

## CapiMed-Islands

*Capitalising BeMed initiative to reduce plastic pollution in Mediterranean Islands*

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Because of its closed sea topography, the intensity of maritime transport and the industrial and tourist activities it concentrates, the Mediterranean is particularly impacted by plastic pollution. With 1 to 10 million plastic particles per square kilometer, it is probably the most polluted sea in the world.

These concerns are even more worrying on island sites, limited in their space and with often large quantities of plastics waste and insufficient resources to set up complete sorting and recycling channels. Nevertheless, small islands remain resilient territories, striving to propose solutions, from reduction to recycling, they are leaders of change.

Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed) launched a call for projects targeting specifically the Mediterranean islands. Five projects have been selected that will complement the efforts of the BeMed network:

- 1) **Together for zero plastic in 10 Albanian islands** (Albania) will support the involvement of municipalities to define a sustainable waste management strategy and develop regulations limiting the use of plastic on the islands. Led by Royal Albania Foundation.
- 2) **Plastistop** (Djerba Island-Tunisia) will improve the collection and recycling of plastic on the island of Djerba, including the implementation of selective sorting for 100 households. Led by JLIJ Association for the Marine Environment.
- 3) **For plastic free Croatian Islands** (Hvar and Dugi Otok Island-Croatia) will reduce the production of waste, definition and implementation of an action plan based on the reduction of single-use plastics. Led by Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development Sunce.
- 4) **Plastic Free Balearic** (Balearic Island-Spain) will establish a common “plastic free” certification in the tourism sector. Led by Fundación Save The Med and Ibiza Preservation.
- 5) **Zero Plastic in the Or Archipelago and replication in the Mediterranean** (Or Archipelago-France; Kerkennah Island-Tunisia; Tavolara Island-Italy) will set up local micro channels to produce alternatives to single-use plastic made by local by-products. Led by Small Islands Organisation (SMILO).

Individual BeMed islands projects, even if they achieve great results at the island level, could limit the impact of the solutions or measures implemented, due to their limitation in time and space, different approaches and overlaps or duplication of work.

The **CapiMed-Islands project** will systematically address these challenges and support BeMed beneficiaries by (also considering other recent and ongoing BeMed micro-initiatives related to islands):

- ✓ Promoting the collaboration among BeMed projects and beyond, and particularly by facilitating the application of existing harmonized approaches and guidelines to tackle plastic pollution. This will include:
  - Regular exchange with individual projects, including bi-lateral and group meetings, to facilitate a harmonized approach
  - Communication recommendations brief targeting BeMed and single projects
  
- ✓ Transferring the results, lessons learnt and know-how generated by the BeMed projects to other islands, allowing for cross-border cooperation, increased replicability and the pooling of education and training efforts. This will include:
  - Liaison with other capitalisation initiatives in the Mediterranean
  - Transfer workshops and webinars targeting other islands and marine protected areas
  - Dissemination of results and lessons learnt
  
- ✓ Bringing the BeMed community and outcomes into regional processes to maximizing their impact in the long-term. This will include:
  - Elaboration of a mainstreaming strategy to influence relevant regional policies
  - Policy brief in relation to main Mediterranean political processes related to biodiversity, plastics and circular economy
  - Final capitalisation event

For more information, please contact:

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**Applicant** Catalan Waste Agency – Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production **in partnership with** Small Islands Organisation (SMILO)

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