

# Mediterranean Youth Solutions Report

2021 Edition





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2021  
Edition



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#### Partners

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This publication does not reflect the views of any organisation, agency or programme of the United Nations. Additionally, it may not reflect the opinions of SDSN members and their host institutions.

The Report has been prepared by SDSN Youth Mediterranean, hosted by the Santa Chiara Lab Research & Innovation Centre of the University of Siena. Projects have been selected only with the purpose to fit with the aims of this report.



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# Foreword

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**W**e are excited to present the First Edition of the *Mediterranean Youth Solutions Report* realized by SDSN Youth Mediterranean, the regional team of volunteers of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) – Youth initiative.

The publication has been undertaken by the Santa Chiara Lab of the University of Siena, hosting institution of SDSN Mediterranean and SDSN Youth Mediterranean, in collaboration with the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention Secretariat and Union for the Mediterranean.

The *Mediterranean Youth Solutions Report* is the first publication of SDSN Youth entirely dedicated to the Mediterranean area. Inspired by the *Youth Solutions Report* published every year since 2017 by SDSN Youth, it underlines the strategic role played by young people in a unique culturally and politically multifaceted region, as a precious source of inspiration, innovation, and creativity for sustainable development.

Purpose of the publication, which displays a variety of sustainable and innovative solutions projects, is to encourage young people's mobilization and their effective participation, at both national and regional level, in the Decade of Action launched in 2019 by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to boost the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda. Being young people instrumental in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, we do strongly support the creation and dissemination of awareness-raising, outreach, and education tools useful to guide, motivate and train youngsters and youth organizations from all over the world in our journey towards an economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

What is more, especially in this uncertain and tricky time in which the entire world is struggling to overcome the global humanitarian and socio-economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting youth action is crucial to raise hope, build resilience, and heal the planet by restoring and accelerating progress towards the Global Goals worldwide.

By bringing together concrete examples of youth engagement in the SDGs field, the *Mediterranean Youth Solutions Report* proves how important it is to share joint efforts towards the realization of inclusive, green, and prosperous societies while also reinforcing the establishment of collaborative partnerships in the same geographic area.



Angelo Riccaboni

# Executive Summary

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The First Edition of the Mediterranean Youth Solutions Report provides an overview of the relevant role played by young people and youth-led organizations from the Mediterranean region in the achievement of sustainable development.

The Report presents a variety of sustainable development projects realized during the last year by youth university societies, research institutes, NGOs, and other youth-focused organizations with experience in one or more Sustainable Development Goals. Aim of the publication is to provide young people and innovators from both the Mediterranean shores the recognition needed to scale-up their innovative proposals at both regional and international levels, by also increasing and reinforcing partner's collaboration within the Network itself.

In Chapter 1, the Youth Solutions Program and its flagship initiative, namely the Youth Solutions Report, are presented, together with the description of the process and content of the Mediterranean Youth edition.

An overview of progress and trends describing the implementation of the SDGs by the Mediterranean region and its countries is also provided, coming to the conclusion that an effective youth participation together with the establishment and strengthening of solid, collaborative partnerships, are vital to fight the COVID-19 crisis, boost the United Nations Decade of Action movement and actively contribute to share common policies, practices and solutions.

Chapter 2 gathers and illustrates all the chosen projects, showcasing a total number of 29 innovative solutions submitted in April 2021 during the opening of the call for project applications.

Among them, 23 projects have been specifically developed by institutions belonging to the Mediterranean countries, whereas 6 projects have been designed and implemented by youth organizations located outside the Mediterranean region. The latter have been considered as well because valuable and replicable examples of sustainable development solutions to be taken into account by local entrepreneurs and other relevant stakeholders.

According to the main challenges faced by each project, all proposals have been organized into 4 thematic areas:

- Education, training and awareness;
- Nature conservation;
- Youth action and health, and
- Sustainable business

A comprehensive analysis of their structure and contents has been also laid out, focusing on the problems, solutions, and impacts on specific Sustainable Development Goals.

Chapter 3 offers an overview analysis of the projects, illustrating the geographical background of the participating youth-led organizations, the main SDGs addressed, the different project phases, the funding aspects and the relevant challenges and needs.

## Chapter 1

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# Youth in the Mediterranean context

## 1.1 Introduction

The Youth Solutions Report is a flagship initiative of the Youth Solutions Program launched in 2017 by SDSN Youth.

During the last four years, it has been managed in collaboration with the global Sustainable Development Solutions Network to showcase and support transformative youth-led solutions in business, charity, research, education, and advocacy<sup>1</sup>.

Together with the Youth Investment Readiness Program and the Youth Solutions Hub, the Youth Solutions Report offers young innovators from all over the world insights and tools to address the different challenges they face in securing funding, building capacity, communicating their experience, and ultimately scaling their efforts.

Moreover, they create contacts between mentors and innovators and therefore provide the youngsters with the necessary skills and connections with the public and private sector useful to develop their own ideas.

Since its first publication in 2017, the Youth Solutions Report identifies and features 50 innovative solutions potentially scalable and expandable, able to positively contribute to environmental and social impacts, through targeted partnerships and a worldwide call for submissions.

In the 2017 edition of the Youth Solutions Report, SDSN Youth defines “youth-led solutions” as “transformative projects and endeavours, ranging from entrepreneurial ventures to educational programs, and including research activities, charity initiatives and so forth, that showcase the innovative approach that youth are taking in solving the multiple challenges of sustainable development<sup>2</sup>”.

The Report, which also includes considerations on the obstacles to youth-led innovations and recommendations for different stakeholders on how to harness youth-skills for the 2030 Agenda, is presented every year to governments, international organizations, and companies.

In 2021, for the first time, the Youth Solutions Report is addressing students, young innovators, and researchers specifically from the Mediterranean area with the purpose to identify, display, and celebrate transformative, youth-led ideas that have been operational for at least 12 months.

1. SDSN Youth. (2021). What is the Youth Solutions Report? In <http://www.youthsolutions.report/>.
2. Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth (2017). Youth Solutions Report - 1st edition. New York: Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth:16.

## 1.2 Process and content of the Report

**A**t the beginning of April 2021, SDSN Youth and SDSN Youth Mediterranean in collaboration with the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention Secretariat through the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), launched a call for project submissions for the realization of the Mediterranean Youth Solutions Report 2021.

29 proposals from 12 Mediterranean countries and 5 non-Mediterranean States were submitted.

The projects have been selected on the basis of the information required in the application form and evaluated on their respective level of clarity, relevance, and feasibility.

SDSN Youth Mediterranean considered all of them of great interest for the purposes of the Report, and therefore, decided to publish all the proposals received including the non-Mediterranean ones.

These 29 projects represent a valuable example of innovative solutions for local entrepreneurs and key actors holding the chance to be replicated in the Mediterranean area.

All the projects have been grouped into four thematic clusters - Education, training and awareness, Nature conservation, Youth action and health, Sustainable business - which underline the diversity of youth-led innovation for the SDGs and exemplify the main areas of concern and action involving young people in the Mediterranean.

Four specific aspects addressing each submitted proposals have been taken into account and included in the projects' sheets:

- Relevance of the challenge addressed
- Innovative character of the solution
- Current or potential impact
- Integrated approach to the SDGs

These elements provide a complete picture of the projects and the essential information needed to understand the relevance of each proposal with regard to the implementation of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region through young people's efforts.

From this starting point, a final analysis of some relevant data has also been laid out, concerning key trends and insights on the participating organizations and the projects they submitted. Through the use of graphics, key information on the geographical background of the proposals, the main SDGs addressed, the different project phases, the funding aspects and the relevant challenges and needs have been identified and displayed.

### 1.3 The role of youth in the Mediterranean region

With the adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 193 UN Member States have committed in 2015, themselves to time-bound international targets for Prosperity, People, Planet, Peace, and Partnership (the 5Ps)<sup>3</sup>.

They recognized that ending poverty in all of its forms, stop hunger, violence and armed conflicts, must go hand-in-hand with governmental policies and development strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, equalities, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

According to the Sustainable Development Agenda, these global targets should be framed both in local and national contexts in order to address the specific needs of each geographic and political area, as the Mediterranean one considered by this Report.

The Mediterranean area, a unique region enclosed among three different continents - the Western and Eastern Europe, North Africa and Middle Asia - gathers 21 multifaceted countries<sup>4</sup> with their own history, traditions and peculiarities, hosting over 550 million people directly bathed by the Mediterranean Sea<sup>5</sup>.

Built on the *Sustainable Development Report 2021*<sup>6</sup> (SDR 2021), which is annually produced by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the 2021 Report on *Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean* provides a snapshot of the regional performance of the Mediterranean basin towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to specific tables and relevant raw data, it includes the SDG Index<sup>7</sup> and Dashboards<sup>8</sup> 2021 for all the Mediterranean countries, besides highlighting

3. UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development. (2021). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In <https://www.un.org/development/desa/jpo/wp-content/uploads/sites/55/2017/02/2030-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development-KCSD-Primer-new.pdf>.
4. As stated in the third edition of the *Sustainable Development Mediterranean Report*, considering their geopolitical influence in the region, Portugal, North Macedonia and Jordan may be also added to the list.
5. Riccaboni, A., Sachs, J., Cresti, S., Stangellini, G., Betti, G., Gagliardi, F., Riccelli, E. A., (2022): Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean. Report 2021. Transformations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Siena: Sustainable Development Solutions Network Mediterranean (SDSN Mediterranean).
6. Sachs, J., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. (2021). *The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals: Sustainable Development Report 2021*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
7. The SDG Index tracks country performance towards the SDGs. All 17 Goals are weighted equally in the Index and the score signifies a country's position between the worst (0) and the best or target (100) outcomes.
8. The SDG Dashboards visually highlight strengths and weaknesses of each country on the 17 SDGs. The graphic representation is based on a four colours scale, from green to yellow, orange and red. The SDG indices are based on the set of indicators of each goal that are the same for all countries, except for a few additional data available for the OECD countries only. Nevertheless, colours represented in dashboards do not refer to an average but depend on the two worst indicators under each goal.



the main environmental, social and cultural challenges that the region is facing to fully achieve sustainable development.

According to the Report, as a comprehensive system, the Mediterranean region reached an average score of 75.1, meaning that SDG targets are achieved by 75.1%, while the SDG index highlights better results for Europe West (79.8) but a lower performance in Europe East (75.6), North Africa (69.6) and Middle East (68.6).

Overall, the Report shows that all the Mediterranean countries are still far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular, if compared with the outcomes of the 2020 Sustainable Development Mediterranean Report<sup>9</sup>, the major challenges remain in the implementation of Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) especially in the Middle East and North Africa of Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Goal 13 (Climate Action) in Europe West, of Goal 14 (Life Below Water).

Improvements have been, on the other hand, registered for Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 4 (Quality Education) mainly in the Europe East; for Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) in Europe West and North Africa; for Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) in Europe West and Est, for Goal 13 (Climate Action) in Middle East and North Africa and Goal 15 (Life on Earth) in Europe East.

In line with the insights of the SDSN Mediterranean last report, the most recent UNEP/MAP and Plan Bleu's publication on the *State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean*<sup>10</sup> displays eight major threats for the Mediterranean region which cover climate change, population densities in coastal areas, health impacts from atmospheric pollution, health impact from lack of water supply and wastewater treatment, waste and its management; overfishing, unsustainable energy systems and excessive use of chemical and pharmaceutical products.


According to the authors, an inclusive, regional development should require major changes in production and consumption patterns, recognizing the need for moving towards food and water security, energy efficiency and reliance on low-carbon energy solutions, sustainable tourism, a sustainable transport sector, improved industry and mining and turning to a blue economy.

Cross-border partnerships, exchange of policies and best practices are other fundamental tools to deal with them. Furthermore, it would be extremely useful trying to identify specific common strategies which enable people and their communities to fight together the obstacles that persistently hamper progress towards sustainable development in the region.

Among everyone, young people play a crucial role in this joint effort.

9. Riccaboni, A., Sachs, J., Cresti, S., Gigliotti, M., Pulselli, R.M. (2020): Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean. Report 2020. Transformations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Siena: Sustainable Development Solutions Network Mediterranean (SDSN Mediterranean).

10. UNEP/MAP and Plan Bleu. (2020). State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean, Nairobi.



Going, therefore, beyond any religious, cultural, political or geographical borders, what really matters is that all Mediterranean countries, through the voice of young people, provide a contribution to the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda.

This is of special importance mainly in view of the fact that, as stated in the last Sustainable Development Report 2021, for the first time after the adoption of the 17 SDGs in 2015, COVID-19 reversed progress on their achievement, causing a decline in the SDG performance globally.

Successful innovation depends indeed on many factors, but one of the most crucial ones is the power of partnerships.



Chapter 2

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# Youth Solutions

## 2.1 Youth Solutions

This chapter includes 23 solutions promoted by youth organisations from Mediterranean countries (2.2) and 6 solutions promoted by youth organizations from all over the world (2.3).

All the solutions are organised in 4 areas:

### ● Education, training and awareness

- EDU Project - Agenda 2030
- 17 Goals, grassroots football for the Global Goals
- YOCOPAS Program
- Forest and sustainability / Bosc i Sostenibilitat
- YES! Youth Empowerment for Sustainability
- App “Save the Planet”
- Euro-Mediterranean training course for youth organizations in environment and rural development
- Enhancing Intercultural Skills for Sustainable Development
- Arts for all

### ● Nature conservation

- Fight against plastic waste on the Mediterranean beaches in Morocco
- Maritima02
- Mediterraneo da Remare
- Ibn El-Bitar Project
- Miyazaki forest miniature urban forest
- Conservation of the National Flower of the State of Palestine
- Govardhan

### ● Sustainable business

- Cooperative Bio Zahra
- Dataphoria’s data and sustainability platform
- Embark Project
- Young Professionals Labour Movement for Youth Economic Growth and Decent Employment
- Youth Hacktivators
- Sharity App

### ● Youth action and health

- From Traditional Counseling to Tele-mental Health Counseling Services
- Orchestra Libya
- The Moroccan medical humanitarian caravans in remote areas
- The Double Health and Climate Pyramid: a “One Health” approach to food
- Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Green Energy Supplies
- HANMUN (Himachal Assam and Nepal Movement to Unite Nations)
- Improved access to SRHR project

## 2.2 Mediterranean Solutions



## 2.3 Global Solutions





# EDU Project - Agenda 2030



## Organitazion

Associazione Italiana Giovani per l'UNESCO (AIGU)

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Italy

## Project

EDU Project - Agenda 2030

## Current reach

Italy, nationwide



## PROBLEM

AIGU volunteers address the lack of awareness towards the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular at a local level. Therefore, the need to develop laboratories and educational programs within schools and universities in order to trigger a change in daily habits is considered to be the main problem this project is trying to solve.



## SOLUTION

The project aims to establish a comprehensive network of schools, institutions and innovative entrepreneurship, especially among youth, in order to help promote sustainable development themes, knowledge-sharing and stimulating the proposal of sustainable strategies. EDU Project develops activities within schools and universities, involving students with a hands-on approach toward the change of daily routines in order to turn goals into actions. The project is developed by young people from 18 up to 35 years old and it is targeting same-age groups of people and their families. The volunteers are sharing their experiences devoting their free time to this educational project. Moreover, external professionals are involved in order to share the same set of values to provide the students with a wider set of skills. The main objective is to empower students through an active involvement in shaping their future.



## IMPACT

In 2021, the EDU Program achieves its 4th edition, with the objective to promote a constructive and empowering education about the sustainable goals of the UN Agenda 2030, involving young students and professors in laboratorial activities throughout Italy. The project is linked to the communication campaign #unite4earth to raise social awareness on the need to mobilize together to inspire political change in order to save our planet. In these years, 86 school laboratories were developed in more than 200 schools, involving more than 7000 students and about 350 partners. In 2021: more than 35 schools, 5 universities, +1500 students, involving 50 partners.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

AIGU believes that through education the gap between reality and the achievement of the SDGs can be closed. EDU Project – Agenda 2030 takes education in Italian public schools to relevant and effective learning outcomes in terms of students' involvement and proactive thinking about reaching the SDGs in their daily life. The support of a high quality education (Goal 4) is the main focus of the project, thus the importance of assessing a certain quality in standards and performances offered for free during the sessions to all students and schools joining the laboratories.



# 17 Goles, grassroots football for the Global Goals



## Organization

Dragones de Lavapiés

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Spain

## Project

17 Goles, grassroots football for the Global Goals

## Current reach

Spain and Senegal



## PROBLEM

The call for action of the Global Goals should be followed by everyone and it is relevant that all young people get concerned about the planet issues in order to achieve sustainability. Youth leadership programs and opportunities for volunteering are essential both to drive change and to empower actors but: 1. can't be afforded by many children. 2. are not engaging for children who don't see the connection of global issues and their own pressing problems.



## SOLUTION

Football for the Global Goals can trigger intrinsic motivation through symbolic cues that signal to the players that they have an opportunity to work with others toward a goal, fostering dialogue and friendship and promoting health and sport. Encouraging teams of very diverse backgrounds to participate, 17 Goles creates an environment for modelling collaboration and action for change.



## IMPACT

Embodying a very diverse community, Dragones de Lavapiés created "17 Goles" in 2017 and has delivered 4 editions (2 in Madrid, 1 in Senegal and 1 in Sierra Leone, plus 2 Museo Nacional de Antropología Tournaments on similar basis). The project also helped to transform the cities' public space, for instance by adding value to an empty solar that was transformed into an urban pitch. The organization supports the ideas of tolerance equality, active citizenship and respect for human rights in its daily work activity. 17 Goles is a grassroots tournament designed to raise awareness, to empower and engage young people through football and complementary "design for change" activities related to the SDGs. To participate, every team has to design and develop a project impacting on at least one of the Goals. Respect for diversity, accessibility, gender equality and fair play are in the game's rules. The project offers opportunities to engage football teams, volunteers and private and public entities in an educational and sport program that fosters leadership and action for the Global Goals.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

17 Goles is an educative sport experience empowering participants to create change for a more sustainable and fair world. It impacts every goal, but especially SDG 4. It is also directly related with health issues, reducing inequalities and promoting gender equality, because of the accessibility norms to the tournament. Bridging across cultural differences and creating dialogue is at the core of peace building and partnership creation.

# Youth Organized Collaboration of Peace and Sustainability Program



## Organization

Eastern Mediterranean International School (EMIS) at HaKfar HaYarok

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Israel

## Project

Youth Organized Collaboration of Peace and Sustainability Program

## Current reach

Kfar HaYarok (Israel)  
Ramat HaSharon (Israel)



## PROBLEM

The future of the Middle East depends on the management of natural resources, and without peaceful cooperation, it will go beyond the point of sustainable recovery. Therefore, the organization works at the intersection between peace and sustainable development. The political conflict has a severe negative impact on the overlapping economic, social and ecological spheres. Environmental resources are shared and the environmental impact created by one side effects the other. These issues are of great importance for the young generation. Israeli and Palestinian youths are precluded the opportunity to meet in a context that promotes understanding and cooperation, since many follow the example of previous generations, perpetuating bias and misunderstanding.



## SOLUTION

The objective is to establish a collaborative network of young leaders from Israel, Palestine and around the world to create change in their local communities, for peace and sustainability in the region. The YOCOPAS Program offers a platform in which students organize events, make connections, and build an always-growing network to create continued opportunities for dialogue and skill-building. Young people are provided with the tools to become local change makers through hosting a local, student-led conference, weekend seminars and a leadership program every year. The project aspires to be an incubator for local change makers and social initiatives that will positively influence the reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



## IMPACT

EMIS hosts around 200 Israeli, Palestinian and international students, who live and study together for two years for an internationally renowned high school diploma. In addition to their academic studies, they engage in peace and sustainability issues in cooperation and understanding of each other. The innovation is to harvest the special energy and relationships that are bred within the EMIS program and expose it to students from high schools on both sides. YOCOPAS promotes mutual understanding, social entrepreneurship and collaborative action that enhance peace and sustainability for the benefit of the community. The objective is to demonstrate that youth from both sides have more power for change together than separately. YOCOPAS will hold its annual 7th conference November 4-6, 2021 in Israel.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

YOCOPAS contributes positively to the following goals:

- SDGs 4 and 10: students from the periphery or occupied areas with limited opportunities are provided scholarships to attend an internationally-known diploma program;
- SDG 5: the student demographics and the way activities are implemented follow the value of equal opportunities for both genders;
- SDG 16: students learn tools and methods that contribute to developing peace and change their mindsets. Moreover, Palestinians and Israelis together plan activities that will promote justice for both sides, and do this within the structure of an educational system.
- Potentially, YOCOPAS can also contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 15.





# Forest and sustainability Bosc i Sostenibilitat



EXPLORATORI  
RECURSOS  
DE LA NATURA  
www.exploratori.org

## Organitazion

EXPLORATORI  
of natural resources  
EXPLORATORI  
dels recursos de la natura

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Spain

## Project

Forest and sustainability  
/ Bosc i Sostenibilitat

## Current reach

Around 40 cities of Catalonia  
(Spain)



## PROBLEM

Students may lack awareness of the important role played by nature, and specifically forests, in society. Through the project Forest and Sustainability students have the chance to study the forest as a key element in a global shift towards sustainability. All course contents are closely tied to the SDGs. However, due to a large number of participating schools, the project is also facing a problem of abundance of data and needs more staff to help with the statistical analysis.



## SOLUTION

The Forest and Sustainability project aims to bring science closer to secondary school students, their teachers and the society in general. To achieve this goal, the EXPLORATORI organizes activities related to scientific and technological topics in line with the STEAM education model and using Open Science Schooling methodologies. All the activities completed in class are open-access and all students have the electronic devices they need to complete the project in the classroom no matter their circumstances at home. The project consists of five phases focused on the air, water and trees in students' local areas. Afterwards, a final reflection based on forest management is encouraged, and data and results from different participating schools are shared.



## IMPACT

The project is designed to include students' social contexts: it uses Open Schooling methodology, as it includes the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. It involves schools by including not only participating teachers, but also management teams and the departments involved in the courses that make up the program. This helps to generate a communication network among schools, allowing students to perceive that they are part of a larger community. Students work with data from their local area in the classroom and go on field trips to parks, forests and rivers to complete an important experimental part of the program. Families are involved when students become aware of their individual and household consumption of energy and water. The university is in direct contact with the teachers in a once a month meeting. Finally, at the end of the project, schools analyse and share their data as members of the Forest and Sustainability community.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project contributes specifically to SDG 4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. In particular, it contributes to target 4.5, as the project is designed to be applied in all manner of secondary schools, including those with students in vulnerable circumstances. It includes individuals with disabilities and works to totally eliminate gender inequality. Regarding target 4.7, the project was designed using a range of documents, including UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development. Education for sustainability is the core of the project, which works on the items in target 4.7 with forests as a common thread. Finally, the project promotes SDGs 13 and 15 by raising students' awareness, and uses these three goals to tie together the remaining SDGs.



# YES! Youth Empowerment for Sustainability



## Organizaton

Fondazione Santagata for the Economics of Culture

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Italy

## Project

YES! Youth Empowerment for Sustainability

## Current reach

Various cities in the North of Italy (regions of Piedmont and Friuli Venezia Giulia)



## PROBLEM

The youth of today will face the worst effects of climate and environmental changes in the near future and therefore they should play an active role in designing their future. The YES! project aims to contribute to the ongoing debate boosting a series of initiatives to counteract climate change and contribute to the sustainable development of young communities.



## SOLUTION

The YES! project works on the designing of online and offline escape games and the organization of experiential camps. Game's challenges are co-designed and programmed by a Youth Board made up of targeted young people (14-19 years old). The escape game will be functional to the second phase of the project, which provides for the organization of an experiential camp. The game and the camp will involve young people to discover, improve and verify their knowledge about local resources by consolidating it through practical experiences. The purpose is about letting participants learn by making experiences regarding local productive activities and territorial resources.



## IMPACT

YES! Youth Empowerment for Sustainability is a project dedicated to engagement and empowerment of young people. The programme encourages the activation of bottom-up local development processes involving young people by raising awareness of values, uniqueness and cultural resources of territories. It aims to mobilise young people in living concrete sustainable development objectives and actions, also through creating a network of local operators and institutions interested in building governance for the development of new projects. Through its different tools, the project guarantees the opportunity to create and increase a new local community of young people: informing young people about the SDGs, networking them, letting them work on issues of sustainability and climate change help young citizens to develop skills and design their own possible future.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project contributes to SDGs 4 and 17 by ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all and strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. The YES! project also works on SDGs 11 and 13 addressing the critical issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, promotion of the natural and cultural heritage, sustainable consumption and production of goods from a human-centred perspective in order to make territories and human settlements inclusive, resilient and sustainable.



# App “Save the planet”



## Organization

Liceo Vittoria Colonna

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Italy

## Project

App “Save the planet”

## Current reach

Arezzo (Italy)



## PROBLEM

Students at school in Italy do not learn about Agenda 2030, for this reason it would be appropriate to think about implementing some tools in order to let them develop a wider knowledge of SDGs. This project aims at the realization of an app, which could be a good way to learn, share and act on the SDGs at every school level from the primary to the secondary school.



## SOLUTION

The App “Save the Planet” provides contents on the 17 SDGs, their targets and indicators in 5 languages: English, Spanish, French, German and Italian. It also includes the students “take-action-activities” for each Goal.



## IMPACT

In Italy students must be educated and inspired to take action for the SDGs. Therefore, the organization has thought of a digital tool created by peer students, as a good way to involve other peers. Through the App “Save the Planet”, the idea is to educate students to the concept of sustainable development. The project is also meant to involve other schools and students in acquiring knowledge and skills to tackle Agenda 2030 issues.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

Developing awareness among students on the importance of the Agenda 2030 is a fundamental requirement to achieve quality education. Education will shape the future citizens of a sustainable world, so it is necessary to integrate the SDGs in the national school curricula.

The project is specifically contributing to SDG 4 and supporting the project Mission 4.7. As part of the Global School Program network, the school “Liceo Vittoria Colonna” encourages young students to become active participants of a global community.

# Euro-Mediterranean training course for youth organizations in environment and rural development



## Organization

Mediterranean Eco-operation Program (MEP)

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Spain

## Project

Euro-Mediterranean training course for youth organizations in environment and rural development

## Current reach

Barcelona (Spain)  
Nabatieh (Lebanon)  
Ajloun (Jordan)



## PROBLEM

Local development as defined by young people at several EuroMediterranean Civil Forums, is a process that helps to identify the needs of the local community and to find practical solutions. There is an utmost need to support the creation of community based programs that include local projects development, intercultural learning and transnational networking and partnership. As there is the need for financial support and measures to promote these activities, particularly those aiming at creating sustainable projects and local partnership between communities. Special energy and more synergism must be invested in the poorest and weakest areas and in more vulnerable social groups such as the rural population (young women and men).



## SOLUTION

Empowerment of the community helps to improve living conditions, and involving underprivileged groups is considered crucial for local development. Young rural and coastal-rural workers are able to actively involve various partners in the participation, execution and evaluation of their initiatives. Effective links between local initiatives in similar areas of work (agriculture and rural development) will bring an enriching exchange of methods, skills and viewpoints that can provide a catalyst for the development of this work at a Euro-Mediterranean dimension.



## IMPACT

In close cooperation with rural organizations and developmental institutions, the project gathers more than 12 young adults from 8 countries, bringing together a wider variety of young leaders and workers. It focuses on concrete youth works in agriculture and rural development and on intercultural learning to develop a deeper understanding of different perceptions and values through culture in agriculture in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The training course helps the participants to develop and improve their concrete identified projects in fields as rural basic services, sustainable agriculture, agro-tourism, organic farming, eco-tourism, rural innovations, etc. It also studies a system of support for the follow-up phase, which gives the participants and partners organizations the chance to exchange, meet again and evaluate the implementation and duplication of their projects.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project is specifically contributing to SDGs 2, 4, 8 and 12, through a series of activities, such as:

- Empowering young professionals and new comers in agriculture and rural development, supporting family agribusiness, enhancing rural territorial approach and interlinkage with urban environment, building resilient agriculture and agroecosystems to crises affecting agrobiodiversity, food security and food safety and boosting local agriculture and non-agricultural economy;
- Guarantying labor rights and providing decent work, supporting fair access to appropriate techniques and technologies, microfinances and local markets;
- Promoting SCP and business with social, ethical and environmental values (human rights, fight against corruption, labor and culture of integrity, environment and natural resources), and providing quality lifelong learning training courses and education for sustainable development adapted to young leaders and professionals in agriculture and rural development.



# Enhancing Intercultural Skills for Sustainable Development



## Organization

Sustainable Cooperation  
for Peace & Security

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Italy

## Project

Enhancing Intercultural  
Skills for Sustainable  
Development

## Current reach

Aimed to Euro-Mediterranean  
(remote)



## PROBLEM

According to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, no country is on track to meet the SDGs agenda within 2030. In addition, the space and skills provided to youth in order to become successful advocates for sustainable development are not enough and partnership opportunities among young advocates should be further enhanced.



## SOLUTION

By providing a safe space, suitable soft skills and impacting partnerships, the organization aims to empower young participants (aged 18-30) in becoming successful advocates for sustainable development. It supports intercultural exchanges using innovative digital non-formal educational tools and methodologies. It also provides participants with the public speaking skills necessary in debates with policy makers to advocate for the SDGs, environmental issues and the role of youth and women in peace building. Young people will meet and grow in online safe spaces and sessions that will be facilitated by experienced trainers, on topics related to the 17 SDGs.



## IMPACT

The project aims to build skills and relations between sustainable development advocates in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The main concern is to match youth empowerment and youth effective participation with advocacy for sustainable development. Digital spaces will be effectively designed in an innovative way in order to be engaging, equitable, safe and inclusive, to allow the participation of young people living in isolated rural areas as well. Innovative non-formal methodologies, such as Live Action Online Games (LAOG), will be used, allowing participants to step out of their comfort zone, enhance their empathy and active listening.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

Through the promotion of quality education (SDG 4), the project also contributes to other Global Goals, as number 5, 10, 13, 16 and 17. It provides the knowledge and skills to support gender equality, human rights, climate change, culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and cultural diversity. Special attention will be paid to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and inclusive participation of youth irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion or economic background. In addition, it is relevant to enhance inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making in issues of peace, security, and sustainable development, and facilitate civil society partnerships among youth of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

# Fight against plastic waste on the Mediterranean beaches in Morocco



## Organization

ATOMM

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Morocco

## Project

Fight against plastic waste on the Mediterranean beaches in Morocco

## Current reach

Morocco



## PROBLEM

The presence of maritime debris in the ocean is a growing issue in the whole world. In the past decades, the oceans have become a junkyard for the waste produced by human activities. Every year, around 8-12 million tons of plastic waste end up in the oceans. The Mediterranean Sea is the most exposed to this event because of environmental and economic reasons. Morocco is well-known for its beautiful Mediterranean beaches that also play a relevant economic role. Because of the growing population and the fast development, these beaches are becoming more and more polluted by plastic waste.



## SOLUTION

The organization wants to minimize the presence of plastic waste on the beaches, specifically fighting against plastic waste on the Mediterranean beaches in Morocco. The country already forbids production, import, export, commercialisation and use of plastic bags, to reduce plastic pollution. This project aims to examine the abundance, the composition and the source of plastic waste on the beaches of the Moroccan Mediterranean in two sites during the four seasons:

- A beach in Martil that is popular all year round (10 km north Tetouan city)
- A beach in Oued Laou that is popular in summer (40 km est Tetouan city)



## IMPACT

A questionnaire was distributed to find out more on the perception of summer tourists of the severity of plastic waste. It is a way to raise awareness among the population of summer tourists and institutions (especially schools and high schools) about the sources and consequences of plastic pollution. Furthermore, it involves the population and the local administration in the policy of the government, which should act on the industrial sector to reduce waste production and to encourage financing for scientific research. Finally, it increases the spread of best practices at home and in public places.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The initiative can contribute to SDGs 3, 4, 13, 14 and 15, as it wants to study the abundance and source of plastic waste, and it also wants to raise awareness among the population about the impact of plastic debris, to possibly reduce their presence on the beaches.







# Maritima02



## Organization

Cultural Association  
ART MADE

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Spain, France

## Project

Maritima02

## Current reach

Valencia, Barcelona,  
Palma de Mallorca,  
Ibiza (Spain);  
Corse, Paris (France);  
Sicily (Italy);  
Malta



## PROBLEM

Global warming and its dangerous consequences, such as floods or even the complete disappearance of islands, lead to a shortage and deterioration in the quality of food and the disappearance of not only species but also entire endemic ecosystems. Moreover, plastic pollution of the sea leads to the lack of drinking water. Landscape disturbance due to migration and tourism leads to the lack of agricultural land. All this is a consequence of man's relationship to nature, based on domination and exploitation, and puts low-lying islands in danger of extinction within 50 years.



## SOLUTION

The project recalls other ways of coexistence between man and nature, through myths and traditions. The objective is to create a series of art projects in collaboration with scientists and use the power of art to showcase these projects to the audience, to sensitize the general public and make people change attitudes towards nature. Maritima works to bring art, science and citizens together, relying on project teams and past partners that put people, ecology, art and science at the centre of their mission. The project provides access to sources of scientific knowledge and allows people to reflect on scientific issues, through daily seminars, workshops and zoom conferences.



## IMPACT

Art Made Valencia Association created the Maritima project in 2018, collaborating at first with the University of Valencia and scientists to focus on environmental problems in the Mediterranean, the specific difficulties of the area and the need to preserve the unique flora and fauna. Collaboration between scientists and artists in the format of an artistic residency was initiated and successfully carried out to create new works of art, exhibitions, activities to popularize ecological coexistence and raise public awareness towards sustainable thinking and behaviour. The Maritima02 project is the next edition with the same objectives, focusing on the general question: research on the current ecological situation and the problems faced by the islands, as well as on possible solutions.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

Aligning to SDGs 13 and 14, the project highlights, through artistic work, which specific endemic species are endangering, shows the possible imminent disappearance of islands due to global warming, touches on the topic of the underwater sea life and its purity, and deals with options for a more sustainable coexistence. The project also aligns to SDG 6, pointing out the islands' water issue and engaging citizens and researchers in thinking of new forms of solutions. Maritima, as a transdisciplinary and cross-cultural project, contributes to SDG 17 as well. In fact, to create successful partnerships in the framework of its mission, the project mobilizes several organizations and citizens from different Mediterranean countries: scientists, researchers, artists, administrations, activists, museums, foundations, etc.



# Mediterraneo da Remare



## Organizzazione

Fondazione Univerde

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Italy

## Project

Mediterraneo da Remare

## Current reach

Italy



## ! PROBLEM

Significant quantities of rubbish, especially plastic, are produced in the lidos and tourist facilities on the beaches every year. Moreover, jet skis used for fun disturb marine fauna. Therefore, the theme “Aquascooter free”, since its first edition, has seen the approval and support of hundreds of bathing establishments throughout Italy and, in 2015, with the appeal “No Triv”, Mediterraneo da Remare strongly supported the referendum campaign against oil extraction at sea. Since 2017, the new focus “No Plastic” has been promoted to raise awareness on the fight against pollution due to the introduction of plastics into the sea.

## 💡 SOLUTION

The goal of Mediterraneo da Remare is to raise awareness among the community on the protection of the Mediterranean sea and its delicate ecosystem through:

- Symbolic events and rowing activities promoted throughout the national territory;
- International events devoted to tourist facilities operating in the coastal areas of the sea, lakes and rivers, providing canoes or other ecological boats to their customers, thus promoting sustainable tourism.

## 🎯 IMPACT

The program of events leverages people’s awareness. They are organized on the beaches precisely to underline the importance of correct behavior in these places. It is a unique program because it takes place every year on different beaches and in collaboration with large associations and local public administrations. The initiative in particular wants to discourage the use of plastic on the beaches and of water scooters, while promoting the use of canoes, more sustainable and ecological, and of reusable containers.

## 🌈 ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project is strictly linked to SDG 13 and 14, as it aims to raise awareness against pollution in the Mediterranean sea. Through its events, it contributes as well to SDGs 4 and 15.







# Ibn El-Bitar Project



## Organization

Ibn El-Bitar Project

## Type

For-profit

## Location

Algeria

## Project

Ibn El-Bitar Project

## Current reach

South-western Algeria



## PROBLEM

Climate change is causing noticeable effects on the life cycles and distribution of the world's vegetation, including wild medicinal and aromatic plants. Plant secondary metabolites are unique sources for pharmaceuticals, food additives, flavors, and industrially important biochemicals. These groups of plants should not be left as they are potential sources of bio-molecules and nutraceuticals. In the region concerned, many species of medicinal and aromatic plants have become endangered.



## SOLUTION

Developing conservation strategies as well as practices of cultivating medicinal and aromatic plants can avert the impact of climate change. One of the main objectives of this project is the protection of the regional natural resources in medicinal and aromatic plants through their cultivation and beekeeping practices in the same agricultural land, which also contributes to the protection of the regional bees.



## IMPACT

Ibn El-Bitar Project aims at the preservation and valorization of our natural resources in medicinal and aromatic plants through their cultivation and transformation into bio natural products. This is fundamental to achieve food security in the region. Indeed, bees play a big role in agriculture, they pollinate crops thus increasing yields. More than 90% of bees' food plants are among medicinal plants. There are medicinal plants with antibacterial, antifungal, antiseptic properties, also some essential oil of medicinal plants are used to treat bees' parasites.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

This project is positively contributing to SDG 13 and SDG 15 by taking care of the local medicinal and aromatic plants, and the regional bees. It also contributes to the mitigation of climate change and promotes biodiversity conservation in the region. Moreover, reference can be made to SDG 3, since it promotes bio natural products based on medicinal and aromatic plants, rich in natural antioxidants that have the ability to inhibit the free radicals. The project is the first one in the region that contributes to the preservation and the valorization of the local medicinal and aromatic plants.





1. HANMUN



2. Fondazione Santagata





3. Art Made-Maritima



4. Dragones de Lavapiés





5. Youth Hacktivators



6. ATOMM





7. Fondazione Univerde



8. Palestine Wildlife Society





9. Embark



10. IFMSA





11. AIGU



12. Eastern Mediterranean International School





13. Young Professional Network



14. University of Sabratha





15. Mediterranean Eco-operation Program



16. Center for Peace Innovation





# Miyazaki forest miniature urban forest



**LICEO VITTORIA COLONNA AREZZO**

## Organitazion

Liceo Linguistico GCE Vittoria Colonna

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Italy

## Project

Miyazaki forest miniature urban forest

## Current reach

Arezzo (Italy)



## PROBLEM

Climate change is the most pressing challenge nowadays with youth being major stakeholders. The negative effects of climate change are predicted to impact the agricultural sector in the coming decades. Economic losses and modifications of production processes are fundamental issues to consider. Tuscany is well-known for its agricultural production of wine and oil, and the Tuscan wine sector, Chianti Classico, is extremely vulnerable to these risks. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness among young people on the importance of restoring neglected urban areas to help build sustainable communities, to boost biodiversity and fight climate change.



## SOLUTION

The Miyazaki method to create urban forests is in balance with today's soil and climate conditions. To maintain and improve future performances in agriculture, especially in the fields of Tuscan wine and oil, the school wants to engage the local community and authorities to address climate change at the local level. The idea is to restore unused land owned by the Town Council and plant a Miyawaki forest, a miniature urban forest which absorbs more CO<sub>2</sub> than other plantations. By engaging young people and the local community it is possible to spread awareness, build capacity, train and upskill young people on agroforestry, soil and water conservation strategies, soil fertility management and the role played by forests in fighting climate change.



## IMPACT

The project of planting a tiny urban forest, Miyazaki forest, in the center of the Etruscan town of Arezzo in Tuscany, aims to boost biodiversity and fight climate change by absorbing more CO<sub>2</sub>. The project is implemented in partnership with CREA (National Research Centre for Forestry and Wood), which offers its scientific and technologically-advanced support to suitably manage the forest. A Miyazaki forest is an opportunity to take part in the ecosystem restoration. It is innovative because this method allows the planting of an advanced forest through the choice of the most suitable plant communities. It is called the Potential Natural Vegetation. Cooperation between trees enhances quick development and great resilience.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project is mainly contributing to SDGs 4, 13, 15 and 17. Education is a key-driver for sustainable development: building a future sustainable world is possible if future citizens are educated for a better world. Contributing to shaping a sustainable future is the main objective of the project aimed at taking action to achieve the SDGs.



# Conservation of the National Flower of State of Palestine



## Organization

Palestine Wildlife Society

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Palestine

## Project

Conservation of the National Flower of State of Palestine

## Current reach

Palestine



## PROBLEM

University students in the Palestinian society suffer from the lack of general information about biological diversity and the importance of preserving it, specifically about the national flower of the State of Palestine. Therefore, the project will represent a platform to introduce and train students on field through environmental surveying of biological diversity and improve their knowledge of the national flower and biodiversity in the Jenin governorate, the home of the flower (village of Faqqua, Jenin Governorate).



## SOLUTION

The project supports the Field Center for the Protection and Study of the National Flower of the State of Palestine. Additionally, it secures job opportunities for university students in the field of scientific research, after a training in the field of nature protection and their graduation from local or national universities.



## IMPACT

The association has achieved distinguished results at the global and national level regarding the project to preserve the national flower of the State of Palestine. It increases the awareness of the Palestinian community about the flower, promoting youth involvement in the project, and established the first field center to study it.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project is strictly linked to SDGs 4 and 15, as its main purpose is to preserve Palestinian biodiversity and educate its society on the importance of nature and biological diversity.



# Cooperative Bio Zahra



## Organization

Cooperative Bio Zahra

## Type

For-profit

## Location

Morocco

## Project

Cooperative Bio Zahra

## Current reach

Morocco



## PROBLEM

Low-quality industrial cosmetics may contain harmful chemicals. They can have an immediate and long-lasting harmful effect on the skin. Chemical products should slowly be replaced with natural ones.



## SOLUTION

The cooperative produces natural cosmetics without harmful chemical ingredients. The products are made from extracts of the herbs and roots of some plants, as well as the peel of certain fruits and leaves of several shrubs, argan oil, avocados, sweet almonds and distilled water from flowers. These products are created with formulations that have been developed and created for a long-time using through well-calculated dosages. The innovation continues through simple and effective extraction and mixing processes.



## IMPACT

The idea to start this project was born out of a desire to revive mothers' traditional recipes. Synthetic or low-chemical cosmetics have an immediate effect and long-term damage to the skin, so the project proposes a natural alternative. It also aims at protecting women from the economic effects of the quarantine resulting from the spread of the Coronavirus.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project is mainly contributing to SDGs 5 and 8, as it supports economic leverage and financial independence for women, improved production, a rising number of transactions, and the creation of job opportunities for needy and vulnerable women. However, it also relates to SDG 3, as it wants to replace chemicals with natural products in the manufacturing of cosmetics.





# Dataphoria's data and sustainability platform



## Organization

Dataphoria

## Type

For-profit

## Location

Greece

## Project

Dataphoria's data and sustainability platform

## Current reach

Greece - potentially worldwide



## PROBLEM

Although data is considered vital by the 2020 UN SDGs Report in understanding the current situation and accelerating future solutions, sustainability-minded businesses and organizations are often not using their data, not as much as they could. They typically have a small budget and overworked employees with many different responsibilities, so when it comes to data, they end up missing out on crucial aspects of their work, such as: effective use of their resources, attracting and retaining additional funding and scaling their social impact.



## SOLUTION

Dataphoria is developing a platform to help businesses, government bodies and nonprofits that contribute to the SDGs to be more effective, to use their resources efficiently, and boost their impact through the use of Advanced Data Analytics and AI tools. Dataphoria brings big business capabilities to sustainability-minded businesses and organizations. Dataphoria's platform is affordable, it helps relieve employees through automation, and it is tailored towards combining profitability with sustainability, leading to improved decision-making and bigger impact.



## IMPACT

Dataphoria helps government bodies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations use their data, through advanced analytics and AI, in order to achieve their goals and boost their impact. Its data services are at the core of the digital and data transformation of the organizations it serves. Dataphoria's competitive advantage is its deep knowledge of both the data industry and the respective market segments, government, private sector CSR and "greentech" industry and the nonprofit social-impact sector, especially in Greece. Having experience in both worlds, Dataphoria has a clear vision of how data can act as a catalyst for growth, and the understanding to communicate this vision and help make it a reality.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

Dataphoria works exclusively with responsible businesses, government bodies and nonprofits that contribute to the 17 SDGs, supporting their mission and, accordingly, helping them to become more efficient in achieving their respective goals. The project combines SDGs 9, 11 and 13: Dataphoria's data and sustainability platform can make users harness their data to become more informed, sustainable and socially responsible, while maintaining and improving their efficiency and profitability.



# Embark Project



## Organitazion

Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma için  
Yenilikçi Çözümler Derneği  
(ISSDA)

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Turkey

## Project

Embark Project

## Current reach

Turkey - new cohorts  
in the Netherlands  
and Germany



## PROBLEM

Turkey hosts 3,7 million refugees and among them 61% of youth is currently unemployed. These migrants face legal and cultural barriers to join the workforce, and they face widespread discrimination from potential employers. In Turkey there is rampant misinformation and misunderstanding about migrants' experiences, skills and motivations. These attitudes not only hinder migrants from integrating into the economy, but they handicap businesses who miss out on an opportunity to diversify their workforce and recruit the best talent.



## SOLUTION

Embark is a unique initiative in Turkey, bringing together high-level business leaders, refugees, and host community youth to create an inclusive and common approach to support the social integration of young migrants in Turkey. Embark aims to create an empowered community of inspirational business and youth leaders to foster social cohesion and economic inclusion. The project is implemented by cohorts and each cohort tackles integration as a common responsibility and opportunity to achieve sustainable development. The program offers a professional and meaningful connection to Syrian youth with leading figures in the private sector, supporting soft skills development through training programs and bootcamps and aiming to increase the employability of the Syrian youth while tackling biases through an innovative approach called "reverse mentorship".



## IMPACT

The Embark Project is founded in Turkey, but its reverse mentorship activity is offered to business leaders and youth from Europe. The mentees come from the Netherlands, Austria and England, and the project is scaling up and conducting a new cohort in the Netherlands and Germany. There is incredible value in pairing people with different cultural backgrounds or life experiences to challenge assumptions and build bridges. The program activities such as bootcamps support migrants and host community youth to increase their employability, gain confidence and learn new soft skills, develop career plans and receive support for personal growth. Through the inclusion of youth from diverse backgrounds, the program also contributes to community building through peer activities and the creation of a common dialogue. The program shifts the "needy group with no contribution" perception of migrants to a value-adding one. The Embark Program aims to show and generate good examples for behavior change across society.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The Embark Project, through connecting business leaders with refugee, migrant and host community youth, contributes to target 10.2. As the reverse mentoring outreach policies aim to empower female participants, it also contributes to targets 5.1 and 5.5, and the activities are fully aligned with targets 8.6 and 4.4. The Bootcamp activities provide an opportunity for youth to gain digital and personal skills required in the job market and support to establish their own social enterprises. Through the Goals for Good Program provided to youth placed in inter-cultural groups, the project positively contributes to indicators 4.7.1, 12.8.1 and 13.3. With the Adaptation to Turkish Business Environment Training, the project also aligns with target 8.8, increasing knowledge on migrant rights in the workplace.



# Young Professionals Labour Movement for Youth Economic Growth and Decent Employment



Young Professionals Network

## Organization

Young Professionals Network

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Albania

## Project

Young Professionals Labour Movement for Youth Economic Growth and Decent Employment

## Current reach

Albania



## PROBLEM

According to the latest population CENSUS, young people make 25.2% of the population of Albania, thus representing the biggest asset that the country has for its democratic, social, and economic development. Meanwhile, 40% of young people from Albania want to leave the country. Europe is their favored destination. Two are the main reasons often mentioned: decent work and education. To tackle and alter the situation in the long term, measures should be taken to improve the quality of employment in Albania and the situation of young professionals within the labour market.



## SOLUTION

This project aims to empower and alter the situation of young professionals in the Albanian job market. This will be done by strengthening their capacities and informing them on their working rights and the existing ways and mechanisms to stand up for their rights through a sustainable online platform, which will offer comprehensive information about youth labour rights and related aspects. Also, the project will produce concrete outputs on youth economic growth in Albania through the Young Professionals Economic Growth Symposium, which will have several panels and will finally result in a policy paper for policymakers and the public opinion.



## IMPACT

The project has two main objectives: to empower young professionals through informing and engaging to change their working conditions, and to increase the public debate on youth employment by involving multiple stakeholders. It offers an innovative and dedicated platform for young professionals, to have a say about employment policies and address different aspects of their economic growth. All this is to be achieved through the use of technology, dialogue between youth and policy makers and different tools. Meanwhile, the Young Professionals Network mission is to empower young professionals, strengthening their labor rights and increasing their participation in the economic, political and social life towards sustainable development. In this regard, this project is linked with the YPN action plan (2020-2023) and with its activities. Also, YPN has a broad network of young people and youth organizations from all over Albania which will benefit and further contribute to this project.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The issues addressed affect the social-economic rights of young professionals, in order for them to have a quality life, and are so linked with the fulfillment of SDG 8. The project contributes positively to Employment and Decent Work indicators through concrete activities to tackle them within the gaps identified in the Albanian context. It is also positively linked to SDGs 1, 4 and 5.





# Youth Hacktivators



## Organization

Youth Hacktivators

## Type

For-profit

## Location

France

## Project

Youth Hacktivators

## Current reach

France and Spain  
projected EU reach



## PROBLEM

Private organisations facing environmental issues rely on every asset or partnership possible when transitioning to sustainable markets. One asset that is not harnessed is the voices, ideas and power of influence of engaged youth. These types of intergenerational collaborations and dialogue are not well managed or even promoted outside of the public sector's actions. Companies do not understand or know how to interact with engaged youth and create lasting and fruitful dialogues. Through their services, Youth Hacktivators limit dishonest and greenwashed communication, products and services, provide "open sustainability" and an ecosystemic approach with the knowledge and solutions from the climate movement, and offer quality work and skill building experiences for committed youth.



## SOLUTION

The Youth Hacktivators connect market disrupting youth activists with the private sector to facilitate understanding and identify concrete actions towards sustainable development. Their services consist of: "Meeting the trends": services oriented to synthesize trends and connect companies with engaged youth to interpret their behaviour. For example: event participation or trend reports from the movement. "Backlash advisory" to test and challenge sustainable products and services with engaged youth, specially for pre-launch phases. "Prototype development" for a full co-creation experience including youth sustainable expectations in product and service assessment. The project offers direct access to engaged youth activists: from their community of 50+ members or the larger climate movement. Their dialogue methodology facilitates positive and constructive exchanges, authenticity, empathy, understanding, and co-creation between opposite sides of the environmental discussion.



## IMPACT

The impact is measured through innovation Key Performance Indicators, satisfaction level of both sides of the dialogue, social listening from projects advised on and product or service performance. The project is best placed to deliver impact because it works with already impactful networks and ecosystems, it uses an innovative dialogue methodology and is a scalable solution.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

This project will contribute directly to:

- Targets and indicators 8.2, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.b and 8.b.1, regarding youth inclusion and their added value in economic productivity for sustainability;
- Targets 13.2 and 13.3, for climate change mitigation in the private sector's activities;
- Targets 17.16 and 17.17, for the promotion and facilitation of private and civil society partnerships.
- The project also indirectly contributes to SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 14 and 15 through the specific business sectors of the clients.





# Alexandria University Students' Mental Health



جامعة الإسكندرية  
ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY  
كلية التمريض Faculty of Nursing

## Organization

Faculty of Nursing,  
Alexandria University

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Egypt

## Project

Alexandria University Students' Mental Health:  
From Traditional Counseling to Tele-mental Health Counseling Services

## Current reach

Alexandria (Egypt)



## PROBLEM

University students can suffer from psychological concerns and might not be provided with the appropriate mental health support. Therefore, it is important to deliver quality tele-mental health counseling, mental health services and psychological support to all students regardless of their sex, culture, or socio-economic status.



## SOLUTION

The Faculty offers the assistance of an experienced and well-rounded team of professional counselors that support principles such as the respect for others, the appreciation of individual differences, and compassion. The objective is to facilitate students' personal growth and assist them in the alleviation of distress, as well as to educate them in ways that would encourage students to develop self-awareness, self-reliance and self-esteem.



## IMPACT

The project aims to collaborate with Microsoft to provide students with different services, including:

- Web-based students' counseling and mental health support by a specialized team of expert psychiatric nursing professionals, psychiatrists and psychologists;
- Psychoeducational material and workshops;
- Psychological assessment through different mental health screening tools;
- Self-help support groups.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGs

The project contributes to SDGs 3, 4 and 16 by:

- Using an effective and accessible web-based application (Microsoft Teams) to improve mental health of all students at Alexandria University;
- Breaking down barriers to mental health services, removing stigmas, and increasing access;
- Creating trusted, expert and free psychiatric services, mental health care and support to all students who need it;
- Facilitating psychotherapeutic interventions through students' assessment and psychological testing;
- Enhancing students' self-awareness, interpersonal skills and personal development through tele-mental health counseling, psychotherapy, and online educational workshops.





# Orchestra Libya



## Organization

Office of International Cooperation,  
Sabratha University

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Libya

## Project

Orchestra Libya

## Current reach

Libya



## PROBLEM

During the war, there were no conditions for regular musical performances in the country and youth suffered a lot from the unstable situation. The majority of young people still suffer from frustration and for the lack of initiatives that bring everyone together and make them forget the scourge of war.



## SOLUTION

The realization of the Orchestra Libya project will help young people to adopt positive ideas about music and its effective role in achieving peace and communication between peoples. The success of the project will affect higher education officials in their eagerness to support the academic teaching of music in various regions of the country.



## IMPACT

The Orchestra Libya project, which will involve many talented young people across Libya, wants to provide training in music reading and orchestral conducting. Furthermore, it plans to present musical performances inside the country with the participation of musicians and leaders from the Mediterranean countries, and to organize a Euro-Mediterranean music training at the Roman Theater of Sabratha. This music project wants to dispel all negative convictions about music, and consolidate the relevant role that music plays in the advancement of societies.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project relates to SDGs 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17. It is the first music project that inspires Libyan youth to live with hope and contributes to spreading a culture of peace. It focuses on developing young musicians through workshops for the creation of an orchestra touring all around Libyan cities and villages, encouraging children and their families to participate and attend concerts to enhance Libya's post-war unity. The goal is to encourage talented people to express themselves through music, consolidating the principles of peace and rejection of violence.





# The Moroccan medical humanitarian caravans in remote areas



## Organization

The Moroccan federation of medical students (IFMSA Morocco)

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Morocco

## Project

The Moroccan medical humanitarian caravans in remote areas

## Current reach

Remote areas in Morocco



## ! PROBLEM

Over 26% of Moroccans live in remote areas where the nearest healthcare facility can be 5km away. These people lack access to health, and also lack awareness and health literacy to live a healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, they struggle with different socio-economic development challenges.

## 💡 SOLUTION

To improve health access and lifestyle quality of Moroccans living in remote areas, the project members gather medical staff, materials and treatments, and spend 3 days in remote areas to offer them free health screenings, check-ups, and treatments. They also provide educational and awareness sessions to improve their behavior and lifestyle. Topics include mental health, women's health, sexual and reproductive health, and zoonotic diseases prevention, among others. They also collaborate with different youth organizations and NGOs to provide humanitarian support, including school renovations, clothing for cold weather, and economic empowerment sessions. Since 2014, they organize at least 5 caravans a year reaching around 1000 people per caravan.

## 🎯 IMPACT

The project focuses on offering healthcare access to people who lack it the most. Medical students also work on long-term improvement by ensuring follow-ups, linking of needy patients with professionals, and education and awareness to improve behaviours and lifestyles, and ensure better prevention. They focus on collaborations and multidisciplinary engagement: veterinary students help to vaccinate animals, engineering students to fix wells, economics students to educate women on entrepreneurship, and so on. As the national federation of medical students, they have easy access to health workers and students, youth NGOs and medical funders.

## 🌐 ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGs

The project contributes to SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, and 10: it improves health coverage, gender equality, access to education and reduces poverty and inequalities in the long term. The organization also collaborates with different actors to achieve SDG 17. 3.8.1 is the main target indicator related to this project. By improving services access and coverage, this leads to reaching indicators 3.a.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.4, 3.3.5 and 3.4.1, and improving different health outcomes. Moreover, the education and awareness aspect contributes to indicators 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.3.1 and 5.6.1. The humanitarian field work contributes to indicators 1.2.1, 1.4.1 and 4.a.1.



# The Double Health and Climate Pyramid: a “One Health” approach to food



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II

## Organization

University of Naples “Federico II”,  
Department of Clinical Medicine and Surgery,  
Research Unit on Nutrition, Diabetes and Metabolism

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Italy

## Project

The Double Health and Climate Pyramid: a “One Health” approach to food

## Current reach

Global



## PROBLEM

Today the food system is broken. 690 million people lack sufficient food and projections suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic may add an additional 83-132 million people to the ranks of the undernourished. Food choices are the most important factor undermining health. Recently, a mismatch has occurred between increased knowledge on the health-improving potential of diets resembling the traditional Mediterranean model and the modest risk modification achieved among the population. There is an urgent need for an appropriate strategy to increase people’s awareness of the relationship between food choices, human and planetary health, and to facilitate the educational role of health professionals on this issue.



## SOLUTION

The Double Pyramid has been designed to unleash the power of sustainable and healthy diets, by providing a tool to inform food choices, considering all eating occasions, including snacks. It clearly shows that all foods are part of a healthy and sustainable diet, when consumed with proper frequency and serving sizes. The Double Pyramid corroborates the message that dietary patterns with the features of the traditional Mediterranean diet can promote our health, longevity and wellbeing, while reducing our carbon footprint. In fact, foods that should be consumed more frequently for our health also have a low climate impact.



## IMPACT

The new Double Pyramid represents a powerful tool to simply and directly communicate the features of a healthy and sustainable diet – resembling the traditional Mediterranean diet – by advising on the appropriate frequency of consumption for all food groups and showing the associated impact on cardiovascular diseases and the climate. It can help implement dietary changes suitable for promoting health and protecting the environment in different educational contexts. The project is unique and innovative as it is built through multidisciplinary knowledge and evidence (nutritional/environmental), while aiming at reaching all citizens with a ready-to-use tool.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The Double Pyramid calls for more sustainable approaches to both food production and consumption (indicator 2.4.1), and emphasizes the need to ensure access to sustainable and healthy diets to all (indicators 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). The Health Pyramid is aimed to inform citizens about the prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases through healthy diets (indicator 3.4.1). The Climate Pyramid emphasizes the impact of foods throughout their life cycle. The Double Pyramid shows that it is possible to eat healthily and sustainably, with relevant information and awareness (indicator 12.8.1, 13.3.1 and 13.3.2).



# Arts for all



## Organization

Centre for Peace and Innovation

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Somalia

## Project

Arts for all

## Current reach

Regions of Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, KGS, and Banadir Regional Administration (Somalia)



## PROBLEM

The project wants to face the issues of illiteracy, extremism, discrimination, and extremist patriotism through literature that promotes the values of tolerance, sharing, solidarity, and the development of everything that serves the common good. Internally, the cost of implementing these activities is the biggest challenge to face.



## SOLUTION

“Arts for all” aims to develop arts and artistic activities, showing how they can contribute to peacebuilding. It wants to provide young people with a formative experience to use in the future, which can also be fun and entertaining. Somalia is a recovering country, so such an activity could be a major factor in rebuilding the knowledge of the youth.



## IMPACT

The Centre for Peace and Innovation (CPI) is developing a project that works in the frame of transparency, equality, trust and honesty to be effective. It is based on concrete performances that will make visible the success of the activity, encouraging the collaboration between CPI and the people.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project is more strictly related to SDGs 4 and 16, since its mission is to promote peace and creativity, and to fight extremist ideologies. Through these activities, CPI mainly aims to foster and improve sustainable peace and quality education in the regions involved.



## NATURE CONSERVATION

## Govardhan



## Organization

Brain Space

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

India

## Project

Govardhan

## Current reach

Kerala (India)



## PROBLEM

People are usually not aware of the vital role played by trees and plants in general. Their relevance in nature but also in our daily lives is often underestimated. More specifically, people often do not know the medicinal value of plants and how to properly use or treat them.



## SOLUTION

The organization is developing an app that showcases different plants, providing information about them and underlying why they are important for us. The system also allows its users to receive one of the plants displayed in the app if they would like to adopt it or gift it to somebody else.



## IMPACT

The app provides specific information on various plants, focusing on their medicinal properties and the advantages one would derive from having the plant at home. It is the first project of its kind and it aims to make people aware of the importance and benefits of each plant, to encourage them to take care of the natural environment and maybe plant more trees.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project is contributing to the Global Goals under many different aspects, especially for what concerns SDGs 3, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. It focuses on environmental issues by encouraging people to plant more trees and take care of the plants, while it focuses on health and social aspects in general by explaining the medicinal properties of the plants and how they can be used in our daily lives.



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

# Sharity App



## Organization

Sharity App

## Type

Non-profit

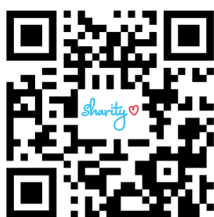
## Location

USA

## Project

Sharity App

## Current reach

USA as first market,  
global scalability

## PROBLEM

Brands are helpless on how to show their customers that they are supporting a green economy model and on how to have social impact without uprooting their business. Customers are clueless about how to help out and make an impact. Nonprofits are struggling to secure a sustainable source of funding for their causes. The UN is struggling to close the funding gap of the SDGs.



## SOLUTION

Sharity App funds the SDGs with everyday purchases, empowering brands and consumers to meet their Goals through the existing relationship of products that consumers buy. In other words, it allows customers to use their purchasing power to fund a broad range of ailing topics of their choice, like Climate Action, Zero Hunger, Gender Equality, Animal Activism and more.

It works in three simple steps:

- Customers purchase their regular, everyday products wherever they are in the world;
- They download the app and scan the barcode of the product (or a receipt for multiple products);
- Brands give 5-10 cents per product to their existing nonprofits that align with the customers' causes.



## IMPACT

This way, Sustainability Goals get funded with everyday purchases. For conscious customers, struggling with aligning their purchases with their values with everyday purchases, Sharity App uniquely offers them to vote with their dollars. Current solutions on the market are deficient in brands failing to engage with their customers when it comes to their sustainability efforts, while this offering excels by engaging brands with customers through every purchase.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

For the SDGs to come to life, it needs funding at scale including everyone on the planet who has a smartphone and a purchasing power can be part of it. So, the person buying their regular glass of Coca-Cola at a rural village with a basic android phone can scan the barcode and contribute the same as a person in New York City. The App contributes therefore to all SDGs.



# Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Green Energy Supplies



## Organization

Beautiful Sennar Organization

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Sudan

## Project

Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Green Energy Supplies

## Current reach

Sennar City (Sudan)



## PROBLEM

About 70% of primary and secondary schools and most health centres in Sudan suffer from the problem of constant power cuts and the difficulty in obtaining clean water. Pollution inside these facilities directly contributes to the spread of diseases and delays in providing basic services to citizens in a humane manner.



## SOLUTION

The organization aims at installing clean energy sources (solar energy) to supply educational and health facilities with constant electricity. This is also necessary to operate groundwater wells, which need to be dug to pump and supply clean drinking water and assist in sanitation and hygiene operations. A collection centre for recycling utility and sanitation waste is also needed.



## IMPACT

The organization has a certain experience and reputation in providing sustainable solutions to the various needs of society in terms of energy supply and clean water. Each project was designed by expert consultants, to be humanitarian in nature in the first place, and in line with the organization's vision for the implementation of smart projects. This project specifically aims to design and implement clean energy sources for schools and healthcare centres to be used in the extraction of clean and drinkable water, sanitation, hygiene and smart recycling operations.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project contributes to SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13 and 17.

It aims to achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

6.1 Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all,

6.2 achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

6.4 substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially.

Reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources substantially and reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.



# HANMUN (Himachal Assam and Nepal Movement to Unite Nations)



HANMUN

## Organization

HANMUN

## Type

For-profit

## Location

India

## Project

HANMUN  
(Himachal Assam and Nepal  
Movement to Unite Nations)

## Current reach

20+ partners i.g.  
in Latin America, Indonesia,  
the Philippines, etc.



## PROBLEM

HANMUN faces many issues: lack of exposure and strategic platforms to harness the ideas ranging from leadership, entrepreneurship, sustainable living, cultural renaissance and eco-tourism; youth in peril of antisocial activities with lack of emotional intelligence; the increasing communication gap between the youngsters and the elders. Furthermore, it recognises the lack of scaled projects for future leaders to learn the essence of international relations, diplomacy, politics and community building projects at ground level; of fun learning projects with excursion concepts and close association with nature; of relevant study materials in local dialects and languages. Finally, it challenges the huge rural-urban educational, knowledge and networking disparity, and the decline in small businesses and regional cultures.



## SOLUTION

The project wants to initiate planned activities for the young generation to allow them to gain experience and network with youth from all over the world in various locations. These plans also feature experienced experts of specific domains to prepare the participants for life changing future actions. Furthermore, the activities boost local startups and regional cultures via excursions, exhibitions and exchange forums creating far-reaching awareness towards delicate ecosystems.



## IMPACT

HANMUN brings together youth from all across the globe to cooperate with each other in business, technical, cultural and social movements. It is consistently putting efforts to arrange various programs for them to meet the needs of today's society. Currently, various online sessions and webinars on Instagram are organised to discuss various topics (youth empowerment, economic crises, COVID-19 physical and mental repercussions, etc.) with experts. This bridges the gap between rural and urban youth by bringing all over a common platform, and makes small businesses strong via calculated programs to exhibit their work thus adding vocals for locals.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project relates to SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 13. It provides an extensive global platform for youth to debate, discuss and put forth their fresh ideas to solve global issues in a well structured manner. Moreover, team members and volunteers belong to various locations of the world, with different backgrounds, cultural groups and ethnicities thus each idea is unique and valuable in its own sense. The main purpose is to lead the world towards achieving true sustainable development by harvesting innovative ideas churned out by the youth.



## YOUTH ACTION AND HEALTH

# Improved access to SRHR project



**JOMAS  
FOUNDATION  
AFRICA**  
EMPOWERMENT FOR ALL

## Organization

Joint mechanism for access to sexual reproductive health and rights (JOMAS) Foundation Africa

## Type

Non-profit

## Location

Uganda

## Project

Improved access to SRHR project

## Current reach

District of Kamwenge (Uganda)



## PROBLEM

According to the Ministry of Health, misinformation among young people, women and men, and the lack of shared norms and values have caused rampant inequalities in the District of Kamwenge. JOMAS Foundation Africa aims specifically to close this gap.



## SOLUTION

The organization carries out sensitization programs in local communities and institutions. It focuses on young people, women and men, and addresses different issues of sexual reproductive health information and services.



## IMPACT

The improved access to sexual reproductive health and rights project deepens young people, women and men's understanding of sexual reproductive health information and gender equality in communities and institutions of the Kamwenge District in South western Uganda. It targets the physical person with a good monitoring and evaluation criteria, hence assessment is made and therefore induction. The results are valued mainly on the feedback from people in communities and institutions. The organization itself has also focused on this issue, gaining relevant experience and releasing various reports.



## ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGS

The project directly relates to SDGs 3 and 5, with a main focus on making the community able to make better choices based on shared norms and values. Through sensitization programs in communities and institutions about sexual reproductive health information and services it specifically contributes to SDG 3, which emphasises good health and well-being, plus contributing to SDG 5 as well.





## Chapter 3

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# Key trends and insights

### 3.1 Geographic focus

The first edition of the Mediterranean Youth Solutions Report received 29 submissions from 12 Mediterranean countries and 5 non-Mediterranean countries. 28% of the contributions are located and active in African countries, highlighting a trend that was already registered in the 2020 Youth Solutions Report: the continued boom of the African social entrepreneurship movement, together with its high rate of youth population increase and commitment to the SDGs.

Most of the projects originate and operate in Italy (23%), Spain (13%) and Morocco (10%), while only one proposal was submitted for most of the other countries. These initiatives tend to have a local focus, being developed by local schools and universities, institutions or non-profit organisations. However, some of them also operate on a national or sub-regional scale, or might even have a global scalability. This is mostly the case of apps, digital services or programmes, and guidelines for a healthier lifestyle.

The intent is to create impact beyond the local communities and region, and thereby attempting to produce replicable and scalable solutions.

Figure 1. Geographic project distribution by country



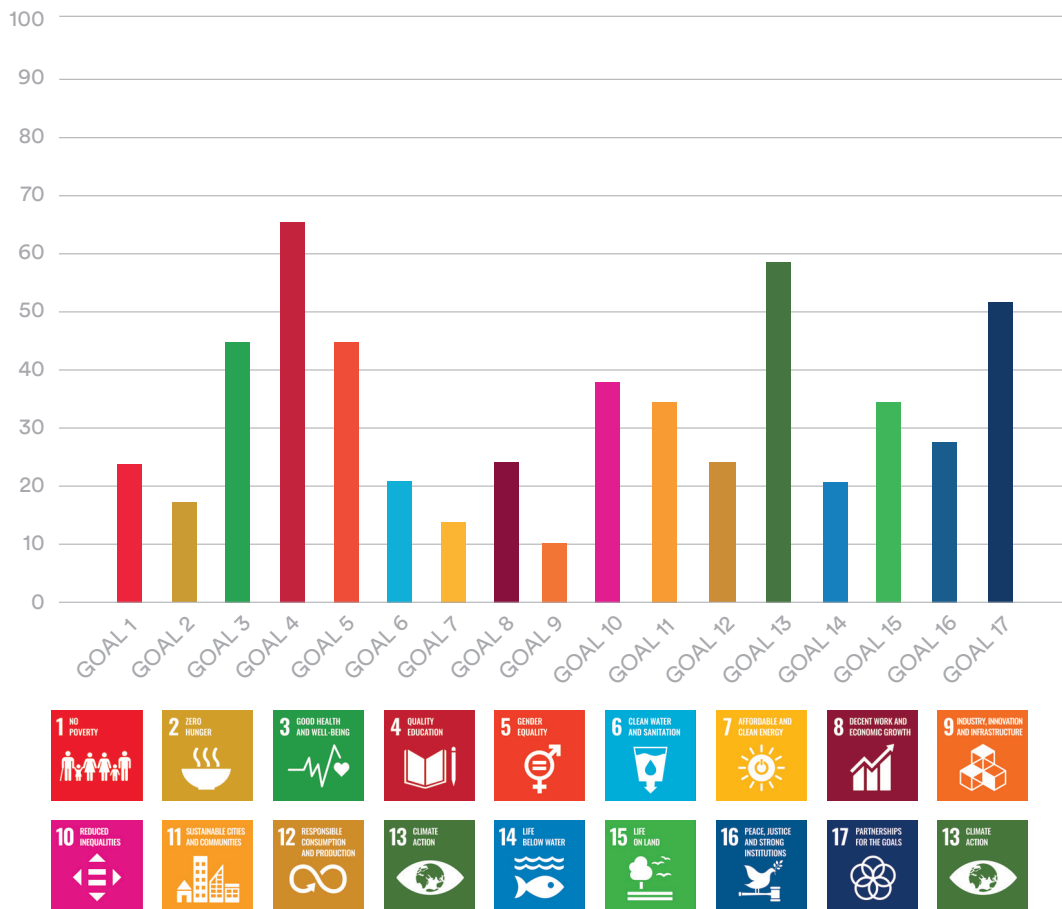
### 3.2 Main SDGs addressed

All the submitted applications have emphasized their solutions are capable of addressing multiple SDGs, highlighting the interconnectedness of the Global Goals, as achieving one also provides co-benefits.

The most popular SDGs are 4 (Quality Education), 13 (Climate Action), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). These three goals represent the main focuses of SDSN Youth Mediterranean and this Report as well. Being the Network mostly formed by Universities and other Educational Institutions, Quality Education is certainly one of the most popular issues among them. Goal 13 reflects the strong attachment that Mediterranean countries have to their natural environment and its preservation, also due to the importance of the agrifood sector and the Mediterranean sea for the economic development and maintenance of these countries. Finally, Goal 17 perfectly embodies the purpose of the Report itself: creating partnerships among existing actors to implement the SDGs. It is particularly relevant that the submitted projects also share this view and intent.

In general, the main focus was on societal goals, as the already-mentioned Goal 4, but also Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality), mostly included as targets to achieve or to take into account while implementing the initiatives.

Figure 2. Percentage of projects addressing each SDG

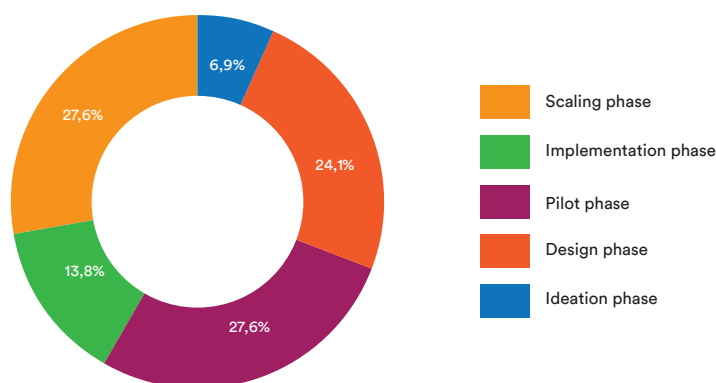


### 3.3 Project development phase

The Report has accepted submissions from projects that have been operational for at least 12 months. From the data collected, it is possible to see that most of the programs are at a quite advanced operating phase, either the pilot phase or the scaling phase, meaning that they are already operating effectively. In fact, in most of the project sheets, concrete examples of activities and achievements can be found.

A minor percentage of the submissions are at an initial stage, either the ideation phase or the design phase.

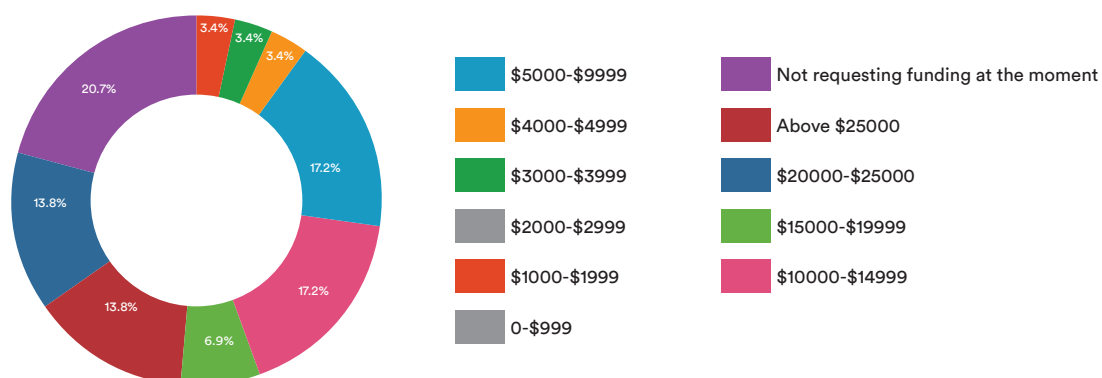
**Figure 3. Project development phase**



### 3.4 Funding

Funding is a crucial aspect for youth-led solutions, as different levels of access to capital and financial services often define not only the operations and scaling-up of the project activities, but also the legal form in which the solutions themselves are structured. Within the submissions, the data indicates that the majority of solutions are currently requesting a small amount of funding or not requesting funding at all. This reflects their dimension and the phase: most projects have a local scale so they operate on a small to medium budget; at the same time, most programs are already operating effectively so they are either financed by the hosting institutions or need little external funding anyway. However, this is not the case for most local non-profits, in fact a significant percentage of the submitted initiatives is currently requesting \$25000+.

**Figure 4. Amount of funding requested by each project**



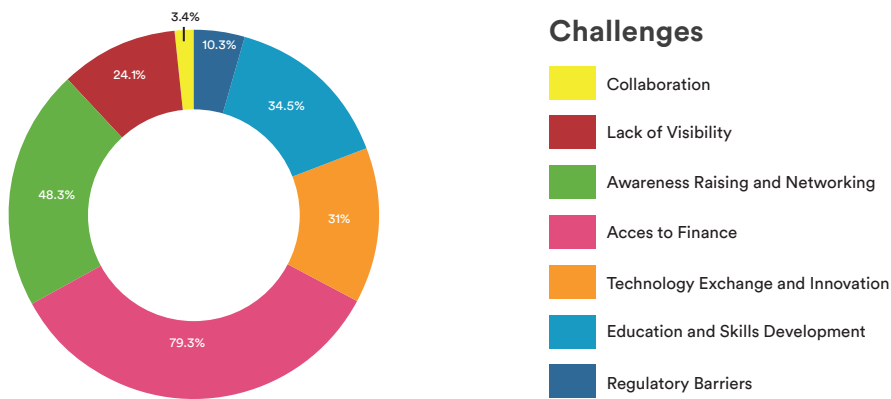
### 3.5 Challenges and Needs

Challenges and needs are influenced by local contexts, policy frameworks and opportunities. However, some common traits can be identified.

79% of the applicants indicated that access to finance is the number one challenge that their activities face, followed by awareness raising, networking and skills development. This trend aligns with the 2020 Youth Solutions Report where funding is also mentioned as the top challenge by the youth-led solutions. Lack of funding can prevent the solutions from meeting their operating and administrative expenses, and further hamper innovation and scalability.

The challenges mirror the needs, indicating access to finance, communication and mentoring as the most pressing ones.

**Figure 5. Challenges faced by projects**



**Figure 6. Projects' needs for further development**



# Conclusion

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**T**he current generation is the largest youth cohort in history, and this immense potential should be efficiently used. The increased presence of youth in developing and implementing solutions at different levels and through different countries is vital for shaping an inclusive and sustainable society both globally and in the Mediterranean context.

Through this Report, the SDSN Youth Mediterranean team hopes to provide insights on current SDGs youth-led practices developed in the Mediterranean area, to further understand, inspire and support young people's mobilization in favour of the UN Decade of Action.

The Mediterranean Youth Solutions Report aims to highlight and promote the proactive behaviour of young stakeholders, to support their work and create a network of sustainable development advocates, well knowledgeable and already prepared to take action.

Often, in pursuing their goals, young people face common challenges, including reduced visibility, limited access to funding, and lack of sufficient advice or technical support.

Young people must not be merely seen as recipients of international policies specifically devoted to solving the plurality of issues that the world is currently dealing with, but also as key stakeholders who have the opportunity to actively participate in all decision-making processes and to bring unique and innovative perspectives for sustainable development.

As such, it is extremely important to recognize and celebrate solutions led by young people around the SDGs and to provide them with a solid network of supporters willing to sustain their ideas and initiatives.

The projects showcased in this Report represent an inspiring picture of young people contributing to a sustainable future.

This picture shows several challenges and needs identified to be addressed by policymakers, investors, educators, entrepreneurs and communities at large. This is because success of youth innovations is not born in a vacuum, but rather emerges and prospers where there is an appropriate system that provides support and opportunities to all of them.



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## UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

The **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** was launched in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society. SDSN is led by the world-renowned Professor of Economics Jeffrey D. Sachs, and its Secretariat is housed at the Earth Institute, Columbia University.



### SDSN Mediterranean

**SDSN Mediterranean** is the regional hub for the Mediterranean area of the UN SDSN. It aims to mobilize scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society and the private sector to enhance the sustainable use and development of the Mediterranean region engaging in a wide array of projects and partnerships. The main activities promoted by SDSN Mediterranean focus on providing collaborative research and joint networking solutions initiatives for the promotion and implementation of the UN Agenda 2030; developing innovative and quality teaching and training on Sustainable Development; and enhancing dissemination, exploitation and outreach of thematic results among the Mediterranean countries, universities, policy makers, businesses, private sector and NGOs. This is made possible through the coordination of the activities promoted within the Mediterranean area and the mobilisation of all SDSN Members of the regional centre.



### SDSN Youth

**SDSN Youth** is the young professionals' division of SDSN launched in June 2015 by Professor Jeffrey Sachs during the 5th meeting of the SDSN Leadership Council in Paris.

SDSN Youth's mission is to empower young people around the world to face the challenges of sustainable development and drive innovative solutions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

With more than 750 Member organizations spread over 127 countries, SDSN Youth is one of the world's biggest networks of young world leaders working together to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Counting on the presence of 24 regional and national networks of volunteers, SDSN Youth educates young people about the urgent and current issues around sustainable development, connects youth-led organizations to share challenges, opportunities and experiences in the sustainability field, and constantly supports the involvement of young people in the development of sustainable and innovative solutions.

### SDSN Youth Mediterranean

**SDSN Youth Mediterranean** is the regional team of volunteers of SDSN Youth for the Mediterranean area, gathering 80 youth member organizations over 16 countries. It is supported by SDSN Mediterranean, being both based in Siena (Italy) and hosted by the Santa Chiara Lab Research and Innovation Centre (Siena University).

SDSN Youth Mediterranean operates within the global goal of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network – Youth initiative to inspire, engage and mobilize young people from the Mediterranean region to become, through education, networking, and cooperation, active agents in the achievement of sustainable development.

## The UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) was established in 1975 as a regional cooperation framework and the first regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The scope of the UNEP/MAP mandate initially focused on integrated planning and pollution assessment and control and has gradually widened to encompass integrated coastal zone management, biodiversity and specially protected areas. MAP Phase II was adopted in 1995 to address evolving circumstances, specifically with respect to environmental protection and sustainable development following the 1992 Rio UN Conference on Environment and Development.

The Barcelona Convention, a regional treaty for the protection of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean, was one of the earliest achievements of UNEP/MAP. Adopted in 1976 as the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, its scope focused on pollution. It was amended in 1995 and renamed as the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, extending its geographical scope of application to the coastal areas, addressing biodiversity and integrated coastal zone management.

UNEP/MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention – 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union – have progressively built a unique and comprehensive institutional, legal, and implementing framework to fulfill, in cooperation with regional partners, the vision of a healthy Mediterranean Sea and Coast that underpin sustainable development in the region.

In February 2016, all Mediterranean countries Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025, as an integrative policy framework for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels.

The MSSD is based on the principle that economic growth needs to be harmonized with the protection of natural resources, and to distribute the welfare dividend of the development process to all society. The investment in the environment is considered as the best way to secure long-term, sustainable job creation and socio-economic development for the benefit of present and future generations.

Created in 1995 as a forum for experience sharing and peer learning, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) is instrumental in supporting the implementation and follow-up of the MSSD. This multi-stakeholder advisory body gathers on an equal footing not only government representatives (22) but also stakeholders (18) from various categories.

SDSN Med – University of Siena is an accredited MAP Partner, holding the status of Observer at the Meetings of the Contracting Parties and of the MCSD.

As it scales up advocacy, awareness, education and communication efforts as part of its Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027, UNEP/MAP will continue to support youth engagement and participation in relevant decision-making and implementation processes.



**Solutions  
Program**

## Youth Solutions Program

Young people are extremely skilled and aware of the challenges of sustainable development - but still face many challenges of their own, in promoting their solutions: from lack of funding access to mentoring and networks to a shared narrative or SDG alignment. The Youth Solutions Program helps accelerate the growth of youth solutions through a digital ecosystem of experts and resources, to refine their pitches, secure funding, connect with experts and mentors, and find new partnerships to grow their SDG solutions. The Youth Solutions Report is a flagship initiative of the Youth Solutions Program, launched in 2017 by SDSN Youth.

**SDG**academy

## SDG Academy

The **SDG Academy** is the flagship education platform of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). The SDG Academy's educational content covers the headline issues and a multitude of interdisciplinary topics related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The SDG Academy works closely with SDSN member institutions to offer courses that can support and supplement existing educational programs in sustainable development. It brings together the world's foremost experts on sustainable development – including experts in health, education, human rights, climate change, agriculture and food systems, sustainable investment, and other related fields – to offer a comprehensive core curriculum, equipping the next generation of sustainable development practitioners to tackle the complex challenges facing our planet. All course materials are available free of cost to anyone with an internet connection. Currently, the SDG Academy offers 34 Massive Open Online Courses, counting 600,000+ enrolments from 193 countries. The SDG Academy is not a formal educational institution and does not provide university credit for the educational content that it creates. However, the SDG Academy works with university departments, programs, and faculty to explore ways that its courses can be part of a blended learning environment.

To read more about SDG Academy please visit the official website: <https://sdgacademy.org/>

**MOOC** 

## Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective

The SDG Academy **MOOC “Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective”** has been developed by the Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition Foundation (BCFN), SDSN Mediterranean hosted by the Santa chiara Lab - University of Siena and SDG Academy.

The course discusses the challenges and opportunities of the agricultural sector in the Mediterranean basin. It summarizes global-to-local challenges related to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); outlines the history and culture of agriculture and its main characteristics with a focus on the “Mediterranean diet”; explains agricultural data with a focus on rural development models and value creation; explores EU policy frameworks and international agreements related to food and agriculture in the Mediterranean; and highlights emerging opportunities linked to innovation and sustainability in the sector. The MOOC, available in English with video transcripts in French, Arabic and Italian, is divided into 10 modules lasting on average 2 hours each. The course is free, on-demand and self-paced. In 2019, it was also adopted by the European Commission for an Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project aimed to facilitate virtual intercultural exchanges between 18-30 aged students and young people by addressing the challenges and opportunities of the agricultural sector in the Mediterranean.

Since its launch in 2018, almost 9000 students have enrolled.



