

AMWAJ  أمواج

Value Mediterranean Ecosystems



# Annual Report

## 2024

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# 00 2024 at a Glance

## Our members in 2024



REVOLVE



## Our audience

LinkedIn followers  
**4,721**

Newsletter subscribers  
**2,672**

Website visitors  
**11,763**

Instagram followers  
**769**

Tayyarat articles published  
**12**

Pageviews  
**20,017**

Tabadul webinars  
**2**

Media partners  
**20**

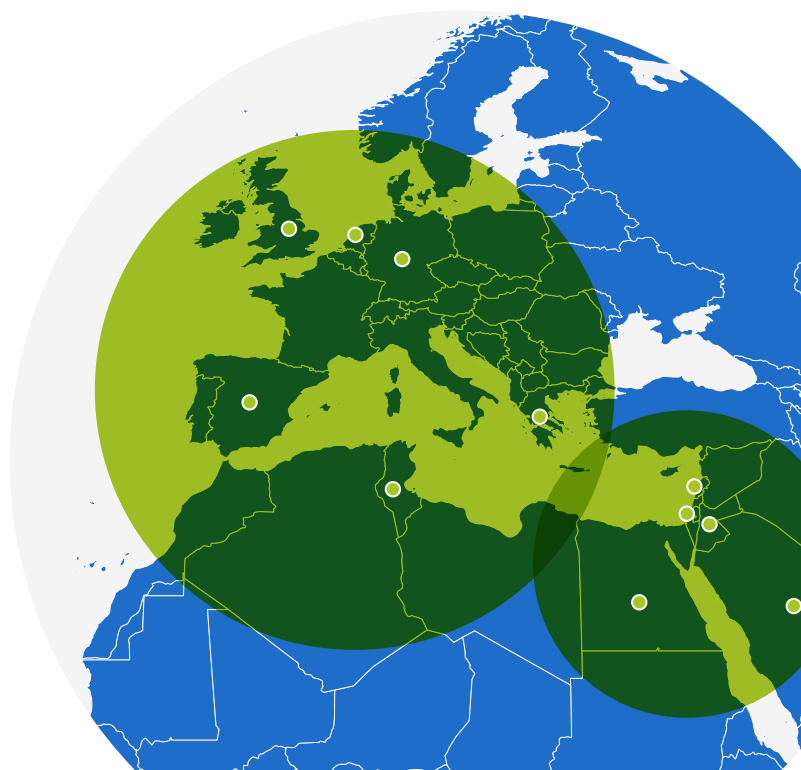
WhatsApp community members  
**350**

LinkedIn newsletter subscribers  
**1,953**

Community of members  
**8**

## Website users

- Spain **1,926**
- Germany **1,431**
- United States **1,106**
- Egypt **595**
- Lebanon **587**
- Netherlands **378**
- United Kingdom **316**
- Russia **290**
- Turkey **285**
- Belgium **281**



# 01 Introduction

The AMWAJ Alliance is a community of like-minded media professionals and organisations with the common goal of promoting communication on water issues in the Mediterranean. In 2024, AMWAJ focused on building a stronger and more connected community and supporting young journalists in the Mediterranean. In addition to strengthening its regular activities such as events (Tabadul), content development (Tayyarat) and the alliance's existing network, the AMWAJ team launched a WhatsApp community to improve fluid communication and the sharing of knowledge and resources among members. The community has been a great success, gaining a high level of membership in a short period of time, with regular and insightful exchanges. The WhatsApp community was highlighted by members as a great resource, not previously available in the Mediterranean region, to connect professionals, researchers and journalists/communicators working on sustainability issues.

In terms of supporting young journalists, the AMWAJ Alliance launched the first call for the AMWAJ Fellowship Programme for Journalists in 2024. The call was aimed at young journalists with less than 5 years of experience in Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries. With great success in the number and quality of the applications (a full report can be found [here](#)), the selection committee finally selected the Moroccan journalist Basma El Atti as the first AMWAJ Media Fellow, who will receive financial and mentoring support from January to April 2025.



## 02 Tayyarat - تيارات

Articles

# 12

Tayyarat - تيارات (“currents” or “streams” in Arabic) stands for AMWAJ’s stories. It collects opinions, stories and insights around water, energy and sustainability around the Mediterranean. In 2024, Tayyarat focused on environmental justice. We highlighted the unequal impact of climate change on different groups in Mediterranean societies and presented narratives and initiatives that resist, innovate and adapt in the face of environmental injustice

Highlights:







## تيارات - Tayyarat

### 1. War and Environment in Syria: How Conflict Shapes Forests

21 JUNE 2024

This interview with Angham Daiyoub (CREAF) highlights the often underestimated and understudied environmental impacts of armed conflict in Syria, which extend into social and economic spheres and can influence peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts. Angham Daiyoub, a pre-doctoral researcher at CREAM, one of AMWAJ's members, focuses on environmental justice, particularly in Syria. In her study, published in July 2023 in the peer-reviewed journal *Land*, Angham and her colleagues explored the correlation between armed conflict and deforestation in Syria. Using satellite imagery, the study revealed that Syria lost approximately 20% of its forests between 2010 and 2019 due to the civil war. In her interview with Mariam Younes from AMWAJ, Angham discusses the causes of forest depletion and its broad impacts on Syria's environment, society and economy.

Read the article here:

[AMWAJ | War and Environment in Syria: How Conflict Shapes Forests](#)

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## تيارات - Tayarat

### 2. Heat-Stricken Bus Terminal: Ilidža's Urban Heat Island and Health Impact

18 DECEMBER 2024

This article looks at how the urban heat island effect affects Ilidža, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lack of greenery and shade at the local bus station shows how extreme heat affects health, infrastructure and ecosystems. This phenomenon increases health risks, reduces productivity, damages critical infrastructure in transport, energy and health, and exacerbates environmental challenges such as water scarcity and crop failure, leading to food insecurity. Research from a CENER 21 study shows urban populations are more sensitive to temperature changes than rural populations, with variations from month to month. Disease incidence decreases in urban areas during autumn transitions, but increases more in warmer months than in rural areas.

Read the article here:

[Heat-Stricken Bus Terminal: Ilidža's Urban Heat Island and Health Impact](#)

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## تيارات - Tayyarat

### 3. WE&B Promotes Innovative Solutions and Stakeholder Action in Tunisia

28 NOVEMBER 2024

In this article, Nicolás Marín discusses Tunisia's worsening water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change. With annual water consumption below 430 m<sup>3</sup> per capita and a high water stress index, demand and coastal aquifer salinisation could push the country to a critical point. Tunisia has implemented several initiatives, including its 2015 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). A key example is the VaLEUr-Gabès programme, in which AMWAJ members WE&B and MedCities played a central role. In collaboration with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) and the Municipality of Gabès, and funded by the EU Delegation to Tunisia, WE&B led a study on non-conventional water resources and developed a municipal water management plan for Gabès between 2021 and 2022.

Read the article here:

[WE&B Promotes Innovative Solutions and Stakeholder Action in Tunisia](#)

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## تيارات - Tayyarat

### 4. White Phosphorus – The Overlooked War Against Infrastructure and Environment in South Lebanon

27 FEBRUARY 2024

Mariam Younes examines the 50% surge in Lebanese olive oil prices in 2023, hitting USD 150 per jerrycan. This was due to Lebanon's economic crisis, poor harvests and production cycle. The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah also played a role. Since 8 October, air strikes on Lebanese villages near the Israeli border have prevented residents from harvesting olives and destroyed trees, particularly with white phosphorus attacks. Many trees, some decades old, have been burned. Experts are concerned about the long-term effects of white phosphorus on soil and water. A full assessment will be possible once the conflict is over.

Read the article here:

[AMWAJ | White Phosphorus – The Overlooked War Against Infrastructure and Environment in South Lebanon](#)

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## 03 تبادل - Tabadul

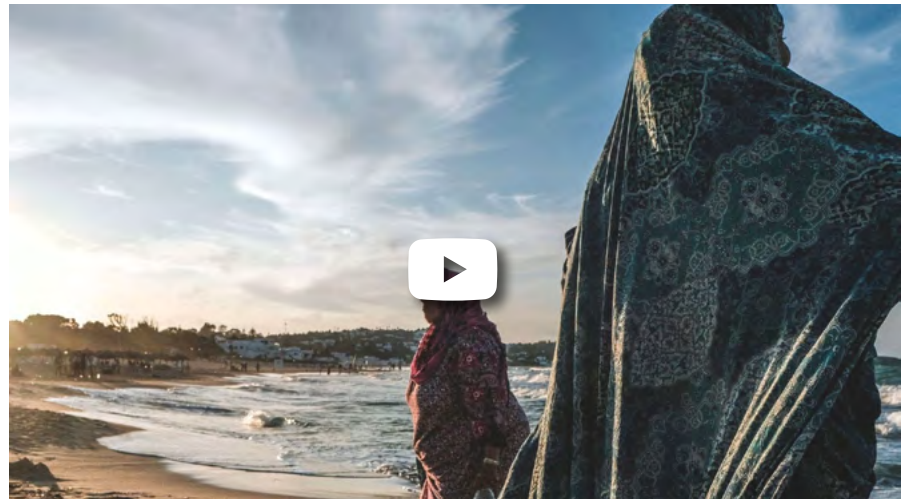
Exchanges

02

Participants

110

AMWAJ YOUTUBE  
PLAYLIST



### Description

Tabadul - **تبادل** ("exchange" in Arabic) is a space to connect inspiring initiatives and to enhance knowledge exchange on communication best practices.



## Tabadul - تبادل

### Mediterráneo Vivo: Exploring the Future of Our Ecosystems

22 MARCH 2024

For World Water Day, AMWAJ hosted the Tabadul event Mediterráneo Vivo: Exploring the Future of Our Ecosystems at the Centro Cultural Jacaranda in Godella, Valencia, Spain. The event was led by Patricia Carbonell, in collaboration with REVOLVE, Amigues de la Terra València and Cuidem Godella. It explored how to promote community action for its restoration and conservation. How can we protect our Mediterranean environment in the face of climate change, desertification and biodiversity loss? The event brought together experts and enthusiasts to explore practices for restoration and conservation, while showcasing ongoing initiatives to address these challenges. The roundtable discussion featured panelists. Amanda Subiela, an environmental expert from Amigues de la Terra Valencia, shared examples of successful awareness-raising campaigns in the region. Diego S. Intrigliolo Molina, a senior scientist, provided key data on desertification in the region and highlighted actions to combat it. Juan Solves, a photographer, and Vicente Muñoz, a boatman, discussed the evolution of La Albufera as a natural and cultural site in Valencia. The panel discussion and Q&A were moderated by REVOLVE's Patricia Carbonell, AMWAJ's Communications Manager.

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More info here:

[Mediterráneo Vivo: Exploring the Future of Our Ecosystems | AMWAJ](#)





## تبادل - Tabadul

### Fighting Disinformation: Tools and Strategies for Fact-Checking

25 NOVEMBER 2024

On Mediterranean Day, AMWAJ hosted the event Fighting Disinformation: Tools and Strategies for Fact-Checking at its second Tabadul in 2024. The region faces climate challenges, often exacerbated by misinformation.

The online event, moderated by Patricia Carbonell, featured a panel of fact-checking experts debunking myths and sharing tools to combat climate-related disinformation, focusing on the Mediterranean. Participants learned about myths and effective fact-checking techniques using real-life examples and audience questions.

More info and the recording here:

[Fighting Disinformation: Tools and Strategies for Fact-Checking | AMWAJ](#)

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## 04 Community

LinkedIn  
followers

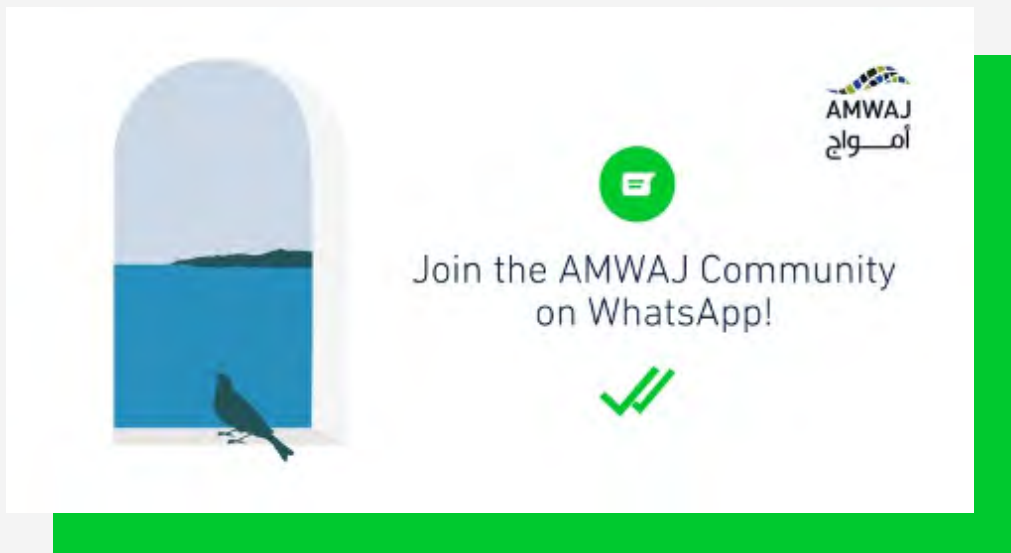
4,721

Instagram  
followers

769

WhatsApp  
followers

350



### WhatsApp Community

The AMWAJ WhatsApp Community was created in June 2024 and includes 350 participants as of December 2024. It aims to facilitate information exchange, foster collaboration, and build an expert network across the Mediterranean region. The AMWAJ Community comprises journalists, academics, professionals, and experts, primarily focusing on environmental topics, from across the Mediterranean region and beyond. Official AMWAJ updates and announcements are shared via the dedicated Announcement channel within the WhatsApp Community to enhance the visibility of AMWAJ's activities. Members are encouraged to actively contribute to the Community by sharing updates about their own events, calls for participation, opportunities, or potential collaborations. This collective approach fosters greater engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaboration across the network.



### Social media campaigns

#### #AMWAJOpportunities

In 2024, AMWAJ launched the weekly social media campaign #AMWAJOpportunities, sharing every Wednesday job opportunities, events, calls, scholarships, courses and trainings from different organisations across the Mediterranean. The campaign has been very well received by the audience, with high engagement and interest in the series, and has led to an increase in AMWAJ's visibility on LinkedIn in particular.

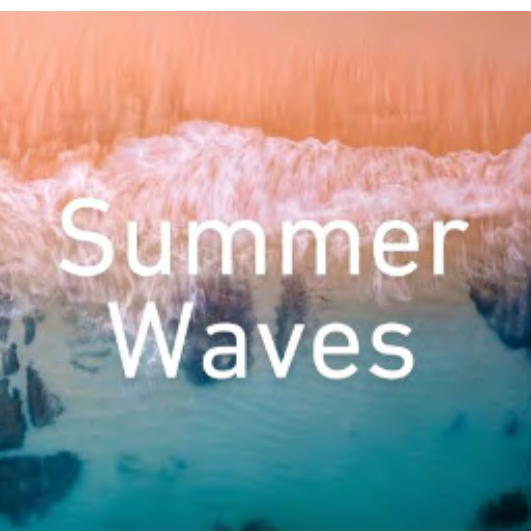


### AMWAJ Fellowship Program for Journalists

#### #AMWAJFellowship

SEPTEMBER 2024

The campaign was put in place to promote the call for applications of the 1st edition of the AMWAJ Fellowship Program for Journalists. The hashtag was used to engage and reach journalists from Mediterranean countries to get at least 100 applications to the fellowship call from the targeted countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Türkiye, and Cyprus.



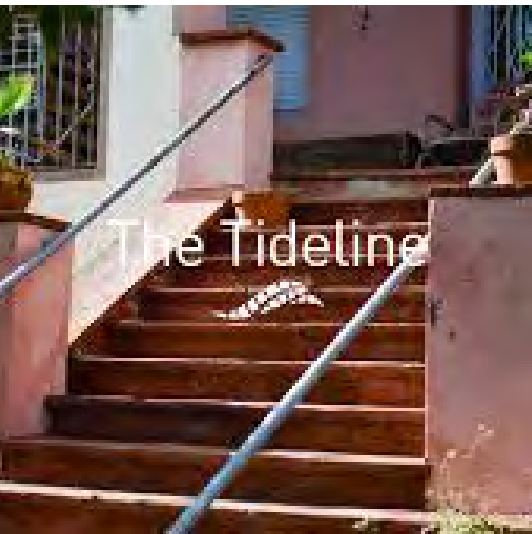
### Spotify

AMWAJ team curated a special **Spotify playlist** to bring the vibrant sounds of summer from across the Mediterranean. This playlist captures the essence of countries surrounding the Mediterranean.

Check the list here:

[Summer Waves - playlist by AMWAJ Alliance | Spotify](#)





### **The Tideline – AMWAJ Newsletters**

The AMWAJ newsletter, The Tideline, is a monthly publication distributed via classic email and LinkedIn. The classic email newsletter primarily features updates from AMWAJ and its members. In contrast, the LinkedIn version places greater emphasis on articles from AMWAJ, its members, media partners, and Mediterranean networks.

#### **The Tideline – AMWAJ**

[Email Newsletter: The classic email newsletter has 2,672 subscribers.](#)

#### **The Tideline – AMWAJ**

[LinkedIn Newsletter: The LinkedIn version of the newsletter has 1,953 subscribers.](#)



### **X (Twitter)**

AMWAJ's X (Twitter) account is no longer active. Discover REVOLVE's manifesto explaining the decision to discontinue X accounts across its network.

[Ethics & Compliance | REVOLVE](#)

## New Collaboration Announcement

Creating impactful communication in the Mediterranean!



### Networks and Connections

#### Collaboration with the Switchers

AMWAJ is collaborating with The Switchers, a Mediterranean community focused on environmental sustainability. The Switchers promote innovative green and circular business solutions in sectors such as agriculture, construction, ecotourism, energy and waste management. The platform supports sustainable businesses with services including market access, knowledge sharing, funding, training and networking.

Learn more about the Switchers here: [Home | The Switchers.org](https://www.the-switchers.org)

#### Members of the Mediterranean Action Plan

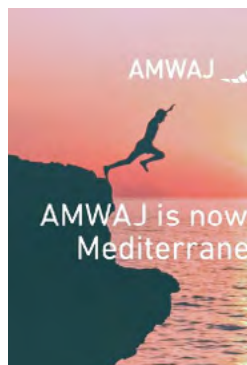
AMWAJ has become a member of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the system of the Barcelona Convention, works with Contracting Parties and partners to achieve the vision of a healthy Mediterranean Sea and coastline that underpins sustainable development in the region. The MAP was established in 1975 as a multilateral environmental agreement under the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Learn more about the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP): [Home | UNEP MAP](https://www.unepmap.org)

### AMWAJ Internal Events

#### 7th and 8th AMWAJ General Assemblies in Barcelona

AMWAJ team held the 7th General Assembly on 11 June 2024 and 8th General Assembly on 21 November 2024 in Barcelona with members, journalists and professionals joining both in-person and online. The AMWAJ General Assembly is held twice a year, offering a platform to reflect on the achievements of the past six months, share upcoming plans with AMWAJ members and journalists, and exchange updates, feedback, and ideas. It serves as a valuable moment for reflection, collaboration, and the sharing of information.





### Communication Tools



The AMWAJ website was revamped bringing a fresh and more dynamic feel to AMWAJ's identity, enhancing its story and the visualization of the results and activities achieved so far.

### External events

#### AMWAJ at the Spanish Network of Anna Lindh Foundation and European Institute of the Mediterranean in Barcelona

AMWAJ was present at the XXIII gathering of the Spanish Network of Anna Lindh Foundation and European Institute of the Mediterranean in Barcelona, by Marion Karam and Emin Yigit Koyuncuoglu.



#### AMWAJ at the European Urban Resilience Forum

The AMWAJ team took part in the European Urban Resilience Forum (#EURESF024), held from 26–28 June 2024 in Valencia as part of Valencia Cities Climate Week. The event coincided with the Cities Mission Conference and the Energy Cities' Annual Forum.



#### Science Journalism Forum 2024

AMWAJ was a Community Partner for the Science Journalism Forum 2024 (#SJF24). As part of this collaboration, free and discounted tickets were distributed to AMWAJ community members.



## 05 Media Partners

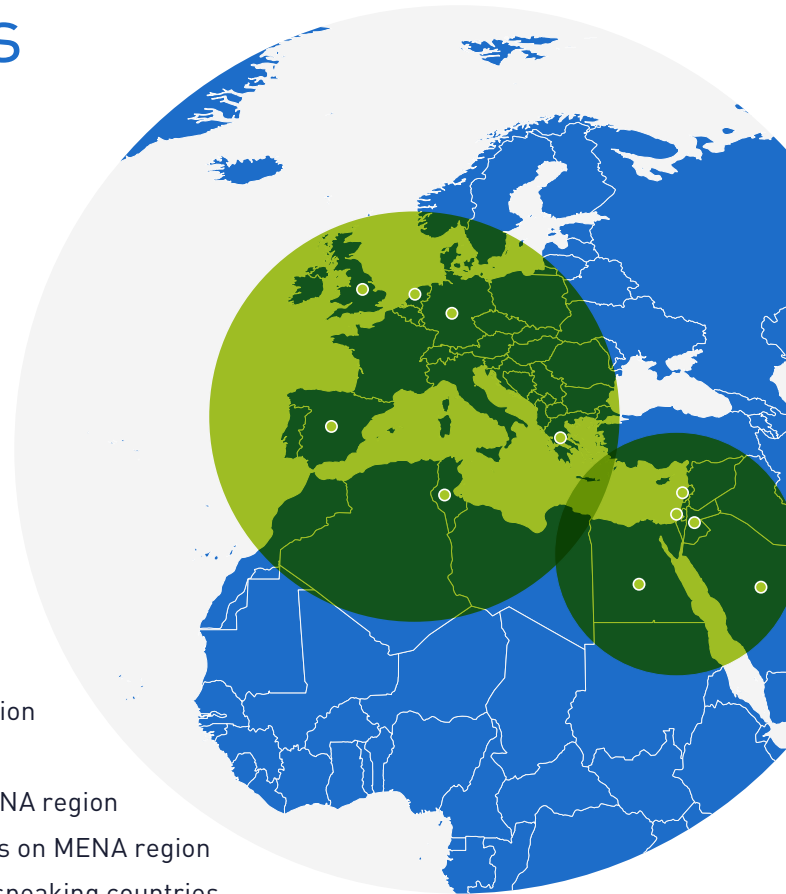
### Media Partners

# 20

### Countries

# 14

- **Meshkal** | [Tunisia](#) | Focus on MENA region
- **Ecotec** | [Greece](#)
- **EcoMENA** | [Saudi Arabia](#) | Focus on MENA region
- **El Intérprete Digital** | [Argentina](#) | Focus on MENA region
- **Raseef22** | [Lebanon](#) | Focus on Arabic speaking countries
- **Beirut Today** | [Lebanon](#) | Focus on Middle East
- **Sci Dev Net** | [UK](#) | Focus on MENA region
- **Al Ahram Weekly** | [Egypt](#) | Focus on MENA region
- **The New Arab** | [UK](#) | Focus on MENA region)
- **Zawaya Media** | [Jordan/Lebanon](#) | Focus on Arabic speaking countries
- **RETEMA** | [Spain](#)
- **Unbias the News** | [German](#)
- **Visualizing Palestine** | [Palestine](#)
- **Albiaa News** | [Tunisia](#) | Focus on MENA region
- **ARIJ** | [Jordan](#) | Focus on MENA region
- **DARAJ** | [Lebanon](#) | Focus on MENA region
- **Water News Europe** | [Netherlands](#) | Focus on European countries
- **Jummar** | [Iraq](#)
- **Journalism Initiative** | [Greece](#)
- **Marea Media** | [Italy](#) | Focus on the Mediterranean region



## New AMWAJ media partners in 2024!

Creating impactful communication in the Mediterranean

+








In 2024, AMWAJ strengthened its collaboration with all former media partners and continued to expand its network with 5 new media partners joining the alliance: Daraj Media, Jummar Media, Journalism Initiative, Water News Europe and Marea Media. These partnerships aim to amplify Mediterranean voices and build a more connected regional community through joint journalism and media initiatives. We continue to focus on expanding our network to all Mediterranean countries and supporting young and smaller media.

Learn more: [Media Partners | AMWAJ](#)

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New AMWAJ Member!

Creating impactful communication  
in the Mediterranean!



## 06 Alliance Members

### AMWAJ Members

#### **Water, Environment and Beyond (WE&B) joined AMWAJ**

Water, Environment and Beyond (WE&B), a non-profit environmental research and consultancy organisation, has joined AMWAJ. Founded in 2013, WE&B addresses global challenges such as water management, sustainable food systems, nature conservation, and climate change through social, ecological, and policy innovation. With over a decade of experience, WE&B has led projects and work packages in EU-funded initiatives, offering expertise in research, analysis, and creating materials like scientific articles, policy reports, and communication events. Operating across Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean, WE&B is affiliated with organisations such as the Catalan Water Partnership, Water Europe, and the African Circular Economy Network.

Learn more:

[Environmental Consulting Company | WE&B](#)



## New AMWAJ Member!

Creating impactful communication  
in the Mediterranean!



  
MedCités  
MedCities

### AMWAJ Members

#### MedCities joined AMWAJ

MedCities joined AMWAJ as a member. MedCities helps local governments in the #Mediterranean to achieve their strategic priorities, believing that they have a vital role to play in improving the lives of their citizens. It is a Mediterranean voice for local authorities and builds their capacity to meet the challenges of local governance in a sustainable way.

Learn more: [Home - MEDCITIES](#)

## 05 Advisory Board Members



Alia Papageorgiou has joined AMWAJ as an advisory board member.

A seasoned journalist, editor, and podcaster, Alia is the Artistic Director of the Writers Festival of Belgium, President of the Press Club Brussels Europe, and a board member of Journalismfund Europe. Her work spans EU affairs, climate and politics, with a strong emphasis on advocating for the Mediterranean region.

Learn more:

See all advisory board members here: [Advisory Board | AMWAJ](#)



[www.amwaj-alliance.com](http://www.amwaj-alliance.com)

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