



المجالات - النقل والتنمية الحضرية

التصفح الخاص بك: الرئيسية < News / أبرز الأخبار / النقل والتنمية الحضرية < Promoting sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean region – launching of the second phase of the Urban Projects Finance Initiative

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The UfM workshop on Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI) brings together for first time all relevant stakeholders and promoters involved in this initiative, marking the start of its second phase.

The Minister of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Areas of Egypt, Laila Iskandar, the Secretary of State for Housing of the Government of Tunisia, Anis Ghdira, and the mayor of Jericho (Palestine), Mohammed Jalayta, attended the workshop, which gathered 60 participants of 15 UPFI projects from 6 countries.



Barcelona, 9 June 2015. The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) holds today the Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI) Workshop in its headquarters at Palau de Pedralbes, Barcelona.

This one-day workshop, which brings together for the first time all actors involved in the UPFI process- namely project promoters, financial partners and consultant teams-, marks the start of the second phase of the UPFI.

The purpose of UPFI is to identify and select sustainable and innovative urban development projects that offer bottom-up, regionally replicable solutions to the major urban development challenges facing the region.

While first phase of the initiative consisted in the selection of the projects and the definition of the Technical Assistance needed, the second phase will focus on the implementation of the identified Technical Assistances with a view to ensuring the projects' bankability by International Finance Institutions.

Today's workshop gathers major urban planning players such as the Minister for Urban Renewal and Informal Areas of Egypt, Laila Iskandar; the Secretary of State for Housing of the Government of Tunisia, Anis Ghdira and the mayor of Jericho (Palestine), Mohammed Jalayta. Among the 60 participants, there were as well representatives of 15 UPFI projects from 6 countries, namely Bouregreg-Rabat Salé, Tétouan, Benguerir and Agadir (Morocco); Gabes, Sfax-Taparura and Médinas (Tunisia); Imbaba-Giza and Esna (Egypt); Nablus, Bethlehem and Jericho (Palestine); Lod (Israel); and the Il .Project of local and regional development (Jordan), attended the one-day meeting

The UfM Secretariat plays a role of "trust third party" amongst different countries for the exchange of information and the projects implementation to be assured and for the cooperation logics to prevail because this is what makes it more efficient and visible the action of each partner", said Secretary General Fathallah Sijilmassi during the workshop. *"The Urban Project Finance Initiative (UPFI) can be an example for other fields in which regional cooperation represents a real added value",* added Sijilmassi

UPFI is one of the pillars of the Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Urban Development Strategy, as stated in the declaration of the [First Ministerial Conference of the UfM on Sustainable Urban Development](#), held in Strasbourg on 10 November 2011. The initiative was launched during the [Senior Officials Meeting on 7 April 2014](#), and received the endorsement of the representatives of the 43 UfM member countries. Three projects have already been labelled by the UfM under the framework of this initiative: the Imbaba .Upgrading Project, the Sfax Taparura project and the Bouregreg Valley Development

UPFI is managed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) with the support of the European Commission and under the umbrella of the UfM Secretariat. The KfW Development Bank, the Caisse des Dépôts (CDC), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Finnish Cooperation are closely associated, whilst other IFI's and .investors have expressed their interest

The holding of this workshop, gathering all relevant Euro-Mediterranean institutions and stakeholders operating in the field of sustainable urban development, gives evidence of the role of the UfM Secretariat as an operational platform to foster coordination efforts, by drawing on the synergies with and between .institutions, stakeholders, cooperation schemes and donors

PROJECTS LABELLED

Imbaba Upgrading Urban Project

The main objective of this project is to strengthen the integration of Imbaba, one of the most populated and unplanned urban areas of Egypt, with the city of Cairo by providing its 700,000 inhabitants with the basic facilities, infrastructure and services which are currently lacking

Sfax – Taparura

Sfax is a coastal city open to the Mediterranean. It is the second biggest city of Tunisia and the most important industrial and commercial centre in the south of the country. Site of the phosphate industry, it has suffered from significant pollution which has hampered its development. After the depollution of the northern coast of the city, the project foresees the rehabilitation of its beaches and the creation of 420 .hectares of land to extend the metropolitan area

Bouregreg Valley Development

The project aims to develop new neighbourhoods for professional and residential use (to achieve social diversity), as well as public amenities and spaces. It will preserve cultivated land, create natural ecological spaces, undertake reforestation actions and restore water courses that present a risk of gully erosion and landslides. It will also promote an integrated development meeting the area's present and future needs, including landmark facilities that benefit the entire metropolitan such as a hospital and the .rehabilitation of Chellah