# PLASTIC BUSTERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA – A SOLUTION INITIATIVE

15April 2016 – Holger Kuhle UN-SDSN

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

# UN-SDSN

Launched in 2012 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

- to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise
- to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Following their adoption:

- to support the implementation of the SDGs at local, national, and global scales
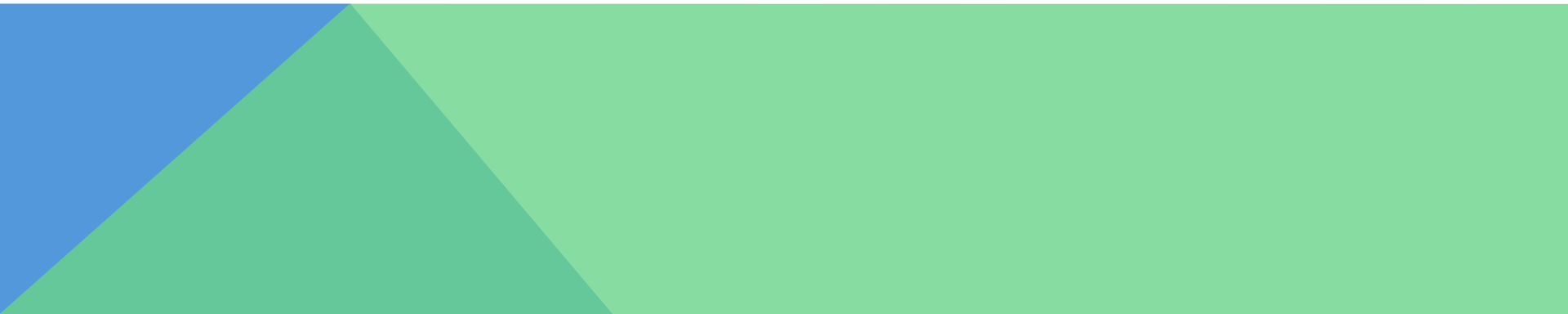
[www.unsdsn.org](www.unsdsn.org)

# UN-SDSN

1. Support the Open Working Group and other processes to develop post-2015 goals -
   -> Following their adoption: to support the implementation of the Agenda 2030 SDGs at local, national, and global scales

2. Organize Thematic Groups to identify long-term pathways to sustainable development

3. Promote testing, demonstration, development of promising *"Solutions Initiatives"*

4. Mobilize universities and other stakeholders around national and regional SDSNs for local and regional problem solving

5. To develop and disseminate online education materials for sustainable development.

# UN-SDSN - SOLUTION INITIATIVES

Practical initiatives involving technologies, business models, institutional mechanisms, and/or policies that are promising yet unproven or not yet commercially viable.

To address three common barriers inhibiting the deployment of solutions including

- Lack of awareness outside a narrow technical community;
- High transaction costs for convening co-dependent public and private stakeholders, including lack of political support;
- Long decision times due to lack of prioritization of a solution

# WHY UN-SDSN SUPPORTS THE SI *PB*?

- Serving the SDG [14—Conserve and Sustainably Use Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development](#) through identifying and implementing prevention and mitigation solutions

- Assessing current 'SDG status and better data becomes available
  - Inventory plastic pollution using sentinel species to detect content and effects of marine litter in different ecological compartments
  - Monitoring the impact and reduction of marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea
  - To stimulate evidence based debate and mobilise stakeholders for the SDGs
    - Launch and support campaigns to reduce the influx of marine litter
    - Identifying priorities for action
    - Promote policies to reduce plastic pollution

# WHY UN-SDSN SUPPORTS THE SI *PB*?

- Tracking progress over time & to align with policies to reduce plastic pollution:
    - Results of this project could be incorporated into Environmental Quality Standards that inform Mediterranean policy makers through indicators such as the Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the EU.

# THE UN-SDSN MED – *THE SI PB*

Launched in June 2013 at a conference hosted by the Regional Center, Siena University in Italy

Meeting convened stakeholders from about ¾ of the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea; many presented proposals of projects for possible collaboration

Stakeholders agreed to two priority areas: addressing climate change through emissions reductions from countries on the northern shore of the sea; <span style="color:red">addressing plastic waste in the sea with a focus on countries alone the southern shore and international shipping</span> (called Plastic Busters for the Mediterranean)

# WHY GIZ SUPPORTS THE SI *PB*?

GIZ "Support of UN-SDSN" including the *SI PB* through "seed funding"

- Topic on the agenda of development cooperation policy

- Demonstration of feasible solutions are appreciated

- Alignment to existing engagements, cooperation programs and initiatives (SWEEP-Net) & to support the involvement of the southern Mediterranean countries & the connection to engagement on land based litter

- Alignment to ongoing important initiatives of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and those led by the European Commission, such as the "Let's Clean Up Europe!" initiative in order to increase impact

- To obtain the step in and engagement of supporters and funders!

Thanks!

Any questions?