

Resolution XXVI-3

Feasibility of the ECOMED Academy Network Proposal

The Intergovernmental Council (IC) of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO,

- Noting that** the Mediterranean region is facing, as many other regions, the consequences of climate change, water stress and that present challenges to the sustainability of the ecosystems in its coastal areas,
- Recalling** its consideration, at the 4th extraordinary session in 2021, of the proposal submitted by the Lebanese IHP National Committee to initiate the "ECOMED (Environmental Coastal Cooperation for Metropolitan Eco-sustainable Development)" Academy, with a secretariat based at W-SMART, an official UNESCO partner NGO, with the aim to: a) provide capacity building through its Network Members; b) support coastal ecosystem monitoring and c) share knowledge to support local research, education, and professional development programs of the countries concerned facing the ever-growing climate impacts,
- Recalling further** its decision thereupon in Resolution XTR-IV-3: On the Preparation for the Implementation of the UNESCO ECOMED Academy Network, which requested a feasibility review of the proposal by a taskforce, and to report on its findings to the 62nd IHP Bureau session,
- Taking note of** the IHP Bureau's consideration, at its 62nd session in February 2023, of the progress report on the feasibility, as well as of IHP Bureau's invitation to the Taskforce to report on the feasibility findings to the 26th session of the IHP Council,
- Acknowledges with appreciation** the contributions of the Taskforce Chair, Vice-Chair, Rapporteur and members and their nominating Member States to the feasibility review of the proposed ECOMED Academy network, as well as the work of W-Smart, the ECOMED Secretariat (Resolution XTR-IV-3) and the IHP Secretariat in facilitating the Taskforce meetings and deliberations, including the online survey,
- Takes note of** the interest of the Cyprus Institute and the University of Balamand to become the Host and the Co-Host of the ECOMED Academy with W-Smart as ECOMED Secretariat (Resolution XTR-IV-3),
- Takes note of** the feasibility conclusions and recommendations, outlined in the feasibility report (IHP/IC-XXVI/Ref.5.5), as well as of the results of the online survey carried out within the framework of the feasibility, annexed to the report,
- Requests** the Lebanese IHP National Committee to further develop the proposal of the ECOMED Academy network, taking into consideration the highlighted issues resulting from the survey and conducting necessary consultations with all relevant Member States in the Mediterranean region, as well as with relevant stakeholders, including international, regional and national organization with similar objectives, including possible cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the UNEP Programme for the Assessment and

Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (UNEP MED POL) and the Mediterranean Action Plan and other UN agencies, especially the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) and UNICEF in view of developing an implementation plan;

Invites

the Lebanese IHP National Committee, in consultation with participating Member States, to submit a revised proposal of the ECOMED Academy network, following the application process for the establishment of a new IHP initiative, in line with the relevant frameworks, for consideration by the IHP Intergovernmental Council at the 27th session, as a contribution to the IHP-IX Operational Implementation Plan;

Requests

the IHP Secretariat to facilitate, by providing guidance and advice, in the further development of the proposal, in line with the relevant frameworks;

Encourages

Member States to support this proposal.