

Special Edition 2023

Building and construction sector

Initiated by the French Agency for ecological transition (ADEME), with support from its Mediterranean and international partners, these Awards are inviting all stakeholders in rural, urban or coastal areas to showcase their climate change adaptation action from the Mediterranean countries.

The mediterranean basin: a climat hotspot

The Mediterranean basin, with its 500 million inhabitants, is the second-most impacted area by climate change after the Arctic, as shown in the MedECC (Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change) report.



Adaptation to climat change: major challenges for the building and construction sector

In Mediterranean area, two in every three people are living in urban areas. Population densities in coastal areas have continued to increase at unsustainable rates over the last decade. Over 1965 - 2015, urban pressures increased in 75% of Mediterranean countries; particularly, built areas doubled or more than doubled within one kilometre from the sea. By around 2030, around 42 million additional dwellings are needed mainly in the cities (SoED, Plan Bleu, 2020) to cover the needs.

The need for new construction, private, tertiary offices or holiday accommodation is also estimated at 600,000 per year by 2025, by ASCAME. Currently, the building sector, in the Mediterranean basin, represents around 35% of final energy consumption. The dual phenomena of coastal densification and urbanization amplify the pressures and risks in the Mediterranean, and contribute to a significant deterioration in living conditions, particularly for the most vulnerable. The construction sector is particularly affected by these adaptation issues.

Solutions exist to adapt this sector and to improve thermal comfort in buildings: massification of energy renovation measures, new bioclimatic constructions, passive ventilation and shading measures, use of local bio-sourced materials, installation of heat and cold networks, etc. They can be combined with more appropriate urban planning: nature-based solutions, vegetation, use of low albedo materials for construction. Overall, these measures make it possible to reduce energy consumption and the use of air conditioning, a real climate "time bomb" especially in the Mediterranean.

A MAJOR ISSUE: Changing construction practices for resilient buildings and cities

- Reduce urban heat islands, and its consequences on health and energy consumption regarding air conditioning.
- Mitigate the decrease in the availability of city water resources.
- Limit the impact of heavy rainfall / flooding runoff in a context of growing artificial soil.



A special edition recognizing the best privat and public projects inspired by the 10 key principles of GlobalABC¹

- 1 Urgency: act now
- 2 Stakeholders: consider a systemic integration of measures for adaptation across the entire value chain
- Process: consider adaptation along the entire lifecycle of an asset
- Mitigation: implement adaptation and mitigation in tandem
- Data: understand climate risk data and accept uncertainty
- 6 Scale: think beyond asset-level

- **Green:** consider nature-based solutions
- **People:** promote a "just adaptation" of the building sector
- **Finance:** enable adaptation of the building sector
- Local: fit adaptation measures to the local context



Special edition - Winners -



Renewable energy and energy efficiency for public schools in vulnerable communities in Jordan

Jordan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund (JREEEF)



Building retrofitting and improving energy efficiency for Palestinian refugees in Qaddoura camp

Palestine Green Building Council (PalGBC)



Production of drinking water. Sun Air Fountain® solution

Agua de Sol

Get inspiration from the projects highlighted in previous editions

The aim of these awards is to encourage other territories to adapt to climate change by drawing inspiration from the winning projects. Previous editions have identified over 100 projects from 18 countries around the Mediterranean. More than 15 of them were significantly highlighted and illustrate what could be possible in urban, rural, mountain or coastal contexts.

¹ Adaptation of the building sector to climate change: 10 principles for effective action https://globalabc.org/resources/publications/adaptation-building-sector-climate-change-10-principles-effective-action

A Capitalization synthesis and a brochure presenting 12 case studies is also available in 3 languages on ADEME's library.

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