Funding opportunities for water management in the framework of Mediterranean cooperation: the Interreg NEXT MED Programme

The forthcoming <u>5th Mediterranean Water Forum</u>, scheduled from February 5th to 7th in Tunisia, is poised to host the esteemed presence of the Interreg NEXT MED Programme, the largest EU-funded cooperation Programme in the Mediterranean. With a focus on addressing water-related challenges in the region, the event will serve as a pivotal platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and solution-driven discourse.

Interreg NEXT MED is the heir of the former ENI CBC MED Programme, renowned for its commitment to fostering cross-border cooperation and sustainable development, which will be also showcased at the forum. Notably, the program will spotlight its projects centered around water themes, each of which has received financial support, namely <u>AQUACYCLE</u>, <u>MEDISS</u>, <u>MEDWAYCAP</u>, <u>MENAWARA</u>, <u>NAWAMED</u> and <u>PROSIM</u>. 6 projects which allocated more tha 15M€ of EU funds. Tunisian entities such as the Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET), Le Centre de Recherches et des Technologies des Eaux (CERTE), l'Institut de Régions Arides et l'Office National de l'Assainissement (ONAS) will showcase the results and experience gained in these cooperation projets.

Interreg NEXT MED is set to host a captivating side event on January 5th, commencing at 14:00 hours. For 90 minutes, this session promises insightful discussions, interactive exchanges, and a deeper dive into the transformative impact of the Programme initiatives within the water sector. Representatives from the Tunisian partners of these six projects will present the conclusions and the experience gained during the last years implementing water management-related actions.

Furthermore, during the side event, an exclusive presentation will be made regarding the new Interreg NEXT MED call for proposals, which has allocated 10,9M€ to the Specific Objective of promoting access to water and sustainable water management and is presently open for applications. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the objectives, criteria, and application process of the Interreg NEXT MED call in water management.

The event will take place at the Laico Hotel in Tunis and is still open for registrations. For more information about the ENI CBC MED Programme and its participation in the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum, please contact Alejandro Lafarga, Programme Officer for Interreg NEXT MED (lafarga ale@gva.es)

Join us as we embark on this transformative journey towards a water-secure Mediterranean region.