



OPEN CONSULTATION: Results

Introduction

In the second year EMEG activities will be focused on the Stocktaking of the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on research and innovation, with the aim of identifying ways and means for policy and policy dialogue to ensure impact on the MedSpring thematic challenges in water, food and energy.

In order to address the societal challenges: high quality affordable food, resource efficiency, energy addressed by MedSpring in the frame of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and dialogue on research and innovation, the project launched an **on-line open consultation** aimed to assess the Research & Innovation policy and policy dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in relation to the above challenges.

The people participating in the open consultation were asked to express their opinion and views on the role and impacts of Research and Innovation (R&I) policies and policy dialogue in the Mediterranean. The open consultation will complement and prepare the ground for the EMEG work in Tunis Meeting and beyond. The resulting position paper, together with the results coming from the consultations will be then conveyed through the proper institutional channels to policy makers, European Commission and other regional organizations and actors, in view of a review of Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue objectives.

The MedSpring Open Consultation was divided in three steps, covering approximately a 1-month time span, launched respectively on 9th – 20th – 30th of June, closed on 10th July. The number of contact were 329 coming from different EU-Mediterranean countries, belonging to the following categories:

- Scientist
- Policy maker / RTD manager
- Industry - Enterprise
- Civil society – consumer

The questionnaire

The questions for each step were the following:

OPEN CONSULTATION #1

Q1.1 - What is your degree of awareness on the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on Research & Innovation (R&I)? (High, Medium, Low)

Q1.2 - Do you think that Euro-Mediterranean cooperation policies have effectively addressed research as well as innovation and sustainability in the last 20 years? (Very much, Poorly, Not at all, I don't know)

Q1.3 - Do you perceive any positive impact of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in R&I (Research and Innovation) in your country? (Yes, No, I don't know)

Q1.4 - Do you think there are/were some shortcomings in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in R&I? If yes, please give one or two example(s) (Open question)

OPEN CONSULTATION #2

In this survey, participants were asked to express their opinion on the importance of 5 objectives identified on the basis of a critical stocktaking of the most important outcomes of Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on Research and Innovation in the last 20 years. Moreover they were asked to prioritize them.



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Q2.1 - In your opinion, how important are the following objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on R&I? (Very important, Important, Not so important, I don't know)

- a. Fostering long-term and stable cooperation
- b. Ensuring a participatory approach in national and EU research programme designing
- c. Developing programmes tailored on country needs
- d. Encouraging Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) participation in EU research framework programmes (e.g. FP7, H2020)
- e. Ensuring North-South co-ownership in programmes' designing and implementation

Q2.2 - Please rank the above mentioned objectives according to their relative importance, as follows: (from 1 – most important to 5 – less important)

- a. Fostering long-term and stable cooperation
- b. Ensuring a participatory approach in national and EU research programme designing
- c. Developing programmes tailored on country needs
- d. Encouraging MPCs participation in EU research framework programmes
- e. Ensuring North-South co-ownership in programmes' designing and implementation

Q2.3 - Which new objective(s) would you propose for a more effective Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue in R&I? (Open question)

OPEN CONSULTATION #3

In this survey participants were asked to express their opinion on the degree of achievement of 5 objectives identified on the basis of a critical stocktaking of the most important outcomes of Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on Research and Innovation in the last 20 years. For each objective they were asked to identify the main bottlenecks in their achievement and suggest potential solutions.

Q3.1 - In your opinion what is the degree of achievement of the following objective of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and policy dialogue in R&I? (High, Medium, Low, I don't know)

- a. Fostering long-term and stable cooperation

What were/are the main bottlenecks in the effective achievement of this objective?

- Differences in EU/MPCs approaches to cooperation
- Political willingness
- Institutional capacity
- Other

Please suggest possible/feasible solutions to overcome the above mentioned problems (open question) *(solutions are not included in the present report)*

- b. Ensuring a participatory approach in national and EU research programme designing

What were/are the main bottlenecks in the effective achievement of this objective?

- Low attention and awareness of civil society
- Low policy-makers awareness on societal needs
- Poor involvement of stakeholders in the process



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- Other

Please suggest possible/feasible solutions to overcome the above mentioned problems (open question)
(solutions are not included in the present report)

c. Developing programmes tailored on country needs

What were/are the main bottlenecks in the effective achievement of this objective?

- Low programmes adaptability to Countries' specificities
- Policy-makers misperception of country needs
- Poor involvement of stakeholders in the process
- Other

Please suggest possible/feasible solutions to overcome the above mentioned problems (open question)
(solutions are not included in the present report)

d. Encouraging MPCs participation in EU research framework programmes

What were/are the main bottlenecks in the effective achievement of this objective?

- Differences in EU/MPCs needs and priorities
- Bureaucracy and administrative procedures
- Number of MPCs-oriented calls
- Other

Please suggest possible/feasible solutions to overcome the above mentioned problems (open question)
(solutions are not included in the present report)

e. Ensuring North-South co-ownership in programmes' designing and implementation

What were/are the main bottlenecks in the effective achievement of this objective?

- Ineffective communication/definition of common priorities among EU and MPCs
- Discrepancies between planned and implemented project activities
- Project results enhancement and monitoring
- Other

Please suggest possible/feasible solutions to overcome the above mentioned problems (open question)
(solutions are not included in the present report)

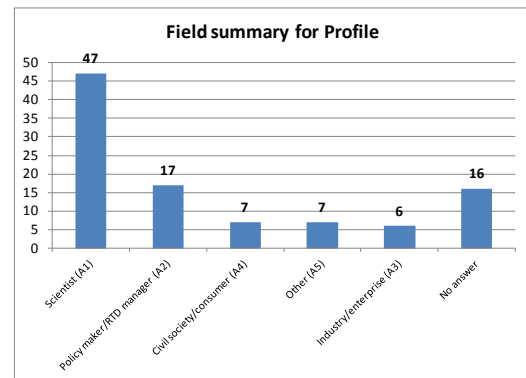
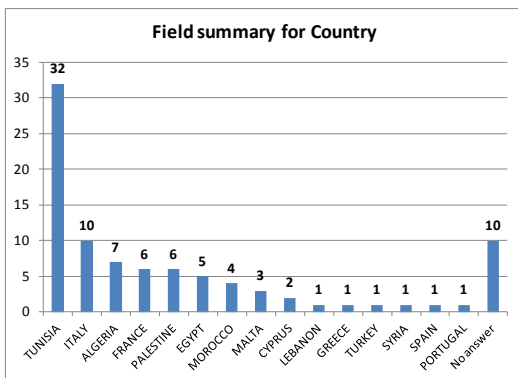
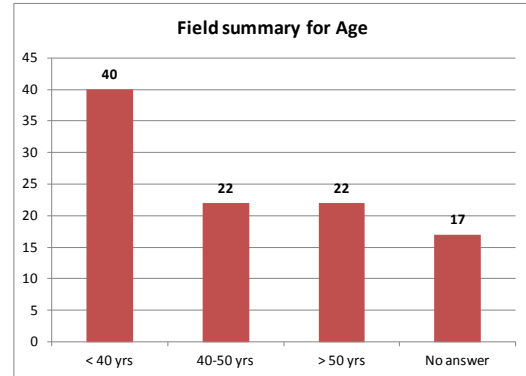
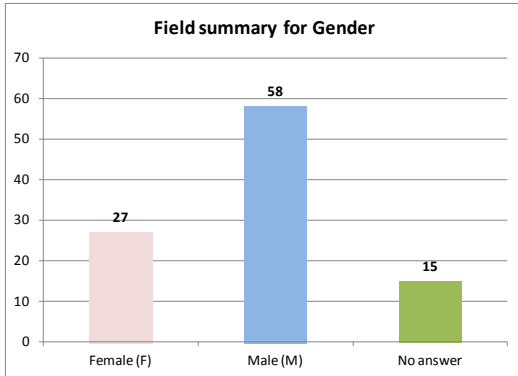


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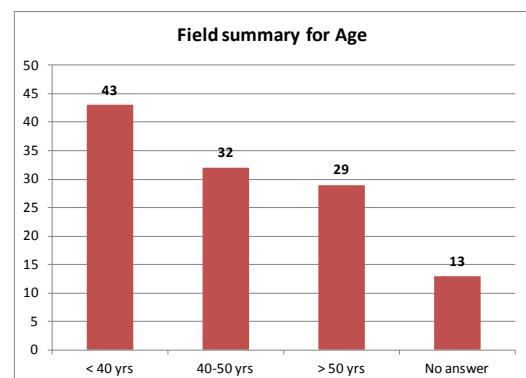
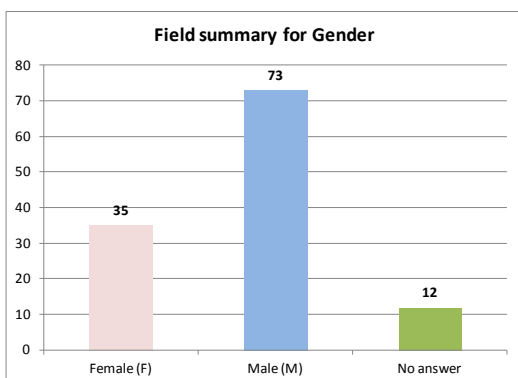
Outcomes

GENERAL INFORMATIONS ABOUT PARTICIPANTS

OPEN CONSULTATION #1

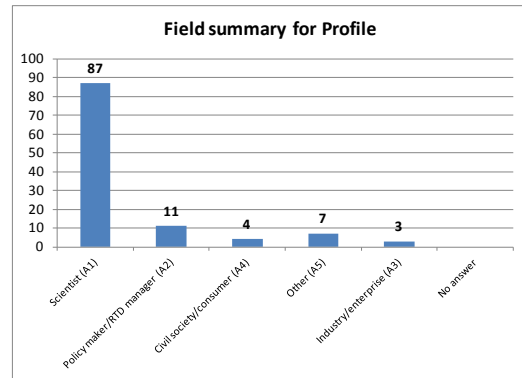
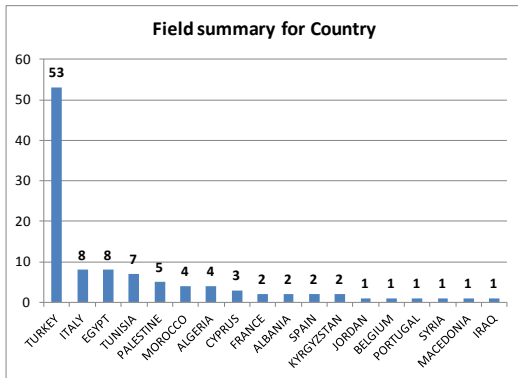


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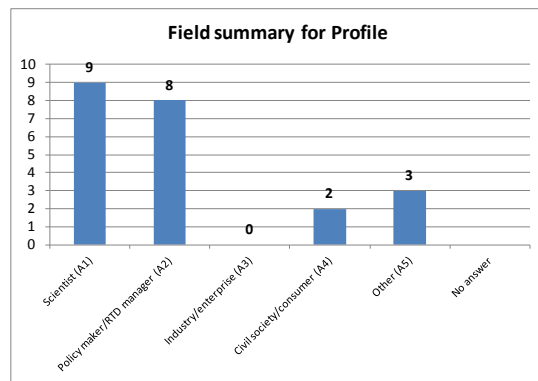
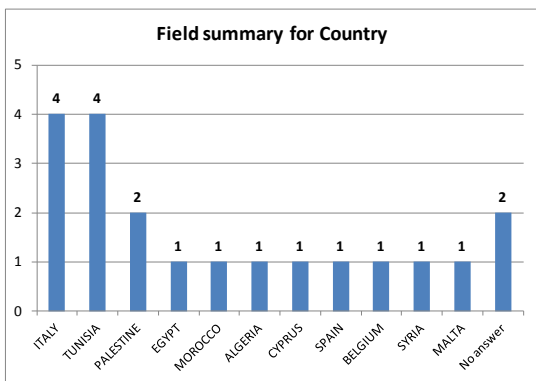
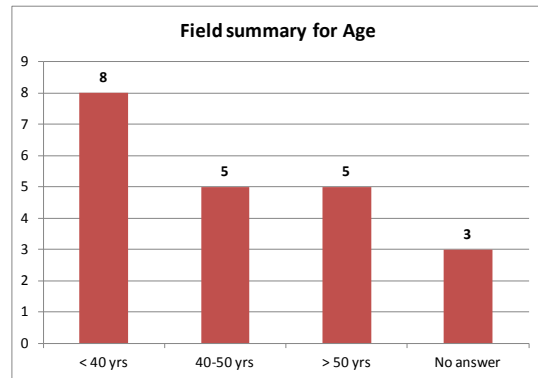
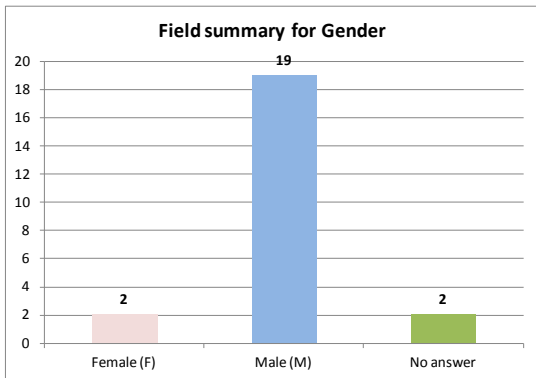




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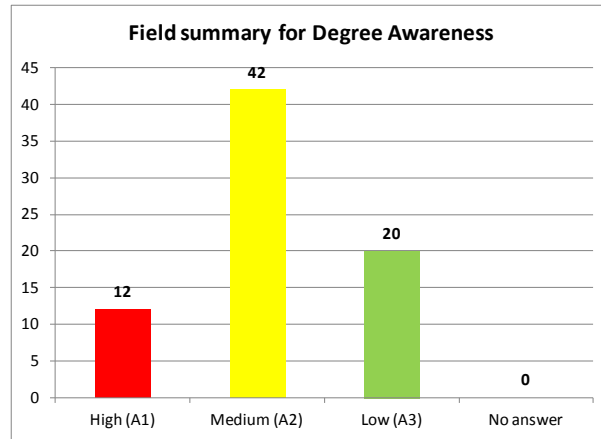


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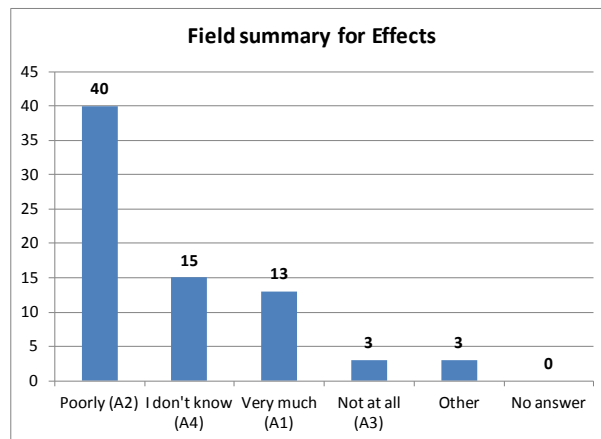
OPEN CONSULTATION #1

The **questions** and related **outcomes** were:

Q1.1 – *“What is your degree of awareness on EU-Med policy dialogue on R&I?”*



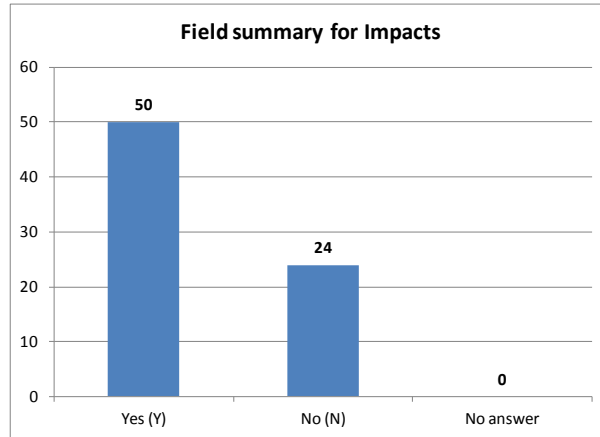
Q1.2 – *“Do you think that EU-Med cooperation policies have effectively addressed research as well as innovation and sustainability in the last 20 years?”*



Q1.3 – *“Do you perceive any positive impact of the EU-Med cooperation in R&I in your country?”*



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Q1.4 – “Do you think there are/were any shortcomings in the EU-Med cooperation in R&I? If yes, please give one or two examples.”

The table below summarize (by clustering) the **answers**.

Networking & Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor communication of information, results and experiences to various targets and between the two shores of the Mediterranean. • Lack of real channels of communication between R&I and policy makers. Perhaps because real involvement of NGOs is lacking. It is usually 'decorative'. • Knowledge transfer, especially for innovation in developing regions. • Lack of co-ownership and win-win approach. • Poor involvement of SME's. • Poor communication and cooperation within scientists and researchers. • Establishment of EU-Mediterranean Research Networks (ICT...). • Lack of reciprocal trust between the two sides of the Mediterranean. • Competences usually go from North towards South Countries. • Lack of promotion on funding opportunities.
Management & Institutional responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative/bureaucratic complexity (including scientific VISA). • R&I should focus on the overhaul of the administrative structure of Tunisian scientific research, and create new structural incentives for applied research. • Duplication and fragmentation of projects instead of Integration and synergies. • Research agenda is mainly driven by Europe. • Lack of assistance in consortium building and partners funding. • There is not a clear and efficient strategy in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in R&I. • No concrete assessment of project results. • Policy-oriented research VS independent research. • Limited participation of MPCs in programme designing.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities for participation captured only by who are aware of the system.
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No long-term sustainability ensured.• Insufficient funds.
Responsiveness to users' needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact of the conducted projects is too low: there are no follow up of results and no concrete outcomes such as startups or research results converted into productive projects.• Research in South Mediterranean has poor link and impacts with industrial sector as well as with social actors; research valorization should be more addressed to have impact at socio economic level.• Research is mainly organized to serve the EU not Lebanon.• The cooperation does not take enough into account the gap between the level of industrialization of northern and southern parts of the Mediterranean.• The lack of specification for the Mediterranean reality.• I think that cooperation was focused on research and not innovation.

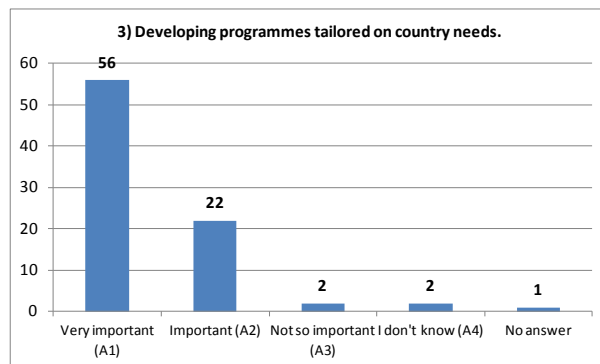
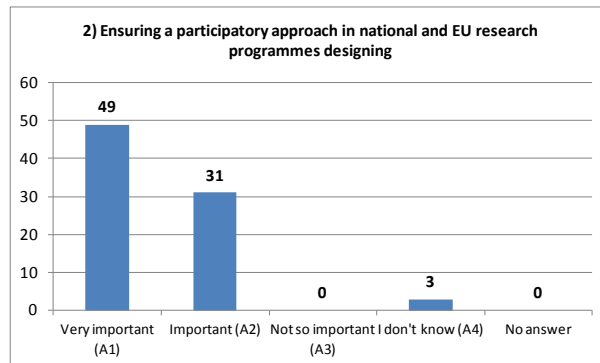
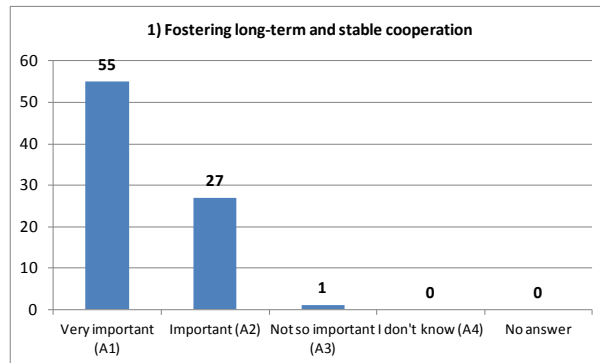


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OPEN CONSULTATION #2

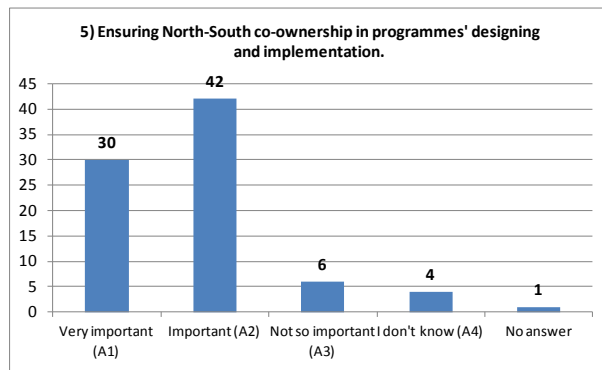
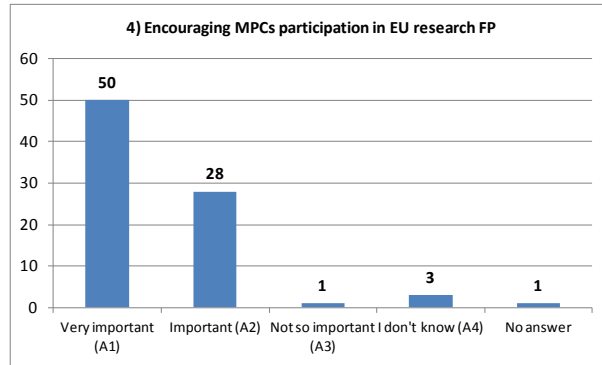
The **questions** and related **outcomes** were:

Q2.1 – “Please state how important are the following objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on R&I”





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Q2.2 – “Please rank the above mentioned objectives according to their relative importance, from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important)”

	1	2	3	4	5
Fostering long-term and stable cooperation	40	21	7	7	7
Ensuring a participatory approach in national and EU research programme designing	27	29	9	10	7
Developing programmes tailored on country needs	32	22	11	7	10
Encouraging MPCs participation in EU research framework programmes	27	20	15	17	3
Ensuring North-South co-ownership in programmes' designing and implementation	13	30	10	15	14



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Q2.3 – “Which new objective(s) would you propose for a more effective Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on R&I?”

The table below summarize (by clustering) the **answers**.

Networking & Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving new countries in the dialogue. • Bridge the gap science-society and science-policy (e.g. dissemination, awareness raising, involvement of civil society in projects). • Promote the exchange of cultures and experiences. • Encouraging involvement of the young and women in research. • Encouraging the involvement of local entities. • Major involvement of institutions and researchers from several EU countries. • Encouraging North-South co-ownership in research activities. • Strengthening Economic and technological collaboration.
Management & Institutional responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stronger participation of researchers from Southern Mediterranean Countries (also in coordinating projects). • Developing and implementing long-term programs in science and education. • Take more into account societal challenges and needs of MPCs in the preparation of new cooperation Programmes. • Involving smaller institutions with smaller budgets. • Developing common agendas and road maps for R&I. • Exploring R&D capacity in the Southern Mediterranean Countries. • Streamlining the bureaucratic machine in the designing and especially implementation of projects (e.g. Visa release for non EU citizens coming to the EU and vice versa, coordination among different institutional organs maybe through spokespersons and/or designated interlocutors, etc.). • Developing R&D programs multi-discipline approach, accounting the most relevant nexus in the region related to economic growth and young employment. • Upgrading the equipments and management of research laboratories in the Southern Mediterranean countries. • Moving from general indications to real support to research activities.
Resources (financial/human) & Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve capacity building. • Learn more from European experience. • Stimulate human valorization. • Encourage and increase the mobility opportunities for all kind of researchers in order to better understand each country situation.



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Responsiveness to users' needs

- In-depth analysis of the real needs of the region (especially South Mediterranean) and foster the EU-MPC cooperation in the main societal challenges (i.e. renewable energy) and others of national and regional priority (i.e. Health, Security, Human rights).
- Application of biotechnology to produce drought tolerant plants.
- Improve IPM and organic production on Mediterranean crops.
- Biological control of agricultural pests for healthy food.
- Natural resources use efficiency.
- Natural reserves management.
- We have to open dialogue with civil society and the entrepreneurship system to have specific focus groups including different parties in the region.
- Ensuring participation of the private sector and industrial clusters in this dialogue.
- Stress the attention on developing more projects such as MEDSPRING in order to better focus on real needs and correct goals.
- Developing programmes tailored on country needs.
- Improve education in Universities.
- To encourage multidisciplinary studies especially on global climate change (e.g. control on implementation of carbon capture).
- Supporting projects related with solving problems in developing countries and their integration to developed ones.
- Taking into account not only regional problems but also global ones from a regional point of view
- Sustainable water resources management based on technical studies as well as on changing users' consumption habit.
- Funding projects targeting innovation.
- I would propose to align the priorities with the Smart Specialization strategies of the countries in order to deal with the economic crisis more efficiently.
- More research-actions developed in cooperation with the people in Euro-Mediterranean Countries and their practices.

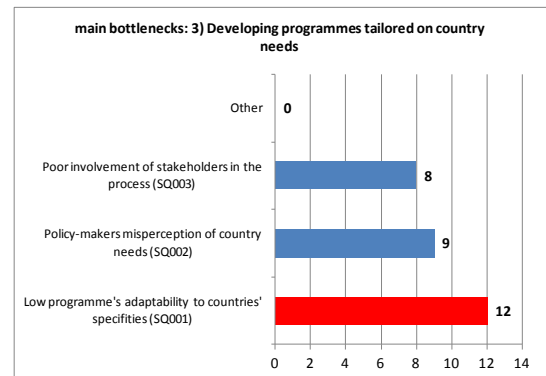
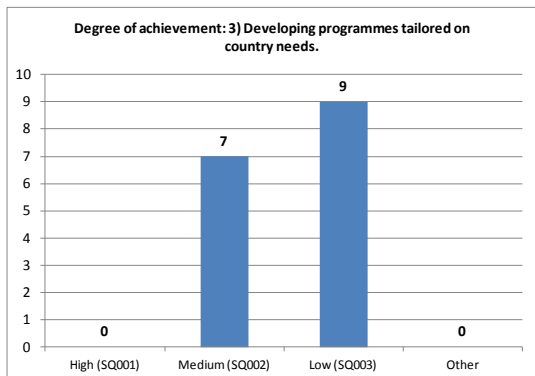
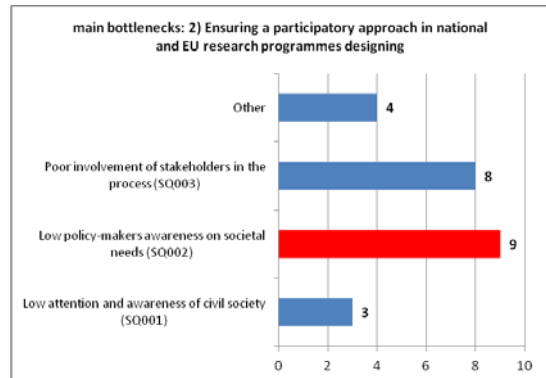
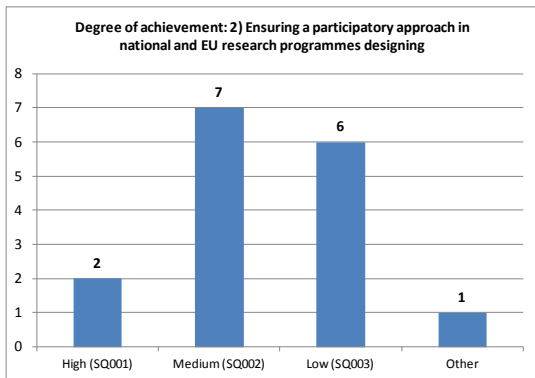
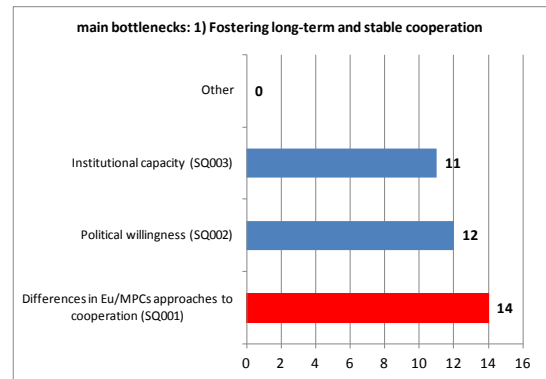
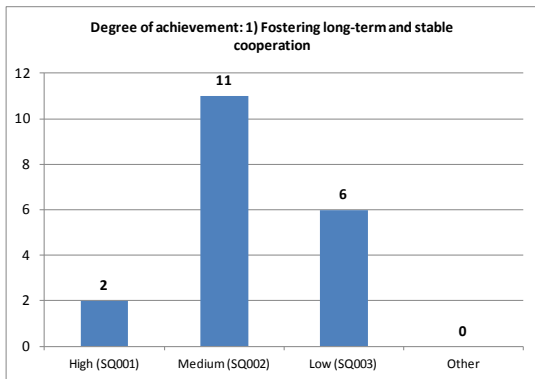


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OPEN CONSULTATION #3

The **questions** and related **outcomes** were:

Q3.1 – “In your opinion, what is the degree of achievement of the following objectives (Objectives are listed accordingly their score)? What were the main bottlenecks in the effective achievement of these objectives?”





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