



MedSpring – MEDiterranean Science, Policy, Research and Innovation Gateway

Thematic Pamphlet | N. 2

MedSpring is an EU funded project with the objective to encourage and strengthen the **Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation on Research and Innovation** by creating a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions, research organizations, associations and civil society.

It focuses its efforts around three major societal challenge themes: **resource efficiency (particularly water), high quality affordable food and energy.**

<http://www.medspring.eu>

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Training for trainers

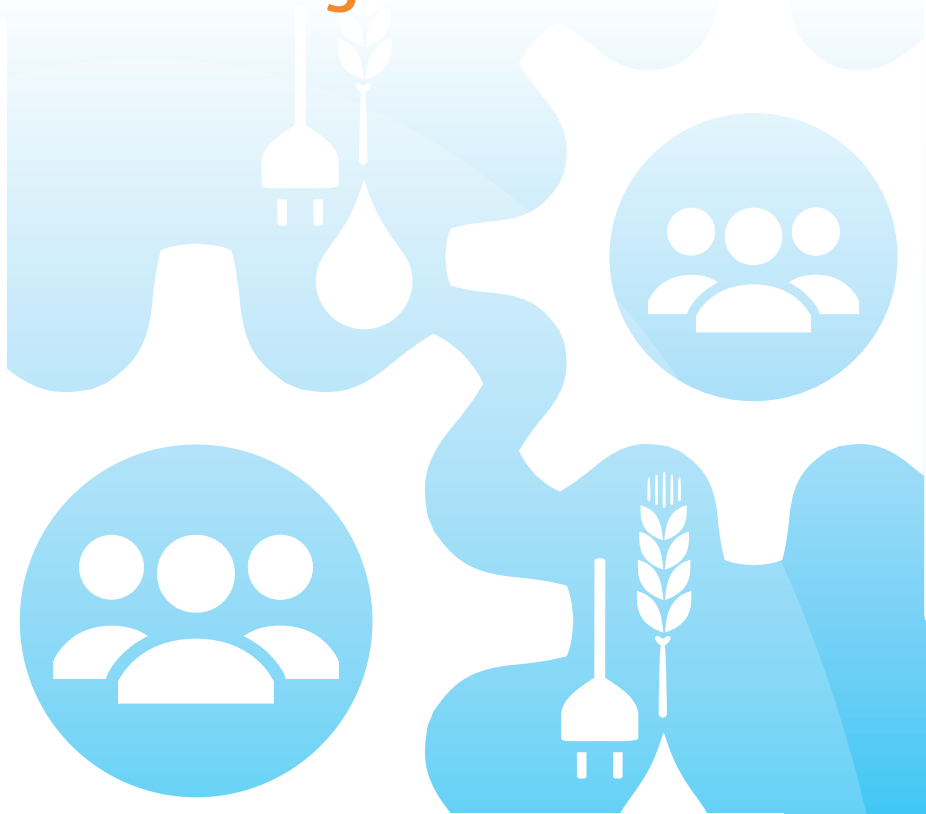
The methodological approach

Training activities are a useful tool to improve the quality of Mediterranean Partner Countries participation in the projects cofunded by the European Commission, by increasing skills and understanding of the administrative and technical issues related to the handling of FP projects, while heightening awareness of EU programmes and regional strategies.

In this framework, MEDSPRING project offers support to young and experienced researchers to reinforce their career and skills, through the organization of several training and capacity building activities, supporting Mediterranean researchers and project managers.

The MEDSPRING capacity building programme have a transnational dimension and will be based on the concept of **training for trainers** (to multiply its effect and impact). The training will be addressed to researchers (including young graduates), technology driven SMEs, governmental officers, FP national contact points and thematic contact points on different cross-cutting issues, with special emphasis on the 3 selected societal challenges (water, food, energy). The capacity building programme aims at sharing knowledge among participants on different research and innovation related issues while - on the other side - will encourage participants to use and participate in the Framework Programme/HORIZON 2020.

Online capacity building (through live streaming) will also be managed to allow more participants to benefit from the training event in a more cost effective manner.



First Training on H2020

for Mediterranean NCPs, research managers
and researchers

Amman, 9-11 December 2014

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MEDSPRING organised in Amman (Jordan), from the 9th to 11th December 2013, a three-day training activity on H2020 for Mediterranean National Contact Points (NCPs), hosted by **HCST** (Jordan), in collaboration with **DLR** (Germany), **UNIMED** (Italy) and **CIHEAM-IAMB** called Training.

With the idea of carrying out a “**training for trainers**”, the event aimed at providing the Mediterranean NCPs with fresh knowledge and insight of new upcoming European Programme H2020, which would help them to organize training and coaching of local researchers and professionals in their own countries and get them acquainted with the structure of H2020.

The objective and content of the training was supporting NCPs organizing **national training events** on this subject and disseminate H2020 to local researchers and professionals. The 28 participants were scientists and administrative officers from **Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine** and **Tunisia**, trained by 14 EU speakers.

The training programme had a regional dimension and it was based on the concept of training for trainers to multiply its effect and impact. It was prepared taking into account the results of a training needs analysis conducted by MEDSPRING during the period July - September 2013 targeting the NCP and the wide community of researchers and academics in the Euro-Mediterranean countries.

Lectures and exercises with international experienced tutors were scheduled. Various outstanding and high-experienced trainers and speakers have been involved in the event to provide presentations and speeches to the participants, coming 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).



[9-11 December 2013, Amman Photo group]

All the training materials and presentations are available on-line at the following address:
<http://agora.medspring.eu/en/content/training-h2020-presentations>

Second Training on H2020

for Mediterranean NCPs, research managers
and researchers

Marrakesh, 11-13 June 2014

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MEDSPRING organized the "Training on H2020 for Mediterranean NCPs, research managers and researchers" in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 11th to 13th June 2014. The event is the second one planned in the frame of the Capacity Building programme on the new EU research framework programme Horizon2020.

The workshop drew on the training needs analysis, which was previously carried out by MedSpring and - most important - on inputs and suggestions provided by Mediterranean National Contact and Focal Points who participated in the first training in Amman last December 2013.

The training targeted researchers and research managers / co-ordinators / administrators of public institutions in the MPCs as well as research affiliated entrepreneurs from the participating MPCs.

More than 48 participants attended this training coming from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt. The workshop deliberately wanted to bring researchers and administrators together, in order to increase awareness of their roles and interdependencies in securing reliable project participation and management. The training was structured on a three days setting.



On **Day 1**, the plenary session of the workshop was the occasion to familiarise participants with the overall programme design of H2020 and its novelties in comparison with FP7. It was also deepened the dimension "innovation" as well as call-topics which are most relevant for the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

Day 2 provided in-depth training on proposal writing and project management and project implementation for separate working groups.

Day 3 was dedicated to a fast-track brokerage via web, triggering match-making among researchers and enhancing partnership with EU researchers on topics of common interest.

All the training materials and presentations are available on-line at the following address:

<http://agora.medspring.eu/en/content/training-h2020-marrakesh-presentations>

Remarks on implemented capacity building activities



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Capacity building is at the heart of tomorrow's regional employment, innovation, stability and prosperity. All the Mediterranean countries will benefit from it, if it becomes easier for individuals, research institutes, universities and companies to cooperate. Any obstacle to the cross-border flow of people, ideas and funding has to be removed. Mutual benefits will emerge from increased cooperation between North and South Mediterranean, between academia and industry, between national and European initiatives, between European programmes and activities such as Structural Funds, Horizon 2020, EU neighbouring policy, and so on.

Therefore, there is urgent need to capitalise on what has been done so far. Capacity building also facilitates the construction and use of critical mass of competences and stimulates cross-fertilization among national and international research teams. To facilitate capacity building and empowerment of transformative networks, major recommendations concern also the need for a well-structured approach of both "capacity" and "power" building. Both dimensions – capacity building and empowerment – are key factors. On one hand, it is necessary to strengthen project and institutional management capabilities; on the other hand, it is also necessary to facilitate building up efficient transformative networks and coalitions of change.

These networks and coalitions, operating as a bridge between the Southern and the Northern rims, include many different types of people, beyond the scientific communities. Particularly important are: the business sector (that needs to be involved as much as possible in project design and implementation, by matching funds and appropriate public/private partnership mechanisms); the civil society and young researchers. Thus, capacity building should be the interface between Research and Innovation systems that, in general, have only random contacts as they fit different demands and expectations.

The creation of mutual acknowledgement and trust between the actors of these systems is a prerequisite to make the most of the efforts in knowledge exploitation in the MPCs. Thus, the main intervention strategy for capacity building should include a vaster array of actions such as organizational reforms, institutional strengthening, science-policy interfacing, training and networking, as well as participatory approach implementation. Taking into account the new approaches that prevails in Horizon 2020, notably co-funding and co-ownership, the activities of capacity building may require a combination of various competences from EC and EU/MPC countries. The new schemes of R&D cooperation and new rules of management require that training plan for trainers be prepared. Moreover, training seminars could be followed by twinning activities in order to extend the scope of cooperation while putting capacity building at the core of the new regional strategic Research Agenda. In a time of increased global competition, it is urgent that Europe and Southern Mediterranean countries pool their resources of talent and knowledge for a better and shared future.

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