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Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway



THEMATIC PAMPHLET N°3

The *Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway* - **MED-SPRING** project - is a coordination and support action (FP7 - INCO.2012-1.3/ Mediterranean Partner Countries). The project, built on the previous experience of the **INCO.NET MIRA**, but adapted to the **new reality** of the Euro-Mediterranean policy and the general orientations defined in the **Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Barcelona** (2-3 April 2012), focuses on **three societal challenges** (Energy, High Quality Affordable Food, and Scarcity of resources) and aims at tackling policy objectives by creating a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions, research organizations, associations and civil society.

[http:// www.medspring.eu](http://www.medspring.eu)

1

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PROJECTS DIALOGUE TO ENHANCE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS

21- 22 January 2015 Barcelona, Spain

What's NEXUS approach?

The NEXUS approach involves scientific, technical and political dimensions and requires innovative solutions, integrated policies, the construction and enforcement of a Nexus bureaucracy, a renewed way of planning characterized by project co-design, co-financing and focused on trade-offs and synergies among the three elements (water, energy, food) in a logic of trans-boundary cooperation

The **Water-Energy-Food NEXUS** describes the complex interlinkages among global resource systems and raises the need to find new ways to solve interdependent problems caused by population increase, migration and consequent *urban sprawl*, scarcity of resources, food insecurity, imperfect markets, conflicts, changing lifestyles.

Objective

The meeting held in Barcelona in January in the framework of the MedSpring project aimed to bring together coordinators of EU-Financed projects with a focus on water, energy and food (25 project coordinators participated out of 26 invited) and promote exchange and discussion among them with the purpose of:

- ✓ providing an outline of the Nexus concept highlighting the key elements on which it is possible to build up synergies among initiatives targeting water, energy and food that will guide the design of EU financed projects,
- ✓ defining the current level of coordination between policies and regulations (national and international) governing water, energy and food related issues in terms of their proximity to the Nexus approach and how it can be better attained in the EU Mediterranean and non EU Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries,
- ✓ identifying ways to promote social awareness of the Nexus, promote a multi-stakeholder dialogue involving decision-makers, private sector representatives, researchers, international funding organizations.

23-24 February 2015 Berlin, Germany

Sessions

The MedSpring second annual meeting was organized on 24-25 February together with the project External Advisory Board meeting. The meeting was structured into three main sessions or blocks:

- 24 February, all day: overview of main project delivery/activities in second year, presentation of WP activities of second year, discussion. The members of the External Advisory Board (EAB) participate in the meeting with the aim of acquiring more details of activities and interact with partners,
- 25 February, morning: organization of two working groups of partners, clustered around specific issues to be addressed in the third year. The working group discussion resulted in the preparation of main agenda of third year (major events, deliverables),
- 25 February, afternoon: meeting of the EAB members and members of the Project Management Board (Work Package Leaders).

Working groups

The meeting has been organized in three main sections: - Presentation of each Work Package (WP) by WP Leaders and Task Leaders: main achievements in 2nd year and possible work plan for third year, including methodological aspects (1st day) - Plenary discussion after each WP presentation (1st day) - Organization of two parallel Working Groups aiming at discussing and agreeing on agenda and rationale of main events / activities, respectively for WP2, WP5, WP7 (Working Group 1), WP6, WP8, WP9 (Working Group 2). Bilateral discussions were held between WP3 and WP4 leaders for coordination on communication and dissemination strategy (2nd day).

Meeting of the EAB members and of the Project Management Board:

The meeting was organized with the objective of providing the coordinator with useful recommendations for the improvement of the overall project process and outcomes and – when necessary – suggest changes to the work plan. Each member of the External Advisory Board made his/her own analysis of the project after two years, drawing conclusions and recommendations for improvement and changes. Recommendations have been duly acknowledged by the coordinator, the Deputy coordinator and Work Package leaders. Some recommendations resulted into a proposal of task / deliverable review made by the coordinator to the EU project officer (see review Table in last section).



Outcomes and recommendations

Recommendations built on three main common principles agreed-at the Annual Meeting:

- MedSpring Work Plan was designed in 2011, and should be reviewed to be able to respond to changes in research policy and address new needs accordingly.
- Need to review tasks and deliverables which are no longer relevant in relation to new needs and possibly convert these tasks in efforts aimed at supporting mobility of MPCs researchers and NCPs to conference and workshops organized in Europe (ex.: H2020 thematic info days, research project workshops, etc).
- Need to further increase visibility of MedSpring, impact and synergies with other projects and initiatives.



23-24 February 2015, Berlin Photo group



3

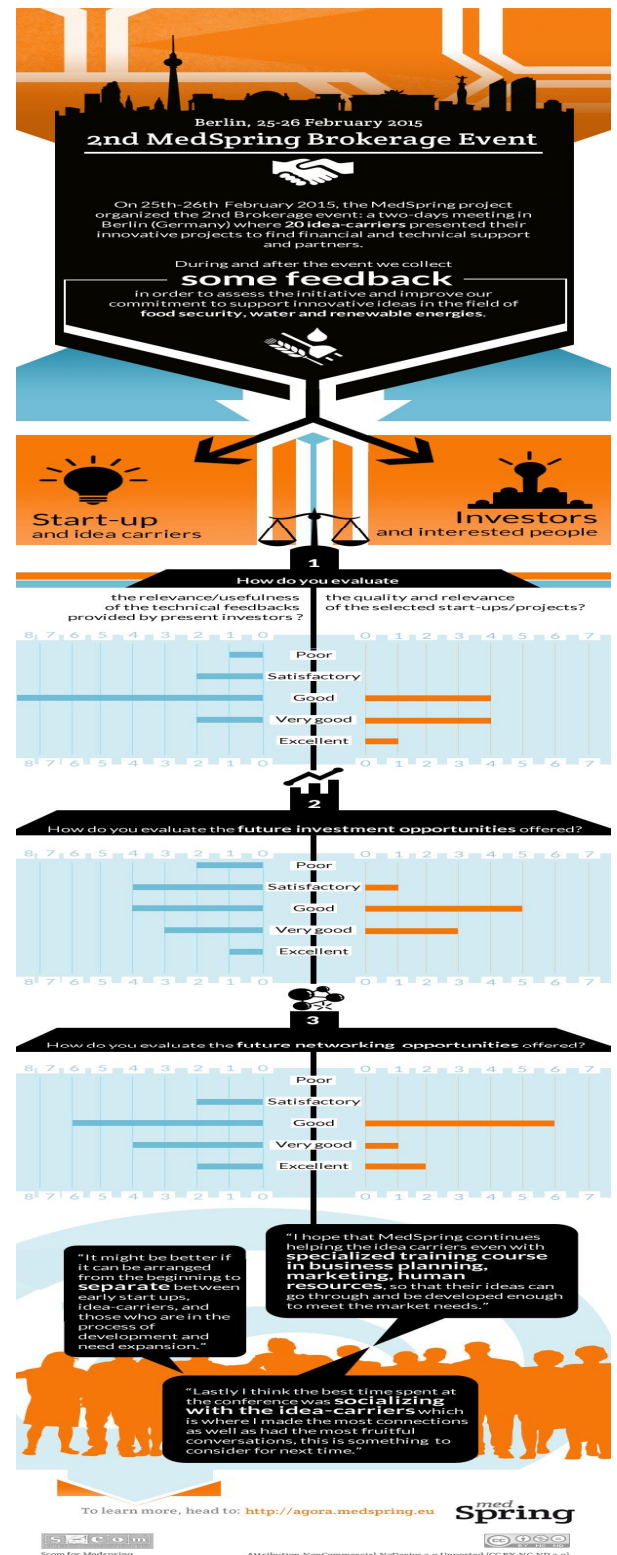
MED-SPRING - 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Brokerage And Venturing Event On Research And Innovation

25- 26 February 2015, Berlin, Germany

Regional Euro-Mediterranean event

Hosted by DLR (Germany), in collaboration with MHESR (Egypt), MCST (Malta), ANIMA Investment Network (France) and CIHEAM-IAMB (Italy) and built on the 1st Brokerage event (held in Cairo on February 2014), the 2nd Brokerage Event was a regional Euro-Mediterranean event where companies, organizations, entrepreneurs and researchers from various EU and Mediterranean countries participated with the aim of facilitating bridging between research and innovation through the creation of private-public and research-enterprise partnerships. It also aimed at activating relevant actors in the Mediterranean region, helping them to enhance clustering for innovation involving young entrepreneurs from the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). The brokerage event stimulated the participation of representatives of identified innovation clusters as well as ideas carriers from different European countries. Existing regional networks or cluster initiatives were also involved in the event to help trigger local and regional commercial-technology partnerships.

Young entrepreneurs/researchers, start-ups, researcher institutions, tech-driven enterprises, SMEs and other relevant private/public potential investors/networks from Euro-Mediterranean Countries were met in Berlin to share their interest and offers for cooperation as well as to get funding opportunities.



27-29 May 2015, Beirut, Lebanon

Events

MED-SPRING and ERANETMED projects co-organized a multi-task event in Beirut, Lebanon, on 27-29 May 2015. The list of **events** were:

- 1st Workshop: Presentation of final results on the mapping on research programs and infrastructures;
- 2nd Workshop: Strategic Research Agenda and Awareness meeting;
- Restricted meeting of ERANETMED funding agencies of MPCs;
- ERANETMED extended session: wrap-up and perspectives" and the "MED-SPRING Session: policy, societal challenges and cooperation observatory.

Within the multi-task event, MedSpring has organized a meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Observatories.



Objective

The **multi-task meeting** aimed to:

- Present the results of the mapping of research programs in the MS and MPCs to enhance institutional and financial synergies at the regional level, identify existing complementarities to avoid overlap and facilitate synergy, identify topics with a potential for a joint approach, mobilize critical mass.

- Present the results of the mapping of research infrastructures in the MS and MPCs to find ways to maximize their use to identify synergies with research programmes.

- Propose research topics for the 2nd ERANETMED call, ensuring consistency and building on current knowledge and strengths;

- Present the roadmap and a framework leading to the preparation of the Euro-Mediterranean long-term Strategic Agenda on Research and Innovation.

- Increase awareness for the long-term, sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

- Identify and discuss synergies to be developed to support Euro-Mediterranean Observatories cooperation and networking, including the identification of common indicators.

Third EMEG Meeting

The 3rd EMEG meeting will be organized in Malta **from 30 September to 2 October 2015**, and hosted by the **Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)**. It will focus on the development of a frame for a comprehensive understanding of water-food-energy nexus+.

The 3rd EMEG meeting intends to develop a Nexus approach as a new framing for the interdependence of water, energy and food (the societal challenges addressed by MedSpring) and, through a better understanding of the synergies and trade-offs among them, identify the factors research should take into consideration to ensure that demand is met without compromising sustainability requirements.

MED-SPRING Euro-Mediterranean Observatories meeting on Indicators

On **November 5, 2015** MED-SPRING will organize the third meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Observatories, hosted by IRD . **Marseille** (France) in collaboration with CNRS Lebanon. The aim of the event is to discuss and agree a possible set of 10 indicators for water quality monitoring (priority suggested by the participating observatories in their own field of action).

MED-SPRING training on Innovation

MED-SPRING project is organizing a "Training on Innovation", scheduled for **25th to 27th November 2015** in Naples (Italy). The Training on Innovation is organized under the EU funded project MED-SPRING in synergy with the capacity building initiatives of the EU funded project MERID, to support networking and cooperation in R&I in the Euro-Mediterranean area.



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