Global eco forum
energy | cities | climate
forum & exhibition

FINAL REPORT 2015
Towards sustainable Mediterranean cities
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2015 was a critical year for the global sustainability agenda. First, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were approved with concrete environmental, economic and social targets to be reached by all countries. Secondly, the Paris conference on climate change committed world leaders to implement global ambitious mitigation and adaptation actions.

Between those two major events, Barcelona hosted the 2015 edition of the Global Eco Forum to discuss challenges and opportunities linking Energy, Cities and Climate in the Mediterranean region. With more than half of the global population living in urban areas and producing about 75% of carbon emissions, it is becoming clear that the race against climate change will be won or lost in cities.

On the first day, the Urban Energy Forum shared innovative visions and actions for the development of more sustainable and resilient cities based on energy efficiency and self-sufficiency. On the second day, the Climate Eco Forum reflected on the links between SDGs and Climate Change a few weeks prior to the Paris climate conference.

A great novelty of this edition of the Global Eco Forum was an attractive photography exhibition in the streets of Barcelona and Olot that showcased sustainable climate initiatives in Catalonia and beyond. During and after the event, speakers, participants and citizens were also able to engage in dialogue through various on- and off-line platforms.
The Global Eco Forum 2015, held at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site in Barcelona on October 22 and 23, gathered more than 400 attendees, 50 speakers and 2800 on-line participants from around 20 countries to reflect on the links between Energy, Cities and Climate in the Mediterranean region.

Cities, as major energy consumers, are contributing heavily to climate change. They are, therefore essential part of the solution to reduce carbon emissions, produce greener energy, promote sustainable lifestyles and, by extension, protect local communities from related environmental and social impacts such as natural disasters, political instability and social inequalities. All eco-forum’s participants voiced the need to apply a comprehensive, integrative and holistic understanding of sustainable development, ensuring local and cultural considerations are taken into account through meaningful multi-stakeholder participation from both the south and the north of the Mediterranean region.

As a whole, policy-makers, opinion leaders and decision-makers called for ambitious and innovative actions led by cities, regions and local communities to respond efficiently to the social, economic and environmental challenges of the Euro-Mediterranean area, in the context of the recently approved United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the political commitment of the COP21 Paris climate Conference.

A balanced mix of climate mitigation measures through energy decarbonization, resource efficiency, greener taxes and environmental education should therefore be complemented with adaptive actions based on information sharing, capacity building and protective infrastructures to strengthen the resilience capacity of cities against disruptive events while enhancing the quality of life of local communities and citizens.
1. THE GREAT URBAN ENERGY REVOLUTION DIALOGUE

Key Questions: How will cities manage the evolution of centralized energy grids into carbon-neutral and self-sufficient networks, providing energy for all? What would be the role of power utilities, technological suppliers, citizens and local administrations to construct and manage sustainable energy infrastructures that secure the supply of energy as a social asset?

Summary: Mobility, manufacturing, housing, food, waste are all energy-related urban phenomena that require creative solutions to reduce their climate impact. Increased density, appropriate technologies, behaviours and infrastructures can enable bold progress in the race towards zero-carbon cities. This Urban Energy forum brought together leading international experts to discuss disruptive initiatives and ideas on how to promote, develop and radically transform urban areas, so that they become genuinely environmentally sustainable, energetically self-sufficient and climate resilient.

Conclusions: What has been achieved in recent years shows that energy transition is technologically feasible in cities. However, economical and legislative hurdles are hindering a massive roll-out of renewable energy installations. Ambitious political commitment of local authorities, environmental awareness amongst the general population and removal of administrative red tape are required to reach zero-carbon energy production through mature and scalable solutions such as solar and biomass energy, widely available in the whole Mediterranean region.
Stuart Reigeluth, Founder, Revolve Media: “Visualising energy issues increases citizens’ awareness”
By visualizing the human dimension of water, energy and mobility initiatives in Mediterranean cities, the awareness of citizens, decision makers and policy makers can be increased in order to accelerate the transition towards sustainability.

Jose Etcheverry, Professor, York University: “Positive change depends on People”
Achieving 100% renewable energy requires ambitious political figures and committed policy makers. The promotion of greener energy can also improve the city landscape, for example by having aesthetically pleasing solar charging panels in parking lots. Health, employment and equity, amongst many other gains, are major benefits of renewable energy contributing to serve the real needs of people. The technology and the knowhow are already available, so now it is the turn of political leaders to show the will and imagination to implement positive change.

Merce Rius, Director, Catalan Energy Institute: “100% renewable energy is feasible”
Energy efficiencies and renewable energy can be catalyzed through technological innovation as well as a behavioural change. First, eco-friendly transportation ensures the reduction of carbon emissions as well as air and noise pollution. Secondly, renovated buildings decrease energy needs and stimulate the economy. Furthermore, reliable energy and information systems contribute to the optimization of energy use. As an example of political commitment, Catalonia has recently approved a national energy transition plan aiming to achieve a competitive and sustainable energy model based on 100% renewables energies by 2050.

Angel Gonzalo, Production Director, Gas Natural: “District climate can be built inside cities”
In Olot, a medium size city in the hinterland of Catalonia, a zero-carbon district heating and cooling network climate is being built in the old city center, using natural gas, biomass, geothermal and solar energy. Such complex and delicate infrastructures can be deployed thanks to the strong political support from the municipality, in despite of red tape and inadequate old-fashioned regulations. To move forward along the path of sustainability, low carbon energies such as natural gas will contribute to the energy transition as a complement to renewable energy and in substitution of coal and petroleum.

Stefan Schurig, director, Climate and Energy, World Future Council: “Renewable makes economic sense”
A huge paradigm shift is happening today to move from linear cities based on oil dependency towards regenerative cities with circular metabolism. Urban communities have to be built around eco-friendly planning models to avoid congestion and overwhelming air pollution. Therefore, the energy sector has to move from vertical production (mining and conversion) towards horizontalism (self-sufficient, local production). This revolution is accelerated by maturing technologies as well as new business models where consumers are becoming producers, benefiting innovative companies that are service-oriented rather than produce oriented.
2. THE LOW EMISSIONS MOBILITY DIALOGUE

**Key Questions:** Low carbon mobility solutions are already available but are still restricted to a small minority. How to overcome the gap between technology, consumer’s behaviours and economic sustainability to mainstream zero emissions mobility in cities?

**Conclusions:** With the clouds of the Volkswagen scandal hanging over, a broad consensus is emerging to reduce drastically polluting emissions from motorised transport in cities. The shift to electric-mobility, cycling and walking should be enhanced by offering reliable infrastructures and appropriate technical solutions to urban commuters. The associated health benefits are also highly appreciated by citizens and public authorities. At the same time public transportation and car-sharing initiatives are efficient ways to reduce the number of private vehicles in cities.
Vincent Rosso, Founder, Blablacar: “Sharing mobility is an evolutionary change”
The so-called collaborative economy allows individuals to share their private goods with other people for their mutual benefits. As such, car-sharing allows for cheap, flexible and efficient transportation between cities by matching adequately vehicles, people and infrastructure through on-line interfaces and real time information. By moving more people in fewer cars, it also reduces carbon emissions, optimizes traffic and increases road safety.

Andreas Rohl, Associate, Gehl Architects: “Think of people, not just infrastructures”
Good design starts by thinking of users, then observing the existing urban spaces and finally creating adequate physical structures. As an example, if commuters in Copenhagen use bikes to get to work, it is not primarily due to environmental concerns but rather as the most convenient, cheaper and comfortable way to move in the city. Urban planners should therefore make it the first choice for people to select sustainable mode of transport, either public transport, bicycles and/or walking, through reliable intermodality, affordable fares and convenient infrastructures.

Manuel Valdes, Mobility and infrastructure Deputy Director, City of Barcelona: “Safety, efficiency and equality are fundamental”
The responsibility of urban planners is to promote mobility using the least amount of energy while reducing pollution. Safety, sustainability, efficiency and equality are fundamental principles to be considered while planning urban mobility. Electric vehicles and bicycles are two complementary solutions currently being promoted in Barcelona. Public chargers for electric as well as hybrid vehicles have been installed in strategic locations. Hence, the focus should be on the development of a reliable and ubiquitous infrastructures for different modes of transportation.

Greg Archer, Clean vehicles Manager, Transport & Environment: “It is time to end our addiction to oil”
Moving towards an efficient electric and reliable transportation system requires integration of electromobility into smart and renewable energy grids. The barriers, specifically economic cost, which were once inhibiting these changes are starting to break down. Substantial political commitment is still needed to invest in greener public infrastructures and build environmentally-friendly vehicles. This shift can be catalyzed through heavy investment in green R&D as in Norway.
3. ENERGY & BUILDING WORKSHOP

**Key Question:** How to reduce energy consumption, while generating renewable energy within the same urban areas where it is being consumed?

**Conclusions:** The group, led by experts from different green-building entities, stated that the technology to develop zero-emissions building is already available and has been tested with satisfactory results. Now citizens and stakeholders have to be informed about associate benefits, in particular decision and policy makers to design the right urban planning and building regulations. Retrofitting existing building stock should also be prioritized to reduce the overall amount of greenhouse gas emissions in cities. Long term strategies are indeed necessary, in particular incentives for best practice such as sustainable building certifications to shine the spotlight on buildings that perform well.
4. ENERGY & CITIZEN WORKSHOP

**Key Question:** Can we open energy networks and share consumption and production data to increase energy efficiency and promote renewable sources?

**Conclusions:** The participants, primarily from technical professions or social entities working on energy networks and renewable energies, shared successful examples of communities that have managed to take the energy distribution in their own hands, shifting away from fossil to zero-carbon energy sources. This strategy can also be applied to achieve energy efficiency, recognizing that energy should be considered as a common good. The group concluded that the role of private enterprises has sometimes been problematic and the model of a collective energy provider could come in its place. To get this done, society should demand that the energy network be opened and decentralised, so that efficient and renewable generation of energy can be quickly implemented at an affordable cost for all.
5. WASTE & CITIES WORKSHOP

Key Questions: How to transform the flow of urban waste into quality nutrients feeding our cities in the framework of a circular and green economy?

Conclusions: The idea of materials being re-used through a circular economy is a motor for entrepreneurship and industrial innovation. Considering that these production and sales methods imply drastic changes at all company levels, young businesses, free from out-dated hierarchical structures, are better positioned to deal with these challenges. Companies present at the workshop explained how their new business models imply radical changes in relationships with suppliers and customers based on providing services rather than selling products as they had done previously.
6. FOOD & CITIZENS WORKSHOP

**Key Question:** How to reduce food waste, increase local production and promote healthier lifestyles in our cities?

**Conclusions:** The food sector is producing external waste through packaging and also internal waste due to mismanagement of the food itself. Initiatives like slow food movement, organic certification or 0 km-suppliers are trying to reduce environmental impacts of production though the reduction of emissions coming from transport and chemical inputs. As far as food waste is concerned, several initiatives are working to keep unsold food from supermarkets out of the dumpsters by redirecting quality food to social organizations. Public administrations are also adapting their regulations to enhance public awareness and allow flexibility in consumption requirements. In general, participants recognized that it is more efficient to change consumer behaviour, rather than working through the imperative of regulations.
7. PRODUCTIVE, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT CITIES DIALOGUE

**Key Questions:** Cities are going to suffer increasing disruptions due to climate change, geopolitical tensions, technological breakthroughs and demographic explosion. How to increase their capacity and capability to react to such unpredictable developments while guaranteeing quality of life for all citizens within the limits of our planet?

**Conclusions:** In an era of climate change, cities are increasingly going to be impacted by natural disasters, in particular floods, droughts, heat or cold waves. Therefore, they have to enhance their capacity to absorb disruptive or incremental shocks – so called resilience – in order to reduce human suffering, economic costs and social disruptions. Each city has to design its own resilience strategy based on dialogue with key stakeholders and commitments of all relevant private and public actors. This could be undertaken through conventional planning, scenarios analysis or infrastructure improvement as well as information sharing, awareness raising and capacity building activities.
Dan Lewis, Head of City Resilience, UN Habitat: “Cities have to absorb shocks and stress”
Urban resilience, defined as the ability of cities to absorb and recover quickly from the impact of shocks and stress created by climate change and natural disasters, requires cross-sectorial, integrated, flexible and collaborative actions. A new alliance focused on urban emergency response is emerging through UN to provide support to local authorities in developing countries. Civil society organizations, private and public bodies should collaborate together to achieve a truly resilient city.

Eva Herrero, Commissioner for ecology, Barcelona City Hall: “Barcelona aims to become a resilient city”
Barcelona aims to become a resilient city through appropriate prevention and detection mechanisms to warn of risks, improve response capability and minimize negative outcomes. A comprehensive urban resilience strategy is currently being developed to be approved by city hall and relevant stakeholders. Barcelona is also supporting UN efforts to promote urban resilience through control centers, risk analysis, multi-stakeholders partnerships.

Alessandro Galli, Head of Mediterranean, Global Footprint Network: “Cities are depending on external resources”
Mediterranean cities are consuming more natural resources than what is available per capita locally. Therefore, urban ecosystems depend heavily on external supply of energy, food and water. However, cities also offer economies of scale, resource efficiency, economic growth and socio-cultural benefits. They should not care just about climate change or waste management but rather develop an holistic approach that takes into consideration all the resources we consume and produce.

Ridha Abassi, Mayor, city of Kasserine, Tunisia: “Cities should be built in harmony with nature”
Kasserine, a medium-size town in Tunisia, is deeply impacted by poverty, pollution and crime. Poor rural inhabitants, attracted by unaffordable urban commodities, are at risk to fall under the control of terrorist groups. It is therefore crucial to transform those dysfunctional cities into ecological ones, by promoting renewable energy and greener residential and commercial development. This should be achieved through participative democracy where citizens get involved in the decisions of the city.

Richard Bellingham, Director, Institute for Future Cities: “Cities have to be tailored to people”
The idea of sustainability is not just a matter of achieving environmental goals but rather addressing all three, economic, social and environmental goals. Cities can contribute to tackle poverty, improve health and education, foster economic growth and reduce environmental impacts. A successful city should be inclusive and equitable (equal access to services education and employment), distinctive and unique (branding the city culture), flexible (diverse economy and adaptable social structures), and delightful (entertaining and creative).
DAY TWO: CLIMATE ECO FORUM

Summary: The 2015 Paris Climate Conference, also known as COP 21, is one of the largest international events ever held on climate change. This Conference taking place in Paris in December 2015 must result in an international agreement to limit global warming to below 2°C. This Forum therefore discussed the common challenges and economic opportunities behind the fight against climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean region and updated the participants on the state of negotiations before Paris summit.

1. OPENING OF THE FORUM

Welcome by Jérémie Fosse, director, eco-forum & president, eco-union followed by key note by Edouard Beslay, Consul General of France in Barcelona, and Janet Sanz, vice-mayor for ecology of Barcelona City Hall.

Opening, Climate Eco Forum (GEF2015)
2. THE RESOURCE, ENERGY AND WATER NEXUS DIALOGUE

**Key Questions:** In a climate change era with unreliable access to water, energy and raw materials, how can we promote the sustainable use and management of natural resources in territories and industries without harming economic and social development of the region?

**Conclusions:** The Mediterranean region is facing major challenges by having to provide enough food, water and energy for its increasing population in an area threatened by climate change with droughts, flooding and biodiversity losses. It is also facing serious economic consequences for local industries, such as tourism and agriculture. Strong policies and initiatives are therefore needed to promote sustainable use and management of natural resources at every level of society and without having a negative impact on economic and social development.
Kristian Petrick, Director, IEA-RETD & eco-union: “Renewables energies are key to sustainability”
There is a high risk of precipitations decrease that threatens Mediterranean countries with unreliable accessible water and less agricultural productivity. Renewables energies such as solar and wind energy require strong investments and Prosumers (= Producers + Consumers of electricity) who can make energy systems more reliable and resilient. It’s indeed by promoting the sustainable use and management of natural resources in territories and industries that we will be able to assure the ecological transition and support economic and social development of the region.

Jesús Calderer, Mayor of Cesc & Vice-deputy for environment, Barcelona Provincial Council: “Small cities need larger support to fight climate change”
The smaller the municipality, the more expensive are environmental issues compared to its economic capability. In a small municipality such as Cesc (Catalonia), climate relative cost doubles the one in larger cities. Collaboration between smaller municipalities and larger governmental bodies is therefore essential to fight climate change, such as the European Covenant of Mayors. The Barcelona Provincial Council is supporting local adaptation plans to climate change, in particular through the promotion of biomass energy. Which generates for local resources and creates jobs in the territory.

Michael Scoullos, Chairman, MIO-ECSDE & Global Water Partnership-Med: “Climate change isn’t just an energy issue”
Energy and water security are linked to the food and resources security. This security goes beyond physical availability due to complex interactions between natural and socioeconomics systems. It therefore requires variability and risk assessment focused on the individuals and environmental ecosystem needs. We need to have an adaptive management based on the application of best knowledge and systematic monitoring to analyze how the input actions served specific goals. This smart management also requires trans-disciplinary approaches, multi-level administrative cooperation and the development of a culture of innovation and experimental thinking.

Manel Giraldo, Sustainability Director, Agbar: “We have to change our way of thinking”
We need an international cooperation framework to assure water and energy access to all, It can be reached through renewed technologies and shared knowledge aiming at environmental sustainability together with economic and social development. The new Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) define objectives for the next 15 years for social inclusion and sustainable development by stopping degenerative consumption of common goods. Businesses plays a major part in this process by collaborating with the public sector and local citizens.

Samantha Smith, Leader, Global Climate & Energy Initiative, WWF: “It is all about politics”
The Mediterranean region includes different political, social and economic realities. Therefore it is not possible to talk about environmental issues without also thinking of the political, humanitarian and social crisis. Climate change will have direct impacts on the major industries of the region such as tourism and agriculture. Therefore the main challenges are adaptation to climate change, especially in southern countries; launch of a greener economy and sustainable finance creating better jobs; and good institutions and governments at all levels.
3. FINANCING AND BUILDING LOW CARBON, GREEN & INCLUSIVE ECONOMY DIALOGUE

**Key Questions:** Shifting to a low carbon economy requires massive public and private investments in cleaner infrastructures and greener businesses. How can we manage this ecological transition towards a green and inclusive economy?

**Conclusions:** In the context of climate change, our current way of life has to be rethought to reduce its environmental impact and generate positive socio-economic impacts. The establishment of a greener economy and inclusive growth must take into account the more fragile populations with lower resilience capacities. It is therefore necessary to fight social inequality and promote regional cooperation to move towards a more sustainable Mediterranean region. This can be achieved by greening the financial flows towards renewable energies development and low carbon infrastructures construction.
Javier Albarracin, Socio-Economic Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean: “The Mediterranean region is all inter-connected”

The Mediterranean region is an inter-connected ecosystem so if one part of it is affected, the rest of also suffers. The consequences of geopolitical instability and the refugee crisis are adding on climate disruptions. The fundamental tendency is a young and growing urban population, in particularity in the southern countries. Private and multilateral financial institutions are already investing millions of dollars to help the region to face these challenges. These pressures can be seen as threats, if nothing is done, or as opportunities if people really move forward the sustainability agenda.

Salvador Samitier, Director, Catalan Climate Change Office, Government of Catalonia: “We have to question our current system”

In order to tackle the challenge of climate change, the governments have to approve specific policies and regulations. As a regional government, Catalonia has clear goals in regards to mitigation and reduction of carbon emissions. The underlying line is to question the economic and social development that emerged from the industrial revolution and implement a new model based on social, economic and environmental sustainable principles.

Mohamad Sefiani, Mayor, city of Chefchaouen, Morocco: “Urban planning shall integrate environment”

Chefchaouen, a Moroccan city with 43,000 inhabitants, is undertaking large urban redevelopment projects to reduce energy use through public participation, awareness and communication campaigns. For example, the heating system of public swimming pools will be made with solar panels allowing users to enjoy the pools throughout the winter. It will be the first Moroccan city to apply these sustainable measures, beginning in public spaces and moving on to private spaces.

Herve Levite, Senior environmental Expert, Center for Mediterranean Integration (World Bank): “We need stable politics to tackle climate change”

In the World Bank, a program was initiated on green growth by taking into account the views of neighbouring countries. The key message is that good decisions can bring in co-benefits to a city such as better reputation and healthier life. However, with unstable political problems, environmental concerns fall behind. It is still necessary to measure the cost of natural degradation for each country and present the calculation in monetary terms that are more understandable for citizens.

Eva Buffi, Director, PPP for Cities, IESE Business School: “Good Public-Private cooperation is necessary”

As urban population is growing, the pressure on resources is increasing. Pollution is already one of the major issues in cities. To solve these environmental issues, private and public sectors have to cooperate to improve public services and the quality of life of urban dwellers. Businesses can bring their technical knowledge and financial capability. Public administration should define a sound legal and regulatory framework.
4. CITIZENS AND CLIMATE WORKSHOP

**Key Question:** What are the roles of citizens and cities to develop, support and implement commitments against climate change?

**Conclusions:** Although eco-conscious citizens are well informed and committed to mitigating climate change, it is not the same for the rest of the citizens. It is particularly hard to change bad habits in a context of economic crisis, when people are thinking of their own personal issues. However, when the environmental impacts can be touched or lived in first person by the citizens, the reaction is positive, as in the case of Barcelona drought a few years ago. Above all, workshop participants showed their worries regarding the weak perception that citizens have about the Climate Change and the lack of strong policies for reducing carbon emissions. One conclusion could be that it is necessary to align scientific analysis, political will and economic interests to really make change happens.
5. CAPITALISM, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

Key Question: How can business, entrepreneurs and capitalism integrate sustainability and stakeholders’ interest together for the common good?

Conclusions: Conscious capitalism applies the principles of a green economy by taking into account the stakeholders point of view. The workshop aims to inspire other businesses to embrace these principles by incorporating employees into internal improvement processes, investing in R&D for resource efficiency and the promotion of renewable energies. To inform the public, publicity should focus on honest and easily accessible messages involving all social media because change in society is often driven by consumer pressure, although companies can do their bit pro-actively and become more profitable and competitive in the process of sustainability.
6. CREATIVITY & SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

**Context:** The TRIP model (Touch get Ready and Impulse your Project) aims at empowering empathic leaders who are looking for ways to create and implement ambitious sustainability initiatives. It was a workshop about creativity, collaboration and innovation moving towards a green and sustainable future under the guidance of the professional dancer Helana Lizari and business coach Koos Vos.

Creativity and sustainable leadership workshop (GEF2015)
7. BUSINESS & COP21 WORKSHOP

**Key Question:** What are the expectations and opportunities to be taken to and from Paris summit by economic and industrial actors?

**Conclusions:** One of the key actions for businesses to become climate resilient is to put a price on carbon emissions in order to calculate adequately the real return on investment of the projects developed. Moreover, the usual organizational contingencies plan should integrate carbon issues on top of traditional energy forecasting. In general sustainability cannot be limited to a specific sector or organization. Rather, it must reach all the components of the society by becoming a way of producing and consuming. Participants expected the COP21 agreement to promote cooperation and joint efforts between countries and businesses to reduce emissions quickly.
8. THE CLIMATE, ENERGY AND SDGS DIALOGUE

**Key Question:** What are the synergies, challenges and opportunities between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Climate Summit expectations and global energy transition?

![Climate, Energy and SDGs Dialogue (GEF2015)](image)

**Conclusions:** Energy and climate are major issues directly inter-connected to the new Sustainably Development Goals (SDGs). To ensure a real and fast ecological transition, both the COP 21 agreement and the SDG’s have to lead to concrete results at all levels of society. Identifying synergies, challenges and opportunities between them is therefore necessary to build a greener, fairer and more inclusive society. However, we cannot expect magic solutions coming from global institutions, but instead all stakeholders must work on the ground to reinvent new environmentally-friendly economic and social developments models.
Pedro Ballesteros, DG Energy & Climate, European Emission: “We must unite those sharing the same goals”
It is important to understand the various ideologies of different world areas. Today there are more than 6000 representatives from different countries around the world trying to address the climate issue. Actually, climate change can be used as a good excuse to work on governance, and not only by reducing emissions but also to broaden opportunities to live and cope with climate change. The European Union wants to create a convenant for all cities to share the same vision towards zero-carbon emissions and resiliency. Essentially, mitigation, access to energy, and adaptation are three key components making up the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Faruq Ullah, Director, Stakeholders forum: “Mediterranean is a relevant study case”
There are three principle concepts that need to be implemented. First, universality: Sustainable Development Goals apply both to developing and developed countries so we have to think about how we can implement domestic policy here in Spain, in the EU and around the world. Secondly, transformationalism: How do we contribute to the global sustainable agenda to make a global impact? The goals are very ambitious but also very vague. Third, integration. We have to apply these goals together and in an horizontal and integrated manner. The Mediterranean bassin is a very important location to act as a case study on how to do things well.

Nicolas Debaisieux, Climate Change Advisor, Union for the Mediterranean: “We have to build a new model”
An important dimension of climate change is the cultural one. The current developmental model of northern countries is not replicable anymore but can be used as a reference for southern countries to avoid similar mistakes. The COP 21, aiming to reach peace, will be successful if it reaches several goals. First, it has to limit the increase of temperature by 2 degrees. Secondly, the agreement needs to be legally binding. Thirdly, we need to have the financial and economic means to fight climate change. We have to approach this in a comprehensive and bottom-up approach.

Arnau Queralt, Director, Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia: “Our goals have to be concrete”
It is necessary to make SDGs more concrete and to determine how we can apply them on a local scale and monitor them. The EU already has commitments for 2020 and 2030 with regards to carbon emissions. Subsequently, these measurements allow us to check whether we are doing things properly and respecting the different targets. We hope that these goals will act as a driver for sustainability transition. Nevertheless, although we have managed to reduce our CO2 emissions and greenhouse gases, we still have a long way to reach those goals.

Victor Vinuales, Director, Ecodes Foundation: “We have to believe that this is possible”
Holistic, integrated, global and interdependent solutions have to be developed to solve sustainability challenges. As such, the SDGs are inter-related and cannot be solved separately. This requires civil actors, governments and financial actors to act collectively for the common good. We also need to accelerate the path of change. Additionally, a long-term vision is needed. This means a radical and revolutionary change that implies doing many major actions in a short time. At this point in time we know what to do but we do not act fast enough.
SIDE-EVENTS & IMPACT

Several activities were organized before, during and after the eco-forum to raise awareness of citizens and institutions regarding the climate Paris Summit.

1. CLIMATE EXHIBITION

To visually illustrate the change towards a climate friendly society, a photographic exposition distributed in 10 towers was displayed in the streets of Barcelona and Olot. It showcased 40 flagship climate initiatives, of private and public institutions, in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain and other euro-mediterranean places.

2. ZERO-CARBON ENERGY TOUR

An electric bus took the participants to the Ecoenergies district heating and cooling plant in the Zona Franca district of Barcelona. This centrale provides energy, cooling and heat, from carbon neutral sources like biomass from the forests of Collserola, solar photovoltaic and recycled cold liquids coming from the adjacent liquefied gas plant in the port of Barcelona.
3. EURO SOLAR AWARDS

The European Association for Renewable Energy EuroSolar awarded annual prizes at national and European level to municipalities, enterprises, individuals, professionals and organizations active in promoting the use of solar energy. The 2015 Spanish awards were given to Esade Creapolis for its PV solar installation and electric vehicles fleet; ANPIER association for its project “Path of Sun”; Tomás Padrón for the Hierro Islands renewable energy strategy and Holtrop advocates for defending the rights of Spanish solar panel owners.

4. CLIMATE PARTY

A networking event was organized to promote dialogue and team building between the forum participants. Organic Mediterranean food was served with live music as a relaxing backdrop to conversation.

The invited artists, Carlo Maver and Rocco Papia, played their own compositions blending the Tango–Jazz and the Mediterranean atmosphere.
5. MEDIA IMPACT

The eco-forum attracted substantial media attention, in particular thanks to the partnership with ARA newspaper, Es Global magazine and public Catalan/Spanish radios and TVs.

6. NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

The networking activity was continuous during the two days with several parallel workshops, relaxing coffee and lunch breaks. As such, the eco-forum was a meeting place for professionals, organizations and citizens who work every day to create sustainable, inclusive and prosperous societies and try to promote the transition towards sustainability in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean area.
7. PARIS ROUND TABLE

A round table was organized in Paris during the COP21 Summit to present the outcomes of the eco-forum. Several key speakers from major Euro-Mediterranean institutions (MIO-ESCDRE, European Partners for Environment, Pyreneans Climate Change Observatory) were invited to share their expectations with regard to the COP21 agreement and the roadmap towards its implementation in the region.

8. KNOWLEDGE SHARING

All plenary sessions and interviews of international speakers have been recorded, edited and publicly shared in open and free on-line platforms: https://vimeo.com/album/3649794
9. ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

The event has been carefully designed to reduce its environmental impact and increase its social benefits by promoting on-line participation; prioritizing public transport; supplying organic and local food; reducing paper use and insuring badges recycling and non PVC displays. The residual C02 emissions, due mainly to the travel of international speakers was calculated and offset.

10. APP FOR SMARTPHONE

In order to facilitate sharing of information and connection between speakers and participants, an on-line app was developed and published on the main smartphone application platforms (Android and Apple).
11. SOCIETAL IMPACT

In order to guarantee the quality and relevance of the event, an on-line survey was conducted shortly after the forum with around 20% of answer rate. The results described below showed that the participants were satisfied with the event (92%) and received direct benefits (94%) by improving their technical knowledge (38%), increasing their sustainability commitment (27%) or developing new contacts (29%).
PARTNERS

This event has been possible through the continuous support and strong commitment of key private and public actors such as:

STRICT PARTNERS

ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

MEDIA PARTNERS