

## MSSD REVIEW – STAKEHOLDER NEWSBRIEF N°2 – FEBRUARY 2015

<http://planbleu.org/en/node/1141>

An important step forward in reviewing the [Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development](#) (MSSD) will be taken in Malta with the [Conference on the Review of the MSSD](#) (17-18 February 2015) aiming at discussing with key stakeholders the draft revised strategy. This MSSD Review Stakeholders Newsbrief N°2 summarises the work done after the Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), held on 11-12 June 2014 in Malta, where a provisional vision and structure for the reviewed strategy were recommended (Figure 1).

The provisional vision is: **A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance.** The vision would be accompanied by explanations of the terminology used: for example, what is meant by healthy ecosystems (e.g. productive and diverse) and equity (which includes the concept of equal access to the benefits deriving from ecosystems). It was agreed that the vision statement could still be updated later on in the review process as necessary.

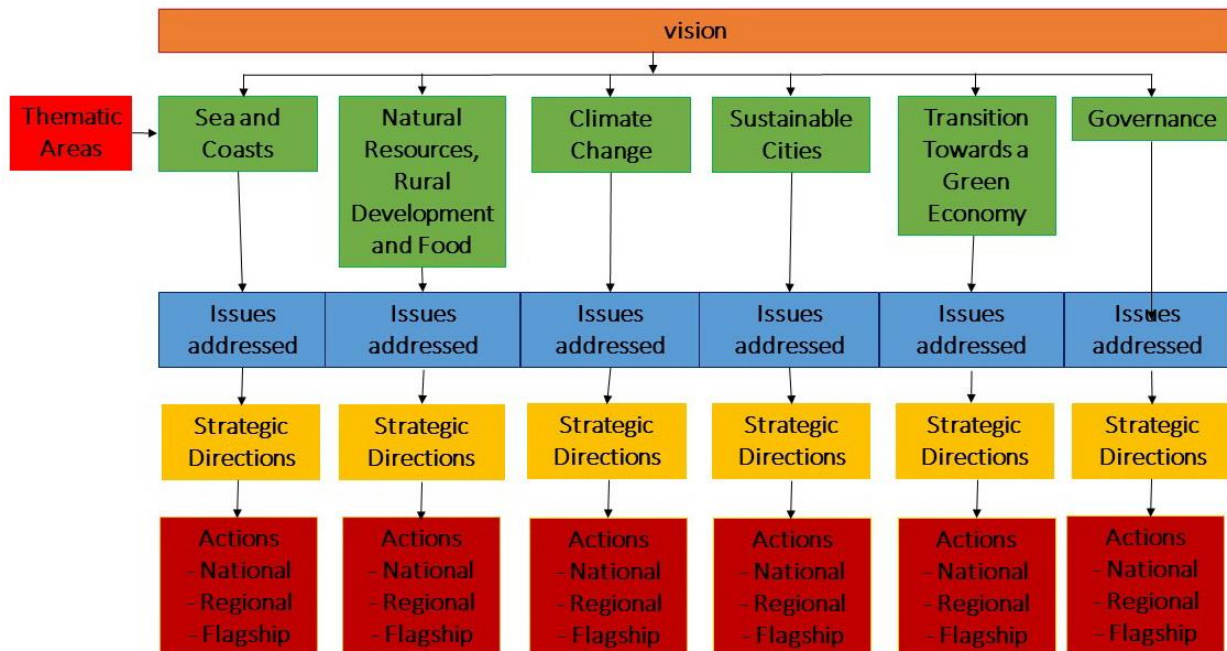


Figure 1: Provisional structure of MSSD 2.0, following MCSD SC recommendations (June 2014)

## BACKGROUND

In their 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting (COP 18) held in Istanbul, Turkey (December 2013), the Contracting Parties to the [Barcelona Convention](#), requested the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan ([UNEP/MAP](#)) to launch the process of MSSD Review. The MSSD Review was formally launched in Malta by the Hon Mr Leo Brincat, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change of Malta.

The MSSD Review process is coordinated by a Core Group consisting of the Chair of the [MCSD](#), Plan Bleu and the UNEP/MAP Secretariat. The technical work supporting the review of the MSSD is being carried out by the UNEP/MAP through its [Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre](#) (PB/RAC), with support of the other RACs gathered within the MSSD Review Task Force. For more information about the first phase of this process, please see [MSSD Review Newsbrief N°1](#).

The timeline relating to the review and approval of the revised MSSD is presented in Figure 2 below:

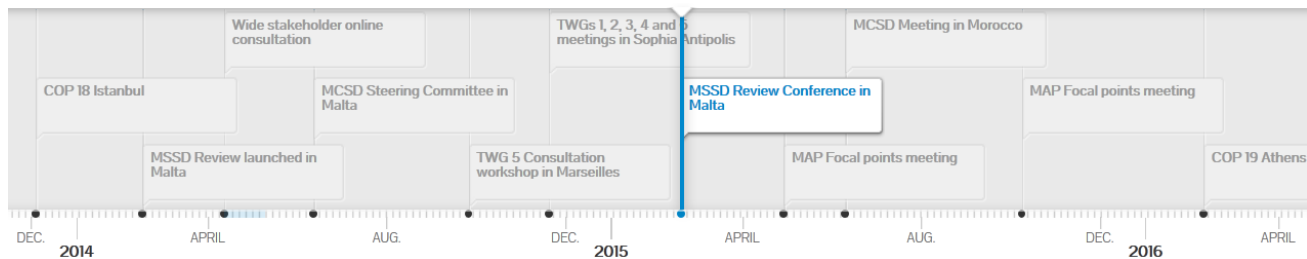


Figure 2: Timeline for the review of the MSSD

## DRAFTING OF REVISED MSSD SECTIONS THROUGH THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

For each of the six themes (Figure 1) a Thematic Working Group (TWG) was established in the third quarter of 2014 to begin work on drafting the thematic sections of the MSSD. MCSD members, MAP and RACs Focal Points, institutions accredited as MAP Partners and major stakeholders in the region were invited to participate and/or nominate experts to contribute to the work of the TWGs.

In September 2014 a team of thematic experts was engaged to support the work of TWGs. A senior adviser was also involved to join the Core Group for supervising the process, collecting outputs of TWGs and drafting the reviewed strategy. The Core Group provided standard templates for the experts in order to ensure a systematic approach to the parallel activities of the TWGs. In line with the methodology provided by the MCSD SC, the thematic experts collected input and feedback from the TWGs’ participants, as guiding material for the formulation of the thematic chapters. Each TWG proposed Issues, Strategic Directions, Actions (at national and Mediterranean levels) and Flagship Initiatives for the revised MSSD (Figure 1). This online consultation process took place in October and November 2014.

A [Consultation Workshop on Green Economy](#), in relation to TWG5, was organized by Plan Bleu at Villa Valmer in Marseille, France, on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014, in close collaboration with the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption ([SCP/RAC](#)). This workshop was held back-to-back with the “Regional stakeholders’ consultation meeting on the Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan for the Mediterranean”, organized in the framework of the SWITCH-Med programme on 1-2 October 2014, at the same venue.

Gathering more than 60 key stakeholders and experts, a set of [Consultation workshops](#) took place on 19-20 November 2014, at the Plan Bleu headquarters (Sophia-Antipolis, France), immediately after the conclusion of the online consultation process. Following a participatory approach consisting of breakout sessions, these consultation workshops were fed thanks to the results of the online consultation. In addition, the thematic expert in charge of theme 6 “Governance” moderated a participatory session with stakeholders who contributed to the previous online consultation.



Photo 1: Group photo – Consultation workshops, Sophia-Antipolis, France, 20th November 2014.

## MSSD OUTREACH

In addition to the above-listed activities, on 6-7 November 2014, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat participated in a European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) Conference [“A renewed policy framework for sustainable development – The international Sustainable Development agenda and its impact on Europe”](#); in which the MSSD Review Process was presented by Atila Uras.

Plan Bleu participated at the [Climate Meeting of Mediterranean local and regional elected representatives](#), held in Villa Méditerranée, Marseille, France on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014. This meeting aimed at preparing a Mediterranean contribution to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), which will take place in Paris in December 2015. Hugues Ravenel, Plan Bleu Director, presented the ongoing MSSD Review process, while Stéphane Simonet, thematic expert, presented the outputs of the stakeholder consultations on climate. In addition, during the policy council of the Mediterranean Commission of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Julien Le Tellier, Plan Bleu Programme Officer, carried out an exercise of stakeholder consultation about urban and territorial governance at the local level.

## CONFERENCE ON THE MSSD REVIEW, MALTA, 17-18 FEBRUARY 2015

The aim of the Malta Conference is to **discuss the draft document of the reviewed strategy with key stakeholders** at the regional and national levels before the revised MSSD is submitted for the endorsement of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, which will officially take place in Morocco on 9-10-11 June 2015, and the approval by the Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention in December 2015 in Greece (COP 19). The conference, which will be kindly hosted by the Maltese Government in close collaboration with the Coordination Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and Plan Bleu, will be held on 17-18 February 2015, at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana: [more information](#).

### MSSD REVIEW - MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Launch of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development review process, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014, Malta
- First stakeholders' consultation (online), 10 April - 9 May 2014
- 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of MCSD Steering Committee, 11-12 June 2014, Malta - recommended structure and vision were agreed
- Stakeholder News Brief 1 - MSSD Review process, July 2014
- Consultation Workshop of the Thematic Working Group (TWG 5) "Towards a green economy", 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Marseilles (France)
- UNEP/MAP Secretariat's participation at the conference of European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN), 6-7 November 2014, Roma (Italy)
- Consultation workshop for Thematic Working Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, 19-20 November 2014, Sophia-Antipolis (France)
- Plan Bleu participation at the Climate Meeting of the Mediterranean local and regional elected representatives, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Marseilles (France)
- Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, 17-18 February 2015, Floriana (Malta)

### CONTACTS

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