

# Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

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The Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research and Innovation Gateway (MED-SPRING) is a Coordination Action financed by the INCO-Net instrument under the FP7 - Capacities Programme. The aim of the Project is to contribute to the quality of the Euro-Mediterranean research area, with a particular focus on the bi-regional Euro-Mediterranean S&T cooperation, research and innovation, policy dialogue and cooperation monitoring.

## Welcome to the 4th MED-SPRING E-Newsletter!

Dear readers, welcome to the fourth issue of the MEDSPRING E-Newsletter, which has the purpose of informing about our activities and involving researchers, stakeholders, policy makers and governmental officers in a renewed strategy for the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, with a particular focus on the Euro-Mediterranean Science and Technology Cooperation.

KEEP AN EYE ON: **building partnerships for H2020!**

## Our recent activities

### • MEDSPRING Annual Meeting

From 9th to 11th February took place in Cairo the 1st MEDSPRING Annual Meeting, an excellent occasion to take stock of the project activities and results, planning the coming future and having a constructive exchange with the External Advisory Board.



### • Brokerage Event on Research and Innovation

15 Mediterranean young entrepreneurs and researchers gathered together in Cairo from 12th to 13th February, to present their innovative ideas and find a way to concretize them by attracting financial as well as technical and networking support.



- **Multistakeholder Meeting: Societal Challenges to reinforce the frame of the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation on Research and Innovation**

The meeting conveyed, last 28th April in Brussels, different stakeholders from EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries to discuss the outcomes of the Euro-Mediterranean Expert Group work, carried out on the major societal challenges in the Mediterranean region.

- **Partnership building: find people and organizations for H2020**

MEDSPRING intends to facilitate the process of partnership building in specific call-topics through an ad-hoc on-line brokerage event.



## Our coming activities

- **Training and Capacity Building on H2020 for Mediterranean NCPs, Research Managers and Researchers**

To be held from 11th to 13th June 2014 in Marrakesh, this training will bring NCPs, researchers and administrators together in order to increase awareness of their roles and interdependencies in securing reliable project participation and management.

- **Awareness raising campaign on STI Joint Programming Across the MPCs**

To be held next 10th June in Rabat, this event aims at increasing awareness at national level of the on-going efforts and activities to foster Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

- **Second Euro-Mediterranean inter-institutional meeting**

To be held next July in Bari, this meeting will be mainly focused on building synergies among different actions and find together common prospects for future cooperation in R&I in the Mediterranean. More information soon on MEDSPRING.

- **Second EMEG Meeting on Policy Dialogue**

To be held from 22nd to 23rd September in Hammamet, the meeting will focus on the Euro-Mediterranean Policy Dialogue on Research and Innovation, with the aim of identifying ways and means to ensure impact on the water, food and energy.

## Also in the pipeline!

- **5th INCO Conference**

INCONTACT 2020, is organizing the "5th INCO Conference - Addressing Future Challenges", in 2-4 June 2014 in Athens, Greece. Organized by the European Commission and the Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology, the event is dedicated to the role of integrated research in addressing global challenges.

- **RInES Conference on European Neighborhood and the Black Sea Region**

To be held in Thessaloniki from 29th to 30th May, the conference will highlight the role of the International Cooperation for the EU by reinforcing the collaboration with the European Neighborhood and Black Sea region within the framework of the research and innovation.



- **Research Meets Diplomacy: Europe as a Global Actor**

Organized by the European Commission, next 5th June in Brussels, this event will aim at taking stock of the rich research conducted on the European Union as a global actor under FP7 and at moving the debate into the future.

- **WIRE Conference on Rebooting Regional Policy for Innovation and Growth**

The Fifth WIRE Conference, to be held from 12th to 13th June in Athens, will build on the public dialogue for the discovery of effective procedures, instruments and best practices leading to the successful implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies for European Regions.



The development of a wind farm in Jordan, the creation of a Mediterranean water knowledge platform, a capacity building programme aimed at promoting civic education in schools and a programme aimed at stimulating green industries and entrepreneurship are the four new projects recently labeled by the UfM. More info here.

- **Roundtable on Neighborhood Policy and the Mediterranean Youth. The key role of Training and Mobility**

Under the coordination of UNIMED and the French Embassy in Italy (Institut Francais Italia), this roundtable will be organized from 30th September to 1st October in Rome. Further information about this event will be published soon.

- **Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change**

Last 13th May the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change took place in Athens, with the aim to discuss the environmental and climate-related challenges facing the region and to define the future strategic directions to reduce pollution and increase resource efficiency.

- **Four new regional projects labeled by the UfM**

- **Launching of H2020 in the Euro-Med Region**

## Meet our Partners! ANIMA Investment Network

ANIMA Investment Network is a multi-country cooperation platform for economic development in the Mediterranean. The ANIMA network ([www.anima.coop](http://www.anima.coop)) gathers 65 governmental agencies and international business, innovation and financing networks. The objective of ANIMA is to contribute to a better investment and business climate and to the growth of capital flows into the Mediterranean region.



ENSEMBLE POUR UNE MÉDITERRANÉE COMPÉTITIVE  
TOGETHER FOR A COMPETITIVE MEDITERRANEAN  
معاً من أجل تنافسية المتوسط

The ANIMA network is operated from Marseille (France) by a team of 12 people and is chaired by Mr Nouredine Zekri, Director of the FIPA (Tunisia). The majority of its funding comes from the management of European Commission's programmes.

### MISSION STATEMENT

ANIMA Investment Network is committed to favour a shared and sustainable economic development in the Mediterranean, particularly in relation with Europe and the neighbouring countries (Black Sea, Gulf States, etc.).

ANIMA participates, in association with a network of public and private, national and international stakeholders, to the development of investments and business partnerships, of innovation and entrepreneurship, and to the internationalisation of enterprises, in order to contribute to the creation of added-value and jobs, to an increased awareness of the environmental and social stakes, to the balanced partnership between North and South and to the economic integration of the countries in the region.

### TARGETED SECTORS AND THEMES

- Promotion of the territories: ANIMA produces several studies each year in addition to its Mediterranean Investment and Partnership Observatory (MIPO). Several seminars are organised for the different stakeholders of the economic development to be able to share their experiences and strengthen their skills;

- Contribution to a new industrial environment in the Mediterranean: ANIMA implements pilot actions, either directly or through its network, to strengthen the value created by investments and business partnerships in strategic sectors for the Mediterranean region. These initiatives generally imply a "clustering" process between the different countries (mapping of competences/ value chain, business partnerships, co-innovation) on major sectors for which the region can rely on historical expertise (agriculture and agri-food, energy, logistics, tourism) or future-oriented sectors (green economy, health, ICT);
- Promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship: ANIMA pilots several initiatives aiming to help Mediterranean innovators and start-ups in their internationalisation process. To do so, business plan competitions, business meetings with investors and strategic partners are organised for the start-ups. Networking between the intermediary organisations supporting innovative companies is also facilitated.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

The ANIMA network has developed two key activities since mid-2002:

- A platform for linking economic actors from Europe and the Mediterranean around targeted sectors and themes. More than 5,000 SMEs, 500 finance professionals, 1,200 economic development actors have been involved to date, particularly around the Invest in Med programme (2008-2011) of the European Commission and around the MedVentures initiative (2010).
- A resource centre, which is a set of tools to help actors interested in the development and financing of SMEs in the Mediterranean. The "ANIMA resource centre for investment in the Mediterranean" targets SMEs and large industrial groups, economic development agencies, financial actors and innovation networks wishing to develop activities in direction of the MED-13 (9 South and East-Mediterranean countries, plus Turkey, Libya, Malta and Cyprus).

It meets three key needs:

1. Perform an active and selective monitoring on countries and key sectors in the Mediterranean (qualified and continuous business intelligence using over 150 selected information sources)
2. Identify key stakeholders as well as investment and partnerships opportunities
3. Connect with stakeholders, business events or partnership projects

It consists of the following tools:

- **MIPO**: The MIPO observatory (Mediterranean Investment Project Observatory) registers every foreign direct investment (FDI) and partnership project (JV, franchises, technological cooperation or commercial representative offices, stores etc.), which involve the Southern Mediterranean countries. Since 2003, it has identified more than 6,500 FDI and 2,000 partnerships.
- **Med Maps**: Online mapping system that lets you view and position in real time the attractive economic activity zones in Mediterranean countries as well as all the FDI and partnership projects registered in the ANIMA-MIPO observatory.
- **Document database**: A series of 50 documents to help enterprises and business support organisations: sectors studies to identify opportunities, guides to facilitate the establishment in the South of the Mediterranean, economic data, directories of key actors, etc.
- **Agenda Med**: The Mediterranean business events calendar (more than 1,800 registered events) is a free and unique tool which enables users to identify, plan and promote business events in the Mediterranean. Each event has a qualification allowing simple searches (by industry, type of event, country). Email alerts inform you of new events based on your selected criteria.
- **Link in Med**: Link in Med is the 1st online Mediterranean business community. It already counts 8,500 members, including 6,600 enterprises. This online directory brings together the companies registered in the ANIMA-MIPO observatory, companies involved in the Invest in Med programme and new candidates. Each organisation has a fact sheet that contains, in addition to its profile, its recent investments and its latest business opportunities.

### *Projects for the Euro-Med economic stakeholders*

ANIMA administrates or participates in important European projects and programmes, and the most important ones are:

- **Faro:** the seed capital, development and orientation fund, was launched on 27 May 2010 in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean to boost the development of innovation on both sides of the Mediterranean. With a budget of 1 million euros, the Faro fund enables European entrepreneurs to study the feasibility of innovative projects undertaken in collaboration with partners from the South of the Mediterranean. Each project backed by the Faro is allocated a subsidy of 20,000 euros maximum, to finance up to 50% of the total costs involved in the works. The project is operated by ANIMA, and led by a steering committee which gathers AFD, Caisse des Depots, the French Republic (Mediterranean inter-ministerial delegation) and OSEO.
- ANIMA is the leader of a consortium which has been selected by the European Commission to manage a pilot project on SME and Cluster internationalisation between Europe and 4 targeted Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia). Business development actions, sector Euro-Med task forces (with talents, women entrepreneurs, clusters and investors) as well as supporting actions (such as IP trainings and softlanding actions) will be developed in 2013 and 2014. EuroMed@Change is implemented in partnership with 3 European organisations (the European Business Innovation Centre Network, INNO AG and the Fondation Sophia Antipolis) and will associate more than 45 associated business, finance and innovation networks, among which many members of ANIMA.
- The Lactimed project aims to foster the production and distribution of typical and innovative dairy products in the Mediterranean by organising local value chains, supporting producers and promoting their products in the local and international markets. Over 30 months, ANIMA and its 11 partners will implement around 100 activities targeting the various stakeholders of the dairy value chains of Alexandria (Egypt), the Bekaa (Lebanon), Bizerte (Tunisia), Sicily (Italy) and Thessaly (Greece). The project is co-financed at 90% by the ENPI CBC MED programme.
- The EDILE project is an initiative launched by ANIMA, aiming at increasing the economic spillovers of investment in the Mediterranean territories. This project focuses on improving the analysis frameworks for investment projects (implementation of a referential evaluating the inclusiveness of investment projects and the experimentation of pilot local governance to improve the public-private negotiation. This project associates Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, along with international organisations (Caisse des depots, EIB, Union for the Mediterranean) and the OCEMO.
- DiaMed is a new project associating ANIMA and co-funded by the European Commission. It aims to support job creation in the South Mediterranean, through the mobilisation of expatriated talents from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. DiaMed focuses on supporting and mentoring projects promoters and entrepreneurs and fostering an investment-friendly environment for Diaspora. It associates the ADER and ACIM, 2 French partners and associates several Southern partners: CONECT (Tunisia), FBPCE (Morocco) and Medafco (Algeria, MedVentures partner).
- The MED-SPRING, co-financed by the European Commission and led by the CIHEAM via the Agronomic Institute of Bari, aims at developing the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on research and innovation. ANIMA is a partner in this project and will mobilise its network in order to take part in the capacity building activities and brokerage events.
- **The East Invest programme:** is a regional investment and trade facilitation project for the economic development of the Eastern Neighbourhood region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Funded at 80% by the European Union over the 2011-2013 period, it is implemented by the East Alliance consortium, led by EUROCHAMBRES. East Alliance gathers CCIs, business federations, SME Agencies and other economic development organisations. ANIMA, along with Eurochambres, 5 other business organisations and the 6 EaP countries, is part of the Project Management Committee and is more specifically in charge of implementing the economic intelligence activities, including 6 country specific analyses on investment potential and sectoral strategies.



## Focus on Water

Water is by far seen as the most important but vulnerable resource in the Mediterranean region. The major problems of fresh water resources management in the region arise from the pressure to meet the increasing food and domestic water needs in areas characterized by fast-growing population, water scarcity or limited water availability, exacerbated by extreme climate variability.



Increased cost of energy production coupled with water scarcity, deteriorated water quality and overexploitation of resources often results in deficiency in food production, increased pollution threats to both terrestrial and marine environment and leads to nonequitable access to water resources as well as water supply and sanitation services, particularly in the rural and marginal areas.

Consequently, it negatively affects health and produces various types of conflicts ranging from social domestic conflicts to sector conflicts (agriculture, urban areas, industry, tourism as well as ecosystem) and trans-boundary conflicts.

Due to its limited availability and the high nexus with healthy society, addressing sustainable water management is vital in the region. According to recommendations of the Euro-Mediterranean water expert and inter-institutional dialogues (Barcelona 2012, CRIA 2012, MIRA 2009-2012), most relevant challenges and problems are:

- Mis-management and poor governance for planning and adaptation to global changes, including lack of engagement of stakeholders and empowerment of civil society.
- Un-equitable water allocation and un-sustainable water management
- Still poor holistic vision
- Need to increase competitiveness of research in water quantity management, water use efficiency as well as management of non conventional waters.

EMEG (MEDSPRING Expert Group) agrees that most of efforts in resource efficiency should focus on water. The latter being indispensable for the conservation of all other natural resources.

A sound management of water should not only contribute to environmental sustainability and ecosystem services but should also constitute an opportunity for new jobs, start-up and market opening. Water scarcity areas should not be seen as a problem but as a market opportunity for developing new technologies and enhancing water innovation.

The following topics are favorable in the Mediterranean for the uptake of research results and development of market opportunities:

- Management of surface-ground water resources under scarcity and uncertain conditions (quality and quantity) with a link to extreme events.
- Improvement of agricultural water use efficiency.
- Non conventional water treatment and reuse.

In particular, competitive research in the above topics is a real opportunity for marketable results and solutions in the following specific sectors:

- Tools and devices based on ICT and wireless sensors for monitoring, water allocation control, remote controlled irrigation, automation and information /dissemination to end-users.
- Technologies for ground water de-pollution, irrigation water management and compact water treatment units for decentralized systems and reuse.
- Advanced oxidation process, nanotechnology and materials, filtration, artificial recharge and new antifouling membrane.

- Expert service under the form of local consultancy providing institutional capacity building, developing guidelines and strategies for water management

In order to ensure successful uptake of research results and impact (jobs, market and other opportunities), the design of research in above water topics and for identified solutions should be supported by a competitive public-private-societal partnerships, composed by:

- Farmers (and association/groups of farmers), as they are the end-users affected by extreme events but also acting as empowered private sector / investor.
- Water User Association (WUAs), as they are in charge for Operation & Maintenance activities
- Local municipalities
- Local municipalities and water user associations
- Private investors and tech-driven SMEs
- Basin authorities
- NGOs
- Academia and research centers.
- Actors forming different partnerships should equally share and participate in the design and implementation of research.

### Water Policy in Algeria

DR. NADJIB DROUICHE, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM AT THE CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN TECHNOLOGIE DES SEMI-CONDUCTEURS POUR L'ENERGETIQUE (CRTSE)

Talking about Water Policy in Algeria is of high priority. It is increasingly concerned due to climate change, known for its great diversity and its spatial and temporal irregularity.

Due to its geographical location, Algeria has an arid and semi-arid climate which brings with it higher risk of both floods and droughts, and exacerbates the already precarious situation created by chronic water scarcity faced by most of the Arab countries. This situation certainly has a major influence in shaping environmental and sustainability issues in Algeria, with water considered as the single most constraining factor of growth. Water has a vital role in the country's sustainable development, which can hardly be overstated.

Unfortunately, the actual water situation in Algeria can easily be characterized as precarious, since the annual average per capita renewable supplies has fallen by more than 80%, from 1,770 cubic meters per capita (in 1955) to 332 cubic meters (in 2025) (Report of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development, 2008). These levels are far below the levels of other major regions in the world. The current water stress faced in Algeria is exacerbated by several constraints:

- An imbalance between needs and available resources: population growth and economic development and social development have led during the past two decades, a considerable increase in the drinking water needs, industrial and agricultural;
- The water needs expressed by the different users are markedly superior to the available and renewable water resources; a fact that creates conflicts of assignment and sometimes requires difficult choices;
- A geographical imbalance between needs and resources: the high concentration of water needs in the coastal strip (60%) requires a reallocation, by transferring water resources (quite costly) to balance deficits in inland areas including the entire area of highlands;

- The pollution of groundwater and surface resources: open sewage, industrial and agricultural capacity far exceeds treatment systems, reducing the volume of clean water that can be used; specifically, in Algeria industry is reported to discharge about 200 million cubic meters per year of untreated industrial wastewater into the environment (World Bank 2009), which creates considerable ecological imbalances which have already appeared in the form of constraints on future development. Risk of rupture of sustainable development: in addition to the pollution, serious problems appear in samples taken from groundwater that exceed the limits of renewal of natural resources and need to draw on non-renewable reserves.

Besides, the weakness of the Algerian water resources is stressed by:

- poor spatial distribution and the temporal irregularity of water flow;
- soil erosion and silting of dams;
- losses due to outdated distribution networks and inadequate management;
- the inadequate existing infrastructure, despite the significant investments made by the country;
- ever-important cost of investments needed for the mobilization and transfer of water resources;
- deficient management of the existing infrastructures.

Regarding the phenomena of the persistent droughts faced in Algeria, it is noted that the hydrological year 2001-2002 was a landmark year of water crisis that gave the kick for a redefinition of the national water policy. It was during this year that the strategic potential of water supplies has reached its lowest level, and it became even more critical than any other unconventional resource was available at this time of crisis.

This situation has prompted the water sector to implement a program of prioritizing the emergency of water supply, especially in the wilaya of Algiers by interconnecting dams Ghraib, Bouroumi and Boukourdene. Similarly it was decided to install 21 small-scale seawater desalination plants along the Algerian coast, with a total capacity of 57,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d, and drill numerous wells in different regions of the territory.

This emergency program dealing with the crisis and the disruption of water supply, has highlighted the very random nature of water resources and emerged the need of using non-conventional water resources (seawater desalination and reuse of treated wastewater); this has extended the implementation of a new sector policy of water resources. This development policy had two objectives:

1. Securing the supply of drinking water;
2. Increasing the rate of food security opportunities for the maintenance and expansion of irrigated areas.

To ensure the water resources needed, the water public sector plans to transfer a number of water dams from the coastal area to the area of the Tell Atlas, whose surplus will then transferred to Highlands. The deficit in the coastal zone should then be compensated by desalination of sea water and water conservation. This option is of increased importance and considered to be the biggest governmental priority. The remaining deficit of the Central Highlands area will also offset by a possible water transfer from the Sahara (Albian aquifer). Similarly, it is considered a great reuse of treated wastewater for the benefit of irrigation and industry.

The new policy confirms the strategic dimension and the priority of the water sector, which will focus on the mobilization of conventional and unconventional resources, rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and institutional reforms and organizational management. The implementation of this policy is based, among other measures, on the adaptation of a cost policy and the introduction of private sector participation.

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