



Local 2030 Islands Network

Barcelona, 4 July 2023

## PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

Dear Colleagues,

The Mediterranean Sea is host to 10.000 islands, 2.000 of which are home to stable dwellings, societies, economies, with 2 of them – Cyprus and Malta – being Island States. These islands represent a treasure of diversity both cultural and natural; they often played a crucial role in the development of the whole Mediterranean civilization, and together with Crete, Pathmos, Santorini, Sardenia hundreds more could be mentioned; many are still centers of fair income generation, especially with their role in agriculture, fishing, and tourism; and all display a huge potential to contribute to the general advancement of a sustainable transition.

Yet, these islands are in danger. As fragile and exposed ecosystems, and delicately balanced societies that express the positive potentials of such ecosystems, more than anyone else the Mediterranean Islands face the threat of a fast-paced climate crisis: while the waters of the Sea are globally the fastest warming and fastest rising, the Mediterranean basin warms 20% faster than the global average, and that the region is one of the main climate change hotspots in the world, where 250 million people are projected to be considered “water poor” within 20 years. With current policies, temperatures are expected to increase by 2.2°C (compared to pre-industrial level) by 2040.

Actions adapted to insular specificities have been undertaken in the Mediterranean - in some sectors like clean energy generation and self-sustaining renewable-based independence, waste management, or agriculture - it is still a rush against time to build overall resilience. And while such islands will be victims of exacerbated climate impacts, they are also home of solutions, many of which representing a contemporary version of millenary traditional knowledge, such as the techniques that allowed some islands to thrive as centers of civilization even lacking springs of fresh water and with elaborate systems of rainwater collection.



But no-one is an island: in a time of accelerated crisis, relying on collaboration and exchange of best practices is crucial. For this reason, the Union for the Mediterranean – a 43 Member States Intergovernmental Organization and the only such body with a geographic competence over the Mediterranean region – hereby proposes to join as partner the LOCAL Island Network.

Confident that such proposal will meet your interest, with kindest regards,

Grammenos Mastrojeni

Senior Deputy Secretary General