector.

B. Responses to the survey

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

Can you please indicate your level of KNOWLEDGE of the MSSD? Pouvez-vous indiquer votre niveau de CONNAISSANCE de la SMDD?

68 responses

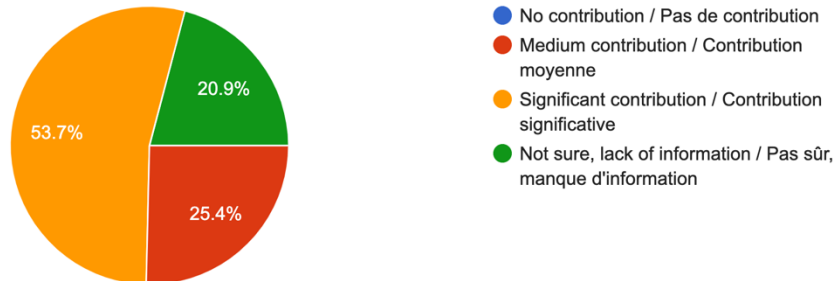


Level of Knowledge of the MSSD

- Medium knowledge: 44% (30 respondents)
- High knowledge: 31% (21 respondents)
- Low knowledge: 25% (17 respondents)

In your view, what is the CONTRIBUTION of the MSSD to reach the SDGs / Selon vous, quelle est la CONTRIBUTION de la SMDD pour atteindre les ODD?

67 responses

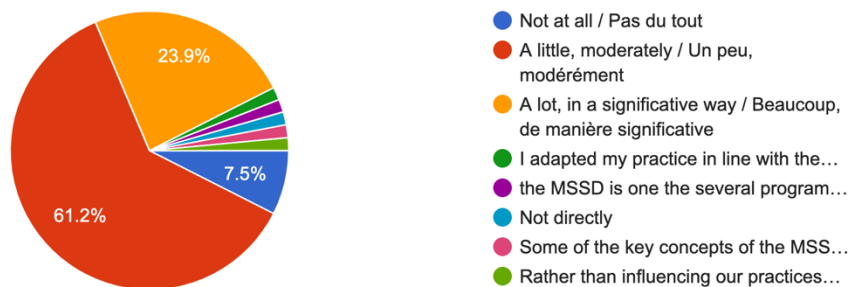


Contribution of the MSSD to reach the SDGs:

- Significant contribution: 54% (36 respondents)
- Medium contribution: 25% (17 respondents)
- Not sure, lack of information: 21% (14 respondents)

In the last five years, has the MSSD influenced your practices and initiatives? / La SMDD a-t-elle influencé vos pratiques et initiatives au cours des cinq dernières années?

67 responses



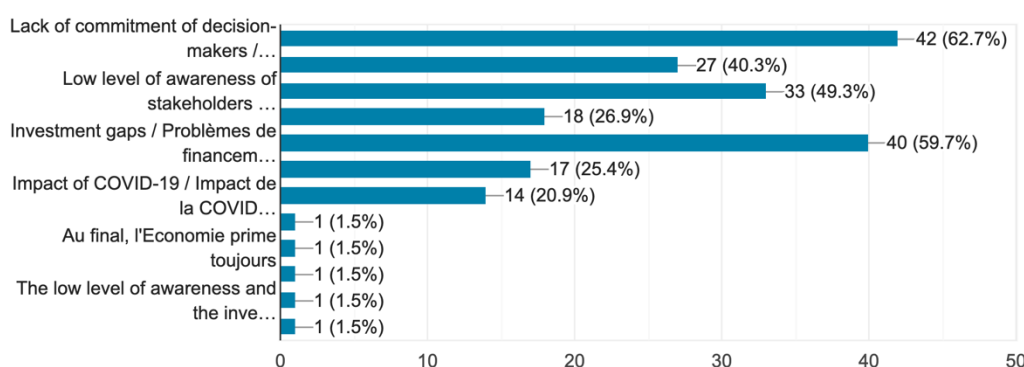
Has the MSSD influences your practices and initiatives in the past 5 years ?

- a little, moderately: 61% (41 respondents)
- a lot, in a significative way: 24% (16 respondents)
- Not at all: 7% (5 respondents)

Responses to this question were as follows: 41 respondents (61%) responded “a little, moderately”; 16 respondents (24%) responded “a lot, in a significative way”; 5 respondents (7,5%) responded “not at all”; 1 respondent (1,4%) responded “...we have been actively engaged in influencing and contributing to the work of the MCSD...”; 1 respondent (1,4%) responded “Some of the key concepts of the MSSD are fundant for the Green Growth Community and for sure the Strategy will be more central in the forthcoming period”; 1 respondent (1,4%) responded “...we have been actively engaged in influencing and contributing to the work of the MCSD...”; 1 respondent (1,4%) responded “Not directly”; 1 respondent (1,4%) responded “The MSSD is one the several programmes taken into account in the elaboration of our annual work plan”; and 1 respondent (1,4%) responded “I adapted my practice in line with the MSSD but was not necessarily influenced by the MSSD”.

In your view, what are the 3 main OBSTACLES towards the implementation of the MSSD and SDGs? / Selon vous, quels sont les 3 principaux ...LES pour la mise en œuvre de la SMDD et des ODD?

67 responses



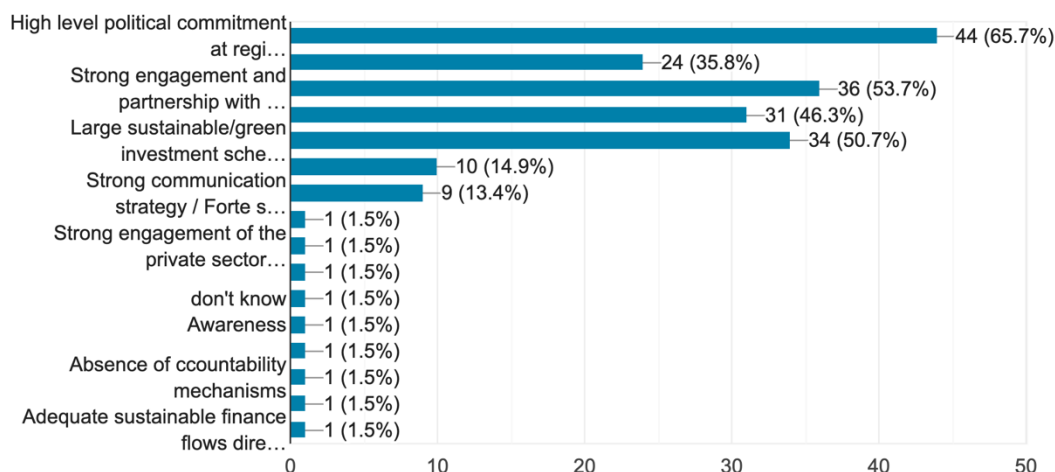
Main Obstacles towards the implementation of MSSD and SDGs:

- Lack of commitment of decision makers: 63% (42 respondents)
- Investment gaps: 60% (40 respondents)
- Low level of awareness of stakeholders: 49% (33 respondents)
- Poor coordination mechanisms: 40% (27 respondents)
- Weak technical capacity: 27% (18 respondents)
- Poor monitoring mechanisms; 25% (17 respondents)
- Impact of COVID-19: 21% (14 respondents)
- Lack of policy coherence at national level: 1% (1 respondent)

In your view, what are the 3 main DRIVERS towards the implementation of the MSSD and SDGs? /

Quels sont les 3 principaux MOTEURS pour la mise en œuvre de la SMDD et des ODD?

67 responses



Main Drivers towards the implementation of MSSD and SDGs:

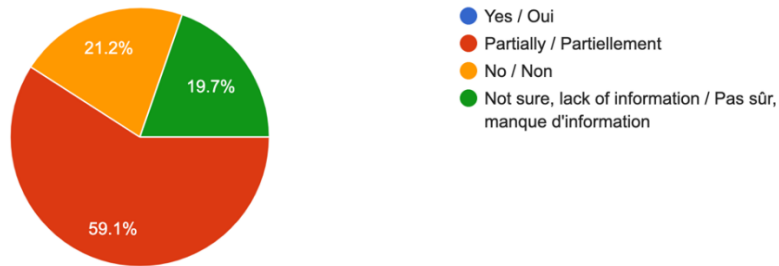
- High level of political commitment at regional and national level: 66% (44 respondents)
- Strong engagement and partnership with the private sector: 54% (36 respondents)

- Large sustainable/green investment schemes: 51% (34 respondents)
- Awareness and involvement of citizens: 46% (31 respondents)
- Effective coordination mechanisms 36% (24 respondents)
- Ambitious response to the COVID-19 crisis: 15% (10 respondents)
- Strong communication strategy: 13% (9 respondents)

Would you recommend successful initiatives that contribute to the MSSD/SDGs in the Mediterranean?

- **SDSN;**
- **Turkey's policies for refugees** under temporary protection contribute to achieve relevant SDGs;
- **EDILE – Economic Development through Inclusive and Local Empowerment:** <https://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/project/edile-economic-development-through-inclusive-and-local-empowerment/>;
- **Medpartnership & H2020;**
- **Networks of MPA managers** (and other human networks on other topics) **at national, sub-regional** (such as AdriaPAN) **or Mediterranean** (such as MedPAN) **levels**, or on key topics, have the power to accelerate implementation of international commitments by creating a stronger link between actions on the ground and decision-making processes.
- **Human networks** gather key actors (civil society, private sector, institutions, authorities in charge of marine environment, scientists...) together to find and implement common solutions. They also enhance sharing of experience, replication of good practices and a better mutual understanding between different actors;
- A **permanent and operational mechanism for capacity-building of MPAs**, started by some key partners (MedPAN, SPARAC, WWF, PIM/Conservatoire du Littoral, IUCN Med...), can serve as an example to develop future capacity building mechanisms that are needed to implement MSSD objectives;
- The **process of Mediterranean MPA Forum and Roadmap** (coordinated by MedPAN and SPARAC; as well as WWF and other partners in 2020) is a key example on how to empower different actors to find common ways to implement international commitments;
- The **MedFund** (environmental fund for Mediterranean MPAs) on how to invent a new financing mechanism that is operational to support implementation of international commitment. The idea could be replicated at national level in the future to support sustainable and long-term implementation of commitments on the ground;
- **MED TEST Project in JORDAN** with cooperation with RSS;
- **Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism (MEET)**, Association of Protected Areas and ecotourism, operates in all Mediterranean region, <https://www.meetnetwork.org/>;
- **PPI-OSCAN:** Small scale initiatives for Civil Society Organisations in North Africa - IUCN Mediterranean, North Africa countries, <http://www.ppioscan.org/>;
- **IUCN Green list of Protected areas** - IUCN - standard for assessing management effectiveness of Protected areas, IUCN. Active in the MEd in Italy, Spain, France, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/iucn-green-list-protected-and-conserved-areas>;
- **The Interreg-Med Plastic Busters MPAs project** (<https://plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu/>) led by ISPRA and the ENI CBC project **COMMON** (<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/common>) led by Legambiente contribute to increasing knowledge and monitoring capacity related to marine litter (SDG 14).
- The **SwitchMed Programme**. implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and its Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC);
- **PRIMA - Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area:** <https://prima-med.org/>;
- **SDSN, CIHEAM, ENI-CBC-MED;**
- **Italian building SMART International chapter.** <https://www.buildingsmartitalia.org/standard/gdl-italiani/efficienza-energetica>
- **Interreg MED Green Growth community**, specially supporting MSSD Objective 5: Transition towards a green and blue economy. This community is led by the BETA Tech Center at the UVic-UCC (Catalonia, Spain) until June 2022. Website: <https://interregmedgreengrowth.eu/>.
- **Interreg MED programme** (<https://interreg-med.eu/>) with its architecture and different types of projects and PANORAMED (<https://governance.interreg-med.eu/>), for MSSD Objective 6: Improving governance in support of sustainable development. Those projects/programmes support several SDGs: 9,11,12,17, among others.
- **EU- Water and Environment Support Project** <https://www.wes-med.eu/>;
- **Interreg MED Communities** (<https://interreg-med.eu/>), such as **GREEN GROWTH** (<https://interregmedgreengrowth.eu/>), **BLUE GROWTH**, **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM** and the other communities have an indirect impact on the issues addressed by the MSSD (Efficient Building, Renewable Energies, Urban Transport and Biodiversity Protection).
- The **Governance axis of the Interreg MED** can be useful as well (<https://governance.interreg-med.eu/>);
- GIZ work in Neum for solid waste management, **Process of BiH CAMP.**

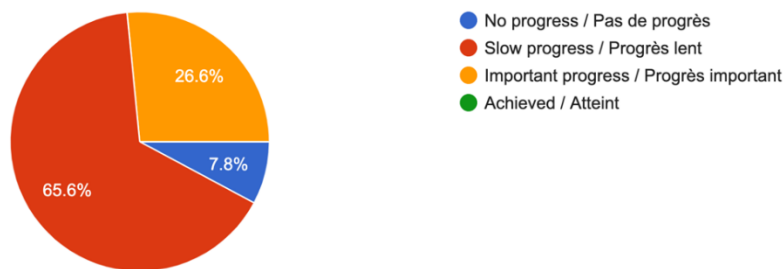
In your view, is the Mediterranean region on track to achieve the MSSD Objectives by 2025 and/or SDGs by 2030? / Selon vous, la région méditerrané...s de la SMDD d'ici 2025 et/ou les ODD d'ici 2030?
66 responses



Is the Mediterranean region on track to achieve MSSD Objectives by 2025:

- Partially: 59% (39 respondents)
- No: 21% (14 respondents)
- Not sure, lack of information: 20% (13 respondents)
- Yes: 0%

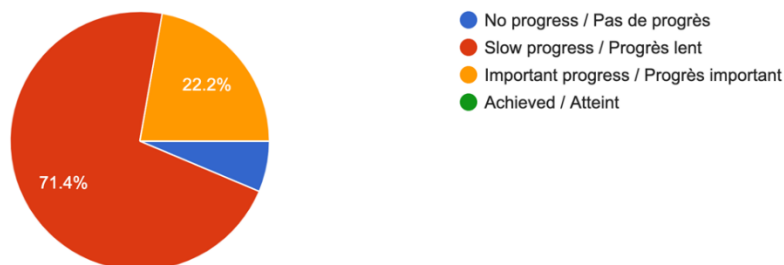
Please evaluate the PROGRESS on MSSD Objective 1: Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas / Évaluer le progrès sur l'Object...pement durable dans les zones marines et côtières.
64 responses



Progress on MSSD Objective 1 (sustainable marine and coastal areas):

- Slow progress: 66% (42 respondents)
- Important progress: 27% (17 respondents)
- No progress: 8% (5 respondents)
- Achieved: 0%

MSSD Objective 2: Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable rural development / Objectif 2: Prom... moyen de formes durables de développement rural
63 responses

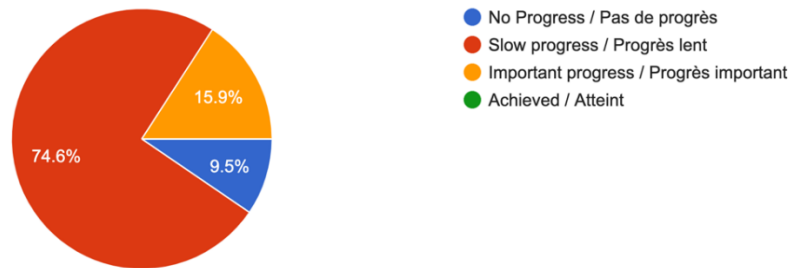


Progress on MSSD Objective 2 (Resource management, food production and food security, sustainable rural development):

- Slow progress: 71% (45 respondents)
- Important progress: 22% (14 respondents)
- No progress: 6% (4 respondents)
- Achieved: 0%

MSSD Objective 3: Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities / Objectif 3: Planifier et gérer des villes méditerranéennes durables

63 responses

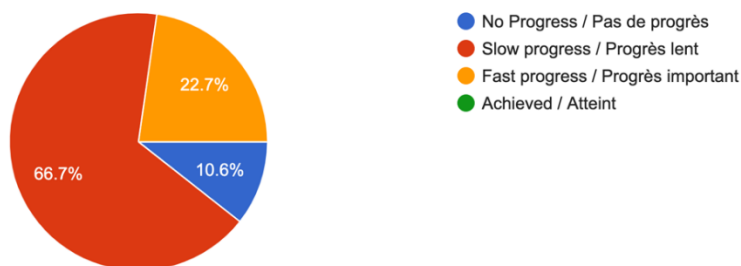


Progress on MSSD Objective 3 (Sustainable Mediterranean cities):

- Slow progress: 75% (47 respondents)
- Important progress: 16% (10 respondents)
- No progress: 9% (6 respondents)
- Achieved: 0%

MSSD Objective 4: Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean / Objectif: Aborder le changement climatique en tant que question prioritaire pour la Méditerranée

66 responses

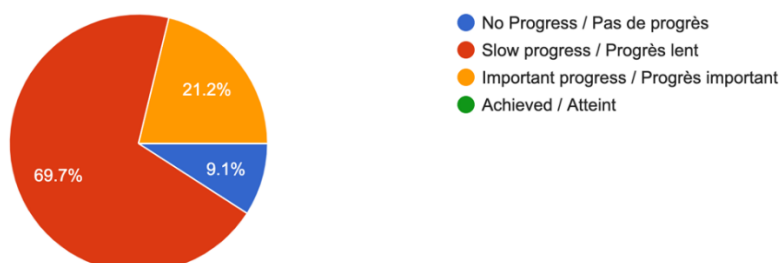


Progress on MSSD Objective 4 (Climate change):

- Slow progress: 67% (44 respondents)
- Important progress: 23% (15 respondents)
- No progress: 11% (7 respondents)
- Achieved: 0%

MSSD Objective 5: Transition towards a green and blue economy / Objectif 5: Transition vers une économie verte et bleue

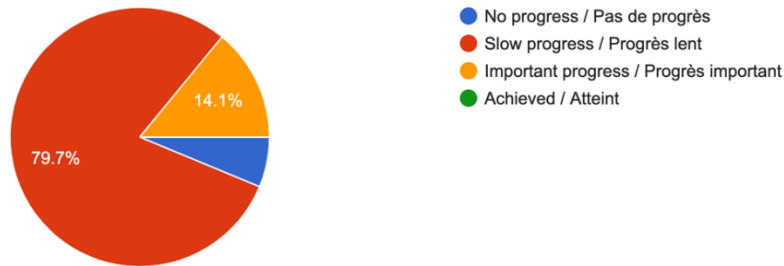
66 responses



Progress on MSSD Objective 5 (Green and blue economy):

- Slow progress: 70% (46 respondents)
- Important progress: 21% (14 respondents)
- No progress: 9% (6 respondents)
- Achieved: 0%

MSSD Objective 6: Improving governance in support of sustainable development / Objectif 6: Améliorer la gouvernance en soutien au développement durable
64 responses

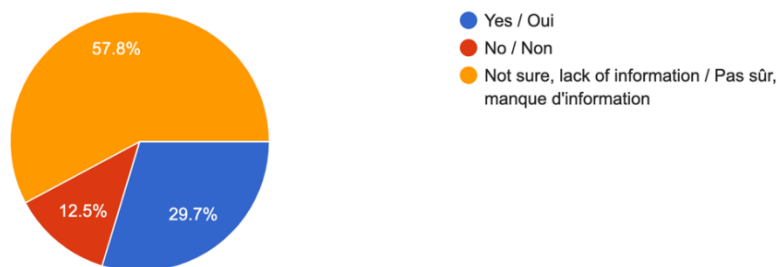


Progress on MSSD Objective 6 (Governance for Sustainable Development):

- Slow progress: 79% (51 respondents)
- Important progress: 14% (9 respondents)
- No progress: 6% (4 respondents)
- Achieved: 0%

Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) / Plan d'action régional sur la consommation et la production durables (CPD)

In your view, is the Mediterranean region on track to implement the SCP Regional Action Plan by 2027? / Selon vous, la région méditerranéenne est-...n œuvre le Plan d'action régional CPD d'ici 2027?
64 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 37 respondents (57,8%) answered “Not sure, lack of information”; 19 respondents (29,7%) answered “Yes”; 8 respondents (12,5%) answered “No”.

Given the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, do you think we should: / Compte tenu de la situation actuelle concernant la pandémie de COVID-19, pensez-vous que nous devrions:
66 responses

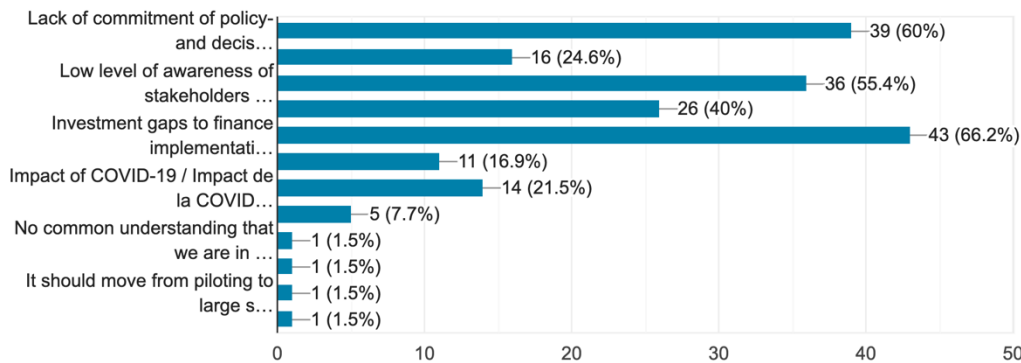


Responses to this question were as follows: 43 respondents (65,2%) answered “Increase substantially efforts to accelerate the transition towards circular economy as an effective approach to move towards SCP”; 16 respondents (24,2%) answered “A review of some priorities of the SCP Action Plan is necessary to "build back better"; 4 respondents (6,1%) answered “Keep focusing on the implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan as adopted in 2016, it is in line with green recovery plans”; 1 respondent (1,5%) answered “The founding principles of the SCP Action Plan are in line with the green recovery; the implementation of the Plan should continue while updating/integrating it (not necessarily fully reviewing)”

with the covid aspects and other recent developments”; and 1 respondent (1,5%) answered “Review of the action plan will only delay action”

In your view, what are the main OBSTACLES towards the implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan? (Select up to 3 options) / Selon vous, ...tion régional CPD? (sélectionner jusqu'à 3 options)

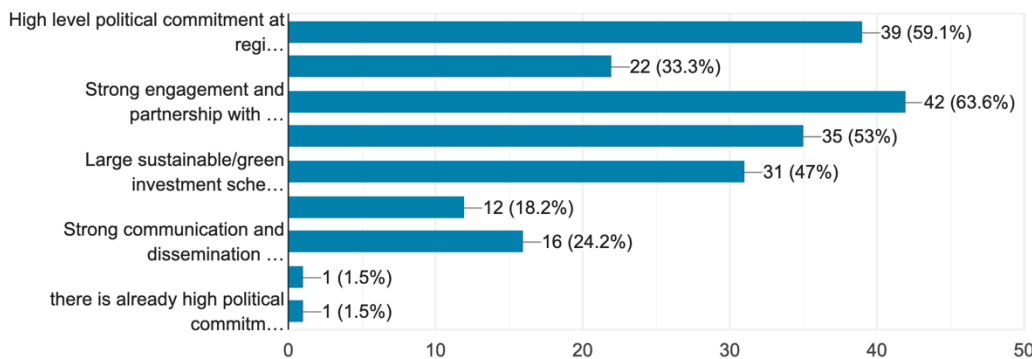
65 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 43 respondents (66,2,7%) answered “Investment gaps to finance implementation”; 39 respondents (60%) answered “Lack of commitment of policy and decision makers”; 36 respondents (55,4%) answered “low level of awareness of stakeholders and citizens”; 26 respondents (40%) answered “Weak technical capacity towards implementation”; 16 respondents (24,6%) answered “Poor coordination mechanisms”; 14 respondents (21,5%) answered “Impact of COVID-19”; 11 respondents (16,9%) answered “Poor monitoring and supervision mechanisms”; 5 respondents (7,7%) answered “Weak link with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs”.

Based on your experience, what are the 3 main DRIVERS towards the implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan? / Selon votre expérience, qu...r la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action régional CPD?

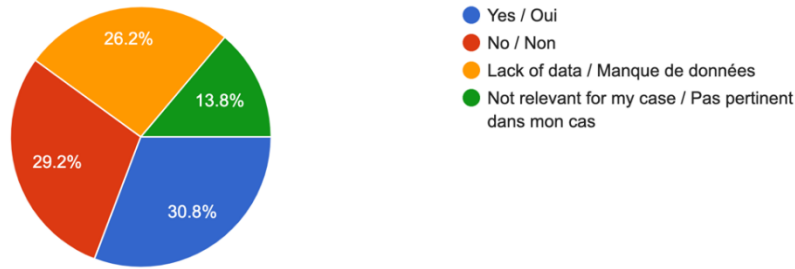
66 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 42 respondents (33,3%) answered “Strong engagement and partnership with the private sector”; 39 respondents (59,1%) answered “High level of political commitment at regional and national level”; 35 respondents (53%) answered “Awareness and involvement of citizens”; 31 respondents (47%) answered “Large sustainable/ green investment schemes”; 22 respondents (33,3%) responded “Effective coordination mechanisms”; 16 respondents (24,2%) answered “Strong communication and dissemination”; and 12 respondents (18,2%) answered “Ambitious response to the COVID-19 crisis”.

Do you think your country has enabled the POLICY and REGULATORY conditions for mainstreaming SCP in national policies? / Pensez-vous que votre pays a permis d'intégrer la CPD dans les politiques nationales?

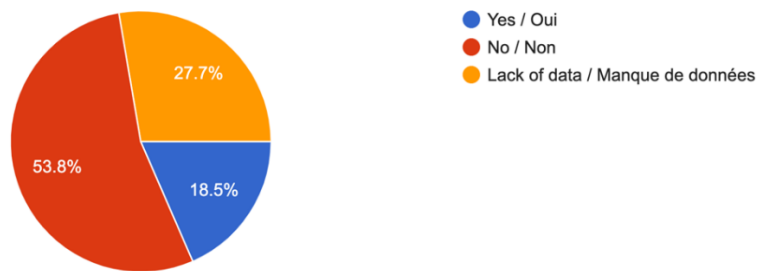
65 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 20 respondents (30,8%) answered “Yes”; 19 respondents (29,2%) answered “No”; 17 respondents (26,2%) answered “Lack of data”; and 9 respondents (13,8%) answered “Not relevant for my case”.

Do you think your country has established FINANCIAL MECHANISMS facilitating the implementation of SCP solutions? / Pensez-vous que votre pays a établi des mécanismes financiers facilitant la mise en œuvre des solutions CPD?

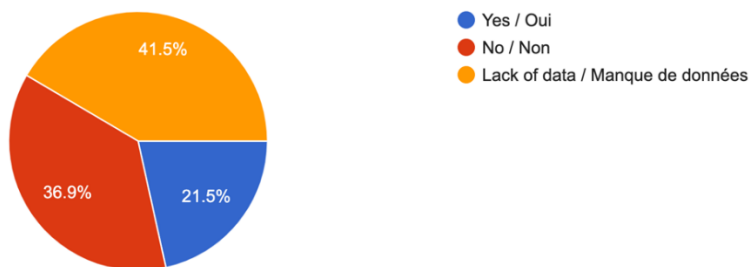
65 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 35 respondents (53,8%) answered “No”; 18 respondents (27,7%) answered “Lack of data”; and 12 respondents (18,5%) answered “Yes”.

Do you think your country has ensured the exchange of knowledge and information on SCP to upscale successful solutions? / Pensez-vous que votre pays a assuré l'échange de connaissances et d'informations sur la CPD pour accroître les solutions efficaces?

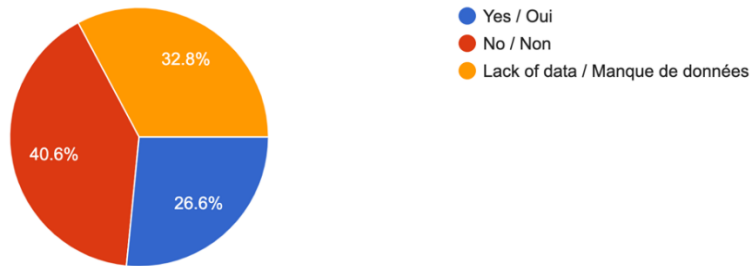
65 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 27 respondents (41,5%) answered “Lack of data”; 24 respondents (36,9%) answered “No”; and 14 respondents (21,5%) answered “Yes”.

Do you think your country has promoted new business models integrating SCP? / Pensez-vous que votre pays a fait la promotion de nouveaux modèles commerciaux intégrant la CPD?

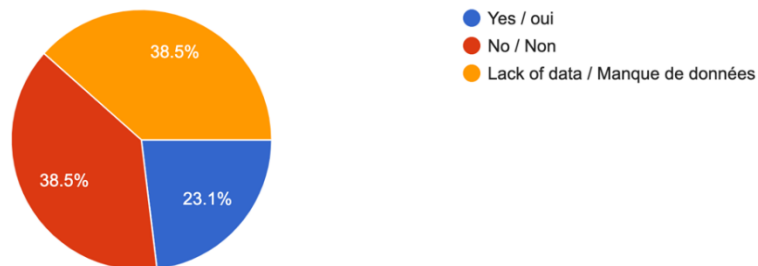
64 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 26 respondents (40,6%) answered “No”; 21 respondents (32,8%) answered “Lack of data”; and 17 respondents (26,6%) answered “Yes”.

Do you think your country has promoted the generation and upscaling of civil society led initiatives promoting SCP? / Pensez-vous que votre pays a enc...es par la société civile pour promouvoir la CPD?

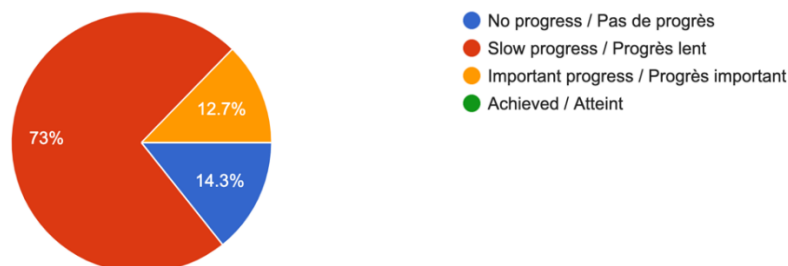
65 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 25 respondents (38,5%) answered “No”; 25 respondents (38,5%) answered “Lack of data”; and 15 respondents (23,1%) answered “Yes”.

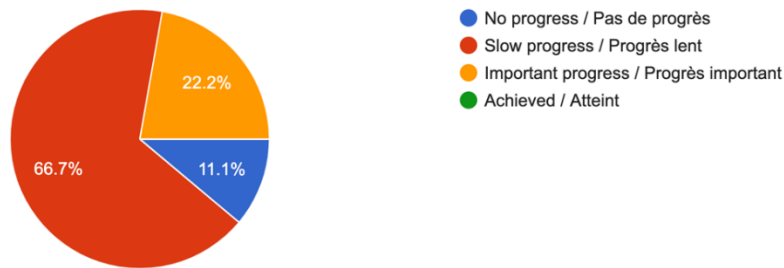
Do you think your country has made progress in the integration of SCP in FOOD, FISHERIES and AGRICULTURE? / Pensez-vous que votre pays a fai...ans l'ALIMENTATION, la PÊCHE et l'AGRICULTURE?

63 responses



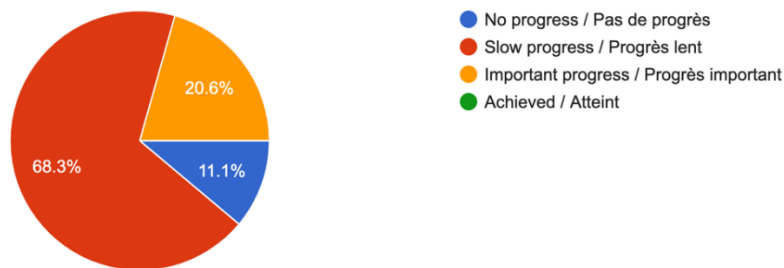
Responses to this question were as follows: 46 respondents (73%) answered “Slow progress”; 9 respondents (14,4%) answered “No progress”; 8 respondents (12,7%) answered “Important progress”; and no respondents answered “Achieved”.

Do you think your country has made progress in the integration of SCP in GOODS MANUFACTURING sector? / Pensez-vous que vot... la FABRICATION DES BIENS DE CONSOMMATION?
63 responses



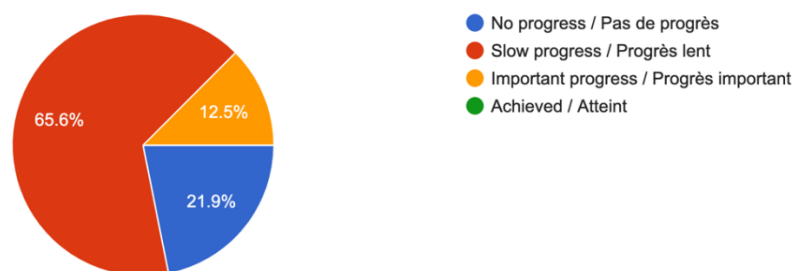
Responses to this question were as follows: 42 respondents (66,7%) answered “Slow progress”; 14 respondents (22,2%) answered “Important progress”; 7 respondents (11,1%) answered “No progress”; and no respondents answered “Achieved”.

Do you think your country has made progress in the integration of SCP in TOURISM sector? / Pensez-vous que votre pays a progressé dans l'intégration de la CPD dans le secteur du TOURISME?
63 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 43 respondents (68,3%) answered “Slow progress”; 13 respondents (20,6%) answered “Important progress”; 7 respondents (11,1%) answered “No progress”; and no respondents answered “Achieved”.

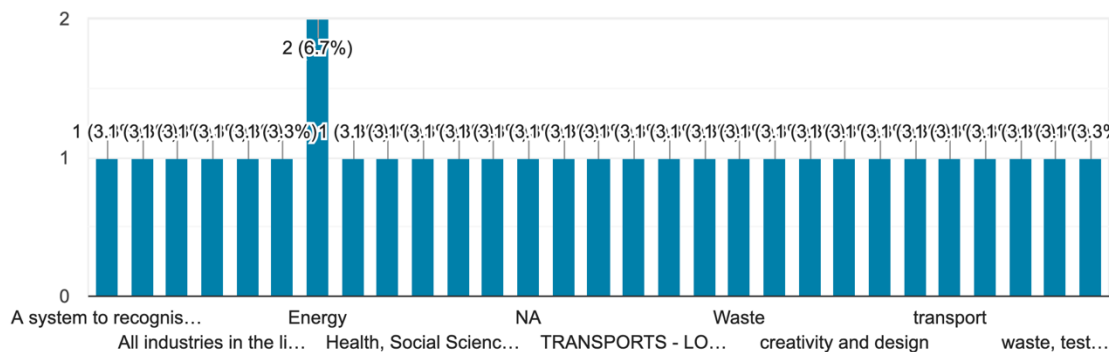
Do you think your country has made progress in the integration of SCP in the HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION sector? / Pensez-vous que votre... secteur du LOGEMENT et de la CONSTRUCTION?
64 responses



Responses to this question were as follows: 42 respondents (65,6%) answered “Slow progress”; 14 respondents (21,9%) answered “No progress”; 8 respondents (12,5%) answered “Important progress”; and no respondents answered “Achieved”.

Which additional SECTORS would you integrate in the SCP Regional Action Plan? / Quels SECTEURS supplémentaires intégreriez-vous dans le Plan d'action régional sur la CPD?

30 responses



The main responses to this question were as follows:

- Energy (7 respondents);
- Transport - logistics (7 respondents);
- Waste management (5 respondents);
- Water (3 respondents); and
- Commercial sector (1 respondent).

Could you recommend key initiatives to accelerate the transition toward SCP, Circular Economy and the "Green Recovery" in the Mediterranean (precise name, coordinator, country, Website, timeline)? / Pourriez-vous recommander des initiatives qui pourraient accélérer la transition vers la CPD, l'économie circulaire et la « reprise verte » en Méditerranée (préciser le nom, coordinateur, pays, site Web, calendrier)?

- **EU Green Deal Circular Economy Action Plan:**
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_437;
- **EU measures to remove single used plastic in 2025;**
- **The Shift Project, France** <https://theshiftproject.org/>;
- **SWITCH-MED Project;**
- **The Green Growth Community;**
- **MEET Network** - Network of protected areas and sustainable tourism - IUCN Med, Mediterranean region, www.meetnetwork.org ;
- **PROF/TRAC:** <http://proftrac.eu/open-training-platform-for-nzeb-professionals.html>;
- **EU Energy Bimcert:** <https://platform.energybimcert.eu/>;
- **European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform;**
- **WES initiative;**
- **UfM "2030 Agenda for a GreenerMed";**
- **UNDP work in BiH on the given themes, CAMP BiH.**