



Constitutive charter for the Mediterranean network ILE

The Non Governmental Organizations, which are to sign below and which are involved in local environmental and sustainable development initiatives, have decided to create a Mediterranean network entitled, “ILE in the Mediterranean”.

This will is based on three observations:

- The Mediterranean region forms a specific natural and cultural space for which the signatories claim the recognition of a cooperation entity for local stakeholders who are frequently isolated and largely ignored by large international NGOs.
- The environmental cause in the Mediterranean Basin is compounded by climate change, the economic divide between the North and South of the Mediterranean and the political upheavals which require a grass-roots intercultural approach, focused on peace and mutual understanding, which goes beyond cooperation between States and global policies by fostering greater involvement of local stakeholders from both shores in a sense of solidarity in action of all those working on the ground
- Addressing the challenge of sustainable development in the Mediterranean will require not only to support the birth of a real mediterranean eco-citizenship but also to support the whole contribution of the stakeholders in the field of the Social Economy with their abilities to bring new solutions, based on the intelligence and the innovation in the territories, as an alternative to the classical economic development.

The network is the outcome of a Euro-Mediterranean cooperation project for sustainable development and local democracy, funded by the European Union as part of the ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument) Mediterranean Basin Programme. The project began in 2013 and brought together 10 partner associations from Tunisia, Lebanon, Greece, Italy, France, Algeria (associate partner) and Morocco (associate partner) over a 2-year period. It consisted of running and coordinating local environmental initiatives in the partners' countries and involving dozens of local associations as well as exchange and training activities.

The present constitutive charter of the “ILE in the Mediterranean” network for peace, solidarity and sustainable development has been approved by the members of the ILE network on 2015 december 21st, at Hammamet during the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Eco-Citizenship which closed the European project.



Network objectives

➤ Overall aim:

By the present charter, the signatory organisations and individuals confirm their will to continue to cooperate in the Mediterranean Basin in accordance with the initial objectives of the ILE network:

- Strengthen the awareness and capacity of Mediterranean civil society in the field of sustainable development and local democracy.
- Boost and improve the recognition of the role civil society plays, in all its aspects, in the implementation of environmental policies in the Mediterranean region.
- Consolidate the partnership between public, private stakeholders and civil society for the local governance of sustainable development issues.

➤ Specific objectives:

“ILE in the Mediterranean” will carry out actions to achieve specific objectives focused on the needs of localities:

- Open a discussion forum with organisations representing Mediterranean local authorities, associations active both nationally and internationally, cooperation institutions and Euro-Mediterranean economic stakeholders to ensure the ILE network’s points of view and specific positions are acknowledged.
- Ensure that young people from the Mediterranean region are at the forefront of governance and actions led by associations playing an active role in sustainable development.
- Develop common knowledge, especially in raising public awareness.
- Expand our network to all countries in the Mediterranean Basin by offering local associations involved in eco-citizenship activities a framework which will facilitate meetings, knowledge sharing and mutual aid to consolidate their actions.
- Share skills and expertise, compare methods, transfer knowledge.
- Support the opportunities for meetings and mobilities in the Mediterranean Basin



Organisation

- “ILE in the Mediterranean” is a non-institutionalised network whose overall organisation is governed by a partnership agreement.
Specific ad hoc agreements to govern issues concerning actions will be signed by all or part of the members and their funding.
- “ILE in the Mediterranean” includes 3 categories of members approving the values of the network in colleges :
 - The college of original founding member partners of the ILE Project.
 - The college of active members of civil society in the Mediterranean.
 - The college of associate members, particularly any public-sector or non-governmental organisations, universities, foundations and companies wanting to take part in delivering actions, regardless of their geographical origin.

Operation

All the members of the ILE network are applying in their activities, the principles of transparency and communication promoted by the present charter.

- The college of founding members, expanded to co-opted active members, forms the Executive Committee which manages the network’s activities in line with its objectives. All members can suggest activities in the name of the network after informing first of the Executive Committee.
- Decisions without financial implications are taken on a majority basis.
- Main decisions related to action programmes, as well as decisions having financial consequences, are taken on the basis of the commitment of a voluntary member. These decisions are disseminated towards all members and the Executive Committee.
- A technical secretariat will be led by one of the Executive Committee members, nominated for a 2-year period, and which can be renewed.
- Expenditure and incomes concerning the operation of the technical secretariat are defined by the Executive Committee from a provisional budget. It will be abounded by voluntary contributions, financial or in kind, from all members and any public or private funding coming from organizations sharing the values of the network.



Resources and actions

The “ILE in the Mediterranean” network will implement the following actions to specifically meet its objectives:

- A training programme for trainers about eco-citizenship and subjects related to field-based activities.
- A youth programme supporting eco-volunteer initiatives at a local level: civic service, exchange programme, European Voluntary Service, international workcamps and field study campuses, monitoring of projects carried by young people especially in the field of economic and social development
- The co-construction of environmental and sustainable development cooperation programmes geared towards the European Union, foundations and other funders.
- A meeting every two year for network members aiming to develop the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Eco-citizenship. It will be based in one of the ILE network areas and will be open to the local community in the spirit of community colleges in order to capitalize the results and ensure a shared and participative evaluation of the network’s activity programme.
- A transnational network of experts ready to act based on requests from network members.
- Tools based on the Information and Communication Technologies and particularly a forum for dialogue, capitalisation and exchange, including a regularly updated directory of innovative actions
- Any other means of action to reach the specific objectives identified in the present charter.

Every year, the activity programme of the network is communicated and disseminated by the members.

The present charter of the “ILE in the Mediterranean” network has been approved in Hammamet by the signatories.