



GREAT Med Final Dissemination Conference

Press Release

On December 1st, Saint Joseph University organized in Beirut the final dissemination conference of the GREAT Med project. The event gathered the project partners from different Mediterranean countries and a wide variety of stakeholders from ministries, research and academic institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, the GREAT Med network as well as representatives from Beirut and Byblos municipalities.

The GREAT Med project (<http://www.greatmed.eu>) is funded by the European Union under the Cross-border Cooperation in the Mediterranean (ENPI CBC MED).

The project deals with biodiversity conservation, management and monitoring on the Mediterranean coasts, and focuses on the design and implementation of an integrated strategy based on ecological indicators and risk analysis in five study areas: Gulf of Cagliari (Italy), coastal area of Provence (France), the coastal area of Byblos & Beirut (Lebanon), and the Gulf of Gabes (Tunisia).

During the conference, the projects partners presented the risk indexes and the toolkit developed based on the assessment of biodiversity and coastal area vulnerability to potential threats (fragmentation, oil spills and pollution). The toolkit will help stakeholders to set priorities for the conservation of the coastal areas along the Mediterranean.

Pr. Salim Daccache, the rector of Saint Joseph University (USJ), welcomed the participants and highlighted the cultural and biological diversity of the Mediterranean basin.

Pr. Mouïñ Hamze, General Secretary of National council for scientific research (CNRS-L), saluted the cooperation between the Mediterranean countries and Lebanese Institutions for the conservation of coastal biodiversity.

Dr. Davide Astiaso Garcia, from Sapienza University of Rome, presented the GREAT Med project.

Pr. Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat, from USJ, explained to the audience the importance of biodiversity, the threats facing it and conservation strategies.

The scientific committee of the project took over the speech and presented the methodology and the results of the project regarding the assessment of biodiversity and coastal vulnerability



to fragmentation, oil spills and pollution, the development of hazard and risk indexes and the elaboration of the toolkit.

Sustainable coastal zone management and the relevance of GREAT Med at the national and the regional levels were discussed. The conference was closed by a round table discussing sustainable management and conservation of the coastal Mediterranean areas.