

SwitchMed Programme

SwitchMed is an EU-funded initiative fostering Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns in eight Southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia). SwitchMed directly supports the reinforcement of an enabling policy environment, the practices by private sector and facilitation of experience-sharing among stakeholders. It further aims at stimulating the creation of greener business opportunities and decent employment, while reducing the environmental footprint of consumption and production activities. Different measures will help to make the circular economy model the mainstream business model in the Southern Mediterranean region.

Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans publications:





The different components and activities of the SwitchMed programme concentrate on:

- mainstreaming SCP into national policy;
- building and strengthening capacities of businesses, business support organizations, resource efficiency and cleaner production service providers and government authorities through trainings, coaching and technical assistance;
- raising awareness and knowledge in the private and public sector in order to ensure ownership of the action and help build a community of practice on SCP.

These measures will help to make the circular economy model the mainstream business model in the Southern Mediterranean region.

switchmed I

The first phase of SwitchMed (2013-2018) was divided in three components addressing different parts of the transition process to sustainable consumption and production – Sustainable Development Goal-SDG12:

- Policy: development of a regional SCP action plan for the Mediterranean and eight SCP national action plans (SCP-NAPs);
- Demonstration activities: link the policy component and the private sector (cleaner production);
- Networking and communication: exchange of good practices, joint learning and scaling up;

The United Nations Environment Programme's mandate during phase I was to:

- provide advisory services and technical support to the project countries in the development of their Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans;
- support a variety of demonstration projects in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Palestine.











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Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans (SCP-NAPs):

- Eight national action plans have been developed through multi-stakeholder processes (government, civil society, private sector, media, academia, international community) and validated during technical national workshops;
- More than 25 multi-stakeholder national workshops and roundtables organized with over 1,500 participants;
- The SCP-NAPs allow the project countries to fulfill SDG indicator 12.1 of the Agenda 2030;

Demonstration projects:

Demonstration projects based on the respective SCP-NAPs were implemented in four countries:

- Egypt: Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP), National Plastic Bag Initiative;
- Israel: SPP, Green Restaurants, Green Cleantech;
- Jordan: Waste Management, Sustainable Tourism;
- Palestine: Eco-trails, Organic Agriculture.

switchmed II

SwitchMed II (2019-2023) builds on the results, experiences and capacity from SwitchMed I (2013-2018) and has been designed following a comprehensive approach and overall structure around three outcomes:

- Enhanced economic opportunities for industry and startups following new green and circular business models;
- Enabling environment for resource efficient and a circular economy at regional and national level;
- Executive coordination and communication ensuring a cohesive, regional approach.

During SwitchMed II UNEP supports the countries in reinforcing the implementation of the SCP-NAPs through progress monitoring, which allows integration of lessons learned by all countries' partners working on SCP — including the outcomes and decisions from the HLPF (High-level political forum on SDGs) and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4). UNEP will further cooperate with national partners on NAP implementation.

Project countries:

















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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.

SwitchMed implementation partners:





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