PRESS RELEASE

MEDSHIFTGREEN Joins Forces with Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture to Drive Green Skills & Nature-Based Solutions

Beirut, 12 June, 2026- In a decisive step towards mainstreaming nature-based solutions (NBS) into Lebanon's agricultural and educational sectors, a high-level delegation from the Lebanese Development Network (LDN) met with H.E. Dr. Nizar Hani, Minister of Agriculture**,** to formalise a strategic cooperation framework under the EU-funded MEDSHIFTGREEN project.

The meeting, held at the Ministry's headquarters, brought together LDN President Amin Nehme, Secretary General Samer Aoun, Project Coordinator Ilda Nahas, Consultant Zeina Chalak, and Project Assistant Yara Hakim. The discussions centred on streamlining the project's implementation across Lebanon, with a focus on hands-on Green Labs**,** educator training**,** and policy integration for sustainable agriculture and water management.

During the presentation, the LDN team outlined MEDSHIFTGREEN's core objectives: to establish Interactive Green Labs that equip youth with practical NBS skills, and to develop a national policy toolkit for embedding green competencies into vocational education. The Ministry's role will be pivotal in co-designing curricula, facilitating access to pilot sites, and ensuring alignment with national agricultural strategies.

Amin Nehme**,** President of LDN, added: *"This partnership marks a turning point. With the Ministry's guidance, our Green Labs will address urgent local challenges while creating a replicable model for the entire Mediterranean. The EU's support through Interreg NEXT MED makes it possible to bridge policy, education, and community action."*

Both parties agreed to establish a joint technical committee that will meet bi-monthly to oversee the rollout of pilot projects, monitor progress, and align activities with Lebanon's National Adaptation Plan and the EU Green Deal. Immediate next steps include selecting two pilot regions for NBS interventions in the agricultural sector and launching a training programme for extension officers.

About MEDSHIFTGREEN - *Co-funded by the European Union under the Interreg NEXT MED Programme, MEDSHIFTGREEN ("Cultivating Green Innovators") is a three-year initiative uniting partners from Greece, Cyprus, Türkiye, and Lebanon. It establishes 12 Green Labs and accredited NBS courses to empower Mediterranean youth with practical, employable green skills*.

About Interreg NEXT MED: *The Interreg NEXT MED Programme is the European Union's framework for fostering cooperation across the Mediterranean Basin. It funds projects that promote a smarter, greener, and more socially inclusive region, directly supporting the EU's priorities for sustainable growth and resilience.*

Project Budget
The total budget of MEDSHIFTGREEN amounts to €999,147.00, of which €889.240,83, an 89%, is funded by the European Union under the Interreg NEXT MED Programme.

Project Website & Media:
For more information, updates, and media resources, please visit the official project page on the Interreg NEXT MED website https://www.interregnextmed.eu/project-page/medshiftgreen/ or contact the project coordinator.

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Note to Editors: The official MEDSHIFTGREEN logo, acknowledging the support of the European Union and the Interreg NEXT MED Programme, must be used on all publications related to this release.