

Event Report

Name of the event: Re-connecting Tourism with the biosphere: a Mediterranean Perspective

Type of event: Synergies with other projects

Date: May19, 2021

Number of participants: more than 40

Type of participants: local authority (based in Europe), Universities members, NGOs

Attachments: [News pre-event with agenda](#) - [News post-event with report](#) - [PPT Pierre Doumet](#) - [PPT Afker AbdelAziz](#)

Brief overview of the event and of the issues addressed in the event

The Biosphere Reserve of Jabal Moussa and the Biosphere Reserve of the Arganeraie took part on May 19, 2021 in the online workshop Re-connecting Tourism with the Biosphere: a Mediterranean perspective.

The workshop organised by UNIMED in the framework of the project Sustainable Tourism (co-funded by the InterregMED programme) brought together 4 speakers and more than 40 participants coming from the Northern and Southern Shores of the Mediterranean.

As this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the UNESCO's Man & Biosphere

Programme which stresses the importance of the sustainable connection between people and nature, particular attention was dedicated in this workshop to the development and management of sustainable tourism practices, initiatives and challenges in protected areas and in Biosphere Reserves.

Before the intervention of Mr. Doumet and Mr. AbdelAziz, in the workshop were showcased some results of two projects of the Interreg Med Sustainable Tourism Community: EMbleMatiC presented by Mr. Kostas Zapounidis and DestiMED Plus presented by Mr. Arnau Teixidor. Both the projects are developing measures towards the sustainability of the tourism in protected areas.

Contribution of the participant partners

Pierre Doumet, director of the Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa, Afker AbdelAziz, manager of the Biosphere Reserve of the Arganeraie, associated partner of Edu-BioMed provided a presentation of the respective Biosphere Reserves.

Above links to the PPT of Pierre Doumet and of Afker AbdelAziz

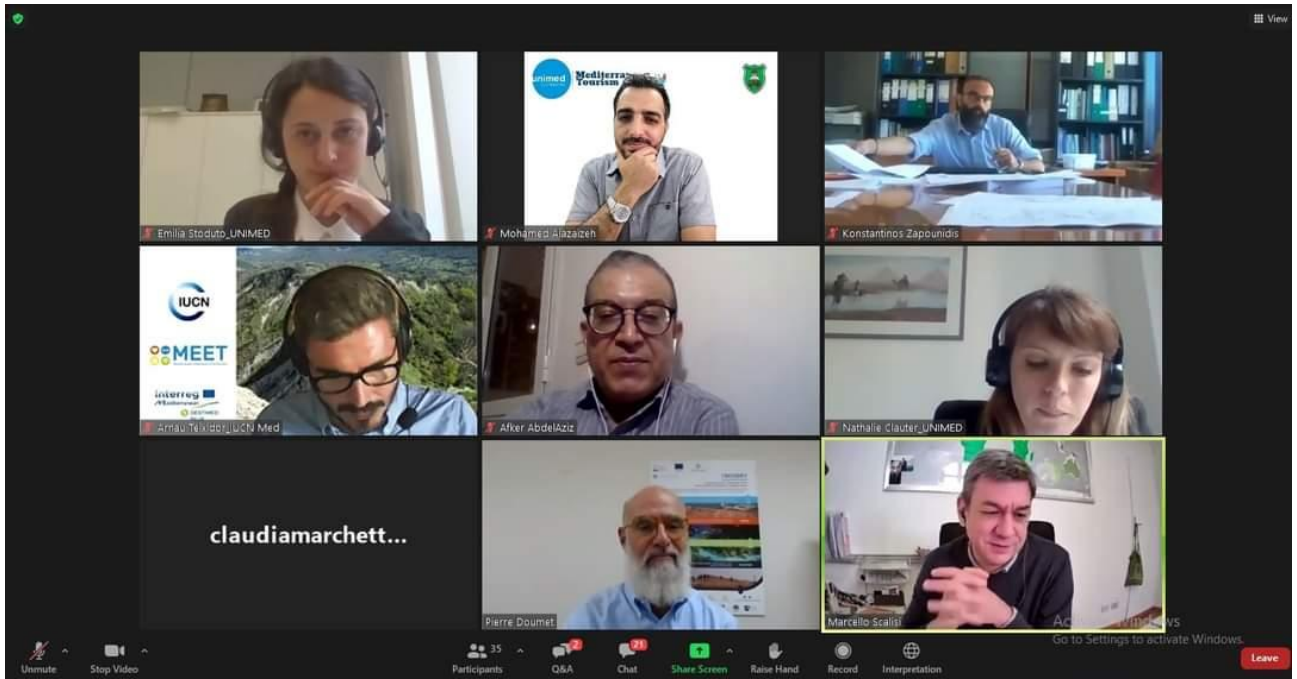
Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

Pierre Doumet, director of the Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa, presented the mission, the vision and the work's approach of Jabal Moussa. He also mentioned the importance of the MAB Programme and the work Jabal Moussa carries on also participating in the ENI CBC MED project CROSSDEV which focuses on less-known tourist destinations in 4 Mediterranean regions.

Afker AbdelAziz, manager of the Biosphere Reserve of the Arganeraie, associated partner of Edu-BioMed, introduced the aims and the values of the Biosphere Reserve and among the challenges for the management of the Biosphere Reserve, he highlighted the multiplicity of actors and the divergences of their visions. Furthermore, he also stressed how a project like Edu-BioMed is important as "it works towards a research more oriented to the needs of local populations, focusing on the needs of the people living in the Biosphere connecting real life to Higher Education. Research becomes a tool for the people in the Reserve and Universities become an actor for conservation."

A final element to the discussion was added by the UNIMED Director, Marcello Scalisi, who stressed the importance of the universities to contribute to the sustainability "Universities should work together on contributing to sustainability. Tourism is a key element in the Mediterranean Region and we should work jointly to support tourism, especially after the recent crisis, and look at it defending a different perspective."

EduBioMed



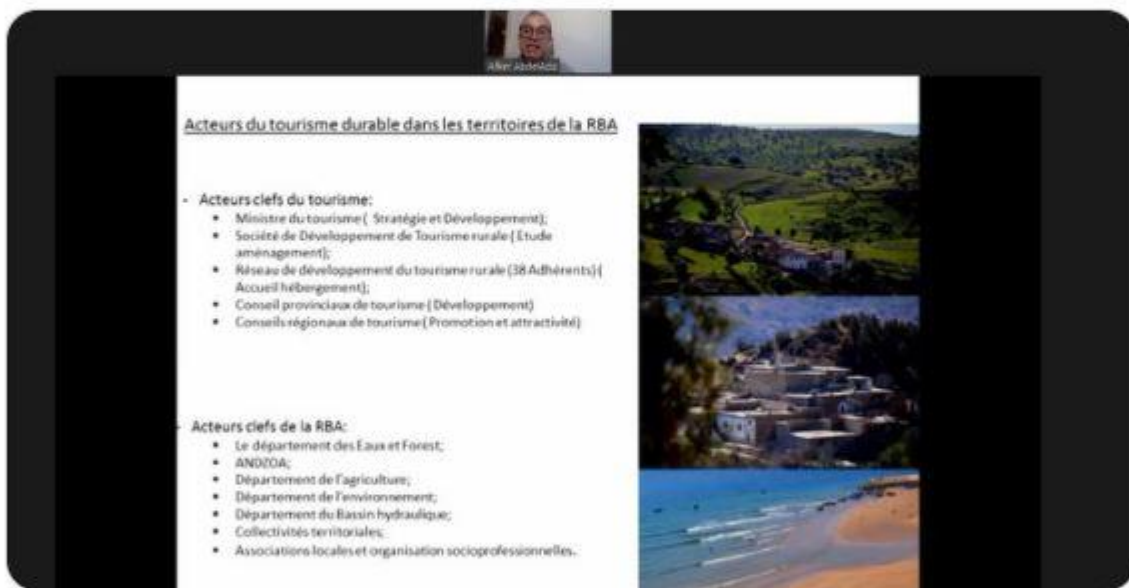




SustainableTourism
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Talk with Afker Abdel Aziz about the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve (RBA), and its role in the socio-economic development of Morocco and sustainable tourism in the area [#EduBioMed](#).



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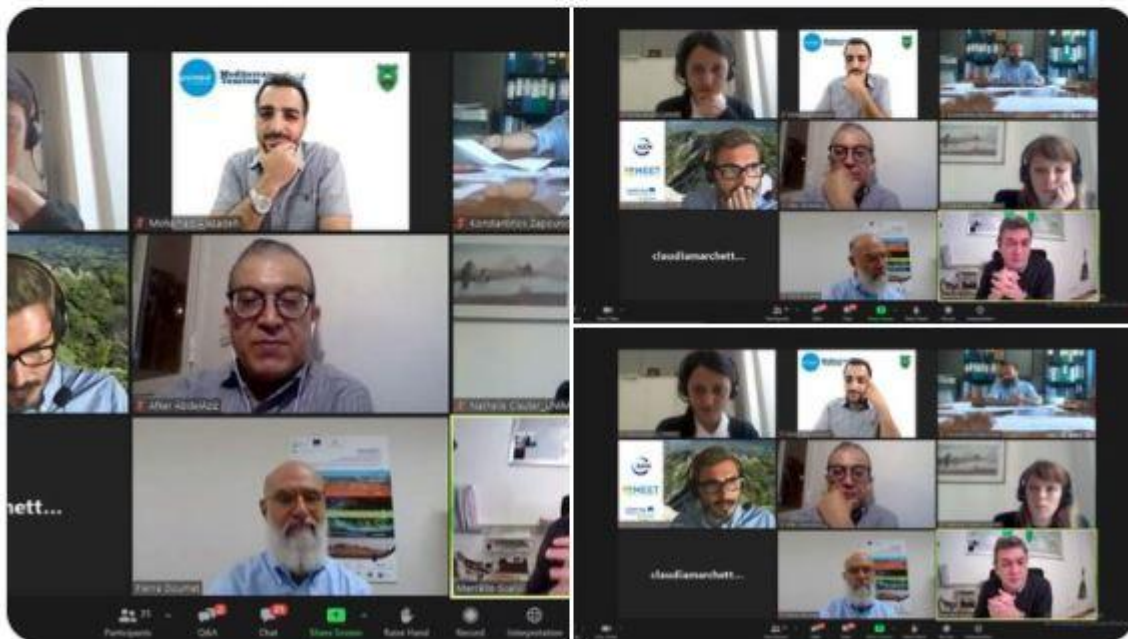


Great presentations and discussions at webinar: "Re-connecting Tourism with the Biosphere: A Mediterranean Perspective" to learn more about the importance of the sustainable connection between people and nature ..

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