UN environment programme

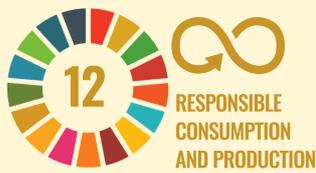# SwitchMed Responses to

COVID-19

One of the key challenges for the countries in 2020 is to adapt and plan to the post Covid-19 world. Questions will be raised on how will the world look like after Covid-19 confinement? Will the world go back to "business as usual" or will there be major changes in our behavior and our consumption and production patterns? What will be the short, medium and long-term consequences for national economies and for job creation (and conservation) ? And how will specific sectors adapt to this new paradigm?

SwitchMed Programme

The EU-funded SwitchMed programme has been assisting eight countries in Development of Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans (SCP-NAPs) addressing SDG12 through nationally owned multi-stakeholder processes with over 3,000 participants in more than 100 national capacity building sessions and SwitchMed workshops. The United Nations Environment Programme has provided advisory services and technical support to the countries in the developing process and has further supported four countries in the implementation of the SCP-NAPs through demonstration activities.

SwitchMed Programme is funded by the European Union

Response to Covid-19

In the post-Covid-19 setting, countries will need to think how to re-position themselves to enable sustainable growth. The Covid-19 experience in countries provides insights on how sustainable consumption and production (SCP) practices could feature in recovery strategies to align the economy with enhanced public health, nature and climate, for future readiness through behavioral changes, strengthening of public and private institutions and promoting local supply chains and local green enterprises. Already some lessons are emerging on how to build resilience back into economies and address the frailties that were exposed by the crisis and the aftermath.

Under this backdrop, SwitchMed aims to provide countries with opportunities to discuss, exchange ideas and find solutions to address the challenges through organization of a SCP Roundtable and a SCP Hackathon as national response to covid 19, taking into consideration and anticipating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and its implications on national consumption and production patterns as well as on the national economy.

- **SCP roundtable (SCP-NR)**

A Sustainable Consumption and Production National Roundtable (SCP-NR) will bring national, regional and international stakeholders together to present updates on the current SCP-NAP and national SDG 12 status, showcase experiences and share lessons learned and further allow to address specific themes and challenges and discuss concrete next steps for implementation of SDG 12 and the SCP-NAP.

- **SCP hackathon**

Hackaton is a term used to innovation and describes an event that pools relevant stakeholders into a confined space for a day or two and challenges them to innovate. A SCP hackathon can bring relevant national stakeholders together to work on SCP solutions for the post Covid-19 world. The outputs - concrete innovative projects/activities proposals - will be selected by a jury of the hackathon and supported by SwitchMed for implementation.

SCP roundtable modalities and structure:

The roundtable can be organized around following three pillars:

- **High-level component** (0.5 day);

Senior officials (Ministers, UN Resident coordinator, EU ambassador, UNEP Director) attend and highlight main/current challenges and present good practices;

- **Technical information sharing component** (1,5-2 days);

Share the large variety of national SDG 12 initiatives, projects and programs and present how these projects can support countries to be more resilient to national challenges. Specific sessions for each group of stakeholders could be: private sector, NGOs, UNCT members, international partners etc.

- **Capacity building and training component** (0,5-1 day);

Opportunity will be provided for technical training on specific SCP initiative or topic (national or international);

SCP hackathon modalities and structure:

The hackathon can be organized in three pillars:

- **Plenary session:**

The plenary will set the scene and help to understanding the challenges in the thematic areas of SCP in the post Covid-19 society. Participants will get inspired by interesting lectures, inputs and receiving guidance, available tools and support offered by coaches and experts.

- **Workshop sessions:**

In break-out sessions and group work, solutions will be developed in teams. Each team will be supported by a mentor and experts will also be available, answering questions and supporting overcome challenges and difficulties. Sessions could include (i) developing a solution; (ii) prototyping and validation; and (iii) pitching and presentation to jury.

- **Closing ceremony:**

The jury will select the most promising solutions who will be announced in the award ceremony. SwitchMed could support the implementation of the best solutions identified by the Hackathon jury.

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UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

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The EU-funded SwitchMed programme assists eight countries in the southern Mediterranean to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and supports national and regional stakeholders in achieving productive, circular, and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. **www.swtichmed.eu**