

## ANNEXE

### ACTION FICHE FOR [ENPI SOUTH/ENVIRONMENT]

#### 1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	ENPI - Mediterranean Environment Programme (ENPI MEP) 2007/019-583		
Total cost	EUR 7.000.000		
Aid method / Management mode	Aid method : <i>Project approach</i> Management mode : - <i>Component A (Governance and Support to H2020 )</i> : <i>Direct centralised management</i> - <i>Component B (Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism)</i> : <i>Centralised direct management</i>		
DAC-code	41010	Sector	Environmental policy and administrative management

#### 2. RATIONALE

##### 2.1. Sector context

The quality of the Mediterranean environment has been increasingly threatened by human activities, with a particular impact on the coastal and marine areas. Rapid and insufficiently controlled urbanisation, as well as unsustainable development of agriculture or tourism play an important role in this degradation process which results in: water scarcity, pollution of the environment (water, soils, air) by untreated wastewater, municipal, agricultural and industrial waste, coastal degradation due to human activities pressure (urban development) and climate change effects, land degradation and desertification and biodiversity losses.

In this context, The European Neighbourhood Policy, its Action Plans and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership emphasise environment protection as a key sector for cooperation.

More concretely, the Euro-Mediterranean Partners committed themselves to increase efforts to substantially reduce pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020 in what is called the "Horizon 2020 Initiative" (H2020) at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit. This initiative was endorsed during the Environment Ministerial Conference held in Cairo in November 2006.

This Initiative covers three priority areas: i) Municipal waste, ii) Wastewater treatment and iii) Industrial emissions. To implement Horizon 2020's goals, a Euro-Mediterranean Steering Committee and ad-hoc Working Groups have been

established. Moreover, a road-map which focuses on the following four pillars has been adopted:

- Identifying projects to reduce the most significant sources of pollution.
- Identifying capacity-building measures to help neighbouring countries create national environmental administrations that are able to develop and police environmental laws.
- Using the EC's research budget to develop greater knowledge of environmental issues relevant to the Mediterranean and ensure this is shared.
- Developing indicators to monitor the success of Horizon 2020.

They also committed to implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, launched by the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development established under the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP).

The main objective of the programme is to promote environmental mainstreaming through supporting the implementation of H2020.

ENPI-MEP includes two distinct components:

A) Governance and support to H2020:

This first component's main objective is to support the implementation of H2020 with a special focus on environmental mainstreaming. It aims to address the following problems:

- low political priority given to the environment ;
- insufficient integration of environment in the different sector policies (agriculture, tourism, transport or energy) and lack of inclusion of the different actors from local to international level;
- insufficient capacities and resources at institutional and civil society level ;

B) Development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM MED):

This part of the programme aims to cover the fourth component of H2020 (monitoring of the initiative's progress) with a broader scope. By strengthening the capacities of the national statistical systems in the field of environment, it will contribute to the gradual development of a Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) for the Mediterranean region.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the SEIS and the convergence towards European standards, it was decided to work under the aegis of the European Environment Agency, in close coordination with other relevant EC Services (Eurostat, JRC) as well as with the relevant regional initiatives.

## 2.2. Lessons learnt

The Short and Medium Term Priority Environment Action Programme (SMAP), which has been implemented under the MEDA instrument since 1998 (26 selected projects under 3 successive Calls for Proposals for a total EC contribution of 44 M €) was evaluated in 2006.

The evaluators stressed the need for stronger political commitment in the region concerning environmental integration in the other sectors policies and highlighted the fact that many projects which have been successfully implemented at local level could be replicated at larger scale in the region.

Moreover, the LIFE Programme (EU's Financial Instrument of for the Environment) has funded since 1992 innovative environmental projects, not only within the EU but also in all the ENPI Southern countries (Except Libya). Their demonstration value and cost-effectiveness give these experiences a high added value for being reproduced in other locations of the partner countries.

Concerning the second component on environmental data, the experience developed so far advocates for a closer coordination between existing initiatives on monitoring and indicators in the region, in particular those of: MAP-MED POL, the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA) under the EU Marine Strategy Directive and MEDSTAT II (the regional cooperation programme on the field of statistics)

## 2.3. Complementary actions

One of the characteristics of the regional cooperation in the field of environment is the number of related actions or initiatives developed under different umbrellas.

Synergies will be developed in particular with the following actions:

### A) Environmental governance and support to H2020:

The European Community and the 21 countries with a Mediterranean coastline are parties to the Barcelona Convention, originally adopted in 1976 and amended in 1995 to become the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides the Secretariat for the Convention and manages the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), which supports the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its now seven protocols. To complement the work of the Secretariat, several Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and other MAP Components were established with specific competences.

The European Commission and UNEP/MAP have strengthened their cooperation in the field of environment, as reflected in Joint EC-MAP Work Programme that was signed at the 14th Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, 2005) in order to improve synergies between the Mediterranean Action Plan and the EU initiatives. Moreover, the MAP is considered a key regional mechanism for environmental cooperation and sustainable development in the Mediterranean

(Commission Communication 2006/475; Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Environment ministers Cairo, 2006).

Synergy with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted in 2005 by the contracting parties of the UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development is very important in this respect.

A strong coordination will also be ensured with the activities implemented under the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI-Med) and the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeast European Water Directors Forum (a Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water is likely to be organised in 2008).

Links will furthermore be established with relevant EC projects (climate change and biodiversity related project under the ENPI thematic programme on environment, ENPI South disaster prevention and management programme,...).

#### B) Development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM MED)

A preliminary analysis was conducted under the aegis of the European Environment Agency with various partners active in this field in the region, who confirmed their willingness to participate (UNEP/MAP and its associated components including the MAP Programme for the assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean region (MED POL); the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE).

It is to be noted that MERM MED will be managed together with a similar contribution envisaged for the Eastern ENP Partner Countries under the ENPI East Regional 2008 Action Programme as a single contract.

#### **2.4. Donor coordination**

Coordination with Partner Countries, Member States, other International Donors and International Financing Institutions is a key element of the H2020 Initiative. It will be sought systematically in the framework of the steering committee, working groups or Ministerial conferences. The EC Delegations will also play an active role in this regard locally.

One of the first achievements of H2020 in 2008 is the study conducted by the EIB with the support of FEMIP concerning the "Elaboration of a Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP), which led to the identification of 43 priority bankable pollution reduction projects in the region.

This action should also investigate possible objects for investments that could be supported later on through the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), and by other donors including EU Member States' financing institutions. It will be fully coordinated with any MeHSIP actions eventually carried out under FEMIP.

### 3. DESCRIPTION

#### 3.1. Objectives

##### **Overall Objectives:**

###### A) Governance and Support to H2020:

The main objective of this component is to promote environment protection in the Mediterranean region through supporting the implementation of H2020.

###### B) Development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM MED):

- To set up a Mediterranean Shared Environmental Information System in line with the EU SEIS and to coordinate this work with related regional initiatives (including the review and monitoring component of H2020).

##### **Specific Objectives:**

###### A) Governance and Support to H2020:

**A1** - To promote integration of environment issues in other sectors policies;

**A2** - To strengthen capacities and resources and to mobilise the relevant stakeholders groups (local authorities, NGOs, private sector...) in the framework of the H2020 initiative.

###### B) Development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM MED):

**B1** - To strengthen the data flow and network infrastructure in the region, including the national statistical systems of the partner countries in the field of environment with the aim of establishing a Mediterranean Environmental Information System in line with the European approach

**B2** – To develop an indicator process and a scorecard to measure progress made in the implementation of H2020 and the environment quality evolution and publish the related results

#### 3.2. Expected results and main activities

###### A) Governance and Support to H2020:

##### **Objective A1:**

**A1.1.** National policies in the environment sensitive sectors (e.g; Agriculture, Tourism, Energy, and Transport) take environment protection into account;

**A1.2.** Strategic Environment Assessments are established for different sectors in the partner countries

**A1.3.** Environment Impact Assessments are introduced in more countries' legislations and effectively carried out.

Main indicative activities:

- Training sessions, workshops concerning environmental mainstreaming and related tools, and on subjects such as Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control as mentioned in the H2020 Road Map.

**Objective A2:**

**A2.1.** The H2020 Steering Committee and working groups are operational and achieve the objectives set in the timetable agreed in 2006 in Cairo;

**A2.2.** Capacities and resources dedicated to environment protection are strengthened at policy, legislative and institutional level;

**A3.3.** Civil society (private sector, professional organisations, citizens, NGOs...) is better sensitised and mobilised.

Main indicative activities:

- Support provided for the preparation, execution and follow-up of the work of the Horizon 2020 Steering Committees and Working Groups.

- Dissemination of information about ENPI instruments.

- Technical assistance activities (study visits workshops, training sessions, short term expertise) in line with the H2020 priority areas and components.

B) Development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM MED):

**Objective B1:**

**B1.1.** The organisations involved in collection and validation of environment related data and information have the capacities to produce the required data and information at the regional level

**B1.2.** The integration into a SEIS-compliant structure of the relevant data and information from countries in the Mediterranean region, including from non-EEA countries is effective.

**B1.3** Indicators and scorecard are developed;

Main indicative activities:

– Consolidation of work on monitoring and data flows in the Mediterranean region, including in **non-EEA countries**, through workshops and technical assistance, as well as cooperation between these countries and EEA. This work will focus particularly on the 3 priority areas identified in Horizon 2020

– Collaboration with partners to gather and process the data and information and support towards the use of a shared environmental information system in line with the European approach

– Consultation with stakeholders regarding indicators and scorecard

**Objective B2 :**

**B2.1.** Indicator process and framework to deliver indicator-based report are designed

**B2.2** Results are assessed and country comparisons using the scorecard is produced;

**B2.3** The first biennial report (2008-2009) for ENP South, and the first five-yearly report (together with ENP East) are published in close cooperation with the concerned countries ( including non-EEA ones).

Main indicative activities:

- Share description of process and framework with all stakeholders
- Development and maintenance of a catalogue to review the state of art of the available data and indicators from the different actors;
- Analysis and assessment of progress made by the countries in the framework of Horizon 2020
- Development and publication of the first biennial report (2008/2009) and first five-yearly report.

### **3.3. Stakeholders**

The stakeholders and target groups of the programme are:

- at central level, the ministries of environment, but also other relevant ministries/agencies such as ministries of water, transport, energy, industry and tourism;
- representatives of local authorities (regional, municipal level);
- the national statistical institutes and environmental data providers of the Partner Countries;
- civil society representatives (private sector, population, NGOs);
- International and European organisations such as UNEP/MAP, the World Bank, the EEA, the EIB...

### **3.4. Risks and assumptions**

The main assumptions which may have an impact on the successful implementation of the programme are:

- sustained political stability in the region;
- a strong and continuous political support from the Partner Countries' governments;

### **3.5. Crosscutting Issues**

Gender equality

The active participation of women in the programme will be encouraged, and the issue of women's participation in environment governance will be directly addressed through specific activities.

#### Good governance and human rights

Three of the programme's specific objectives mentioned above directly concern environmental governance (better enforcement, integration of environmental issues into other sector policies and better cooperation and coordination amongst different local, national, regional and international actors).

The programme will also contribute to a better respect of the right to a healthy environment.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **4.1. Implementation method**

#### A) Governance and Support to H2020:

Direct centralised management

#### B) Development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM MED):

Centralised direct management.

The assistance will be provided through a service contract signed with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) on the basis of its technical expertise. It will be implemented together with a similar contribution envisaged for the Eastern ENP Partner Countries (ENPI East Regional 2008 Action Programme). It will be carried out in line with the technical arrangement established in 2005 between DG ENV, EEA, Eurostat and JRC.

### **4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures**

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

### **4.3. Budget and calendar**

#### A) Governance and Support to H2020:

The total project budget, of 4.5 M € will be devoted to ad-hoc technical assistance, to be recruited following one or more tender procedures (service contracts).

Implementation will cover indicatively a three-year period from the date of contract signature.



B) Development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM MED):

The 2.5 M € budget will be used in the framework of service contract to be signed with the EEA for the implementation of this activity, which will cover East and South ENP countries over a four-year period from the date of its signature.

**4.4. Performance monitoring**

There are no "standard indicators" in the domain, however, one of the results envisaged in the programme is to identify and develop indicators.

A) Governance and Support to H2020:

The objectively verifiable indicators (qualitative and quantitative) will have to be part of the methodologies included in the technical proposals.

Besides the regular follow up by the EC Delegations and the Headquarter, monitoring missions (ENPI monitoring team contracted by the EC) will ensure an external follow-up. The EC and the project coordinator will pay a particular attention at the recommendations expressed by the external experts.

Progress of H2020 will also be monitored through the Component B of the programme (MERM MED).

B) Development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM MED)

ENPI monitoring teams will ensure an external follow-up. The EC and the project coordinator will pay a particular attention at the recommendations expressed by the external experts.

**4.5. Evaluation and audit**

A mid-term progress report for the implementation of the H2020 timetable agreed at the 2006 Ministerial Conference in Cairo is foreseen in 2009; it will be followed by a review of the initiative to be presented to the Euro-Mediterranean environment Ministers (2012).

For both components (A and B), expenditure incurred will have to be certified, as part of the obligations of the contracted parties in the framework of the implementation of this project. Mid term and final evaluations of the results achieved will be entrusted to independent consultants, as well as external audits (which will be carried out if necessary). These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources than the project budget, since no commitment will be possible once the validity of this Decision has expired ("N+1" rule will apply).

**4.6. Communication and visibility**

The project will work out a specific communication strategy and develop specific activities dedicated to communication and visibility.

Relevant communication tools will be developed in the languages understood in the region (Arabic, English and French) for the two components (website, possibly a Newsletter, specific publications) in order to keep the stakeholders regularly informed and to ensure the visibility of the programme. Particular attention will be paid to the monitoring and communication of the concrete results and collective financing of the Horizon 2020 initiative.

Among other information means, the Euromed Info centre web portal and EuropeAid's ENPI Newsletter will also be used regularly and press releases will be prepared when appropriate. The EU visibility guidelines must be followed by both components of the project.