



## Regional - Governance & Knowledge generation Project

### Workshop: *Green economy, governance and knowledge* *Fostering Green Economy in the Mediterranean with the Regional -* *Governance and Knowledge generation Project*

Marseille (France), 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

## Report on the workshop outcomes

Prepared by Plan Bleu

The following report on the outcomes of the workshop draws from the notes taken during the session. The workshop report is a summary from the organizers' point of view, and does not necessarily express the views of each individual participant.

Presentations made during the workshop are available on the dedicated homepage, accessible via the Plan Bleu website. In order to access the dedicated website:

- Visit the Plan Bleu web site <http://www.planbleu.org/indexUK.html>
- Go to Private Access (at the bottom on the left)
- Use the following information:
  - ✓ Login : GovKnow
  - ✓ Password : Marseille2012

This workshop has been organized on back to back with the “Conference-Forum: Towards Green Economy in the Mediterranean Region? Environment as an opportunity for jobs creation and growth”, which took place on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 in Marseille (France). Whereas this conference-forum represented an opportunity for Beneficiaries and Partners of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation Project (ReGoKo) to gain more knowledge about *green economy*, the workshop *Green economy, governance and knowledge* allowed for a multi-partner brainstorming session, giving room for open intersectoral discussion and aiming at identifying common priorities and specific activities to be carried out under the Project in the field of *green economy*.

The general objectives of this activity were the following:

- i. Enabling all participants to learn more about *green growth* in the Mediterranean region and to encourage a rich discussion on *green growth* between the Project's Beneficiaries;
- ii. Creating a common knowledge basis on *green growth*;
- iii. Enabling the Project's Beneficiaries to identify specific activities to foster green growth in their countries and in the Mediterranean region;
- iv. Enabling participants to identify activities related to *green growth* to be carried out under the ReGoKo Project.



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## 1. Welcome and overview of workshop objectives

Chair: Ms. Lamia Mansour (Lebanon)

Ms. Hoonae Kim (The World Bank), Mr. Hugues Ravenel (Plan Bleu)

The workshop's objectives are recalled quickly. A multi-partner brainstorming session with representatives from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza; Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Planning, Ministries of Finance, Private Sector and NGOs, giving room for discussions about what a green economy could mean for the participants in their countries and how this would translate within the ReGoKo Project.

Lamia Mansour outlines the workshop's agenda and makes some small amendments; in particular a short session explaining the ReGoKo Project is added to the agenda.

## 2. Quick overview of the ReGoKo Project

Ms. Lina Tode (Plan Bleu)

Main characteristics of the ReGoKo Project are highlighted. Objective, components, institutional framework, role of Project Steering Committee, first set of agreed activities and their programmatic framework, partnering with other existing initiatives. This information is also available on the dedicated website.

## 3. Existing national priorities on green economy

This section summarizes the main issues countries have addressed concerning their respective national priorities.

**Mr. Rachid Tahiri (Morocco)**

Main issues addressed: ecotaxes, voluntary instruments, important role of SMEs and public-private partnerships, clean technologies.

**Ms. Amel Oudina (Algeria)**

Main issues addressed: waste - recycling and valorisation, developing local competence in "green" sectors, training and education, "greening" industries to create jobs.

**Ms. Lotfi Ben Said (Tunisia)**

Main issues addressed: Tunisia is committed to achieving a green(er) economy; jobs creation in the renewable energy, building, and waste and recycling sectors.

**Mr. Ahmed Abu Thaher and Mr. Mohammad Said Hmaid Nasir (West Bank and Gaza)**

Main issues addressed: intersectoral cooperation necessary, jobs creation in the building and wastewater sectors, knowledge sharing and awareness raising, clear mandates for institutions (governance), not a party of UNFCCC but supports its content.



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**Mr. Jaoudat Edward Abou-Jaoude and Ms. Lamia Mansour (Lebanon)**

Main issues addressed: valorisation of natural resources, jobs creation through “greener” industries. Also see slideshow from Lamia Mansour, available on the dedicated website.

**Mr. Adel Mohamed Taha and Ms. Gehan El Sakka (Egypt)**

Clean production, solid waste management, carbon footprint, energy efficiency. Also see slideshow from Gehan El Sakka available on the dedicated website.

### 4. Governance for a green economy in the Mediterranean

**Facilitated by Mr. Aldo Ravazzi (Italy)**

This session has been articulated around the following aspects: how can the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation Project (ReGoKo) support Mediterranean Governments to encourage progress towards green economy and related jobs by adapting their legal, regulatory, fiscal and informational frameworks to support an economy that respects the environment, uses natural resources in an efficient way, preserves natural resource stocks, ensures low carbon emissions and creates jobs?

Lebanon raises the point that aspects concerning government issues should directly address high level decision makers. Also, a distinction can be made between a “green” economy and a “greener” economy.

Morocco suggests that new kinds of partnerships (public-private, donors, investors, ...) will be required to help make Mediterranean economies greener. Also, access to environmental information is a major issue required to promote a greener economy in the Mediterranean.

Tunisia suggests to establish a regional knowledge base/inventory of best practices on governance and green economy (support would be required for example from the World Bank).

All of the issues mentioned above have also been addressed in the 36 recommendations of the working group on green economy which have been published during 24<sup>th</sup> May green economy conference.

Waste management could be a priority issue for the beneficiaries:

- West Bank and Gaza underlines that a major issue related to waste management is the fact that clear ownership of waste is usually not set (tragedy of the commons).
- West Bank and Gaza also highlights the issue of waste valorisation. More regional cooperation in waste valorisation could be beneficial, since certain types of waste cannot be recycled everywhere (for example tyres). It could make sense to build partnerships with neighbouring countries to transfer certain types of waste to countries where specialized treatment facilities exist.
- Egypt has experience with the management of medical waste and would be willing to share this information with other countries.
- Egypt is also interested in waste-to-energy measures, but the problem persists that the electricity produced cannot be injected into the Egyptian electricity grid due to technical barriers. Capital investment for pilot projects is needed.



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- Algeria underlines the benefits of creating local competence in sectors like waste management and valorisation in order to create jobs.

As a great number of sectors and subjects relate to green economy, it is suggested that Beneficiaries could focus on one specific sector related to green economy and then look into ways for the ReGoKo Project to work on this sector in particular. Egypt suggests for example waste management and Morocco proposes to focus on (renewable) energy.

Environmental law enforcements has been identified as a subject of interest concerning governance and green economy, especially with regards to natural resources which are shared amongst different Mediterranean countries.

### 5. Knowledge for a green Mediterranean economy

Facilitated by Mr. Christian Averous (France)

This session has been articulated around the following aspects: what can the ReGoKo do to help Mediterranean countries gain more knowledge about different green economy dimensions in their countries and systematically monitor specific green economy indicators? How can the ReGoKo encourage the exchange of green economy best practices between Mediterranean countries and promote public awareness and access to environmental information?

The participants have identified three main common issues related to knowledge and green economy:

#### 1. Indicators

West Bank and Gaza especially highlights the importance of the establishment and monitoring of sound and solid indicators to avoid “green-washing”. Also, collaboration with the media would be beneficial to spread high quality information.

The importance of indicators has also been highlighted in the 36 recommendations of the working group on green economy which have been published during 24<sup>th</sup> May’s green economy conference.

#### 2. Best practices

Tunisia specifically highlights the benefits of a regional knowledge sharing platform. This idea of a Mediterranean Green Growth Knowledge Platform has also been addressed in the 36 recommendations of the working group on green economy. In fact, the platform could be a spin-off of an existing Green Growth Knowledge Platform which has been created recently by OECD, World Bank, UNEP and the Global Green Growth Institute. It has also been suggested to share best practices concerning green economy on a sectoral basis.

In order to promote experience sharing on a regional level and with other on-going initiatives, Magali Outters, Project manager working on the Horizon2020 initiative suggests to create links between the Horizon2020 initiative and the ReGoKo Project. Horizon2020 focusses amongst other issues on waste management, industrial emissions and wastewater management, along with a component on indicators and trainings on green economy.

#### 3. Access to environmental information

This issue has been raised by several participants and is also being addressed in the recommendations of the working group on green economy, which suggests promoting

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the extension of the “Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters” (Aarhus Convention) to non-original signatory countries.

### 6. Conclusions

Chair: Ms. Lamia Mansour

The workshop “green economy, governance and knowledge” has given participants from different sectors and different Mediterranean countries the opportunity to engage into an open brainstorming session about what *green economy* could mean for their countries and sectors as well as for the ReGoKo Project. During discussions, a large variety of issues have been raised by the participants, reflecting the participants’ interest in *green economy* and the need for further, more targeted discussions. Due to the multitude of issues raised, it has at this stage not been possible to identify specific priority activities to be implemented under the ReGoKo Project.

However, the workshop has succeeded in engaging representatives from different Mediterranean countries and sectors (Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Planning, Ministries of Finance, Private Sector and NGOs) into a common discussion about green economy in particular and environmental issues in general. Participants from different sectors have realized that fostering a green(er) economy and promoting the protection of natural resources could be beneficial for everybody and may therefore present a common objective. The establishment of this regional intersectoral dialogue has been a first step for mainstreaming environmental issues.

### 7. Next steps

The propositions and issues raised during this workshop will be followed up upon by Plan Bleu and the Project Steering Committee of the ReGoKo Project. In order to be able to define specific priority activities to be carried out under the ReGoKo Project, it may be beneficial to install some kind of a multi-partner reflection process on a national level before engaging into more in-depth regional discussions.

The Project Steering Committee and Plan Bleu will define such procedures in more detail and update the workshop’s participants on the next steps.