



2nd EMEG Meeting
**“Euro-Mediterranean Research and Innovation
Policy and Policy Dialogue in relation to societal
challenges”**

Sousse (TN), 22-23 September 2014

Food Group Outcomes
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Main Problems categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Expected impacts
Networking & Communication	E2: Food and agriculture is a highly-country specific sector, low participation of Mediterranean participants in formulating and designing projects' proposal.	B1.1: Development of common knowledge with mutual benefits (continuous policy dialogue)	1. Dedicated specific cooperation structures for local support (exchange cooperation services included) are set-up.
	B1: Scientific evidence on food-related issues and problems not being appropriately properly translated into political terms.	B1.2: Improve the links between scientific world and policy makers	1. "Strategic" framework related to food and agriculture including civil society and researchers needs is improve; 2. Increased involvement of the scientific community in the development of policies (joint working groups); 3. The rank of food-related problems rises in the development agenda priority list for MPCs; 4. Scientific research and outputs are more oriented and useful to support political decision; 5. A better balanced relation between agriculture industry and small scale farmers into the EU-Med area is achieved.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Management & Institutional responsibility</p>	<p>B2: Lack/poor organisation of stakeholders reflects on the poor involvement in the definition of food sector priorities and processes</p>	<p>B2: to facilitate and support with appropriate programs the establishment of Bio economy ETP's mirror groups in MPC</p>	<p>1. increased involvement of Mediterranean stakeholders in the definition of EU R&I priorities discussing them with their EU colleagues and EU policy makers; 2. A better vision of the needs of the Mediterranean area in terms of research and capacity building is achieved; 3. RTD is improved in agro-food industry; 4. Common research strategy is formulated; 5. National/Transnational R&I activities benefit from the presence of the Mediterranean technological platforms mirror groups; 6. Pertinent policies are designed by policy makers more aware about food and agricultural system.</p>
	<p>E1: The food-related dimension is not well represented in the current Eu-Mediterranean consultation system.</p>	<p>E1: Highlight the importance of food dimension to be integrated in EU-Med consultation</p>	<p>1. The food dimension becomes officially one of the concern regularly discussed during EU meeting of Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Economy; 2. Improved competence of policymakers in food sector; 3. More and better targeted food related content in all types of EC funding programmes and research calls and related activities.</p>

Main Problems categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Expected impacts
<p>Resources (financial/human) & Capacity</p>	<p>D: Mediterranean participants (small and medium sized enterprise and research centres) face difficulties in meeting the bureaucratic demands (administrative, financial and regulatory).</p>	<p>D1: Enhance capacity of stakeholders to be able to participate effectively to the consultation process</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of food stakeholders associations in the MPCs increased; 2. Southern Mediterranean Participants have high capacity and are empowered to participate to food-related research projects; 3. A better involvement of all stakeholders, especially the weakest ones, is achieved. 4. the consultation programme for defining research programming is designed to enable researchers to take part.

Main Problems categories	Specific Problems	Specific policy objectives	Expected impacts
Responsiveness to users' needs	C: European framework programmes are not always addressing problems related to food production and consumption systems especially in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.	A1.1: to identify regional priorities for improving research and capacity building to foster long term cooperation between EU and MPCs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved uptake of research results by market (best economic impacts); 2. Agricultural and food priority and needs of MPCs are appropriately addressed in calls and work programmes.
	A: Differences in food system-related priority and needs: mostly food security in the South and food quality in the North is the base of different approaches in long-term stable cooperation	A1.2: to update and harmonize national agro-food regulations with EU regulations in the MPCs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an EU-Med market without artificial barriers with open corridors for plants and safe food export has developed; 2. common vision among EU and MPCs calls has been developed; 3. Mediterranean population benefits from the harmonization of agro-food regulations.

Networking & Communication

Development of common knowledge with mutual benefits (continuous policy dialogue)

Specific Policy Objectives

Improve the links between scientific world and policy makers

Encourage North and South Mediterranean Countries in increasing research networks which could alleviate the South Mediterranean isolation. This could be done through specific programmes and projects which will improve N-S dialogue and facilitate trade in the Med area offering mutual benefits

Promote participation of the MPCs in large scale collaborative projects with EU-Countries aiming at solving national/regional problems identified by national authorities

Implementation of regular workshops/conferences involving politicians, scientists and farmers on a national level to identify current problems of the food sector and to develop possible solutions

Politicians should always count on the expertise of scientific advisors (scientific advisory boards) could be included in the policymakers group/subgroup

Suggested Actions

Management & Institutional responsibility

to facilitate and support with appropriate programs the establishment of Bio economy ETP's mirror groups in MPC

to devise accompanying measures in order to better explore the productive structure and organizations in order to better identify the stakeholder to be involved

Specific Policy Objectives

Highlight the importance of food dimension to be integrated in EU-Med consultation

To harmonize the EU-Med consultation process valorizing the interrelation between food security and food safety as well as taking into account neglected issues (e.g. Gender balance)

Suggested Actions

Resources (financial/human) & Capacity

Enhance capacity of stakeholders to be able to participate effectively to the consultation process

Specific Policy Objective

Teamed for innovation.

Establishment of sustainable partnerships between MPC research centers and international leading EU Institutions in agro-food sector, to foster MPC centers of excellence, considering infrastructure management, link and connect SME's to RDI stairways to market with multiplier effect, improving governance capacity building for RDI and belonging to civil society

Creation of EU-Med R&D Forum for consultation (REGPOT, ERAWIDE, TEAMING, R2I)

Suggested Actions

Responsiveness to users' needs

to identify regional priorities for improving research and capacity building to foster long term cooperation between EU and MPCs

Specific Policy Objectives

to enforce and harmonize national agro-food regulations with EU regulations in the MPCs

Creation of a tool for connecting stakeholders and EU institutions focused on the Committee of the Regions competencies in his role of sustain catalyze and manage similar regional/local or complementary synergies in the agro-food sector involving international organizations and regional institutions of EU and MPCs.

Establishment of a permanent national-regional Committee involving researchers and policy makers, in order to enforce the agro-food regulations, considering the obtained results among the already existing workgroup/networks (eg. Cooperation projects of the CIHEAM-MAIB)

Promote a long-term MPCs strategies to reach the EU standards of the agro-food products towards increasing the awareness of civil society consumers, policy makers on the sanitary status of plants and food

Suggested Actions