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Plan Bleu's National Focal Points Meeting

By videoconference, 19-20 May 2021

Agenda Item 7: Building a regional vision and strategy based on participatory foresight

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Introductory note

This working document presents the mandates received by Plan Bleu / RAC from Contracting Parties up to and during COP21, for activities related to participatory foresight, the up to date achievements of Plan Bleu / RAC to implement these mandates; and proposed follow-up activities for the next biennium linking to the next regional strategy for sustainable development.

Agenda for Plan Bleu's Focal Points meeting:

The Focal Points will be invited to provide comments and suggestions on the next steps during the current biennium up to the COP22; as well as on the proposed activities for the next biennium, in relation with the topics of participatory foresight and the preparation of the next Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. The Focal Points might also assess their interest in collaborating with Plan Bleu to implement a local project in their respective countries. The Focal Points might finally agree on formalized recommendations on this topic as outcomes of the meeting.

1. Plan Bleu's mandates

1. As part of the implementation of article 4 of the Barcelona Convention (General obligations) and of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), Plan Bleu/ RAC has been mandated with the "*preparation of analyses and prospective studies to assist in constructing visions of the future as an aid to decision-making*" and the "*dissemination of the findings of this work in the various appropriate forms and channels, including the regular publications of state of environment and development reports and environment and development outlook for the Mediterranean region*" (Decision IG.19/5: Mandates of the Components of MAP, COP 16, 2009).

2. The UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021, under the theme "Governance", reiterates the objective "*To deliver knowledge-based assessments of the Mediterranean environment and scenario development for informed decision-making and stakeholder work*" (Decision IG.22/1). To implement this decision, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention included in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 the development of "a road map for the preparation of MED 2050 report" (Decision IG.22/20, COP 19, 2016).

3. Through Decision IG.23/4 adopted at COP 20 in December 2017, the Contracting Parties "*Welcome the MED 2050 road map (...) and request the Secretariat and the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre to undertake a participatory process for the elaboration of a foresight study on the environment and development in the Mediterranean region with the horizon 2050 and to present comprehensive information on the outcome and progress of phase I at the COP 21 to allow the Contracting Parties to provide further guidance for phase II*" (IG.23/04, paragraph 6). Decision IG.23/04 includes in its Annex II the initial MED 2050 Road Map.

4. At COP 21 in December 2019, through Decision IG.24/4, the Contracting Parties:

- *Endorsed the proposed revised road map for the MED 2050 foresight study and requested the Secretariat to implement the proposed roadmap; (activity 1.4.1.4 of annex 2)*
- *Encouraged the Contracting Parties to participate in the phase II of MED 2050 foresight study, organise on a voluntary basis national or sub-regional workshops, and nominate relevant experts or interested national stakeholders including youth representatives to contribute to the study; and,*
- *Also requested the Secretariat to undertake communication on the development of the MED 2050 Foresight.*

5. The UNEP/MAP Bureau in its 90th meeting (by videoconference, 12-13 November 2020) indicated: "*Regarding the MED 2050 foresight study, it was noted that it is a timely report considering the environmental challenges that the region faces, while it was added that Youth could be actively involved in this forward-looking process.*"

6. The 2019 Meeting of Plan Bleu Focal Points (Marseille, France, 28-29 May 2019) and the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019) emphasized the importance of developing communication products adapted to a wide audience, including youth.

7. Other requests from the Contracting Parties through the Plan of Work adopted during COP21 include the following:

- In the framework of the MSSD implementation: 1.3.3.1. *Strengthen further and sustain the Simplified Peer Review / Expected deliverables are a) Peer review process extended to 2 to 4 more CPs; b) Updated web platform; c) Updated SIMPEER methodology, including through collaborations and follow-up with previous participating countries; d) SIMPEER process links to National Voluntary Reviews of the HLPF continued.*

2. Elements of context

8. Plan Bleu has coordinated two major foresight initiatives to date, resulting in the publication of the following Foresight Reports (and related by-products):

- "*Futures for the Mediterranean Basin: The Blue Plan*" in 1989; and,
- "*A sustainable future for the Mediterranean: The Blue Plan's Environment and Development Outlook*" in 2005.

9. These reports have served as a reference to prepare environment and sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean, including the MSSD 2006-2015 and the MSSD 2016-2025. They have supported regional, national and sectoral planning in various domains, and been cited hundreds of times. While they are now outdated and best used as historical references, decision makers and experts continue to request Plan Bleu information drawn from these reports given the lack of more recent work fulfilling the same objectives.

10. The Mediterranean region has evolved considerably over the recent years: political upheavals, economic and social crises, health crisis, Arab springs, growing migratory flows, tensions between riparian countries, major effects of climate change, development and diversification of activities at sea, offshore exploitation, pressure on resources, etc.

11. These transformations will most likely become more pronounced until 2050, with serious consequences in terms of disruptions affecting the already unsustainable dominant development "model" in the Mediterranean. The coming decades will be decisive for resolving environmental and development issues facing the Mediterranean, through transformative change and new development strategies for a prosperous and peaceful region, in which people enjoy a good quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within carrying capacities of healthy ecosystems.

12. The current health crisis linked to the COVID-19 pandemic reminds us of the systemic nature of many long-term development issues and the lack of preparation and resilience of the countries in the face of the transformations and disruptions. More than ever, the Mediterranean countries need common incentives and tools to anticipate and prepare themselves, as of today, for current and future developments. Foresight is a suitable approach to shed light on these critical issues with a view to achieving sustainable development, inclusion, quality environmental services and enhanced resilience.

13. Preparatory activities for MED 2050 conducted up to 2019 aimed at building up a collective intelligence network, gathering scientists, policymakers at different scales, and members of the civil

society from all the Mediterranean-rim countries. They provided insight on how this exercise should be shaped to fill gaps and facilitate decision-making in the next decade, while building on existing knowledge and resources and on lessons learnt from previous exercises. The key features are:

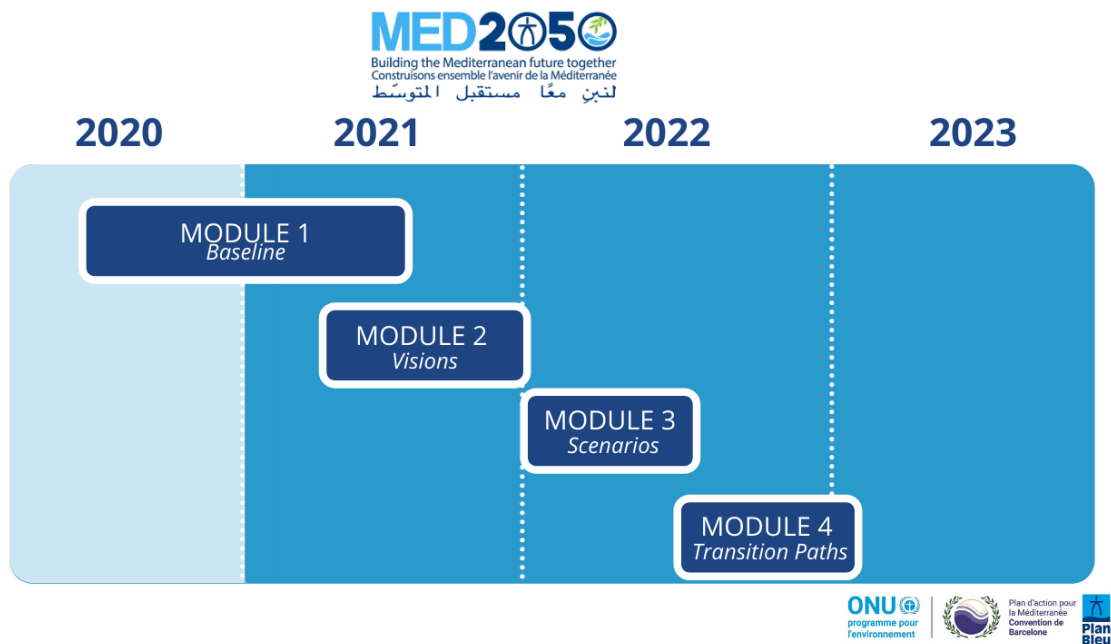
- A **2050 horizon** – with an intermediate horizon at 2030 (corresponding to the SDGs) – allowing to consider long term issues, such as climate change, possible ecosystem disruptions and their economic and social outcomes (consequences on agriculture, fisheries, lifestyles, migrations, urbanization, energy policies, etc.), and to identify necessary transitions.
- In line with the Barcelona Convention, **the sea and maritime economy** are put upstream of the thought process, in a systemic framework, in addition to a strong **climate change focus**.
- MED 2050 adopts a **participatory approach**¹ to support the documentation of **contrasting visions of the Mediterranean future** by bringing together the various approaches of the Mediterranean regions and sub-regions; and the co-construction of shared objectives in the medium and long term.
- A balance between **quantitative and qualitative approaches**, combining use of existing trend information with a more qualitative analysis of disruptions, uncertainties and weak signals.
- Beyond forecasting, MED 2050 uses a **strategic approach**, considers contrasting scenarios, identifies **transition paths** (backcasting) and thinks about the actions to be undertaken at short, medium and long-terms in order to reach sustainability.

14. The revised road map of 2019 introduced a modular MED 2050 programme, organised around four main successive and complementary activity modules, each with their own usefulness and specific methodology:

- Module 1: Building up the foresight baseline – past and future trends, weak signals and disruptions, fact sheets.
- Module 2: Comparing and sharing contrasting visions – defining a desired future for the Mediterranean.
- Module 3: Designing scenarios – exploring possible futures to inform policy-making for resilience.
- Module 4: Co-constructing transition strategies – guiding decision-making towards alternative narratives of the future.

¹ The promotion of a participatory approach: MAP Phase II, adopted in 1995, states that “*information and public participation are essential dimensions of sustainable development and environmental protection*”. At its 17th Meeting (Athens, Greece, 4-5 July 2017), the MCSD also called for greater attention to participatory approaches involving broader stakeholder consultations, including through the use of electronic tools (web platforms), in addition to the involvement of national governments. At its 18th Meeting (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019), the MCSD encouraged its Members and the Contracting Parties to actively participate in the MED 2050 participatory foresight exercise, acknowledging the effort to make MED 2050 as inclusive as possible by creating a network that is representative of the diversity of the Mediterranean region. The involvement of the youth was particularly encouraged. Meeting participants recommended to the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to develop MED 2050 targeted communication products mindful of the different contexts for reaching a large, diversified audience and for mobilizing a broad participation. MED 2050 therefore relies on an innovative and efficient participation strategy, making the initiative open and collaborative.

MED 2050 timeline



3. Main achievements in 2020 - 2021

3.1. Setting up the MED 2050 governance and technical bodies

15. MED 2050 is built on a stakeholder network representative of the Mediterranean region's diversity. This network is made up of thematic and foresight experts, scientists, policymakers, institutions, donors and stakeholders from different territorial scales, as well as members of the civil society. It relies on five complementary bodies:

- **Plan Bleu Team** implements and coordinates MED 2050, and provide substantial, analytical, technical and logistic inputs, in close collaboration with other **UNEP/MAP entities** which provide critical expertise and facilitate synergies with other MAP activities.
- The **Scientific Committee**² is in charge of ensuring the methodological soundness and scientific coherence and reliability of the project results. The members will exchange on the methodological elements of each project's phase, access to information and data, networking, and checking accuracy and reliability of results. It is composed of recognized experts, representative of the diversity of the Mediterranean, who will meet once a year.
- The Contracting Parties have been invited to designate 6 representatives (2 by sub-regions) to attend some of the meetings of the Scientific Committee, under the form of an **Advisory Committee**, which will ensure transparency and enable guidance by the Contracting Parties. Similarly, the main funding agencies of MED 2050 are represented in the Advisory Committee, which will meet yearly on average.
- The **Foresight Group**³ has a fundamental production role throughout the project. It contributes, by exchange of ideas, writing documents and working sessions, to the project's global coherence and to the inclusion of a range of fields of expertise, visions, geographical analyses and opinions, and involvement of the youth, as recommended by the Contracting Parties. The Foresight Group is made up of 40 members: representatives of different institutions and the academic sector as well as recognized experts. This groups meets 5 to 8 times a year.

² See the list of members of the Scientific Committee on the MED 2050 web platform: <https://med2050.org/>

³ See the list of members of the Foresight Group on the MED 2050 web platform: <https://med2050.org/trombinoscope>

- In addition, **the wide MED 2050 foresight network** is at the heart of information exchange on the main results, analyses, points of view and questions, using a web platform dedicated to MED 2050. Designed as a dynamic science-policy interface, the network facilitates the mobilization of existing resources, dialogue among stakeholders, and the uptake of research results in policy development. Participation in the network is open and may evolve throughout the project depending on the development of themes and interests. Many stakeholders expressed great interest in being involved to varying degrees in the MED 2050 foresight network. Institutions and experts involved in recent and ongoing foresight studies in the Mediterranean, as well as relevant scientific networks and institutions were invited to participate in the network. MAP and Plan Bleu Focal Points were invited to participate and identify national participants and representatives. The network, which currently comprises about 200 members, is to be completed and improved on a continuous basis.

3.2. Module 1: Building up the foresight baseline for MED 2050

16. To engage in foresight, it is first necessary to have access to a solid and reliable knowledge and analysis base: the foresight baseline. MED 2050 Module 1 focuses on the building up of the foresight baseline for the programme, building on the results of the Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2020⁴, approved by the Contracting Parties at COP21 in December 2019 and the MSCD Dashboard⁵. Module 1 includes the following components (annex 1):

- carrying out of a retrospective diagnosis (past trends) over a long period and drawing up a diagnosis of the current situation: what will happen in the future depends to a large extent on past and present policies and activities. It is therefore critical to start from a good understanding of historical trajectories and the current situation, distinguishing between endogenous and external factors;
- identifying and analysing major future trends, detecting seeds of change and weak signals, and identifying disruptions and discontinuities feared or desired in the future: In order to answer the questions “What is going to happen?”, “What should we expect?”, to which foresight endeavours to respond. It is then a matter of building a system of representations of the future, apprehending the dynamics at work and the factors of change, the events and phenomena that are likely to influence the future.
- highlighting main challenges for the future of the Mediterranean,

All documents and outputs prepared in the course of this first module of the programme will be made available by the end of August 2021 as well as a synthesis report for decision makers.

17. In the later phases of the programme, the foresight baseline will be used to draw up the visions (Module 2), scenarios (Module 3) and transition paths (Module 4).

18. The first module of MED 2050 started at the beginning of 2019. From March 2020 the sanitary situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the practical implementation of the programme which considerably slowed down and affected its delivery. MED 2050 suffered much stronger impacts than other activities, due to the strong participatory approach foreseen and woven into the methodology: most meetings were supposed to take place in presence, with use of billboards, sub-groups and other methods to foster the collective intelligence. The methodology had to be adapted in depth and on an on-going basis to cope with the circumstances.

19. At this stage, it is mainly the experts of the Foresight Group and the Plan Bleu Team who have been mobilized – both on global analyses and on thematic approaches. To develop Module 1, Plan Bleu has formed a partnership with Aix-Marseille University. This partnership represents an opportunity to collaborate with research laboratories, create synergies, and base MED 2050 on a scientifically

⁴ <https://planbleu.org/soed/>

⁵ https://www.obs.planbleu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SMDD_Dashboard_Version_Mars_2021.pdf

recognized work, including in its interdisciplinary approach. This partnership gives the opportunity to both a postdoctoral researcher and a doctoral researcher to work with Plan Bleu.

20. A MED 2050 Technical Report comparing the projections made in Plan Bleu's 2005 foresight exercise with the current situation⁶ and a report on demographic trends and prospects in the Mediterranean⁷ were released.

21. In addition, a Methodological Note has been issued in December 2020⁸ to serve as a framework and guidance for the project implementation. It proposes a 10-step methodological sequence, ranging from the collection of data and documents useful for the entire process to recommendations and the promotion of the exercise to different stakeholders, from MAP bodies to the general public, including countries and the scientific community. It has been submitted to the Foresight Group and by the Advisory Committee during their respective meetings in January 2021, without objection.

22. An analysis and qualification of trends and disruptions for the future of the Mediterranean (available on the MED 2050 web platform) was carried out and will serve as a sound basis to produce a broader and qualitative reflection on future scenarios for the Mediterranean region.

23. In the meantime, the work on Fact Sheets has been initiated. The objective of the Fact Sheets is to collect in a synthetic way some major data and draw up hypotheses on the future challenges for 38 key themes of the "Mediterranean System", as identified by the Foresight Group, using the DPSIR model (Driving forces - Pressures - State - Impacts - Responses) (see Annex 2 for the list of Fact Sheets). These 38 themes correspond to the groupings that have been highlighted in the Foresight Group discussion on trends and disruptions, during which 197 major trends had been identified and qualified, using the DEGEST framework (Demography, Economy, Governance, Environment, Society, Technology). For each Fact Sheet, a multistakeholder writing team, coordinated by a leader, has been set up. The Fact Sheets will be used in the construction of the scenarios (module 3) and will also provide baseline data for the entire exercise.

24. Fact Sheets on variables follow a common format: Section 1: A brief definition and presentation of the content of the variable and its dimensions (Definition and Scope); Section 2: A retrospective of its past development and an analysis of current major issues - with, when the topic lends itself, some essential figures (Retrospective); Section 3: An analysis of current major challenges and issues for the variable (The challenges and issues at stake); Section 4: An assumption of trend evolution and related risks and opportunities - with, when appropriate - quantified forecasts (Trends up to 2050); and Section 5: Qualitative hypotheses of contrasting scenarios for the future (Contrasting scenarios up to 2050). The Fact Sheets comply with the "4 C's" rule: clear, concise, convincing (plausible) and coherent. They also rely on the lists of trends, disruptions and weak signals drawn up by the MED 2050 Foresight Group. They will lead to a publication by summer 2021.

25. All activities carried out from October 2020 up to the end of March 2021 are set out in Annex 3.

3.3. Module 2: sharing and comparing contrasting visions across the Mediterranean (September – December 2021)

26. The MED 2050 second module will feed upon the first module results, to bring out and confront contrasted visions of the Mediterranean's future, by creating a space of dialogue between different stakeholders.

⁶ Patrice Miran, « *Etude comparative : Environnement et développement en Méditerranée – projections en 2005 et état actuel* », Septembre 2020 » <https://planbleu.org/publications/etude-comparative-projections-2005-etat-actuel/>

⁷ Under the direction of Alain Parant, « *Tendances et perspectives démographiques en Méditerranée* », Plan Bleu, Cahier n°21, octobre 2020, <https://planbleu.org/publications/tendances-perspectives-demographiques-mediterranee/>

⁸ Jacques Theys and Denis Lacroix, "*MED 2050 - The Methodological Framework*", December 2020 (source: <https://med2050.org/>).

27. Unlike most analyses identified in a benchmark study of existing Mediterranean foresight reports, carried out by Plan Bleu⁹, MED 2050 will not rely solely on expert work. Contracting Parties and specific groups of stakeholders (policymakers, experts, civil society, youth and women groups, businesses...) will be consulted during three sub-regional webinars.

These workshops will include: discussion in working groups of the results of Module 1 (trends, disruptions, weak signals, and challenges), joint foresight exercises allowing for the expression of viewpoints and aspirations and the emergence of contrasting visions of the future, then sharing and consolidating these visions. This work would be aimed at revealing the potential specificities of sub-regional visions in the Mediterranean basin.

28. To ensure interactions between the work of the sub-regional groups and the work of the Foresight Group, Module 2 will be opened to a wider consultation relayed by network leaders. Questionnaires will be prepared, disseminated and analysed, using recognized foresight methods, through partnerships with existing network leaders and representatives of the main stakeholder groups in the Mediterranean region, including interested MCSD Members.

3.4. Focus projects

29. Following up on one of the recommendations of the Report of the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2020, Plan Bleu has deployed efforts to support taking action for sustainability transitions at the local scale, where many concrete decisions are taken. With foresight being a coherent approach to designing and implementing sustainability transitions, three local focus projects, all three benefitting from the MED 2050 approach, have been designed. Other complementary, focus projects, are also planned to be conducted on specific cross-cutting themes.

30. A Focus Project has been launched in January 2021 with the *Région Sud* in France (with the funding support of the Regional Council). It entails preparing a baseline diagnosis, brainstorming on the long-term scenarios in workshops gathering elected representatives of *Région Sud*, and evaluating the costs and benefits of such scenarios. An end of project publication is expected by December 2021.

31. Another participatory Focus Project in a watershed in Morocco has been prepared (with the funding support of the French Development Agency) to support a long-term strategy for water and natural resources sustainable management.

32. Plan Bleu leads a consortium with *AirClimat*, *Région Sud* and the *Communauté d'Agglomération Sophia-Antipolis*, France (CASA) for potential funding by *Fondation de France*. The project aims to support CASA over 3 years in creating a participatory dynamic involving decision makers, civil society and scientists to develop shared adaptation strategies for the coastal areas and select the most appropriate ones. Using the MED 2050 approach, this local pilot initiative would provide relevant experience to be shared around the Mediterranean. The funding award is expected by August 2021.

33. Through specific workshops, special attention will be given to the Mediterranean Sea, seen as a Mega Ecosystem which should be managed through a holistic approach; and to the nexus Demography-Migration-Economic development which is of key significance for the future of the Mediterranean.

3.5. Communication

34. The MED 2050 web platform was created in June 2018 and designed as a strategic tool for thinking about the future of the Mediterranean Basin. The platform is a place for documents and best

⁹ <https://planbleu.org/publications/vers-un-nouvel-exercice-de-prospective-sur-lenvironnement-et-le-developpement-en-mediterranee-rapport-de-benchmark-des-etudes-existantes/>

practices sharing to feed the reflection on the future of the Mediterranean basin by 2050. The MED 2050 platform is aimed at providing:

- A space dedicated to the MED 2050 documents and reports, various outputs and initiatives;
- A space dedicated to the reports and publications from members of the MED 2050 governance and technical bodies;
- A space dedicated to foresight work at national and regional levels.

The platform continues to be further developed as the project moves forward.

35. Since December 2020, a specific MED 2050 newsletter is made available on the web platform¹⁰. This newsletter does not solely focus on scientific results. It leaves room for questions, sharing of national, regional or international experiences, information on current projects, and debates on future scenarios. Articles on various subjects covering issues related to the future of the Mediterranean are to be published as the programme moves forward. These articles and publications will contribute to the preparation of the final report and support the communication strategy by targeting a broader audience.

36. Both the MED 2050 web platform and the MED 2050 newsletter, in addition to ad hoc communication supports, disseminate the results of the programme at national and subnational levels.

3.6. SIMPEER

37. In terms of the analysis of the environmental policy or programme cycle, there is a continuity and a strong and systemic link between reports on the state of the environment (such as SoED in 2020), foresight studies aimed at exploring possible futures (currently MED 2050), strategy setting (in particular the next MSSD) which could be inspired by transition pathways and policy and programme evaluation which closes the loop before another loop starts again.

38. In this overall process, peer review allows for exchange of experience and best practices, and constitutes a highly effective capacity-building process.

39. An analysis of the process and of the lessons learnt during the first two rounds of SIMPEER was conducted and resulted in a publication “Simplified Peer Review Mechanism of Sustainable Development Strategies in Mediterranean Countries”¹¹.

40. In the absence of external funding for this purpose, new volunteer Contracting Parties have not been looked for nor identified.

4. Proposals of activities 2022 – 2023

41. All Med 2050 activities (4.1 to 4.4 below) carried out during the period 2022 - 2023 will be aligned to Outcome 6.3 of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 "*Inclusive and participatory foresight activities conducted at regional and national levels, with associated capacity-building*" / Activity 1 "*Support transition towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Future in the Mediterranean at 2050 – Building Back Better using strategic participatory foresight*". The detailed timeline of activities is presented in Annex 4.

42. A word of caution on the methodology is needed, since the evolution of the pandemic could further impact the Med2050 foresight process. Foresight is built on collective intelligence, and usually requires numerous meetings in presence and strong direct interactions. Med2050 will be continuously be adapted to the context and will demand flexibility. At a geographical scale such as the Mediterranean

¹⁰ <https://med2050.org/newsletter/>

¹¹ <https://planbleu.org/en/publications/report-simpeer-simplified-peer-review-mechanism-of-sustainable-development-strategies-in-mediterranean-countries/>

region, it is probably becoming an unprecedented foresight work managed in such an innovative way imposed by the Covid-19.

4.1. Module 3: Reconciling trends, disruptions and weak signals, and contrasting visions to identify a desirable and realistic scenario (January to June 2022)

43. Under MED 2050 Module 3, the Foresight Group will be responsible for articulating the results of Modules 1 and 2, taking into account the various viewpoints of countries, sub-regions and stakeholders, to identify common or convergent objectives and hypotheses, and build several contrasting scenarios for the future of the Mediterranean up to the 2030 and 2050 horizons. Under module 1, a particularly high uncertainty and potential high impact of many trends, disruptions and weak signals has led to the choice to draw up more than one alternative scenario. The results of the Foresight Group analysis will be presented and open to discussion with specific groups of stakeholders (civil society, youth, institutions, businesses, international organizations) through regional meetings.

44. The scenarios developed under this module will be useful tools for Contracting Parties and the overall UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system: Regional, national and local policies can be “run through” the scenarios to test their fitness vis-à-vis several possible futures. Findings will allow to improve policies and enable resilience in a systemic approach.

45. As recommended by Plan Bleu Focal Points, this module will consider disruptive scenarios compatible with a sustainability transition. One of the scenarios, identified as the most realistic and desirable (consensual), will serve as a reference (target situation) to develop Module 4 on transition paths. The development of this scenario will be guided by UN standards and commitments such as Agenda 2030, international and regional commitments, and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable development (2016-2025). This module will be finalized with the drafting of a report describing contrasted scenarios, of which one will be designated as the most desirable one to be examined in detail in the next module.

4.2. Module 4: Co-creating transition pathways and strategies in the short, medium and long term (2022-2023)

46. A central question to which MED 2050 aims to answer is that of transitions to 2050: how to move from current situations and crises to setting and meeting medium-term and long-term objectives?

47. In their 2019 Meeting, Plan Bleu Focal Points encouraged the MAP system to pursue ambitious yet realistic transition objectives. MED 2050 Module 4 corresponds to a strategic foresight activity to co-design transition paths rooted in reality and operational processes.

48. This module will be based on the “backcasting” method to identify practical transition pathways based on the combined results of the consultative process and complementary work of the foresight group; the objective will be to build on the realistic and desired shared scenario(s) previously designed, to reflect concretely on the question: *What to do to get there?*

49. Transition pathways will take into account the different temporalities in order to identify obstacles to be overcome, highlight opportunities to achieve desirable yet realistic future scenarios. Agreeing on desirable or acceptable futures by 2050 (long-term) will make it possible to identify alternative transition strategies in the medium term (horizon 2030) and to make comparative assessments of their plausibility, as well as to put forward critical investments. This will also help to anticipate emergencies, avoid repair costs and maximize co-benefits.

50. After the completion of Module 4, it is expected to develop a specific foresight toolbox, adapted to the Mediterranean context, including best practices, methodological guidelines and key figures and references in support of decision-making.

51. In addition, at least one Contracting Party will be supported by Plan Bleu for a "future-proofing" assessment of national policies (2023) on the basis of the toolbox and MED 2050 programme results.

52. During this phase of the analysis, several methods will be presented, specific workshops mobilising both experts and stakeholders might be organized to co-construct transition pathways. MED 2050 will take into account sub-regional heterogeneity.

53. MED 2050 directly intends to feed into future Mediterranean and global strategies and agendas, including national and sectoral plans. It will be a timely and valuable contribution to the development of the new Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2026-2035. It will also highlight critical areas of action and knowledge gaps to be filled through UNEP/MAP work, amongst others through a new Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean towards the end of the programming period of the new Medium-Term Strategy.

4.3. Dissemination of results, communication, knowledge sharing and capacity building

54. The different results of the programme will be presented and discussed with the relevant bodies of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention - system and disseminated to a large audience as the programme is moving on: reports and documents on the foresight baseline in 2021 (Module 1), the contrasted visions beginning of 2022 (Module 2), the scenarios in 2022 (Module 3) and the transition pathways and critical investments in 2023 (Module 4).

55. The intermediate and final reports will be discussed by relevant MAP bodies all along the programme deployment with a view to being presented to COP 22 in 2021 and the final outputs at the COP 23 in 2023. MED 2050 will thus contribute to the visibility of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system. The results of MED 2050 will help in the preparation of upcoming strategic documents, including the MSSD Review and preparation of the next Strategy 2026-2035.

56. Pending the identification of additional targeted funding, Plan Bleu could also support interested Contracting Parties in developing national or sub-regional MED 2050 declinations, by presenting MED 2050 results locally or providing technical assistance to integrate those results into foresight studies, strategies and action plans at the sub-regional, national and local levels. Based on a methodological guide to share experience and good practices, the methodological approach, aiming to bring together Mediterranean initiatives, could be applied to different scales within the Mediterranean and beyond, and could attract and nurture initiatives in other regional seas.

57. Capitalization, consultation and setting up of the network will be continued throughout the implementation of the programme, to take advantage of new developments and ensure ongoing dialogue across interested parties.

58. The web platform and newsletter will also be mobilized as a strategic tool to disseminate MED 2050 results, through newsletters and thematic leaflets among other products.

59. Follow-up: dissemination (2023). At the end of the programme, the Advisory Committee will be invited to propose national and thematic developments of the foresight analysis, as well as national transition strategies so that the transition pathways proposed by MED 2050 translate into the most operational possible manner on the territories.

60. In particular, the Advisory Committee will be invited to assess how MED 2050 findings could serve as a basis for the preparation of the next MSSD. Under its guidance, and in agreement with the Coordinating Unit, key messages from MED 2050 will be prepared in 2023 as inputs for the next MSSD.

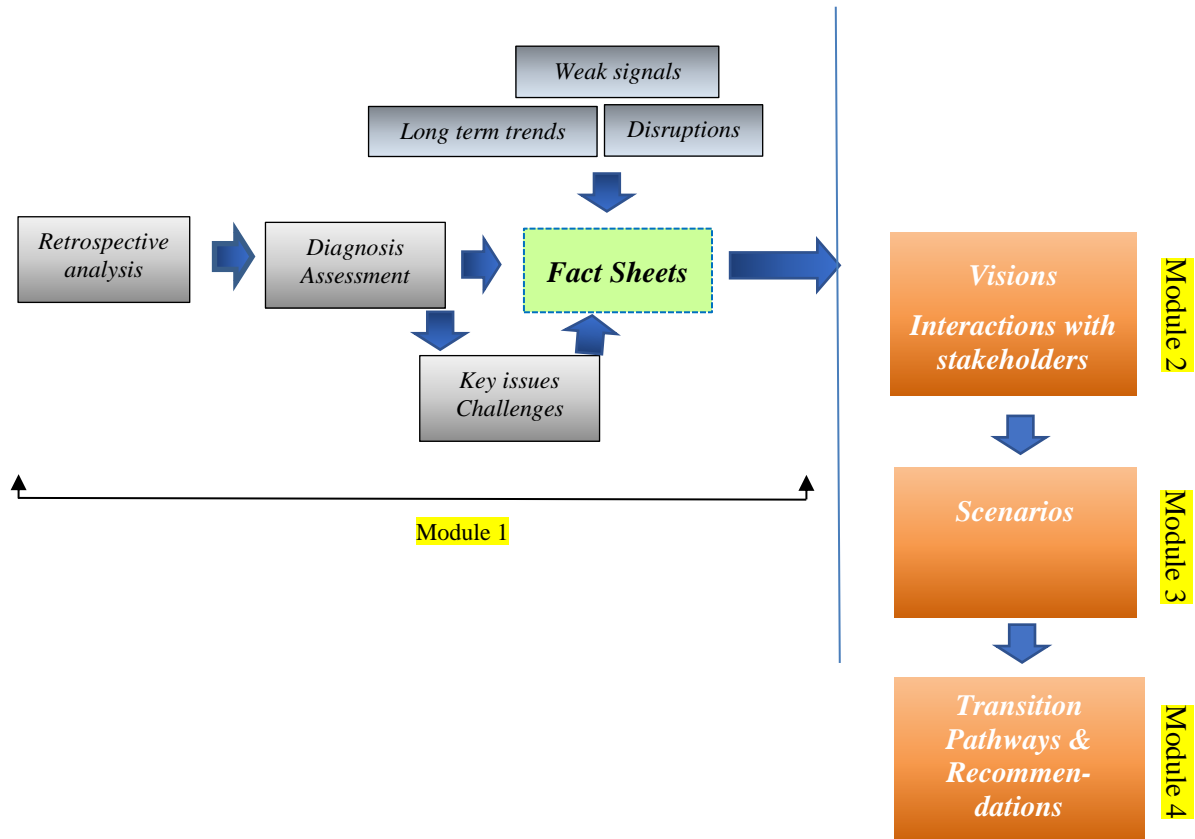
4.4. Partnership Building

61. Partnerships will be strengthened through the continued expansion and strengthening of the MED 2050 network of Mediterranean institutes, experts, national and regional institutions, NGOs and CSOs, and international organisations interested in MED 2050 and foresight.

4.5. New SIMPEER exercise

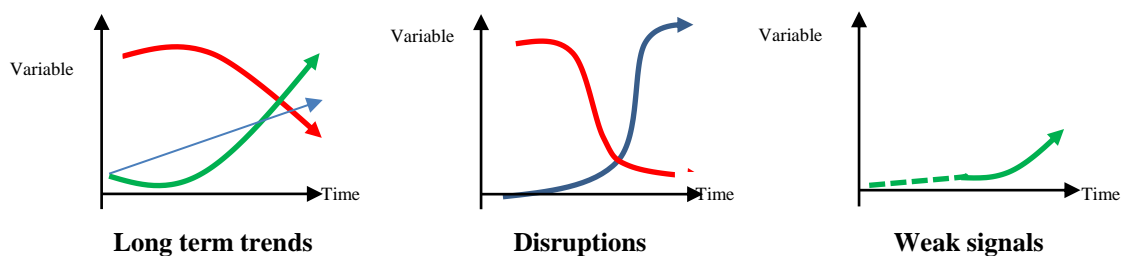
62. As a follow-up to the first two rounds of SIMPEER projects, and after the evaluation of the methodology, Plan Bleu / RAC proposes that a new round could be set up depending on the volunteering by 3 new Contracting Parties and the availability of funding.
63. As done previously, it is suggested that the 6 Contracting Parties which volunteered during the first two rounds bring their own experience to the third round.
64. Contact would be made with OECD to explore the possibility to associate them to this new round and benefit from their own experience in other regions.

Annex 1: The components of the foresight baseline of MED 2050 (module 1)



- **Major trends:** a most significant and very probable change affecting the system under study in a sufficiently significant manner and over a sufficiently long period to predict its evolution over time,
- **Weak signals:** seeds of change: embryonic and overlooked reality, the importance of which should not take long to assert itself, resulting in profound and widespread repercussions for the system under study, elements prefiguring inflections and bifurcations),
- **Disruptions** (sudden or gradual transformations affecting one dimension of the system under study and causing it to change more or less rapidly)

are fundamental components of the foresight baseline, making it possible to identify the dimensions or structuring variables of the future, to help select the relevant evolutionary hypotheses, to choose coherent combinations of hypotheses, and to identify likely pathways.



Annex 2: The list of MED 2050 Fact Sheets (module 1)

The **Fact Sheets** are a key component of the foresight baseline. They aim at drawing up a summarized picture of the key variables of the Mediterranean system. The objective of the Fact Sheets is to collect in a concise way some major data and some hypotheses on the future challenges for 38 major key themes of the Mediterranean System.

1. Major trends in the global context up to 2050 (“megatrends”) and their consequences on the Mediterranean
2. The Mediterranean identity, between change and fragmentation
3. Geopolitics of the Mediterranean, traditional and new “entrants” (States – like China, public or private actors, NGOs, etc.)
4. The place of the Mediterranean in European policies and the Green Deal
5. Financing of development in the Mediterranean by public and private actors. What place for “Green” finance?
6. The international governance of the marine environment in the Mediterranean between crisis, continuity and transformation. Evolution and application of the law of the sea National appropriation of maritime spaces
7. The major demographic, northern, southern and eastern changes and their consequences on the economy or the environment
8. Migration dynamics and policies
9. Urban transition in the North and South and its consequences on the environment: growth of cities, rural-urban balance, impacts on waste, land consumption, pollution and resources (water, etc.)
10. The concentration of activities on the coast: trends, conflicts on the use of space, impacts on the environment and the sea, risks
11. Climate change and its terrestrial and marine impacts
12. Adaptation issues and policies, between vulnerability and resilience
13. The evolution of greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation policies. Regional differences in emission trends and leverage for action
14. The transformations of the Mediterranean ecosystem and its impacts on marine biodiversity. The evolution of pressures (pollution, etc.) and protections
15. Exploitation and ownership of the marine resources of the Mediterranean (exploitation of gas, deep mineral resources, renewable energies, etc.). The consequences of the offshore expansion
16. The future of fisheries and aquaculture; its impacts (ecological, social ...)
17. The evolution of “living” resources and terrestrial natural heritages: forests, wetlands, animal and plant biodiversity...
18. The Water-Soil-Agriculture-Food-Environment Nexus. From Food Security to the Transition of Agriculture and Rural Systems
19. The energy transition in the Mediterranean – from production to use
20. Growth dynamics in the North and South of the Mediterranean: macroeconomic perspectives, sectoral changes, sustainability
21. Knowledge society, innovation and new technologies (digital, etc.): good opportunity or not for the economy and the environment in the Mediterranean?
22. New production and consumption models that are more environmentally friendly or based on nature and their impacts. Green Economy prospects

23. Opportunities and barriers to the blue economy
24. Maritime transport and ports in the Mediterranean and in international trade
25. Tourism (and tourist mobility) prospects and their impacts on the environment and coastal or regional economies
26. Inequalities, poverty, changes in social mobility, the informal economy and solidarity systems: towards a widening of social divides?
27. Changing value systems, cultural representations and religious practices
28. The place of young people in society and relations between generations. Youth employment and taking care of seniors
29. The status and role of women in families, the economy, society and the environment (with a view to changing family structures)
30. Social changes and lifestyles. Changes in time use and consumption patterns. Importance given to collective goods (health, education, etc.). Towards the development of ecological practices?
31. Democracy, participation, and emancipation of civil society. The balance between freedom and authoritarianism. The rule of law in normal and crisis situations
32. The prevention of major risks (climate, health, etc.) and crisis situations: between anticipation, public action and collective resilience
33. Multi-stakeholder and multi-scale governance: States, territories, civil society, economic actors, scientists
34. Changes in environmental awareness, the role of the media, training
35. Environmental mainstreaming into Public Policy (North and South)
36. Water resource management
37. Global security in the Mediterranean (defense, military tensions, terrorism...)
38. Observation, monitoring and warning systems in the Mediterranean region

Annex 3: List of activities carried out under Module 1 from October 2020 to March 2021

Tasks	Activities	Timing	Outputs/Deliveries
Governance bodies			
Foresight Group (FG)	Completing FG membership	Oct-Dec 2020	Enlargement of the FG Seeking a balance between gender and nationalities
Scientific and Advisory Committee (SC/AC)	initiate SC/AC membership and TORs	Nov-Dec 2020	Initial list of members of the SC/AC, draft TORs
	First Meeting of the AC	13 Jan 2021	Introduce the overall exercise to participants and present the MED 2050 methodology, gather their feedback on mandate and composition of the AC and on institutional and procedural aspects.
Foresight Group			
Kick start meeting of the FG	Workshop	6 May 2020	Presentation of the objectives of MED 2050 and tour de table of the FG members
Launch of Module 1 Presentations of work achievements Discussion on long term trends (questionnaire) Introductory session on disruptions	Workshop	13 & 14 Oct 2020	Minutes of the workshop Preliminary list of long-term trends
Comments received on list of trends Questionnaire: qualification of trends Role and effectiveness of foresight exercises Introduction to Fact Sheets	Workshop	2 Dec 2020	Minutes of the workshop Report on the qualification of long-term trends Preliminary list of Fact Sheets
Discussion on the MED 2050 Methodological Framework List of disruptions Fact Sheets: draft examples and composition of editorial teams Indicators (SDGs and MSSD)	Workshop	28 January 2021	Methodology Note on the implementation of MED 2050 List of disruptions finalized Initial list of Fact Sheets editorial teams Guidance Note on Fact Sheets
Fact Sheets preparation	Drafting of 38 FS Follow up of editorial teams	Jan – June 2021	Finalisation of FS by editorial teams set up around the Foresight Group, drafts expected at the latest on 9 th June
Qualification of disruptions Discussion on updated timetable for MED 2050 Fact Sheets (continued) Megatrends Indicators (SDGs and MSSD) (continued)		17 March 2021	Report on qualification of disruptions Draft of updated timetable to be discussed with MAP bodies Fact Sheets - First completed FS + planning for remaining ones Matrix on Fact Sheets and relevant indicators (SDGs and MSSD)
Cross cutting activities			
Communication	Newsletter Website	2020-2021	2 newsletters MED 2050 Website operational
Networking	Networking activities	2020-2021	Website facilitation and networking building activities
Partnership	Partnership building	2020-2021	Strengthening of partnership with specialised institutes, experts, national and regional institutions, CSOs and NGOs and international organisations

Annex 4: MED 2050 Timetable 2021-2023**Module 1 – Building up the Foresight Baseline: April – August 2021**

Tasks	Activities	Timing	Outputs/Deliveries
Advisory Committee			
Advisory Committee (AC)	Meeting	June 2021	Comments and inputs from AC on the progress report and updated timeline.
Foresight Group			
Fact Sheets preparation	Drafting of 38 Fact Sheets Follow up of editorial teams	Jan – June 2021	Finalisation of FS drafts expected at the latest on 9 th June
- Prioritisation of issues and challenges for the Mediterranean - Fact Sheets (continued) - Indicators (SDGs and MSSD) (continued)	Workshop	28 April 2021	Note on priority challenges for the Mediterranean Fact Sheets – continued, and with links to SDGs and MSSD data
- Stakeholder mapping - Fact Sheets (continued) - Indicators (SDGs and MSSD) (continued)	Workshop	9 June	Note stakeholders' role play and mapping Fact Sheets - Follow up matrix Follow up Matrix on Fact Sheets and relevant indicators (SDGs and MSSD)
Presentation and discussion on Fact Sheets	Workshop	July 2021 (2 days workshop)	Draft of Fact Sheets compilation adopted + Minutes of the Workshop
Report on Fact Sheets	Finalisation of the FS	31 August 2021	Final Report on Fact Sheets The document will be published under PB publications
Final report on Module 1	Drafting	31 August 2021	Final report on Module 1 on the main results of the development of the foresight baseline: trends, weak signals, disruptions, issues and challenges, stakeholder mapping, fact sheets, methodology note + other documents produced by the FG
Focus projects			
Application of MED 2050 methodology to Région Sud in France	"Focus" Project self-financed	Dec 2020 – June 2022	Report on the foresight of Région Sud up to 2050 and key challenges to be addressed
Application of MED 2050 methodology to a Morocco watershed	"Focus" Project (external funding: AFD)	Jan – June 2022	Report on the foresight of a Morocco watershed up to 2050 and key challenges to be addressed in terms of water and other natural resources management
Other "focus" projects depending on partnership and funding opportunities			
Links with MAP Decision Bodies			
Plan Bleu NFPs	Presentation	18-20 May 2021	Presentation of MED 2050 achievements and key challenges. Exploring opportunities for greater engagement of PB-NFPs in the programme.
MCSD	Presentation	7-9 June 2021	Presentation of MED 2050 achievements and key challenges. Exploring opportunities for greater engagement of MCSD Members in the programme.
COP 22	Side event on MED 2050	Dec 2021	Presentation of MED 2050 achievements and key challenges. Exploring

			opportunities for greater engagement of Parties in the programme.
Cross cutting activities			
Communication	Newsletter MED 2050 website	Jan - August 2021	2 newsletters MED 2050 Website operational
Networking	Networking activities	Jan - August 2021	Website facilitation and networking activities
Partnership	Partnership building	2020-2021	Strengthening of partnerships with specialised institutes, experts, national and regional institutions, CSOs and NGOs and international organisations

Module 2 – Visions: September – December 2021 –

Tasks	Activities	Timing	Outputs/Deliveries
Participatory Workshops			
Participatory workshops on the visions in three sub-regions: South, East and North	3 workshops 2 options: - 1 face-to-face workshop of 3 days per sub-region - 3 online meetings per sub-region	Depending on options: From Oct 2021 to Jan 2022	Report on each of the three sub-regional workshops on visions Synthesis report on the sub-regional visions
Governance bodies			
Scientific Committee (SC)	Meeting	Jan 2022	SC comments and inputs on past and future activities
Advisory Committee (AC)	Meeting	Jan 2022	AC analysis and recommendations on past and future activities
Foresight Group			
Preparation of sub-regional participatory workshops on visions	Workshop	Sept 2021	Identification of contact points and relays, and preparatory documents for sub-regional consultations
Foresight Analysis	Workshop	Nov 2021	Strategic Foresight Note on the future of the Mediterranean
Analysis of the results of the sub-regional workshops Morphologic Analysis	Workshop	Jan 2022	Strategic Foresight Note on the sub-regional visions
Final report on Module 2	Drafting	28 Feb 2022	Final report on Module 2 on the key results of the consultation on visions at the sub-regional level + other documents produced by the FG (Strategic Foresight Notes)
Focus projects			
Regional meeting on the nexus Demography-Migration-Economic development	Regional meeting (Partners: University of Bari, CMI,	15-16 September 2021	Final report on the nexus Demography-Migration-Economic development Preparation of a policy-oriented conference in 2022

	Futuribles, and other partners)		
Regional meeting on the Mega-Mediterranean Ecosystem	Regional meeting (Partners: University of Naples, GEF and other partners	September 2021 (date to be confirmed)	Final report on the Mega-Mediterranean Ecosystem Preparation of a policy-oriented conference in 2022
Other "focus" projects depending on partnerships and funding opportunities	Project preparation + implementation	Sept 2021 - Feb 2022	Depending on proposal to join the programme and fund focus projects
Cross cutting activities			
Communication	Newsletter MED 2050 website	Sept 2021 - February 2022	2 newsletters MED 2050 Website operational
Networking	Networking activities	Sept 2021 - February 2022	Website facilitation and networking activities
Partnership	Partnership building	2020-2021	Strengthening of partnerships with specialised institutes, experts, national and regional institutions, CSOs and NGOs and international organisations

Module 3 – Scenarios: January 2022 – June 2022

Tasks	Activities	Timing	Outputs/Deliveries
Participatory Workshops			
Participatory workshops on the scenarios with stakeholder clusters Five clusters: - Youth - Civil society - Institutions (national and local) - Business - International Organisations	5 workshops 2 options: - 1 face to face workshop of 2 days per cluster - 3 online meetings per cluster	Depending on options: From April to June 2022	Report on each of the five cluster workshops on scenarios Synthesis report on the scenarios
Governance bodies			
Scientific Committee (SC) (with inclusion of CP representatives)	Meeting	July 2022	SC comments and inputs on the report on module 3 and next module
Foresight Group			
Preparation of the participatory workshops on scenarios	Workshop	March 2022	Identification of contact points and preparatory documents for the cluster consultations
Foresight Analysis	Workshop	April 2022	Strategic Foresight Note on scenarios
Analysis of the results of the participatory workshops on scenarios	Workshop	July 2022	Strategic Foresight Note on participatory workshops on scenarios
Final report on Module 3	Drafting	31 August 2022	Final report on Module 3 on the key results of the participatory workshops on scenarios + other documents produced by the FG (Strategic Foresight Notes)
Focus projects			

"Focus" projects	Project preparation + implementation	March - August 2022	Depending on proposals to join the programme and fund focus projects
Cross cutting activities			
Communication	Newsletter MED 2050 website	March - August 2022	2 newsletters MED 2050 Website operational
Networking	Networking activities	March - August 2022	Website facilitation and networking activities
Partnership	Partnership building	2020-2021	Strengthening of partnerships with specialised institutes, experts, national and regional institutions, CSOs and NGOs and international organisations

Module 4 – Transition pathways and recommendations: July - December 2022

Tasks	Activities	Timing	Outputs/Deliveries
Participatory Workshops			
Participatory workshops on the transition pathways and recommendations with stakeholder clusters Five clusters: - Youth - Civil society - Institutions (national and local) - Business - International Organisations	5 workshops 2 options: - 1 face to face workshop of 2 days per cluster - 3 online meetings per cluster	Depending on options: From October 2022 to January 2023	Report on each of the five workshops on transitions pathways Synthesis report on the transition pathways and recommendations
Governance bodies			
Scientific Committee (SC) with inclusion of CP representatives	Meeting	February 2023	SC comments and inputs on the report on module 4 and "exit strategy"
Foresight Group			
Preparation of the participatory workshops on transition pathways	Workshop	September 2022	Identification of contact points and preparatory documents for the cluster workshops
Foresight Analysis on transition pathways	Workshop	November 2022	Strategic Foresight Note on transition pathways
"Mirror" workshop Assessment on the work of MED 2050 provided by international (non-Mediterranean) experts	Workshop	Jan 2023	Report on the results of the "Mirror" workshop and recommendations
Analysis of the results of the participatory workshops on transition pathways	Workshop	Feb 2023	Strategic Foresight Note on final recommendations
Final report on Module 4	Drafting	31 August 2022	Report on the main results of the workshops on the transition pathways and recommendations + other documents by the FG (Strategic Foresight Notes) Final Report on MED 2050 Programme including an Exit Strategy
Focus projects			

"Focus" projects to be developed depending on partnership and funding opportunities	Project preparation + implementation	Sept 2022 - Feb 2023	Depending on proposal to join the programme and fund focus projects
Cross cutting activities			
Communication	Newsletter MED 2050 website	Sept 2022 - Feb 2023	2 newsletters MED 2050 Website operational
Networking	Networking activities	Sept 2022 - Feb 2023	Website facilitation and networking activities
Partnership	Partnership building	2020-2021	Strengthening of partnerships with specialised institutes, experts, national and regional institutions, CSOs and NGOs and international organisations

Results dissemination and promotion: 2023

Tasks	Activities	Timing	Outputs/Deliveries
Results dissemination and knowledge management			
Results dissemination	Presentations in Member States and other regional fora	Feb-Dec 2023	Depending on requests from Parties and other partners
Capitalisation and knowledge sharing	Dissemination of final report and recommendations	Feb-Dec 2023	Wide dissemination of outputs of the programme, first and foremost the Final Report on MED 2050 Programme including an Exit Strategy
Capacity building		Feb-Dec 2023	Depending on requests from Parties
Foresight Tool box and capacity building adapted to the Mediterranean in support of decision-making and capacity building sessions on country request	Developing the foresight toolbox	Feb-Dec 2023	Tool box made available to all Contracting Parties Capacity development activities
Support provided to Contracting Party for "future-proofing" assessment of national policies on the basis of the toolbox and MED 2050 programme results.	Support on request by Contracting Parties	Feb-Dec 2023	At least one Contracting Party is supported
Links with MAP Decision Bodies			
COP 23	Preparation of attendance and presentation to COP 23	Dec 2023	Presentation to COP 23 Side Event