



**MARITIME CLUSTERS
SUPPORTING RESEARCH &
INNOVATION TO ENHANCE
BLUE ECONOMY
ENTREPRENEURSHIP”**

Priority 1: Maritime Innovation and economic development
Topic 2: Innovation in new economic sectors

D.2.3.1

**“Terms of Reference for the next
Programming period”**

Work package 2: Technical Component

**Phase 2.3: TOWARDS 2014-2020 – Recommendations for next
programming period**

Responsible partner: Maritime Institute of Eastern Mediterranean

Partnership:

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Scope of the deliverable

The objective of the Deliverable 2.3.2, "Elaboration of ToRs for next Programming Period on Maritime", is to report on the establishment of a draft ToRs for the future implementation of pilot activities taking into consideration the elements of the hypothesis of Blue Economy Scenario as well as the Action Plan indications. The concept of the ToRs will be to test the Blue economy sectors and associated geographical synergies at MED and sub- MED Level identified through the hypothesis of scenario potentialities. This should allow next programming period, after a short period of elaboration of the main elements characterizing the specific areas involved, to pass immediately to pilot activities thus allowing at least 2 years of testing activities.

Introduction for MED maritime projects

The Integrated Maritime Approach

The objective of the Integrated Maritime approach was to establish a new relevant partnership in order to contribute to the implementation of the Med 2014-2020 Programme and build a valuable bridge between the two programming periods.

In coherence with the "Blue Growth" perspective promoted by the European Union and with the potential for development that marine and maritime economic activities in the Mediterranean can offer, the Med Program organized four priority axes:

- Maritime innovation and Economic Development
- Environment Protection
- Transport and Accessibility
- Governance and policy response

To fulfill these expectations, 14 projects were approved in April 2014 and sorted by priority axis so they could contribute to establishing a comprehensive state-of-the-art (through different tools such as gap analyses, SWOT analyses, maps and studies) for the whole programme area and sub-regions (e.g. the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region). In line with these incentives, the ultimate goal for the call was to propose concrete orientations such as action plans, recommendations, and guidelines for potential future key projects and initiatives in

order to strengthen the Mediterranean as a dynamic socio-economic area.

The core recommendations to the multi-level stakeholders were:

- Strengthen the Integrated Maritime Approach in the Mediterranean Sea
 - Rise of blue economy in the Mediterranean Area
 - Integrating blue and green growth to better tackle environment challenges
 - Specific tools and instruments for the sustainable management of the coexistence of maritime activities
- Blue Growth in Key Maritime Sectors
 - Blue Energies
 - Port & Maritime Transport
 - Tourism
 - Fisheries
- Address the increasing Environmental Impact
 - Key pressures and trends in the evolution of the Mediterranean maritime environment
 - Mitigation of environmental challenges in the Med
- Multilevel maritime Governance in the Mediterranean Sea
 - Promotion of the Macro-Regional and Sea-Basin Strategy Approach in the Mediterranean
 - Involvement of Local and Regional Authorities and Stakeholders in the maritime policies of the Mediterranean Sea

All these results which were exported from the projects will contribute in filling the gaps and preventing the threats in the Mediterranean region through pilot activities that will be financed from the MED 2014-2020 Programme.

The MED 2014-2020

MED 2014-2020 Programme is committed to the development of a new thematic and methodological basis; promote sustainable growth in order to:

- Seek the improvement of the quality of the contents and aims of the programme, pursuing the development already started in the 2007-13 programming period.
- Foster innovative concepts and practices.
- Respect the requirements of the new Regulations recalling for more thematic concentration.
- Use reasonably energy, water, maritime, etc. resources.
- Answer the demands of the actors of the European territorial cooperation in the challenging socio-economic context of the Mediterranean.
- Support social integration through an integrated and territorially based cooperation approach.

These various issues can't be tackled efficiently either at regional or national scale. They require a significant effort in terms of transnational coordination and consultation. This will be done taking into account the potential and challenges of specific sectors related to the blue and green growth and Blue Economy in general, such as tourism, agriculture and agribusiness, marine and environmental industries, energy, transports but also creative industries and social economy that are especially important for the MED area. In these different sectors, the objective is to better identify development potential and challenges at the transnational level, to support stakeholders promoting innovation and help them organize, share experiences and knowledge with structures from other regions and countries.

Equally, the governance of the programme and its further evolution have become a Priority action of its own: it will be fed with contents also coming from other programs and policies, striving to-wards a more strategic vision of the whole MED area.

Type of Projects

There are three typologies of projects, the first two engaged with thematic Priority Axis 1, 2 and 3 of the INTERREG Med Programme and the third with Axis 4.

- Modular projects

With the aim of transforming ideas into concrete and innovative solutions with a transnational impact, the INTERREG MED Programme 2014-2020 has decided a new orientation in the typology of projects under thematic Priority Axis 1, 2 and 3, which reflects the three successive phases of a public intervention:

- A phase of study and development of strategies and policies
- A phase of testing, to validate the hypothesis developed
- A phase of capitalization and transferability of results, at transnational level.

This approach is materialized by different “modules”, which applicants must refer to in the elaboration of their project.

A modular project can be composed by one or several modules depending on its strategy and main objectives, expected results, competences and experience of the partnership. Each one of the possible configurations (single-module or multi-module) is called a type of project. Three different modules are available to make seven types of projects, listed here below.

- Module 1- Studying
- Module 2- Testing
- Module 3- Capitalizing

We will emphasize on module 2, as module 1 was implemented through the hypothesis of Blue Economy Scenario as well as the Action Plan indications and module 3 will follow after the pilot activities tests.

M2- Testing: Pilot demonstration actions

Type of activities: a module dedicated to pilot activities where project partners will have the possibility to test processes, techniques, models, in the perspective to setup solutions applicable to a wider set of users and territories. Pilot activities can be setup when the context, data and actors are already well identified and when technical and institutional conditions are favorable. In case of short feedback loops, the pilot activity can include both the preliminary work of analysis and the implementation of the pilot activity. The transferability of pilot activities to the territory is compulsory in this module.

Types of outputs: Preliminary studies (feasibility), common methodology for demonstration, testing and evaluation, plan of results portability.

M3 - Capitalising: Transfer, dissemination and capitalization:

Type of activities: When methodologies, practices, intervention tools have been tested and implemented by stakeholders at local or regional level and that they represent a strong interest for wider dissemination in the INTERREG MED eligible area, projects can propose capitalization and dissemination activities. A specific attention will be paid to the transfer of results towards regional and national ERDF programs and to the involvement of end users in the dissemination processes. M3 projects are therefore expected to clearly identify a concrete and limited set of outputs/experiences delivered by previous initiatives (or eventually, on the verge of being delivered) in one very specific theme and capitalize them (by merging them, completing or extrapolating to other areas) in the territories targeted by the project. At this stage, applicants are encouraged to use results of former projects (from ETC or other EU programmes) and work on outputs of other modules. It will be necessary to ensure that tools, practices and methodologies are effectively taken on board by all actors concerned, and applied at local, regional, national or transnational level as broadly as possible and free of charge.

Types of outputs: policy recommendations, Memorandum of Understanding, agreements, procedures, regulatory proposals.

- Horizontal projects

The horizontal projects under the coordination of the Programme Authorities will have the task to promote the modular projects' communication and capitalization actions within a joint framework, in order to better highlight the interests of the Programme as well as of the transnational projects themselves. Each modular project will be linked to a horizontal project.

Horizontal projects should capture elements of the modular projects within each thematic Programme specific objective; analyze them, summarize and ensure their transnational dissemination and transferability, in cooperation with the Programme Authorities. They will provide the frame for developing synergies, produce summaries and qualitative analysis as well as coordinate and manage (under supervision of the JS) the communication of a cluster of projects. They will structure and disseminate a message for the entire MED community and will work on thematic inter-axes links (1, 2 and 3) and with the Axis 4 "platform" project

(governance).

Horizontal projects will help and support the communication and capitalization of selected modular projects for each call and for each specific objective, proposing relevant tools for coordination between horizontal projects, between horizontal project and modular projects and finally between horizontal projects and the Programme level.

- Axis 4 Platform projects

Platform projects are a top-down process to orient the future Interreg MED strategy. Projects will be implemented only by governance authorities.

Background information on EU policies regarding maritime strategies

The general orientations for the coming years have been set up in the EU 2020 strategy aiming to turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

The EU Blue Growth Strategy (2012) is the EU's long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors. The Blue Growth Strategy recognizes that the European seas and oceans are central to the European economy with great potential for innovation, economic growth and job creation. The Blue Growth Strategy is the Integrated Maritime Policy's contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

This focus area addresses the challenge through five cross-cutting priority domains supporting the Blue Growth Agenda: valorizing the diversity of marine life; sustainable harvesting of deep-sea resources; new offshore challenges; ocean observation technologies; and the socioeconomic dimension. The aim of the focus area is to improve understanding of the complex interrelations between various maritime activities, technologies, including space enabled applications, and the marine environment to help boost the marine and maritime economy by accelerating its potential through R&I.

The Europe 2020 strategy, together with the Territorial Agenda 2020, provides the overall strategic framework for EU cohesion policy 2014-2020 and as such for the MED Programme.

The regulatory framework is provided by the regulations for cohesion policy 2014-2020. These are accompanied by a Common Strategic Framework (CSF) setting out key actions to address EU priorities and giving guidance to ensure coordination between funds.

General and Specific objectives of the call for proposals

General objectives of the call

The Common Strategic Framework with pre-defined thematic objectives and investment priorities provided the orientation for the programme strategy: In total, four priority axes have been selected, among those three thematic and one more strategic. Here are the axes that pertain in the study of CoRINThos:

PRIORITY AXIS 1: Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth

Innovation and competitiveness is highlighted in the strategy UE 2020. It is a major challenge in MED regions facing international competition, and contributes to overcome the economic crisis. In this cooperation area, a specific attention must be paid to the fields of blue and green growth that represent significant development perspectives.

PRIORITY AXIS 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources

The axis is especially focused on the protection of natural and cultural heritage, biodiversity, the development of human activities in coherence with environmental change which represent enormous challenges to the MED area. The protection of the environment is a major challenge with strong attractiveness of coastal and insular areas, environmental strain of urban development, geographical constraints (coastal areas, islands, mountains) and environmental consequences of climate change. This intervention field represents also a potential of new employment creation for the future in rising Blue Sectors like Blue Biotechnology, Blue Renewable Energy Sources and empowerment the existing ones of Blue and Green Growth Sectors at Mediterranean level.

PRIORITY AXIS 4: A shared Mediterranean Sea

This priority axis is experimental and challenging, but the necessity of better coordination

between the authorities of the programme area is incontestable. Moreover, part of the programme space is already concerned by a macro-regional strategy. Taking into account the experimental nature of this priority, and also the possibility to finance earmarked 'macro-regional' pilot projects via thematic priorities (especially within the priority axis 3), this axis will support only a limited number of integrated cooperation projects. They should involve regional, national and international bodies to improve decision making processes and foster common views and strategies in the MED area.

Specific objectives of the call

The programme integrates six investment priorities (five thematic, one strategic) and seven specific objectives (six thematic, one strategic). Here are the specific objectives that pertain in the study of CoRINThos:

Specific Objective 1.1: To increase transnational activity of innovative maritime clusters and networks of key Blue Economy sectors of the MED area.

Specific Objective 3.1: To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area.

Specific Objective 3.2: To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas especially coastal and insular.

Specific Objective 4.1: To support the process of developing multilateral coordination frameworks and strengthening the existing Blue Economy Sectors in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges and develop new ones (Blue Biotechnology, Blue Renewable Energy Sources)

Proposed Topics to be addressed through the new call

Topics

- A. Innovation/ Research & Development
- B. Entrepreneurship/ Competitiveness/ Internationalization
- C. Training/ HR/ Triple Helix

D. Environmental Protection

E. Synergies/ Knowledge Transfer/ Cooperation

Specific Priorities per Topic

A1. Networking and co-operative research among different maritime clusters

Research, Development and Innovation activities are not equally developed in all maritime clusters or even in all maritime sectors that operate within a cluster. Networking among clusters in regional, national or international level could create synergies when it comes to research and innovative approaches and could enhance the co-operation and the use of the same resources towards a common goal. In this way, the clusters create scale economies and use methods that have been proven to be successful in other clusters.

A2. Enhance the elaboration of R&D activities within the clusters through the co-operation with Research Institutes and Universities

R&D and Innovation activities offer great potentials within the operation of specific maritime sectors that are included in clusters. The competitiveness of the clusters is deeply influenced by the incorporation of new methods and innovative approaches. For this reason cluster managers, Ministries, Regional Authorities, Business Association that play an important role in the formulation of clusters' strategy should offer initiatives and create favorable environment for the interaction among Research Institutes, Universities and members of clusters.

A3. Design and development of Blue technology Platforms – Exchange of latest updates and technologies among clusters

Technology platforms are industry-led stakeholder forums that play a crucial role in driving innovation, knowledge transfer and European competitiveness. It is proposed to develop a Blue Technology Platform that will collect all relevant technologies and best practices that are being developed either within or outside maritime clusters. Platforms mobilize stakeholders to deliver on agreed priorities and share information across the EU in several issues and challenges tackled by maritime clusters.

B1. Creation of interconnections among different maritime sectors- Creation of links to achieve synergies and new clusters

There are connections and synergies among different maritime sectors. For this reason it

should be promoted:

- the co-operation among these sectors in case that there is not an existing maritime cluster
- the involvement of these maritime sectors in existing clusters in order to develop the clusters' operation in additional sectors

The indicative combinations of sectors that present interconnections and could offer added value in the operation of new or existing clusters are:

- Tourism – Aquaculture – Fisheries – Oil & Gas
- Shipping – Shipbuilding – Surveillance & New Technologies- Maritime Services
- Aquaculture- Fisheries – Blue Energy – Blue Biotechnology
- Ports – Transportation – Tourism – Maritime Services

B2. Focus on MED leaderships in specific maritime sectors operating in maritime clusters (e.g. shipping and tourism) and face competition coming from other countries

The MED area has specific characteristics that create competitive advantages in comparison to other areas worldwide. For example, MED countries play a leading role in shipping and tourism, while some of them used to be very experienced in shipbuilding. However, this leadership is threatened by other developing forces like China and Korea that exploit lower costs attracting new investments and customers. The policy makers should focus on the leading sectors involved in maritime clusters through the creation of favorable conditions that will enhance their development and address the competition.

B3. Identification and foresight of maritime sectors that have potentials in MED area (e.g. Blue energy) in order to be incorporated in existing or new maritime clusters

Although MED region is active in the traditional maritime sectors and has included them in respective clusters, the area is at a primitive level regarding new maritime sectors (e.g. Blue Energy, Blue Biotechnology) that are promoted by EU Policies for Blue Growth. Aiming at facing the rising competition coming from developed or more favorable countries, the Policy makers should identify new opportunities, involve key actors that operate in emerging sectors and include them in existing clusters that could boost their development as they can act as accelerators. The clusters should be proactive and look for new markets and fields of activity.

C1. Sharing Knowledge between higher education organizations, research centers and companies

The involvement of Research Institutes, Universities and higher education organizations in the operation of maritime clusters offers added value and opportunities for R&D and Innovation activities. This interaction can be achieved through the participation of Academia as members, the exchange of personnel, the provision of maritime studies and training that could create the base of HR which will be recruited in clusters.

C2. Training Programmes for blue jobs/ advanced technology courses

Human Resources with high educational level are vital for the operation of maritime clusters. Universities, training centers, educational institutions and their associated research facilities and laboratories, give young people and professionals the chance to acquire essential knowledge, a fundamental element in coping with the advances taking place in technology, tools, materials and processes. It is essential to deliver adapted training courses in order to meet the needs of maritime and marine skills that will be further developed throughout a career in a company or industry.

C3. Raising awareness of sea related careers - maritime culture

The scope of this measure is to raise awareness of sea-related careers, generate enthusiasm for maritime culture, job opportunities and careers among young people. In addition, all involved parties have to address the barriers that discourage young people from embarking on a maritime career, for example through sail-training, advanced technology courses and other joint maritime initiatives.

D1. Maritime Spatial Planning- Interaction among Tourism-Aquaculture-Fisheries-Oil & Gas

The issue of maritime spatial planning plays a crucial role in achieving long-term sustainable development at the same time as minimizing conflict and ensuring that marine ecosystems are protected. Environment is an aspect of the clusters' operation that is respected through the respect of European and National Regulations. The development of different maritime sectors within the clusters should not be controversial but supplementary and each sector has to follow specific limitations in order to operate in harmony without causing obstacles at environmental level.

D2. Invest in response mechanisms for marine threats, accidents, security and safety – promote cooperation among countries

Coastal and marine environment constitute a priority for maritime clusters. As a result, the respective companies and organizations that participate as members, have to follow the latest updates in response mechanism, applications and technologies that support their operation, as well as their competitiveness. Maritime clusters can also cooperate with other structures at regional, national and international level aiming at facing possible threats and security and safety issues.

Types of projects and pilot activities to be financed

Priority Axis1: Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth

Specific Objective 1.1: To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area

Specific priority A1: Networking and co-operative research among different maritime clusters.

Type of actions: The development of clusters and networks, transfer of knowledge

This action could be implemented through the creation of networks among clusters that deal with the same or relevant challenges at R&D level. Clusters that include similar maritime sectors could share resources, knowledge and experiences in order to organize co-operative research activities that will aim at solving common problems. The interaction with more developed clusters at research level could be proven to be rather supportive and could lead to more efficient results. The co-operation could also be applied at infrastructures and HR level.

Specific priority A2: Enhance the elaboration of R&D activities within the clusters through the co-operation with Research Institutes and Universities.

Type of actions: The transfer of knowledge and awareness-raising

Policy makers have to raise awareness regarding the role of innovation and R&D in the development of clusters and the competitiveness of the participating members. This goal can be achieved through the active role of Research Institutes, Universities and high educated HR

in the operation of maritime clusters and especially the companies that operate in maritime sectors that R&D is crucial for their further development and address the competition coming from other countries and clusters.

Specific priority A3: Design and development of Blue Technology Platforms – Exchange of latest updates and technologies among clusters.

Type of actions: The development of models and tool, transfer of knowledge

The development of a Blue Technology Platform could be coordinated by a central board that will be based on relevant successful initiatives elaborated by the European Commission and will bring together a series of organizations and stakeholders actively involved in the design and development of new maritime technologies that could be adopted by other key players in maritime clusters. This platform could also include best practices and other relevant information related to R&D and Innovation. The aim is to create opportunities for international cooperation and networking, active participation of industry in R&D.

Specific priority B1: Creation of interconnections among different maritime sectors- Creation of links to achieve synergies and new clusters.

Type of actions: The development of networks, transfer of knowledge, capitalization activities, will integrated into the

Policy makers and cluster managers should identify the interconnections and synergies that the cooperation of different maritime sectors could create and lead to added value in the operation of existing and potential maritime sectors. The involvement of additional sectors in a maritime cluster should be thoroughly examined and decided by its central manager and proceed with the necessary steps. The modification of a cluster's composition is a rather challenging process and requires thorough design in order to be successful and support the operation of the cluster.

Specific priority B3: Identification and foresight of maritime sectors that have potentials in MED area (e.g. Blue energy) in order to be incorporated in existing or new maritime clusters.

Type of actions: The development of models and tool, transfer of knowledge

Policy makers should examine and identify the emerging maritime sectors that could be developed in MED area and constitute important fields of activity for the future. All involved actors can examine the strategy that other countries have followed in order to expand and develop new maritime sectors and define the actors that will be the driving forces that can

play a decisive role in the development of these sectors at MED level.

Specific priority C1: Sharing Knowledge between higher education organizations, research centers and companies.

Type of actions: The transfer of knowledge

Cluster Managers and relevant stakeholders can promote and support the involvement of Research Institutes, Universities and higher education organizations in the processes of the cluster, upgrading the capacities of HR and creating the necessary base for further R&D and Innovation activities. The interaction among these two actors of the Triple Helix (business and academia) create great added value in the operation of the clusters. For this reason it is strongly advised to attract these Institution as permanent or External Members and create the necessary environment to cause exchange of ideas among the companies and the Research Institutions. In addition, it is proposed to encourage exchange of personnel with the potential to be recruited to the cluster in the future.

Specific priority C2: Training Programmes for blue jobs/ advanced technology courses

Type of actions: The development of networks, transfer of knowledge, capitalization activities

Education has to recognize the opportunities that are offered by maritime sectors and the emerging need for professionals that receive the necessary training in order to fulfill the requirements of blue jobs. Educational Institutions have to incorporate in their operation special departments or upgrade the existing ones, focusing on covering the needs for professionals with expertise on the emerging maritime sectors aiming at meeting the future and changing demand for skills and capacities.

Specific priority C3: Raising awareness of sea related careers - maritime culture.

Type of actions: The development of networks, transfer of knowledge

All involved actors have to dedicate and join their efforts to raise awareness of the opportunities and the future evolution of maritime sectors and the respective careers. Especially MED area is closely related to sea. Regional Authorities, Business Associations, Maritime Clusters, Universities that operate in the sector can raise public awareness of the maritime world by holding lectures and seminars, and by allowing regular contact and interaction with its professionals. It is necessary to offer the required marketing, training, innovation and networking support in order to introduce young people to the scope of career

opportunities in maritime sectors and provide fresh talent with appropriate qualifications for the workplace.

Specific priority D1: Maritime Spatial Planning- Interaction among Tourism-Aquaculture-Fisheries-Oil & Gas

Type of actions: Studies, policy-planning and strategy development

The involved Policy Makers and Ministries have to proceed with the elaboration of Maritime Spatial Plans for their marine areas, according to a set of minimum common requirements. As a framework Directive, the MSP Directive only establishes procedural obligations. Member States retain the power to define the structure, content and detail of these plans. Since various maritime activities may be controversial while operating in the same area, like tourism, aquaculture, fisheries and off-shore oil and gas, the definition of spatial and environmental limitations will enhance their sustainable development within maritime clusters.

Specific priority D2: Invest in response mechanisms for marine threats, accidents, security and safety – promote cooperation among countries.

Type of actions: The development of models and tools, capitalization activities

Maritime Clusters and involved maritime players (Ministries, Authorities etc.) have to support initiatives undertaken by Member States in MED area, including risk assessments, coordinated response mechanisms and investments in state-of-the-art equipment that contribute appropriately to enhancing coordinated preparedness and responses to marine threats, natural disasters, marine accidents, spills of oil and hazardous material or trafficking.

Priority Axis 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources

Specific Objective 3.2: To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas

Specific priority D1: Maritime Spatial Planning- Interaction among Tourism-Aquaculture-Fisheries-Oil & Gas

Type of actions: Studies, policy-planning and strategy development

The involved Policy Makers and Ministries have to proceed with the elaboration of Maritime Spatial Plans for their marine areas, according to a set of minimum common requirements. As a framework Directive, the MSP Directive only establishes procedural obligations. Member

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Priority Axis 4: A shared Mediterranean Sea

Specific Objective 4.1: To support the process of developing multilateral coordination frameworks and strengthening the existing ones in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges

Specific priority B2: Focus on MED leaderships in specific maritime sectors operating in maritime clusters (e.g. shipping and tourism) and face competition coming from other countries

Type of actions: The creation of networks of public authorities to improve decision making processes and foster common views and strategies

The role of Ministries, Regional Authorities, Business Associations and Policy Makers in general should be very active in the creation of the necessary conditions that will support the development of leading sectors within clusters. The focus in cost reduction and high quality of offered services and products will be a priority. Promotional activities can also add to this direction as well as the involvement of highly educated HR. The stimulation and support of MED competitive advantages can attract more investments and customers/countries that are served by other foreign countries.

Specific priority B3: Identification and foresight of maritime sectors that have potentials in MED area (e.g. Blue energy) in order to be incorporated in existing or new maritime clusters

Type of actions: the creation of networks of public authorities to improve decision making processes and foster common views and strategies, will be integrated into the

Policy makers should examine and identify the emerging maritime sectors that could be developed in MED area and constitute important fields of activity for the future. All involved actors can examine the strategy that other countries have followed in order to expand and develop new maritime sectors and define the actors that will be the driving forces that can play a decisive role in the development of these sectors at MED level.

Specific priority D1: Maritime Spatial Planning- Interaction among Tourism-Aquaculture-Fisheries-Oil & Gas

Type of actions: the creation of networks of public authorities to improve decision making processes and foster common views and strategies

The involved Policy Makers and Ministries have to proceed with the elaboration of Maritime Spatial Plans for their marine areas, according to a set of minimum common requirements. As a framework Directive, the MSP Directive only establishes procedural obligations. Member States retain the power to define the structure, content and detail of these plans. Since various maritime activities may be controversial while operating in the same area, like tourism, aquaculture, fisheries and off-shore oil and gas, the definition of spatial and environmental limitations will enhance their sustainable development within maritime clusters.

Types of organizations to participate to the call

It is necessary that projects/ pilot activities, identify different types of actors having strong institutional competences related to the project/ pilot activity (local, regional, national, international actors) and that they elaborate an implementation system which will take into account their contributions in the conception, implementation, capitalization of the project/ pilot activity and in the dissemination of findings that extracted (Horizontal projects).

Besides core partners, projects/ pilot activities may include external partners. External partners are involved in a more peripheral way. It is clarified that these partners are not bound by the partnership agreement and cannot receive ERDF. External partners correspond to institutions whose contribution does not require a full involvement in the project (technical advises, share of punctual experience and know how, dissemination of information, networking, etc.) or institutions located outside the eligible area (in "third countries") and which could not be formally involved in the project (like south Mediterranean regions). It is recommended to include third countries in the partnerships, so as to have a greater impact in the Mediterranean Sea area.

External partners listed in the application will have to provide a non-binding letter of support/ interest (template provided by the JTS). In this letter they will express their interest for the project; they will specify the nature of their involvement, in which WPs/ actions/ activities and understanding that they will not get ERDF.

It must be noticed that the participation of each project or the pilot activity partner (public and private) and the use of subcontractors for the implementation of the project/ pilot activity

must respect the national and EU competition and public procurement rules as stated in the MED operational programme and in the Implementation guide.

I. The Lead partner

The Lead partner must be able to ensure consensus and strong leadership (impulse, management, coordination of the partnership). To setup their partnership, Lead partners can activate institutional networks with the assistance of the National Contact Points.

II. The steering committee of the project/ pilot activity

The steering committee of the project or pilot activity is composed of all the partners. Whatever the organization of the steering committee, the Lead partner must ensure a transparent management, a good communication between partners and the dissemination of all the information to all partners.

III. A new type of partner

Private structures can be involved in MED projects as partners (not as Lead partners). As a novelty, private co-financing will be eligible.

As far as the first priority axis is concerned, this integration is obvious, since different kind of economic operators are expected to contribute in order to boost innovation in the MED. Also in the second and the third priority axis (low carbon and natural/cultural resources) private partners will be able to participate where relevant. The fourth priority axis on the contrary is not open for private co-financing.

The co-financing rate of private partners (50% or 85%) will depend on the regime to be applied, which is still under discussion within the MED Monitoring Committee.

Private structures cannot act as Lead Partners and have to observe the basic principles on public procurement laws. Also bodies whose main scope of activities within their business profile, as well as their project role, consist of project coordination or management, or other activities that are of a mere executive or supporting character (service providers) cannot be involved as project partners.

IV. Participation of partners outside MED area

– IPA Partners:

The participation of Mediterranean candidate or potential candidate countries to the MED programme will be possible with IPA funds which can finance up to 85% of the total eligible costs of the action carried out by partners from these countries in joint operations. The responsibility for the financial management of IPA funds lies with the single contracting authority (MED Managing Authority Decision C (2011)1706 of 16th March 2011).

– EU Partners outside MED area:

According to Article 21(2) of ERDF regulation, in the context of transnational cooperation and in duly justified cases, the ERDF may finance expenditure incurred by partners located outside the MED area participating in operations and up to 20% of the ERDF total budget requested by the whole of the EU partners of a project. This expenditure must be targeted and must be for the benefit of the regions of the MED area.

– Non EU Partners:

In addition, according to article 21(3), the ERDF may finance expenditure incurred for implementing operations or parts of operations on the territory of countries outside the European Community up to 10% of the ERDF total budget requested by all EU partners of a project. The funds allocated under this 10% flexibility option must be targeted and must be for the benefit of the regions of the MED area. Even if the regulation foresees this possibility, this rule does not apply within the MED Programme.

All non EU institutions can participate as external partners (without ERDF co-financing).

Types of Beneficiaries and target groups to be involved in the pilot activities

Each type of project (considering its focus and modular approach) requires the best definition of the beneficiaries and target groups. For example, while a more end-user oriented project will demand the strong connection to civil society and/or professional organizations, a mainstreaming project or module, will request the involvement of public authorities (policy-makers and public managers) having the adequate position and competencies to propose or

change norms, regulations and plans.

The definition of key actors (as beneficiaries and target groups) should be extended also to all those networks and organizations that have an important experience in targeting and influencing policy makers (e.g. CoR, ARE, CPMR...) or whose involvement can ensure a multiplier effect in mobilizing target groups.

Also social and economic actors (economic and registered citizenship associations) may be concerned / targeted, because they can adopt good practices and standards, thus changing socio-economic behaviors.

Other potentially relevant partners are organizations that have specific and scientific competences providing expertise for the production of outputs.

It is recommended that projects create synergies with entities/partners of projects of other territorial cooperation (and thematic) EU programmes (to be specified with concrete indications and, if possible, agreement letters), as well as with relevant International, EU and UN agencies / organizations enhancing good practices and policy recommendations to capitalize.

Main categories	Examples
Local public authority	Municipalities, province, departments, etc.
Regional public authority	Regional council, etc.
National public authority	Ministries, etc.
Sectorial agency	Local or regional development agency, etc.
Infrastructure and (public) service provider	Public transport, etc.
Interest groups including NGOs	International organizations, etc.
Higher education and research	University, faculty, college, research institution RTD facility, research cluster, etc.
Education/ training center and school	Vocational training centers

Enterprise, except SME	Enterprise working on relevant fields
SME	Micro, small, medium enterprise
Business support organization	Chamber of commerce, chamber of trade and crafts, business clusters, etc.
EGTC	European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation working on relevant fields
International organization, EEIG	Under national law, under international law
General public *	Citizens involved in relevant fields

*General public is only relevant as target group