

WETNET PROJECT
Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands

WP 2 - Communication

Activity 2.6 – Contributing to MED Programme communication activities

Project Partners: SEO – Spanish Ornithological Society / CIRF – Centro Italiano Riqualificazione Fluviale

Date: 17 May 2017

Deliverable 2.6.1 - Report

“WE are MED: Going beyond thematic communities”.
17 May 2017, Alicante. MED Community

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“WE are MED: Going beyond thematic communities”. **MED Community**

(Deliverable 2.6.1 - Event Report)

1. EVENT DETAILS

Title: “WE are MED: Going beyond thematic communities”. Community building event organized by the MED Community.

Type: The event is a community building action for the whole community of partners working under the umbrella of MED Biodiversity Protection Community.

Date: 17 May 2017

Location: Alicante (Spain)

Programme: The event was organized as a one day agenda, with 3 different activities to stimulate interaction and brainstorming: team building activity, presentation of each thematic community, and a world café cross-cutting discussion.

Audience: The target audience for this event are Modular and Horizontal projects alike, consisting in one representative of each partner of the Horizontal projects.

WetNet participation: Pablo Vera, Project Partner n.5 – SEO, Spanish Ornithological Society and Giancarlo Gusmaroli, Project Partner n.6 – Italian Center for River Restoration.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

As considered by the MED Biodiversity Protection Community, the key point of the event is to emphasise/highlight/showcase the knowledge of each of the different thematic community involved in horizontal and modular projects, in order for them to acquire a greater degree of self awareness and certainty on methodologies and aims by sharing practices between each other. The event also aims at preparing the capitalisation process that will be highlighted later in the mid-term transnational event. This is reached through mutual learning among the thematic communities of projects and by extracting and harvesting common ideas, tools and methods which will improve the results of the Programme.

The main purpose of the event is to enhance the capitalisation process of the upcoming April 2018 mid-term trans-national event. Other main objectives of the event is to identify synergies between projects belonging to different thematics and further develop them, to identify potential links with internal and/or external platforms and to create a team dynamics between all thematic communities, fostering a team spirit. Various activities and workshops helped participants to identify links and synergies between projects and institutions, not only in terms of methodologies, but also in more content-oriented aspects and common objectives to reach.

The Biodiversity protection community was well represented through the participation of project leaders and partners of PANACeA and the Biodiversity Protection community of projects:

ACT4LITTER, AMAre, CONFISH, ECOSUSTAIN, FISHMPABLUE2, MEDSEALITTER, MPA-ADAPT, POSBEMED and WETNET. The first external activities helped create an innovative mix of participants and a cohesive and cooperating atmosphere.

The “world café” gave the chance to further understand each other’s key roles and mission in the horizontal and modular projects respectively. The dynamics consisted in mixing all participants in discussion groups that allowed to seek and identify synergies between projects and harvest common ideas, tools and methods which will contribute to the further results and also to share and exchange on each others experiences.

3. RELEVANCE FOR THE WETNET PROJECT AND THE MED TERRITORY

Within the framework of interest of this event, The PANACeA horizontal project had the opportunity to present to the MED community the main lines of work and opportunities for synergies among the partners of the modular projects. The presentation of the objectives and lines of work developed by each of the MED communities, as well as practices and state of the art of their implementation, was of great interest to identify the main lines of action that have been implemented in the MED territory, and possible synergies between partners and modular and horizontal projects. Thus, the presentation of the different thematics in which the whole MED community is working highlights the importance of joint action among the thematic communities and allow mutual learning.

The dynamics of the presentations of the MED communities aimed to present how the main lines of action have been streamlined in the MED territory. Therefore, it was not possible to go into detail in the objectives and work areas of each of the projects. However, this could take place in a quieter environment in the time frame and spaces destined for community building and world café.

In this space for meeting between partners and projects, representatives of the WETNET partnership had the opportunity to present and deepen the most relevant aspects of the project, as well as to carry out networking activities with other stakeholders in the territory of the project partners, as well as seek synergies with other partners and projects to improve the capabilities of transferability of results and outcomes for WETNET project. These actions put the seed for the most efficient development of concrete activities, especially those that are based on the capitalization of previous experiences (WP3) and those that seek to have an impact on decision-making and policies, establishing the lines of collaboration which are subsequently expected to work with other projects that develop their activity in aspects of governance (WP4).

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Participation in the WE are MED community building event, was found very relevant for the WETNET project, helping to reach a higher visibility and to increase the possibility of carrying out networking activities and seek synergies for project development and transferability of experiences and outcomes after the event. Also, the participation has helped to grow knowledge on the problems, challenges and solutions that have been found by the MED Community in other



projects working on other thematic issues but addressing similar issues, as governance, social participation and community growing. SEO and CIRF transferred the information and experiences on the event within the WETNET partnership during the following WETNET Project Meeting.