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**INCONET – Mediterranean Partner Countries**

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## SUMMARY

During the period 2014 to 2017 the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation has received a great impulse thanks to the overcome of the procedural obstacles related to the approval of the PRIMA initiative. The CoP Conference in Paris and Marrakech are milestones in the definition of the common interest of all Mediterranean Countries regarding the challenges posted by the climate change. The political frame of dialogue represented by the GSO and the 5+5 Dialogue Platform have highlighted the importance of dealing with sustainable water, farming and food systems for local and regional development through innovative solutions, together with the urgent need to improve the human capital and the training of innovation experts.

## INTRODUCTION

The World Economic Forum Global Risks 2017 Analysis Report Identified the following 5 Top Trends that Determine Global Developments: Rising Income and wealth disparity, Changing climate, Increasing polarization of societies, Rising cyber dependency and Ageing population. Moreover, they identified the Most Important Risks' Interconnections:



This analysis, complement and develop some of the Global Risks reported in the 2016 Report and their impact affecting the Mediterranean Area such as involuntary migration and social instability. Some geopolitical risks - such as the failure of national governance - are considered to be among the top three most likely risks in the Middle East and North Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, and Central Asia.

Also prominent in the Global Risks Landscape 2016 are environmental risks such as failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation, which is considered the most potentially impactful risk and the third most likely, with water crises, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse rising up the list of concerns. Environmental worries have been at the forefront in recent years,

reflecting a sense that climate change - related risks have moved from hypothetical to certain because insufficient action has been undertaken to address them.

The Risk that has registered the highest increases in perceptions of likelihood and impact is large-scale involuntary migration, now rated as the most likely and fourth most impactful. Three risk clusters are important: the cluster linking the failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation with water crises and large-scale involuntary migration; the cluster linking large-scale involuntary migration with a range of risks related to social and economic stability; and the cluster linking economic global risks with uncertainty around the impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Climate change and water crises, which have featured prominently in the Global Risks Landscape over the last five years, are joined this year by largescale involuntary migration.

Climate change and water risks are intricately linked to food security concerns. About 70% of the world's current freshwater withdrawals are used for agriculture, rising to over 90% in most of the world's least-developed countries. Carbon dioxide also causes ocean acidification, which makes it harder for small shellfish to form the calcium carbonate shells they need to grow – with implications rising up the food chain, threatening the availability of food from the seas as well. Challenges around water management are already immense. On the one hand, over a billion people lack access to improved water. Some 2.7 billion – or 40% of the world's population - suffer water shortages for at least a month each year. Globally, based on current trends, water demand is projected to exceed sustainable supply by 40% in 2030.

Adding to the pressures, agricultural production will have to increase in the coming decades to feed a growing population and a rising demand for meat. Unless current water management practices change significantly, many parts of the world will therefore face growing competition for water between agriculture, energy, industry, and cities. OECD estimates that 4 billion people could be living in water scarce areas by 2050. According to the World Water Council, 80% to 90% of the scarce water in many of the world's arid and semi-arid river basins is already being used, and over 70% of the world's major rivers no longer reach the sea. Even many developed countries are failing to proactively address water vulnerabilities, instead reacting only after extreme weather events. In developing countries, the political challenges inherent in water infrastructure and conservation projects are exacerbated by greater financing challenges.

Another important political event was the acknowledgement by the 29th Ministerial Session of the UN Economic and Social Council of Western Asia held in Doha, Qatar, the 16 December 2016, where the ministerial panel discussion on the Sustainable development Goals (SDG) observed that the Arab region needs to build the capacity of its national statistical offices (NSOs) to collect data to monitor progress and, among other objectives, adapt the SDG to national context or develop a regional action on science, technology and innovation.

The landscape described by the WEF Reports represents a real challenge for countries around the Mediterranean and their scientific and technological communities, and is a real incentive to deepen in the collaborative frames already existing and support the cooperation policies based in the common interest.

## **EU-MPC POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COOPERATION POLICIES**

The EU-MPC scientific cooperation landscape in the period 2015-2018 is marked by two relevant facts: the Paris Conference of Parties (CoP) on Climate Change and its Remediation held in 2015, followed by the CoP22 from 7-18 November 2016 held in Marrakech (Maroc), and the approval of PRIMA - Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area initiative based on Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and its draft SRIA (Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda) with the general objective “to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for water management and provision and agro-food systems in the Mediterranean region, to make them more climate resilient, efficient, cost effective and sustainable and to contribute to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition and physical activity, health, well-being and migration problem upstream”. It is foreseen that its Work Plans will be soon approved and its calls will start early 2018.

### **The CoP Paris Agreement 2015**

This Agreement signed by 195 countries, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

- Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
- Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

Parties should strengthen their cooperation on enhancing action on adaptation, taking into account the Cancun Adaptation Framework, including with regard to:

- Sharing information, good practices, experiences and lessons learned, including, as appropriate, as these relate to science, planning, policies and implementation in relation to adaptation actions;
- Strengthening institutional arrangements, including those under the Convention that serve this Agreement, to support the synthesis of relevant information and knowledge, and the provision of technical support and guidance to Parties;

- Strengthening scientific knowledge on climate, including research, systematic observation of the climate system and early warning systems, in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making;
- Assisting developing country Parties in identifying effective adaptation practices, adaptation needs, priorities, support provided and received for adaptation actions and efforts, and challenges and gaps, in a manner consistent with encouraging good practices; and
- Improving the effectiveness and durability of adaptation actions.

Parties share a long-term vision on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

COP22 results in the MARRAKECH ACTION PROCLAMATION FOR OUR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT signed by Heads of State present in the Conference, which states: “We call for the highest political commitment to combat climate change, as a matter of urgent priority. We call for strong solidarity with those countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and underscore the need to support efforts aimed to enhance their adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability. We call for all Parties to strengthen and support efforts to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and to take stringent action to deal with climate change challenges in agriculture”.

Certainly, the impact of climate change in the Mediterranean is one of the biggest challenges of the region, and measures must be taken immediately to cope with its effect on the water and food security of the area. The Mediterranean is known as a climate change hot spot. According to the IPCC, this part of the planet could see temperature increases of 2° to 3°C by 2050 and even 3° to 5° by the year 2100. By the end of this century, sea levels could rise between 40 and 50 cm, with a sharp decrease in rainfall. With water stress caused by pollution and excessive water consumption, brought about by the urbanization of coastal areas, agriculture and an increase in tourism (the region currently attracts one third of the world's tourists), countries bordering the Mediterranean could see this situation worsen. Desertification and a loss of biodiversity, already underway, and extreme weather events are set to become more widespread and frequent; hence the need to think ahead and take action.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has confirmed its earlier estimate that 2016 was the hottest year on record, with global temperatures reaching an unprecedented 1.2 Celsius above pre-industrial levels. During CoP22 a special session of the Water-Energy-Food session was organized under the auspices of the European Commission. Speaking on behalf of the European Commission, Mr. Child, Deputy Director-general at DG RTD, argued that water, energy and food production are inextricably linked and their nexus increasingly draw the attention of the policy, research and industrial community. He also expressed how “research and innovation are key elements to understand the complex interactions between the natural environment and human activities, to develop effective and sustainable solutions and to inform decision-making across such complexity”.

## The PRIMA Common Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)

PRIMA is built around a common Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), which has been drafted by the **SSA 4PRIMA (H2020 Project 724060 by European Commission)** and will be the basis of its Work Plans and its Calls, foreseen to start early 2018. With a budget of 400 Million Euros over 10 years, PRIMA is expected to boost local businesses and investment opportunities, addressing also unemployment and migration issues in the region and becoming a further vehicle of sustainable growth. The PRIMA SRIA is the output of a process encompassing the collection of inputs coming from a wide range of sources, analysis, workshops, stakeholder events and public consultations involving experts and multiple stakeholders coming from all sectors of society and all Countries.

In the SRIA it clearly emerges that PRIMA's aim is to promote excellent research, to define solutions supporting communities, consumers and enterprises able to deal with challenges in the water and agro-food sectors, and to build cooperation among researchers and innovators. PRIMA would like to contribute to the creation of bridges between the two shores of the Mediterranean. The SRIA is presented in May 2017 on the occasion of the Malta Euro-Mediterranean Conference, attended by political representatives of Participating States, experts and stakeholder of the whole Region. This important opportunity highlights the value of PRIMA also in terms of scientific diplomacy.

The SRIA will guide all the actors involved in PRIMA towards the implementation of the Initiative. It will represent the cornerstone in the process of strengthening Research and Innovation efforts, with the final aim of improving health and livelihoods of European and Mediterranean citizens, encouraging economic growth, and inducing more sustainable societies and stability in the Mediterranean area.

PRIMA will develop 3 Thematic Areas and the crosscutting nexus among the three main areas of research and innovation: **MANAGEMENT OF WATER, FARMING SYSTEMS and AGRO-FOOD VALUE CHAIN.**

Operational objectives:

### Management of water:

- **WATER-SAVING SOLUTIONS:** To test and stimulate adoption of context-tailored water-saving solutions, in particular in agriculture.
- **LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY:** To improve land and water sustainability in arid and semi-arid watersheds
- **WATER GOVERNANCE SYSTEM:** To elaborate and stimulate adoption of new policies and protocols for the governance of water management system

### Farming systems:

- **SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING:** To develop smart and environmentally sustainable farming systems to maintain natural resources and to increase production efficiency
- **PESTS AND PATHOGENS IN FARMING:** To design and promote the adoption of novel approaches to reduce the impact of pests and pathogens in farming, including their consequences on human health

#### Agro-food value chain:

- **NUTRITION AND HEALTH:** To innovate in the Mediterranean food products based on Mediterranean diet heritage and to enhance the links between nutrition, physical activity and health
- **REDUCE LOSSES AND WASTES:** To find context-adapted solutions to increase food and water chain efficiency and reduce losses and wastes
- **NEW AGRO-FOOD BUSINESS MODELS:** To conceive and implement innovative, quality oriented models in agro-businesses as potential sources of new jobs and economic

PRIMA will look for synergies with other running activities such as Joint Programme Initiatives like FACCE, JPI HDHL and JPI Water which are currently financing activities under a very wide range of environmental and socio-economic conditions. PRIMA will complement the actions of JPis by considering Mediterranean specificities, enabling a more geographic and problem-based orientation of the research program.

Regarding **JPI FACCE**, the implications of climate change for farming systems, resilience of food value chains and land and water management are of primary importance in the Mediterranean area. The issues of drought, water scarcity and salinity and the importance of the water used in agriculture, which are characteristics of the Mediterranean area, will be addressed in PRIMA, complementary to JPI Water and in extension to actions undertaken in ERA-nets, ERANETMED and ARIMNet, which are currently setting the foundations for a longer-term programme.

PRIMA will also align with the recently established BlueMed initiative. Marine research is not included in the scope of PRIMA as it is in BlueMed, but PRIMA will look for synergies and complementarities, particularly in aspects related to land-based aquaculture and sea-based food processing.

#### **TUNISIA INCORPORATION TO H2020**

Tunisia joins Horizon 2020, the EU's Research and Innovation Programme. Researchers and innovators from Tunisia will now be able to participate in Horizon 2020, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation, under the same conditions as their counterparts from EU Member States and other 13 associated countries.

The agreement associating Tunisia to Horizon 2020 was signed the 1 December 2015 by Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Chiheb Bouden, Tunisian Minister for High Education and Scientific Research. Commissioner Moedas said: "I am pleased to welcome Tunisia into Horizon 2020, the biggest programme for research and

innovation of the world. This agreement is a historical one. It shows that through research and innovation, the EU is supporting the young Tunisian democracy and helping to invest in knowledge as a foundation of future development. Tunisia's accession also shows how a research policy open to the world can bring novel ideas and enrich our common research efforts."

#### **THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICERS (GSO)**

The Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission organized on 22 November 2016, in Brussels, the 21st meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Group of Senior Officials (Euro-Med GSO) in Research and Innovation with a view to preparing a Euro-Mediterranean ministerial conference on Research and Innovation, scheduled to take place in Malta, on 3-4 May 2017, under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Acknowledging that water, food and migration remain among today's most pressing challenges for the Mediterranean, the agenda of the ministerial will be built around three pillars: "the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)", "Addressing the root causes of migration through research and innovation" and "R&I for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean (BLUEMED)".

The GSO meeting brought together participants from the EU member states, the EU institutions and countries from both shores of the Mediterranean as well as representatives of the Union for the Mediterranean and partners of EU-funded projects with a focus on the Mediterranean, who held a comprehensive discussion around the aforementioned topics.

The participants highlighted the importance of sustainable water, farming and food systems for local and regional development through innovative solutions. What is more, special focus was put on coordinating efforts to collect data across the region to avoid fragmentation and strengthen the ability of the research community to increase their understanding of complex drivers of migration. Finally, the participants reiterated the need to stimulate 'blue' jobs and growth in the Mediterranean by unlocking the potential of marine and maritime sectors while seeking more synergies.

#### **THE 5+5 DIALOGUE PLATFORM**

The Western Mediterranean Forum, referred to as the "5+5 Dialogue", was officially launched in Rome in 1990 as an informal sub-regional forum with the aim of fostering relations between European countries and the newly born Arab Maghreb Union. The 5+5 Dialogue comprises Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. As a trans-Mediterranean cooperation initiative, the rationale of the 5+5 Dialogue is to provide an informal forum in which the five EU member states and the five Maghreb countries have a chance to discuss subjects of topical interest for the region and to identify new areas for practical cooperation.

The Platform 5+5 on Research and Innovation formed by 5 Western Mediterranean countries from the EU and 5 from North Africa held a Meeting in Tunisia the 30 March 2017 with ministers and high level ministerial representatives responsible for research and higher



education from the countries participating to this sub-regional forum , as well as the Secretaries General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation. The Meeting in Tunisia approved a Working Plan aiming at developing the following Actions:

- Setting-up an instrument for Networking.
- Actions on entrepreneurship and support to spin-offs creation
- Access to research infrastructures
- Actions on technological transfer and Intellectual Properties Management Capacity
- Development of Open Innovation and Smart Specialization Strategies in the 5+5
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of research structure
- Creation of networks of High Education Institutions within 5+5
- Quality assurance and accreditation
- Actions on Governance
- Building Capacity on Blue Economy.

#### **OTHERS RELEVANT ACTIVITIES IN THE EU-MPC COOPERATION IN RTD**

The **5TOI\_4EWAS H2020 project** (<http://www.5toi.eu/> ) backs a very inclusive innovation policy implementation path as well as the Horizon 2020 objectives for encouraging the research and innovation cooperation between the Union and Southern Mediterranean Neighborhood (Topic: INT-02-2015). 5TOI\_4EWAS proposes a radically new way to generate innovation in the South Mediterranean Neighborhood, based on the innovation ecosystem created by the Research2Innovation projects funded within the 7FP. Under the Quintuple helix model, involving the widest possible range of stakeholders, the project will focus on three key challenges - Food, Energy and Water through the Nexus approach - as these issues are obviously at the top of the Research and Innovation agenda in MPC countries. Successful cooperation between higher education and the business sector bring substantial benefits to higher education institutions, their academics and students, as well as to companies, their staff, and to society as a whole. The 5toi\_4EWAS project has launched a study on cooperation between University, higher education institutions and public and private organizations located in the Mediterranean Partner Countries area. The European Commission could use the results to improve its policy for the EU-MED area.

The **MAGHRENOV Project** (FP7-609453) aimed at supporting innovation in the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) sector in the Mediterranean basin. The Consortium brings together partners from Europe and MAGHREB countries, whose shared goal is to establish a common Euro-Mediterranean innovation space.

The common innovation area shall be built around three major objectives of MAGHRENOV:

1. Building human resource and knowledge capacity and fostering innovation on Mediterranean RE&EE markets.

2. Bringing together RE&EE initiatives in the EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) in order to support development of sustainable energies and to establish dynamic Research and Innovation Systems.
3. Creating mobility of young academics among businesses and research sector in the EU and MPC.

This Project comes to an end on the 8th of September 2016, holding an institutional and dissemination session at the European Parliament in Brussels. The MAGHRENOV Project has created opportunities in terms of business development and job creation and has promoted economic growth in the Mediterranean basin region. Energy cooperation is a key topic in the Euro-Med relation and can help for the further integration of both regions. The idea is to co-develop the sustainable energy value-chain on both sides of Mediterranean and develop a shared vision to stimulate the transition of EMIS, from a collaborative innovative space to a fully-structured innovation system.

Public-private partnership is seen as key in the EMIS transition. For EU, cooperation with southern Mediterranean is strategic in terms of domestic and external policy. This leads us to reinforced partnerships based on three pillars: Environment and Climate Change, Social development and Economic growth. MAGHRENOV has clearly taken the approach supported by the EU which is to exchange information, cooperate and to cluster to have a greater integration and a bigger impact at the national and regional level.

The **ERANETMED Project** EC FP7 Project n° 609475, aimed at financing project is to enhance Euro-Mediterranean co-ownership through innovation and competitive research in the societal challenges of the region. The project aims at reducing fragmentation of programming in the Mediterranean region by increasing coordination among national research programs of European Member States, Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries.

The 1st Joint Transnational Call results of a total of 21 transnational projects approved for funding after evaluation by an independent international scientific evaluation panel supported by external reviewers. Among the 21 projects, 11 projects are in the scientific area of Renewable energies and energy efficiency (call identifier: JC-ENERGY-2014), 7 projects in the area of Water resources management (call identifier JC-Water-2014) and the rest in the ENERGY-WATER nexus (call identifier: JC-NEXUS-2014). The 2nd Joint Transnational Call aim was to propose sustainable solutions for the environmental challenges of “Euro-Mediterranean vulnerable communities” intended as those communities leaving in areas – coastal zones or inland - in which local resources like biodiversity, land and water, energy or food are under serious threat by factors such as migration, environmental, socio-economic factors etc. After the evaluation process, 17 projects were selected for financing. The 3rd Joint Transnational Call, launched in 2017, aims at strengthening international cooperation on research and innovation in the Mediterranean and enhance Euro-Mediterranean research networks tackling the challenge of water in rural and remote areas in coastal zones and inland. In addressing the above challenges, researchers will have to provide a methodological approach able to deliver a tangible contribution to socio-economic growth and sustainable development in the region considering environmental, ecosystem dimensions and energy use.

The **MENARA Project** funded by H2020 Grant agreement No 693244 aims at:

- To conceptualize the notions of “order” and “region” in light of the geopolitical shifts underway in the SEMCs and the Middle East.
- To identify and map the domestic, regional and global dynamics and trends that shape the regional order.
- To identify and map the key domestic, regional and global actors that shape the regional order, and enhance knowledge of their mutual relations and interdependence.
- To build future scenarios for mid-term (2025) and long-term (2050) timeframes.
- To inform EU policies and strategies through policy-relevant analysis and the production of targeted policy recommendations based on systematic evaluation.

The document “MATERIAL FACTORS FOR THE MENA REGION: DATA SOURCES, TRENDS AND DRIVERS” produced by this Project, among other important arguments, referring to the energy budget in the Mediterranean Area highlight the fact that “The MENA countries account for slightly more than 6 percent of the world’s total population (almost 500 million inhabitants), and about 8 percent of the global total primary energy supply (1059 Mtoe in 2014). Overall, these 20 countries can be classified in two main categories: net energy importers and net energy exporters. All South and East Mediterranean countries, with the exception of Algeria and Libya, are net energy importers. In particular, the dependence rate on foreign resources is more than 90 percent in Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco. Conversely, all GCC countries, Iran and Iraq, as well as the aforementioned Algeria and Libya, are energy-exporting countries. Algeria, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE are all members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)”. But, it also highlights the fact that “All MENA countries are particularly well suited for the development of a basket of renewable energy technologies for different applications. As far as solar energy technologies are concerned, most of the countries lie in the so-called Sunbelt, with global horizontal irradiance (GHI) values ranging from 1,600 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/y in coastal areas of the Mediterranean to 2,600 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/y in the desert, and direct normal irradiance (DNI) varying from 1,800 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/y to more than 2,800 kWh/ m<sup>2</sup>/y. This is one of the best endowed areas of the world with respect to solar energy, both for photovoltaic (PV) and concentrated solar power (CSP) applications . The potential for wind is also very high in several countries of the Mediterranean like Morocco, Egypt and Turkey, as well as Iran, with more moderate - but still interesting - potential in GCC countries and Iraq.

The issue of promoting Innovation and the training of experts is being tackled by the **Erasmus+ Project SATELIT** (Grant 574015-EPP-1-2016-1-FR-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP (2016-3684/001-001)) *“Solutions Académiques pour le Territoire Euro-méditerranéen Leader d'Innovations et Transferts technologiques d'excellence”* gathering 22 partners: 12 Universities (6 from Spain, France and Italy, and 6 from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, coordinated by the Univ. of Marseilles), several Commerce Chambers, Ministries and Research Institutions, deals with the following general objectives: “Le rapprochement de l'Enseignement supérieur et du Monde socio-économique au Maghreb. Le consolidation du Triangle de la connaissance et l'Innovation. Le renforcement des capacités et les échanges de bonnes pratiques. L'augmentation de l'employabilité des Doctorantes”

The specific objectives are :

« La formation de 24 Cadres à une méthodologie à haute valeur ajoutée sur les questions d'Innovation et Transfert de technologie et des stages dans les Universités et Pôles de compétitivité. La structuration de 6 bureaux pilotes dans l'écosystème de la chaîne de l'innovation. L'échange de bonnes pratiques par les nouveaux spécialistes formés avec les autres Universités. Le soutien à la professionnalisation des Doctorants. La concrétisation d'alliances Universités-Entreprises. L'encouragement de l'Entrepreneuriat et l'Entrepreneuriat au féminin. La promotion de la culture de l'innovation par la Constitution d'un Pôle Euro-méditerranéen Education à l'Innovation. »

## **MEDSPRING PAST EVENTS**

### **Call for Innovators for the Euro-Med Hackaton - Eco-efficiency in the Agro-Food chain**

The "1st Euro-MedHackathon: Eco-Efficiency in the Agro-Food Chain" will take place in Amman (Jordan) from 14th to 15th December 2016. The 2-day event has been organized by MedSpring and will be hosted by HCST, in collaboration with STRD-II programme, MHESR, and CIHEAM-IAMB.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/event/call-innovators-euro-med-hackaton-eco-efficiency-agro-food-chain>

Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 to Thursday, December 15, 2016

### **Science Café on Climate change**

According to the agreements of the 2016 MED-SPRING project Annual Meeting in Tunis, and within the framework of the 5th international symposium on "Environment and Sustainable Development", the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Executive Training (MESRSFC) of Morocco organized a Scientific Coffee to discuss about Climate change, on scientific and societal challenges. The event was held on Monday 10 October 2016 at the "Faculty of Sciences" in Rabat.

Read more : <http://www.medspring.eu/event/science-cafe-climate-change>

Date: Monday, October 10, 2016 - 9:00am to 6:00pm

### **2nd Training and capacity building on Innovation Systems**

MED-SPRING organized its "2nd Training on Innovation", hosted by the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) in Bonn, Germany and from 20th to 22nd September 2016. Overall, this was the sixth and last workshop on Capacity Building of the MED-SPRING project.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/event/2nd-training-and-capacity-building-innovation-systems>

Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - 8:00am to Thursday, September 22, 2016 - 6:00pm

### **MED-SPRING - 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Brokerage and Venturing Event on Research and Innovation**

From 26th to 27th May 2016, MED-SPRING organized in Valenzano (Italy), and hosted by CIHEAM-IAMB, in collaboration with MHESR, MCST, ANIMA and DLR, the event: "3rd Euro-Mediterranean Brokerage and Venturing Event on Research and Innovation".

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/event/med-spring-3rd-euro-mediterranean-brokerage-and-venturing-event-research-and-innovation>

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 9:00am to Friday, May 27, 2016 - 6:00pm

### **MED-SPRING Third Inter-institutional meeting on mobility**

The third inter-institutional meeting of MED-SPRING "Towards an innovative Euro-Mediterranean mobility" was held in Bari on 27th April 2016. Building on the work carried out by MED-SPRING, which lead to the drafting of an "Action Plan for innovative mobility schemes in the Euro-Mediterranean region", the meeting gathered MPCs research ministries/institutions partners of MedSpring, EC representatives in charge for mobility programmes and coordinators of major mobility initiatives in the region.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/event/med-spring-third-inter-institutional-meeting-mobility>

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 - 9:00am to 6:00pm

### **MED-SPRING Euro-Mediterranean NCP networking meeting**

MED-SPRING organizes in Brussels (Belgium) on 4th March 2016 a Networking meeting of National Contact Points from the European Union and Mediterranean Partner Countries. The main objective is to give the opportunity for an exchange between EU NCPs and our Mediterranean Partner Countries NCPs to strengthen Mediterranean NCPs and support a Euro-Med brokerage of NCPs that can facilitate the identification of H2020 calls for proposals and participation of researchers from Mediterranean Partner Countries.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/event/med-spring-euro-mediterranean-ncp-networking-meeting>

Date: Friday, March 4, 2016 - 9:00am to 6:00pm

### **3rd Annual Meeting of the MED-SPRING General Assembly**

From the 18th to 19th February 2016, MED-SPRING organized in Tunis (Tunisia), the two-days event, hosted by the Tunisian Ministry for Research and Higher Education, "Annual Meeting of the General Assembly" and "Project External Advisory Board Meeting".

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/event/3rd-annual-meeting-med-spring-general-assembly>

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016 - 9:00am to Friday, February 19, 2016 - 6:00pm

## Web visits

During this fourth year, from February 2016 to April 2017, around 6417 people (unique visitors) visited the MED-SPRING project website, generating around 16824 page views.

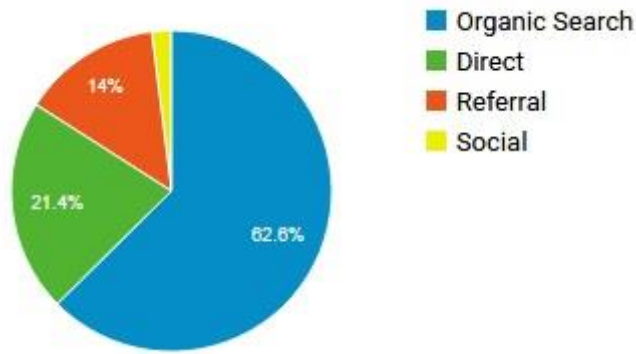


Google defines a “session” as the total number of visits within the date range. A session is the period time a user is actively engaged with the website. All usage data (Screen Views, Events, etc.) is associated with a session. Google defines a user as visitors that have had at least one session within the selected date range. It includes both new and returning users.

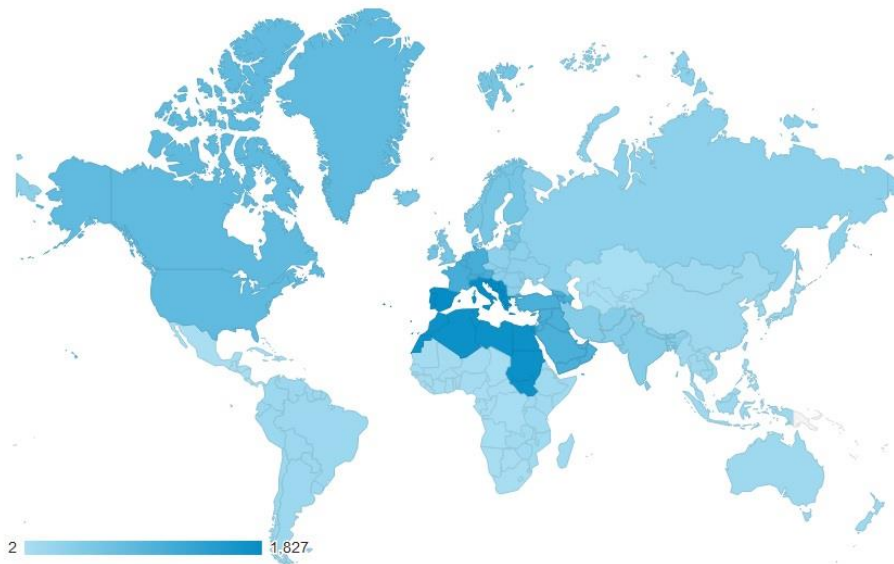
Almost 73% of the visitors were new visitors, so the rest, around 27% were visitors that had already visited the website before.



Around 62.6% of the visitors came from search engines (the so called organic traffic), in particular from Google. Around 21.4% came directly to the site (by typing in the address or using bookmarks or email links), and from the remaining, 14.5% came from links in other websites (referrals), and 2% came from social channels. We list in the figure just below, being the important information the list on the left.



Please find also the number of sessions coming from the main social networks, being the ones from Facebook the majority, around 60%. Please find the visits to the project website in a worldwide map, being the difference in the color related to the number of visits, and the related numbers.



We can see that most of the visits came from southern Europe countries, but also from Western Europe, Northern Africa and Western Asia. Finally, the most visited pages in the website are shown.

Sub Continent ?	Acquisition		
	Sessions ? ↓	% New Sessions ?	New Users ?
	<b>8,706</b> % of Total: 100.00% (8,706)	<b>72.88%</b> Avg for View: 72.85% (0.05%)	<b>6,345</b> % of Total: 100.05% (6,342)
1. Southern Europe	<b>1,827</b> (20.99%)	69.13%	<b>1,263</b> (19.91%)
2. Northern Africa	<b>1,744</b> (20.03%)	58.72%	<b>1,024</b> (16.14%)
3. Western Europe	<b>1,101</b> (12.65%)	77.66%	<b>855</b> (13.48%)
4. Western Asia	<b>1,058</b> (12.15%)	63.80%	<b>675</b> (10.64%)
5. Northern America	<b>809</b> (9.29%)	91.84%	<b>743</b> (11.71%)
6. Northern Europe	<b>562</b> (6.46%)	90.39%	<b>508</b> (8.01%)
7. Southern Asia	<b>406</b> (4.66%)	78.33%	<b>318</b> (5.01%)
8. Eastern Europe	<b>309</b> (3.55%)	51.13%	<b>158</b> (2.49%)
9. South America	<b>159</b> (1.83%)	95.60%	<b>152</b> (2.40%)
10. Australasia	<b>139</b> (1.60%)	84.17%	<b>117</b> (1.84%)