

Interreg NEXT MED 2021-2027



First call for project proposals

Specific Objective	Reference Number	Project title	Project acronym	Maltese partner	Project Summary Description	Project Dates		Project Budget		
						Start	End	EU contribution 89%	Partner contribution 11%	Total
RSO1.1: Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	A_T_1.1_0461	PRoMoting innovative solutions for the TECHNOlogical Transition of the MEDiterranean horticultural sector	PROTECHMED	Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights	PROTECHMED seeks to establish an enabling ecosystem for co-designing and testing five eco-innovative solutions for horticultural greenhouses. These solutions are integral to the digital and innovation transition within the ecological context. With a strong focus on water and energy conservation in horticultural crops, the ultimate aim is to drive the transition toward a more intelligent and sustainable business model for greenhouse food production. Key aspects include: 1. Agri-Cluster Alliance: more than 300 among Researchers, professionals, institutions, and horticultural companies collaborate to enhance agronomic and technological expertise among MSMEs and bridge the gap between research and agricultural companies along the value chain. 2. Smart Eco-Innovative Technologies: These technologies improve water and nutrient efficiency, incorporate photovoltaic installations, and include a Decision Support System for overall efficiency monitoring. 3. Capacity Development: Training programs for at least 150 technicians and agronomists, along with coaching for MSMEs. 4. Inception Camp: Held during the project's initial phase, it involves on-field visits and focus groups. Challenges are addressed collaboratively by the transnational Living Lab, which engages stakeholders from the quadruple helix (academia, industry, government, and civil society). 5. Joint Business Model: In the final project phase, public consultations contribute to a shared Action Plan and RoadMap, committing stakeholders to transition toward a smarter business model for sustainable food production.	01/04/2025	31/03/2028	€201,585.00	€24,915.00	€226,500.00
RSO1.3: Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments	A_T_1.2_0088	CLUSTER for a dATa driven rural, sustAinable touriSm for MEDiterranean SMEs	CLUSTERATLAS4MED	Institute of Tourism Studies	CLUSTERATLAS4Med is the Mediterranean meta-cluster for rural tourism. Following a hub-and-Spoke model, the project will boost the competitiveness of tourism SMEs in rural areas through better and bespoke services useful to address the challenges of the digital and green transition, fostering interconnections among the relevant stakeholders of the quadruple-helix in the Mediterranean area. The main novelty of our project will be the creation of a strategic trans-Mediterranean meta-cluster that will specifically support rural tourism, instead of tourism in general. Rural tourism can play a leading role for the sustainable growth of rural areas but it needs a different approach. Rural SMEs are, on average, less innovative and digitalised. This can prevent them from grasping the benefits of the global markets. Our trans-regional meta-cluster will create synergies among the different actors and territories to sustain the long term growth of rural tourism while addressing the twin transition. The target groups to be involved are: R&D Organisations, VET providers, public administrations, Chambers of Commerce, Business organisations and rural associations.	01/04/2025	31/03/2028	€142,631.40	€17,628.60	€160,260.00
RSO2.1: Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	A_T_2.1_0212	Green Ports Cluster for a Sustainable Mediterranean Maritime and Transport Ecosystem	GREENMEDPORTS	Transport Malta	Maritime transport, responsible for 90% of international trade goods and 12% of the world's GDP, faces substantial environmental challenges, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea. This strategic transit lane, linking Europe with other continents, experiences heavy traffic, leading to significant environmental impacts. Despite improvements, maritime transport still needs to address decarbonization and pollution reduction comprehensively at a transnational level. Against this background the GREENMEDPORTS project aims to establish a sustainable Mediterranean maritime and transport ecosystem, a GREENMEDPORTS Cluster, supporting the development of pilot actions centered on a Carbon Footprint Platform (CFP), and establishing a Green Label Port certification system. Through these initiatives, the project seeks to promote collaboration among port authorities, freight forwarders, and other stakeholders, digitize port processes, and define common standards and strategies for emission reduction and sustainable transport practices, enhancing resilience and economic development. By fostering cooperation among port authorities and freight operators, the project will set up a Transnational Cooperation Network, driving the set up of a Strategy to transiting the Mediterranean maritime sector from fossil-based to carbon-neutral operations. The proposed Green Label, tested in six port areas, aims to attract interest from several port authorities and organisations. Through transnational collaboration and knowledge sharing, the project seeks to pave the way for a greener and more sustainable maritime future in the Mediterranean region.	01/04/2025	31/03/2028	€284,978.00	€35,222.00	€320,200.00
RSO2.4: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account eco-system based approaches	A_T_2.2_0353	Mediterranean Joint Initiative for Climate Adaptation and Risk Prevention	MedJICARP	University of Malta	The Mediterranean Sea is particularly sensitive to climate change, warming 20% faster than the global average while already under significant anthropogenic pressures like shipping, fishing, and tourism. Issues such as rising sea water temperatures, increasing salinity and invasive species are already negatively impacting marine ecosystems and affecting fisheries and tourism. Countries in this region are in urgent need of increased climate resilience and adaptation capacity. It is expected that the frequency and intensity of extreme events will increase. Such events include storm surges, erosion, flash floods, marine heat waves (MHW) and Mediterranean hurricanes ("Medicane"). Further, coastal areas are susceptible to maritime safety and marine pollution incidents because of a lack of operational capacity and situational awareness of the marine environment (despite the high volume of ship traffic and coastal economic activity). To respond to scientific and societal challenges in the area, there is the need for a sustainable and cost-effective multipatform observing system. The project proposes the combined use of low-maintenance, user-friendly multipatform observing systems for a more comprehensive 3D characterization of the region at multiple scales: High-Frequency Radars (HFRs), Ferryboxes, coastal fixed point observatories and in-situ sensors. The need for setting up cost-effective observing systems in the area is further justified by the clear north-south and west-east imbalance of monitoring capabilities. Setting up a multi-level, multi-sector, and cross-border approach in adapting to climate change is an urgent need, and it is expected to enhance the capability of eastern Mediterranean countries to jointly develop and and enhance innovation and actions for climate change adaptation, risk prevention & disaster resilience.	01/04/2025	31/03/2028	€149,627.69	€18,493.31	€168,121.00
RSO2.5: Promoting access to water and sustainable water management	A_T_2.3_0285	Non Conventional Water Resources for Resilient Urban Water Management	RESWATER	Energy & Water Agency	The cumulative impacts of climate change and demographic shifts in the Mediterranean will increase both the stress on freshwater resources and the difficulties in all countries to sustain water supply security (WSS). This joint challenge will be particularly felt in urban coastal catchments (UCC) who suffer water deficits due to high population densities and limited inland natural freshwater resources, which resources are further threatened by anthropogenic pollution and sea-water intrusion. In UCCs municipal water demand becomes the predominant demand factor in the catchment water balance, and hence a water management priority. NCWR RUWM focuses on urban water demand hotspots and will identify trends in water resources availability and water demand development to assess inherent future risks to WSS. The assessment will identify future alternative opportunities and develop resilient Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) for sustaining WSS which complement current solutions, namely centralized supply augmentation measures such as (basin-scale) sea-water desalination, the construction of dams for surface water reservoirs and/or end-of pipe wastewater treatment. NCWR RUWM will therefore explore the potential application of alternative water demand management solutions based on the application of small scale decentralized NCWR technologies, providing opportunities for addressing urban water demand at the point of use without increasing the dependence on freshwater resources. Decentralized NCWR technologies, if integrated in UWMPs can ensure a sustainable and reliable water management framework for UCCs. Outcomes are beneficial for national and municipal authorities in enabling future climate-proof UWMPs (adaptation), and to all water consumers in ensuring long-term WSS as well as lower consumption and associated water bills. NCWR RUWM solutions will also lead to lower GHG emissions entailing a broad climate change mitigation benefit to the region.	01/04/2025	31/03/2028	€404,861.00	€50,039.00	€454,900.00
RSO2.5: Promoting access to water and sustainable water management	A_T_2.3_0285	Replenishing the sMall wATer cycle towards a more resilieNt Agriculture	MAENA	Energy & Water Agency	The disruption of natural water cycles caused by human activities, such as land use changes, agricultural practices, and urbanisation, is leading to ecological damage in the Mediterranean region which is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming. Despite this, water management policies often focus on large-scale infrastructure projects, such as dams and water treatment plants that do not adequately consider the importance of Small Water Cycles (SWC). This disconnect has negative consequences as SWCs play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting agricultural practices. Additionally, it appears that there is limited knowledge among farming communities on the concept of restoring SWCs and its benefits, including conserving water sources, improving soil health and increasing agricultural productivity. The Med region offers a suitable context to address these global challenges at a regional scale and serves as a real test bed for identifying effective solutions. In this respect, MAENA is designed to build capacities and support the adoption of practices targeting SWC restoration to improve on farm water use efficiency. The project will be implemented based on a participatory approach while actively involving farmers and surrounding local communities. Four demonstration farms will provide proof of concept of SWC restoration that will be deployed in twenty farmers' lands in partner countries. MAENA will transfer knowledge and skills on SWC restoration to the targeted community through transnational training and capacity building with onsite, online and peer exchanges formats. MAENA will form the first core of a Hub fostering SWC restoration in the Med region, enabling decision makers to replicate and scale-up the project outcomes, and carry forward this new paradigm. This approach will result in more resilient and sustainable farming communities supporting both people and the environment by replenishing our water.	01/04/2025	31/03/2028	€249,200.00	€30,800.00	€280,000.00

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