



MedSpring – MEDiterranean Science, Policy, Research and Innovation Gateway

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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AgoraMedSpring what is it?

Agora MedSpring is an important component of MedSpring project.

Its aim, in line with the project's objectives, is to foster the open dialogue on research and innovation on some of the societal challenges of the Mediterranean region: water, food, and energy. It acts like a **social hub** supporting social dialogue for knowledge-sharing initiatives at the regional Mediterranean level.

Building the web community was AgoraMedSpring's first activity in 2013.

During an initial "listening phase", AgoraMedSpring staff identified and mapped the major existing players (individuals, web communities, organizations) already active in the virtual and non virtual debate on the three challenges addressed by the MedSpring project.

The mapping activity showed that there is an ongoing debate on these topics addressed by different stakeholders with different approach. Through a day-by-day content curation AgoraMedSpring started engaging with these experiences and gaining visibility.

<http://agora.medspring.eu>

Creating the community AGORA MEDSPRING



Asking to the people

THE OPEN CONSULTATION



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The Open Consultation what is it?

An open consultation is a participative instrument to open the decision-making process to all those willing to get involved. Its main objective is to listen to often unheard voices and make good use of them: it is a first step towards a **participative democracy**.

The consultation was open from April to June 2013 to all citizens from the Mediterranean region and beyond. Respondents came mainly from Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Italy. The majority of the respondents defined themselves as **researchers** (46%). Researchers were followed by respondents defining themselves as belonging to **civil society** (28%), **policy-makers** (11%) and **entrepreneurs** (8%).

In the open consultation it was asked which are the thematic topics that needs more attention from the policy and research community within the three societal challenges.

It was also asked which are the major barriers and positive factors respectively limiting and enhancing research results uptake and dissemination.

What are the most important **factors enhancing** the research results uptake and dissemination?



Positive Factors



1 Providing financial support for researchers (including financing of joint R&I projects and infrastructures)

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2 Choice of appropriate and tailored communication media and methods (web, publications and scientific papers, scientific events, awareness campaign)

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3 Participatory approaches in planning research strategies (involvement of target groups/actors in the whole research cycle)

3

4 Policy making and policies supporting research (including transparency and impartiality)

4

5 Cooperation between research institutions (networking) and with private enterprises

5

What are the most important **barriers/constraints** limiting the research results uptake and dissemination?



Barriers/Costraints



1 Lack of resources (financial, human and material)

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2 Lack or mismanagement in communication among different stakeholders

2

3 Institutional (political) responsibility (including political instability, stagnation, corruption and lack of coordination)

3

4 Poor interaction between research, industry (even SMEs), policy makers and community

4

5 Research is not dealing with concrete problems on the ground and it is perceived as far from end consumers and civil society

5

The Think Tank EMEG

EuroMediterraneanExpertGroup



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EMEG: what is it?

The Euro-Mediterranean Expert Group -EMEG- is a group of **high level professionals from EU Members States and Mediterranean Partner Countries.**

EMEG brings together professionals with different background and experience, coming from different countries and representing – other than traditional thematic/scientific interests – also horizontal stakes like (innovation, policy and governance, private enterprise, socio-economics, gender, and cultural heritage).

EMEG aims at developing recommendations and suggestions to the **European Commission** for the development of the future agenda for the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in **research and innovation**, with emphasis on enhancing research impact, effective policies and adequate holistic and sustainable approach to the three main societal challenges (resource efficiency, high quality affordable food and energy)

On the basis of the results obtained through the open consultation, EMEG developed a **framework for actions** in the three societal challenges.

3 most voted topics
in **Open Consultation**

3 identified topics
by **EMEG Meeting**



WATER



Water quality and pollution

Managing water resources under scarcity, pollution and uncertainty

Applied wastewater treatment/reuse (including sea water purification)

Applied wastewater treatment/reuse (including sea water purification)

Improving agricultural water use efficiency

Non-conventional water treatment and reuse

FOOD



Organic food and farming (including nutritional value of organic food)

Promoting sustainability in agriculture in the Mediterranean region taking into account traditional agriculture, innovative technologies organic farming for the empowerment of rural communities

Policies and governance arrangements for Mediterranean food and nutrition security

Non-conventional water treatment and reuse

Annual food crops with improved tolerance to multiple abiotic stress (including GMOs)

Innovations in local Mediterranean food chains

ENERGY



Biofuel (including energy from organic fraction of municipality Solid Wastes)

System integration: system hybridization and integration (renewable energy, decentralized solutions)

Solar energy

Solar energy: storage and smart micro-grid (CSP,PV, CPV, thermal)

Renewable energy efficiency

Energy efficiency (sustainable and smart districts under Mediterranean climate and uses) including raising awareness; considering industry and mobility

3 PARADIGMS FOR ACTION

and the Next Step

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The Brokerage Event: what is it?

The next step of the MedSpring project is a brokerage event to be held in **Cairo on 12, 13 February 2014**.

A brokerage event is **an important matching opportunity** between the supply and demand for research and innovation expressed by private enterprises, SMEs, universities and research institutions in order to develop technology and business partnerships as well as joint participation in Euro-Mediterranean research projects having strong connotation in innovation.

MedSpring, has decided to launch a call for new innovative ideas with the primary aim of capturing a wider audience to create new knowledge, and to help transform ideas into new thinking for actions for the benefit of the region. MedSpring is also interested in hearing ideas which could eventually open up new fields of research.

E-mail
brokerage@medspring.eu

Platform
<http://www.b2match.eu/euromed/pages/med-spring-event>

On the ground of the Open Consultation, EMEG identified the following **three paradigms for action**:

Resources efficiency - Water

Managing water resources under scarcity, pollution and uncertain conditions while improving agricultural water use efficiency as well as treatment and re-use of non-conventional water

High quality affordable food

Integrated development and rehabilitation of rural arid and semi-arid areas capitalizing on sustainable agriculture including traditional and organic farming, empowering rural communities and valorizing agricultural resources while taking into account local cultural heritage.

Energy

Capitalizing on local large availability of solar energy, by developing adapted packages of solutions for sustainable remote communities, both in terms of supply and demand, in addition to promoting the well integrated penetration of renewable energy solutions in the inhabited areas, while taking into account local cultural heritage.

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