

Title of the initiative
Boosting Best Available Techniques in the Mediterranean Partner Countries (BAT4MED)
Idea origin (country) The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Spain, Belgium, Italy, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco
Idea origin (institution) The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
INSTITUTO ANDALUZ DE TECNOLOGIA
Brief description
The BAT4MED project, funded under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, aims to transfer the principles behind the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) directive to countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. The project brings together 8 organizations from 6 different countries, 4 organizations from 3 EU Member States (Spain, Belgium, Italy), 3 from 3 MPC (Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco) and 1 international organization based in Egypt, and aims to assess the technological adaptation of six industrial sectors and to transfer the relevant BAT (Best Available Technologies) to the countries engaged.
Idea focus The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research management ○ Cooperation in research
Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?
<p>BAT4MED project focused on enhancing environmental protection in the Mediterranean region by minimizing the negative impacts of industrial activities. It seeks to assess and promote the adoption of the EU's Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) approach in Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC), supporting the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) in national environmental programs. The project aims to facilitate the transfer and uptake of environmental technologies in developing countries, addressing industrial pollution, which contributes significantly to pollution in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>BATs will be selected for each sector, considering local conditions, and the project will also explore the alignment of MPC policies with EU standards. Additionally, BAT4MED includes a robust set of activities aimed at raising awareness and disseminating information on industrial pollution prevention.</p>
Relevance of the initiative in its specific context (why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)
Industrial pollution in the Mediterranean has emerged as a progressively critical issue over the past twenty years. In both advanced and emerging economies, swift and unregulated industrial growth, coupled with insufficient focus on environmental safeguarding and resource management, has intensified the problem of industrial pollution. Consequently, this has led to the deterioration of marine and coastal ecosystems, heightened contamination of both surface and groundwater, diminished air quality, and improper disposal of hazardous industrial waste - factors that collectively diminish the quality of life in the Mediterranean area and, in numerous instances, pose risks to human health.
Target Group of the practice

- Academic staff
- University leaders
- Overall community

Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

The project worked towards policy convergence in pollution prevention and control across all participating third countries, examining the gaps between EU and non-EU countries and evaluating available policy options. This process has set the foundation for implementing Best Available Techniques (BAT) to address the health and environmental impacts of industrial emissions in the Mediterranean. Additionally, it advanced knowledge on the evaluation of preventive and abatement technologies across various sectors. Recognizing that many challenges faced by Mediterranean industries are shared across the region, the project produced results with broader applicability. These findings have been successfully transferred to other non-EU Mediterranean countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan.

Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The project's methodology, which includes assessing local industrial contexts, selecting the most promising sectors for environmental improvement, and applying the EU's Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) approach, serves as a model for how to tackle pollution while promoting sustainable industrial practices. Its emphasis on transferring Best Available Techniques (BAT) and promoting environmental technology uptake further contributes to its long-term impact, making it a model for other regions facing similar challenges.

Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The sustainability of the BAT4MED initiative is supported by its strong alignment with EU policies on pollution control, which ensures that the efforts made during the project will continue to be relevant and applicable long after its conclusion. By fostering collaboration among a diverse range of stakeholders - spanning both EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries, as well as international organizations - the project has built a solid foundation for ongoing action. This collaborative approach helps secure long-term commitment and shared ownership, crucial for the continuation of industrial pollution prevention efforts in the region.

Contact and references

Link: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/265327>
<https://iat.es/>