

Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

FEBRUARY 2016, No 8

med
Spring

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 8th MED-SPRING E-Newsletter!

Dear readers, welcome to the eighth issue of the MED-SPRING 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: **AGORA MED-SPRING**

Our recent activities

- **Third EMEG meeting "A frame for a comprehensive understanding of water-energy-food nexus"**

From 30th September to 2nd October 2015, the MED-SPRING project organized in Malta the 3rd EMEG meeting, hosted by the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST), in collaboration with CIHEAM-IAMB and MHESR. The event focused on the development of "A frame for a comprehensive understanding of water-food-energy nexus".



The 3rd EMEG meeting, according to what required by MED-SPRING task 2.4, intended to develop a Nexus approach as a new framing for the interdependence of water, energy and food (the societal challenges addressed

by MedSpring) and, through a better understanding of the synergies and trade-offs among them, identify the factors research should take into consideration to ensure that demand is met without compromising sustainability requirements.

- **MED-SPRING Euro-Mediterranean Observatories meeting on Indicators**

On 5th November 2015 the MED-SPRING project organized the third meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Observatories, hosted by IRD - Marseille in collaboration with CNRS Lebanon. The aim of the event was to discuss and agree a possible set of 10 indicators of water quality monitoring (priority suggested by the participating observatories in their own field of action). The proposed indicators will not only be the basis for gaining insight of trends and scenarios in relation to a specific regional societal challenge (i.e.: water) but also for preparing a paper indicat-

ing the way forward for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation among different observatories.

- **MED-SPRING training on Innovation**

The MED-SPRING project organized a "Training on Innovation" from 25th to 27th November 2015. The Training on Innovation was organized in the frame of the EU funded project MED-SPRING in synergy with the capacity building initiatives of the EU funded project called MERID, to support networking and cooperation in R&I in the Euro-Mediterranean area. The training was addressed to officials and experts from the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Iran and Iraq. Two young researchers funded through the EU MEDMOBIL project also joined the training. Participants represented governmental organisations, research institutions and business clusters.

Our coming activities

- **Third annual meeting**

From the 18th to 19th February 2016, MED-SPRING

organizes in Tunis (Tunisia), the two-days event, hosted by the Tunisian Ministry for Research and Higher Education, "Annual Meeting of the General Assembly" and "Project External Advisory Board Meeting".

Also in the pipeline!

- **OECD Inventory of Water Governance Indicators and Measurement Frameworks**

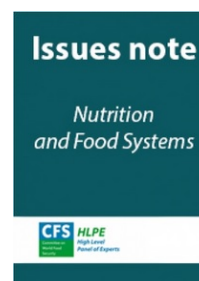
Following the recent adoption of OECD Principles on Water Governance, the OECD is currently working towards the development of Water Governance Indicators, with the objective to identify and scale up best practices and to provide a systemic framework to evaluate the effectiveness of water-related institutions and governance instruments.



A first step to this three-year project consisted in taking stock of what exists through a detailed Inventory of Water Governance Indicators and Measurement Frameworks, which maps more than 60 sets of indicators, databases, guidelines, maps, and assessment frameworks that can feed discussions on measuring water governance.

- **FAO Report on Water for Food Security and Nutrition**

The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is pleased to announce the publication of the HLPE "Report on Water for Food Security and Nutrition". The HLPE report was launched in FAO/Rome on 15 May 2015. HLPE reports are requested by CFS and serve as the starting point of CFS multi-stakeholder discussions for policy convergence and coordination of actions around critical food security issues.



The report provides a state-of-the-art review on water for food security and nutrition. Water (availability, quality, stability and access) has an essential role in food security through its multiple contributions to health and nutrition, rainfed and irrigated agriculture, and food processing, with important gender-related aspects.

- **International Conference on collaboration for Innovation - Linking GCC and EU**

The IncoNet for the Arab Gulf Countries (IncoNet GCC2) organized an International Conference on “Collaboration for Innovation; Linking GCC and EU” on 6-8 December in Muscat (Oman). This international conference gathered STI actors from both the EU and GCC and had as its main aim to explore synergies for further cooperation in STI between the two regions. The thematic

focus was on Energy/Smart Cities and Health which have been identified as sectors of mutual benefit between EU and GCC.



Meet our Partners! The Malta Council for Science and Technology

The Malta Council for Science and Technology is the government body responsible for research, innovation, science and technology. MCST was established by central government in 1988 with the mandate of advising government on science and technology policy. Today its remit has developed and expanded to include the responsibility for research and innovation policy and strategy, science communication, management of various R&I Programmes.

The Council is also the national contact point organization for the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, COST (an intergovernmental organisation for European cooperation in science and technology) and the European Space Agency.

The Malta Council for Science and Technology provides policy advice to government on both local and EU developments and it represents government in many EU forums related to R&I. It is also responsible for developing the national strategy on research and innovation together with stakeholders. Within its remit on science communication, the Council organises and participates in various initiatives associated with science popularisation and is also responsible for the development of the national interactive science centre.



The Malta Council for Science and Technology is also responsible for the management and administration of various R&I Programmes funded by the Central Government, primarily the fusion: R&I Programme, launched in May 2014. The Programme encompasses two sub-programmes: the Commercialisation Voucher Programme and the Technology Development Programme, which focus on supporting applied research and development and assessing the commercialisation potential of ideas. In addition, national R&I funds are used to support entities to join international consortia to undertake large-scale multi-national research activities. Typically, such projects would have public-private partnerships set up at a European level to address strategic areas where research and innovation are essential to European competitiveness.

The Malta Council for Science and Technology is also the National Contact Organization responsible for creating awareness and providing support to participation in the EU Horizon 2020 programme, an 80 billion competitive R&I funding programme running over the period 2014-2020. Please contact Ian Gauci-Borda for more information.

Colophon: This E-Newsletter has been developed within the framework of the MED-SPRING Project (FP7-INCO.Net 311780). For further information about the project please visit the official website: <http://www.medspring.eu>. Edited/Written by MED-SPRING WP3 Team and MED-SPRING Coordination team.