



2nd EMEG Meeting – *Sousse (TN), 22-23 September 2014*

Recommendations for the Euro-Mediterranean research agenda
(an outline of outcomes of 2nd EMEG meeting)

Position paper

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1. Introduction and methodological outline

The purpose of the present **position paper** “Stocktaking of policy dialogue” is to assess how Euro-Mediterranean policies can synergize to support research and innovation in the societal challenges of the region. Such vision takes its roots from an analysis of the main achievements of RDI cooperation initiatives and policies, taking into account strengths and weakness of national/regional programmes, in order to identify objectives and expected impacts for the development of effective policies to overcome barriers and enhance positive factors.

A **preliminary analysis** was carried out by the EMEG Co-ordination Team and EMEG members (April-June 2014). It consisted of a critical stocktaking of multilateral cooperation and policy dialogue on research in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.

The following documents / material were used:

- Literature review, including a stocktaking of FP7/H2020 (1st call) published topics
- Relevant outcomes from the MedSpring Open Consultation and 1st EMEG meeting: Position Paper (Lisbon 2013)
- Inputs deriving from MedSpring stakeholders meeting (Brussels, April 2014)
- Declarations and minutes of policy dialogue events.

The stocktaking provided a comprehensive frame of policy objectives and targets agreed and outlined in major bi-regional and multi-lateral (North-South) policy dialogue events undertaken in the last 10 years. The main outcome of such analysis consist of a systematized overview and a prioritization of main problems and results (the latter being not necessarily achievements) of Euro-Mediterranean RDI policy dialogue, which serve as a base for the identification of objectives, or still non-achieved objectives to be focused in the EMEG meeting.

Following the desk work described above, and building on the results of the analysis in terms of objectives, achievements and bottlenecks, the project launched an **on-line open consultation** aimed to assess the Research & Innovation policy and policy dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in relation to the three societal challenges addressed by Med-Spring.

The **Open consultation** was also aimed at complementing and preparing the ground for the EMEG work in Tunis Meeting and beyond (drafting of the position paper).

The Open Consultation was divided in three steps, covering approximately a 1-month time span, launched respectively on 9th – 20th – 30th of June, closed on 10th July. The number of contacts were 329 from different EU-Mediterranean countries, belonging to the following categories:

- Scientist
- Policy maker / RTD manager
- Industry - Enterprise
- Civil society – consumer

The **2nd EMEG meeting** was held in Sousse (Tunisia) on 22-23 September 2014. About 45 experts participated to the event; they were subdivided in three groups according the chosen societal challenge (water, food and energy). The main objective of the meeting was the identification of ways and means to address (or re-address) policy and policy dialogue, particularly regarding objectives and expected impacts, accounting the current scenarios, in Research and Innovation cooperation.

This work lead to the identification of new (or renewed) objectives and expected impacts of Euro-Mediterranean R&I policy dialogue and cooperation, which were be presented by each EMEG subgroup in a plenary session under the form of “paradigms”.

The EMEG members were also asked to provide suggestions for possible actions, which are keys to enhance factors and overcome barriers. These actions should be considered as possible solutions, which could provide useful inputs for the orientation of national and international research programmes (e.g. H2020).

The following points summarize the activities carried out by EMEG during the meeting.

1. Identifying specific problems.
2. Identifying and prioritizing Specific Policy Objectives
3. Identifying expected impacts
4. Developing a scheme of variables and factors necessary to enhance successful policy dialogue (barriers/enhancing factors).
5. Collecting suggestions for possible actions
6. Preparation of a “paradigm” for each societal challenge

2. Policy dialogue stocktaking & Open Consultation

Following the launch of the Barcelona Process in 1995, the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on Research and Innovation has been developed through several bi-lateral and regional cooperation initiatives supported by EU Framework Programmes, which contributed to start building the basis for a long-term policy dialogue. In addition to this, in recent years, some key Euro-Mediterranean events have spelled out important and ambitious objectives.

A major and milestone initiative is the **Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conferences on Higher Education and Scientific Research, held in Cairo in 2007**. It represents the highest level of research policy dialogue in the Mediterranean, since North and South ministers were directly involved and committed their countries to the achievement of concrete objectives. On this occasion, ministers recognized that Education, Research and Technical Development Infrastructure (RTDI) did not receive sufficient attention in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and agreed on the creation of *a common research area through the enhancement of MPCs participation in the Framework Programmes*, taking into account their particular needs, areas of mutual interest and benefits.

Another pivotal initiative is the **Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Research and Innovation, held in Barcelona in April 2012**, which put an emphasis on the need to establish a renewed partnership in R&I, based on co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefits. Also, the Conference conclusions underline the importance of moving away from a “bilateral” approach and build on a more strategic “region to region” approach. On that occasion, the EC announced the preparation by interested EU Member States and South Mediterranean countries of a bi-regional programme based on Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), that would be a major initiative contributing to the implementation of the common agenda.

The policy dialogue framework is completed by the **Group of Senior Official (GSO)** for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in RTD (former MoCo), whose periodical meetings conclusions and recommendations represent a high level response to the challenges to be faced in order to boost cooperation. GSO/MoCo has also the task of making recommendations to the EU for the joint implementation of RTD policy priorities. The last MoCo/GSO meetings agreed on the need of revisiting the past achievements of cooperation on the basis of the principles of partnership, co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefits. Also, Senior Officials highlighted the need to establish a medium/long term common R&I agenda.

Last but not least, an input to the development of Euro-Mediterranean research policy dialogue derives from the position paper circulated after the **1st EMEG meeting** (Lisbon, June 2013), which gives some recommendations on concrete actions to be adopted for ensuring a good governance of Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation.

In addition to this, other joint objectives for reinforcing cooperation on Research and Innovation have been identified by **Science & Technology Bilateral Agreements** signed between the EU and some Mediterranean Partner Countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan). Such objectives range from the promotion of a knowledge-based society, to the mutual access to research programmes, the

achievement of mutual benefits, the protection of intellectual property rights. Under these Agreements, periodical meetings of the Science & Technology Committees are organized to further orient joint activities in line with the needs and specificities of the country concerned.

Based on the objectives formulated and announced in all the above mentioned events, meetings and documents, MedSpring has undertaken a clusterization which lead to the identification of two major categories of objectives:

1) **Strategic Objectives** (objectives which are deemed to be the ideal frame of Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue in Research and Innovation). These objectives are:

- a) Fostering long-term and stable cooperation
- b) Ensuring a participatory approach in national and EU research programme designing
- c) Developing programmes tailored on country needs
- d) Encouraging MPCs participation in EU research framework programmes
- e) Ensuring North-South co-ownership in programmes' designing and implementation

2) **Operational Objectives** (objectives which should be reached through the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on Research and Innovation). These objectives are:

- a) Higher Education
- b) Mobility
- c) Capacity Building
- d) Technology Transfer
- e) Uptake of research results

The set of “Strategic objectives” has been presented to the civil society engaged in MedSpring through the previously mentioned Open Consultation, where participants were asked to prioritize such objectives, to express an opinion on their degree of achievement and to identify problems and possible solutions for their achievement.

Following the identification of objectives, some positive factors and problems have been systematized through an assessment of the main results of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the last few years. They are briefly exposed below:

1) **Positive factors**

- Progresses towards the establishment of an Article 185 initiative for the Mediterranean
- 3 Mediterranean Partner Countries are in the top 20 Third Countries with the highest number of participant in approved projects in FP7
- About 7% of the topics of FP7 call were specifically addressed to the Mediterranean Partner Countries
- Some key issues for the Mediterranean such as “Food” and “Environment” are well addressed in the first Work Programme of H2020
- There is more involvement of the civil society in recently approved projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region

2) **Problems**

- The organization of the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Research and Innovation is still on hold
- There has been no increase in the % of Mediterranean Partner Countries participants from FP6 to FP7 (remained at about 10%)

- Low number of topics (3) addressed to Mediterranean Partner Countries in the first Work Programme of H2020 (about 0,5%)
- Key issues like health and energy are not directly addressed by H2020 calls oriented to the Mediterranean

As said before, the project launched an **on-line open consultation** aimed to assess the Research & Innovation policy and policy dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in relation to the three societal challenges addressed by Med-Spring.

In this survey participants were asked to express their opinion on the degree of achievement of the 5 above mentioned 5 Strategic (or Main) Objectives identified. For each objective they were asked to identify the main bottlenecks in their achievement and suggest potential solutions. The table below summarizes the outcomes of this activity.

MAIN OBJECTIVES VS. MAIN PROBLEMS (COMING FROM THE OPEN CONSULTATION)

Main Objectives	Main Bottlenecks/Problems
A. Fostering long-term and stable cooperation	- Differences in EU/MPCs approaches to cooperation
B. Ensuring a participatory approach in national and EU research programme designing	- Low policy-makers awareness on societal needs - Poor involvement of stakeholders in the process
C. Developing programmes tailored on country needs	- Low programmes adaptability to Countries' specificities
D. Encouraging MPCs participation in EU research framework programmes	- Bureaucracy and administrative procedures
E. Ensuring North-South co-ownership in programmes' designing and implementation	- Ineffective communication/definition of common priorities among EU and MPCs - Discrepancies between planned and implemented project activities

3. EMEG activities in Policy dialogue stocktaking

The role of the 2nd EMEG meeting, thanks also to the inputs received from the Open Consultation, was to discuss the general objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue in R&I, giving concrete suggestions on how to overcome the current barriers in order to develop sustainable actions which are really co-owned.

In particular, EMEG experts were asked:

- to contextualize Main Problems (coming from open consultation) according with specific societal challenges to obtain **Specific Problems**
- to define **Specific Policy Objectives** linked to Specific Problems
- to prioritize **Specific Policy Objectives**
- to define **Expected Impacts**
- to identify barriers/enhancing factors (**Variables**)
- to suggest **Possible Actions** for each Specific Objective
- to prepare “paradigm” for each societal challenge

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS FOR EACH SOCIETAL CHALLENGE

Main Problems Categories	Specific Problems		
	WATER	FOOD	ENERGY
Networking & Communication	Insufficient access to information and low communication flow among MS-MPC and EU as well as low participation of MPCs in platforms and policy setting instruments.	Food and agriculture is a highly-country specific sector, low participation of Mediterranean participants in formulating and designing projects' proposal.	Deficit of involvement of stakeholders (e.g. Policy Makers, Industry, Civil Society, End Users, Decision Makers, Private Energy Sector) in Joint Mediterranean strategy in the NEXUS.
	Lack of policies that consider the future challenges related to food-energy-water-space nexus.	Scientific evidence on food-related issues and problems not being appropriately translated into political terms.	
Management & Institutional responsibility	Different water management approaches: more socially oriented in scarce areas while more economically oriented in water rich areas.	Lack/poor organisation of stakeholders reflects on the poor involvement in the definition of food sector priorities and processes.	Insufficient co-ownership of energy initiatives between North and South Med.
	Political Difficulties in Implementing common water strategies.	The food-related dimension is not well represented in the current EU-Mediterranean consultation system.	Inadequacy between energy policy: common EU policy versus MPCs multi-policies (partnerships instead of cooperation). Lack of integrating approach for a real mutual partnership. Lack of systemic approaches (NEXUS of energy, food, water, and space) to solve energy problems.
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity	Discontinuity of funding, discrepancies in budget allocations between North and South and rigidity of administrative and financial procedures as well as low capacity to manage funds especially in the MPCs.	Mediterranean participants (SMEs and research centres) face difficulties in meeting the bureaucratic demands (administrative, financial and regulatory).	Insufficient energy regulation and implementation to achieve the renewable energy strategies in MPCs.
Responsiveness to users' needs	Poor water governance, poor awareness of decision makers on available sustainable solutions and funding instruments and poor engagement of mid-level policy makers, water managers, and scientists/end users in regional policy development.	European framework programmes are not always addressing problems related to food production and consumption systems especially in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.	Lack of initiatives/actions tailored to local needs in current joint EU and MPCs programs integrating gender needs, mainstreaming and SMES.
	Low sensitivity and insufficiency of EU programs toward the spatial and temporal variation in specific needs and priorities in different Med Countries.	Differences in food system-related priority and needs: mostly food security in the South and food quality in the North is the base of different approaches in long-term stable cooperation.	

SPECIFIC POLICY OBJECTIVES, FOR EACH SOCIETAL CHALLENGE (MOST VOTED)

Main Problems Categories	Specific Policy Objectives		
	WATER	FOOD	ENERGY
Networking & Communication	Create a platform that integrates the outcome from various EU-Med initiatives and foster its place in policy discussion in EIP, JPI, ETP related to water.	Development of common knowledge with mutual benefits (continuous policy dialogue).	Develop new innovative communication approaches for solving energy problems between EU and MPCs countries.
	To ensure equal participation of MPCs in relevant platforms and initiatives of policy setting to ensure more balanced programs.		
	To create permanent inter-ministerial dialogue to enhance the nexus.	Improve the links between scientific world and policy makers.	Improve initiatives of mobility of researchers, staff, decision makers (both directions) to better identify common problems, solutions and better known obstacles at the EU-MED partnership.
	To develop integrated policies that minimize water and energy uses and lower costs of production and reuse.		
Management & Institutional responsibility	To develop water management policies that integrate social, economic and environmental aspects in more balanced way.	To facilitate and support with appropriate programs the establishment of Bio economy ETP's mirror groups in MPC.	Enhance co-ownership through formulating EU energy R&D programmes, including MPC representatives and INCO groups.
	To adopt water policies that minimize the water footprint in all sectors.		
	To maximize political support (minimize political interference) when deciding on common plans and strategies for the EUROMED region.	Highlight the importance of food dimension to be integrated in EU-Med consultation.	Developing a systemic approach to solve energy problems.
	To re-launch the action plan for the Med water Strategy to consolidate priority actions in short and long term.		
	To ensure the convergence of funding sources/instruments to serve the priorities.		
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity	To ensure sustainable funding mechanisms and instruments to the priorities of MED countries.	Enhance capacity of stakeholders to be able to participate effectively to the consultation process	To have specific regulation and implementation steps to achieve the R.E. Strategies in MPC.
	To ensure equal budget allocation and develop flexible administrative and financial procedures to accommodate justifiable changes.		Prepare common EU-MPC renewable energy plan with target for the whole region including comprehensive support actions for implementation

Main Problems Categories	Specific Policy Objectives		
	WATER	FOOD	ENERGY
	To develop capacity building programs for MPCs to enable them from understanding and managing the funds properly.		
Responsiveness to users' needs	To develop water policies in full participatory manner and ensure inclusion of stakeholders at various stages of policy development.	To identify regional priorities for improving research and capacity building to foster long term cooperation between EU and MPCs.	Define specific actions which address specific local needs with the tools /rules of these programs implementation.
	To improve the awareness of policy makers at technical and financial aspects.		
	To develop water policies and programmes that takes the socio-environmental aspects into account.	To update and harmonize national agro-food regulations with EU regulations in the MPCs.	Design initiatives /actions that take into account needs of local communities and SMES integrating gender needs and mainstreaming.
	To develop a platform that includes various groups of interest from MS & MPCs to develop policies that respond to specific needs.		

EXPECTED IMPACTS, FOR EACH SOCIETAL CHALLENGE (WATER)

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	Expected Impacts
<p align="center">Networking & Communication</p>	Create a platform that integrates the outcome from various EU-Med initiatives and foster its place in policy discussion in EIP, JPI, ETP related to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Larger number of R&I topics focused on Med Water priorities, - Increased number of Joint projects EU-MPCs
	To ensure equal participation of MPCs in relevant platforms and initiatives of policy setting to ensure more balanced programs	
	To create permanent inter-ministerial dialogue to enhance the nexus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource use efficiency, demand management and more sustainable consumption patterns triggered by creative policies
	To develop integrated policies that minimize water and energy uses and lower costs of production and reuse	
<p align="center">Management & Institutional responsibility</p>	To develop water management policies that integrate social, economic and environmental aspects in more balanced way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R&D results fitting social needs and Med Water Context, - Sustainable Supply of quality water to municipal agriculture and industrial sectors
	To adopt water policies that minimize the water footprint in all sectors	
	To maximize political support (minimize political interference) when deciding on common plans and strategies for the EUROMED region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More sensitive water strategy, - RDI sustainable solutions easy to adopt by stakeholders, - An efficient use of water with a potential to increase the water capital per person by using advanced technology
	To re-launch the action plan for the Med water Strategy to consolidate priority actions in short and long term	
	To ensure the convergence of funding sources/instruments to serve the priorities	
<p align="center">Resources (financial/human) & Capacity</p>	To ensure sustainable funding mechanisms and instruments to the priorities of MED countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher participation in H2020 and higher financial contribution for MPCs
	To ensure equal budget allocation and develop flexible administrative and financial procedures to accommodate justifiable changes	
	To develop capacity building programs for MPCs to enable them from understanding and managing the funds properly	
<p align="center">Responsiveness to users' needs</p>	To develop water policies in full participatory manner and ensure inclusion of stakeholders at various stages of policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consensual water policy for a more feasible and stable strategy, - End users and stakeholders having sense of ownership to newly implemented projects, - Better implementation of policies and strategies as a result more goals achieved, - Well enhanced mechanism of participation of stakeholders in EU programmes
	To improve the awareness of policy makers at technical and financial aspects	
	To develop water policies and programmes that takes the socio-environmental aspects into account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More specific topics related to the real needs of EU/MPCs countries,

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	Expected Impacts
	To develop a platform that includes various groups of interest from MS & MPCs to develop policies that respond to specific needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term strategies that will enlarge participation, - the Euro-Med partnership is tangible and contribute to the development of South Med countries

EXPECTED IMPACTS, FOR EACH SOCIETAL CHALLENGE (FOOD)

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	Expected Impacts
Networking & Communication	Development of common knowledge with mutual benefits (continuous policy dialogue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicated specific cooperation structures for local support (exchange cooperation services included) are set-up.
	Improve the links between scientific world and policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Strategic" framework related to food and agriculture including civil society and researchers needs is being improved; - Increased involvement of the scientific community in the development of policies (joint working groups); - The rank of food-related problems rises in the development agenda priority list for MPCs; - Scientific research and outputs are more oriented and useful to support political decision; - A better balanced relation between agriculture industry and small scale farmers into the EU-Med area is achieved.
Management & Institutional responsibility	To facilitate and support with appropriate programs the establishment of Bio economy ETP's mirror groups in MPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased involvement of Mediterranean stakeholders in the definition of EU R&I priorities discussing them with their EU colleagues and EU policy makers; - A better vision of the needs of the Mediterranean area in terms of research and capacity building is achieved; - RTD is improved in agro-food industry; - Common research strategy is formulated; - National/Transnational R&I activities benefit from the presence of the Mediterranean technological platforms mirror groups; - Pertinent policies are designed by policy makers more aware about food and agricultural system.
	Highlight the importance of food dimension to be integrated in EU-Med consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The food dimension becomes officially one of the concern regularly discussed during EU meeting of Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Economy; - Improved competence of policymakers in food sector;

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	Expected Impacts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More and better targeted food related content in all types of EC funding programmes and research calls and related activities.
<p style="text-align: center;">Resources (financial/human) & Capacity</p>	<p>Enhance capacity of stakeholders to be able to participate effectively to the consultation process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of food stakeholders associations in the MPCs increased; - Southern Mediterranean Participants have high capacity and are empowered to participate to food-related research projects; - A better involvement of all stakeholders, especially the weakest ones, is achieved. - The consultation programme for defining research programming is designed to enable researchers to take part.
<p style="text-align: center;">Responsiveness to users' needs</p>	<p>To identify regional priorities for improving research and capacity building to foster long term cooperation between EU and MPCs</p> <hr/> <p>To update and harmonize national agro-food regulations with EU regulations in the MPCs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved uptake of research results by market (best economic impacts); - Agricultural and food priority and needs of MPCs are appropriately addressed in calls and work programmes. - An EU-Med market without artificial barriers with open corridors for plants and safe food export has developed; - Common vision among EU and MPCs calls has been developed; - Mediterranean population benefits from the harmonization of agro-food regulations.

EXPECTED IMPACTS, FOR EACH SOCIETAL CHALLENGE (ENERGY)

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	Expected Impacts
Networking & Communication	Develop new innovative communication approaches for solving energy problems between EU and MPCs countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance cooperation efficiency extended to other issues (water, food, ICT). - Enhance citizen awareness on energy issues and their sustainable development.
	Improve initiatives of mobility of researchers, staff, decision makers (both directions) to better identify common problems, solutions and better know obstacles at the EU-MED partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the mobility of researchers (both ways) then the number of real partnerships between North and South MPCs could increase. - Increased knowledge transfer and intercultural exchange of good practice. Policies will be more cross-cutting. - Alignment of joint EU-MPC policy with different context and real needs of the EU and MPCs citizens.
Management & Institutional responsibility	Enhance co-ownership through formulating EU energy R&D programmes, including MPC representatives and INCO groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the number of coordination projects that solve energy problems between EU and MPCs. - Creating an environment for real partnership, for example, mutual and equal responsibilities and benefits.
	Developing a systemic approach to solve energy problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solving energy problems in MPCs in a systemic approach. - New opportunities of component optimization (energy, water, food, space) and thus higher level efficiency in resources use.
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity	To have specific regulation and implementation steps to achieve the R.E. Strategies in MPC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faster switch to renewable energies than presently observed.
	Prepare common EU-MPC renewable energy plan with target for the whole region including comprehensive support actions for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local communities SMES and End-Users are implementing on the field sustainable initiatives that improve the life of populations respecting natural resources. - Open wide perspectives to local markets.
Responsiveness to users' needs	Define specific actions which address specific local needs with the tools /rules of these programs implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solving local needs/problems will demonstrate the usefulness of new renewable energy alternatives and catch the population to accept and become promoter of the new sustainable energy technologies (bottom-up rather than top-down). - Increase joint EU-MPC programmes to tailor the local energy needs.
	Design initiatives /actions that take into account needs of local communities and SMES integrating gender needs and mainstreaming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable decentralized problem solutions in the energy systems of the EU-MS and MPCs. - Upward boost in economy in smaller business communities and reduction of unemployment.

VARIABLES FOR EACH SOCIETAL CHALLENGE (WATER)

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	VARIABLES	
		Positive Factors	Barriers
Networking & Communication	Create a platform that integrates the outcome from various EU-Med initiatives and foster its place in policy discussion in EIP, JPI, ETP related to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange funding programmes; - Dialogue/communication platforms; - Good degree of responsiveness of H2020 MED calls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low number of MED oriented calls; - MPCs participate in EU call but not on equal footing; - Low trust among involved actors; - No public/long-term access and maintenance of projects (dates ...etc); - Low number of MED experts in EC list
	To ensure equal participation of MPCs in relevant platforms and initiatives of policy setting to ensure more balanced programs		
	To create permanent inter-ministerial dialogue to enhance the nexus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More funding and research/RDI in water nexus; - Global trend towards "Nexus" well absorbed by MED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of holistic vision in institutions; - Low follow up of research; - Insufficient link research-policy makers
	To develop integrated policies that minimize water and energy uses and lower costs of production and reuse		
Management & Institutional responsibility	To develop water management policies that integrate social, economic and environmental aspects in more balanced way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bio-safety Model; - Useful studies, methodology and data available; - Frontier Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sectorial thinking and decision making; - Lack of communication, "fake" trans-disciplinarity; - Low impact of research and low uptake on water saving; - low stakeholders participation; - water governance not adapted to nexus
	To adopt water policies that minimize the water footprint in all sectors		
	To maximize political support (minimize political interference) when deciding on common plans and strategies for the EUROMED region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGOs are more empowered to play a significant role in water policy; - Many initiatives at the EURO-Mediterranean level in the preparatory phase (PRIMA, Blue Med, ERANETMED ...etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National strategies are not considering the regional dimension; - Limited involvement of the NGOs and Civil Society in strategy development; - Current transitional political situation in the region; - Weak mainstreaming of gender issues; - Poor dissemination of information/poor access to information by policy makers
	To re-launch the action plan for the Med water Strategy to consolidate priority actions in short and long term		
	To ensure the convergence of funding sources/instruments to serve the priorities		

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	VARIABLES	
		Positive Factors	Barriers
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity	To ensure sustainable funding mechanisms and instruments to the priorities of MED countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good tools for capacity building (platforms, forums ...etc); - Openness of H2020 to participate and receive funding; - Efforts/discussion to reduce inequality; - Increased exchange of best practices between North and South 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not innovative capacity building methods; - Purpose of EU funds for research; - Absence of funding mechanisms to ensure sustainability of programmes; - Legal constraints in accepting national rules by the EU; - Limited training programme facilities (financial and technical)
	To ensure equal budget allocation and develop flexible administrative and financial procedures to accommodate justifiable changes		
	To develop capacity building programs for MPCs to enable them from understanding and managing the funds properly		
Responsiveness to users' needs	To develop water policies in full participatory manner and ensure inclusion of stakeholders at various stages of policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETPs and Platforms; - Local water management approach and results; - High valuation of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discontinuity of Dialogue; - No proper channelling of different stakeholders' views; - Bureaucracy/Structure of water resources management agencies; - Inefficient decentralization systems and local mechanisms - No proper channelling of different stakeholders' views
	To improve the awareness of policy makers at technical and financial aspects		
	To develop water policies and programmes that takes the socio-environmental aspects into account	<i>No variables identified</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water integrity (water governance)
	To develop a platform that includes various groups of interest from MS & MPCs to develop policies that respond to specific needs		

VARIABLES FOR EACH SOCIETAL CHALLENGE (FOOD)

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	VARIABLES	
		Positive Factors	Barriers
Networking & Communication	Development of common knowledge with mutual benefits (continuous policy dialogue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of communication and communication technologies - Organise round tables and dialogue community with communication specialists to disseminate knowledge - Adoption of the same set of indicators - Consultation organized in a "plain language" in order to facilitate participation from stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political instability in MPCs cause difficulties in developing long-term strategies - Difference in interests between scientists and policy makers - No opportunity/channel to share information - Absence of a common knowledge between scientists and policy makers
	Improve the links between scientific world and policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research results and outcomes responding to country priorities are presented in an economic developmental terms - Forums of discussion and platforms where policy and academia can interact - Evaluate the programs of networking between politicians and scientists on a regular basis (monitoring) - Present research results in a way showing impacts on the bio-economy development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong influence of multinational firms which interfere in the consultation process involving science and policy - Lack of willingness of scientists and policy makers to cooperate - Policy makers and scientists have different missions and visions - Low relevance of research outcomes to national priority programmes
Management & Institutional responsibility	To facilitate and support with appropriate programs the establishment of Bio economy ETP's mirror groups in MPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of positive experience and best practices in Europe as examples for MPCs - More involvement of Med Countries in collaborative projects (H2020) - Support to the project consortia in the project preparation phase to get commitment from all partners and develop a feasible project proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence (unavailability) of economic resources to implement a fair and consistent stakeholder involvement - National authorities not convinced of the importance of creating a forum bringing together stakeholders
	Highlight the importance of food dimension to be integrated in EU-Med consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to data and updated information on food-related issues at the time of the consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different public perceptions of food security (as well as other food-related issues) in EU-Med. Countries

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	VARIABLES	
		Positive Factors	Barriers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food security and food safety issues are reflected in the domestic use of participant Countries - Food dimension is integrated in sectoral development plans at national and local levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Underestimating the importance of the gender dimension in reducing food problems in southern Med countries - No involvement or participation of food specialists in the consultation team
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity	Enhance capacity of stakeholders to be able to participate effectively to the consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific support measures to enhance the public and media understanding of the bio-economy - Increase mobility and exchange of project's staff - Invite stakeholders to be involved in the whole process at early stage - Increase quality of policy makers decision process - Trust of Med countries in the EU strategies for solving their problems related to food sector - Consultation organised in local languages in order to make easier participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of incentives to motivate R&D actors to participate - Civil society and researchers are excluded at national level in consultation process - Under evaluated R&D opportunities by SMEs and farmers
Responsiveness to users' needs	To identify regional priorities for improving research and capacity building to foster long term cooperation between EU and MPCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and implementation of specific accompanying measures - Competences and importance of international organisations and regional institutes is a very useful tool for connecting regional stakeholders and EU - Think tanks are created to influence EU-MPCs cooperation - Existence of economic policy strategy in agro-food sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of a structured research system with clearly defined objectives based on strategies - Priorities at national level in southern Mediterranean countries are not defined in a participatory way (involving civil society/researchers)
	To update and harmonize national agro-food regulations with EU regulations in the MPCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twinning schemes support harmonisation of regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulations acting as trade barriers, political and economic interest may

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	VARIABLES	
		Positive Factors	Barriers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strict obedience to the rules of quality and safety by the MPCs - Benefits from already existing networks (e.g. SINAM) and meetings in the frameworks of current projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hamper the process and influence the competition in the international trade - Poor capacity of small producers to adapt to and apply new regulations - Obstacles to implement possible EU-compatible regulation in various food dimensions in MPCs

VARIABLES FOR EACH SOCIETAL CHALLENGE (ENERGY)

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	VARIABLES	
		Positive Factors	Barriers
Networking & Communication	Develop new innovative communication approaches for solving energy problems between EU and MPCs countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up a culture of partnership; - Common research interests; - Common design and accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspension of EU-MPC ministerial dialogue on energy since 2007 created no roadmap for energy cooperation; - Lack of common language; - Cultural barriers
	Improve initiatives of mobility of researchers, staff, decision makers (both directions) to better identify common problems, solutions and better known obstacles at the EU-MED partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding programs which allow increased mobility; - Growing networks of national researchers and network between MPCs and EU researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty on researchers international mobility; - Inadequate ERA space organization; - Insufficient women representation in research advisory board and decision making position
Management & Institutional responsibility	Enhance co-ownership through formulating EU energy R&D programmes, including MPC representatives and INCO groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance co-ownership by including MPCs representatives in policy formulation; - Inclusion of international cooperation on Energy programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No KPI (Key performance Indicators) to measure mutual benefits; - Marginalization of the international dimension in H2020 programme architecture/lack of ambition for a "common EU-MED RI area"; - Lack of national comprehensive policies acting in an integrated way; - the fragmentation of political decisions and its implementation; - lack of interaction between economic

Main Problems Categories	Specific policy objectives	VARIABLES	
		Positive Factors	Barriers
			actors of the NEXUS
	Developing a systemic approach to solve energy problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommend national actions (on research and innovation) towards concrete challenges: urban development, agricultural production, tourism, based on the NEXUS concept; - Leading paradigms of research, highlighting the interdependency of energy/food/water/space/environment (NEXUS); - Solve issues of energy together with food, water and space at research implementation level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty to work trans-disciplinarily in the present set-up of sectoralized institutions; - lack of gender disaggregated data that could feed proper gender sensitive approach to energy problems; - lack of common policy/vision in EU-MED region on energy sector
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity	To have specific regulation and implementation steps to achieve the R.E. Strategies in MPC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pressing need to switch to renewable energy for different reasons (climate, depletion, pollution); - common interest, common design and common accountability; - promotion of women's participation in all the phases, from policy design to implementation of development projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop common policies between EU and MPCs authorities; - Sectorialization of funding instruments; - Policies EU targeting and difficulties of dialogue at decision level.
	Prepare common EU-MPC renewable energy plan with target for the whole region including comprehensive support actions for implementation	<i>No variables identified</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Particular, especially commercial but also operational interest of existing structures preventing change
Responsiveness to users' needs	Define specific actions which address specific local needs with the tools /rules of these programs implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mutual responsibility and mutual benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H2020 programme design that disadvantages "local" energy solutions with societal participation
	Design initiatives /actions that take into account needs of local communities and SMES integrating gender needs and mainstreaming.	<i>No variables identified</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural barriers; - Lack of communications between local communities and SMEs stakeholders

SUGGESTED ACTIONS (WATER)

Main Problems Categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Suggested Actions
<p align="center">Networking & Communication</p>	<p>Insufficient access to information and low communication flow among MS-MPC and EU as well as low participation of MPCs in platforms and policy setting instruments</p>	<p>Create a platform that integrates the outcome from various EU-Med initiatives and foster its place in policy discussion in EIP, JPI, ETP related to water</p>	<p>Create mechanisms for involving MPCs in various EU water initiatives and platforms (EIP, JPI, ETP)</p>
		<p>To ensure equal participation of MPCs in relevant platforms and initiatives of policy setting to ensure more balanced programs</p>	
	<p>Lack of policies that consider the future challenges related to food-energy-water-space nexus</p>	<p>To create permanent inter-ministerial dialogue to enhance the nexus</p>	<p>Setting Med Committee on Nexus to develop visions , holistic approaches and new programmes and building synergies with other relevant programmes</p>
		<p>To develop integrated policies that minimize water and energy uses and lower costs of production and reuse</p>	<p>Developing mechanisms and tools to enhance cooperation/exchange/communication to lead to common vision on water and energy saving and optimum uses. To build policy based on pilot studies in water/energy nexus</p>
<p align="center">Management & Institutional responsibility</p>	<p>Different water management approaches: more socially oriented in scarce areas while more economically oriented in water rich areas</p>	<p>To develop water management policies that integrate social, economic and environmental aspects in more balanced way</p>	<p><i>No Actions identified</i></p>
	<p>Political Difficulties in Implementing common water strategies</p>	<p>To adopt water policies that minimize the water footprint in all sectors</p>	
		<p>To maximize political support (minimize political interference) when deciding on common plans and strategies for the EUROMED region</p> <p>To re-launch the action plan for the Med water Strategy to consolidate priority actions</p>	<p>Create a technical committee to review the MED water strategy and set implementation recommendations</p>

Main Problems Categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Suggested Actions
		in short and long term	
		To ensure the convergence of funding sources/instruments to serve the priorities	
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity	Discontinuity of funding, discrepancies in budget allocations between North and South (e.g. Salary) and rigidity of administrative and financial procedures as well as low capacity to manage funds especially in the MPCs	To ensure sustainable funding mechanisms and instruments to the priorities of MED countries	Developing co-funding mechanisms to ensure sustainability
		To ensure equal budget allocation and develop flexible administrative and financial procedures to accommodate justifiable changes	Capacity building on financial management through learning by doing and on-line support
		To develop capacity building programs for MPCs to enable them from understanding and managing the funds properly	Setting long term planning and secure funding for good projects to realize the intended outcomes
Responsiveness to users' needs	Poor water governance, poor awareness of decision makers on available sustainable solutions and funding instruments and poor engagement of mid level policy makers, water managers, and scientists/end users in regional policy development	To develop water policies in full participatory manner and ensure inclusion of stakeholders at various stages of policy development	Set-up a relevant SH representation at each required level. Identify the consultation process that guarantees the change of information. Updating community institutions (including capacity building). Providing incentives for adopting water saving technologies
		To improve the awareness of policy makers at technical and financial aspects	
	Low sensitivity and insufficiency of EU programs toward the spatial and temporal variation in specific needs and priorities in different Med Countries	To develop water policies and programmes that takes the socio-environmental aspects into account	Set-up of a new mechanism for the integrative water valuation according to the existing local condition. Establish boards representing experts of the different disciplines and aspects of the water management (social, economical, environmental). Develop tools representing different group of interest.
	To develop a platform that includes various groups of interest from MS & MPCs to develop policies that respond to specific needs		

SUGGESTED ACTIONS (FOOD)

Main Problems Categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Suggested Actions
<p align="center">Networking & Communication</p>	<p>Food and agriculture is a highly-country specific sector, low participation of Mediterranean participants in formulating and designing projects' proposal.</p>	<p>Development of common knowledge with mutual benefits (continuous policy dialogue)</p>	<p>Encourage North and South Mediterranean Countries in increasing research networks which could alleviate the South Mediterranean isolation. This could be done through specific programmes and projects which will improve N-S dialogue and facilitate trade in the Med area offering mutual benefits</p>
			<p>Promote participation of the MPCs in large scale collaborative projects with EU-Countries aiming at solving national/regional problems identified by national authorities</p>
	<p>Scientific evidence on food-related issues and problems not being appropriately properly translated into political terms.</p>	<p>Improve the links between scientific world and policy makers</p>	<p>Implementation of regular workshops/conferences involving politicians, scientists and farmers on a national level to identify current problems of the food sector and to develop possible solutions</p>
			<p>Politicians should always count on the expertise of scientific advisors (scientific advisory boards could be included in the policymakers group/subgroup)</p>
<p align="center">Management & Institutional responsibility</p>	<p>Lack/poor organisation of stakeholders reflects on the poor involvement in the definition of food sector priorities and processes</p>	<p>To facilitate and support with appropriate programs the establishment of Bio economy ETP's mirror groups in MPC</p>	<p>To devise accompanying measures in order to better explore the productive structures and organizations in order to better identify the stakeholder to be involved</p>
	<p>The food-related dimension is not well represented in the current Eu-Mediterranean consultation system.</p>	<p>Highlight the importance of food dimension to be integrated in EU-Med consultation</p>	<p>To harmonize the EU-Med consultation processes valorising the inter-relation between food security and food safety as well as taking into account neglected issues (e.g. gender balance)</p>

Main Problems Categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Suggested Actions
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity	Mediterranean participants (small and medium sized enterprise and research centres) face difficulties in meeting the bureaucratic demands (administrative, financial and regulatory).	Enhance capacity of stakeholders to be able to participate effectively to the consultation process	Establishment of sustainable partnerships between MPC research centers and international leading EU Institutions in agro-food sector, to foster MPC centers of excellence, considering infrastructure management, link and connect SME's to RDI stairways to market with multiplier effect, improving governance capacity building for RDI and belonging to civil society
			Creation of EU-Med R&D Forum for consultation (REGPOT, ERAWIDE, TEAMING, R2I)
Responsiveness to users' needs	European framework programmes are not always addressing problems related to food production and consumption systems especially in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.	To identify regional priorities for improving research and capacity building to foster long term cooperation between EU and MPCs	Creation of a tool for connecting stakeholders and EU institutions focused on the Committee of the Regions competencies in his role of sustain catalyze and manage similar regional/local or complementary synergies in the agro-food sector involving international organizations and regional institutions of EU and MPCs.
	Differences in food system-related priority and needs: mostly food security in the South and food quality in the North is the base of different approaches in long-term stable cooperation	To update and harmonize national agro-food regulations with EU regulations in the MPCs	Establishment of a permanent national-regional Committee involving researchers and policy makers, in order to enforce the agro-food regulations, considering the obtained results among the already existing workgroup/networks (e.g. Cooperation projects of the CIHEAM-MAIB) Promote a long-term MPCs strategies to reach the EU standards of the agro-food products towards increasing the awareness of civil society consumers, policy makers on the sanitary status of plants and food

SUGGESTED ACTIONS (ENERGY)

Main Problems Categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Suggested Actions
<p style="text-align: center;">Networking & Communication</p>	<p>Deficit of involvement of stakeholders (e.g. Policy Makers, Industry, Civil Society, End Users, Decision Makers, Private Energy Sector) in Joint Mediterranean strategy in the NEXUS.</p>	<p>To develop new innovative communication approaches for solving energy problems between EU and MPCs countries.</p>	<p>Create a meeting place (virtual and/or physical) that facilitates an inclusive participation of all EU-MPC stakeholders to adopt common energy strategies.</p>
		<p>To improve initiatives of mobility of researchers, staff, decision matters (both directions) to better identify common problems, solutions and better know obstacles at the EU MED partnership.</p>	<p>Create a web-based virtual civil society observatory to collect the citizen's concerns about energy issues.</p>
		<p>To improve initiatives of mobility of researchers, staff, decision matters (both directions) to better identify common problems, solutions and better know obstacles at the EU MED partnership.</p>	<p>Create a new EU-MPC program to raise the awareness on the importance of researchers' mobility for common research activities.</p>
		<p>To improve initiatives of mobility of researchers, staff, decision matters (both directions) to better identify common problems, solutions and better know obstacles at the EU MED partnership.</p>	<p>Make a better use of Marie Curie Program (Individual Fellowships, ITNs,...) to facilitate bidirectional mobility of researchers to set up common research activities.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Management & Institutional responsibility</p>	<p>Insufficient co-ownership of energy initiatives between North and South Med.</p>	<p>To enhance co-ownership through formulating EU energy R&D programmes, including MPC representatives and INCO groups.</p>	<p>Setting up of an institutionalized forum aimed at getting together stakeholders (including scientists) if EU and MPCs to enhance co-ownership in the design of programs and implementation of projects of RE taking into account gender perspectives;</p>
	<p>Inadequacy between energy policy: common EU policy versus MPCs multi-policies (partnerships instead of cooperation).</p>		<p>Developing specific research programs in RE targeting common benefits, interests and effects both in EU and MPCs encouraging the participation of women researchers</p>
	<p>Lack of integrating approach for a real mutual partnership.</p>	<p>To develop a systemic approach to solve energy problems.</p>	<p>Developing research programs targeting systemic approach in common energy problems between EU and MPCs considering gender perspective;</p>
	<p>Lack of systemic approaches (NEXUS of energy, food, water, and space) to solve energy problems.</p>		<p>Provide capacity building activities/actions to promote an effective systemic approach to solve energy problems with special attention to women's needs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Resources (financial/human) & Capacity</p>	<p>Insufficient energy regulation and implementation to achieve the renewable energy strategies in MPCs.</p>	<p>To have specific regulation and implementation steps to achieve the Renewable Energies Strategies in MPC.</p>	<p>Develop a RE roadmap & action plan in each MPC, pursuing a systemic approach (Nexus) & including a wide scope of stakeholder (i.e. national, regional policy makers; communities; civil society, business);</p>

Main Problems Categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Suggested Actions
			<p>Establish a high-level platform on energy policies in the MPCs, aiming at integrated regional energy strategy</p> <p>Resuming the (inter-intra) ministerial dialogue on RE between EU-MS & MPCs, taking into regard other aspects of the Nexus energy-water-food-space environment;</p> <p>To Provide : - legal support: to transform Road Maps into adequate legislation that is conducive to RE - financial support: for reducing risks for SME start-ups (lower interest) - counseling/managerial support by temporarily employed foreign experts - regular bi-regional monitoring conference on the RE strategy implementation progress</p>
Responsiveness to users' needs	Lack of initiatives/actions tailored to local needs in current joint EU and MPCs programs integrating gender needs, mainstreaming and SMES.	<p>to Define specific actions which address specific local needs with the tools /rules of these programs implementation</p> <p>to Design initiatives /actions that take into account needs of local communities and SMES integrating gender needs and mainstreaming.</p>	<p>Proposing specific programs more focused on MPCs needs and priorities</p> <p>Designing specific and actions targeting SMEs awareness on R&I activities</p> <p>Offering training opportunities for all stakeholders integrating SMEs needs</p>

4. The work after the EMEG meeting

Following the EMEG meeting, the MedSpring staff organized and clusterized workgroups outcomes in order to classify them into 2 categories:

- specific: objectives, impacts, variables and actions to be implemented in the frame of policies addressed to specific societal challenges (water, food, energy);
- horizontal: objectives, impacts, variables and actions to be implemented to ensure effective policy dialogue, regardless the sector of application.

The last one are summarized, according the Main Problems categories, in the following tables.

NETWORKING & COMMUNICATION (HORIZONTAL)

Specific Problems	Specific Policy Objectives	Expected Impacts	Suggested actions
<p>Insufficient access to information and low communication flow among MS-MPC and EU as well as low participation of MPCs in platforms and policy setting instruments.</p> <p>Lack of policies that consider the future challenges related to food-energy-water-space nexus.</p> <p>Deficit of involvement of stakeholders (e.g. Policy Makers, Industry, Civil Society, End Users, Decision Makers, Private Sector) in Joint Mediterranean strategy in the nexus.</p> <p>Scientific evidence on nexus-related issues and problems not being appropriately translated into political terms.</p>	<p>To ensure equal participation of MPCs in relevant platforms and initiatives of policy setting to grant more balanced programs.</p> <p>Create a platform integrating outcomes from various EU-Med initiatives and foster its place in policy discussion in EIP, JPI, ETP related to water/food/energy.</p> <p>To promote permanent inter-ministerial dialogue to enhance the water/food/energy nexus.</p> <p>Develop innovative communication approaches for solving water/food/energy problems between EU and MPCs countries.</p> <p>Improve the links between scientific world and policy makers, developing common knowledge and continuous policy dialogue.</p> <p>Improve bi-lateral MS-MPCs initiatives of mobility of researchers, staff, decision makers to better identify common problems and find solutions to enhance EU-MED partnership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource use efficiency, demand management and citizen awareness for a more sustainable resources consumption patterns triggered by creative policies. • Dedicated specific cooperation structures for local support (exchange cooperation services included) are set-up, enhancing cooperation efficiency in nexus issues (water, food, energy, ICT). • Scientific research and outputs are more oriented and useful to support political decision through increased involvement of the scientific community in the development of policies (joint working groups) • Increased MS-MPCs researchers' mobility leading to a significant increase in the number of EU-MPCs real partnerships in Joint projects. • Increased knowledge transfer and intercultural exchange of good practice. Policies will be more cross-cutting. • Alignment of joint EU-MPC policy with different context and real needs of the EU and MPCs citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote participation of the MPCs in large scale collaborative projects and research networks with EU-Countries aiming at solving national/regional problems identified by national authorities. This could be done through specific programmes and projects which will improve N-S dialogue and facilitate trade in the Med area offering mutual benefits, alleviating the South Mediterranean isolation. • Create a meeting place (virtual and/or physical) that facilitates an inclusive participation of all EU-MPCs in various initiatives and platforms (EIP, JPI, ETP) to adopt common strategies. • Create a web-based virtual civil society observatory to collect the citizen's concerns about energy issues. • Make a better use of Marie Curie Program (Individual Fellowships, ITNs,...) or create a new EU-MPC program to facilitate bidirectional mobility of researchers to set up common research activities. • Developing mechanisms and tools (e.g. a Mediterranean Committee) to

			<p>enhance cooperation / exchange / communication leading to common holistic vision and new approaches on water-food-energy Nexus, building synergies with other relevant programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include scientific advisory boards in the policy-makers group/subgroup
Positive Factors		Barriers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing networks of national researchers between MPCs and EU researchers on the basis of exchange and mobility funding programmes • Use of innovative communication tools (e.g. dialogue/communication platforms) to organize consultation in a "plain language" in order to facilitate participation from stakeholders • Good degree of responsiveness of H2020 MED calls • Communication specialists could help in organizing round tables, forums of discussion and platforms to improve dialogue between community, policy makers and academia to disseminate knowledge • Monitoring the programs of networking between politicians and scientists on a regular basis adopting the same set of evaluation indicators • Global trend towards "Nexus" well absorbed by MED • Research results and outcomes responding to country priorities are presented in a way showing impacts on the bio-economy development • Setting up a culture of partnership based on common research interests and accountability 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low number of Med-oriented EU calls, to which the MPCs do not participate on the same footing than European countries; low trust among involved actors • Inadequate ERA space organization • No public access to information and lack of long-term maintenance of projects websites leads to inadequate follow-up of research outcomes • Political instability together with lack of holistic vision in MPCs institutions causes difficulties in developing long-term strategies • No opportunity/channel to share information • Differences in missions and visions between scientists and policy makers together with lack of common language leads to difficulties and unwillingness to cooperate • Low relevance of research outcomes to national priority programmes • Difficulty on researchers international mobility • Low number of MED experts in EC list and insufficient women's representation in research advisory board and decision making position 	

MANAGEMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (HORIZONTAL)

Specific Problems	Specific Policy Objectives	Expected Impacts	Suggested actions
Lack of a participatory and integrated approach in the definition of priorities and strategies in R&I programmes	Enhance co-ownership by ensuring more participation of MPCs representatives and thematic experts in decision making and programme definition	R&I sustainable initiatives and solutions easy to adopt by stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific activities in projects for a better identification of the stakeholders to be involved • Set-up an institutionalized forum for getting together stakeholders to give recommendations on specific calls • Developing projects based on the evidence of specific problems considering also gender perspective
Positive Factors		Barriers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and methodologies for priority setting are already available • Existing Best Practices of MPCs involvement (e.g. inclusions in the proposal setting phase) • Good number of initiatives (running or planned) at the Euro-Mediterranean level on R&I in key societal challenges • Higher involvement of MPCs in collaborative projects (H2020) • Increased quality of policy making process 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited involvement of stakeholders and civil society • Sectorial decision making and low trans-disciplinarity • Low coherence among local, national and regional strategies • Current political situation in the region • Poor access to information by policy makers • No KPI (Key Performance Indicators) to measure mutual benefits • Marginalization of the International dimension in H2020 • Lack of integration among economic actors of the NEXUS • Gender issues poorly addressed 	

RESOURCES (FINANCIAL/HUMAN) & CAPACITY (HORIZONTAL)

Specific Problems	Specific Policy Objectives	Expected Impacts	Suggested actions
<p>Discontinuity of funding, discrepancies in budget allocations between N/S, rigid and highly demanding administrative, bureaucratic and financial procedures as well as low capacity to manage funds especially in MPCs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring durable funding mechanisms and equal budget allocation adopting also flexible administrative and financial procedures sided by capacity building actions for MPCs administrators • Enhancing capacity of stakeholders to be able to effectively participate to consultation processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher participation in H2020 and higher financial contribution for MPCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop co-funding mechanisms • Capacity building actions on financial management through learning by doing and on-line support • Setting long term planning and secure funding for good projects to realize the intended outcomes
Positive Factors		Barriers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective tools already existing for capacity building (platforms, forums, ecc...) • Openness of H2020 to participate and receive funding • Efforts/discussion to reduce inequality • Increased mobility and exchange of project staff • Increased trust of MPCs towards EU strategies 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mechanisms to ensure sustainability of funded initiatives • Legal constraints in adapting to EU financial requirements • Limited training programme facilities (financial and technical) • Sectorialization of funding instruments • Under-evaluated opportunities by SMEs and farmers 	

RESPONSIVENESS TO USERS' NEEDS (HORIZONTAL)

Specific Problems	Specific Policy Objectives	Expected Impacts	Suggested actions
<p>Low sensitivity and insufficiency of EU programs toward the spatial and temporal variation in specific needs and priorities in different Med Countries.</p> <p>Lack of initiatives/actions tailored to local needs in current joint EU and MPCs programs integrating gender needs, mainstreaming and SMES.</p> <p>Poor governance, poor awareness of decision makers on available sustainable solutions and funding instruments and poor engagement of mid-level policy makers, managers, and scientists/end users in regional policy development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop policies in a participatory way (e.g. through virtual platform involving various groups of interest from MS & MPC), taking into account socio-environmental aspects (e.g. needs of local communities, SMES, gender needs and mainstreaming), ensuring inclusion of different stakeholders at various stages. • To identify regional priorities for improving research and capacity building, addressing specific local needs, to foster long term cooperation between EU and MPCs. • To improve the awareness of policy makers at technical and financial aspects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common vision among EU and MPCs has been developed, resulting in a tangible partnership contributing to the development of South Med countries • More specific topics related to the real needs of EU/MPCs countries, • Better implementation of policies and long-term strategies, resulting in enlarged participation. • Enhanced mechanism of participation of end users and stakeholders in EU programmes resulting in an improved sense of ownership for newly implemented projects • Upward boost in economy in smaller business communities and reduction of unemployment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the consultation process that guarantees the exchange of information. • Proposing specific programs more focused on MPCs needs and priorities. • Creation of a tool for connecting stakeholders, different group of interest and EU institutions focused on the Committee of the Regions competencies in his role of sustain catalyze and manage similar regional/local or complementary synergies in the agro-food sector involving international organizations and regional institutions of EU and MPCs. • Designing specific and actions targeting SMEs awareness on R&I activities • Offering training opportunities for all stakeholders (included institutions) integrating SMEs needs.
Positive Factors		Barriers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of specific accompanying measures • Competences and importance of international organisations and regional institutes is a very useful tool for connecting regional stakeholders and EU • Think tanks are created to influence EU-MPCs cooperation • Twinning schemes support harmonisation of regulations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinuity of dialogue; • No proper channelling of different stakeholders' points of view; • Inefficient decentralization systems and local mechanisms • Absence of a structured research system with clearly defined objectives based on strategies 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits from already existing networks (e.g. SINAM) and meetings in the frameworks of current projects • Recommend national actions (on research and innovation) towards concrete challenges: urban development, agricultural production, tourism, based on the NEXUS concept; • Leading paradigms of research, highlighting the interdependency of energy/food/water/space/environment (NEXUS); • Mutual responsibility and mutual benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities at national level in southern Mediterranean countries are not defined in a participatory way (involving civil society/researchers) • Poor capacity of small producers to adapt to and apply new regulations • Cultural barriers; • Lack of communications between local communities and SMEs stakeholders
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5. Conclusions and recommendations

EMEG delivered a comprehensive frame of topics and concrete solutions to be pursued within the Euro-Mediterranean research policy agenda. The outcomes of EMEG experts groups have been substantiated by the interaction with the “Mediterranean” civil society (researchers, SMEs, policy makers, WEB communities), and the outcomes of the public consultation were adequately addressed by EMEG.

The range of policy objectives and solutions proposed by 2nd EMEG meeting were condensed in the following “cross-cutting” and overarching paradigms (for each societal challenge).

a. Cross-cutting paradigms

Research in water, food and energy in the Mediterranean region has cross-border dimension and can be successfully tackled only in the frame of mutual EU-MPC co-operation with participation on equal footing.

Addressing the nexus among water, food and energy to satisfy human needs within the limits of natural resources, implying the development of creative integrated policy and politics.

Euro-Mediterranean research and innovation policy should be given a clear orientation through a process of generating joint problem awareness, and by participation of stakeholders beyond business

Euro-Mediterranean R&I policy will have to orient the prioritisation of research toward nexus problems, based on sustainability including trans-disciplinarity, integrating science in society, gender mainstreaming, stakeholders co-ownership.

b. Overarching paradigms

Resources efficiency - **Water:**

“Developing water research policies in line with the Action Plan of Euro-Mediterranean Strategy while orienting such policies to the minimization of water footprint in different uses by integrating social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Supporting the participation of MPC research organizations in policy dialogue in EU water related platforms (EIP, JPIs, ETP).”

High quality affordable **Food:**

*“EU and MPCs food-related **cooperation** should be based on **co-ownership, inclusiveness and shared benefits**, aiming at improving research and innovation **impact** in support of sustainable food production systems that recognize the **interdependence** between agriculture, water, energy, health and environment, reflected in **comprehensive policies for sustainable food and nutrition security, including food quality and safety.**”*

Energy:

*“The new **“Energy paradigm”** for both EU and MPCs involves the move from traditional fossil fuels to sustainable renewable sources and a reduction of demand by increasing the efficiency of resource use. Supply and demand must be analysed in an integrated way. The application of this paradigm must be well adapted to sustainable development, local uses and traditions, making users comfortable and active partners. EU and MPCs should work together towards a common co-owned vision for the whole region.”*

6. References

- Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of 27-28/11/1995 (http://www.eeas.europa.eu/euromed/docs/bd_en.pdf)
- Conclusions of the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th meetings of the Monitoring Committee for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation (MoCo)
- EMEG 1st meeting – Position Paper (Lisbon, 20-21 June 2013) <http://agora.medspring.eu/sites/default/files/uploads/emegpositionpaper.pdf>
- ENP Action Plans for Mediterranean Partner Countries (http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/documents/action-plans/index_en.htm)
- Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Research and Innovation – Consolidated Report (Barcelona, 2-3 April 2012) http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2012/euro-mediterranean/pdf/euro-med_conference_consolidated_report.pdf
- First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research (Cairo Declaration) of 18 June 2007 - Final Declaration (http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/cairo_declaration.pdf)
- Five Years Work Plan adopted within the Union for the Mediterranean (2005) (http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/summit1105/five_years_en.pdf)
- Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean (Paris, 13 July 2008) (http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/ufm_paris_declaration1.pdf)
- Texts of the Bilateral S&T Agreements between EU and Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=countries>)