



RESMYLE

*Green economy
as a potential job
market for youth*

PROJECT TITLE

RESMYLE – Rethinking Employment and Social insertion for Mediterranean Young people through Local sustainable development

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

08.2019 - 08.2022

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Coopérative d'Activité et d'Emploi Petra Patrimonia - CDEPP (FR), Société Coopérative Consortium de formation au travail et de coopération (IT), AMESCI (IT), Union Association pour la Participation et l'Action Régionale - Centre Méditerranéen de l'Environnement (FR), Association pour le Développement Rural (LEB), Association pour l'Education Relative à l'Environnement de Hammamet (TUN), Jeune Chambre Economique de Tunisie (TUN), Institut Supérieur des Sciences et Technologies de l'Environnement de Borj Cédria (TUN), Université Jordanienne des Sciences et Technologies (JO)

PROGRAMME

Mediterranean Sea Basin ENI CBC 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET

2.197.247,00 €



The project aims to rethink the employment and social integration of young Mediterranean people through sustainable development. This way, the project aims at facing two challenges: the increasing difficulty in professional integration of young people and environmental protection in the Mediterranean. The project will include sustainable development topics in the support actions carried out by different social organizations, will test a set of hands-on field trainings for young people focusing on sustainable development and will create a Mediterranean network of eco-incubators for youth-led activities based on a common method and shared tutoring.

EMPLOYMENT

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION



Project co-funded by the European Union

“The ENI CBC MED Programme stands out from other regional initiatives as it valorises local People-to-People actions and it supports human and community development at cross-border level. It provides an opportunity to bring together partners with different backgrounds and experiences that do not usually work together in the framework of national programmes.”

Hiba Fawaz, Association for the Development of Rural capacities (Lebanon)

According to Eurostat, 27.8% of young Italians are neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET); 23.3% of young people (between 20-34) in Lebanon are unemployed. Across the Mediterranean region, young people are experiencing increasing difficulties in the access to employment due to the successive crises in the financial and economic sectors, let alone the recent COVID-19 emergency. There are disparities between the requests of the job market and the graduates' qualifications; moreover, young people with little or no education are highly marginalized and increasingly distanced from employment.

At the same time, the growing concerns for environmental protection in the Mediterranean might provide new opportunities, given the lack of skills in several areas such as waste sorting, eco-mobility, water management, renewable energies, risk prevention, etc.

The RESMYLE project – the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme – responds to this double challenge, rethinking the employment and social integration of the young people in the Mediterranean through sustainable development. The initiative builds up on the experience of another CBC project from the 2007-2013 programming cycle, “ILE – Initiatives Locales pour l’Environnement en Méditerranée”. The project partners acknowledged the unexploited potential of green economy as an important element for jobs creation and local development and decided to draw a new initiative at the crossroad of the social and environmental fields. Yet, the project was not conceived to promote the informal economy but rather to focus on and reinforce local strategies and local entrepreneurship.

In RESMYLE nine partners from five countries are working around three complementary areas of intervention: environmental education, hands-on trainings, and support to eco-entrepreneurship.

In the first component, the partners seek to integrate sustainable development top-

ics in the support actions carried out by the organizations working on integration of NEETs in the Mediterranean, so that young people are aware of sustainable development and can take initiatives for the benefit of their communities. RESMYLE has recently launched its first call for projects in mobilizing young people on the environmental and sustainable development issues. At least 12 initiatives (two in France, Italy, Lebanon and Jordan and four in Tunisia) led by youth organizations, environmental organizations or organizations in charge of social inclusion of young people, will receive 4.000-8.000 € grants to implement own activities among NEETS such as information campaigns on sustainable development (waste, climate change...) led by young people, construction and testing of educational tools co-designed with young people, implementation of educational actions in schools etc.

In the second component, the partners organize hands-on field trainings for young people, focusing on sustainable development and intercultural missions to environmental NGOs. To do so, the project partner AMESCI, Associazione Di Promozione Sociale (Italy), is setting up the Mediterranean Practical School for Sustainable Development in order to expand this manner of learning. The activities foresee the development of an online tool to train 24 facilitators in charge of organising and implementing training on the ground in the five partner countries, where each partner will set up 15-days practical workshops for young people with a focus on sustainable development. Consequently, 24 young people will be involved into three-months mobility missions to the Mediterranean environ-

mental NGOs based in one of the countries of the partnership.

In the third component, the partners provide support to young Mediterranean eco-entrepreneurs through the creation of a Mediterranean network of six eco-incubators in the partner countries: 18 eco-innovative projects led by young people will be sustained financially.

The multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder approach of the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is the perfect scenario to enhance the development of projects such as RESMYLE, created to give wings to the heterogeneous and fragmented context of the Basin. For example, the dynamism of the civil society in the Southern Mediterranean – namely in Lebanon and Tunisia – and their capacity to innovate in the field of social economy, at the crossroads between the real economy and social policies – puts them at the core of social economy actions, and this programme offers them the opportunity to raise their voice, share their concerns and vision.

In the long run, RESMYLE is set to create 300 direct jobs for young people.

The relevance of this topic is now even more important after the COVID-19 crisis, as the aftermath of the pandemic will result in a major economic downturn and will have a large effect on the loss of jobs and employment opportunities mainly for disadvantaged groups. Accordingly, focusing on those individuals, and enhancing their skills and capacities is crucial, especially when it is done via a response to environmental challenges with remain of main concern throughout the region.

