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INCONET – Mediterranean Partner Countries

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1. Executive Summary

Two training events have been carried out respectively on July 11, 2013 in Beirut, Lebanon on “Joint Programming” and on December 9-11, 2013 on “Horizon 2020 for Mediterranean NCP coordinators” in Amman, Jordan.

The first training on “**Joint Programming**” has been organized back-to-back with an inter-institutional meeting (WP6) aiming at exploring possible themes and a way forward to Joint Programming, with particular regard to the development of an Article 185 for Mediterranean. The event, entitled “Inter-institutional Capacity Building & Awareness Workshop”, saw the participation of 35 participants from more than 15 research institutions and research ministries from the Mediterranean Partner Countries, who were trained on options for long term cooperation on R&I in the Mediterranean region. In particular, the following issues were object of the training: Instruments and main features, Case studies from ongoing initiatives under Art. 185 ongoing in initiatives Article 185 (given by coordinators of the ongoing initiatives).

The second training on “**Horizon 2020 for Mediterranean NCP coordinators**” took place on 9-11 December 2013 in Amman (Jordan). It has been hosted by HCST and organised by CIHEAM in collaboration with HCST, DLR and UNIMED. The main focus was on knowledge and insight of the new upcoming European Programme H2020, with the aim of supporting NCPs organizing national training events on this subject and disseminate H2020 programme to local researchers and professionals. The training lasted in 3 days, corresponding to 21 hours of training. The 28 participant trainees were scientists and administrative officers from the following Countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia. Lectures and exercises with international experienced trainers have been scheduled for the three days. The trainers were experienced speakers from EC–DG Research, UNIMED (Italy), CNR (Italy), CIHEAM-Bari (Italy), DLR (Germany), TUBITAK (Turkey), INCONTACT project (Greece), University of Granada (Spain) and Heliopolis University (Egypt).

The training programme had a regional dimension and it was focused on the “train-the-trainer” aspect to enhance the leverage effect of the training and to multiply its effect and impact. The training programme has been informed by the results of a training needs analysis conducted by MedSpring during the period July -September 2013 and targeting the NCPs and the wide community of researchers and academics in the Euro-Mediterranean countries.

2. “Joint Programming”, Beirut, Lebanon, July 11, 2013

2.1 Training Materials

Training materials produced for the “Joint Programming” training:

- Training Agenda;
- Power Point Presentations of trainers;
- Outline of “a Logical Framework to support design of long-term Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation on research and innovation”.

Materials provided during the training sessions in Beirut are available on line at the following URL: <http://www.medspring.eu/content/euro-mediterranean-inter-institutional-and-training-awareness-meeting>

2.2 Outline of the presentations

- Instruments for Euro-Mediterranean joint activities and cooperation

Trainer: Marinella Giannelli, CIHEAM-IAMB (on behalf of Evelina Santa-Kahle, DLR)

This presentation offers an overview over the instruments for Euro-Mediterranean joint activities and cooperation. Starting from ERA political framework, all main ERA instruments for long-term cooperation in FP7 and H2020 have been outlined (ERA-NET, ERA-NET+, Article 185 initiatives), as well as the possible benefits for Mediterranean Partner Countries of participating in Article 185.

- Main features of TFEU Article 185 initiatives: legal, governance aspects

Trainer: Luciano Catani, MIUR

Starting from the wording of Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the presentation describes the development of this instrument in H2020, focusing on the main changes in relation to FP7. Then the presentation deals with all the procedural, legal and organizational aspects for the proposal, the establishment and the governance/management of an Article 185 initiative.

- The way to Eurostars II

Trainer: Pedro de Sampaio Nunes, EUROSTARS Secretariat

This presentation starts from an overview of EUREKA initiative, that is a public network supporting R&D performing businesses. Article 185 initiative EUROSTARS is then presented as one of the main pillars of EUREKA, and its main achievement are described. Also, the presentation focuses on the imminent approval of EUROSTARS II. Conditions and good practices for a successful implementation of an Article 185 initiative have been given by the trainer.

- BONUS EEIG - the Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme

Trainer: Dr. Ulrich Wolf, PtJ-MGS – National BONUS Contact Point for Germany

This presentation outlines the BONUS Programme, based on Article 185, focusing on all the preparatory steps and preliminary actions that led to the building of BONUS (ERANET, ERANET+), including insights on the negotiation phase with the EU. The presentations also gives a clear frame on the financial and management issues as well as on the calls so far launched by the initiative.

- A stocktaking analysis of R&I cooperation initiatives for the Euro-Mediterranean Region (MED-SPRING Tasks 6.1 and 6.2) to support identification of potential synergies

Trainers: Marilena Rossano, CNR and Birgit Ditgens, DLR

This presentation describes the preliminary results of the analyses carried out in the frame of MED-SPRING Tasks 6.1 and 6.2, regarding the stocktaking of R&I cooperation initiatives in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The trainers present the state of the involvement of MPCs in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, outlining the priority issues and common interest, as well as identifying advantages and constraints of involvement of MPCs in existing initiatives, as for example JPIs. Also, an outline on the main issues and instrument of national programming for research cooperation in MPCs is given.

3. “Horizon 2020 for Mediterranean NCP coordinators”, Amman, Jordan, December 9-11, 2013

3.1 Training Materials

Training materials produced for the “Horizon 2020 for Mediterranean NCP coordinators” training:

- Training Programme;
- Lecture handouts: a one-page document with an outline of the lecture and a speaker bio (processed by each trainer and distributed before the training). This included background materials (documents, papers or a reading list) where relevant;
- Speakers slides, consistent with the MedSpring standard template;
- Live streaming and recorded videos of a selection of training sessions;
- Attendance certificates, provided by CIHEAM to participants;
- Training quality assessment (feedback questionnaire);
- Online repository of training materials, available on a specific section of the Agora website. This includes a discussion forum (comments) for follow-ups.

All the materials provided during the training sessions in Amman are available on line at the following URL: <http://agora.medspring.eu/en/content/training-h2020-presentations>
Training materials are licensed under a Creative Commons licence CC-BY-SA (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>)

3.2 Outline of the presentations

- Introduction to Horizon 2020

Trainer: Fadila Boughanemi, European Commission

Outline of the presentation: A general outline to introduce the new research programme, with a focus on the three main key objectives, the main new elements of the programme, the international cooperation dimension, innovation and SMEs

- H2020 and Innovation (first part)

Trainer: Oliver Rohde, Scientific Officer (DLR), Part of the German Aerospace Center (DLR), European and International Cooperation

This session aims at briefly analysing the innovation dimension of H2020. The trainer will unravel the concept of innovation framed in H2020, in relation to the main EU policy and research strategy, research topics and research valorisation.

The session will address the objectives and structure of H2020 regarding innovation and present the instruments used in H2020 for innovation support, with special emphasis on instruments open for participation from MPC partners. Some insights will be given to the rules for participation in the different instruments, including the new “Fast track to innovation”.

- H2020 and Innovation (second part)

Trainer: Raniero Chelli, Coordinator, EU projects, UNIMED

The presentation provides an insight on the International Dimension of the Horizon 2020 programme and on the concept of Innovation within the same programme, with an emphasis on the involvement of Industries and Civil Society Organisation in R&D and Innovation projects and programmes.

- The international cooperation dimension

Trainer: Claudio Bogliotti, CIHEAM-Bari (Italy)

The session analyse in details opportunities for international cooperation in the up-coming calls and it makes an appreciation of the real matching interest / needs with Mediterranean countries. The trainer presented the screening exercise done in the up-coming thematic Work Programmes, highlighting topics addressed to Mediterranean, ENP countries, international cooperation at large or with a strong focus on the societal challenges of the region. These topics will be consider again in the Working Group foreseen in the afternoon.

- **Building synergies between European Member States/Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries.**

Trainer: Marilena Rossano, Italian National Research Council - Office for Activities and Relations with European Institutions

This session aims at providing an overview of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation options beyond the traditional tools of the research projects. It outlines the renewed importance of joint programming level cooperation in the forthcoming Framework Programme Horizon 2020 pointing out the needs as well as the perspectives of a new co-ownership and co-funding approach .

The aspirations of the MPCs towards more coordination of research were highlighted during the 15th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Monitoring Committee for RTD (MoCo) in June 2011 and clearly stated in the results of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona in 2012. In spite of many efforts, carried on by the representatives of EU Member States and Mediterranean Partner Countries, towards a long-lasting cooperation initiative under Art.185 of TFEU there are many aspects that should be further highlighted or investigated. First of all, the governance system for a shared initiative. Secondly, the choice of sectors and activities that are impact-driven and demand-driven. The results of the euro-med joint cooperation should be, in fact, addressed to and perceived by the MPC's societies. The ERANET instrument, that has been one of the main tools used under the 6th and the 7th FP to coordinate national programmes and help reduce fragmentation, would do justice to this matter? At what extent? Which are the main differences between Era-Net and Art.185 of TFEU? Finally, what are the Public and Private Initiatives, under the Art.187 of TFEU? Horizon 2020 is more prompt towards co-ownership if compared with FP7? These questions are the leit-motives of the session concerned, in the belief that a common understanding and a more in depth comprehension of EU instruments can help creating greater synergies between national and international programmes for scientific and technological cooperation in the region concerned, and address together common societal challenges.

- **NCP network development and business plan**

Trainer: George Baroutas - INCONTACT

The session will address the current status of NCP networks at European and International level focusing on main objectives of a NCP network and best practices. The session will also give the opportunity to dig out good practices of NCP activities and services.

- **H2020 vs FP7**

Trainers: Firat Gedikli, TUBITAK and Carlo Polidori, C&S Europe

This session will recall the main aspects of FP7 and make a comparison with the new Horizon 2020 approach and its 3 pillars; the most relevant new (Industrial leadership) will be particularly addressed and there will be some explanations on how to become an evaluator.

References:

- Understanding FP7: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=understanding
- Official portal Horizon 2020: http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm

Following that part, the work programmes and calls, the new participant portal which was launched on 4 December 2013, the proposal submission and evaluation cycle, the details of model grant agreement including minimum conditions for participation and eligibility conditions for funding in Horizon 2020 will be briefly mentioned. Afterwards, the session will conclude with the “simplification” strategy of H2020, its details, and the types of action including the reimbursement rates of the new programme.

- **H2020 and societal challenges**

Trainer: Hamid El Zoheiry, Heliopolis University

The session will take stock of societal challenges framed in H2020 and analyse them in terms of priority for the Mediterranean countries as well as research cooperation opportunity between Mediterranean and EU researchers

- **Communicating research**

Trainers: Purificación Salmerón Vílchez, Aurélie Pancera

The types of public targeted by research projects are often extremely diverse, from policy makers to civil society organizations, passing by the other researchers, industries, entrepreneurs and media. Moreover, these stakeholders are often from different countries and nationalities, which brings an additional complexity in terms of cultural awareness. The research and innovation cooperation sector also brings a vast critical mass of information to be digested. The more useful and relevant the information is for the stakeholder, the more impact the information will have on the building of new and fruitful collaborations.

For this reason, developing relevant and made-tailored messages to be communicated to targeted actors, and identifying the relevant channels of communication are a key issue to efficiently raise awareness and engagement of the stakeholders.

This session aims at making an overview of methods and good/worst practices of communication to researchers, civil society and policy-makers, particularly on research programmes (i.e. H2020 or national programmes), research projects and research valorisation. The final scope of this session is to make NCPs more confident with communication methods / technique and improve their skills

The first part of this session will focus on the general guidance provided by the European Commission on communicating research financed under the framework programme as well as the skills and tips related to communication. The second part will focus on the role of the National Contact Points in communicating research and supporting research communication, especially through the design of relevant communication strategies. Based on these two parts, the participants will work together on practical study cases.

References:

Guides for successful communication: http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/science-communication/index_en.htm

4. Training quality assessment

An online assessment questionnaire has been prepared and sent to trainees for their feedback and appreciation of the training in Amman and as an essential step to improve future training activities.

The assessment questionnaire probe into the following areas: General; Balance of programme; Benefit of contents for your curriculum/profession; Programme administration; Trainers evaluation; Training location/ accommodation/transportation; Expectations.

Feedbacks have been received from the following institutions: CRTSE, Algeria; Minia University, Egypt; Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT)

Egypt; Tunisia; KHCC – Jordan; NCP Palestine; SRTD2 Jordan; Lebanese University – Lebanon; Agricultural Research Centre, Egypt; American University of Beirut, Lebanon; University of Granada, Spain; Morocco; IRESA – TUNISIA. The total number of analysed questionnaires is 13 and results are presented below.

3.2 Training Evaluation

1. General

1.1 To what extent has your understanding of the subject improved or increased as a result of the training seminar?

A lot	1 (2)	2 (3)	3 (5)	4 (1)	5 (2)	6 (0)	A little
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1.2 Please describe: a) what you have learnt and b) what you intend to do with this learning on your return to work.

- I learnt similarities and differences between FP7 and Horizon2020. I learnt about new calls announced in Horizon2020. I intend to use what I learnt in information days and workshops to promote funding opportunities offered by Horizon2020 among Minia University researchers and industrial entities in El-Minia Governorate.
- I have learnt the changes adopted between FP7 and H2020 concerning thematic and financial changes. I also learnt about the inclusion and eligibility of third parties to the new framework. Finally, and most importantly as the project coordinator at my organization I found the practical exercise on the second day of the training very effective. It was useful for the purpose of practical application writing and brainstorming ideas for calls. This, in my opinion, will be very useful in assisting researchers and applicants from my organization in the future. All these issues will be beneficial in preparing applications, finding partners, as well as coordinating, implementing, and reporting project tasks.
- enough info to start our client coaching
- a) This training session was my first encounter to understand what Horizon2020 is all about. I had learned the aims and objectives of Horizon2020 and to some extent how to submit a proposal; b) planning to do workshop of the staff of KHCC (as a starter) to convey what I had learned from this training workshop
- 1- To announce the EU launching of H2020 by disseminating the new calls; 2- To conduct info-days about H2020 in big universities.
- H2020 mechanisms; EuroMed Networking
- The main objectives of H2020; What are the key issues in a H2020 submission; How to select partners for a H2020 submission
- I had understand the new program of EU funding program Horizon 2020 and how it will work in the future and the topics in different disciplines. The ideas of this new programs and how the MedSpring increased our knowledge in this direction. I will disseminate the information to my colleagues and researchers to share for submission different proposal .
- To decipher the EU calls for proposals better and answer to every point in the application
- a) I learn about possibilities within H2020 and new topics that were not present in FP7; b) I will use this knowledge in my research: to set up collaborations, to look for funding opportunities, etc.
- a) I learned many things during this training: Priorities H2020, new calls of this program, research themes, proposal writing, the experiences of other countries regarding the roadmap of each NCP; b) I will inform my superiors in the Ministry and also I will try to inform through the NCP Morocco all universities and researchers to participate in this program calls
- General information and details about H2020. I will disseminate all information collected in Amman.

1.3 To what extent do you feel your personal learning objectives have been achieved?

Fully	1 (3)	2 (6)	3 (4)	4 (0)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Not at all
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1.4 Which of your personal objectives were not achieved, and why?

- I wanted to go through one of the grants offered to the south Mediterranean region in details. The reason why this was not achieved is that the calls were not announced till the last day of the workshop.
- One primary objective of this training session was networking and establishing an efficient way of finding relevant partners for future potential collaborations. Although this was discussed, I feel like this matter, particularly a database pertaining to finding partners for specific calls, could be developed further through MEDSPRING and INCONTACT.
- Difference between societal challenges and industrial leadership calls. H2020 Financial aspects
- Since I am new to this, I did not fully comprehend the logistics of submitting proposal to get funding from Horizon2020 to programs, research and innovation initiatives. Hopefully, once I go through the material again, I can fill this gap. I am still not sure whether, I can respond to calls at this stage or not.
- None
- Familiarise with specific calls, building up specific partnership
- I wanted to gain more practical issues on the way of building a strong document to be submitted to H2020
I wanted to have guidance on searching for European partners in each field
I wanted to have ideas on the way of doing an efficient dissemination of H2020 in order to attract researchers and industrialist to submit projects
- None
- training was very interesting and very rich, but the program was too busy
- Aspects about financial issues

2. Balance of programme

2.1 How did you feel about:

- The length of the training seminar

too short (0)	short (1)	just right (7)	Plenty (4)	too long (1)
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- The amount of time devoted to each topic

too short (0)	short (1)	just right (9)	plenty (2)	too long (1)
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2.2 How effective were the practical activities?

Very effective	1 (2)	2 (7)	3 (3)	4 (0)	5 (1)	6 (0)	Ineffective
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2.3 What was the level of time given for:

- The activities

Sufficient	1 (1)	2 (6)	3 (2)	4 (1)	5 (2)	6 (1)	Insufficient
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- The follow-up discussion

Sufficient	1 (3)	2 (4)	3 (3)	4 (0)	5 (2)	6 (1)	Insufficient
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3. Benefit of contents for your curriculum/profession

3.1 What is the level of applicability of topics to your personal work?

very high (5)	high (3)	medium (5)	low (0)	very low (0)
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3.2 Which parts of the event do you feel will be most useful back at work?

- Practical training on grant writing
- As previously mentioned, as international projects coordinator in my organization, I found the event educational and beneficial in preparing applications, finding partners, as well as coordinating, implementing, and reporting project tasks. Also, I believe the integration of Southern Mediterranean members into the expert and evaluation process of submitted proposals will be a great teaching experience. As Carlo Polidori mentioned in his session, this opportunity will be perfect in realizing how the process of application evaluation takes place under the new framework, as well as it allowing us to observe how other successful applications are drafted and formulated.
- H2020 and societal challenges and NCP networking and road map
- submitting proposals for grants to support new programs or research initiatives.
- 1- Major differences between FP7 and H2020
2- How to write a research proposal and the evaluation process.
- H2020 Overview
- The practical work and the link useful for the information. I keep contact with the MedSpring people
- EU regulations, proposal preparation
- I will use this knowledge in my research: to set up collaborations, to look for funding opportunities, etc.
- All presentations and especially new calls and roadmap of NCP
- All parts

3.3 Which parts of the event do you feel will be least useful, or not at all useful back at work?

- communication skills session
- Considering our organization's (CULTNAT) mandate is concerned primarily with Heritage and ICT, most of the discussions pertaining to other topics to be covered in the calls outside of the social sciences were not as important to me. However, even these discussions were useful for the purpose of learning how to develop ideas and how to propose ideas in the application process. Furthermore, it is understandable that when certain issues were not addressed fully, it was due to the initial start up of the program. Certain matters will be addressed with practice. I believe after the initial calls and applications are underway, more will be clear.
- Communicating research
- Not sure
- None
- Introductions, Frontal speeches
- there were discussions only relevant to the EU partners which did not seem relevant to MED region
- None.
- no part

4. Programme administration

4.1 To what extent was the training material useful for a better understanding of the programme?

Fully	1 (2)	2 (9)	3 (2)	4 (0)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Not at all
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4.2 What was the level of the instructions given to you to:

- Attend the training seminar

Excellent	1 (5)	2 (4)	3 (4)	4 (0)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Poor
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- Bring relevant material with you to the training seminar

Excellent	1 (2)	2 (5)	3 (4)	4 (2)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Poor
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4.3 Do you think that the number of participants on the course was:

Too few (1)	Just right (12)	Too many (0)
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5. Trainers evaluation

5.1 Please rate the training staff by marking in red the relevant score for each aspect:

- Knowledge of subject

Very effective (6)	Good (5)	Not very effective (2)	Not effective (0)
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- Organization of sessions

Very effective (5)	Good (8)	Not very effective (0)	Not effective (0)
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- Responsiveness to group

Very effective (6)	Good (6)	Not very effective (1)	Not effective (0)
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- Producing a good learning climate

Very effective (6)	Good (6)	Not very effective (1)	Not effective (0)
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5.2 Interaction with participants to the course and with speakers

Very Low	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (1)	4 (2)	5 (4)	6 (5)	Very high
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5.3 Completeness of contents

Excellent	1 (2)	2 (6)	3 (3)	4 (2)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Poor
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5.4 General rating: How would you rate the programme overall?

Very useful	1 (6)	2 (5)	3 (2)	4 (0)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Little useful
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6. Training location/ accommodation/transportation evaluation

6.1 Please rate:

- Bedroom comfort

Very Good	1 (9)	2 (4)	3 (0)	4 (0)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Poor
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- Food quality

Very Good	1 (8)	2 (2)	3 (3)	4 (0)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Poor
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- Training facilities

Very Good	1 (4)	2 (6)	3 (1)	4 (2)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Poor
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- Transportation

Very Good	1 (2)	2 (4)	3 (6)	4 (1)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Poor
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- Logistics

Very Good	1 (6)	2 (4)	3 (3)	4 (0)	5 (0)	6 (0)	Poor
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6.2 Could you give any suggestion for improving the course?

- Instruct all trainees to bring their laptops with them.
- It is my understanding the course targets were NCPs. Although this target group is essential, I would suggest the inclusion of focal points in national organizations and institutions as well. The material learnt concerning the thematic and financial breakdown of H2020 would be very beneficial and may increase productivity and efficiency for their attempted applications for calls.
- Sending training materials and objective before the training
- To monitor the questions that would be asked in the forth coming months, then to make training sessions about their core relevance topics.
- More active learning sessions. Improve quality of audiovisual support (cut and paste sentences; sometimes too small for reading)
- Involve European NCPs; Involve SMEs
More Practical issues
- to share the participants from EU countries to know their knowledge
Bring hard copies of training materials and soft also.
increase the practical time and materials.
- less lectures and more hands on.
- Increase working activities on groups. Shorter talks divided into sections, with practical exercises in between.
- A very interesting training, we learned a lot of information about the H2020, I hope that we benefit of similar training in the future

7. Expectations

Free field to elaborate on your expectation regarding the H2020 and how you deem it could contribute to the development of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the coming years

- I expect Horizon2020 to give better opportunities to South Mediterranean countries to participate more efficiently than FP program. I expect simpler and faster procedures as well.
- Following the Arab Spring, I believe the drive for development and progress in various fields is present in Southern Mediterranean Countries. Unfortunately, as mentioned by many throughout the course, the needs of these members outside of the EU are not considered as an equal priority to their EU counterparts. I believe further lobbying concerning their needs should be addressed and included to enhance the Euro- Mediterranean cooperation. Moreover, although scientific and technological themes are promoted in H2020, as Hamid El Zoheiry mentioned, it is important to address the development of the social sciences that will help in this next pivotal period in the Southern Mediterranean States.
- I am optimistic about Horizon2020 and I hope it will be one way of enhancing the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the coming years.
- It is still early to give an opinion.
- More Networking! More guided practical exercises !
- Organize meetings and conferences between European and Mediterranean actors in order to elaborate discussions around common societal problems to be solved by means of scientific and technical approaches. These meetings should focus on applied research.
- coordination and information sharing between countries partenaires of MEDSPRING project would be very interesting for a better participation in the upcoming calls of H2020
- I think it was very useful if NCPs get some documents and material to use in national trainings to be held.

5. Photo Gallery



Fig 1: 11 July 2013, Beirut, *Inter-institutional Capacity Building & Awareness Workshop*”, Group Photo with the Lebanese Minister of Education



Fig 2: 9-11 December 2013, Amman, *Training for Mediterranean NCPs on Horizon 2020*, Group Photo

6. Annexes

Annex I – Handout of Presentations

Annex II – List of Participants

Deliverable N.: 7.3

Annex I: Handout of Presentations



H2020 and Innovation

Oliver Rohde

Scientific Officer (DLR)

Part of the German Aerospace Center (DLR)

European and International Cooperation

Outline of the presentation

This session aims at briefly analyzing the innovation dimension of H2020. The trainer will unravel the concept of innovation framed in H2020, in relation to the main EU policy and research strategy, research topics and research valorization.

The session will address the objectives and structure of H2020 regarding innovation and present the instruments used in H2020 for innovation support, with special emphasis on instruments open for participation from MPC partners. Some insights will be given to the rules for participation in the different instruments, including the new “Fast track to innovation”.

About the Speaker



Oliver Rohde (born in 1981) studied Economics at the University of Hamburg (Germany) and Charles University Prague (Czech Republic). Since February 2011 he is Scientific Officer at the Project Management Agency of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in the department for European and International Cooperation, where he is in charge of International Innovation Cooperation. He has worked on several FP7 INCO-Projects with focus on innovation, like medspring, the ERA-Nets with Russia (ERA.Net RUS) and African countries (ERAfrica) and R2I NoGAP. Oliver Rohde is currently the German delegate for the OECD Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy (TIP).

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H2020 and Innovation

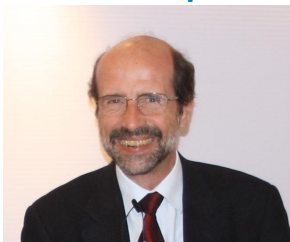
Raniero Chelli

Coordinator, EU projects, UNIMED

Outline of the presentation

The presentation provides an insight on the International Dimension of the Horizon 2020 programme and on the concept of Innovation within the same programme, with an emphasis on the involvement of Industries and Civil Society Organisation in R&D and Innovation projects and programmes.

About the Speaker(s)



Raniero Chelli is active since 1985 in European projects (mainly EU funded programmes in RTD, training and international cooperation), as a Commission Official (ESPRIT Programme 85-88), Project Manager, Project Design specialist, Evaluator and reviewer, Quality assurance manager, National Delegate to in IST management Committees and trainer on EU programmes and funding. He has been working with UNIMED since 2002 on several EU projects (Euromed Heritage, TEMPUS) all of them involving high numbers of MEDA countries with a specific focus on training and capacity building and currently holds the position of Coordinator of EU projects.

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Building synergies between European Member States/Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries.

Speaker:

Marilena Rossano, Italian National Research Council - Office for Activities and Relations with European Institutions

Outline of the presentation:

This session aims at providing an overview of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation options beyond the traditional tools of the research projects. It outlines the renewed importance of joint programming level cooperation in the forthcoming Framework Programme Horizon 2020 pointing out the needs as well as the perspectives of a new co-ownership and co-funding approach .

The aspirations of the MPCs towards more coordination of research were highlighted during the 15th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Monitoring Committee for RTD (MoCo) in June 2011 and clearly stated in the results of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona in 2012. In spite of many efforts, carried on by the representatives of EU Member States and Mediterranean Partner Countries, towards a long-lasting cooperation initiative under Art.185 of TFEU there are many aspects that should be further highlighted or investigated. First of all, the governance system for a shared initiative. Secondly, the choice of sectors and activities that are impact-driven and demand-driven. The results of the euro-med joint cooperation should be, in fact, addressed to and perceived by the MPC's societies. The ERANET instrument, that has been one of the main tools used under the 6th and the 7th FP to coordinate national programmes and help reduce fragmentation, would do justice to this matter? At what extent? Which are the main differences between Era-Net and Art.185 of TFEU? Finally, what are the Public and Private Initiatives, under the Art.187 of TFEU? Horizon 2020 is more prompt towards co-ownership if compared with FP7? These questions are the leit-motives of the session concerned, in the belief that a common understanding and a more in depth comprehension of EU instruments can help creating greater synergies between national and international programmes for scientific and technological cooperation in the region concerned, and address together common societal challenges.

About the Speaker

Marilena Rossano - Degree in Eastern Foreign Languages and Literatures and Master in Management of Business Administration. She supports the development of strategies and policies for Mediterranean and Middle East of Italian National Research Council (CNR) since 1996, firstly in the frame of the General Direction - Office for Mediterranean and Middle East and starting from 2010, as responsible of the Naples Unit of the Office for Activities and Relations with European Institutions (ARIE) dedicated to Cooperation with non EU Countries. She takes part in the Monitoring Committee for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in Research and Innovation and in other national and international ad-hoc groups aimed at fostering collaboration activities and mobility of researchers from and to non EU Countries. Scientific responsible in several projects of FP6 and FP7.



Communicating research

Purificación Salmerón Vílchez

Aurélie Pancera

Outline of the presentation

The types of public targeted by research projects are often extremely diverse, from policy makers to civil society organizations, passing by the other researchers, industries, entrepreneurs and media. Moreover, these stakeholders are often from different countries and nationalities, which brings an additional complexity in terms of cultural awareness. The research and innovation cooperation sector also brings a vast critical mass of information to be digested. The more useful and relevant the information is for the stakeholder, the more impact the information will have on the building of new and fruitful collaborations.

For this reason, developing relevant and made-tailored messages to be communicated to targeted actors, and identifying the relevant channels of communication are a key issue to efficiently raise awareness and engagement of the stakeholders.

This session aims at making an overview of methods and good/worst practices of communication to researchers, civil society and policy-makers, particularly on research programmes (i.e. H2020 or national programmes), research projects and research valorization. The final scope of this session is to make NCPs more confident with communication methods / technique and improve their skills. The first part of this session will focus on the general guidance provided by the European Commission on communicating research financed under the framework programme as well as the skills and tips related to communication. The second part will focus on the role of the National Contact Points in communicating research and supporting research communication, especially through the design of relevant communication strategies. Based on these two parts, the participants will work together on practical study cases.

References:

Guides for successful communication: http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/science-communication/index_en.htm

About the Speakers

Aurélie Pancera holds three Master degrees in European and International Law, Political Science and Urban Development and has more than nine years of experience in the field of international cooperation, public policies and institutional capacity building, including 5 years of experience working in the European Commission. She is specialized in knowledge economy related fields, supporting RDI policy dialogue, R&D capacity building for universities and research centres, institutional networking at national, regional and international levels to improve the international participation in the European Research Area (ERA), FP7, DEVCO and other relevant EU funding programmes (application procedures, proposal drafting, etc). She has been working in these fields in Mexico and Latin America over more than four years and a half (since end 2004). Then she has been applying her expertise since mid 2009 in the ENP, working with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. She has recently been certified as professional coach for individual professional development and support to organisation development.



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Purificación Salmeron is an Assistant Professor at the University of Granada (Dept. of Methods of Research and Diagnostic Education). Her research interest is centered around “Guidance and Counseling in Teaching and Learning Processes”. Within this field, she has been researching for the past 10 years on:

- Active education methodologies (general and specifically cooperative) aimed to create “collaborative culture” to improve learning.
- Training of trainees (i.e. teachers, volunteers, family members, etc.) for the development of “learning communities” and “professional learning communities”.

She has been working in these fields in the South of Spain and also in the north part of Africa, as an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Education and Humanities in the city of Ceuta (a Faculty that belongs to the University of Granada). She has participated in a number of regional, national and International grant applications.



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H2020 vs FP7

Carlo Polidori (C&S Europe) and Firat Gedikli (TUBITAK)

Outline of the presentation

This session will recall the main aspects of FP7 and make a comparison with the new Horizon 2020 approach and its 3 pillars; the most relevant new (Industrial leadership) will be particularly addressed and there will be some explanations on how to become an evaluator.

References:

- Understanding FP7: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=understanding
- Official portal Horizon 2020: http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm

Following that part, the work programmes and calls, the new participant portal which was launched on 4 December 2013, the proposal submission and evaluation cycle, the details of model grant agreement including minimum conditions for participation and eligibility conditions for funding in Horizon 2020 will be briefly mentioned. Afterwards, the session will conclude with the “simplification” strategy of H2020, its details, and the types of action including the reimbursement rates of the new programme.

About the Speakers



Carlo Polidori is a civil engineer with more than 20 years of experience in transport and project management: he worked for 17 years in a engineering consulting firm in Italy and is an expert evaluator for European Research projects since 1999 as well as project reviewer on behalf of the European Commission since 2008. In the last 5 years Carlo has been, and still is, involved in 6 EU Research projects as Coordinator, project manager and technical consultant assisting the Coordinator. Carlo is based in Brussels and own a

consultancy company (C&S Europe Consulting) that organizes several courses on EU project approach, preparation and management.

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Firat Gedikli is a Scientific Programmes Assistant Expert at TUBITAK. He holds a BA degree in International Relations at the University of Hacettepe (Turkey) and he is now carrying on his MA on Middle East Studies at Middle East Technical University (Turkey). Firat Gedikli is the National Contact Point of Turkey on legal and financial issues within the 7th Framework Programme and Horizon 2020 Programme. He has been involving more than 20 EU FP7 Projects in which TUBITAK is the partner or coordinator, as the responsible person on financial issues. Previously, he worked as Assistant NCP on Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and Science in Society (SiS) themes of FP7 for 2 years, and was responsible for managing tasks of FP7 NET4SOCIETY1&2 and EUROSIS 1&2 projects that TUBITAK is taking part in.



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NCP network development and business plan

George BAROUTAS - Technology Transfer Consultant, PRAXI / Help-Forward Network

Outline of the presentation

The presentation will be based on 4 main areas:

- Overview of the current status of NCP networks at European / International level
What remains the same and what changes in NCPs between FP7 and Horizon 2020.
- Main objectives of a NCP network – best practices
What a NCP is supposed to implement.
- Activities and services offered by NCPs
Methods and techniques for the promotion of your activities as National Contact Point.
- Relations with other networks / projects
- INCONTACT experience and future plans
Short information about INCONTACT project.

About the Speaker

George Baroutas is a nominated Security and Space NCP under Horizon 2020. He holds a diploma of Electrical & Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece. Before joining PRAXI Network, he worked for consulting and software firms such as Accenture and Siemens AG. He has worked also as a technical auditor for projects running under European territorial cooperation objective. At this moment, apart from his active role as a NCP he is also working for various bilateral and multilateral projects, that PRAXI network participates or coordinates. He is a member of the INCONTACT project team.

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NCP networking and road map

Omar AMAWI – HCST, Jordan

Chiara MORINI – CIHEAM Bari, Italy

Outline of the presentation

In the framework of the Training Event in Amman, the session “NCP networking and roadmap” will take place during the 3rd day of training, on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 from 9.00 to 12.00 AM (3 hours).

Goal of the session

The aim of the session is that of gathering together participants and discuss current and possible roadmap of activities, particularly:

- how MedSpring can support and contribute to NCP future developments.
- how NCP can take advantage of INCONTACT and can get any support from it.
- how MPCs will support future NCPs activities.

The intention of the session is to gather good examples and ideas for the definition NCP’s action-plans around the communication of the H2020 programme at national level.

What is a roadmap, in this context?

It is a mid-term action plan to communicate the H2020 at country/NCP level according to local needs and strategies. It also includes expectations regarding how MedSpring can contribute to NCP developments.

The elaboration of the roadmap could contain:

- Indication of the links between this roadmap of action and the Organization’s Institutional or Strategic Plan.
- The key processes required to accomplish internally this roadmap.
- A list and a description of the foreseen action(s) to be developed.
- Prioritization of these actions in terms of importance and/or order of implementation.
- Indication of timescales for action against each item.
- Indication of the people, teams or department who will be responsive for the development of each action.
- Available national funds/resources.

How does it work?

The “NCP networking and roadmap” session is organized as follows:

- It is a moderated discussion facilitated by 3 experts.
- each NCP coordinator is invited to shortly present its view of future NCP network activities (maximum 5 minutes).
- The use of 3-5 maximum slides is recommended. Please refer to the slides template as a guideline for your presentation
- The main idea is to leave room for discussion and exchange of ideas among participants.

Possible Take-Aways

This session will provide insights and examples on how NCPs intends to approach the communication of the H2020 in their countries. Each participants will have the opportunity to get inspired and learn from the experience and plans of other participants.

This session could also help and contribute to another task of MEDSPRING (7.6), aiming at preparing a workplan of NCP networks on relevant societal challenges. A concept note is attached (*see annex n. 1: Info-document*) in order to give an overview of main strategic objective of the work plan which need to be prepared by MEDSPRING in the next months and to trigger discussion among participants.

ANNEX 1

MedSpring - Task 7.6: A way forward to support NCPs to strengthen thematic contact points

One task of MedSpring aims at strengthening thematic contact points in those Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) where the information system needs to be improved, particularly in relation to the following selected societal challenges: resource efficiency with focus on water, high quality affordable food and energy. The way to setup a partnership between existing thematic NCPs and NCP networks active in the above societal challenges should also be addressed by the work plan. A work plan including needed action and overall time frame must be prepared by MedSpring (Task 7.6). The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST Jordan) is responsible of this task. The action plan should not only include actions that MedSpring could support in the coming three years (like meeting with NCP Coordinators, BILAT projects, training) but also actions to be carried out by NCPs in order to ensure institutional engagement and sustainability of the thematic contact points MPCs. In this view, the 3rd day training session on “NCP Networking and Road Map” could be an occasion of providing inputs to prepare the work plan. In general the Task 7.6-work plan mission is the *“strengthening and supporting the networking capabilities for NCPs by focusing on their capacity building and helping setup of a partnership among existing thematic NCPs-NCP networks active in the selected societal challenges”*.

The following main strategy needs were identified by HCST for the preparation of the work plan:

- Identifying the NCPs in the Mediterranean countries, and to figure out the main problems & needs of NCPs and their networks, particularly in relation to MEDSPRING societal challenges (resource efficiency-water, high quality affordable food and energy) and/or enlarge thematic contact points / info points, in those Mediterranean countries where the information system is still lacking.
- Investigating the work done previously by other projects such as MIRA and BILATs.
- Assessing the current situation both in quantitative and qualitative terms.
- Indicating the future needed actions to draw the plan which will improve the role of NCPs in the Mediterranean countries and the expected progress.
- Strengthening and supporting the networking capabilities for NCPs by focusing on their capacity building.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss and provide ideas for the design of the work plan and suggest innovative actions in relation to the following issues:

- Building a spectrum of knowledge, capabilities and skills.
- Competence regarding contents (societal challenges).
- Local network capacities and motivated partners / focal points
- Ensure institutional engagement in strengthening NCP system
- Partnerships
- Communication skills (communicating research and research programming).
- Support researchers becoming accepted and respected partner at national, European and international level.
- Being effective regarding national success in the EU RTD activities (increasing impact on the research system as well as societal challenges).
- Be suitable to become part of an international system / stimulating participation in H2020.
- Answering the need for people.
- Link with industry and enhance innovation in practice.

About the Speakers

Eng. Omar Amawi

He holds a Master's degree in Irrigation Engineering from Utah State University and a Bachelor degree in Agriculture/ Soil and Irrigation. He worked as a research associate and teaching assistant at Utah State University and Texas A&M University between the years 1996-2007. In July 2008, he joined the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) as the PMU director for the EU supported project "Support to Research and Technological development and Innovation Initiatives in Jordan SRTD". Late in year 2009 he was appointed as the director for the department of policies and scientific projects management at HCST. In addition, he was recently appointed as the acting director for the International cooperation department at HCST, and the PMU director for stage II of the SRTD project, and the coordinator for the EU-JordanNet II project, and will participate in projects funded by the European Commission namely: Med Spring and ERA NET.

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Chiara Morini

Ph.D. on Integrated Watershed Management at Department of Engineering and Management of Agricultural, Livestock and Forest Systems - University of Bari, Italy, in 2004. Current position: she is Agronomist Consultant of CIHEAM - IAMB since 2005, for the management of several international cooperation projects in the Mediterranean region, including projects funded by European Commission (FP6, FP7) and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – DG for Development Cooperation. For the last ten years, her education and professional experience in agricultural research and development on programs in food and agriculture, as well as maintaining networking with institutions and academia have led her to confront daily with relevant regional research thematic priorities and capacity building issues and activities, especially in the Mediterranean Countries.

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"H2020 and Societal Challenges"

Hamid EL ZOHEIRY, Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, Egypt.

Outline of the presentation:

The main objective is to take stock of Societal Challenges in H2020 in terms of Priorities and Opportunities for MPCs. All H2020 Societal Challenges represent potential priority areas for the MPCs; however, opportunities/capacities of partnership with the EU have to be further explored and determined. H2020's first WP has limited focus on the Mediterranean (3 topics), considering that Food & Environment (incl. Water issues) seem to be the two areas with strongest participation of MPCs in FP7.

About the Speaker

Hamid EL ZOHEIRY

Master degree in Health Professions Education, more than 17 years of professional academic experience in Egypt, including 5 years in development and management of innovative educational and research environments, experience in international academic relations with foreign Higher Education institutions, including development of partnerships with academic EU institutions and conduction of joint research and educational projects - Coordinator of European Cooperation for the Ministry of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research of Egypt (MHESR), Coordinator of the Research, Development and Innovation Programme (MHESR), Moderator of the Medical Sector Committee, Supreme Council of Universities - Egypt's representative in the Monitoring Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in Research, Technological Development (MoCo). Actually, rector of Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development. Scientific responsible in several projects of FP6 and FP7.

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Title: The international cooperation dimension

Claudio BOGLIOTTI (CIHEAM-IAMB),
Marinella GIANNELLI (CIHEAM/IAMB)

Outline of the presentation

Scope

The aim of this session is to take stock of the international cooperation dimension of the Work Programmes 2014-2015 of H2020, with a particular focus on the geographic and thematic relevance for the Mediterranean region.

About the Speakers

Claudio BOGLIOTTI



He is responsible of "EU Research and Innovation Policies" at IAMB. He is the coordinator of the new Inconet MED-SPRING, starting officially on 1 February 2013. He has about 30 years professional experience both as researcher (geology, hydrogeology, water resources) and EU research project management / coordinator. He worked in both private sector (expert) and public research or International organisation (UNDP, University of Leuven, CIHEAM-IAMB) and he has long standing International experience in research cooperation, particularly in Mediterranean countries, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has also worked in the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation) as policy officer responsible of the bilateral and bi-regional policy dialogue with the Mediterranean Partner Countries. He is author of several scientific publications.

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Marinella GIANNELLI



Ph.D. in International and EU Law at University of Bari (Italy) in 2012. Masters' degree in International Relations from "Luiss Guido Carli" University in Rome (Italy), in 2008, with a thesis on Euro-Med trade relations in agricultural products. In 2008-2009 she has worked as policy analyst for UniCredit Group with a focus on South East Europe and the Middle East. Since 2010 she works as EU and International Projects consultant at CIHEAM-IAMB, where she has developed EU project proposals, co-managed projects implementation and drafted policy papers on Euro-Med relations and countries. She has been visiting researcher at the Queen Mary University, London (UK) and Georgetown University, Washington DC (USA).

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Methodology

Based on available information, the Work Programmes of Pillars I,II,III and Horizontal Issues of H2020¹ have been screened and selected using four categories:

- 1) Direct geographic relevance** (where the Mediterranean region is explicitly and exclusively addressed).
- 2) Indirect geographic relevance** (where the Mediterranean region is included in a wider group of countries, e.g.: European Neighboring Partners, Africa or other regions).
- 3) International cooperation connotation** (where the participation of Third Countries is clearly encouraged at large with no geographic specification. This means that in this category topics open to the participation of specific countries have not been included).
- 4) Thematic relevance** (where there is no reference to the Mediterranean or to international cooperation but themes are of potential interest for the Mediterranean countries, according to the existing literature).

Overall results

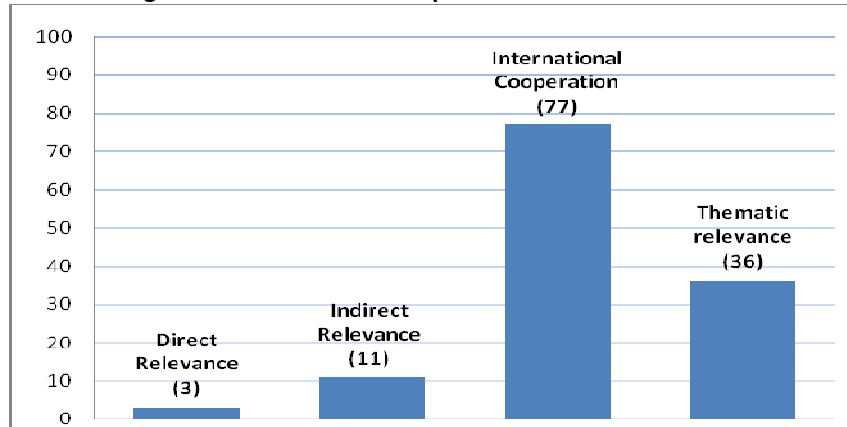
As shown in Figure 1, on a total of more than **500** topics which are included in H2020 Work Programmes for 2014-2015, **3** are directly focused on Mediterranean countries, **11** have an indirect geographic relevance, **76** have an explicit international cooperation connotation (but no geographic target) and **34** have only thematic relevance for the Mediterranean (even if they not address specifically the Mediterranean nor international cooperation).

¹ Pillar I: Excellent Science, Pillar II: Industrial Leadership, Pillar III: Societal challenges. Horizontal Issues: Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation.

Figure 1a: Distribution of topics across Pillars I-III and HI

Pillar	Topics WP 2015-15	Direct Relevance	Indirect Relevance	International cooperation	Thematic relevance
I - Exc. Science	45	0	2	11	0
II - Ind. Leadersh.	166	0	0	12	15
III - Societ. Chall.	298	3	9	51	19
Horizontal Issues	25	0	0	3	2
TOTAL	534	3	11	77	36

Figure 1b: Distribution of topics across Pillars I-III and HI



The overall results of the analysis show clearly that the majority (**82** out of 127) of the topics identified in the four categories belong to Pillar III – Societal Challenges (SC). The seven SC are listed below:

SC 1) Health, demographic change and wellbeing (hereafter: **Health**)

SC 2) Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy (hereafter: **Food**)

SC 3) Secure, clean and efficient energy (hereafter: **Energy**)

SC 4) Smart, green and integrated transport (hereafter: **Transport**)

SC 5) Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials (hereafter: **Climate**)

SC 6) Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies (hereafter: **Societies**)

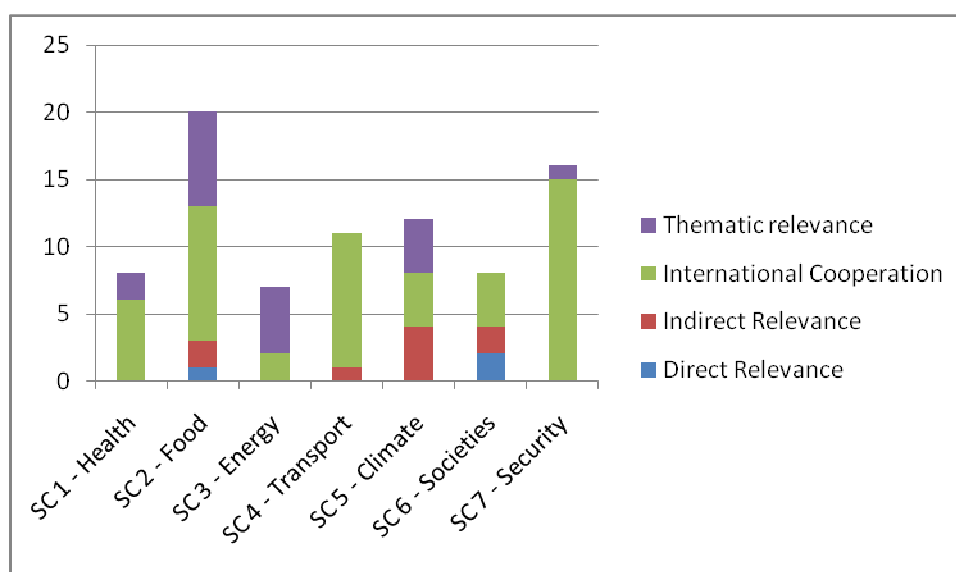
SC 7) Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens (hereafter: **Security**)

Therefore, shifting the focus on Pillar III, Figure 2 below shows in detail how the topics are distributed among the different SC.

Figure 2a: Distribution of topics per Societal Challenge

Societal Challenge	Direct Relevance	Indirect Relevance	International Cooperation	Thematic relevance	TOTAL
SC 1 - Health			6	2	8
SC 2 - Food	1	2	10	7	20
SC 3 - Energy			2	5	7
SC 4 - Transport		1	10		11
SC 5 - Climate		4	4	4	12
SC 6 - Societies	2	2	4		8
SC 7 - Security			15	1	16
TOTAL	3	9	51	19	82

Figure 2b: Distribution of topics per Societal Challenge



According to this data, SC **Food** appears to be the most recurring in the four categories, followed respectively (in decreasing order) by SC **Security**, SC **Transport**, SC **Climate**, SC **Health**, SC **Societies** and SC **Energy**. However, when considering only direct or indirect geographic relevance, the most recurring SC are Climate and Societies, followed by Food and Transport.

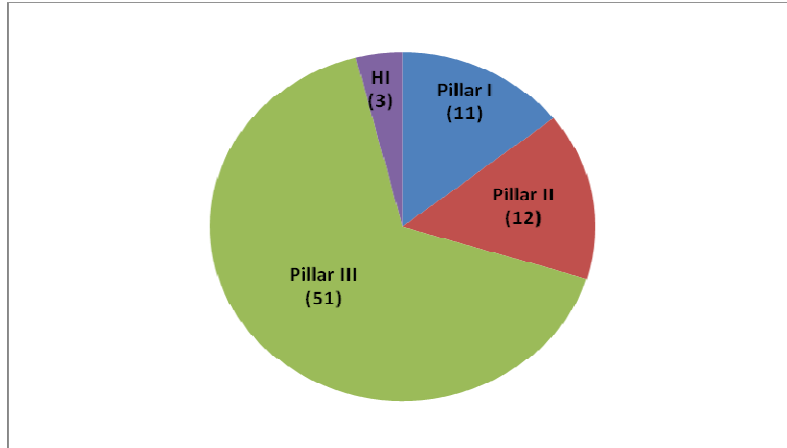
Specific Results

Coming to the specific results per each of the four categories (shown in Figure 1), the **3** topics with **direct geographic relevance** are all included in Pillar III, and related to SC **Food** (1 topic) and SC **Societies** (2 topics). The identifiers and texts of these topics might be found in Annex I.

The **11** topics (Figure 1) with **indirect geographic relevance** are included in Pillar I (2 topics) and Pillar II (9 topics). The SC addressed by these topics are: Food, Transport, Climate and Societies. It is worth noting that one of the two topics in Pillar I is particularly addressed to **ENP National Contact Points** (INFRASUPP 8 – 2014). The identifiers and texts of these topics might be found in Annex I.

As for the **international cooperation connotation** at large (Figure 1), on a total of **77** topics, **11** are under Pillar I, **12** are under Pillar II, **50** are under Pillar III and **3** are under Horizontal Issues. These results are also shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – International Cooperation Connotation per Pillar

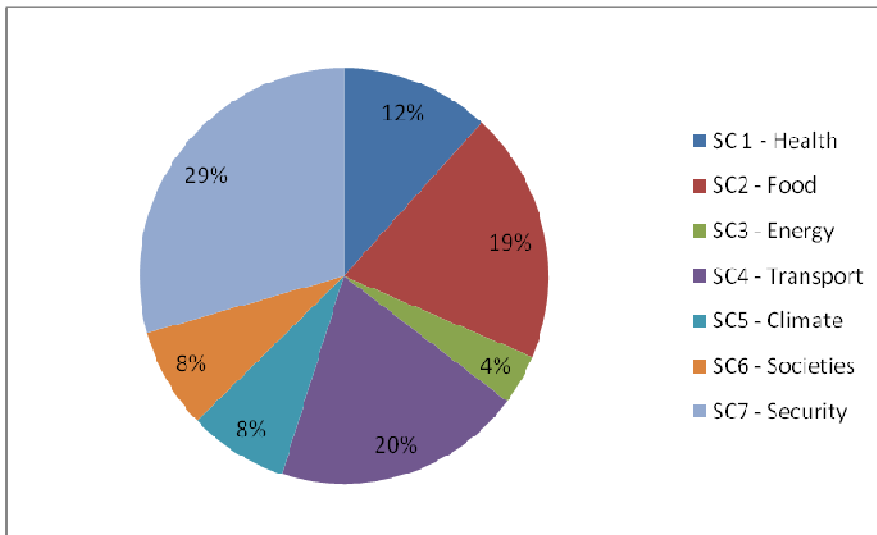


As shown in the above Figure, the bulk of topics which address International Cooperation is under **Pillar III**. It is therefore interesting to highlight how these topics are divided among the different societal challenges. Figure 4 shows that **SC Food** and **SC Transport** have an higher degree of international cooperation activities encouraged

Figure 4a – International Cooperation Connotation per SC

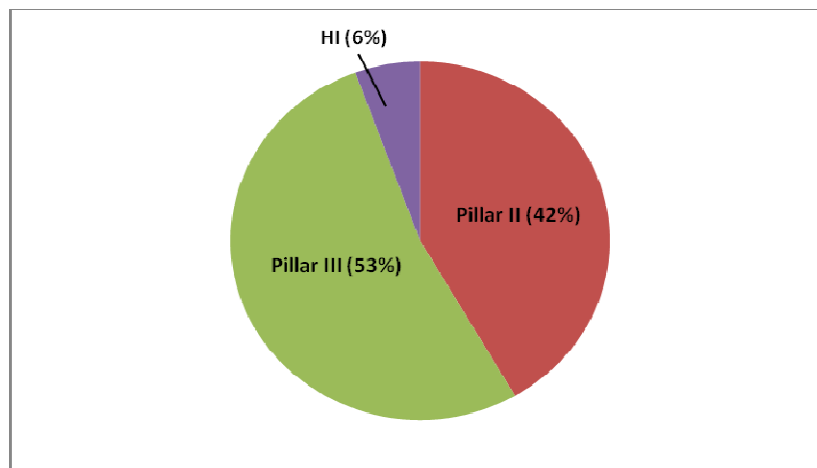
International Cooperation/SC	Topics
SC 1 - Health	6
SC2 - Food	10
SC3 - Energy	2
SC4 - Transport	10
SC5 - Climate	4
SC6 - Societies	4
SC7 - Security	15
TOTAL	51

Figure 4b – International Cooperation Connotation per SC



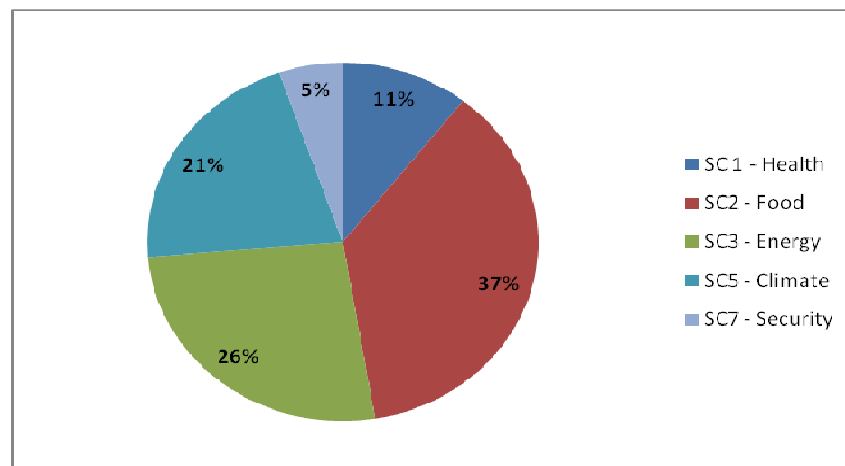
As for the **thematic** dimension, on a total of **36** topics which have been deemed to have a particular relevance to the current themes and challenges of the Mediterranean region, the majority are under Pillar II and III, as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5 – Thematic relevance per Pillar



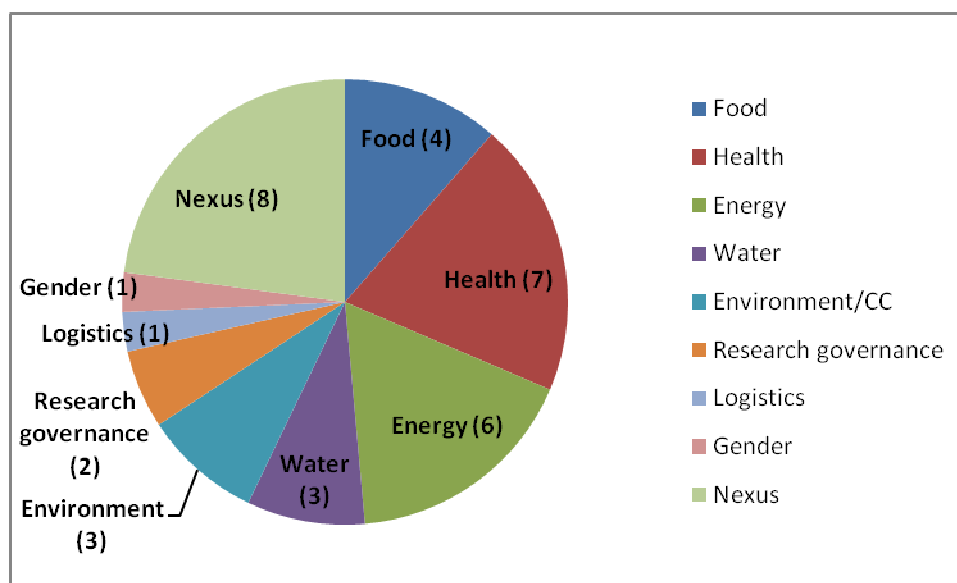
As for the topics under Pillar I, we should highlight that **13** topics out of 15 are in the theme “ICT for Societal Challenges”. As for Pillar II, also in this case, there is an higher concentration of relevant topics in this Pillar, therefore it is worth showing which SC are addressed by the selected topics (Figure 6).

Figure 6 – Thematic relevance per SC



Furthermore, some attention should be devoted to the specific themes which have been identified and included in the analysis. The **36** topics with thematic relevance for the Mediterranean have been grouped under the following themes: **Food, Health, Energy, Water, Environment/Climate Change, Research governance, Gender, Logistics**. Also, based on the main discussion and dialogue today on these issues, some topics have been identified addressing the **nexus** Health/Energy, Food/Energy, Health/Food. The results of this analysis are shown in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7 – Selected relevant Mediterranean topics per theme



Conclusions

The stocktaking briefly outlined here shows that the Mediterranean dimension in the Work Programmes 2014-2015 of H2020 is rather limited.

The **3** topics which are specifically and exclusively addressed to the Mediterranean countries will be launched in 2015 and are focused on two Societal Challenges: **Food** (1 topic) and **Societies** (2 topics). As for Food, the topic (ISIB-3-2015) addresses **social innovation** in agriculture, forestry and rural development and includes the assessment of innovative governance mechanisms to unlock the growth potential in rural areas. As for the topics in SC Societies (INT 6 -2015 and INT 7 -2015) they deal with the assessment of the effectiveness of **policies** and measures for Mediterranean cooperation (INT 6 -2015) and with the analysis of key factors of the main **political dynamics** of the region (INT 7-2015).

However, while the number of “Mediterranean” topics appears to be quite narrow, there is an important presence of topics addressing Mediterranean countries in association with other

countries/regions. The **11** topics in this category deal with themes ranging from research infrastructure to networking of NCP, small farms, raw materials, climate change, water, research cooperation.

To enable the reader to have a better insight on the content of these topics, a short text of the most relevant is included in Annex I, which could also be used for the laboratory exercise.

In addition to the topics mentioned above, the Work Programme 2014-2015 has a rather extended set of topics encouraging international cooperation (**77** topics). These topics are open to all countries and are of **potential interest** for the Mediterranean since they address relevant themes for the region (innovation, natural resources, health, agro-food, energy, transport, climate change, sustainable development, security).

Furthermore, the Work Programmes analyzed present a variety of topics with no reference to international cooperation nor to the Mediterranean but with a high **thematic relevance** for the challenges of the region.

It is also worth noting that all topics identified mainly belong to two types of actions: **Coordination and Support Actions** and **Research and Innovation Actions**.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that in H2020 there is a wide range of topics (other than the ones addressing only the Mediterranean) offering **good opportunities** for research actors of this region – either in thematic issues or cross-cutting activities. The participation of Mediterranean partners in these topics will require a major attention and effort of NCPs, which could act as a hub connecting European and non-European Mediterranean researchers and institutions.

ANNEX I – Texts of selected topics with relevance for the Mediterranean region

A. Topics with direct geographic relevance

1) Unlocking the growth potential of rural areas through enhanced governance and social innovation (ISIB 3 – 2015)

Scope: Proposals should undertake a thorough analysis of social innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural development, encompassing its complexity and various dimensions as well as its impact on unfolding the territorial capital in different regional contexts. Proposals should establish appropriate methods for the evaluation of social innovation. Attention needs to be given to different learning arrangements (e.g. multi-actor networks, producer-consumer association, hybrid innovative networks, territorial alliances) as well as to innovative governance mechanisms at various levels, and their potential implications for social innovation. Proposals should also address the role of different policy instruments, other relevant incentives and diverse entities (public/private, local/non local, active citizens, etc.) as catalysts/constraints to social innovation. Proposals should explain why regions with similar initial conditions display diverging paths. Activities should cover diverse types of rural areas across the EU and Associated Countries and non-European Mediterranean countries. **In line with the objectives of the EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation, proposals are encouraged to include third country participants, especially those established in Mediterranean countries.**

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 6 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact:

- Clarify the different dimensions of social innovation and its dynamics in agriculture, forestry and rural development
- Identify pathways to unfold the territorial capital of rural regions and thus shape sustainable development trajectories in different types of rural areas
- Support more sustainable agri-food and forestry systems and rural development, thus contributing in the medium term to smart, inclusive and sustainable growth in rural areas
- Improve territorial governance and pave the way for an integrated approach to rural development (i.e. ensuring effective mechanisms to coordinate different policies and establish appropriate linkages with other areas)
- Deliver analyses of different innovative governance mechanisms with respect to social innovation in different contexts
- Allow policy makers and the local communities to improve the formulation and delivery of relevant policies as well as to shape such programmes that explicitly foster the creation of sustainable social innovations.

Type of action: Research and innovation action

2) Re-invigorating the partnership between the two shores of the Mediterranean (INT 6 – 2015)

Scope: Research should assess the potential and effectiveness of the policies and measures implemented between the two shores of the Mediterranean and identify the obstacles and prospects for further collaboration. In this context, the concept of bilateralism and regionalism should be defined and assessed in the Mediterranean area, including the pros and cons of both concepts as well as the evaluation of the potential of in-depth cooperation in specific fields like science and technology, water, agriculture, energy or transport. Research should discuss the different understandings of this region and explore which countries significantly influence the situation and developments in the region. In this context, the citizens' perceptions of the image, role and influence of Mediterranean collaboration need to be investigated from both Northern and Southern shores. To this end, data on citizens' perceptions of the Mediterranean will be collected and updated. Research should also identify the best practices, priorities and potential future developments that could improve the relations in this region, taking into account potential new strategies and political priorities that could emerge in the near future. **Broad participation of international partners from the Mediterranean region in proposals submitted to this call is strongly encouraged.** The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 1.5 and 2.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact: The assessment of the prospects for and obstacles to further collaboration between the two shores of the Mediterranean will improve the understanding of the European Union's external action in the area and should contribute to a reflection on its future role in the region. Research will particularly lead to a refined conceptualization of the new geopolitical configuration of the Mediterranean area which will contribute to debates on the most appropriate mix of policies and measures either through a regional or a bilateral approach, including at sectorial level. Finally, activities under this topic will lead to identifying possible actions needed to improve the EU-Mediterranean collaboration.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

3) Towards a new geopolitical order in the South and East Mediterranean (INT 7 -2015)

Scope: Research should contribute to enhance knowledge on SEMCs and the Middle East area in assessing the key factors that affect the former and new leaderships and analysing the main political dynamics of the region in the broader sense of the term (including adjacent regions). It should identify the interconnections between the different countries at the geostrategic level. Research should assess the role of internal and external actors: political bodies, religious factions, communities, elites and minorities but also the role of other players (Gulf countries, China or Russia) in the geopolitical game. Specific attention should be paid to the role of religions (Sunnis and Shias) and their influence on political factions (such as Wahhabis, Salafis, Islamic movements, Hamas, Hezbollah and Muslim Brotherhood). Their political influence at the country, regional and international levels should be investigated. The current situation and the future of ethnic or religious minorities (Christian minorities, role of different tribes, Kurds, Druzes, Alaouites,...) in the SEMCs and Middle East should also be explored. Research should look at the potential risk of destabilisation of the region and the effects on the population both at national and macro-regional levels (especially studying the question of refugees, migration and relocation as well as the state

of women's rights). Research will also identify the role of civil society and the existing cleavages or tensions that may emerge between different groups of the population (such as current and future elites but also the role of both rural and urban citizens and of gender relations) in the geopolitical and political process. Research should also build scenarios about potential developments and futures in the area over the 20 years. **Broad participation of international partners from the Mediterranean region and the Middle East in proposals submitted to this call is strongly encouraged.**

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 1.5 and 2.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact: Research is expected to advance knowledge on the geostrategic and geopolitical developments in the SEMCs and in the Middle East. It will focus on the existing and emerging social, cultural, political, gender and religious factors that affect the region. The topic should also contribute to better understanding of the current and future role of the EU in the region.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

B. Topics with indirect geographic relevance

1) International cooperation for research infrastructures (INFRASUPP 6 – 2014)

Scope: In this context, the research infrastructure action will focus its activities on international cooperation in three different but complementary ways, as required: bilaterally with a single third country at policy level; multi-laterally with different third countries, targeting specific research and innovation aspects of research infrastructures of common interest in one area of science and technology; multi-laterally with different third countries if a specific effort is required in the context of a specific world class research infrastructure. Support to activities decided in the context of the Group of Senior officials on Global Research Infrastructures may fall in the latter two categories.

Proposals will address one of the following areas:

- Facilitate the development of global research infrastructures and the cooperation of European Research Infrastructures with their non-European counterparts, ensuring their global interoperability and reach, and to pursue international agreements on the reciprocal use, openness or co-financing of infrastructures, on the basis of the recommendations of the Group of Senior Officials on Global Research Infrastructures;
- Support bilateral cooperation on research infrastructures with Africa. The proposal will build on the past experience and achievements gained in the Seventh Framework Programme project PAERIP (Promoting African – European Research Infrastructure Partnerships).
- **Support multi-lateral cooperation with European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries and Western Balkan Countries.** The proposal will aim at developing regional roadmaps of research infrastructures jointly with stakeholders and policymakers and help them develop closer cooperation with research infrastructures of pan-European interest through training, data management and trans-national access.

The proposals supporting bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation with research infrastructures in third countries should in particular:

- Identify and promote opportunities (access and data sharing) available to European scientists in these research infrastructures;
- Help developing better coordination and cooperation of European research infrastructures with their non-European counterparts; ensuring their global interoperability and reach, and to pursue international agreements on the reciprocal use, openness or co-financing of infrastructures;
- Exchange good practices between user communities and managers of research infrastructures as regard for instance benchmarking performance of technology platforms, harmonisation of tests, standards, reference materials, interoperability and data handling.

Expected impact:

This activity will help to:

- Develop cooperation with key international partners for research infrastructures;
- Contribute to the development of a competitive high performance ERA in the global research environment;
- Reinforce partnership between the Commission, the Member States and relevant stakeholders in this field;
- Enhance the role of the Union in international organisations and multilateral fora;
- Support progress towards the development of global research infrastructures;
- Contribute to address societal challenges with a global dimension such as climate change;
- Contribute to capacity building and research infrastructures human capital development in targeted/relevant regions.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

2) Network of National Contact Points (INFRASUPP-8-2014)

Scope: Support will be given to a consortium of formally nominated NCPs in the area of research infrastructures. The activities will be tailored according to the nature of the area, and the priorities of the NCPs concerned. Various mechanisms may be included, such as benchmarking, joint workshops, enhanced cross-border brokerage events, specific training linked to this Part as well as to gender dimension of Research and Innovation, and twinning schemes. Special attention will be given to enhance the competence of NCPs, including helping less experienced NCPs rapidly acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries. The focus throughout should be on issues specific to research infrastructures, and should not duplicate actions foreseen in the NCP network for quality standards and horizontal issues under 'Science with and for Society'. In particular attention should be given to the promotion of trans-national and virtual access, the synergies with other NCPs networks, and the cooperation with other policy and international cooperation oriented measures for research infrastructures. The proposal should build on the past experience and achievements gained in the Seventh Framework Programme EuroRis-Net+ project. Only NCPs from EU Member States, Associated Countries, European Neighbourhood Policy countries (ENP), African countries, Australia, Canada, Russia and USA, which have been officially appointed by the relevant national authorities, are eligible to participate in and receive funding for this action. The consortium should have a good representation of experienced and less experienced NCPs. Submission of a single proposal is encouraged. **In line with the Union's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with ENP countries.**

The Commission will only fund one proposal under this heading.

Expected impact:

- Improved and professionalised NCP service across the EU, thereby helping simplify access to Horizon 2020 calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of proposals submitted.
- A more consistent level of NCP support services across the EU.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

3) Sustainable intensification pathways of agro-food systems in Africa (SFS 6 – 2014)

Scope: Proposals should develop further the concept and approach expected to be implemented in the partnership. Feasibility, strategic priorities and action plan should be developed taking full account of present and emerging initiatives at national, EU, African (e.g. CAADP and the forthcoming Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa) and global level so as to maximise complementarities and synergies. Furthermore, in addition to technological and economic factors, the strategic action plan should also take anthropological and cultural aspects into account. In line with the objectives of the EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation and in particular with the implementation of the EU-Africa dialogue, **proposals are encouraged to ensure commitment and participation of a variety of concerned partners established in the EU and in Africa.** The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 1 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact:

- Creation of a long-term research partnership between Europe and Africa, involving potentially Member States and Associated countries and African countries, the related regional organisations (the EU and the African Union) and sub-regional coordination bodies on research and innovation on sustainable intensification pathways in agro-food systems. Creation of opportunities for private sector development;
- Strong contribution to raising sustainable FNS in Africa in the medium term through socio-economic development
- Better delivery and more efficient spending of research funds through synergies and complementarities between the various entities involved.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

4) Small farms but global markets: the role of small and family farms in food and nutrition security (SFS 18 – 2015)

Scope: Proposals should thoroughly assess the role of family farms and other small food businesses and particularly those with small structures in achieving sustainable FNS, evaluating the means by which such entities could respond to the expected increase in demand for food, feed and fibre under ever scarcer resources, as well as providing evidence and developing tools to guide decision makers in the choice and combination of intensification pathways. Research should identify the optimal enabling environment for small and family farms and businesses to accomplish the aforementioned role on FNS and the multiple dimensions of sustainability with

respect to infrastructure, supply chain and governance needs. Foresight activities should be carried out to project the potential weight and role of the aforementioned entities in a few decades' time, regarding the various dimensions of sustainability, including the challenges of less developed countries' growing rural densities. Research work should build upon existing knowledge and take into account activities related to the 2014 International Year of Family Farming and Smallholder Farming. **In line with the objectives of the EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation and in particular with the implementation of the EU-Africa dialogue, proposals are encouraged to include third country participants, especially those established in Africa and Asia.**

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU in the range of EUR 4–5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately.

Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact:

- Provide a better understanding of the role of small and family farms and small food businesses in meeting the sustainable FNS challenge (across its various dimensions) encompassing the implications on small and medium size businesses along the supply chain and within the context of demographic developments
- Help better tailoring international cooperation and agricultural research for development to the agro-food sector
- Contribute to policy making for the identification of new development models for the agro-food sector.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

5) Coordinating and supporting research and innovation in the area of climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials (SC5-19-2014/2015)

Scope: Enhancing European networks to facilitate dialogue among the relevant scientific communities, funding bodies and user communities in the EU throughout the duration of Horizon 2020. Proposals should enhance coordination and synergies, and avoid overlaps, between European and nationally or regionally funded research and innovation actions, and create links with related international programmes, as appropriate.

Proposals shall address only one of the following issues:

a) [2014] Facilitating transnational cooperation between NCPs in Societal Challenge 5: Support will be given to a consortium of formally nominated H2020 NCPs in the area of climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials. The activities will be tailored according to the nature of the area, and the priorities of the NCPs concerned. Various mechanisms may be included, such as benchmarking, joint workshops, enhanced cross-border brokerage events, specific training linked to this Societal Challenge as well as to the gender dimension of research and innovation, and twinning schemes. Special attention will be given to enhancing the

competence of NCPs, including helping less experienced NCPs rapidly acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries. The focus throughout should be on issues specific to the climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials Societal Challenge and should not duplicate actions foreseen in the NCP network for quality standards and horizontal issues under 'Science with and for Society'. Only NCPs from EU Member States, Associated Countries and Neighbourhood Policy countries which have been officially appointed by the relevant national authorities are eligible to participate in and receive funding for this action. **In line with the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with neighbourhood policy countries.**

The consortium should have a good representation of experienced and less experienced NCPs.

Expected impact:

Improved and professionalised NCP service across the EU, thereby helping simplify access to Horizon 2020 calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of proposals submitted. A more consistent level of NCP support services across the EU.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

6) Coordinating and supporting Earth Observation research and innovation in the EU, and in the North African, Middle East, and Balkan region (SC-18-2014/2015)

Scope: Proposals should focus on Earth Observation related research activities with the aim of continuously providing timely and accurate information, forecasts and projections. In line with the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation⁶³ proposals should contribute to implementing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and Copernicus.

Proposals shall address only one of the following issues:

b) [2015] Integrating North African, Middle East and Balkan Earth Observation capacities in GEOSS: integrating, coordinating and supporting initiatives in these countries to deliver Earth Observation information services that will benefit critical economic and social sectors such as tourism, agriculture, transportation, health, research and education, while involving service providers in those sectors. Regional observational systems that are needed to complete GEOSS are of particular importance. In line with the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation⁶⁶ international cooperation is encouraged, ensuring a sufficient number of international partners from the target region to ensure adequate scale and scope of cooperation.

Expected impact:

Improved food security, access to raw materials and energy, and adaptation to climate change in the North-African, Middle-East, and Balkan regions due to improved Earth Observation data and information services. Rapid re-installation of the required infrastructures by the relevant public services and decision makers. Future investments in this region, leading to sustainable development of resources and activities. Strengthened competitiveness and performance of critical economic and social sectors such as tourism, agriculture, transportation, health, research, and education.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

7) Strengthening international R&I cooperation in the field of water (WATER-5-2014/2015)

Scope:

c) [2015] **Development of water supply and sanitation technology, systems and tools, and/or methodologies** to manage risks associated with water supply and sanitation and cross-boundary water management issues, or integrated water resources management systems for sustainable agriculture and food security, sustainable environment protection and economic growth, focused on the non-EU Mediterranean countries and Africa. Proposals should connect to local knowledge, socio-economic development cultures, policy institutions and implementing bodies, and take into account the gender dimension where relevant. **In line with the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with non-EU Mediterranean countries and Africa.** Proposals should include participation of organisations from the above-mentioned regions.

For sub-topic c), the Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 2 and 3 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impacts:

Application of innovative technological approaches/solutions adapted to local conditions, operational and effective application of integrated water management, better identification of water vulnerability by policy makers, advanced regulatory and economic instruments, improved capacity building of local actors, and increased economic and social well-being at local and regional levels in the non-EU Mediterranean countries and Africa. Support to internationally agreed water-related goals, including in the context of the post-2015 development framework and Rio+20 follow up, by bridging the water and sanitation gaps.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

8) Encouraging the research and innovation cooperation between the Union and selected regional partners (INT 2 – 2014/2015)

Scope: Proposals should target international partners in a regional context and should cover the following set of activities:

- **Encouraging cooperation between research and innovation actors** from the Union and the partner in question, by promoting the opportunities offered by Horizon 2020 towards the international partner. This should include notably the setting up of web-based information systems, but it can also involve the organisation of awareness raising and information dissemination activities or the organisation of brokerage events, conferences or workshops;
- Ensuring that progress is made towards establishing appropriate **framework conditions for international cooperation** between the Union and the partner in question, notably by identifying remaining obstacles for cooperation and by supporting the development of solutions to eliminate these, while jointly promoting measures which facilitate international cooperation (e.g. on open access, scientific visa, IPR, peer review, research

integrity etc).Where appropriate, this should include seeking continuous complementarity and coherence with activities of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation (SFIC).

In this work programme the following regional partners will be targeted: **Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood (including activities in support of bilateral S&T Agreements with Algeria, Morocco, Jordan)**, **Eastern Partnership**, the **Black Sea** region, the **Middle-East** and **Africa**. For **Africa** the proposal will also include support for the implementation of activities agreed within the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue, including by increasing the coordination between the activities and programmes from the Member States, the Associated Countries and the African partners. Proposals should be made by consortia consisting of balanced partnerships between European and international partners, ensuring adequate involvement of public authorities and other stakeholders (e.g. funding agencies, research organisations, industry, civil society) of the participating countries. On the European side, broad involvement across all Member States and Associated Countries is expected, either within the consortium or through appropriate outreach activities by the consortium to other Member States and Associated States. Broad participation from the targeted region is also strongly encouraged. Proposals should build on the results of existing cooperation initiatives, and in particular those funded through the Seventh Framework Programme Capacities part 'Activities of International Cooperation'.

Type of action: Coordination and support actions

A maximum of one proposal will be supported per international partner region from the list provided above. The Commission considers that proposals requesting a Union contribution of EUR 1.95 million per proposal for a duration of three years would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately for the proposals targeting Africa and the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood. For the proposals targeting the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea region, the Commission considers that proposals requesting a Union contribution of EUR 1.5 million per proposal for a duration of three years would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. For the proposals targeting the Middle East, the Commission considers that a proposal requesting a Union contribution of EUR 1 million for a duration of three years would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

9) The European Union, Turkey and its wider neighbourhood: challenges and opportunities (INT 9-2015)

Scope: Research should analyse the economic, social, political and geostrategic challenges and opportunities - for Turkey itself and for the EU - of further integration of Turkey with the EU, taking into account the different forms this collaboration could take. Different scenarios and their consequences should be analysed, from the point of view of the strategic interests of both the EU and Turkey. This should include both internal and external dimensions, as well as the analysis of impacts on relations with other global powers and with other world regions, in particular the Middle East, the South and East Mediterranean, and the Caucasus. Research should also explore the potential consequences of a lack of progress in building stronger ties between Turkey and the EU. **Broad participation of partners from Turkey and its wider neighbourhood countries in proposals submitted to this call is strongly encouraged.**

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 1.5 and 2.5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected impact: Research is expected to advance theoretical and practical debates on the different scenarios, and their implications, of the potential further integration of Turkey with the EU and to provide the analysis of the challenges and opportunities associated with this process. It will make a critical assessment of the evolution of EU relations with Turkey in the last decades as well as how they were affected by the shifting global order and the rise of Turkey as a regional power. These activities will contribute to a better understanding of the challenges facing the EU neighbourhood and enlargement policies as well as will provide evidence base to support them.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

Deliverable N.: 7.3

Annex II: List of Participants



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