International Cooperation with Mediterranean Partner Countries in FP7

Project synopses
International Cooperation with Mediterranean Partner Countries in FP7
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INTRODUCTION

This publication has been prepared on the occasion of the “Euro-Mediterranean Conference for Research and Innovation: An agenda for a renewed partnership” organised by the European Commission, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, in Barcelona on 2 and 3 April 2012. It includes all the projects with participation of at least one partner from the Mediterranean Partner Countries1 (MPCs) which have been supported under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The projects are organised in eleven thematic chapters which include collaborative research, networking, competence building, infrastructure and mobility projects. A short description and a list of all participating organisations and contact persons are provided for each project.

As a result of the long-standing scientific collaboration between the European Union and the Mediterranean Partner Countries, 168 FP7 projects are presently in place with an EU contribution close to EUR 430 million. There are 373 MPC participants in these projects.

This publication should facilitate networking and increase the dissemination of information concerning research and innovation activities between the European Union and the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

1. According to the information on status of countries available at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/who_en.html#countries, the “Mediterranean Partner Countries” listed as International Co-operation Partner Countries available (ICPC) are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian administrated areas, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia.
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Biowalk4Biofuels

Biowaste and Algae Knowledge for the Production of Second Generation Biofuels

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The Biowalk4Biofuels project aims to develop an alternative and innovative system for the treatment of biowaste and use of GHG emissions to produce biofuels, using macroalgae as a catalyst, in a multidisciplinary approach.

The main objectives of the project are pointed out as follows:

- Producing a cost-efficient biogas without using cereal crops;
- Optimising the production of biogas per amount of biowaste and CO₂ used using macroalgae as an interface between biowaste and energy production to allow direct utilisation of biowaste;
- Increasing and facilitating the types of biowastes that can be utilised for biogas production;
- Creating a CO₂ sink for the carbon credit market;
- Producing biomass pellets and fertilisers from organic residues of the biodigester;
- Avoiding the treatment cost of manure;
- Avoiding the treatment cost of wastewater;
- Using macroalgae directly in biodigestors to produce energy without the need for mixing with other cereal crops;
- Pre-cultivating protoplasts in an incubator to permit the acceleration of cell regeneration, diminishing the life-cycle of macroalgae;
- Optimising the two-phase anaerobic digestion processes;
- Upgrading biogas to high-quality vehicle fuel.

**ACTIVITIES**

To achieve the underlined objectives, research activities have been carried out on the selection of adequate macroalgae species that can reach high output biomass yields and high carbohydrate content. Four open ponds with a total area of 5 000 m² will be installed in a stretch of sea in the industrial port of Augusta. To support and further stimulate the production of new biomass through photosynthesis, about 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year and nitrogen compounds will be introduced into an algal broth to recreate conditions of eutrophication. The biomass thus obtained will be fed into an innovative anaerobic digester, Archimedes rotors, capable of converting almost all biomass into biogas. Pre-cultivation of protoplasts, accelerating cell-growth rate, are carried out to increase productivity. In addition, the relationship between the growth and energy potential of selected species with the amounts/characteristics of GHG emissions and biowaste introduced in the cultivation medium is to be studied. This way, higher biomass yields of macroalgae will be achieved. After fermenting the algal biomass, the cycle is closed by producing biogas to be used for electricity and heat generation and as a transport fuel. A high-quality product is expected, hence a purification step will proceed the final product. Furthermore, organic residues from the biodigester are to be used as a combustible biomass, after drying and pelletising. The need for external inputs is eliminated (no other biomass for fermentation is required) and the use of all feedstock is achieved.
EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The Biowalk4Biofuels project’s expected impact is to produce a cost-efficient, low energy-intensive, purified biogas, to reduce negative environmental impacts from industry (GHG emissions) and biowaste. The multidisciplinary approach solution gives the possibility of reducing GHG emissions and process biowaste, while producing energy, seeking for future replications in other locations. In addition to the research activities it was also planned to patent the results and, in order to obtain concrete results, it will be necessary to interact with private investors, stakeholders and authorities, organising meetings at local, national and international levels as well as to present the results at national and international conferences. Moreover, the final outcome will be the strict collaboration with extra-EU SMEs and research institutes (India and Jordan) that is necessary to lead a clean developmental mechanism also in fast growing economy.
Biowalk4Biofuels

Biowaste and Algae Knowledge for the Production of Second Generation Biofuels

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COMET

Integrated infrastructure for CO$_2$ transport and storage in the west Mediterranean

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

COMET aims at identifying and assessing the most cost-effective CO$_2$ transport and storage infrastructure able to serve the western Mediterranean area, namely Portugal, Spain and Morocco. This is achieved considering the time and spatial aspects of the development of the energy sector and other industrial activities in those countries as well as the location, capacity and availability of potential CO$_2$ storage geological formations. Special attention is given to a balanced decision on transport modes, matching the sources and sinks, and addressing safety and lifetime objectives while meeting optimal cost–benefit trade-off for a CCS network infrastructure as part of an international cooperation policy. The need for a joint CCS infrastructure in the western Mediterranean is related to the geographical proximity, to the increasing connections between the energy and industrial sectors in the area, to the continuity of sedimentary basins that can act as possible storage reservoirs and to the existing experience in managing a large gas transport infrastructure, such as the natural gas pipeline coming through Morocco, to Spain and Portugal.

**ACTIVITIES**

The consortium is coordinated by LNEG (Portugal), and comprises seven research institutions, four universities, one SME and five energy companies from six European countries and Morocco. COMET aims to optimise the connection between sources and sinks by comparing the several possible transport modes (pipelines, trains, ships and trucks) and existing and to be realised infrastructures, and expects to find the least-cost transport mode and routes from clusters to sinks.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

It is expected that each source cluster will be rigorously matched to the most suitable sink, while minimising the required investment in infrastructures and taking advantage of the effect of scale associated to an integrated infrastructure. COMET will be an important step towards the safe and commercial deployment of large-scale near-zero-emission power plants in southwestern Europe and North Africa.
COMET

Integrated infrastructure for CO₂ transport and storage in the west Mediterranean

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CO2 zenith
MATS

Multipurpose Applications by Thermodynamic Solar

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

MATS project aims at promoting the exploitation of concentrated solar energy through small and middle-scale facilities, suitable to fulfill local requirements of power and heat, and easy to back-up with the renewable fuels already available locally or that can be expressly produced. More particularly, MATS project is focused on the innovative CSP technology developed by ENEA as an improvement to its solar thermodynamic technology based on molten salts as heat transfer fluid. This technology, referred as TREBIOS, allows combined heat and power production from a solar source integrated with renewable fuels, such as biomass, biogas and industrial residues.

**ACTIVITIES**

The implementation of the project allows for testing of the CSP (concentrating solar power) technology in a location very advantageous with regard to the solar radiation rate, as an example for the diffusion of this technology in other Mediterranean countries.

**EXPECTED IMPACT**

The expected impact of the project is to start-up the development of specialised local industries in the Mediterranean countries.

**Period:** 19/07/2011 to 18/01/2015

**Total cost:** EUR 20 457 086

**Budget from EC:** EUR 11 755 050

**Contract number:** 268219

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project

**Coordinator:** AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE NUOVE TECNOLOGIE, L’ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO ECONOMICO SOSTENIBILE
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**ENERGY**
**MATS**
Multipurpose Applications by Thermodynamic Solar
MEDIRAS
MEmbrane DIstillation in Remote AreaS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period: 01/09/2008 to 01/09/2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total cost: EUR 3 433 957</td>
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<td>Budget from EC: EUR 2 118 196</td>
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<td>Contract number: 218938</td>
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Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V.
Website: www.mediras.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the MEDIRAS project is the development and demonstration of cost-effective and very reliable solar-driven desalination systems for water-scarcity-affected regions with high insolation.

ACTIVITIES

The modular system set-up is based on the highly innovative membrane distillation (MD) technology. MD is favorably applicable for small distributed desalination systems in the capacity range between 0.1 and 20 m³/day. MD is very robust against different raw water conditions and operable with alternating energy supply like solar energy.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

With respect to demonstration and market penetration of MD systems, the project will be focused on cost reduction and quality improvement for lifetime extension of MD modules and MD systems, on the development of components such as brine cooler and brine disposal units for groundwater desalination at inland locations with limited raw water resources, and on the development of scalable system configurations in order to adapt them to different customer demands.
MEDIRAS
MEMbrane DIstillation in Remote AreaS

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NACIR

New Applications for CPVs: a fast way to Improve Reliability and technology progress

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The main goal of this proposal is to join together the owners of the most advanced CPV technology, with respect to the state of the art, in order to research from its leading position new applications for CPV systems. In addition to opening up new markets, it will unveil possible sources of failure in new environments outside Europe, in order to assure component reliability.

**ACTIVITIES**

The proposed project will also try to improve the current technology of the industrial partners (ISOFOTON and CONCENTRIX) by accelerating the learning curve that CPV must follow in order to reach the competitive market, and lowering the cost under the current flat panel PV significantly within 3 to 4 years. The use of CPV systems in remote areas, together with harsher radiation, ambient and infrastructure conditions will help to increase the rate of progress of this technology. In addition, the ISFOC’s contribution, which brings together seven power plants from seven CPV technologies up to a 3 MW peak, will allow for creating the most complete database of components and systems performance to be generated as well as the effects of radiation and meteorology on systems operations. Finally, regarding the ‘new applications for CPV’ subject, the project will use a CPV system-sized 25 kWp in a stand-alone station in Egypt (NWRC) for the first time for water pumping and irrigation purposes. In a similar way ISOFOTON will connect up to 25 kWp CPV to the Moroccan ONE utility grid.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

From the research content point of view, the impact of this project will be to develop two-stage optics CPV systems. In addition to these technology improvements, the UPM is very interested in developing a new concept of module, recently patented, which will fulfill all required characteristics of a good CPV with less components and reducing cost.

**Period:** 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2012

**Total cost:** EUR 7 114 257

**Budget from EC:** EUR 4 397 583

**Contract number:** 226409

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project

**Coordinator:** UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE MADRID

**Website:** http://www.upm.es/nacir
NACIR

New Applications for CPVs: a fast way to Improve Reliability and technology progress
SoLuGAS
Solar Up-scale Gas Turbine System

**OBJECTIVES**

The SoLuGAS project consists in the demonstration of a solar-hybrid power system with direct solar heating of a gas turbine's pressurized air. In combination with highly efficient combined cycle systems or in cogeneration applications significant cost reductions for solar electric power generation can be achieved.

**ACTIVITIES**

A complete solar-hybrid gas turbine demonstration system will be designed and erected in the project. Major new developments include a tube receiver and a solar-adapted commercial gas turbine. The solar concentrator field and tower are laid out and built. Software tools will be used and extended to allow simulation of the components and system performance.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND RESULTS**

The demonstration project will be the first commercial-scale system that can later be offered to customers in several configurations (combined cycle, cogeneration, etc). The project will prove the technological feasibility, performance and cost reduction potential of such power plants.

**Period:** 01/11/2008 to 30/04/2013
**Total cost:** EUR 11 617 140
**Budget from EC:** EUR 5 997 752
**Contract number:** 219110

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project
**Coordinator:** ABENGOA SOLAR NEW TECHNOLOGIES, S.A.
ENERGY

SOLUGAS

Solar Up-scale Gas Turbine System

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MED-CSD

Combined solar power and desalination plants: technico-economic potential in Mediterranean partner countries

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The growing economies in the southern and eastern Mediterranean areas increasingly need affordable and efficient energy and water for sustainable development. Hybrid solar/fossil thermal power plants with combined seawater desalination based on concentrating solar power technology (CSP) offer a unique, cost-efficient solution to the growing energy and water demand. Hybrid solar/fossil operation offers a smooth transition from fossil fuel to a solar economy and provides firm power capacity to the grid with up to 8,000 full load operating hours per year. The main objective of the MED CSD project was to assess the technico-economic potential of CSP for electricity and desalination in the Mediterranean region, particularly the Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs) (WP3), based on a technology review and considering the results of past and ongoing studies and projects (WP1) and attained through the realisation of feasibility studies in Mediterranean countries and an impact assessment analysis (WP2).

**ACTIVITIES**

Thus the project was structured as follows:

- **WP1**: Technology review and selection of CSP and desalination configurations adapted for application in the southern and eastern Mediterranean regions (led by DLR);
- **WP2**: Feasibility studies of hybrid CSP water desalination plants in the Mediterranean region (led by KERNENERGIEN);
- **WP3**: Assessment of the technico-economic potential of CSP for electricity and desalination in MPCs (led by EDF);
- **WP4**: Action plan and dissemination (led by OME);
- **WP5**: Management (led by OME).

**Period**: 01/06/2008 to 31/05/2010
**Total cost**: EUR 999,960
**Budget from EC**: EUR 999,960
**Contract number**: 213824

**Funding scheme**: CSA
**Coordinator**: OBSERVATOIRE MEDITERRANEEN DE L’ENERGIE
**Website**: www.med-csd-ec.eu
MED-CSD

Combined solar power and desalination plants: technico-economic potential in Mediterranean partner countries

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PERA
Palestine for European Research Area

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The PERA project aims to strengthen capacities of the Palestine Technical University — Kadoorie (PTUK), while realising it as an international centre of excellence, and reinforcing the cooperation capacities and research activities in Palestinian’s water and energy sectors by defining water and energy research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European water and energy research initiatives and inclusion in the European research area.

ACTIVITIES

The project will support the coordination between policy, research and business in the field of water and energy in Palestine. By setting up a Palestine’s environmental NCP, it will enable a better participation of Palestine the in framework programmes and will contribute to enhance the EU–Palestine S & T partnerships in energy and water research. The project will also focus on building the capacities of PTUK’s for solving specific energy and water and will contribute to strengthen the cooperation capacities by developing a strategy of research valorisation and internationalisation of the center.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The main impact of PERA will be the increased capacities of the PTUK centre and the structuring and enhancement of the existing EU–Palestinian territories support landscape in energy and water S & T cooperation in a threefold way by: (i) supporting the participation of Palestine in FP7, (ii) knitting together all relevant support schemes, and (iii) facilitating both the uptake of water and energy research areas and the monitoring of the performance and impacts of this cooperation.

PERIOD: 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2013
TOTAL COST: EUR 508 754
BUDGET FROM EC: EUR 454 614
CONTRACT NUMBER: 266605

FUNDING SCHEME: CSA
COORDINATOR: PALESTINE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - KADOORIE (PTUK)
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Palestine for European Research Area

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JoRIEW

Improving capacity of Jordanian Research in Integrated Renewable Energy and Water supply

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the JoRIEW project is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of Jordanian research centres by promoting closer scientific collaboration with a number of ERA-located research centres and universities. The JoRIEW project will help structure and enhance S & T cooperation in areas of common interest, such as research system integration, integrated energy and water planning, and development of water supply systems that can be powered by intermittent renewable energies, in particular flexible pumping techniques and reverse osmosis desalination technology, where joint research efforts could bring common solutions and mutual benefits. It opens a new chapter of scientific cooperation between the EC and Jordan, an important partner in the EU’s neighbourhood policy.

**ACTIVITIES**

Improving Jordanian capacities in research will be achieved through:

- the networking of Jordanian and EU research centres in view of disseminating scientific information, identifying partners and setting up joint research;
- developing training modules to build competency and facilitate Jordanian participation in FP7 as regards energy and water research;
- developing the Jordanian research strategy for sustainable and renewable energy and water desalination in order to increase its scope, in particular its regional coverage and to improve its responses to the socioeconomic needs of Jordan and other countries in the region.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The JoRIEW project actions aim to enhance international cooperation with Jordan by including S & T capacity-building activities (human resources, research policy, networks of researchers and research institutes). The project will enable Jordanian researchers to contribute to the solution of local, regional and global problems and to economic and social development. Enhanced research capacity will also encourage researchers to compete internationally in terms of scientific excellence and increase their incentives to continue to base their research activities in Jordan.
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JoRIEW

Improving capacity of Jordanian Research in Integrated Renewable Energy and Water supply
J-ERACenter
The National Energy Research Center (NERC) as a centre of excellence for EU–Jordan S & T cooperation: towards Jordan’s integration into the ERA

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The overarching aim of the J-ERACenter is to contribute to the effective integration of Jordan into ERA, through building the National Energy Research Centre’s (NERC) organisational, strategic and human capacities to actively participate in European S&T partnerships and execute large-scale projects in the key area of Renewable Energy, with a view to creating a centre of excellence within Jordan and actively promoting further dissemination and replication in the region. Specifically J-ERACenter aims:

- To build capacities in international R&D cooperation and EU project management, by providing targeted training to NERC staff and researchers and enable them to replicate the knowledge benefiting a wider target group of researchers in Jordan.
- To strengthen direct links between research teams of NERC and their EU counterparts and initiate joint R&D initiatives in the area of Renewable Energy, through a series of networking/partnering events and facilitating mobility of researchers.
- To ensure firm and sustainable implementation of the enhanced capacities at NERC with a view to promoting the centre’s international competitiveness and improve its response to socio-economic challenges; through implementing specific internationalisation, visibility, IP and competitiveness strategies (for enhancement of the institutional development strategy), and the implementation of a R&D Cooperation Unit.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

J-ERACenter should promote the visibility and impact of this pilot action, positioning NERC as a Centre of Excellence for EU-Jordan RTD cooperation, via targeted multiplication and dissemination actions (networking events, info-days, seminars). Jordan’s leading research centre in Renewable Energy is the main beneficiary and coordinator, due to its high multiplier potential to act as catalyst for integration into ERA, and the importance of research to both regions. The consortium includes EU partners with complementary expertise in the scientific field and EU project management.

**Period:** 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 602 479  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 499 233  
**Contract number:** 295073  
**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** NATIONAL ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER
J-ERAcenter

The National Energy Research Center (NERC) as a centre of excellence for EU–Jordan S & T cooperation: towards Jordan’s integration into the ERA

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ETRERA
Empowering Tunisian Renewable Energy Research Activities

Period: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2012
Total cost: EUR 1 062 744
Budget from EC: EUR 949 455
Contract number: 245563

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE
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Website: www.etrera.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The project idea is to improve S & T cooperation opportunities and relationships in the strategic field of renewable energy, and above all of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies and applications, between European Member States and Tunisia, especially by upgrading the research capacity of Tunisia and making visible the research activities to a larger European scientific public.

This project is also aimed at making the most of the fruitful interaction between scientists and students from the countries involved, which will lead to strengthened research capabilities, and at increasing awareness.

European energy policy aims to develop a European area for energy research, in order to overcome the fragmentation of energy research in Europe and to open itself to research institutions from third countries, encouraging cooperation and the pooling together of competences and resources in the domain of energy, biotechnologies, environment and materials. Moreover, in October 2008, the European Union and European industry announced plans to make fuel cells and hydrogen one of Europe’s leading new strategic energy technologies of the future. Fuel cells, as an efficient conversion technology, and hydrogen, as a clean energy carrier, have a great potential to help address energy challenges facing Europe.

The ETRERA project aims at networking two European research centres of excellence (CNR ITAE — Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto di Tecnologie Avanzate per l’Energia — and UN-Polytech — Polytechnic School of Nantes University), a research centre of Tunisia (CRTEn — Research and Technology Centre of Energy) and a business innovation centre (Innova BIC SpA).

All three research centres work in a complementary way on fuel cells and hydrogen technologies research and development. Fuel cells and hydrogen from renewable energy is a strategic global issue for facing the finite nature of conventional oil and natural gas reserves and for the need to control greenhouse gas emissions. The network of these three research entities is likely to be the seed of a future greater Euro-Mediterranean research network on renewable hydrogen and fuel cells.

ACTIVITIES

The action plan, foreseen to meet CRTEn’s emerging needs, encompasses the following activities.

▶ Exchange of know-how: Two-way secondments of staff from each research centre are planned in order to boost two-way know-how exchange. In the meantime, four seminars will be arranged, in order to train emerging young researchers, PhD students and post-doctoral researchers, belonging to CRTEn, working on identified research topics such as hydrogen from renewable energy production, fuel cell development and hydrogen storage.
▶ Recruitment: It will be carried out to increase research capacities and the human potential of CRTEn, by involving research
ENERGY

ETRERA

Empowering Tunisian Renewable Energy Research Activities

staff researchers with working or studying experience on fuel cell and hydrogen technologies-related fields.

- Improvement of S & T research equipments: CRTEn has potentialities to develop new materials for hydrogen and fuel cells applications. In addition to the standard material characterisation devices, these materials need to be tested in a real fuel cell device. According to these requirements, CNR ITAE and Polytech’ Nantes will help, in a ‘learning by doing’ process, to develop by themselves a fuel cell test station.

- Events’ organisation and attendance: The consortium will organise events in order to enhance knowledge transfer from the three research centres towards the international fuel cell and hydrogen community of researchers and industrial enterprises, above all belonging to MPCs and European countries. The participation of the three research centres’ staff in several international scientific conferences is also planned, aiming at enhancing a closer dialogue among international researchers belonging to the fuel cells and hydrogen technologies field.

- Dissemination activities: This consists of a set of actions aimed at increasing the visibility of the three entities and related research activities. These actions will aim at providing information on relevant activities and results of the projects through awareness activities and strategic dissemination tools and channels.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The expected results of the project can be resumed as follows:

- an increase of CRTEn research potentialities, as consequence of the know-how transfer, recruiting of researchers and the start-up of a new research group working on polymer electrolyte fuel cells;
- the start-up and future enlargement of a hydrogen and PEFC research network between the three research centres involved in the project;
- increased international visibility of the project partners and of their research activities;
- increased capacity of the partners in technology transfer and in attracting research and research funding, as consequence of the previous point.

At the end, by the project implementation, in addition to the expected results, the project partners will contribute to the hydrogen and fuel cell technologies diffusion and applications.

At a more global level, the project will have a strategic impact on the formulation of national policies regarding the governance of renewable energy, hydrogen and fuel cell research and applications. This will lead to the development of better policies that alleviate societal problems that developing countries face, such as energy availability, poverty and external debt.

For this reason the dissemination activities will be addressed not only to scientists, but will be open to organisations not directly involved in the project and to a wide public.
ETRERA

Empowering Tunisian Renewable Energy Research Activities

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RESSOL-MEDBUILD

RESearch Elevation on Integration of SOLar Technologies into MEDiterranean BUILDings

Period: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2012
Total cost: EUR 1 422 864
Budget from EC: EUR 999 945
Contract number: 245583

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: KENTRO ANANEOSIMON PIGON KE EXIKOMONIS ENERGEIAS (CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND SAVING)
Website: www.ressol-medbuild.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Mediterranean countries, including Jordan and Lebanon, face significant energy challenges which mainly emphasise their need to secure energy supply, to satisfy elevating electricity demand due to increasing demographics and economic development, and protect the environment. These challenges weigh more considering that Jordan and Lebanon have little indigenous energy resources. The exploitation of vast solar radiation of the Mediterranean countries could curb electricity demand and also provide a renewable source to generate power. In light of these facts, this project aims at the enhancement of the capacities of two Mediterranean organisations, the National Energy Research Center (NERC) of Jordan and the Lebanese Association for Energy Saving & for Environment (AL-MEE) in order to engage in high-quality research, implement research projects and provide scientific services in the fields of: (a) technological integration of solar heating and cooling and PV technologies (grid-connected and stand-alone) in buildings; (b) simulation models and optimisation of solar heating and cooling systems and PV technologies into building operations; and (c) energy modelling and decision support regarding energy planning on a municipal and regional scale, emphasising the adoption of PV and solar thermal technologies in buildings and oriented to support energy policy formulation.

ACTIVITIES

The capacity build will be provided by the Center for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES) and the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE) to the Mediterranean organisations. It will be targeted to improve scientific knowledge through secondments and training, recruit researchers, enhance equipment, create partnerships and disseminate at EU, Mediterranean, national and international levels.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

The capacity building will result in making the Mediterranean partners capable of conducting high-level research, networking, diffusing information, providing scientific services and exploiting their research products.
RESSOL-MEDBUILD

RESearch Elevation on Integration of SOLar Technologies into MEDiterranean BUILDings.

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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Experienced researchers from the Universities of Iasi, Brest, Jena, Manchester, Marrakech and Milano propose a Marie Curie initial training network on the theme ‘Deterministic and stochastic controlled systems and applications’. This project aims to unite the six teams with their complementary competences in:

- controlled systems: deterministic and stochastic control, game theory;
- stochastic equations: stochastic differential equations, stochastic partial differential equations, backward stochastic differential equations; and
- levy processes and fractal processes;

in order to investigate problems arising in the interaction between these competences and allowing for studying, in cooperation with our industrial partners (from the bank and insurance sector), related problems in:

- finance and insurance, and
- natural sciences, namely, the problem of transport in porous media.

ACTIVITIES

The early-stage researchers and the experienced researchers recruited by the network will be integrated from the early beginning in research projects between teams with complementary competences, which should allow them (as well as the qualified researchers from the different teams) to profit from synergy effects and find quite new answers to research problems.

Besides individual research training under the supervision of qualified researchers and a local training programme, the young researcher will also profit from network-wide training offers including:

- annual schools on subjects reflecting the different competences of the network teams,
- a first professional experience in research with one of our industrial partners; and
- workshops for presenting and discussing their results in research, and finding contacts with researchers outside the network as well as representatives of all the industrial partners of our network.
CONTROLLED SYSTEMS
Deterministic and Stochastic Controlled Systems and Applications

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ENERGY
Environment
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<td>GEO NETwork for capacity building</td>
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<td>Integrated Waste management in Western Africa</td>
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<td>SUSTAINERGYNET</td>
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<td>Integrating civil, scientific and stakeholder knowledge towards African sustainable energy policy</td>
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### Competence Building

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<td>Integrating Jordan into the European Research Area</td>
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<td>Improving National Capacities in Observation and Management of Marine Environment in Tunisia</td>
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<td>Reinforcing Capacity Building for Defending Biodiversity in the Palestinian territories</td>
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<td>Network in solid waste and water treatment between Europe and Mediterranean countries</td>
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<td>Textile Excellence in EU-MED Partners</td>
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<td>Morocco Research Advance in ICT for Water</td>
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### Infrastructure

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### Mobility

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<td>Microscopic Image Processing Analysis Coding and Modelling Environment</td>
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AFROMAISON

Africa at a meso-scale: Adaptive and integrated tools and strategies for natural resources management

OBJECTIVES AND BACKGROUND

Threats to the environment and natural resources, coupled with poor management, have serious implications for both poverty reduction and sustainable economic development. Degrading natural resources in Africa therefore result in an increased vulnerability of the poor as result of ecosystem stress, competition for space, soaring food and energy prices, climate change and demographic growth. Nowadays, it is widely accepted that reversing these trends calls for integrated management frameworks. Despite the availability of many tools, expertise, strategies, local practices and indigenous knowledge, the concept of INRM has hardly been brought into practice and the building blocks of INRM in many cases still needs to be integrated. AFROMAISON will make use of what is available regarding INRM and will contribute to a better integration of the components of INRM. In view of the decentralisation policy in Africa, we aim to focus on the operational requirements of INRM for sub-national (or meso-scale) authorities and communities.

ACTIVITIES

For the development of concrete operational strategies for adaptation to global change, AFROMAISON will focus on the three groups of tools: strategies for restoration and adaptation (including sustainable landscape intensification), economic tools and incentives for INRM and tools for spatial planning.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The main outputs of AFROMAISON are a toolbox, short-term to long-term strategies, quick wins (much gain with little effort) and operational strategies for adaptation to global change. In order to enhance the potential impact, we will put strong efforts into integrated capacity building and a solid dissemination strategy. In order to do so, we will integrate tools, frameworks, strategies and processes for landscape functioning, livelihood and socioeconomic development (including vulnerability to global change), local knowledge, institutional strengthening and improved interaction between sectors, scales and communities.
AFROMAISON

Africa at a meso-scale: Adaptive and integrated tools and strategies for natural resources management

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AGRICAB

A framework for enhancing EO capacity for Agriculture and Forest Management in Africa as a contribution to GEOSS

**OBJECTIVE**

AGRICAB aims to strengthen earth observation (EO) capacities in Africa by building on the open data sharing through GEONETCast, connecting the available satellite and other data with predictive models in order to facilitate integration in agriculture and forestry planning and management processes. Dedicated national applications in various African countries are designed to address particular policy issues related to livestock, crop systems and forest management.

**ACTIVITIES**

Through these applications, ‘twinning partnerships’ are developed between European and African partners, to maximise knowledge transfer and integration. These activities will be linked with Africa-wide management and research initiatives and programmes on forest and agriculture, and build on experiences from the GEONETCast for and by developing countries (DevCoCast) and Global Monitoring for Food Security (GMFS) projects.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Experience gained will form a good basis for regional trainings to the member states of the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS) in Tunisia, the Regional Centre for Mapping Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Kenya and the AGRHYMET regional centre in Niger, covering almost the entire African continent.

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**Period:** 01/10/2011 to 31/03/2015  
**Total cost:** EUR 4 119 543  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 3 499 234  
**Contract number:** 282621  

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** VLAAMSE INSTELLING VOOR TECHNOLOGISCH ONDERZOEK N.V.  
**Website:** http://www.agricab.info/software/Pages/VGTExtract.aspx
AGRICAB

A framework for enhancing EO capacity for Agriculture and Forest Management in Africa as a contribution to GEOSS

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ENVIRONMENT
CARBOCHANGE

Changes in carbon uptake and emissions by oceans in a changing climate

Period: 01/03/2011 to 28/02/2015
Total cost: EUR 9 556 960
Budget from EC: EUR 6 989 906
Contract number: 264879

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN ORGANISASJONSEDD
Website: http://www.carbochange.eu

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

CARBOCHANGE aims to provide the best possible process-based quantification of net ocean carbon uptake under changing climate conditions using past and present ocean carbon cycle changes for a better prediction of future ocean carbon uptake.

ACTIVITIES

The project aims at improving the quantitative understanding of key biogeochemical and physical processes through a combination of observations and models. It up-scales new process understanding to large-scale integrative feedbacks of the ocean carbon cycle to climate change and rising carbon dioxide concentrations. The project quantifies the vulnerability of the ocean carbon sources and sinks in a probabilistic sense using cutting-edge coupled earth system models under a spectrum of data assimilation methods as well as advanced performance assessment tools.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The results will be optimal process descriptions and most realistic error margins for future ocean carbon uptake quantifications with models under the currently available observational evidence. The project will deliver calibrated future evolutions of ocean pH and carbonate saturation as required by the research community on ocean acidification in the EU project EPOCA and other projects in this field. The timeline of past, present, and future atmosphere–ocean carbon fluxes will be synthesised globally as well as regionally for the transcontinental RECCAP project. Observations and model results will merge into GEOSS/GEO through links with the European coordination action COCOS and will prepare the marine branch of the European Research Infrastructure ICOS.
CARBOCHANGE
Changes in carbon uptake and emissions by oceans in a changing climate

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The project aims at determining the air pollution distribution and change in and around hotspots over the last decade from extensive satellite and in-situ observations. We will employ a series of different scale models in order to analyse the impacts of air pollution hotspots on regional and global air quality including potential future changes for various climate scenarios. The focus is on ozone and particulate matter with chemical and physical characterisation, and their precursors. The eastern Mediterranean (Istanbul, Athens, Cairo), the Po valley, the BeNeLux region, the Pearl River delta in China (with megacities Guangzhou and Hong Kong) and the hot and polluted European summer 2003 are chosen for intensive case studies.

ACTIVITIES

The consortium includes groups from China, Turkey, Greece and Italy, in addition to France, Germany, UK and Norway, with experts on observations, emission data and models. A set of chemical transport models which connect all the most important spatial and temporal scales will be developed and used to quantify how the observed air pollution arises. The models and emission inventories will be evaluated, errors identified and improved on the urban, regional and global spatial scales. Climate change may cause changes in air pollution in and around hotspots, and hotspot pollution can change precipitation and temperature/albedo. These feedbacks will be studied in scale-bridging model systems based on global climate model scenarios, and in a coupled high resolution chemistry–climate model. The model systems evaluated in the project will be applied to analyse mitigation options in and around hotspots, also taking into account climate change. Best available technologies and sectoral changes will be studied.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Several partners have key roles in the technical underpinning of policy. They will ensure that the improved emission inventories, scale-bridging model systems and the systematic observational evidence will have a significant, broad and lasting impact.
CITYZEN
megaCITY — Zoom for the ENvironment

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**Context and Objectives**

There are a large number of small communities and towns in Africa that suffer from severe problems with water supply and sanitation. Small communities in rural areas and peri-urban areas of small towns have comparable settlement structures in which the reuse of water and use of sanitation products can be utilised. However, there is only limited local capacity to adopt, implement and operate integrated water supply and sanitation. CLARA’s overall objective is to strengthen local capacities in the water supply and sanitation sector.

From a technological point of view, existing low cost technologies for decentralised water supply and sanitation systems shall be assessed and adapted to African conditions with the focus on reducing risks in the use and reuse of water and sanitation products, and providing demand-oriented water quality.

**Activities**

Based on these technological improvements and the experience gained from the FP6 projects ROSA and NETSSAF, a simplified planning tool for integrated water supply and sanitation systems for small communities and peri-urban areas shall be developed that incorporates the key factors for success, i.e. operational and maintenance issues and reuse potential, from the beginning of the planning process, and that can be tailored to available local capacities.

This simplified integrated CLARA planning tool shall then be tested and evaluated in various African regions to incorporate different economic, cultural and social boundary conditions.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

For the communities participating in the planning process, application documents will be prepared as a final output that serve as a basis to apply for funding for their implementation plans for integrated water supply and sanitation.
CLARA
Capacity-Linked water supply and sanitation improvement for Africa’s peri-urban and Rural Areas

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CLIMATE FOR CULTURE

Damage risk assessment, economic impact and mitigation strategies for sustainable preservation of cultural heritage in the times of climate change

THE CHALLENGE

Climate change is one of the most critical global challenges of our time. This factor, coupled with the increasing demands our society makes on energy and resources, has forced sustainable development to the top of the European political agenda. Scientific research shows that the preservation of the cultural heritage of Europe is particularly vulnerable to all three of these factors. As a non-renewable resource of intrinsic importance to the European identity, we need to develop more effective and efficient sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies in order to preserve these invaluable cultural assets for the long term future. More reliable assessments will lead to better prediction models, which in turn will enable preventive measures to be taken, thus reducing energy and the use of resources.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

For this purpose and for the first time ever, the CLIMATE FOR CULTURE project will connect completely new high-resolution climate change evolution scenarios with whole building simulation models to identify the most urgent risks for specific regions. The innovation lies in the elaboration of a more systematic and reliable damage/risk assessment which will be deduced by correlating the projected future climate data (with the spatial resolution of up to 10×10 km grid size) with whole building simulation models and new damage assessment functions. In situ measurements and investigations at cultural heritage sites throughout Europe will allow a much more precise and integrated assessment of the real damage impact of climate change on cultural heritage at regional scale.

Sustainable (energy and resource efficient) and appropriate mitigation/adaptation strategies, also from previous EU projects, will be further developed and applied on the basis of these findings simultaneously. All these results will be incorporated into the assessment of the economic costs and impacts.

EXPECTED RESULTS

To raise the awareness of decision-makers on what it would cost to take actions and what it would cost if actions are not taken to protect cultural heritage, the economic impact and physical risks to European cultural heritage will be identified.

To ensure that the results of this project are brought to the attention of policy- and decision-makers, a political dissemination board will be established, consisting of members of the European Parliament, national ministries and other representatives.

The final achievement of the project will be an economic impact report on cultural heritage in the times of climate change akin to the 2006 STERN report.

Such a report would be a truly European contribution to future IPCC Reports and would be suitable for integrating cultural heritage into the EU’s sustainable development strategy.

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
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CLIMATE FOR CULTURE

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CLIMB
Climate induced changes on the hydrology of Mediterranean basins: reducing uncertainty and quantifying risk through an integrated monitoring and modelling system

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

CLIMB aims to employ and integrate advanced field monitoring techniques, remote sensing analyses and retrievals, climate models auditing and integrated hydrologic modelling and socioeconomic factor assessment in a new conceptual framework to significantly reduce existing uncertainties in climate change impact analysis. During its four-year design, an analysis of climate change impacts on available water resources will be targeted on seven mesoscale river or aquifer systems in Italy (2), France, Tunisia, Turkey, Gaza and Egypt. Each of the selected sites includes one more of the following components, which cause a threat to future water security: high agricultural productivity, irrigation, heavy multi-source nutrient loads and pollution, seawater intrusion and growing water use rivalries.

METHODOLOGY

CLIMB comprises eight work packages (WP). WP 0 identifies and fosters the scientific synergies within a cluster with WASSERMed and CLICO and other topic-related projects. The ultimate goal of this WP is to establish a more focused and efficient policy outreach. WP 1 manages and coordinates the CLIMB consortium internally. WP2 develops and provides the common data infrastructure for and throughout the project. WPs 3 to 6 focus on scientific research, development and innovation of technologies. These WPs are interconnected by means of interfaces, dependencies and feedback loops to ensure an iterative reduction of uncertainty and a more accurate assessment of water-related ecological and economic risk. WP 7 is devoted to the interaction with stakeholders. It builds upon scientific progress and ensures a coherent dissemination of project findings.

EXPECTED RESULTS

CLIMB will develop a site-specific set of recommendations for an improved and integrated monitoring and modelling strategy for the assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources and use. Relevant sources of uncertainty in the data and modelling chain will be revealed, quantified and reduced. The integration of hydrological model results and socioeconomic factor analysis is intended for the development of a GIS-based modular vulnerability and risk assessment tool. This tool will serve as a platform for the dissemination of project results, including communication with and planning for regional agriculture and water resources experts and stakeholders as well as for the discussion and comparison of scientific results with teams working in the abovementioned cluster.
CLIMB

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Climate Local Information in the Mediterranean region: Responding to User Needs

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

CLIM-RUN aims at developing a protocol for applying new methodologies and improved modelling and downscaling tools for the provision of adequate climate information at regional to local scale that is relevant to and usable by different sectors of society (policymakers, industry, cities, etc.). The region of interest for the project is the greater Mediterranean area, which is particularly important for two reasons. First, the Mediterranean is a recognised climate change hotspot, i.e. a region particularly sensitive and vulnerable to global warming. Second, while a number of countries in central and northern Europe already have well-developed climate service networks in place (e.g. the United Kingdom and Germany), no such network is available in the Mediterranean.

**ACTIVITIES**

Differently to current approaches, CLIM-RUN will develop a bottom-up protocol directly involving stakeholders early in the process with the aim of identifying well-defined needs at the regional to local scale. The improved modelling and downscaling tools will then be used to optimally respond to these specific needs. The protocol will be assessed by applying it to relevant case studies involving interdependent sectors, primarily tourism and energy, and natural hazards (wildfires) for representative target areas (mountainous regions, coastal areas, islands).

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

CLIM-RUN is thus also intended to provide the seed for the formation of a Mediterranean basin-side climate service network which would eventually converge into a pan-European network. The general time horizon of interest for the project is the period 2010–2050, a time horizon that encompasses the contributions of both inter-decadal variability and greenhouse-forced climate change. In particular, this time horizon places CLIM-RUN within the context of a new emerging area of research, that of decadal prediction, which will provide a strong potential for novel research.
Climate Local Information in the Mediterranean region: Responding to User Needs

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DEWFORA

Improved Drought Early Warning and FORecasting to strengthen preparedness and adaptation to droughts in Africa

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The main aim of DEWFORA is to develop a framework for the provision of early warning and response to mitigate the impact of droughts in Africa. The proposal has been built to achieve three key targets:

- Improved monitoring: by improving knowledge on drought forecasting, warning and mitigation, and advancing the understanding of climate-related vulnerability to drought — both in the current and in the projected future climate.
- Prototype operational forecasting: by bringing advances made in the project to the pre-operational stage through development of prototype systems and piloting methods in operational drought monitoring and forecasting agencies.
- Knowledge dissemination: through a stakeholders platform that includes national and regional drought monitoring and forecasting agencies, as well as NGOs and IGOs, and through capacity-building programmes to help embed the knowledge gained in the community of African practitioners and researchers.

**ACTIVITIES**

To achieve these targets, the DEWFORA consortium brings together leading research institutes and universities; institutes that excel in the application of state-of-the-art science in the operational domain; operational agencies responsible for meteorological forecasting, drought monitoring and famine warning; and established knowledge networks in Africa. The consortium provides an excellent regional balance, and the skilled coordinator and partners have worked together in (European) research projects, implementation projects and capacity-building programmes, thus building efficiently on previous and ongoing projects in Europe and Africa.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The main impact of DEWFORA will be to increase the effectiveness of drought forecasting, warning and response. DEWFORA will provide guidance on how and where drought preparedness and adaptation should be targeted to contribute to increased resilience and improved effectiveness of drought mitigation measures.
DEWFORA
Improved Drought Early Warning and FORecasting to strengthen preparedness and adaptation to droughts in Africa

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THE CHALLENGE

Soil and land information is needed for policymaking, management of land resources and for monitoring the environmental impact of development. Soils are under threat from various human activities and comprehensive information on their attributes and response to management is essential. This information is lacking, both at European and global levels. The traditional data collection process is slow and expensive; a global earth observation system can plug the gaps in our knowledge faster, at a lower cost and deliver the information effectively to a wide range of users.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

E-SOTER will try to overcome technical barriers including quantitative mapping of landforms, soil parent material and soil attribute characterisation; pattern recognition using satellite images and sensors; and standardisation of measures of soil attributes collected by earlier surveys. E-SOTER will also create a web service to deliver soil information that can be used directly by policymakers and managers; it will publish the methods and techniques that have been used in order to provide relevant information.

METHODOLOGY

E-SOTER has two major research thrusts. First, the improvement of the information system at a continental scale (four windows at scale 1:1 million in western Europe, central Europe, Morocco and southern China) using moderate-resolution optical remote sensing systems to delineate geological units and to associate them statistically with existing soil parent material and soil information. Second, the development of advanced methodologies at a regional scale (three pilot areas at scale 1:250 000 in the UK, Germany/Czech Republic, and Morocco) using geomorphic landscape analysis, geological re-classified remote sensing, and remote sensing of soil attributes. End products will be a layer of soil information with standardised soil attributes for the 1:1 M and the 1:250 000 scale. The project will investigate the quality of the product. The project will also compare the evaluation of soil threats using both the E-SOTER database and existing data.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The end product will be a regional pilot platform with methodologies, concepts and applications that will support an enhanced database methodology at scale 1:1 million for Europe and the world. They will also forward ways of generating finer-scale maps of specific soil and terrain attributes, and digital data based on existing soil survey data and remote sensing. Finally, a framework for new, cost-effective programmes of field survey and monitoring is expected to be created. Several organisations will benefit from the new methodology and will be able to use the framework for data collection and monitoring. This will enable the enhancement of standard soil information at a European and national level, and decisions on land use and management will be based on better information.

The results will also contribute to the development of a global soil observing system in the context of the GEO initiative.
E-SOTER
Regional pilot platform as EU contribution to a Global Soil Observing System

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environment
FIRESENSE

Fire detection and management through a multi-sensor network for the protection of cultural heritage areas from the risk of fire and extreme weather conditions

FUNDING OFFERED

Period: 01/12/2009 to 30/11/2012
Total cost: EUR 3 609 027
Budget from EC: EUR 2 697 092
Contract number: 244088

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
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Website: www.firesense.eu

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

FIRESENSE aims to develop an integrated early warning system to remotely monitor areas of cultural interest for the risk of fire and extreme weather conditions. The system will integrate different technologies and multiple sensors: smoke and fire detection algorithms using optical and infrared sensors, novel wireless sensor networks (WSN), meteorological stations, data fusion techniques, fire propagation estimation and visualisation. The system will be demonstrated and evaluated in five cultural heritage sites in Greece, Turkey, Tunisia and Italy.

METHODOLOGY

FIRESENSE will take advantage of recent advances in multi-sensor surveillance technologies, using a wireless sensor network capable of monitoring different modalities (e.g. temperature, humidity), optical and infrared cameras as well as local weather stations on the deployment site. The signals collected from these sensors will be transmitted to a monitoring centre that will employ intelligent computer vision and pattern recognition algorithms as well as data fusion techniques to automatically analyse sensor information. It will be capable of generating automatic warning signals for local authorities whenever a dangerous situation arises.

FIRESENSE will provide real-time information about the evolution of fire using wireless sensor network data. Furthermore, it will estimate the propagation of the fire based on the fuel model of the area and other important parameters such as wind speed, slope, and aspect of the ground surface. Finally, a 3D geographic information system (GIS) environment will provide visualisation of the predicted fire propagation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Natural hazards do not respect national boundaries. Therefore, the FIRESENSE project will apply collaborative research at European level in order to contribute to the reduction of the uncertainty, the unpredictability and the consequences of natural hazards. Since the loss of a cultural heritage site is irreversible, there is great significance in integrating the technological components required for the protection of these sites. Therefore, the consortium of FIRESENSE will cooperate in order to develop a novel cost-efficient, non-destructive and non-intrusive system for the protection of cultural heritage from the risk of fire and extreme weather conditions. More specifically, the FIRESENSE project will:

▶ locate high risk areas before the outbreak of fires and prevent human casualties and property losses;
▶ protect forested areas of extreme cultural importance, which constitute a significant portion of historical heritage in many European countries and a basic asset on which tourism is built;
▶ specify appropriate actions when facing forest fires, which can result in better management of resources and reduced loss of forested areas;
▶ reduce losses caused by natural hazards and prevent man-made hazards (forest arsons) from happening;
▶ make a positive contribution to environmental issues, since forest fires are significant causes of air pollution, harmful carbon emissions, biodiversity loss through elimination of animal and plant species and water supply problems.
FIrSEnSE

Fire detection and management through a multi-sensor network for the protection of cultural heritage areas from the risk of fire and extreme weather conditions

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Forests under climate, social and economic changes in Europe, the Mediterranean and other fire-affected areas of the world

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Fire regimes result from interactions between climate, land-use and land-cover (LULC), and socioeconomic factors, among other. These have changed during the last decades, particularly around the Mediterranean. Our understanding of how they affected fire regimes in the past is limited. During this century, temperatures, droughts and heat waves will very likely increase, and rainfall decrease. These and other socioeconomic changes will affect LULC. Additional areas will be abandoned due to being unsuitable for agriculture or other uses. Fire dangers and fire hazards are very likely to increase, affecting fire regimes. FUME will learn from the past to understand future impacts.

ACTIVITIES

Mod. 1 will study how LULC and socioeconomic changes have changed and how climate and weather have affected fire in dynamically changing landscapes. Fires will be mapped throughout Europe to determine hazard burning functions for LULC types. Since climate has changed, an attempt to attribute (sensu IPCC) fire regime changes to climate, differentiating it from socioeconomic changes, will be made. Mod. 2 will produce scenarios of change (climate, including extremes, land-use land-cover, socioeconomic, vegetation) for various emissions pathways and three time-slices during this century. With these and results from Mod.1, projected impacts from models and field experiments on fire regime and vegetation vulnerabilities will be calculated, including climate extremes (drought, heatwaves). Mod. 3 will investigate adaptation options in fire and land management, including restoration. Fire prevention and firefighting protocols will be tested/developed under the new conditions for mitigating fire risks. A company managing fires will be a key player.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The costs and policy impacts of changes in fires will be studied. Research will focus on old and new fire areas, the rural interface, the whole of Europe and the Mediterranean, including all Mediterranean countries of the world. Users will be involved in training and other activities.
ENVIRONMENT

FUME

Forest fires under climate, social and economic changes in Europe, the Mediterranean and other fire-affected areas of the world

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FUME

Forest fires under climate, social and economic changes in Europe, the Mediterranean and other fire-affected areas of the world
LEDDRA

Land and Ecosystem Degradation and Desertification: Assessing the Fit of Responses

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

LEDDRA aims to advance the comprehensive study of the socio-environmental responses to land and ecosystem degradation and desertification (LEDD) in various contexts. It adopts the ecosystem approach and has an integrated methodology with continuous feedbacks between theory, methods and applications. It focuses on response assemblages (combinations of response types and prevailing environmental, socioeconomic and institutional conditions that contribute to or detract from sustainable land management and societal welfare), the associated costs and benefits to diverse stakeholders, barriers to and opportunities for adoption, and knowledge transfer processes. Optimal response assemblages comprise coordinated, mutually supportive and complementary measures that preserve the ecological and the community resilience of affected areas.

**ACTIVITIES**

LEDDRA develops the theory of responses to LEDD, in general, and in cropland, grazing land and forests/shrubland, in particular, and the study of knowledge transfer for diverse stakeholder types. It negotiates the links between land degradation, ecosystem services’ decline and biodiversity change, the links between biophysical and human determinants, welfare impacts, and responses to drought (drought preparedness).

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The project improves existing and develops new integrated methodologies for assessing the impacts and various types of responses to LEDD and the socio-ecological vulnerability of affected regions, and for identifying response assemblages in different European and other cultural-institutional contexts drawing on applications in selected sites in the EU and third partner countries. It analyses the policy context to offer recommendations for policy and land management actions at the international, EU and national levels. To better organise, show case, disseminate and add value to project results, a web-based information system will be developed to make findings accessible to a wide range of stakeholders with different levels of expertise.

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**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
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LEDDRA
Land and Ecosystem Degradation and Desertification: Assessing the Fit of Responses

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MEdInA

Marine Ecosystem Dynamics and Indicators for North Africa

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

MEdInA is designed to enhance northern African countries’ monitoring capacity of their coastal area ecosystems, including fish stock resources, and consequently their capacity to implement environmental policies, conventions and protocols. In response to this call for proposals and supported by a strong European partnership, MEdInA focuses on the Mediterranean coasts of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

The plan to enhance those countries’ monitoring capacity relies on a science and technology transfer approach, starting from the solid European partnership in Mediterranean coastal management and active participation across GEO activities and Communities of Practice.

**ACTIVITIES**

MEdInA plans to achieve its objectives by implementing and demonstrating a set of five thematic pilot case studies, based on the requirements identified during the project’s initial phase. Relevant data include satellite earth observations (EO), in situ monitoring networks, airborne and ground survey information as well as socioeconomic data, ecological analyses and national and regional cartographic datasets. Data availability to all parties will be ensured through the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI). Existing software components for data access, processing and modelling will be adapted to requirements gathered within MEDINA and integrated in the GCI. MEdInA will exploit the GCI capabilities populating its registries and complying with the GEOSS data sharing principles. In agreement with the GCI System of Systems philosophy, MEdInA will build on existing national capacities — represented in the project by key actors in ICZM — completing and advancing them, where necessary.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

MEdInA will mobilise such resources by assembling them in a dedicated e-infrastructure. Addressing user requirements, a set of specific tools will complete the platform to advance the scientific knowledge. These tools will enable MEdInA to assess the status of the coastal ecosystem, including fish stocks and marine habitats.
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Marine Ecosystem Dynamics and Indicators for North Africa

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MEDSEA
MEDiterranean Sea Acidification in a changing climate

**Period:** 01/02/2011 to 31/01/2014  
**Total cost:** EUR 4,824,147  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 3,490,169  
**Contract number:** 265103

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** UNIVERSITAT AUTÔNOM ADE BARCELONA  
**Website:** http://www.medsea-project.eu

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Increases of atmospheric CO$_2$ and associated decreases in seawater pH and carbonate ion concentration this century and beyond are likely to have wide impacts on marine ecosystems including those of the Mediterranean Sea. A consequence of this process, ocean acidification, threatens the health of the Mediterranean, adding to other anthropogenic pressures, including those from climate change. Yet in comparison to other areas of the world’s oceans, there has been no concerted effort to study Mediterranean acidification, which is fundamental to the social and economic conditions of more than 130 million people living along its coastlines and another 175 million who visit the region each year.

**ACTIVITIES**

The MedSeA project addresses ecological and economic impacts from the combined influences of anthropogenic acidification and warming, while accounting for the unique characteristics of this key region. MedSeA will forecast chemical, climatic, ecological-biological, and socioeconomical changes of the Mediterranean driven by increases in CO$_2$ and other greenhouse gases, while focusing on the combined impacts of acidification and warming on marine shell and skeletal building, productivity, and food webs. An interdisciplinary approach will be followed involving biologists, earth scientists, and economists, through observations, experiments, and modelling. These experts will provide science-based projections of Mediterranean acidification under the influence of climate change as well as associated economic impacts. Projections will be based on new observations of chemical conditions as well as new observational and experimental data on the responses of key organisms and ecosystems to acidification and warming, which will be fed into existing ocean models that have been improved to account for the Mediterranean’s fine-scale features.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

These scientific advances will allow the best advice to be provided to policymakers who must develop regional strategies for adaptation and mitigation.
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MIRAGE
Mediterranean Intermittent River Management

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The implementation of the WFD in catchments with temporary rivers presents a significant challenge for watershed managers. The MIRAGE project will, for the first time, comprehensively investigate the applicability of specific management options under the characteristic flush and drought conditions of temporary streams. Through investigations in seven basins, MIRAGE will provide a framework for managing the many Mediterranean waterbodies dominated by temporary waters. MIRAGE will deploy a multi-scale approach to improve understanding of temporary river responses to hydrological, biogeochemical and sediment transport events.

**ACTIVITIES**

The principal research and project objectives of MIRAGE are to: (1) provide an applicable and transferable set of reference conditions for temporary streams, specifically linking terrestrial and aquatic ecology; (2) determine the effects of dry periods on the accumulation and transformation of nutrients, sediments and hazardous substances on land and in river channels, at selected sites with test catchments; (3) specify and test measures to support the achievement of good ecological and water quality status' including the integration of up- and downstream management. This will be done initially for the two mirror basins, Candelaro (Italy) and Evrotas (Greece), in close cooperation with local water management organisations; and (4) support the implementation of the WFD and the development of strategies for integrated water resources management for Mediterranean river basins, generalising from the mirror basins on the basis of modern eco-hydrology concepts, in the context of characterising run-off regimes and flood responses on a regional basis.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

Five other Mediterranean catchments, including one in Morocco, will be the primary focus for this work. The transfer of experience and the establishment of common guidelines are considered to provide significant support for WFD implementation across the region.

**Period:** 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2011  
**Total cost:** EUR 5 595 890  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 3 498 479  
**Contract number:** 211732  
**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** STICHTING DIENST LANDBOUWKUNDIG ONDERZOEK  
**Website:** http://www.mirage-project.eu/news.php
MIRAGE
Mediterranean Intermittent River Management

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NIKER

New Integrated Knowledge-based approaches to the protection of cultural heritage from Earthquake-induced Risk

THE CHALLENGE

The project aims at developing and validating innovative materials and technologies for the systemic improvement of the seismic behaviour of cultural heritage assets. This will be accomplished through the development of an integrated methodology, which includes design methods and innovative monitoring and early warning techniques.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Creation of a database with new relational structure, with the task of orienting and assisting the development of advanced materials and innovative techniques.
- Experimental testing, numerical simulation and derivation of design methods for vertical and horizontal structural elements, for connections and for the overall seismic behaviour of buildings.
- Development of knowledge-based assessment procedures and final validation of the entire methodology on real case studies. Guidelines for end users.

METHODOLOGY

The project will develop a new integrated methodology aiming at improving the general safety level and reducing the loss of artistic value, where the increased participation of end users and the formulation of new competitive solutions to the construction sector are fostered. Such a methodology inevitably relies on a multidisciplinary approach for the development of innovative materials and systems for low-intrusiveness and compatible interventions. The methodology makes use of nanotechnology for the development of mortars and grouts, also taking into account the substrate they are meant to be applied to.

It is based on the innovative use of steel reinforced polymers/steel reinforced grout (SRP/SRG) materials; on the definition of new application methods and design rules for fibre reinforced polymers (FRP); on the development of compatible techniques for horizontal and vertical elements and their connections; and on the advancement of innovative dissipative devices for anchors and tying.

EXPECTED RESULTS

On the basis of real application conditions, the project aims at developing and validating complete and diversified innovative technologies and tools for the systemic improvement of the seismic behaviour of cultural heritage assets. These materials and technologies will at the same time ensure effectiveness, economic application and maintenance, low-intrusiveness towards the existing structure, respect of authenticity and of the original structural concept, and high structural performance and improvement of seismic behaviour. The optimisation of the collaboration between old and new materials and elements and the sensitivity and compatibility of the interventions is also expected. Furthermore, the project intends to provide optimised design methods, advanced monitoring and early warning techniques for knowledge-based assessment and intelligent interventions. The final objective is to enable the cost-efficient and reliable mitigation of potential damages to cultural heritage assets caused by earthquakes.
NIKER

New Integrated Knowledge-based approaches to the protection of cultural heritage from Earthquake-induced Risk

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PEGASO
People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing sustainable development of Ocean and Coast

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Many efforts have been deployed for developing Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. Both basins have suffered and continue to suffer from severe environmental degradation. In many areas this has led to unsustainable trends which have impacted on economic activities and human well-being. Important progress was made with the launch of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea in January 2008.

The main objective of PEGASO is to build on existing capacities and develop common novel approaches to support integrated policies for the coastal, marine and maritime realms of the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins in ways that are consistent with and relevant to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea. PEGASO is consistent with the frameworks of the Barcelona and Bucharest conventions which seek to achieve a coordinated approach to sustainable resource management and development, and to protect these regional seas and the quality of life of their peoples. It also continues ICZM efforts, supporting new marine and maritime policies.

**METHODOLOGY**

PEGASO will use the model of the existing ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea and adjust it to the needs of the Black Sea through three innovative actions.

- Construct an ICZM governance platform as a bridge between scientist and end-user communities, going far beyond a conventional bridging. The building of a shared scientific and end-user platform is at the heart of our proposal linked with new models of governance.
- Refine and further develop efficient and easy to use tools for making sustainability assessments in the coastal zone (indicators, accounting methods and models, scenarios). They will be tested and validated in a multi-scale approach for integrated regional assessment.
- Implement a spatial data infrastructure (SDI), following the INSPIRE directive, to organise and standardise spatial data to support information sharing on an interactive visor, to make it available to the ICZM platform, and to disseminate all results of the project to the end users and interested parties.

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

- **EU ICZM recommendation (2002–07) and ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean:** Review of the set of ICZM indicators dealing with land and its interface to the sea. Updating of the ICZM indicators to measure sustainable development of the coast and building of an indicator of progress in ICZM. Stocktaking to know how countries are prepared for implementation. Building of a governance platform, sustainability tools and SDI.
‘ecological potential’. Measurement of impacts from some maritime activities.

- **Maritime spatial planning**: Stocktaking of maritime activities and future scenarios. Identification and assessment of cumulative impacts on key spaces. Participative decision making for spatial maritime planning.

- **Climate change adaptation (EU Green Paper)**: Methodology for vulnerability and risk assessment in coastal zones. Guidelines for adaptation and mitigation strategies.


- **Fisheries (especially ecosystem-based management)**: Spatial integrated indicators and assessment on this issue. Accounting of ecosystem services such as aquaculture.

- **Horizon 2020**: Mapping of urban growth and scenarios. Water use and management.

- **SEA directive**: Development of impact indicators. Identification of main future threats and priorities to mitigate them or to adapt. Production of tools to be used in assessments.

- **Cohesion funds**: Identification of most vulnerable areas and issues for funding.
PEGASO
People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast

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PERPETUATE

Performance-based approach to the earthquake protection of cultural heritage in European and Mediterranean countries

PERPETUATE intends to develop European guidelines for the evaluation and mitigation of seismic risk to cultural heritage assets, with innovative techniques for the seismic strengthening of historical buildings and the preservation of artworks (frescos, stucco works, statues, battlements, banisters). Two problems are considered: (a) assessment of a single cultural heritage asset (hazard analysis; soil foundation problems; investigations for the building knowledge; seismic analysis; SHM and strengthening interventions); and (b) policy initiatives for seismic risk mitigation (simplified vulnerability and risk analysis at territorial scale).

ACTIVITIES

The methodology proposed in PERPETUATE will use a displacement-based approach for the vulnerability evaluation and the design of interventions. The use of safety verification in terms of displacement, rather than strength, orients to new strengthening techniques and helps in the comprehension of the interaction between structural elements and unmovable artistic assets.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The key deliverables of the project will be a main document which outlines the safety and conservation conceptual approach and the overall methodology, and other specific documents describing the different components of the risk analysis. Other important deliverables will derive from the application and validation of the methodology in several case studies (the Citadel of Algiers and the historical centre of Rhodes, both on the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage, the St Maria Paganica Cathedral and the Ardinghelli Palace in l’Aquila (Abruzzo region), the St Pardo Cathedral in Larino (Molise region), and the Kolizei Palace in Ljubljana (Slovenia). The recommendations recently issued by the Italian Ministry of Culture represent the framework for the development of European guidelines, applicable in European and other Mediterranean countries.

KEYWORDS:

Cultural heritage and earthquake protection, performance-based assessment, masonry buildings.
PERPETUATE

Performance-based approach to the earthquake protection of cultural heritage in European and Mediterranean countries

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**SHARE**

Seismic Hazard Harmonisation in Europe

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

SHARE will deliver measurable progress in all steps leading to a harmonised assessment of seismic hazard — in the definition of engineering requirements, in the collection and analysis of input data, in procedures for hazard assessment, and in engineering applications. SHARE will create a unified framework and computational infrastructure for seismic hazard assessment and produce an integrated European probabilistic seismic hazard assessment (PSHA) model and specific scenario-based modelling tools.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The results of SHARE will have long-lasting structural impacts in areas of societal and economic relevance; they will serve as a reference for the Eurocode 8 application, and will provide homogeneous input for the correct seismic safety assessment for critical industry, such as energy infrastructures and the re-insurance sector. SHARE will cover the whole European territory, the Maghreb countries in the southern Mediterranean and Turkey in the eastern Mediterranean.
SHARE
Seismic Hazard Harmonisation in Europe

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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Historic structures are often of extraordinary architecture, design or material. The conservation of such structures for future European generations is an important task. To conserve historic structures, it is increasingly necessary to understand the deterioration processes, which are mainly caused by the environment. In certain cases continuous monitoring systems have been installed to obtain information about the deterioration processes. However, most of these monitoring systems were just weather or air pollution data acquisition systems and used only basic models for data analysis. The real influence of the environment on the structure or structural material is often unaccounted for. This means that the structural resistance is only calculated from the measurements and is not determined by sufficient sensors. Another aspect is the fact that most monitoring systems require cabling, which is neither aesthetically appealing nor in some cases applicable due to the necessary fastening techniques. The project aims to develop competitive tools for practitioners which go beyond the mere accumulation of data.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Comparative tests will be conducted to validate the models as well as the monitoring data from several case studies. The results of the project will be summarised in a toolbox and guidelines, which will be disseminated at special trainings organised for restorers, owners of cultural heritage and public authorities.

ACTIVITIES

Smart monitoring systems using wireless sensor networks, new miniature sensor technologies (e.g. MEMS) for minimally invasive installation as well as smart data processing will be developed. It will provide help in the sense of warnings (e.g. increase of damaging factors) and recommendations for action (e.g. ventilation or heating on/off, etc.) using data fusion and interpretation that is implemented within the monitoring system. The development will consist of small, smart wireless and robust sensors and networks, with sensors for monitoring of e.g. temperature, humidity, air velocity, strain and crack opening, acoustic emissions, vibration, inclination, chemical attack, ambient and UV light, with built-in deterioration and material models, data pre-processing, and alarm functions to inform those responsible about changes to the object status.
SMO OHS
Smart Monitoring of Historic Structures

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ENVIRONMENT
WAHARA

Water Harvesting for Rainfed Africa: investing in dryland agriculture for growth and resilience

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Water harvesting technologies play a key role in bringing about an urgently needed increase in agricultural productivity, and to improve food and water security in rural areas. WAHARA will take a transdisciplinary approach to develop innovative, locally-adapted water harvesting solutions with wider relevance for rain-fed Africa.

**ACTIVITIES**

The project emphasises:

- participatory technology design, i.e. selecting and adapting technologies that have synergies with existing farming systems and that are preferred by local stakeholders, yet tap from a global repertoire of innovative options;
- sustainable impact, i.e. technologies that combine multiple uses of water, green and blue water management, and integrated water and nutrient management; using models, water harvesting systems will be designed for maximum impact without compromising downstream water users, contributing to sustainable regional development;
- integration and adaptability, i.e. paying attention to the generic lessons to be learned from local experiences, and developing guidelines on how technologies can be adapted to different conditions;
- learning and action, i.e. a strategy will be developed to enable learning and action from successes achieved locally: (a) within a region, to upscale from water harvesting technologies to water harvesting systems, and (b) across regions, promoting knowledge exchange at continental scale.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

Water harvesting technologies enhance water buffering capacity, contributing to the resilience of African drylands to climate variability and climate change, as well as to socioeconomic changes such as population growth and urbanisation. To ensure the continental relevance of project results, research will concentrate on four geographically dispersed study sites in Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Zambia, covering diverse socioeconomic conditions and a range from arid to sub-humid climates.
WAHARA

Water Harvesting for Rainfed Africa: investing in dryland agriculture for growth and resilience

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WASSERMED
Water availability and security in southern Europe and the Mediterranean

Period: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2012
Total cost: EUR 3 669 943
Budget from EC: EUR 2 933 973
Contract number: 244255

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: CENTRO EURO-MEDITERRANEO PER I CAMBIAMENTI CLIMATICI SCARL
Website: http://www.wassermed.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The WASSERMed project will analyse, in a multidisciplinary way, ongoing and future climate-induced changes in hydrological budgets and extremes in southern Europe, north Africa and the Middle East in the framework of threats to national and human security. A climatic and hydrological component directly addresses the reduction of uncertainty and the quantification of risk. This component will provide an interface to other climatological projects and models, producing climate change scenarios for the Mediterranean and southern Europe, with special emphasis on precipitation.

ACTIVITIES

Five case studies will be considered: (1) Syros island (Greece), (2) Sardinia island (Italy), (3) Merguellil watershed (Tunisia), (4) Jordan river basin, and (5) Nile river system (Egypt). The case studies are illustrative and represent situations which deserve special attention, due to their relevance to national and human security. Furthermore, impacts on key strategic sectors, such as agriculture and tourism, will be considered, as well as macroeconomic implications of water availability in terms of regional income, consumption, investment, trade flows, industrial structure and competitiveness.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

WASSERMed is an interdisciplinary project, which integrates climate change scenarios, holistic water system modelling and interdisciplinary impact assessment, with three main contributions.

- Integration of climate change scenarios, holistic water system modelling. This provides results for reducing uncertainties of climate change impacts on hydrology in the identified regions.
- Interdisciplinary approach, coupling macroeconomic implications and technical indicators. This provides a better assessment of climate effects on water resources, water uses and expected security risks.
- A proposal for specific adaptation measures for key sectors of the Mediterranean economy. This provides a better basis for achieving water security.
WASSERMED
Water availability and security in southern Europe and the Mediterranean

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**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

BAT4MED is a 30-month project, whose main objective is to ensure a higher level of environmental protection of the Mediterranean region, minimising the negative impacts associated with the activities of the key industrial sectors. With this aim, the possibilities for and impact of diffusing the EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control approach to the Mediterranean partner countries (MPC) will be assessed and the implementation of best available techniques in the national environmental programmes will be promoted and supported. BAT4MED aims to help implement the EU’s technologies action plan by supporting the transfer and uptake of environmental technologies in developing countries. Industrial pollution processes account for a considerable share of the overall pollution in the Mediterranean region. Though awareness of environmental issues related to industrial pollution has notably grown in the last decades, pollution monitoring shows that positive results have hardly been achieved. The goal of the project justifies its transnational dimension, since pollution in the Mediterranean has a global dimension and cannot be tackled separately by each single country.

**ACTIVITIES**

The project brings together eight organisations from six countries: four organisations from three EU Member States (Spain, Belgium, Italy), three from three MPC (Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco) and one international organisation based in Egypt to build mutual understanding through established networking in industrial pollution prevention and control.

Firstly, BAT4MED will analyse the industrial context in the MPC to select the most promising sectors with the highest environmental benefit potential. Secondly, a methodology for BAT assessment will be designed and applied and BAT will be selected for each identified sector taking into account local conditions. Lastly, an analysis of potential convergence of MPC policies with the EU approach will be carried out. The project includes an ambitious set of awareness creation and dissemination activities.
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**GEONETCAB**

**GEO NETwork for capacity building**

**Period:** 01/11/2009 to 31/10/2012  
**Total cost:** EUR 1 207 861  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 999 988  
**Contract number:** 244172

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the GEO network for capacity building (GEO-Net-CaB) project is to create the conditions for the improvement and increase of the GEO capacity-building activities and framework, with special emphasis on developing countries, new EU Member States (and EU neighbouring countries) and climate monitoring. It will also target the broader goal of improved effectiveness and efficiency of GEO capacity building for application in the GEO societal benefit areas.

**ACTIVITIES**

Coinciding with this objective, successful brokerage with (potential) clients for earth observation products and services will be facilitated. To achieve maximum impact, demonstration projects will be carried out in southern Africa, the French-speaking African region, the Czech Republic and Poland, with spin-offs to EU neighbouring countries, Latin America and Asia. The project (with a duration of three years) will be carried out by a strong consortium of partners from the Netherlands, France, South Africa, Morocco, the Czech Republic and Poland, supervised by an advisory board with worldwide representation and strong connections to GEO.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The project will deliver the following outputs:

- identification (at a generic and global level, but with emphasis on the target regions) of capacity building needs in earth observation;
- a description of specifications for earth observation capacity buildings;
- identification of resource providers;
- establishment of sustainable brokerage between stakeholders (including resource providers);
- establishment of a mechanism to facilitate cooperation between stakeholders and providers;
- establishment of a global base of technical expertise for education and training in earth observation (with emphasis on developing countries, new EU Member States and climate monitoring);
- establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for determining the efficacy of GEO capacity-building efforts.
GEONETCAB

GEO NETwork for capacity building

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### CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Most African countries are struggling to develop and improve their living conditions. An appropriate waste management structure at a national and regional level is a milestone that must be achieved in order to improve living standards, health and the environment. The situation in many countries is that the obvious lack of a functional waste management system brings perennial garbage problems such as inefficient garbage collection, poor public compliance to waste segregation, uncontrolled open burning, and tolerated presence of open dump sites. Furthermore, valuable resources are lost due to inefficient or non-existing recycling systems. The establishment of an efficient waste management and recycling system contributes to enhancing the resource efficiency of these countries and thus supports sustainable development in the long term. The present Coordination Action will seek the establishment of integrated solid waste management systems (ISWM) in western Africa. ISWM systems combine waste streams, waste collection, and treatment and disposal methods, with the objective of achieving environmental benefits, economic optimisation and societal acceptability.

### ACTIVITIES

To achieve the project objectives, a solid waste management expert and research coordination platform will analyse the current situation in the targeted countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Ivory Coast), identifying the main gaps and constraints of any type (technological, sociological, organisational, etc.) and selecting suitable management systems. According to the results obtained, including inputs from authorities and policymakers in participatory workshops, the consortium will provide valuable guidelines and recommendations to be used in the future implementation of developed strategies such as national and regional action plans on solid waste management. The project will also build local capacities through workshops and seminars where relevant stakeholders must be involved.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

The tools to be developed in IWWA will empower stakeholders in two ways: (1) providing technological and organisational solutions which are adapted to their needs; and (2) setting up the basis of a legal framework which enables and promotes the implementation of improved and sustainable solid waste management systems. The project will contribute to the improvement of solid waste management systems in western Africa, by promoting appropriate management policies at national and regional levels as well as in the design of waste management practices, with the support of African and European experts. IWWA outputs will be included in the following reports.

- Guidelines for participatory planning processes in Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM).
- Recommendations for the development of National and Regional Action Plans in each target country.
ENVIRONMENT

IWWA
Integrated Waste management in Western Africa

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SUSTAINERGYNET

Integrating civil, scientific and stakeholder knowledge towards African sustainable energy policy

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Sustainable development is closely linked to the issues of environment and energy and their interdependencies. Sustainable economic growth and social development are only possible if secure, constant and equal access to energy sources is guaranteed. However, intensive energy use is likely to present serious implications for the environment and the climate. Especially in developing countries, the promotion of sustainable energy options is necessary to tackle these challenges. In Africa, civil society organisations (CSO) have been particularly active in addressing sustainable development and energy management over the last 15 years. While presenting important representatives for social needs and concerns, their actual impact on research policy agenda setting has, however, been low as yet.

**ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

In line with the EU’s commitments to strengthening civil participation and to promoting a global approach to the issue of sustainable development, SustainergyNet aims to promote the engagement of CSOs in Africa in the field of research policy agenda setting concerning sustainable and efficient energy management. In this perspective, the project will elaborate and suggest ways on how to encourage and facilitate the cooperation between CSOs and RTD performers. This will be based on the assessment of current settings and frameworks that already exist, the formulation of recommendations and best practices and the presentation of a specific facility (‘CSO Involvement Net’) that shall support CSOs towards actively contributing to research and policy processes.
SUSTAINERGYNET

Integrating civil, scientific and stakeholder knowledge towards African sustainable energy policy

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INCAM

Improving national assessment and monitoring capacities for integrated environmental and coastal ecosystem management

**Period:** 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2012  
**Total cost:** EUR 560 640  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 499 904  
**Contract number:** 265419

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
**Website:** http://www.incam-cnrs.eu

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The project contributes to increasing Lebanon’s capacity in important environmental concerns based on a regional approach that assesses the anthropological impacts on natural resources. As a bottom-up project, INCAM will first support the collection of existing research data to assess the status of natural resources and identify knowledge gaps in environmental assessment capacities, especially in the intensively developed Lebanese coastal zones.

**ACTIVITIES**

A detailed action plan will be developed to strengthen institutional capacities of the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) and convert it into a national and regional research centre of excellence. Later on, the project will enhance EU-regional cooperation and networking by increasing the role of the EC in general and of the FP7 in particular. Special attention is given to training and dissemination. Two regional workshops on environmental institutional capacity building will be organised in Jordan and Egypt. This last event will tackle issues related to integrated coastal zone management more deeply and will be combined with the final project conference which is open to national, regional, international and EU stakeholders. Local dissemination and public awareness activities will be organised in critical hotspot areas in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The main outcome will be to increase the leading scientific role of CNRS and its centres and the productive exchange of experts between the regions and the EU. Short training courses will be organised for Lebanese researchers in the EU Member States and young students will pursue MSc theses in Italy. The project duration will be 24 months. The lead organisation is CNRS-Lebanon and the other two partners are the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (IAM-B), Italy and Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) of Toulouse, France.
INCAM
Improving national assessment and monitoring capacities for integrated environmental and coastal ecosystem management

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IJERA

Integrating Jordan into the European Research Area

**Period:** 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2012  
**Total cost:** EUR 544 499  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 498 544  
**Contract number:** 266514  

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** ROYAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY  
**Website:** http://www.ijera.jo

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The IJERA project aims to strengthen the capacities of the Environment Monitoring and Research Central Unit at the Royal Scientific Society (EMARCU/RSS) in Jordan while realising it as an international centre of excellence. It will also reinforce the cooperation capacities and research activities in Jordan’s water sector by defining water research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European water research initiatives and inclusion in the Euro–Mediterranean research and innovation area.

The specific objectives of IJERA project are: reinforcement of EMARCU’s cooperation capacities, dissemination of water-related research results, internationalisation and coordination between research and business sectors, enhancement of EU–Jordan S & T partnerships in water research, capacity building for solving specific water issues, strengthening of EMARCU, and setting-up of Jordan's environmental NCP.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The main impact of IJERA will be increased capacities of the EMARCU and the structuring and enhancement of the existing EU-Jordan support landscape in the domain of water S & T cooperation in a threefold way: (i) by supporting the participation of Jordan in the FP7’s water research area, (ii) by knitting together all relevant support schemes, and (iii) by facilitating both the uptake of common identified water research areas and the monitoring of the performance and impacts of this cooperation.
IJERA

Integrating Jordan into the European Research Area

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CB-WR-MED
Capacity Building for direct Water Reuse in the Mediterranean area

**Context and Objectives**

In the Mediterranean region, pressure on water resources is high, so there is no water to waste. Water is becoming a limiting factor for agricultural, and even for industrial, development. Treated wastewater is part of the community’s water resources and one component of a sustainable water management approach. The direct reuse, instead of wastewater discharge in the network, reduces the costs of treatment and the throwing of biological recalcitrant compounds into water streams. To reach this objective, water treatment should target: (i) pollutants degradation, (ii) multi-purpose water use, and (iii) sustainability of the technologies. The reinforcement of cooperation between EU and ENP countries is necessary to implement sustainable water management.

The project proposes to use the framework of the FP7 programme ERA-WIDE to reinforce the cooperation capacities of the Centre of Water Researches and Technologies (CERTE), a Tunisian research centre, in specific areas where CERTE already has expertise to build on its competency and capacity. The topic ‘wastewater treatment for elimination of recalcitrant compounds allowing multiuse of the water and direct recycling and avoiding pollution of water system’ is considered the leitmotiv of this project.

**Activities**

The project will focus on the reinforcement of the R & D capacities of CERTE, as well as its regional and international impact, with the ultimate goal that R & D activities lead to a fruitful cooperation with the EU for sustainable water management in accordance with national and European strategies.

Much effort is needed to build cooperation to develop appropriate sustainable water management. Still, high attention is given to capacity building on EC cooperation and scientific research through workshops, trainings, technical visits and pilot plants upgrading. Networking and dissemination to bring the results of these efforts to effective cooperation include construction of a web platform, network and international conference.

**Period:** 01/11/2010 to 30/04/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 549 064  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 490 665  
**Contract number:** 266609  

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** CENTRE DE RECHERCHES ET DES TECHNOLOGIES DES EAUX  
**Website:** http://www.cbwrmed.eu/
**CB-WR-MED**

Capacity Building for direct Water Reuse in the Mediterranean area

**COORDINATOR**

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SUDSOE
Characterisation and Sustainable use of Egyptian Degraded Soils

Period: 01/01/2012 to 30/06/2014
Total cost: EUR 499 195
Budget from EC: EUR 499 195
Contract number: 295031

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR REMOTE SENSING AND SPACE SCIENCES
Website: http://www.narss.sci.eg/

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

This project will reinforce the ability of the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS) in Cairo, Egypt, to enhance its performance through the activities of capacity building. Overall, the objectives of SUDSOE are as follows.

▶ To clearly identify existing economic potentials and needs to be addressed by NARSS in order to develop the corresponding action plan that will properly interact with local and international stakeholders and revert to the socioeconomic needs concerning the sustainable use of degraded and polluted soils.
▶ To strengthen and enlarge existing NARSS human resources and their capabilities for the implementation of soil regulations, having as a reference the EU directive for the sustainable use of soils, in close collaboration and know-how exchange with three research institutions from Spain, Sweden and the Czech Republic facing the problem of degraded soils.
▶ To hire experienced researchers to reinforce the human potential of NARSS. Due to the enlargement of the activities of private particular laboratories, NARSS increasingly suffers from the lack of human potential. Therefore, SUDSOE plans to hire senior research scientists specialised in the project topics to foster both research and service activities that will increase NARSS’ resources to make such activities sustainable.
▶ To retain the best research professionals at NARSS (‘brain gain’) and to attract experienced researchers from abroad to reinforce know-how and experience implementation.
▶ To gain first-hand knowledge of the state-of-the-art in specific areas of solid waste and waste water treatment technologies research that are of interest to both the EU and MED as a basis for this joint research and to establish a research agenda based on the pre-selected scientific topics of interest and any others to be selected during the project. Identify best practice amongst the partners in the selected research fields and define strategies to transfer this know-how to other interested laboratories.
▶ To strengthen existing and establish new collaborations between involved complementary research groups by transferring and sharing the experience and expert knowledge, with the aim of building an interdisciplinary SUDSOE network of excellence as a prerequisite for the formation of a research-driven cluster — the waste cluster initiative — with similar projects in the region dealing with the environment. As a result of this cooperation, two research project proposals are planned to be submitted under FP7 (specific programmes Environment, and Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies).
To foster the collaboration between NARSS and external partners from public and private sectors at both national and international level, improving technology transfer activities by the appropriate support between NARSS and industrial partners. In this context, the WCI (EU waste cluster initiative) will be a specific key tool to accomplish this objective.

To increase the technical capacity of the applicant for future research activities. This will include training on the monitoring of environmental quality indicators for both soil characterisation and the sustainable use of degraded soils, and will extend the research performance to improve environmental issues and achieve leadership in the Mediterranean area concerning the sustainable use of degraded soils.

To provide specific support for the sustainable use of Egyptian degraded soils related to the development of a directive for the sustainable use of soils, by monitoring environmental quality indicators. This will contribute to national and regional sustainable socioeconomic development by generating new services concerning the potential sustainable use of degraded soils.

To disseminate results of the SUDSOE project to both regulation authorities and end users, stakeholders, managers and decision makers, using a wide and diverse range of target instruments in the designed promotional kit. Such activities will increase the visibility of the applicant’s excellence in S & T research of the Mediterranean (MED) research area. The WCI will play a specific role for the visibility of SUDSOE activities.
SUDSOE
Characterisation and Sustainable use of Egyptian Degraded Soils

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INCOMMET

Improving National Capacities in Observation and Management of Marine Environment in Tunisia

Period: 01/01/2012 to 30/12/2015
Total cost: EUR 813 918
Budget from EC: EUR 499 962
Contract number: 295009

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: INSTITUT NATIONAL DES SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES DE LA MER

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The INCOMMET project, coordinated by the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM), the major public research institution in Tunisia in the field of oceanography and marine environments, and also involving the University of the Mediterranean (UNIVMED, France) and the Zoological Station of Naples (SZN, Italy) aims at increasing research excellence and visibility of INSTM, and fostering its participation into ERA.

ACTIVITIES

INCOMMET is structured in 6 WP providing ideal conditions to achieve its goals. To reinforce the management capacity of INSTM with EU projects, a twinned management will be ensured by INSTM and the European Research Grant Unit of UNIVMED. The consortium will make a scientific literature review on Mediterranean areas close to Tunisia and will undertake a SWOT analysis of INSTM. This will define training courses, workshops, twinnings and visits targeting INSTM staff, early stage researchers, PhD and master students to improve INSTM scientific and technological capacities. To enhance EU-INSTM cooperations and visibility and increase INSTM’s participation in EU FP or related EU programmes, specific training will be provided by the EU Grant Unit of UNIVMED to INSTM administrative staff and researchers. INCOMMET will elaborate a strategy to improve the internal and scientific structuring of INSTM and will conduct regional and national lobbying to increase the visibility of INSTM.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

INCOMMET will design an International Mixed Laboratory involving INSTM and its partners and elaborate a common EU research programme. The international scientific recognition of INSTM will be reinforced by strengthening communication and dissemination through a public website, production of leaflets, scientific DVDs, local conferences targeting socio-economic partners and stakeholders and a final international conference.
INCOMMET

Improving National Capacities in Observation and Management of Marine Environment in Tunisia

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DEBPAL2

Reinforcing Capacity Building for Defending Biodiversity in the Palestinian territories

**Context and Objectives**

The Palestinian territories are an emblematic case of massive biodiversity loss (both natural and agricultural), which has a series of severe consequences on the state of the environment, of human life and the economy. As the United Nations Environment Programme stated in 2003, biodiversity is one of the fundamental pillars of the future sustainable development of the Palestinian territories that presents all the escalating environmental threats of the Mediterranean region worsened by the acute environmental degradation caused by conflicts. In recent years, the most critical conflict-related problem has been the extensive land clearing (with the connected soil degradation, land aridification, and erosion of biodiversity in all its manifestations). The nearly 750 km long separation barrier ("Wall") has significant repercussions on biodiversity, by causing the fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats, and by cutting natural ecological corridors, on the one hand, and by eliminating traditional agriculture on a wide scale, on the other. The Palestinian territories, divided into four main environmental-biogeographical zones, are part of a ‘hotspot of biodiversity’: the Mediterranean basin. To qualify as a hotspot, a geographical region has to be characterised both by exceptional levels of plant endemism and serious levels of habitat loss. It must meet two criteria: it must contain at least 1 500 species of vascular plants as endemics, and it has to have lost at least 70 % of its original habitat. In other words, hotspots are the earth’s biologically richest and most endangered terrestrial ecoregions. The Palestinian territories are an emblematic case of this ecological degradation, and need to be sustained in their potential activities addressed at protecting biodiversity.

The objective of the project is to increase the capacity building of Al Quds University in the strategic field of biodiversity (including agro-biodiversity), and in the interlinked fields of conservation and restoration as requested by the international Convention on Biological Diversity, through a coherent plan foreseeing networking and joint research activities with the well-experienced Tuscia University; training in technological transfer towards local SMEs; training in FP7 project appraisal and development of its own research strategy.

**Activities**

The DEBPAL2 work plan consists of different sets of activities.

▶ Networking and joint research activities in biodiversity conservation and restoration and related socioeconomic aspects, with a well experienced Italian university that has developed many European projects in this field.

▶ Training in technology transfer from research to business with an Italian SME, already involved in the demonstration of new technologies and new business system in the Mediterranean area.

▶ Training in the approach, selection, preparation and submission of EU-funded environmental projects; the Italian university will develop the training as regards environmental and biodiversity conservation matters, and a Belgian non-profit association will develop the general FP7 part.
DEBPAL2
Reinforcing Capacity Building for Defending Biodiversity in the Palestinian territories

- Development of Al Quds University’s research/policy strategy, able to support the government in its environmental planning activities, according to EU policy and objectives.
- Dissemination and project management activities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The competences, techniques and technologies that will be developed in Al Quds University focus on integrating biodiversity, cultural and social perspectives into a coherent sustainable landscape management.

This approach is strategic for the Palestinian territories but also, in a larger dimension, for the whole of the Mediterranean region, where the erosion of biodiversity is worsening and there is an increasing problem due to climate change, the human impact on the environment and the absence of consistent global politics to combat and control them.
DEBPAL2

Reinforcing Capacity Building for Defending Biodiversity in the Palestinian territories

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Network in solid waste and water treatment between Europe and Mediterranean countries

**Context and Objectives**

The project foresees the synergic work of participants with various scientific profiles through improving scientific relationships, and exchanging know-how and experience between the participating centres, including training in MS of PhD students and/or postdoctoral researchers, to upgrade S & T research capacities of centres in MED countries dealing with waste treatment technologies — conventional, advanced and nanoscience based. The project includes one SME (Environmental Engineering) in order to give the project a complementary and applied – business dimension. To be able to participate in the project on an equal-footing, the different technological developments of the groups should be balanced by the reinforcement of MED countries’ research infrastructure and improvement of their human potential.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

This approach will prepare laboratories from MED countries to participate more efficiently in European projects. Moreover, it will enable MED countries to increase their contribution in the ERA, making them interesting partners to scientists from MS.

**Activities**

This will be achieved by upgrading research equipment in the laboratories of less developed countries and by hiring new senior researchers in these groups. Thus, the transfer and exchange of know-how will be accelerated and the potential of the groups can be better exploited.

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SOWAEUMED

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ENVIRONMENT

SowaeumEd

Network in solid waste and water treatment between Europe and Mediterranean countries
# TEMP

Textile Excellence in EU-MED Partners

**Period:** 01/12/2009 to 30/11/2012  
**Total cost:** EUR 1 014 275  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 886 042  
**Contract number:** 245917  
**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** CENTRO TECNOLOGICO DAS INDUSTRIAS TEXTIL E DO VESTUARIO DE PORTUGAL - CITEVE  
**Website:** www.temp-eumed.eu

## CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The TEMP project is a capacity building project towards the strengthen of the technical and scientific competence within the EUROMED region in the field of textile related topics. The project main goal is to enhance the S&T cooperation in the Textile & Clothing field between Portugal, Italy and Tunisia by reinforcing strategic partnerships in this 3 research entities and 3 Innovation Promotion Associations.

## ACTIVITIES

This will be achieved by combined actions and activities, such as:  
- Exchange and mobilization of human and material resources between partnering organizations;  
- Knowledge transfer in the field of water management; environment performance; scientific laboratorial analysis; IPR; and other S&T expertise areas;  
- Disseminating scientific information and knowledge as so as the results of S&T research;  
- Implementation of RTD past project results and best practices in the textile and clothing industry of the MED country and convergence region;  
- Provide technical assistance and training aspects to enhance the knowledge transfer;  
- Definition of specific S&T priorities in partners regions, creating a research agenda for the period of 2010-2013, with the objective of launching research projects in the 7FP.  
- Create a Contact Platform with other scientific fields of mutual interest and benefit like the shoes sector, trying to improve contacts in all the fashion industry of the partnering countries.

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The expected impact of these activities will be a better integration of EU and MED countries; improve S&T capacities in the MPC (Mediterranean Partner Country) country and convergence region helping the reinforcement of the regional economic and social development; create fruitful links between partners organization and further RTD organizations in the partnering countries.
TEMP
Textile Excellence in EU-MED Partners

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Morocco Research Advance in ICT for Water

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES
The overall objective of MoICT project is the Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Morocco co-operational and technical capacities strengthening to reinforce the ICT for water research and application in the context of the European Research Area and development of research centre of excellence to respond to Morocco’s socio-economic needs. More specifically, MoICT aims to set up an innovation collaboration framework to enhance cooperation between research and private sector and enable better conditions for young researchers.

ACTIVITIES
The specific actions to be implemented are the following ones: - Strategic strengthening of USMBA to become regional centre of excellence; - Strengthening of USMBA capacities for ICT research and application in water sector; - Raise of innovation capacities and quality of research management; - Better integration in ERA and enhanced EU-Morocco research cooperation in ICT and water sectors; - Research results and project information dissemination to wider EU/Mediterranean audiences; - Support to young researchers through targeted mobility scheme; - Fostering path to innovation through collaboration with industry stakeholders.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES
The MoICT project main outcome will be better integration of Moroccan researchers in ERA and strengthened USMBA research centre in terms of: increased USMBA ICT and Water research capacities and established permanent dialogue with innovation actors; increased research management capabilities and regional coverage encompassing strategic relations within Morocco, Mediterranean countries and EU regions; enhanced number of international research partnerships and participation in the FP7; enabled better conditions for Moroccan young researchers’ scientific career. The project brings together well defined mix of expertise in water research, ICT and strategic capacity building, represented by consortium of one Moroccan and three EU partners.
ENVIRONMENT

MOICT
Morocco Research Advance in ICT for Water

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DARECLIMED

Data repositories and computational infrastructure for environmental and climate studies in the eastern Mediterranean

Context and Objectives

The Mediterranean and Middle East, with a combined total population of more than 400 million people, are characterised by strong environmental gradients, climate extremes and diverse economic, social and cultural identities. It is expected that throughout the 21st century the region will experience substantial adverse climate changes and face major challenges in energy demand and supply, as well as a decreasing availability of fresh water. It will be essential to address the undesirable economical and societal consequences and to manage them cooperatively. Rethinking energy and water policies and adopting new concepts to respond to these challenges are increasingly recognised as a high priority, both regionally and internationally. The main objective of the project is to favour and prepare the creation of a regional data infrastructure devoted to climate, water, energy and related topics, by engaging relevant entities in a coordinated effort at the regional scale.

Activities

To this end, the project will set up a task force including internationally recognised experts and carry out studies on all relevant scientific, technical, legal and political issues. It will also carry out networking activities aimed at regional climate stakeholders (research institutions, public authorities, relevant state agencies, NGOs, etc.), in order to raise their awareness and engage key actors in creating the appropriate conditions for the formation of a regional data infrastructure devoted to climate-, energy- and water-related data, and on capacity building, prospective and incubation activities for future collaborative climate research.

Period: 01/02/2011 to 31/01/2013
Total cost: EUR 557 103
Budget from EC: EUR 500 000
Contract number: 262263
Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: THE CYPRUS RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
DARECLIMED

Data repositories and computational infrastructure for environmental and climate studies in the eastern Mediterranean

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**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this exchange scheme is to establish long-term research cooperation at an international level and to create new research opportunities in the emerging area of microscopic image processing. According to the proposal, to this day, analysis of histology images of the human tissue biopsies remains the most reliable way of diagnosing and grading cancer. Their work on the computer-aided classification and rating of histology images is motivated by the fact that there is significant inter- and intra-rater variability in the grading and diagnosis of cancer from histology slides by human experts.

Computational histopathology can assist the pathologists in making their grading and diagnosis reproducible, and by providing useful quantitative measures. Therefore, this new research will result in significant health benefits for patients.

In this exchange programme, young researchers will be trained and they will work towards their PhDs in a virtual lab consisting of facilities from Bilkent University (BILKENT), University of Caen Basse-Normandie (GRECAN), Information and Technology Institute — Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (ITI-CERTH), Ohio State University (OSU), and University of Warwick (WARWICK). Young scientists and postdocs will be the core group of researchers in the area of microscopic image processing in Europe and they will continue cooperating in the future. As a result of the collaboration during the Microscopic Image Processing, Analysis, Classification and Modelling Environment (MIRACLE) exchange programme, image processing algorithms and software for images of follicular lymphoma will be developed and joint scientific papers will be published. Furthermore, a special issue in a respected journal and two workshops will be organised on the topic of microscopic image processing. Thus, the attention of the European research community will be attracted to this important problem.

**ACTIVITIES**

In the first 18 months of the project, exchanges and studies on have been carried out successfully and have been partially published in peer-reviewed journals and conferences. Some of the achieved goals in the first period are:

- the development of an image coding strategy specifically geared for microscopic images,
- new feature vectors for microscopic image data representation,
- image segmentation schemes for follicular lymphoma images with different staining techniques of slides,
- development of a graphical user interface for classifying images of follicular lymphoma,
- study of strategies for multi-channel protein imaging for lymphomas,
- segmentation of neuroblastoma images.
EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

During the MIRACLE project, the plan is to focus on diagnostic classification of follicular lymphoma images. Follicular lymphoma (FL) is a group of malignancies of lymphocyte origin that arise from lymph nodes, spleen and bone marrow in the lymphatic system in most cases and it is the second most common non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. FL can be differentiated from all other subtypes of lymphoma by the presence of a follicular or nodular pattern of growth presented by follicle centre B cells consisting of centrocytes and centroblasts. In practice, the FL grading process often depends on the number of centroblasts counted within representative follicles. Although reliable clinical risk stratification tools are available for FL, the optimal choice of treatment continues to depend heavily on morphology-based histological grading.

The current microscopic image processing system at OSU consists of follicle detection using immunohistochemical (IHC) images, image registration, follicle detection using hematoxylin-eosin 4 (H&E) images, centroblast detection, and false positive elimination. Microscopic image analysis for this disease involves many algorithmic components. Optimal and robust functioning of each of these components is important for the overall accuracy of the final system. In this proposal, they have brought together several experts and young PhD students from four different European countries and the USA to solve these important image-processing problems. During this process, young scientists will complete their PhD theses on the subject and this will create a core group of people capable of carrying out research and development in other microscopic image processing problems.

Researchers from each of these countries will contribute to different components of the system on the diagnostic processing of FL images. Dr Gurcan’s research group in the USA has made internationally recognised efforts in establishing a database, creating a software infrastructure to process the large IHC images (100K by 100K) using supercomputers and cluster computing [1–14]. Moreover, five hematopathologists from OSU are working in close collaboration with Dr Gurcan’s group. Due to legal reasons, images in the microscopic image database cannot leave the OSU premise, so researchers from the European countries need to visit the USA for collaborative efforts, to take advantage of this knowledge base and the computational infrastructure. Once microscopic image processing software is developed, it will be made freely available to the research community and it will also be deployed and installed in the countries of the participants in Europe. Joint papers will be published in scientific journals and conferences. Furthermore, two specialised workshops on microscopic image processing will be organised. Therefore, dissemination of the created knowledge base will be established, and significant advances will be made against this deadly disease, which affects people all over the world. At the end of the project, young scientists will be the foremost experts in microscopic image processing, as they will be trained in a multinational virtual laboratory.
MIRACLE
Microscopic Image Processing Analysis Coding and Modelling Environment

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Food, agriculture and fisheries
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<tr>
<td>266018</td>
<td>AN Integration of Mitigation and Adaptation options for sustainable Livestock production under climate CHANGE</td>
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<td>European Union and African Union cooperative research to increase Food production in irrigated farming systems in Africa/EAU4Food</td>
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<td>Unravelling and exploiting Mediterranean Sea microbial diversity and ecology for Xenobiotics’ and pollutants’ clean up</td>
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### Networking

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<td>BIO CIRCLE</td>
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<td>Creating a CIRCLE by extending the BIO NCP network to Third Country NIPs</td>
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<td>BIO CIRCLE 2</td>
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<td>Reinforcing the international cooperation in FP7 FAFB strengthening the CIRCLE of Third Countries’ BIO NCPs</td>
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<td>CA2AFRICA</td>
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<td>CREAM</td>
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<td>Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOODSEG</td>
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<td>Safe Food for Europe — Coordination of research activities and Dissemination of research results of EC-funded research on food safety</td>
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<td>WATERBIOTECH</td>
<td>265972</td>
<td>Biotechnology for Africa’s sustainable water supply</td>
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<td>OH-NEXTGEN</td>
<td>289412</td>
<td>Training of the One Health Next Scientific Generation in the Sahel and Maghreb</td>
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### Competence Building and Valorisation

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<td>Capacity and knowledge building on the Sustainable Use of Water Resources in Syrian Agriculture</td>
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<td>BIOPROTECH</td>
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<td>Improvement of research capacities of the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax in Bio-Processes for biotech applications, tying up with the European Research Area</td>
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<td>MAP2ERA</td>
<td>266575</td>
<td>Strengthening EU cooperation capacity of the National Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Morocco: Towards Morocco’s integration into the ERA</td>
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<td>BOTERA</td>
<td>264416</td>
<td>Reinforcing cooperation between the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan and ERA</td>
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<td>FAWIRA</td>
<td>295088</td>
<td>Strengthening of Food, Agriculture and Water-related International Research Cooperation of Algeria</td>
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<td>OLITREVA</td>
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<td>Capacity Building for Sustainable Treatment and Valorisation of Olive Mill Waste (OMW) in Palestine</td>
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<td>FORCE</td>
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<td>Fisheries and aquaculture-Oriented Research Capacity in Egypt</td>
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<td>AGORA</td>
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<td>Advancing Mediterranean Forest Research Capacities</td>
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<td>BIODESERT</td>
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<td>Biototechnology from desert microbial extremophiles for supporting agriculture research potential in Tunisia and southern Europe</td>
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<td>PROBIOLIVES</td>
<td>243471</td>
<td>Table olive fermentation with selected strains of probiotic lactic acid bacteria: Towards a new functional food</td>
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AFTER

African Food Tradition Revisited by Research

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

AFTER project aims to revisit traditional African products, knowledge and know-how in the light of new technologies for the benefit of consumers, producers and processors in Africa and Europe. By applying European science and technology to traditional African food products, AFTER seeks to turn research into quantifiable and innovative technologies and products that are commercially viable in both European and African markets. The ten selected products representing three families of foods (fermented cereal-based, fermented salted fish and meat, and vegetable-and fruit-based functional foods) fit into a matrix of technologies and processes shared between Europe and Africa that will be jointly developed within the framework of AFTER. The ten products will be characterised according to existing knowledge on technologies and processes. The improved products, produced through re-engineering and new processing technologies, will be tested for consumer acceptance, safety and nutritional quality. The market and entry requirement for new products will be assessed. Involving EU and African companies in production trials for the improved products will translate the results into ready-to-use information for food companies.

**ACTIVITIES**

AFTER has eight work packages: management and coordination; characterisation of traditional products and know-how; process re-engineering of fermented cereal-based products; process re-engineering of meat and fish products; process re-engineering of traditional functional foods; consumer and market acceptance; appropriation of the improved processes and technologies; and dissemination and exploitation.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

Creating new markets and trade opportunities for improved traditional foods and novel products in Europe and Africa will increase economic returns for all stakeholders involved in the production chain, down to the community level. Due consideration will be given to regulatory, ethical and IPR issues while also protecting the intellectual rights of Africans.
African Food Tradition Revisited by Research

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ANIMALCHANGE

An Integration of Mitigation and Adaptation options for sustainable Livestock production under climate change

Period: 01/03/2011 to 28/02/2015
Total cost: EUR 12 851 374
Budget from EC: EUR 8 999 535
Contract number: 266018

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE
Website: www.animalchange.eu

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

ANIMALCHANGE provides scientific guidance on the integration of adaptation and mitigation objectives and design of sustainable development pathways for livestock production in Europe, in northern and sub-Saharan Africa and in Latin America.

ACTIVITIES

The core analytical spine of the project is a series of coupled biophysical and socioeconomic models combined with experimentation. This allows future scenarios for the livestock sector to be explored under baseline and atmospheric CO$_2$ stabilisation scenarios. These scenarios are first constructed in Component (CP) 1. They are elaborated and enriched by breakthrough mitigation and adaptation options from CP 2 at field and animal scales, integrated and evaluated at farm scale in CP 3 and used to assess policy options and their socioeconomic consequences in CP 4. ANIMALCHANGE undertakes the following activities:
- quantify and reduce uncertainties in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and assess climate change impacts on livestock systems (including grasslands);
- revise estimates of the GHG balance of livestock systems and integrate soil carbon sequestration;
- integrate climate variability and extremes into the assessment of impacts, adaptation and vulnerability of livestock systems to climate change;
- develop breakthrough technologies for adaptation and mitigation to climate change for both ruminants and monogastrics;
- study and quantify trade-offs and synergies between adaptation and mitigation options;
- assess the potential societal and sectoral costs and benefits of these options for the livestock sector in Europe and in study regions of Africa and Latin America;
- assess climate change vulnerability of animal production and of associated GHG emissions;
- provide direct support through the design of an integrated and consistent mitigation and adaptation policy framework for the livestock sector.

EXPECTED IMPACT

ANIMALCHANGE will inform public policy development in EU–27 and propose cooperation programmes addressing smallholder livestock farming in selected developing countries.
ANIMALCHANGE

An Integration of Mitigation and Adaptation options for sustainable Livestock production under climate change
ANIMALCHANGE

An Integration of Mitigation and Adaptation options for sustainable Livestock production under climate change

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Context and Objectives

Organic and low-input farming systems have been shown to benefit farmland biodiversity although a generic indicator system to assess these benefits at the European level is lacking. The BIOBIO project will therefore pursue the following objectives: (1) conceptualisation of criteria for a scientifically based selection of biodiversity indicators for organic/low-input farming systems; (2) assessment and validation of a set of candidate biodiversity indicators in representative case studies across Europe (and in ICPC countries); (3) preparation of guidelines for the implementation of biodiversity indicators for organic/low-input farming systems for Europe and beyond.

Activities

Existing indirect farm management indicators as well as direct indicators for genetic, species and habitat diversity will be assessed for their scientific soundness, practicality, geographic scope and usefulness for stakeholders. Candidate indicators will be tested in a standardised design in twelve case studies across Europe and later in three third countries. Case study regions will include pannonian, alpine, boreal, Atlantic and Mediterranean grassland systems (both organic and/or low-input), rain-fed organic farms under temperate and Mediterranean conditions, mixed organic farming, organic special crops and low-input tree/agroforestry systems. Plot, farm and regional scales (where applicable) will be addressed. The investigation will include new agricultural practices, e.g. soil conservation, crop rotation management, seed and crop mixtures and economic issues relating to the costs of indicator measurement and to benefits of biodiversity as perceived by different groups of the population.

Expected Results and Outcomes

Stakeholders (farming communities, conservation NGOs, administrators) will be integrated at critical stages of the indicator selection process. A handbook with factsheets will be produced for validated indicators and a sampling design will be developed for biodiversity monitoring in organic and low-input farming systems across Europe.
BIOBIO
Indicators for biodiversity in organic and low-input farming systems
EAU4Food

European Union and African Union cooperative research to increase Food production in irrigated farming systems in Africa

**Context and Objectives**

EAU4Food seeks to address the need for new approaches to increase food production in irrigated areas in Africa, while ensuring healthy and resilient environments. Potential pitfalls of introducing innovations in local farming systems, like limited adoption by farmers and trade-off effects to other (environmental) systems are overcome by, respectively, (i) utilising a true trans-disciplinary approach, which involves the active participation of all stakeholders in all relevant disciplines, and (ii) determining and respecting so-called sustainable production thresholds.

**Activities**

EAU4Food is executed in four irrigated areas in Africa, viz. southern Africa (Mozambique and South Africa), Tunisia, Mali and Ethiopia, to fully benefit from the potential of cross-distributing promising strategies and innovations. At each site, key indicators, risk factors, farm strategies and biophysical parameters are monitored for identification of current constraints to food production and to evaluate agro-ecological and socio-economic impacts of improved practices and/or innovations after implementation.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

The results of EAU4Food are distilled into tailor-made support tables and guidelines for different user groups. These support tables and guidelines support decision-making processes at local level by overseeing short-term and long-term effects of alternative practices and improved strategies. EAU4Food is expected to have significant positive impacts on agricultural production at farm level for many years to come, and on wider policy processes at national and transnational levels. To enlarge and maintain the impact of EAU4Food, capacity-building programmes are developed at different levels, from farmer-to-farmer exchange up to exchange of scientific personnel. Moreover, further exploitation of the results of EAU4Food is supported via other media such as ‘songs of success’, documentaries, school programmes, policy briefs, fact books and scientific publications and presentations.
EAU4Food

European Union and African Union cooperative research to increase Food production in irrigated farming systems in Africa/EAU4Food

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ICONZ
Integrated control of neglected zoonoses: improving human health and animal production through scientific innovation and public engagement

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE
This project aims at improving human health and animal production in developing countries through integrated control of neglected zoonoses in animals, based on scientific innovation and public engagement. Neglected zoonoses, such as anthrax, rabies, brucellosis, bovine TB, zoonotic trypanosomiasis, echinococcosis, cysticercosis and leishmaniasis, are major causes of ill-health in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Production animals and companion animals of significant societal value act as reservoirs for transmission to man, and the burden of these diseases on affected communities is compounded by the adverse effects many diseases have on the productivity of livestock and hence the livelihoods of the poor. The control of these diseases in animals represents an opportunity to address the constraints they pose to both human health and animal productivity, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and the MDGs

ACTIVITIES
The project will: (i) map and review research activities at a global level; (ii) survey and assess the burden of zoonoses in communities; (iii) improve or develop disease control tools as appropriate for conditions in affected countries, with private sector inputs where appropriate; (iv) develop cost-effective control and prevention strategies taking into account economic, sociological and cultural factors as well as traditional knowledge; (v) build capacity in ICPCs through technology transfer and training; and (vi) empower communities and policymakers to utilise control and prevention strategies appropriately and effectively.

EXPECTED IMPACT
In order to contribute to effective control in animals, the project will identify scientific innovation and (where necessary) develop tools for diagnosis, quantification of disease burdens, and for control. It will also contribute to mobilising public engagement at all stakeholder levels so as to ensure that strategies are appropriate for use in affected communities and are adopted within the policy framework of affected countries.

Period: 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2014
Total cost: EUR 7 414 246
Budget from EC: EUR 5 994 998
Contract number: 221948

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
INTegrated control of neglected zoonoses: improving human health and animal production through scientific innovation and public engagement
ICONZ

Integrated control of neglected zoonoses: improving human health and animal production through scientific innovation and public engagement
LOWINPUTBREEDS

Development of integrated livestock breeding and management strategies to improve animal health, product quality and performance in European organic and ‘low input’ milk, meat and egg production

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

The project has four main science and technology objectives:

▶ to develop and evaluate innovative breeding concepts, including (a) genome wide and (b) marker assisted selection, and (c) cross-, (d) ‘flower’- and (e) farmer-participatory breeding strategies, which will deliver genotypes with ‘robustness’ and quality traits required under ‘low input’ conditions;

▶ to integrate the use of improved genotypes with innovative management approaches including improved diets, feeding regimes and rearing systems;

▶ to identify potential economic, environmental, genetic diversity and ethical impacts of project deliverables to ensure they conform to different societal priorities and consumer demands/expectations and are acceptable to producers;

▶ to establish an efficient training and dissemination programme aimed at rapid exploitation and application of project deliverables by the organic and ‘low input’ livestock industry.

ACTIVITIES

The project covers five livestock production systems (dairy cows, dairy and meat sheep, pigs and laying hens) and designs species-specific breeding strategies for different macroclimatic regions in Europe. The focus is on issues such as mastitis, parasite control and animal welfare problems, where breeding or management innovations alone are unlikely to provide satisfactory solutions.

EXPECTED IMPACT

LOWINPUTBREEDS aims to develop integrated livestock breeding and management strategies to improve animal health, product quality and performance in European organic and ‘low input’ milk, meat and egg production through research, dissemination and training activities. The consortium includes 11 academic centres of excellence and 6 genetics/breeding companies (4 SMEs) in 11 European, 2 ICPC and 2 industrialised third countries.

**Period:** 01/05/2009 to 30/04/2014  
**Total cost:** EUR 8 910 739  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 5 999 995  
**Contract number:** 222623  
**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
**Website:** http://www.lowinputbreeds.org/
LOWINPUTBREEDS

Development of integrated livestock breeding and management strategies to improve animal health, product quality and performance in European organic and ‘low input’ milk, meat and egg production

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LOWINPUTBREEDS

Development of integrated livestock breeding and management strategies to improve animal health, product quality and performance in European organic and ‘low input’ milk, meat and egg production

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MAREX

Exploring Marine Resources for Bioactive Compounds: From Discovery to Sustainable Production and Industrial Applications

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Biodiversity in the seas is only partly explored, although marine organisms are excellent sources for many industrial products. Through close cooperation between industrial and academic partners, the MAREX project will collect, isolate and classify marine organisms, such as micro- and macroalgae, cyanobacteria, sea anemones, tunicates and fish from the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as from the Mediterranean, Baltic and Arabian Seas. Extracts and purified compounds of these organisms will be studied for several therapeutically and industrially significant biological activities, including anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, antiviral and anticoagulant activities, by applying a wide variety of screening tools, as well as for ion channel/receptor modulation and plant growth regulation.

**ACTIVITIES**

Chromatographic isolation of bioactive compounds will be followed by structural determination. Sustainable cultivation methods for promising organisms and biotechnological processes for selected compounds will be developed, as well as biosensors for monitoring the target compounds. The work will entail sustainable organic synthesis of selected active compounds and new derivatives, and development of selected hits to lead compounds. The project will expand marine compound libraries.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

MAREX innovations will be targeted for industrial product development in order to improve the growth and productivity of European marine biotechnology. MAREX aims at a better understanding of environmentally conscious sourcing of marine biotechnology products and increased public awareness of marine biodiversity and potential. Finally, MAREX is expected to offer novel marine-based lead compounds for European industries and strengthen their product portfolios related to pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, cosmetic, agrochemical, food processing, material and biosensor applications.

**Period:** 01/08/2010 to 31/07/2014
**Total cost:** EUR 7 895 271
**Budget from EC:** EUR 5 999 974
**Contract number:** 245137

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project
**Coordinator:** UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
**Website:** www.marex.fi

**FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES**
MAREX
Exploring Marine Resources for Bioactive Compounds: From Discovery to Sustainable Production and Industrial Applications

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MYCORED

Novel integrated strategies for worldwide mycotoxin reduction in the food and feed chains

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

MYCORED aims at developing strategic solutions to reduce contamination by mycotoxins of major concern in economically important food and feed chains. The following toxins and commodities are especially considered in the project: aflatoxins, trichothecenes, zearalenone, fumonisins in wheat/maize food and feed chains; ochratoxin A in the grape-wine and wheat chains; and aflatoxins in the dried fruit chain. Novel methodologies, efficient handling procedures and information, dissemination and educational strategies are considered in a context of multidisciplinary integration of know-how and technology to reduce mycotoxins exposure worldwide.

ACTIVITIES

Five work packages (WPs) will develop novel solution-driven strategies to reduce both pre- and post-harvest contamination in feed and food chains. They involve: (i) optimisation of plant resistance and fungicide use; (ii) biocontrol to reduce toxigenic fungi in cropping systems; (iii) predictive modelling and optimised logistics; (iv) novel post-harvest and storage practices; and (v) application of new food processing technologies. Two horizontal WPs will develop enabling methodologies for: (i) advanced diagnostics and quantitative detection of toxigenic fungi; and (ii) rapid and multi-toxin detection of mycotoxins and relevant biomarkers.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The project will significantly build on the outcome of several European projects (through most coordinators/partners of FP5 and FP6) on mycotoxins by supporting, stimulating and facilitating education and cooperation with countries having major mycotoxin concerns related to (international) trade and human health. The direct involvement of ICPC countries (Argentina, Egypt, Russia, South Africa, Turkey) and international organisations (CIMMYT, IITA) together with strong alliances with major research institutions in the USA (three USDA centres/ five universities), Australia, Malaysia will strengthen the project through sharing experiences and resources from several past/ongoing mycotoxin projects in a global context.

Period: 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2013
Total cost: EUR 7 310 646
Budget from EC: EUR 5 769 956
Contract number: 222690

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE
Website: http://www.mycored.eu
MYCORED

Novel integrated strategies for worldwide mycotoxin reduction in the food and feed chains

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myCOREd
novel integrated strategies for worldwide mycotoxin reduction in the food and feed chains
MYCORED

Novel integrated strategies for worldwide mycotoxin reduction in the food and feed chains
**NEXTGEN**

Next generation methods to preserve farm animal biodiversity by optimising present and future breeding options

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

NEXTGEN proposes the bold step of using whole genome data to develop and optimise conservation genetic management of livestock diversity for the foreseeable future. The rationale for choosing whole genome data is to ‘future-proof’ DNA-based analyses in livestock conservation against upcoming changes in technology and analysis. Thus, in the context of whole genome data availability, our global objective is to develop cost-effective optimised methodologies for preserving farm animal biodiversity, using cattle, sheep, and goats as model species.

**ACTIVITIES**

More specifically, NEXTGEN will:
- produce whole genome data in selected populations;
- develop the necessary bioinformatics approaches, taking advantage of the 1 000 human genomes project, and focusing on the identification of genomic regions under recent selection (adaptive / neutral variation);
- develop the methods for optimising breeding and biobanking, taking into account both neutral and adaptive variations;
- develop innovative biobanking methods based on freeze-dried nuclei;
- provide guidelines for studying disease resistance and genome/environment relationships in a spatial context;
- assess the value of wild ancestors and breeds from domestication centres as genetic resources;
- assess the performance of a surrogate marker system compared with whole genome sequence data for preserving biodiversity;
- provide efficient training and a wide dissemination of the improved methodologies.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The consortium has been designed to specifically reach these objectives, and encompasses skills in conservation genetics, bioinformatics, biobanking and breeding technologies, and GIScience. The work plan has been established with great care. The sequencing task has been postponed to year 3 to take advantage of cost dynamics, while the two first years are dedicated to bioinformatics and to an innovative sampling strategy that fully integrates the spatial aspect and that offers more value at the data analysis stage.
NEXTGEN

Next generation methods to preserve farm animal biodiversity by optimising present and future breeding options

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Livestock production efficiency is impaired by helminth infection which is ubiquitous in cattle, sheep and goats worldwide. It causes severely debilitating gastrointestinal, respiratory and hepatic disorders, depending on the infecting species. The treatment and prevention of helminth parasitism in livestock continues to rely almost exclusively on the use of anthelmintic drugs, an approach threatened by the global emergence of anthelmintic resistance. An alternative approach is vaccination. Members of the present consortium (from the EU and Switzerland, north and south America, north and south Africa, Australia, two SMEs and one major animal health company) have developed prototype vaccines with the predicted required efficacy to control major gastrointestinal nematode infections of livestock, notably Ostertagia ostertagi in cattle and Haemonchus contortus in sheep, the liver fluke Fasciola hepatica in sheep and cattle with leading positions in subunit vaccine development against Cooperia onchophora, Dictyocaulus viviparus in cattle and the tapeworm Echinococcus granulosus in dogs.

This purpose will be addressed by:

- developing effective native or synthetic vaccines, the latter using novel, molecular expression systems;
- defining the protective immune responses induced by these vaccines in order to optimise the structure of the antigens and the method of their delivery;
- defining vaccine efficacy with trials in both housed and grazing livestock;
- providing a platform for training and knowledge exchange which includes participation in training programmes, short exchanges of staff, workshops, and website provision;
- interacting closely with computer modellers, the animal health industry, farmer organisations and other stakeholders to define required vaccine characteristics;
- knowledge exchange/dissemination to policymakers, scientists, government departments and the general public.
PARAVAC
Vaccines against helminth infections

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Vaccines against helminth infections

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PRO-EEL

Reproduction of European Eel: Towards a Self-sustained Aquaculture

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The recent decline of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and no signs of recovery have brought attention to the biologically unsustainable exploitation of the stock. In September 2007, the EU adopted Council Regulation 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the European eel stock. However, eel are still fished intensively for human consumption while aquaculture and restocking rely exclusively on the supply of glass eels caught each year. A controlled production of eel larvae is ever more urgent. The objective of PRO-EEL is to develop standardised protocols for production of high quality gametes, viable eggs and feeding larvae. The approach is to expand knowledge about the intricate hormonal control and physiology of eels which complicates artificial reproduction.

**ACTIVITIES**

This knowledge will be applied in the development of suitable methods to induce maturation considering different rearing conditions. Knowledge about the gametogenesis and maturation pattern will be developed in small-scale tests and applied to establish standardised fertilisation procedures. New knowledge about functional anatomy of embryos and yolksac larvae will be applied to develop suitable feed. Protocols for larval production will be tested in full-scale experimental facilities managed in collaboration with a qualified SME.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The integrated protocols and technology development will be evaluated relative to the output of healthy embryos and yolksac larvae. Larval feeds will be developed towards pioneering first-feeding in European eel larvae, which will be a major breakthrough and promising step towards a self-sustained aquaculture. The strength of the project is its interdisciplinary approach and the unique expertise of the consortium. PRO-EEL brings together leading institutes in eel reproduction complemented by excellence in disciplines filling gaps in knowledge and technology. A tight collaboration with the aquaculture industry promotes the applicability of the developed technology.
PRO-EEL

Reproduction of European Eel: Towards a Self-sustained Aquaculture

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PRO-EEL

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SIRRIMED
Sustainable use of Irrigation water in the Mediterranean region

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES
SIRRIMED will address issues related to the sustainable use of water in Mediterranean irrigated agricultural systems, with the overall aim of optimising irrigation water use. The approach proposed in SIRRIMED for reaching this goal will be based on integrated water irrigation management (IWIM) where the improving water use efficiency will be considered at farm, irrigation district and watershed scales. This strategy implies the innovation of more efficient irrigation techniques improving water productivity that permit savings in water consumption.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES
SIRRIMED will consider the development, test and validation of new deficit irrigation strategies, the sustainable use of poor quality waters and the improvement of precise irrigation scheduling using plant sensors. These new techniques will be integrated with suitable husbandry irrigation practices. At the district scale, efforts should be directed towards an integrated policy of water allocation which accounts for the characteristics and specificity of each farm, requiring the availability of databases and management tools (decision support systems) specifically designed to fulfil the objectives of maximising water use efficiency. At the watershed scale, priority should be devoted to the assessment of new models of water governance, and the definition of strategies and policies aimed at promoting a more responsible use of irrigation water. Finally, SIRRIMED will establish a sound dissemination strategy for transfer of knowledge towards the end users, with a very important participatory approach to facilitate an adequate involvement of stakeholders (farmers, association of irrigation users, water authorities and SMEs).

Period: 01/07/2010 to 31/12/2013
Total cost: EUR 4 300 086
Budget from EC: EUR 2 999 078
Contract number: 245159

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS
Website: www.sirrimed.org
SIRRIMED
Sustainable use of Irrigation water in the Mediterranean region

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SIRRIMED
Sustainable use of Irrigation water in the Mediterranean region
SOLIBAM

Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding And Management

Period: 13/04/2010 to 31/08/2014
Total cost: EUR 7 820 955
Budget from EC: EUR 5 999 000
Contract number: 245058

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE
Website: http://www.solibam.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

SOLIBAM will develop specific and novel breeding approaches integrated with management practices to improve the performance, quality, sustainability and stability of crops adapted to organic and low-input systems, in their diversity in Europe and taking into account small-scale farms in Africa. SOLIBAM will:

- identify traits specific for adaptation to low-input/organic conditions over a wide range of agro-climatic conditions in Europe;
- develop efficient phenotyping, genotyping and molecular tools to monitor heritable variation during selection. Molecular analysis of functional polymorphisms will increase accuracy in breeding methodologies and improve monitoring of genetic diversity and adaptation along generations. It will also increase the understanding of adaptive phenomena;
- develop the use of within-crop diversity to stabilise yield and quality in the face of current and increasing variation in organic and low-input agriculture;
- design, develop and test innovative arable and vegetable cropping systems based on integration of a high level of diversification in crop management with the use of genetically diverse populations or varieties;
- compare the effectiveness of different breeding strategies under conventional, low input and certified organic farming to set up optimal strategies for the production of varieties suitable for organic and low input farming taking into account the traits which are avoided in conventional breeding;
- develop methodologies for farmers’ participatory research that exploit SOLIBAM’s advances in low-input and organic farming;
- quantify the effects and interactions of breeding and management innovations on crop nutritional, organoleptic and end-use quality;
- evaluate socioeconomic and environmental impacts of SOLIBAM’s breeding and management innovations in order to identify farm business, consumer preference, food supply and legislation related issues that are likely to influence their adoption.
SOLIBAM

Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding And Management
SOLIBAM
Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding And Management

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solibam
strategies for organic and low-input integrated breeding and management
SUSTAINMED
Sustainable agri-food systems and rural development in the Mediterranean partner countries

**Context and Objectives**

The overall objective of the SUSTAINMED project is to examine and assess the impacts of EU and national agricultural, rural, environmental and trade policies in the Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs). Specific impacts will include socioeconomic structural changes, income distribution, resource management, trade liberalisation, poverty alleviation, employment and migrations trends, as well as commercial relations with major trade partners (in particular the EU) and competitiveness in international markets.

**Activities**

The project will integrate a wide range of complementary methods and analytical tools including quantitative modelling, structured surveying, indicator building and qualitative data analysis, in order to provide: (i) orders of magnitude of the impact in MPCs related to changes in important policy parameters; and (ii) qualitative insights into processes which will be important for the future welfare of MPCs but which cannot be fully captured by quantitative indicators.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

The project results will enable the European Commission and relevant stakeholders to formulate realistic policies and action plans aimed at supporting sustainable agri-food systems, rural development programmes and capacity building in the Mediterranean region. The project outcomes will also contribute to improving collaboration and economic and commercial relations between the EU and target MPCs, in line with the stated goals of the Barcelona process: Union for the Mediterranean. Furthermore, the project will provide relevant research to support the promotion of sustainable development in fulfilling the EU’s commitment towards the United Nation millennium development goals in the region. The project consortium brings together during three years recognised researchers from six EU Member States, one associated country and five MPCs, with a strong scientific background and experience in Mediterranean policy, market and institutional analysis.
SUSTAINMED

Sustainable agri-food systems and rural development in the Mediterranean partner countries

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SWUP-MED

Sustainable water use securing food production in dry areas of the Mediterranean region

**Period:** 01/07/2008 to 30/06/2012  
**Total cost:** EUR 3 929 765  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 2 728 104  
**Contract number:** 212337

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET  
**Website:** http://www.swup-med.dk/

**CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The strategic objective of the project is to improve food crop production in the Mediterranean region, influenced by multiple abiotic stresses. These stresses are becoming even more pronounced under the changing climate, which is predicted to result in drier conditions, increasing temperatures, and greater variability, causing desertification. The project will work mainly in farmers' communities to improve farming systems, by strengthening a diversified crop rotation and using marginal-quality water for supplemental irrigation, aiming at the following.

1. Introduce and test new climate-proof crops and cultivars with improved stress tolerance, selecting promising varieties of cereals, grain legumes and new crops. Climate-proof traits will be identified for breeding programmes using advanced physiological and biochemical screening tools. Supplemental irrigation will be performed as deficit irrigation by different sources of water.

2. Investigate the sustainable field applicability of the farming systems, such as environmental effects related to irrigation water quality assessed by monitoring groundwater and soil quality. Financial implications for the farmer and economic costs and benefits in the food sector will be analysed.

3. Develop a research synthesis in dialogue with the food sector, based on experimental results and advanced simulation modelling to improve farming systems management, utilising dynamic tools that ease adaptation to the effects of a variable and changing climate.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The approach is participatory, involving the farmer’s community and the market and political levels. The expected outcome is improved productivity and sustainable use of agricultural lands by developing a more diverse farming system, supporting economic development in non-European Mediterranean countries while ensuring mutual interest and benefit with the EU. It will accelerate the adoption of improved agricultural practices and technologies to meet future constraints imposed by climate changes.
SWUP-MED

Sustainable water use securing food production in dry areas of the Mediterranean region

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Technical eXperts Overseeing Third country eXpertise

**Context, Objectives and Activities**

It is widely recognised that scientific efforts need to be coordinated to strengthen the knowledge base in support of policymakers in a global context. This is a complicated task that requires effective coordination and cooperation among States, RFOs and other agencies. States with an obligation to ensure sustainability of the resources they exploit should seek: (i) to promote responsible fisheries; and (ii) to promote good, coordinated scientific research.

In the case of the EU, actions should be consistent with major international agreements (UNCLOS, CCRF, UNIA, WSSD) and contribute to improving coherence between different EU policies. The purpose of this Coordination Action is to facilitate a coherent approach towards research directed at the assessment and management of fish resources. The targets are particularly those areas where the European fleet is fishing in international or third country waters, or where the EU has important development goals. Thus, the principal objectives of TXOTX are the following.

1. To collate information from all RFMO/RFOs and fisheries partnership agreements as well as selected additional regions of special interest (with emphasis on CPA areas) on the extent of scientific research programmes being undertaken by the various actors.
2. To analyse the data available and methodologies applied in assessment and management procedures regionally, in order to identify data and research gaps and opportunities for greater research coordination that may be promoted by the EU to support scientific advice to fisheries management.
3. To develop recommendations on how to improve cooperation with third parties in order to enhance research and resource status.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

The TXOTX consortium proposes to build a network of scientists in countries with a strategic geographical distribution to produce a synthesis of data collection standards, assessment methods, and management procedures that will be disseminated among participants, stakeholders and the general public.
TXOTX
Technical eXperts Overseeing Third country eXpertise

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ULIXES
Unravelling and exploiting Mediterranean Sea microbial diversity and ecology for Xenobiotics’ and pollutants’ clean up

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES
The project ULIXES aims to unravel, categorise, catalogue, exploit and manage the microbial diversity available in the Mediterranean Sea for addressing bioremediation of polluted marine sites. The idea behind ULIXES is that the multitude of diverse environmental niches of the Mediterranean Sea contains a huge range of microorganisms and their components (e.g. catabolic enzymes) or products (e.g. biosurfactant) that can be exploited in pollutant- and site-tailored bioremediation approaches.

ACTIVITIES
ULIXES intends to provide the proof-of-concept that it is possible to establish and exploit for bioremediation site-specific collections of microbial strains, mixed microbial cultures, enzymes, biosurfactants and other microbial products. These biotechnological resources will be mined by using approaches based on isolation of culturable microorganisms as well as by extensively applying advanced novel ‘meta-omics’ technologies recently developed by the project partners and exclusively available for ULIXES.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES
Three pollutant classes recognised worldwide as environmental priorities will be considered: petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorinated compounds and heavy metals. A large set of polluted environmental matrices from sites located all over the Mediterranean Sea will be explored, including seashore sands, lagoon sediments, deep sea sediments polluted by heavy oil hydrocarbons at oil tanker shipwreck sites, hypersaline waters and sediments from polluted salty coastal lakes and natural deep hypersaline anoxic submarine basins and mud volcanoes where hydrocarbon seepages occur.

A careful dissemination action will be pursued to assure capillary information of the ULIXES results and products to stakeholders and SMEs operating in the sector of marine bioremediation.

Period: 01/02/2011 to 31/01/2014
Total cost: EUR 3 909 331
Budget from EC: EUR 2 993 812
Contract number: 266473

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
Website: www.ulixes.unimi.it

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**Veg-i-Trade**

Impact of climate change and globalisation on safety of fresh produce — governing a supply chain of uncompromised food sovereignty

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Fresh produce is an important part of a healthy diet. Global consumption levels are expected to increase in the future. However, due to recent disease outbreaks and rapid alerts attributed to fresh produce, concerns have emerged with regard to food safety. This was exemplified by the *E. coli* O104 outbreak in Europe in spring 2011. New food safety challenges arise due to climate change and the globalisation of trade. Veg-i-Trade will assess the impact of anticipated climate change and globalisation on safety issues concerning fresh produce and derived food products. In Veg-i-Trade, food safety is reviewed by addressing both microbiological and chemical hazards. The microbiological hazards under consideration are VTEC, *Salmonella*, *Norovirus*, *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* while the chemical hazards encompass emerging mycotoxins (e.g. alternariol, patulin, fumonisins) and pesticide residues. Veg-i-Trade brings together 23 international partners from universities, research institutes, SMEs and large industrial partners. It is a multi-disciplinary project comprising both fundamental and applied research. It focuses on the economic structure of the fresh produce global market and on the development of control measures for microbiological and chemical hazards. Veg-i-Trade research integrates several tools including sampling and analytical testing methods, field studies on pre- and post-harvest practices, quality assurance, modelling and simulation, risk assessment and risk communication.

**ACTIVITIES**

Veg-i-Trade research will support the development of management strategies in the fresh produce supply chain. The application of newly developed self-assessment tools provides an insight regarding weak and strong points in a food safety management system. Results from the sampling plans at primary production, processing and trade levels, using appropriate methods for testing hygiene indicators and enteric bacteria analysis as selected in Veg-i-Trade, will provide a baseline study and may reveal potential routes for the introduction of pathogens into the fresh supply chain. The Veg-i-Trade research will provide guidance on the implementation of quality assurance recommendations to actors in the fresh produce chain for its particular case studies (fresh leafy vegetables and herbs, soft red fruits, tomatoes). It was noted from literature reviews on (i) pre- and post-harvest preventive measures and (ii) on the quality of water and its sources and water treatment technologies applied in the fresh produce supply chain, that it is important to establish more tailored interventions, taking into account specific contexts and/or demands.

**EXPECTED IMPACT**

The output of Veg-i-Trade research will support the development of technological control measures. Climate conditions and appropriate water management are confirmed to have an
important impact on visual quality and microbial safety of leafy vegetables. Hazard identification, data collection on the behaviour of both microbial and chemical hazards during processing and storage, logistic models and predictive models of fresh produce quality and safety are all under construction. This knowledge will permit risk assessment studies to be elaborated in due course that will serve as a support to both competent authorities and individual companies for the set-up of their risk management policy and strategies. Veg-i-Trade’s results and the tools developed will be exchanged via international collaboration. Furthermore, Veg-i-Trade promotes dialogue between different stakeholders involved in the international trade and safety of fresh produce and provides a discussion platform on ‘Dealing with food safety issues for fresh produce’ and ‘ethical issues of trade, food safety standards in relation to the EU general food law’.
Veg-i-Trade

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Veg-i-Trade

Impact of climate change and globalisation on safety of fresh produce — governing a supply chain of uncompromised food sovereignty
AQUAMED

The future of research on aquaculture in the Mediterranean region

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The fast development of Mediterranean aquaculture (freshwater, marine) is confronted with a set of difficulties, e.g. inadequate production systems and competitiveness, interaction and space competition with other users and the need for a proper integration in the coastal zones, possible negative impact on the environment and negative image of the product quality.

Aquaculture development in Mediterranean countries is contrasted in terms of the importance of the sector, domestic market demand, typology of the industry, and research and development structures and capacities. Consequently, a strategy for a knowledge-based development of the activity has to be implemented using a flexible and concerted approach.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The platform will be organised such that it is self-sustainable after the end of the project. It will be instrumental to rationalising research programming in order to avoid duplication, fragmentation and dispersion of research efforts, and to stimulate a long-term cooperation and coordination among policymakers, aquaculture industry and RTD performers in the region. The project consortium, covering most of the situations of the aquaculture sector encountered in the Mediterranean, will put the emphasis on the participatory approach, the dissemination of the outcomes of the AQUAMED activities and the sustainability of the multi-stakeholder platform.

**ACTIVITIES**

To deliver practical results, the AQUAMED project will be based on a four-step process consisting of: (1) mapping and setting up a database of all relevant information (about policies, research and socioeconomics) in each partner country; (2) identifying common situations and constraints between countries; (3) grouping countries confronted with similar driving forces in order to foster information exchanges and formulate more focussed science-based recommendations; and (4) setting up of a multi-stakeholder platform to promote a research organisation and a revolving implementation plan aimed at the sustainable development of aquaculture.
AQUAMED
The future of research on aquaculture in the Mediterranean region

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ARIMNET

Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean

**Context and Objectives**

Agricultural research in the Mediterranean is characterised by three main features: it is scattered within the EU members and in Mediterranean partner countries, and most of the problems and challenges that Mediterranean agriculture is facing are shared by all the countries in the area and even further; its objectives are largely the same in the whole area, even if priorities can vary from one country to another; the conditions resulting from climate change as well as the objective of sustainable development and production make it necessary to rethink agricultural research in all the countries and to begin its alignment in the whole area to increase its impact.

**Activities**

This situation allows and requires a Coordination Action at the level of the Mediterranean (among EU members, and between them and the other Mediterranean countries) to fight against fragmentation by fostering the convergence of national programmes and by founding a new critical mass to address the key issues (such as the growing demand for safer, healthier and higher quality food; the sustainable production and use of renewable bio-resources; threats to the sustainability and security of agricultural and fisheries production resulting in particular from climate change), to increase excellence and relevance of research, and to enhance and strengthen the cooperation within the region in sharing the objectives and the priorities.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

These are the aims of this ERA-Net project, the Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean (ARIMNet), which clearly has a double ambition: to enhance coordination of agricultural research programmes within the Mediterranean area and to improve cooperation within the area. It gathers twelve countries (six EU Member States, two associated countries and four other Mediterranean countries) and the programmes that could be under the Coordination Action gather more than 3,000 researchers and EUR 300 million per year.

**Period:** 01/10/2008 to 30/09/2012
**Total cost:** EUR 1,236,752
**Budget from EC:** EUR 999,999
**Contract number:** 219262
**Funding scheme:** CSA
**Coordinator:** INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE
**Website:** www.arimnet.net
Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean
BIO CIRCLE

Creating a CIRCLE by extending the BIO NCP network to Third Country NIPs

**Context and Objectives**

BIO CIRCLE will extend the network of national contact points (NCPs) for the FP7 theme ‘Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology’ (BIO NCP) to national information points (NIPs) from third countries (TCs) over a two-year period. The European Commission needs to implement the bilateral Scientific & Technological Agreements signed with TCs, for increasing their participation in FAFB FP7 and strengthening the collaboration between European and TC researchers.

The main focus of the project will be on identifying, sharing and implementing good practices between NCPs and NIPs.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

The expected results of BIO CIRCLE are: (1) built capacities for third country BIO NIPs (through SWOT analysis, training of NIPs and twinning); (2) strengthened consortium building in FAFB international cooperation projects (through mapping of TC research potential and the organisation of two international brokerage events); (3) built capacities for TC researchers to participate in FP7 (through preparation of specific training materials, training and networking with EU researchers); (4) strengthened identification, development and sharing of good practices to enhance cooperation between the NCP and NIP networks (through five regional benchmarking workshops, a common benchmarking workshop and the design of a good practices guide). 6% of the budget is foreseen to be granted to researchers from TCs to attend the two international brokerage events. The five BIO NCP partners of BIO CIRCLE led by APRE will assure the successful implementation of the project. The 18 NIP partners of BIO CIRCLE will be embraced in this circle of activities aimed at ensuring quality and dynamism in implementing the Scientific & Technological Agreements between the EU and TCs. BIO CIRCLE will work in synergy with and be closely linked to the BIO-NET project, the complete NCP FAFB network.
BIO CIRCLE
Creating a CIRCLE by extending the BIO NCP network to Third Country NIPs

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bio Circle
Creating a Circle by extending the bio NCP network to Third Country NIPs
BIO CIRCLE 2

Reinforcing the international cooperation in FP7 FAFB strengthening the CIRCLE of Third Countries’ BIO NCPs

**Context and Objectives**

The main objective of BIO CIRCLE 2 is to foster the knowledge base about FP7 FAFB and the networking capacities of third country researchers in order to reinforce their participation in FP7 projects.

Three project goals are distinguished: (1) disseminate information effectively to third country researchers; (2) organise information days and training for third country researchers; (3) provide third country researchers with efficient networking opportunities.

**Activities**

Five European plus 16 third country partners (international cooperation partner countries (ICPC) and industrialised countries) will all be involved in the activities. Apart from Kazakhstan and Thailand, all involved countries (and the African continent represented by FArA) have signed a bilateral S & T agreement with the EU. The expected impacts are supported by various activities.

- Enhanced awareness of third country researchers on the FP7 FAFB: WP2 will develop the regional strategies for the third country partners.

- Increased third country researchers’ participation in EU projects: WP3 will organise at least two trainings for third country researchers at national and regional levels, three trainings of third country BIO NCPs and one regional event per world region.

- Strengthened collaborations with third countries that are signatories of bilateral S & T agreements with the EU: WP4 will implement networking activities for third country researchers, including brokerage events and working visits of third country researchers to EU research institutes and vice versa.

- WP5 on dissemination activities will increase the awareness of European researchers on international cooperation in FP7 FAFB.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

The impact of the activities will be further maximised by: (1) involving other countries that are not partners through a regional approach; (2) linking the BIO CIRCLE 2 activities to the activities of related INCO projects; (3) involving industrialised countries that are global S & T leaders in FAFB related research.

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**Period:** 01/02/2011 to 31/01/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 1 161 563  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 999 969  
**Contract number:** 265608

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** AGENZIA PER LA PROMOZIONE DELLA RICERCA EUROPEA  
**Website:** [www.biocircle-project.eu](http://www.biocircle-project.eu)
BIO CIRCLE 2
Reinforcing the international cooperation in FP7 FAFB strengthening the CIRCLE of Third Countries’ BIO NCPs

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BIO CIRCLE 2

Reinforcing the international cooperation in FP7 FAFB strengthening the CIRCLE of Third Countries’ BIO NCPs

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CA2AFRICA

Conservation Agriculture in AFRICA: Analysing and FoReseeing its Impact — Comprehending its Adoption

Period: 01/01/2010 to 30/06/2012
Total cost: EUR 1 159 228
Budget from EC: EUR 999 808
Contract number: 245347

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: CENTRE DE COOPERATION INTERNATIONAL EN RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT
Website: http://ca2africa.cirad.fr/

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Despite the growing efforts of research and extension programmes on the promotion of conservation agriculture (CA), there has been limited success in adopting CA on smallholder farms in Africa. African farming systems are highly heterogeneous in terms of agro-ecological, socioeconomical and cultural environments and opportunities for CA necessarily require local adaptation. Simulation models and modelling frameworks may be used to assist our ability to better understand and target innovative technologies such as CA within complex farming systems.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The project will facilitate the identification of pathways to make models readily applicable for decision-makers in different African regions and under different conditions. It will allow the agenda to be set for future research, development and promotion of CA in Africa. Dissemination, networking and training will make the project outcomes highly accessible to the principal stakeholders (researchers, public and private extension services, farmer organisations, national and regional policymakers, and the private sector).

ACTIVITIES

Over 30 months, the overall objective of this project is to assess and learn jointly from past and ongoing CA experiences under which conditions and to what extent CA strengthens the socioeconomic position of landholders in Africa. For this purpose, a consortium comprising 10 highly experienced, complementary European, African and international partners has been assembled. It will develop an up-to-date knowledge database on CA practices in Africa. Biophysical, socioeconomic and conceptual models of innovation systems will be applied to a series of case studies across five regions in Africa to analyse the impact and adoption of CA at different scales (field, farm, region).
CA2AFRICA

Conservation Agriculture in AFRICA: Analysing and FoReseeing its Impact — Comprehending its Adoption

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Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The Coordination Action (hereafter ‘the project’) will establish an effective collaboration network among key players in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries research and management. The participants in the project include national research institutes from Mediterranean and Black Sea countries with a long history and active participation in fisheries research and assessment, who provide advice to national, regional and international fisheries management organisms. The project will seek the active collaboration of regional and international fisheries management organisms as external participants in the project, in order to identify the gaps (in terms of data, knowledge, training, coordination) which hamper at present the full application of the ecosystem approach in the management of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.

**ACTIVITIES**

The project will have a strong training and capacity-building component in order to help harmonise data collection and methodologies used in fisheries assessment and management in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The project will serve to establish the guidelines for the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, both in EU Member States and in third countries. The project is organised in six work packages: (i) project coordination; (ii) review of current knowledge on data collection and methodological practices in assessment and management; (iii) identification of data needs, quality, harmonisation, methodologies and models for EAF; (iv) establishing coordination with the assessment and management international/regional bodies; (v) training and capacity building; symposium; dissemination component; (vi) strengthening the scientific basis of EAF application in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.

**PERIOD:** 01/05/2011 to 30/04/2014

**TOTAL COST:** EUR 1 237 119

**BUDGET FROM EC:** EUR 999 137

**CONTRACT NUMBER:** 265648

**FUNDING SCHEME:** CSA

**COORDINATOR:** MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE OF ZARAGOZA / INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC STUDIES

**WEBSITE:** www.creamproject.eu
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Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

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FOODSEG

Safe Food for Europe — Coordination of research activities and Dissemination of research results of EC-funded research on food safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period: 01/05/2011 to 30/04/2014</th>
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<td>Budget from EC: EUR 999 915</td>
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<td>Contract number: 266061</td>
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</table>

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** DI ANDREAS MOSER RTD SERVICES - RTDS  
**Website:** www.foodseg.net

### CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

This Coordination and Support Action (CSA) has the overall aim of disseminating state-of-the-art research results in food safety and quality topics through a series of symposia, expert working group meetings, an online platform with best practice examples and coordination of cooperation and a plan for the preparation of future activities. In addition to the aim of disseminating research results of finished and ongoing EC-funded projects under FP6 and FP7 and other projects focused on food safety, the consortium will develop strategies and recommendations for European policies (e.g. food, consumers, research, health, agriculture). The secure handling of food has a major impact on the safety of food products and European consumers. Furthermore, detailed plans and actions to foster food safety research in Europe are part of the workplan and objectives.

### EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

This CSA will pave the way for highly innovative research projects in the field of food safety. FOODSEG will connect research and policy actors in the enlarged European Union and the candidate countries, in order to fill transitional gaps and achieve a broader network and deeper collaboration between them. The following map gives an overview of the FOODSEG consortium and the very broad network which covers nearly all regions of the enlarged European Union, candidate countries and also third countries.
FOODSEG
Safe Food for Europe — Coordination of research activities and Dissemination of research results of EC-funded research on food safety

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FOODSEG
Safe Food for Europe — Coordination of research activities and Dissemination of research results of EC-funded research on food safety
In addition to water scarcity, diseases and civil wars, Africa is also the least wealthy continent, in terms of economic and financial resources. These combined and tightly linked problems have led to a restricted range of choices, which are affordable for African countries, to deal in particular with the water issue, as a major topic. Treating polluted water before use has been their almost unique solution to deal with the growing water scarcity. The treatment of water and elimination of pollutants, mainly pathogenic organisms, xenobiotics and heavy metals, although it presents significant challenges in itself, is crucial for human health and environmental considerations. However, most regions in developing countries cannot afford the costs of advanced and specialised systems. Numerous water cleaning methods are based on natural, plants or microorganisms, or biochemical processes. Biotechnology is a useful tool that is delivering improved products and processes for environmental sustainability, and promises a range of benefits to manage the industrial WW economically and effectively around the world. Some biotechnological techniques are quite sophisticated but others are simple, cost effective and adapted to the local conditions and resources of developing countries.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

These natural biological treatment systems include lagooning, land treatment, phytodepuration, and constructed wetland systems. They can be applied as secondary or tertiary purification treatment, allowing the removal of pathogenic microorganisms and the degradation of organic pollutants, so that wastewater can be recycled for irrigation and domestic use and hence the pressure on the hydric resources can be reduced. Other biotechnological techniques to be taken into account within this project are biofiltration, membrane bioreactors and algae and other aquatic crops’ application for wastewater purification.
WATERBIOTECH
Biotechnology for Africa's sustainable water supply

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OH-NEXTGEN
Training of the One Health Next Scientific Generation in the Sahel and Maghreb

Period: 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2015
Total cost: EUR 2 228 900
Budget from EC: EUR 1 997 402
Contract number: 289412

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: PRINS LEOPOLD INSTITUUT VOOR TROPISCHE GENEESKUNDE
Website: www.oh-nextgen.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Humans and animals living in poor communities in the developing world often suffer from health problems arising from neglected zoonoses. Control options for these diseases are perceived as either too expensive or to be beyond the mandate of either the human or animal health systems. There is evidence that zoonoses in humans can be suppressed or even eliminated through interventions in animals. Moreover, joining human and animal health services can provide access to care that would otherwise not be affordable or not be available. The close collaboration between the public and animal health sectors, also called One Health, with clearly defined roles for each sector, offers a formidable potential for creative and cost-effective solutions in disease control. Despite the emerging evidence on the effectiveness of One Health in surveillance and control of zoonoses, institutional barriers limit the added value of closer cooperation between human and animal health.

ACTIVITIES

OH-NEXTGEN will develop a web-based modular training course designed to empower a new generation of scientists to address One Health issues faced by communities in Africa. While this programme is targeted at the Maghreb and the Sahel, the course will be accessible worldwide by offering training modules through the European tropical health education network (tropED) and other existing networks. The course will include selected neglected zoonoses and generic themes such as integrated methods of joint human and animal disease surveillance and epidemiology, health economic assessments, animal–human modelling of infectious disease, trans-disciplinary approaches to connect science and society and it will address issues of culture, gender and contextualised extension and health education. In each module the added value of One Health is demonstrated. The project will complement the existing EU FP7 ICONZ project, which builds up the evidence base for integrated control approaches to neglected zoonoses in seven African countries.
OH-NEXTGEN
Training of the One Health Next Scientific Generation in the Sahel and Maghreb

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SUWARESA

Capacity and knowledge building on the Sustainable Use of Water Resources in Syrian Agriculture

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

SUWARESA’s main objective is to reinforce the scientific and research cooperation capacities of MAAR-GCSAR-ANRR in the sustainable management of water resources in Syrian agriculture and to increase its competency and fund-raising skills for a successful participation in the EU Framework Programme.

The specific objectives of SUWARESA are: to set-up the research/cooperation priorities between Syria and the EU in the field of agricultural water management; to build capacity and develop human resources for scientific research and research cooperation in the Syrian agricultural water management sector; to promote networking, joint research themes and exchange of knowledge on specific topics of agricultural water management; to set-up the ANRR research and cooperation strategy on the short and long-term basis; and to disseminate the results of activities by using different tools.

**ACTIVITIES**

SUWARESA will be carried out in close collaboration with two well-reputed regional partners (CIHEAM-IAMB and CSIC), and with the involvement of local stakeholders and recognised external, international S & T policy experts and from the other (neighbouring) European neighbourhood policy (ENP) countries.

**Period:** 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 616 380  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 499 904  
**Contract number:** 266504  
**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM  
**Website:** www.gcsar.gov.sy
SUWARESA

Capacity and knowledge building on the Sustainable Use of WAter REsources in Syrian Agriculture

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Improve the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax in Bio-Processes for biotech applications, tying up with the European Research Area

**Context and Objectives**

On the way to a more knowledge-based economy and in accordance with scientific and technological agreements with the European Union, Tunisia launched necessary policies and measures to set up and improve the efficiency of research centres such as the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax (CBS). As a key element of the Tunisian biotechnology plan, the CBS focuses on applied research particularly in terms of the use, development, transfer and application of bioprocesses.

BioProtech aims to support the CBS in improving its capacities in bioprocesses development such as fermentation and microarrays technologies as well as all related fields such as technology transfer mechanisms, know-how about the EU Framework Programme (FP) and biosafety competencies to be better integrated in the European research area (ERA).

This support will be organised in six work packages covering the technological aspect of bioprocesses (fermentation, microarray and biosafety), the incubation and transfer of bioprocesses especially to local industry, training and coaching in FP7, dissemination of scientific results, strategy and evaluation regarding the focus of CBS and the further integration in the ERA, and project management.

**Activities**

To achieve the objectives, five European partners have been selected who are highly qualified and specialised in each of the topics. The results will support local economic development through the creation of new or support of existing high-tech companies and more scientific collaborations with the EU. In the field of bioprocesses this means identifying promising results and supporting their path through cooperation, licensing or start-up creation. Comparison and matching between what exists in Tunisia and in the EU will help update and adjust the local competencies and shape the research agenda and priorities for the following years. This will also benefit the European actors as know-how and capacities will be better integrated and available in the ERA.
BIOPROTECH

Improvement of research capacities of the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax in Bio-Processes for biotech applications, tying up with the European Research Area

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MAP2ERA

Strengthening EU cooperation capacity of the National Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Morocco: Towards Morocco’s integration into the ERA

Context and Objectives

The central goal of MAP2ERA is to reinforce the international research cooperation between Morocco’s leading institute in medicinal and aromatic plants research, NIMAP, and ERA in critically important areas (specifically FP7 themes such as ‘food, agriculture and fisheries, biotechnology’, environment and health). This goal will be attained through the pursuit of the following specific objectives:

▶ O.1: to widen and reinforce direct links between leading research teams of NIMAP and best relevant European research organisations by conducting a series of networking and partnering events, and facilitating direct mobility of scientists aimed at initiating new joint projects (including joint research programme) and exchange of ideas;
▶ O.2: to build the cooperation capacity in NIMAP by providing a comprehensive training to members of the Moroccan research institute to develop/enhance their skills and competences with regard to building international research partnerships (including acquiring and participating in FP7 projects), as well as other important complementary research competences;
▶ O.3: to guarantee the sustainability and long-lasting positive effect of the project by developing a comprehensive development strategy for NIMAP aimed at significantly strengthening the role the institute plays in meeting the national socioeconomic challenges and regional/international research activities.

Activities

MAP2ERA brings together the best partners from ERA and Morocco: NIMAP (the leading MAP research institute in Morocco) will be directly supported through its European twinning partner ICSN, Europe’s best research institution in natural products, chemistry and biology with research interests and capacities ideally matching NIMAP’s. UA (with long-standing expertise in international project management and its vast network of partners) and GIRAF (specialist training provider, project management expert with expertise in institutional development and organisation) usefully complement the consortium.
MAP2ERA

Strengthening EU cooperation capacity of the National Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Morocco: Towards Morocco’s integration into the ERA

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BOTERA

Reinforcing cooperation between the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan and ERA

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Jordan is rich in flora with over 2500 species including 363 species of vascular plants. It is situated at the Southern edge of the Fertile Crescent and is a hotspot for crop, crop wild relative and medicinal plant diversity of vital global importance. However, due to pressures associated with desertification, many of Jordan’s plant habitats are threatened or on the verge of extinction. About 35% of all Jordanian flora can be found at the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan (RBG). RBG is the only botanical garden in Jordan. It was established by the Ministry of Environment to implement the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity and its mission is to conserve regional biodiversity on the habitat level. RBG is well networked with agricultural, environmental and tourism organisations throughout Jordan and the surrounding region and acts as a natural focal point for botanical and conservation research. Via BOT-ERA, RBG aims to become more closely integrated with ERA through capacity building and strategic collaboration with three excellent European research and innovation organisations: Royal Botanic Gardens - Kew, University of Birmingham, and Innoveo Consulting.

**ACTIVITIES**

The focus of the capacity building will be on three key botanical research topics: A) Plants and Seed Conservation, B) Genetic Resource Diversity and Biotechnology, and C) Utilisation and Access Benefit Sharing. These are research topics highly relevant to the FP7 KBBE and Environment. The BOT-ERA project will be implemented by a dedicated team of experienced RBG researchers. It will be overseen by a steering committee involving the consortium partners plus members of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, NCARE, ICARDA and Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The regional environmental, social and economic impacts expected from the BOT-ERA project are precisely the reasons why these organisations have signed letters of support for the proposal.

**Period**: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2014

**Total cost**: EUR 497 570

**Budget from EC**: EUR 497 570

**Contract number**: 294416

**Funding scheme**: CSA

**Coordinator**: ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN
BOTERA
Reinforcing cooperation between the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan and ERA

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FAWIRA
Strengthening of Food, Agriculture and Water-related International Research Cooperation of Algeria

OBJECTIVES

FAWIRA aims to reinforce the research cooperation capacities of the Algerian National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRAA) in the field of food, agriculture and water. INRAA will achieve its objective by becoming a centre of excellence in food, agriculture and water in the context of the European research area. Additionally, INRAA will improve its standing by facilitating its participation in FP7 programmes like KBBE and environment, and other European related research programmes, where INRAA will cooperate and develop the responses to Algeria’s socioeconomic needs.

ACTIVITIES

The FAWIRA work plan is fully functional and designed for optimal performance to achieve its objectives. The work plan strategy is based on a combination of core and complementary activities, allocated to highly experienced partners that can ensure the full involvement of the relevant components of the food, agriculture and water research, and capacity building. The work plan is composed of three interconnected and supporting work packages for strategic development, enhancing innovation and the building of human resources capacities and research instrument strengthening, while the whole action is based on food, agriculture and water research needs and opportunities analysis, backed by a strong network facilitation and dissemination activities and supported by a solid project management organisation.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

▶ The project will carry out an analysis of food, agriculture and water research needs and opportunities in Algeria. Part of the outcomes of this WP will be shared with the MIRA project, particularly WP7 for shaping a research strategic agenda in support of Horizon 2020. The project will also support the development of a strategic plan for the realisation of competitive research to face local and regional socioeconomic needs and the development of a business plan to provide strategic direction for further development of the research centre towards internationalisation and efficient responses to local socioeconomic needs as regards enhancing the delivery of food, agriculture and water services, integrating women in research and providing better opportunities to young researchers to reduce brain-drain phenomena. The project will particularly focus on specific support schemes for young researchers and provide personalised individual coaching sessions to maximise the impact of trainings. The setting up of a food, agriculture and water laboratory at INRAA will support research also after the project’s completion, thus facilitating the sustainability of the project. In parallel, the project will focus on the creation of synergies with other Algerian, Mediterranean and EU initiatives, facilitation of networks, dissemination of project information and food, agriculture and water research results.

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2014
Total cost: EUR 558,600
Budget from EC: EUR 499,060
Contract number: 295088

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE D’ALGÉRIE, ALGERIA
Website: http://www.inraa.dz
FAWIRA
Strengthening of Food, Agriculture and Water-related International Research Cooperation of Algeria

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OLITREVA

Capacity Building for Sustainable Treatment and Valorisation of Olive Mill Waste (OMW) in Palestine

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The treatment of olive mill waste (OMW) is a major challenge for the Mediterranean region. It has been largely demonstrated that incorrect OMW management leads to soil, surface and groundwater pollution and deterioration of the landscape. In Palestine, where water is considered to be a highly important resource for which there is currently an increasing demand from almost all sectors, OMW treatment and valorisation is gaining increasing attention from many researchers in the world. Olives and their oil make major contributions to the Palestinian economy. Olive farms cover almost half of the cultivated area in the West Bank, and oil production contributes around 28.7% of the agricultural domestic income. At the same time, olive mills generate large amounts of wastewater, which at the moment is not treated, thus exacerbating water availability. Finding effective treatment methods for the effluents of the olive industry is therefore an important research topic for universities and scientific institutes in Palestine.

Indeed, some small-scale projects have been carried out, mainly by Palestinian research organisations with the support of international donors. However, they have not sufficiently contributed to a substantial improvement in environmental conditions.

In response to this situation, efforts in this field should focus on strengthening local research, including researchers and their institutions, and on building up local S & T capabilities. The level of domestic science and technology capabilities determines the success or failure of a given country to benefit from technology transfer and goes hand-in-hand with social progress and economic development. In this particular case, it is imperative to equip Palestinian research institutions with appropriate S & T and cooperation capacities to be able to propose appropriate solutions to the environmental challenges caused by OMW.

Along these lines, the aim of OLITREVA is to reinforce the RTD capacities of the Applied Research Institute — Jerusalem (ARIJ) in the sustainable management of OMW in the West Bank, by increasing networking and cooperation with European centres of top-level research and scientific excellence working in the same field. In this way, ARIJ will develop the necessary capacities to respond to the environmental challenges resulting from incorrect OMW disposal. Engaging one of the country’s leading institutions in this field, ARIJ, will be the first step towards the achievement of this goal, while widening the path for future collaborations between EU and Palestinian researchers and bringing current research activities in the field of OMW treatment and valorisation to new heights.
OLITREVA
Capacity Building for Sustainable Treatment and Valorisation of Olive Mill Waste (OMW) in Palestine

ACTIVITIES
The work plan conceived for the present action will boost human and organisational development in Palestine by means of exchanging and sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices between EU and Palestinian research organisations in the long term. In parallel, it will promote the establishment of research networks that will accelerate the creation of new knowledge in the field of OMW and provide more comprehensive scientific solutions to the common challenges.

OLITREVA will enhance the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge as well as the cross-fertilisation of ideas. The Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs) have developed diversified technologies and know-how specialising in certain fields dictated by peculiar local conditions. Some countries have thus built up knowledge and expertise on specific problems, gaining a wealth of experience that could benefit those countries faced with similar problems. The definition of the future research path in OMW treatment and valorisation represents a great step towards the development of cost-effective technology for the special conditions of the Mediterranean region.

The content and structure of the work plan have been chosen to achieve the objective described above as efficiently as possible, and within a period of two years. The first stage of the project will cover the assessment of the current state of RTD capacities in the field of OMW treatment and valorisation. Based on the assessment results, the partners will evaluate challenges, opportunities and the potential of this research area in Palestine. In turn, the second stage of the project will be devoted to strengthening the RTD and cooperation capacities of ARIJ, by means of a tailor-made strategy for research and cooperation improvement and activities for capacity building. Finally, the dissemination activities seek to increase the international visibility of Palestinian researchers and research institutions, while fostering networking with peer organisations abroad in the frame of OLITREVA’s international conference.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES
The expected outputs of the project are to:
- Provide an in-depth assessment of the existing S & T capacities of local research institutions dealing with OMW treatment, a basis that will be used by Palestinian researchers to build on and search for the most efficient techniques that suit their national conditions;
- Facilitate the exchange of information and expertise between European and Palestinian researchers on OMW;
- Train certain junior researchers on technical OMW treatment and valorisation processes and on European project management related issues;
- Raise awareness amongst the scientific community, public authorities and society on the necessity of sustainable and environmental technologies for the development on OMW treatment;
- show examples of good practice in demonstrative activities of implemented OMW treatment technologies, and help the Palestinian research institute to chart the course of future research in the addressed field.
OLITREVA

Capacity Building for Sustainable Treatment and Valorisation of Olive Mill Waste (OMW) in Palestine

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FORCE
Fisheries and aquaculture-Oriented Research Capacity in Egypt

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

FORCE is designed to enhance the capacity of the Egyptian National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF) to carry out research activities aimed at supporting the implementation of sound and science-based policies for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in Egypt, as well as in the whole Mediterranean north African region.

**ACTIVITIES**

In order to achieve these objectives, FORCE project will focus on the following activities:

- **1:** to ensure an efficient and integrated management of the consortium. This work package will be lead by NIOF, allowing this institution to learn-by-doing how the administrative part of a European project should be carried out (i.e. documentation to provide to the EC, financial management, deliverables, etc.) and how a coordinator should interact with the consortium to achieve a successful project.

- **2:** to support NIOF in testing indicators of impact of finfish cage culture in coastal areas, in order to identify the most cost-effective monitoring practices and to enhance NIOF’s research capacities in sustainable aquaculture by training NIOF researchers in using and developing simulation models. This knowledge transfer from the University of Ca’Foscari to NIOF will reinforce the research capacities of this institution in the field of aquaculture, thus facilitating its participation as partner in EU research projects.

- **3:** to promote the coordination and stimulate synergies between Egypt and EU Member States to strengthen the capacity for developing the sustainable management of fisheries through training and exchange of expertise and to transfer expertise on fishing technology based on the requirements of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, in order to describe new fishing methods and strategies that mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

- **4:** to enhance the capacity building for a comprehensive strategy, to improve women’s capacities to contribute effectively to a real improvement in the socioeconomic conditions of the fishery community, and to encourage female scientists and postgraduate students to participate in EU research programmes and to improve their capability for writing competitive research proposals for the Framework Programme.

- **5:** to ensure effective external dissemination, communication and optimal outreach of the project and its results and to strengthen the NIOF network in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors with relevant European research centres in the area.

**Period:** 01/11/2011 to 30/04/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 589,982  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 499,557  
**Contract number:** 295004  

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FISHERIES
FORCE
Fisheries and aquaculture-Oriented Research Capacity in Egypt

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AGORA
Advancing Mediterranean Forest Research Capacities

**Context and Objectives**

In order to avoid an irreversible situation for Mediterranean forests in MPCs, a coordinated approach throughout the Mediterranean basin to improve forest management and policymaking based on reliable information and tools is required. AGORA will update and enlarge scientific knowledge on the sustainable management of forests in selected MPCs through scientific cooperation and networking and targeted capacity building that efficiently uses the existing multidisciplinary knowledge and resources available in different European forest research institutions of the Mediterranean region.

**Activities**

Coordinated forest research partnerships between ‘centres of excellence’ (located in the EU and an associated country) and MPCs entities with the highest research potential will be developed. This will be realised by improving scientific relationships, networking and exchanging of know-how and experience as well as by upgrading the research capacities of the MPCs’ forest research entities. In addition, the forest scientific strategies of the MPCs research entities will be adjusted based on upgraded capacities.

**Period:** 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2012  
**Total cost:** EUR 1 191 800  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 986 433  
**Contract number:** 245482  

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE  
**Website:** http://www.efmed.efi.int/portal/agora
AGORA
Advancing Mediterranean Forest Research Capacities

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BIODESERT
Biotechnology from desert microbial extremophiles for supporting agriculture research potential in Tunisia and southern Europe

**Context and Objectives**

The project BIODESERT aims to strengthen a molecular microbial ecology research platform already existing in Tunisia, which actively performs collaborative research for the development of straightforward strategies of microbial resource management (MRM) for agriculture in arid environments. The final objective is to expand the existing platform and improve the related technical and research knowledge, for addressing agricultural problems and exploiting microbial biotechnology that can support the development of a bio-economy in Tunisia and north Africa.

**Activities**

The idea behind BIODESERT is to create the conditions, in terms of advanced research equipment and up-to-date know-how, for developing research in the field of microbial applied biotechnology from the extremophiles living in the arid and desert environments characterising Tunisia and north Africa. We believe that microorganisms living in these harsh environments hide important properties that could be exploited in agriculture for improving soil water retention, fertility and plant protection in arid ecosystems. For this purpose, BIODESERT intends to recruit three experienced researchers that will set up in the Tunisian partner’s laboratory a microarray system, a Real Time-PCR and a confocal fluorescence microscope and will develop the most recent analytical techniques based on these advanced tools. The three researchers will benefit from training periods in two European laboratories (in Italy and Greece) that already use these technologies.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

These activities will result in the transfer of know-how to the Tunisian partner who will be able to improve the research potential in the microbial biotechnology of arid ecosystems. By a careful dissemination strategy planned in the ambit of BIODESERT, the improved knowledge will be spread in the scientific environment and the society of Tunisia and other north African countries, promoting the application of MRM for improving agricultural sustainability in arid ecosystems.
BIODESERT

Biotechnology from desert microbial extremophiles for supporting agriculture research potential in Tunisia and southern Europe

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PROBIOLIVES

Table olive fermentation with selected strains of probiotic lactic acid bacteria: Towards a new functional food

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the project is to isolate the most appropriate probiotic bacteria from the autochthonous olive microflora, in order to be used as pure starter cultures for the improvement of traditional fermentation and for the production of a new functional food.

ACTIVITIES

Isolated lactic acid bacteria with probiotic properties will be selected for potential tolerance of the naturally antimicrobial compounds, such as polyphenols occurring in olives. Furthermore, the selection of cultures will focus on the production of antimicrobial compounds like bacteriocins which reduce growth of spoilage and pathogenic bacteria. In addition, organoleptic and biochemical properties like the production of desired aroma compounds will be studied. At the same time, a better control of the fermentation process, early detection of faulty fermentation and spoilage and assessment of the time needed for fermentation completion will be achieved by monitoring the quality indices (e.g. volatiles) throughout the process with the use of advanced and emerging instruments (electronic nose) and tools (mathematical models). Risk assessment studies will be carried out to ensure the safety of the new product and storage experiments will indicate its shelf-life stability. Mathematical models will be developed for the prediction of its shelf life and consumer acceptance studies will ensure the quality and acceptance of the final product.
PROBIOLIVES
Table olive fermentation with selected strains of probiotic lactic acid bacteria: Towards a new functional food
Health
### COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

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<td>Vector Control for Visceral and Cutaneous Leishmaniasis</td>
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DEEP
DEferiprone Evaluation in Paediatrics

**CONTEXT**

β-thalassaemia major is one of the most severe forms of anaemia. The recommended treatment consists of regular blood transfusions combined with chelating therapy to remove harmful iron accumulation in the body. The first chelating agent approved for clinical use was deferoxamine that, despite its potentially satisfactory therapeutic effects, is not usable by many patients due to toxicity. Moreover, its subcutaneous route of administration leads to non-compliance in most patients. In August 1999, an oral iron chelating agent, deferiprone, was authorised in Europe and is currently indicated for the treatment of iron overload in patients with thalassaemia major when deferoxamine is contraindicated or inadequate. Despite a wide experience of deferiprone with thalassaemic patients, limited data are available on its use in 2–10 year old children and the need for additional data in this class of age is expressly stated in the 2009 PDCO (the paediatric committee at the EMA) priority list. In addition, the anticipated benefit of controlling cardiac iron overload in the entire paediatric population as well as in other chronic transfusion-dependent anaemias, led the PDCO to expand the request for additional data to the cited patient populations.

**OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED IMPACT**

The DEEP project has been developed with the specific intent to integrate the existing information on deferiprone use in 2–10 year old children, thus covering the lack of knowledge and providing a valid support to the use of the drug in children of all ages. According to recent scientific advancements and the opinion expressed by the PDCO, the project has been expanded to include the whole paediatric population. The aim of this application is to provide data on pharmacokinetics, and comparative efficacy/safety of deferiprone in order to produce an approved paediatric investigational plan to be used for regulatory purposes. At the end of the proposed set of studies, deferiprone will be available at efficacious dosages in children < 18 years as first line treatment. In addition a three-year safety study will evaluate all deferiprone uses in the clinical setting.

**KEYWORDS:**

B-thalassaemia major, deferiprone, iron overload, paediatric clinical trial
DEEP
DEferiprone Evaluation in Paediatrics

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FEMHEALTH

Assessing the impact of fee exemption on maternal health in West Africa and Morocco: new tools, new knowledge

**CONTEXT**

There is a growing consensus that maternal health outcomes can only be improved through policies and programmes that combine interventions to address the different causes of ill health and target multiple groups. Such policies and programmes are complex in nature as they involve coordination between different tiers in the health system and multiple actors including communities, health workers and managers. User fee exemption for delivery and emergency obstetric care (EmOC) is one such policy that has been introduced by several African countries with the aim of improving access to care and thus improving maternal and neonatal outcomes. However, the current evidence base regarding the impact of this policy is not well developed, in part because of evaluation designs that are not able to capture all the necessary information for policymakers to make informed decisions.

**OBJECTIVE**

This project aims to reduce this gap by developing research methodologies and tools that will lead to enhanced research on policy implementation, stronger evidence and improved dissemination.
HEALTH

FEMHEALTH

Assessing the impact of fee exemption on maternal health in West Africa and Morocco: new tools, new knowledge

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HEPACUTE
Host and viral factors in acute hepatitis C

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVE

Chronic hepatitis C is one of the most common chronic viral infections of humans and a major cause of chronic liver disease, cirrhosis and liver cancer. Still, about 4 million new infections occur worldwide each year with 50–85 % of patients progressing to chronic hepatitis C. Currently there is no marker to predict spontaneous viral clearance and to guide treatment decisions. The major objectives of the Hepacute proposal are to develop biomarkers predicting the outcome of acute hepatitis C, improving the management of the concerned patients and thus decreasing the health burden of hepatitis C in Europe and Mediterranean partner countries (MPC).

The Hepacute consortium has evolved from a series of EC-funded projects on hepatitis C (HC-Vacc, HepCvax, Virgil, HEPACIVAC) and consists of world leading experts in HCV epidemiology, immunology, and virology, including partners from Egypt and Morocco, who have strongly influenced the current management of patients with acute hepatitis C in their respective regions, and contributed considerably to our understanding of mechanisms of spontaneous viral clearance. Hepacute is closely connected to ongoing national, European and Egyptian networks on HCV research (HepNet, EASL, STDF), which supports Hepacute in making it a success. Together with another pertinent EU-funded research project, SPHINX, it actively contributes to coordinating EU-funded hepatitis C research with pertinent research projects funded in the MCP countries, in particular with hepatitis research projects funded under the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF).

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED IMPACT

Within Hepacute the most innovative technologies will be employed such as genome-wide association studies, transcriptomics, proteomics, and ultra-deep sequencing to better understand the early events in acute hepatitis C and to translate these results into readily practicable diagnostic tools to predict spontaneous viral clearance.

Hepacute has firmly integrated partners from Egypt and Morocco with pre-existing research collaborations with European partners into the scientific research programme and we expect this continuing partnership between European and Mediterranean countries to have a strong impact on the care of patients with acute hepatitis C both in Europe and MPC.
HEPAcute
Host and viral factors in acute hepatitis C

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HOMITB

Host and microbial molecular dissection of pathogenesis and immunity in tuberculosis

**Context and Objectives**

Tuberculosis (TB) is a leading public health problem. About half of the 10% of Mycobacterium tuberculosis-infected individuals who develop overt clinical disease do so within two years of primary infection. The remaining half of the TB patients develop clinical disease later, owing to ‘reactivation’ of pulmonary TB. Importantly, it is not understood why only 10% of infected individuals develop active disease. In this project, we will investigate the molecular and cellular interactions between mycobacteria and host cells, and the regulation of such interactions by cellular immune responses. Such interactions dictate the outcome of infection, ranging from asymptomatic infection to life-threatening disease.

**Activities**

For this purpose, we have established a consortium of experts in genetics, immunology, microbiology and paediatrics and a biotechnology company. We will dissect the molecular and cellular immune responses, combining mice models and human patients. In both approaches, the responses of various host target cells regulating mycobacterial growth and the mycobacterial adaptation to different host cell responses to infection will be studied. The role of innate and adaptive immune responses in the control of mycobacterial growth and the regulation of inflammation will be studied as well. In addition, we will investigate such responses using a third model based on mice reconstituted de novo with human hematopoietic-derived cell lineages. Finally, targeted and genome-wide explorations will be employed in large familial samples to identify novel susceptibility genes involved in the immune control of primary M. tuberculosis infection and secondary pulmonary TB.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

The outcome of HOMITB will be an assessment of molecular and cellular interactions crucial for the design of novel vaccination, immunotherapeutic strategies and better diagnostic biomarkers. The feasibility of this programme is attested by the high scientific quality and remarkable complementarities of the participants.
HOST AND IMMUNITY IN TUBERCULOSIS

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LEISHDNAXAVAX
Development of a DNA vaccine for visceral leishmaniasis

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

This project will focus on the preclinical development of a DNA vaccine for human visceral leishmaniasis. The project is based upon the DNA vaccine technology and immunomodulators developed at Mologen AG (Berlin, Germany), which are in clinical development for cancer and 3–5 known antigens that have already demonstrated profiles of protection in animal models of leishmaniasis.

ACTIVITIES

Antigens will be selected on the basis of preset criteria to assure protection in high proportion of target populations and against many different species of Leishmania. In vitro and in vivo models will be used to evaluate the prophylactic and therapeutic efficacy of the DNA vehicle with selected antigens alone and in combination with and without immunomodulators. Full toxicology studies will be performed on selected candidate vaccines. Training in preclinical development and clinical trials (ICH-GCP) are an important part of the proposal. Sites will be selected and will be ready to initiate clinical trials at the end of this project (3 years).

Period: 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2011
Total cost: EUR 3 906 054
Budget from EC: EUR 2 989 200
Contract number: 223189

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
Website: http://www.leishdnavax.org/
LEISHDNAVAX
Development of a DNA vaccine for visceral leishmaniasis

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LEISHDRUG

Targeting the Leishmania kinome for the development of novel anti-parasitic strategies

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Visceral leishmaniasis is caused by the protozoan parasites Leishmania donovani and Leishmania infantum and is a potentially fatal disease in endemic areas around the world. During the infectious cycle, Leishmania alternate between the insect promastigote stage and the vertebrate aflagellate amastigote stage that proliferates inside infected host macrophages provoking the pathology of the disease. The main objectives of this project are: (i) to screen small molecule and peptide libraries for hit compounds with leishmanicidal activity using phenotype- and target-based strategies, (ii) to identify anti-parasitic lead compounds and assess their pharmacokinetic profiles using cell culture and experimental infection models for leishmaniasis, and (iii) to initiate lead optimisation by structure-based drug design.

ACTIVITIES

This consortium uses a highly interdisciplinary approach to reveal Leishmania signalling molecules associated with amastigote virulence, with the major aim to exploit parasite-specific pathways for anti-leishmanial drug development.

We use innovative drug screening concepts not applied previously on parasitic systems. We will utilise visual high-content screening to discover compounds capable of killing intracellular Leishmania amastigotes without deteriorating the host cell. This phenotype-based strategy relies on fluorescent parasites and macrophages as read-outs and will allow the simultaneous assessment of anti-leishmanial activity and host cell toxicity under physiological conditions. We will apply a target-based strategy utilising recombinant Leishmania protein kinases for inhibitor identification and structure-guided drug design. The identification of appropriate target kinases, with only limited homology to their mammalian counterparts, will rely on in silico analysis by applying novel bioinformatic tools developed by consortium members, and in vitro assay based on their phospho-transferase activity towards recombinant Leishmania phosphoproteins.
Targeting the Leishmania kinome for the development of novel anti-parasitic strategies

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MEDCHAMPS

MEDiterranean studies of Cardiovascular disease and Hyperglycaemia: Analytical Modelling of Population Socio-economic transitions

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and diabetes, are increasing dramatically in low and middle income countries. The main reasons for this are an increase in major risk factors, particularly increasing obesity (as a consequence of changes in nutrition and decreases in physical activity), and increasing tobacco use. Globalisation, urbanisation and an ageing population are contributing to this trend. A common misperception is that NCDs are diseases of affluence, but in fact they are common amongst poorer sectors of populations, and age-specific disease rates can be higher in developing countries than in industrialised settings. Health services in these countries, developed to tackle acute infectious diseases, are often not ideally organised to promote effective care and prevention for NCDs.

**ACTIVITIES**

This project will develop a CVD and diabetes model (IMPACT) for use in this region. After appropriate testing and validation, we will enter data from each of the four Mediterranean study countries (Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) into the model, and validate results against current disease levels and trends. We will use a combination of situation analysis, policy and document review, and qualitative techniques to elicit the current state of NCD policy development in the study countries, and stakeholders’ perceptions of potentially effective interventions. We will then use the country-validated models to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of selected future policies. Finally, we will develop implementation and evaluation plans for these policies in each study country. The goal of this project is to reduce the NCD burden of CVD and diabetes.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The overall purpose of the project is to be able to make recommendations about the policy initiatives, both within and outside the health sector, likely to be the most effective and cost-effective in reducing the burden of CVD and diabetes mortality and morbidity in each country.

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**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
**Website:** http://research.ncl.ac.uk/medchamps/index.html
MEDCHAMPS

MEDiterranean studies of Cardiovascular disease and Hyperglycaemia: Analytical Modelling of Population Socio-economic transitions

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HEALTH
RAPSODI

PRe-clinical studies of a PSA-based human vaccine candidate targeting visceral, cutaneous and mucocutaneous Leishmaniasis and Development of the associated procedures for further clinical trials

**Context and Objectives**

The overall aim of RAPSODI is to develop a human vaccine candidate against most or all Leishmania species that cause the most severe leishmaniasis in the world. A unique vaccinal solution will thus be developed to protect against the various clinical phenotypes (namely visceral, cutaneous and mucocutaneous leishmaniasis; VL, CL and ML respectively) to establish all the associated procedures required for the subsequent clinical trials, such as the selection of the appropriate patients and assessment of vaccine efficiency.

**Activities**

For this purpose, an international consortium constituted of countries from endemic areas (India, Peru, Tunisia, Spain and France) and embracing multidisciplinary approaches has been set up. Based on successful results on VL dogs, the best VL animal model to date, RAPSODI will propose a second generation human-compatible vaccine candidate and confirm its activity in pre-clinical studies. As the chosen antigen is common to most, if not all, Leishmania species, an ambitious universal immunoprotective response is being sought.

RAPSODI will also address the question of population selection in order to ascertain relevant and meaningful clinical trials and vaccination campaigns. Indeed, resistant individuals, when involved in either vaccinated or placebo groups, represent important bias to the analysis of the results. RAPSODI will investigate further the parasitological, immunological and genetic features of such clinical status, and will subsequently apply the generated knowledge to the development of assays and field tests, which represent stand-alone results.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

The package (vaccine candidate and diagnostic/prognostic tools) proposed by RAPSODI represents a global solution, and as such is believed to have a real impact on the worldwide leishmaniasis problem.

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**Budget from EC:** EUR 737 149  
**Contract number:** 223341  
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**Coordinator:** VIRBAC SA  
**Website:** http://www.fp7-rapsodi.eu/
RAPSODI

PRe-clinical studies of a PSA-based human vaccine candidate targeting visceral, cutaneous and mucocutaneous Leishmaniasis and Development of the associated procedures for further clinical trials

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SPHINX

Spontaneous clearance in Patients acutely infected with HCV — Immune profiling, Novel biomarkers and X-omics approaches

Context and Objectives

The project aims to identify novel biomarkers and provide new insight into the mechanisms of spontaneous clearance of hepatitis C virus (HCV) during the early stages of acute infection. Indeed, hepatitis C is a major public health problem with high incidence in regions such as Egypt and other Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs). This project follows from an FP5 project entitled ‘Promoting Healthy Societies: research in support of regional infectious disease surveillance’, which permitted the development of a cohort of patients with acute symptomatic HCV. In this project, we propose to build on this programme for the biochemical, immunologic and gene polymorphism assessment of patients with an enriched consortium of European, Egyptian and Tunisian academic institutions and one European SME. Our multinational, interdisciplinary consortium is in a strong position to establish an in-depth understanding of spontaneous viral clearance and provide needed information that will impact patient management and the design of candidate vaccines for HCV genotype 4.

Activities

Specifically, we aim to use ‘-omics’ or hypothesis-generating approaches to perform: (i) multi-analyte profiling of plasma analytes; (ii) characterisation of HCV-specific cellular immune responses during the clearance phase; and (iii) assessment of genetic and epigenetic variations that predict viral clearance. Together, this will provide a framework for understanding the host response to acute HCV. In addition, we aim to establish a cooperative training programme under the umbrella of the EU/MPC research collaboration — Fighting hepatitis in Egypt — which will enhance clinical epidemiology and biomarker discovery. Cross-consortia collaborations with the EU-funded project HepaCute and Egyptian-funded STDF will further enhance the impact of our project.
SPHINX
Spontaneous clearance in Patients acutely infected with HCV — Immune profiling, Novel biomarkers and X-omics approaches
AFRICA BUILD

AFRICA BUILD (Building a Research and Education Infrastructure for Africa)

Context and Objective

AFRICA BUILD aims to improve the capacity for health research and education in Africa, through information technologies (IT). It will provide innovative learning and research opportunities. The EU has supported many IT and health initiatives, with significant results. However, there has been no significant transfer of expertise, methods and tools to neighbouring countries in Africa.

The main objective is to promote health research, education and practice in Africa through the creation of centres of excellence, by using IT, ‘know-how’, e-learning and knowledge sharing through web-enabled virtual communities. Initial EU–Africa transfer aims to create sustainable south–south communities of African researchers.

Activities

▶ To analyse the state-of-the art in health research and education in Africa. A roadmap for future European actions will be released.
▶ To implement an IT-enabled, open and collaborative infrastructure for education, training and knowledge sharing for health researchers in English-, French- and Arabic-speaking African countries, developing virtual communities of practice.
▶ To develop and offer a large number of e-learning courses, validated learning resources, methodologies and supporting evidence for improving the education capacities of health-focused centres of excellence in Africa.
▶ To facilitate researchers’ mobility and participation in local and international meetings.
▶ To validate the impact of AFRICA BUILD in pilot research and education initiatives related to reproductive health and HIV/AIDS research.
▶ To disseminate outcomes in scientific conferences and journals, media and workshops and conferences in Africa.

Expected Impact

Based on the experience of the partners — including WHO — we aim to improve know-how, research and technological capacities of the African centres of excellence. Successful actions will be transferred to other organisations and industry.
AFRICA BUILD
AFRICA BUILD (Building a Research and Education Infrastructure for Africa)

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EUNAM
EU and North African Migrants: Health and Health Systems

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The coordinates of human health are complex in a single population, but they are even more complex in migrants whose life situation is always influenced by the host country and the country of origin. Some migrants may experience several host countries and some return to their country of origin. Thus it is important to survey well-being, health status, disease panorama and use of health services of immigrants compared to the native population. Such analyses would be incomplete without casting a view on the same indicators and parameters in the country of origin.

**ACTIVITIES**

Therefore, for this project we have gathered a team of experts to cover health aspects of the full cycle of migration, considering the health situation in Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria as representatives of the Mediterranean north African (NA) partner countries, which are the origins of vast numbers of immigrants in the EU. The EU partner countries from France, Italy, Germany (sub-contracting Slovenia) and Sweden are not only receivers of NA immigrants but they also have larger numbers of immigrants from others areas, allowing comparisons between immigrant groups. The team has experience in a variety of health and disease measures and it has access to a variety of survey and register material relating to population health, disease patterns and function of health care systems. Many of the surveys and disease registers have been carried out/constructed by the present partners who thus possess unique sources of data.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The team will review health effects of migration from the country of origin to the host country and come up with scientifically valid state-of-the-art evaluations and appropriate recommendations for scientific and health policy measures in improving the conditions for EU immigrants.
EUNAM

EU and North African Migrants: Health and Health Systems

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HEALTH-NCP-NET
Coordination Action for Reinforcing the Health National Contact Points Network

Period: 01/05/2008 to 30/04/2012
Total cost: EUR 2 291 429
Budget from EC: EUR 1 999 973
Contract number: 201068
Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: INSTITUTO DE SALUD CARLOS III
Website: http://www.healthncpnet.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Framework Programme is the European Commission’s instrument to finance research in Europe. As part of the Community research and technological development policy, it is expected that participation in the Seventh Framework Programme will increase and the quality of submitted proposals will rise. The objective of this project is to reinforce the network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for the health-related research areas and the health theme under the Seventh Framework Programme by promoting transnational cooperation. This transnational cooperation is extended to officially appointed contact points in international cooperation partner countries, and other third country contact points are not excluded.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The basis for improving the NCP services in the area of health across Europe will be to identify the weaknesses of the network. The action will focus on identifying and sharing good practices. The mechanisms put in place will be benchmarking, training programme and networking and brokerage events. A set of execution, result and impact indicators will measure progress and efficacy of these mechanisms (and corrective action will be taken if needed). The network will assist NCPs and potential applicants to adapt to the new health issues in the Seventh Framework Programme. Special attention will be given to helping less experienced NCPs rapidly acquire the knowledge accumulated in other countries.
HEALTH-NCP-NET

Coordination Action for Reinforcing the Health National Contact Points Network

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MONITORING MEDICINES
Optimising drug safety monitoring to enhance patient safety and achieve better health outcomes

Period: 01/09/2009 to 28/02/2013
Total cost: EUR 2 236 130
Budget from EC: EUR 1 995 096
Contract number: 223566

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: STIFTELSEN WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL DRUG MONITORING
Website: http://www.monitoringmedicines.org/

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Medicines are one of the most common health interventions. Expenditure on pharmaceuticals ranges from 10–20% of all health expenditure in rich countries and from 20–60% in poor countries. Knowledge on appropriate and safe medicines has grown. But the incidence of medicines’ adverse effects remains high. In a UK study, 6.5% of hospital admissions were related to an adverse drug reaction (ADR). And as many as 10% of hospital admissions may result in death or disease due to errors, half of which may be avoidable. There are gaps in what we know. But even where there is sufficient knowledge, brokering of that knowledge is insufficient. There is a clear and present need to build a network of stakeholders in patient safety, to strengthen information and share the evidence towards actionable learning.

ACTIVITIES

The EC work programme for 2007–08 related to health calls for projects that ‘advance the applications of evidence based medicine in Europe’. This project will respond to that call by strengthening what we know about medicines, sharing that knowledge, and putting that knowledge to use, to reduce patient deaths and adverse effects due to medicines. Specifically, it will build patient safety networking to: (1) support and strengthen consumer reporting of ADRs and adverse events, (2) expand the role of national pharmacovigilance centres to prevent medicine-related adverse events, (3) promote better and broader use of existing pharmacovigilance data for patient safety, (4) develop additional methods of pharmacovigilance to complement data from spontaneous reporting systems.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Achieving these objectives will help build the scientific basis needed for making informed policy decisions on disease prevention and therapy, and management of resources for health. In particular, achieving these objectives will help to identify best clinical practice, to understand decision-making in clinical settings in primary and specialised care and to foster application of evidence-based medicine and patient empowerment.
MONITORING MEDICINES

Optimising drug safety monitoring to enhance patient safety and achieve better health outcomes

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**MASCOT**

Multilateral Association for Studying health inequalities and enhancing north–south and south–south COoperaTion

**Period:** 01/10/2011 to 31/03/2014  
**Total cost:** EUR 2 287 574  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 1 999 895  
**Contract number:** 282507

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** COUNCIL ON HEALTH RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Inequalities and vulnerable groups’ health, as well as the slow advances towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals, are concerns that need to be addressed, notably for low- and middle-income countries. While some countries have made advances, these remain unknown to others which could still benefit from their experience. Increased collaboration could help but it is quite difficult to achieve.

The MASCOT project therefore gathers 11 partners from 3 geographical areas (Europe, Latin America and Africa), an advisory board and additional relevant experts to respond to this problem.

**ACTIVITIES**

The work is specifically designed to achieve defined objectives:

- To create links between north–south and south–south efforts in addressing maternal and child health and health inequalities (MCH&I) in developing countries,
- To provide evidence on best practice and policy advice for the development of future public health and health systems interventions.

Following a first step of standardisation and quality control procedures, the project will implement mapping activities in individual countries in the three regions of interest in order to assess the current situation of MCH inequalities, to identify institutions and research teams performing research in this area, to detect promising projects and research results as well as strategies, programmes and policies implemented to tackle MCH inequalities.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

This will result in recommendations of best practices and policy advice to countries willing to implement actions to improve MCH&I. An important part of the work will also stimulate multilateral collaboration and knowledge transfer as a key activity of MASCOT. Throughout the project, different tools such as meetings, workshops, partnering event, website, and brochures will be used to communicate and promote exchanges between health stakeholders and policymakers. Ultimately MASCOT should thus allow a reduction of gaps in health inequalities between and within different regions of the world.
MASCOT
Multilateral Association for Studying health inequalities and enhancing north–south and south–south COnp0eratIOn

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EUMEDNETVSTB
Building a cooperative strategy between Europe and Mediterranean countries for upgrading tuberculosis research and control

**Period:** 01/03/2010 to 28/02/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 1 157 400  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 999 915  
**Contract number:** 245872

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** INSTITUT PASTEUR

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**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Tuberculosis (TB) is amongst the most deadly infectious diseases worldwide. Despite the availability of a vaccine and effective drugs, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the etiologic agent of TB, still defies humanity. An alarming increase in drug resistance and the emergence of outbreaks has made the need for increased surveillance and control urgent. With its structured global geographical distribution, it becomes increasingly clear that this pathogen could have established an advantageous association with its host. Such region-specific host-pathogen equilibrium argues for a TB control at a regional level. The overall objective of this project is to establish a network connecting leading institutions in the field from three north African countries (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia) and Europe. The aim is to upgrade the research and surveillance capacity potential of Europe’s closest neighbouring Mediterranean partner countries (MPC) through know-how sharing, two-way experience exchange, training, joint research activities, and equipment upgrading.

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**ACTIVITIES**

By reinforcing existing human and technological resources in the targeted MPCs, the planned activities will contribute to better address the host and pathogen key factors governing TB transmission/expansion dynamics, emergence of drug resistance, and host susceptibility. This will endow MPCs with higher capacity to better unveil the molecular mechanisms leading to the prevailing epidemiological situation in the specific regional context.

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**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

Since TB is a health threat common to both sides of the Mediterranean Sea, which is amplified through consistent population migration flows, the planned cooperative initiative could also positively impact on TB control in Europe. Ultimately, dissemination of the project’s results will foster the MPCs’ institutional visibility and scientific competitiveness, allowing them to be more integrated for participation in future Framework Programme calls.
EUMEDNETVSTB

Building a cooperative strategy between Europe and Mediterranean countries for upgrading tuberculosis research and control

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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Europe and MPCs possess a good potential of well-trained researchers in the field of brain function and dysfunction in disease. However, neuroscience remains poorly represented in collaborative projects in the Mediterranean and European countries. Yet, as MPCs access the status of developed economies, they face severe health burdens of brain dysfunction in relation to developmental issues, education, aging, neurodegenerative diseases, mental and addictive disorders. It is thus crucial for MPCs to invest in this theme of research. In this context, N€UROMED aims at supporting MPC research institutions infrastructure and potential development in brain research.

ACTIVITIES

The project, built on existing collaborations and local networks, gathers a strong human potential from 23 universities and research centres and complementary expertise in basic and clinical neuroscience. More precisely, the project promotes and improves: (1) twinning between centres of excellence in the EU and MPCs; (2) recruitment, training and secondments in MPC centres; (3) transfer of knowledge and know-how to the MPC research centres; (4) physical research infrastructure in MPC centres.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Focusing on four major relevant societal issues (neurodegenerative and mental diseases, neuroplasticity, adaptation to environmental stress and brain imaging), where cooperation with EU research entities can help increase the human potential and physical infrastructure in MPCs, N€UROMED will pave the way to the creation of solid links amongst institutions in MPCs and Turkey, and to step up Euro–Mediterranean cooperation in the field of neurosciences. In parallel to the implementation of specific activities, N€UROMED will also improve the participation of MPCs in FP7. Finally, the project is expected to have broader impacts on other key EU policies as it contributes to the fulfilment of the neighbourhood policy, as well as the international aspect of the European R & D policy.
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RAMSES

Reinforcement of the Adult stem cell research are through Mobility and Scientific networking between Egypt, Romania and a German consortium for Strengthening the international scientific competency

INTRODUCTION

RAMSES comprises partner institutions from Germany (FMC), Romania (ICBP) and Egypt (CU) in order to promote closer S&T cooperation opportunities between Europe and Egypt. The concept of RAMSES is to build capacities by improving scientific relationships, networking and development of the S&T human potential, exchanging know-how and experience between the participating partners, as well as by upgrading the S&T research capacities of CU. RAMSES partners will channel their expertise to complete the project objectives though six highly interlinked work packages.

OBJECTIVES

- Exchange of scientific know-how and experience will be implemented primarily via transnational secondments of research staff.
- Reinforcement of human resources and infrastructures will focus on the increase of research quality, visibility and competitiveness of CU.
- Workshops, conferences and training events for building knowledge-sharing networks will facilitate knowledge transfer at national and international levels. Hands-on, advanced, and ‘multiplier’ workshops will allow a robust transfer and sharing of acquired skills and experience.
- Dissemination and promotional activities will provide maximum support for management, dissemination, promotion, and exploitation of project outcomes.
- Evaluation will monitor RAMSES’ progress to ensure its structured implementation.
- Consortium management and assessment of progress and results will aim at implementing strong management structures in order to coordinate the different activities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Through these objectives, RAMSES will establish networking conditions that will allow the promising CU the opportunity to develop a partnership through twinning actions with EU centres of excellence and to realise its full research potential. These shall contribute to regional development, while taking advantage of the knowledge and experience existing in other regions of Europe. Hence RAMSES will help to fully realise the European research area.

Period: 01/03/2010 to 28/02/2013
Total cost: EUR 995 500
Budget from EC: EUR 885 425
Contract number: 245691

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN - UNIVERSITÄTSKLINIKUM
Website: http://project-ramsces.eu/
RAMSES

Reinforcement of the Adult stem cell research are through Mobility and Scientific networking between Egypt, Romania and a German consortium for Strengthening the international scientific competency

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THEBERA
Theodor Bilharz into the European Research Area

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The THEBERA project aims at strengthening the capacities of the Theodor Bilharz Research Institute (TBRI) in Egypt while realising it as an international excellence and reference centre for liver diseases and hepatic surgery, by defining liver research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European liver research initiatives and inclusion in the Euro–Mediterranean research and innovation area.

**ACTIVITIES**

The main activities of THEBERA project are (i) to reinforce TBRI’s cooperation capacities; (ii) to disseminate liver-related research results; (iii) to develop internationalisation and coordination between research and business sectors; (iv) to enhance EU-Egypt S&T partnerships in liver research; (v) to build capacity for cooperation; and (vi) to develop THEBERA’s central strategy.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The main impact of THEBERA will be increased capacities of the TBRI and the structuring and enhancement of the existing EU–Egyptian support system in the domain of liver S&T cooperation in a threefold manner: (i) by supporting the participation of Egypt in the FP7 in the liver research area, (ii) by combining all relevant support schemes, and (iii) by facilitating both the uptake of common identified liver research areas and the monitoring of the performance and impacts of this cooperation. The THEBERA consortium brings together four Egyptian and EU organisations representing a well-defined mix of competencies and expertise.
THEBERA
Theodor Bilharz into the European Research Area

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GM_NCD_in_co

Reinforcing IPT capacities in Genomic Medicine, Non-Communicable Diseases Investigation and international cooperation

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the project is to reinforce Institut Pasteur Tunis’ (IPT) capacities in genomic medicine and its applications in non-communicable diseases (NCD) investigations and in international cooperation activities. At the national level, the objectives are to increase the research activities in the field of NCD and cooperation capacities and facilitate the participation of Tunisian researchers in relevant topics of the health theme, with the ultimate goal of integrating in to ERA. Specific objectives of the project are to:

- Strengthen IPT competencies in international cooperation and project setting in order to enhance the participation of researchers in international FP projects. This will be achieved via specific training modules;
- Reinforce IPT’s scientific research and technical capacities in the field of genomic medicine and new molecular tools for the investigation of the genetic basis of NCDs:
  - Updating and upgrading the knowledge level of IPT personnel is a prerequisite for a successful action plan of capacity building and strengthening. This specific objective will be achieved through professional training via advanced courses and workshops in IPT;
  - Via short visits in European laboratories and two pilot projects, one on a preliminary investigation of the genetic landscape of the Tunisian population and one on gene identification using next generation sequencing;
- Stimulate collaboration between Tunisian and EU researchers in topics of mutual interest in the field of NCD with networking and dissemination activities;
- Build the IPT business plan and associated strategy of valorisation and technology transfer activity in the frame of EU–Tunisian R&D cooperation.

**ACTIVITIES**

To achieve the aims of the project several actions are proposed: setting-up and implementing training modules, two trainings on international project setting in the framework of the European framework programme, four advanced courses, and theoretical and practical workshops on various aspects of structural and functional genomics, with a particular emphasis on NCD investigations, will be organised. Exchange visits between IPT, IP Paris and other EU laboratories working in relevant fields are also planned to improve networking capacities. Two pilot projects will be performed, one on disease gene identification using next generation whole exome sequencing and one on a preliminary description of the genetic landscape of the Tunisian population. The pilot projects will help stimulate cooperation, identify potential bottlenecks and propose improvements. GM_NCD_in_Co targets IPT, an independent governmental institution, under the tutorship of the Tunisian Ministry of Health. More than a century old, this institution is considered as a national and regional centre of excellence in particular in the field of infectious diseases.
To respond to the new challenges of the epidemiological transition and with the increase in prevalence of NCDs, IPT has developed new activities related to the investigation of the genetic basis of monogenic and multifactorial diseases. Reinforcing these promising activities has a great potential to benefit EU research institutions through new international cooperation activities. The consortium includes Institut Pasteur in Paris (a non-profit research organisation) and one SME (Synbea) specialised in strategy, organisation and innovation consulting.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

This project also aims to reinforce the activities of the health theme contact point in a synergistic way with other EU projects (European–Tunisian collaboration ETC and MIRA projects) and in collaboration with contact points of other thematic areas, i.e. environment, ICT and KBBE.

Dissemination and networking activities will be performed via the project website, newsletters, meetings and brokerage events. A development plan will be constructed for IPT in order to increase its regional coverage and to improve its response to socioeconomic needs. The project results will be analysed and recommendations signalled to national authorities on how to increase the participation of Tunisian researchers in ERA, to tackle common regional challenges for health systems.

The ultimate goal of this project is to integrate Tunisia, a Mediterranean partner country (MPC), into ERA, which is one of the priorities of the EU’s European neighbourhood policy (ENP).
GM_NCD_in_co

Reinforcing IPT capacities in Genomic Medicine, Non-Communicable Diseases Investigation and international cooperation

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HEALTH

KHCCBIO

Supporting the Establishment of a Cancer Biobank for Jordan and its Neighbouring Countries through Knowledge Transfer & Training

Period: 15/11/2011 to 14/11/2013
Total cost: EUR 571 744
Budget from EC: EUR 571 744
Contract number: 295025

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: KING HUSSEIN CANCER CENTER, JORDAN

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) is a specialised cancer centre in the Middle East that treats both adult and paediatric cancer patients. Currently, over 3,500 new cancer patients arrive each year from Jordan and the neighbouring countries of Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Gulf countries and north Africa. Founded in 1997, KHCC is a non-governmental and not-for-profit facility that is well-recognised as a leader in cancer treatment in the Middle East. KHCC is eager to maintain its leading position in Middle Eastern cancer therapy and remain at the forefront of cancer detection and treatment. In order to achieve this, KHCC plans to establish a cancer biobank, KHCCBIO bank, for the storage and archival of biospecimens that can help in the elucidation of the disease.

The KHCCBIO bank intends to change this situation by establishing an ISO-accredited biospecimen repository incorporating all current international guidelines and best-in-class practices under an approved quality management system to procure, process and store biospecimens for the benefit of researchers in Jordan, its neighbouring countries, European researchers and researchers throughout the rest of the world.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Additional aims of the KHCCBIO support action are to:

▶ Develop KHCC’s research infrastructure, increase its scope and visibility and improve its competitiveness throughout the European and worldwide biomedical science arena;
▶ Establish a platform for future knowledge transfer and collaborative research;
▶ Develop and enhance partnerships between European and Middle Eastern organisations for future staff exchanges, seminars, and conferences focused on cancer;
▶ Disseminate KHCCBIO progress and activities particularly with EU early lung cancer (EUELC) collaborators to ensure greatest impact;
▶ Build competency so as to facilitate participation of KHCC in future FP7 calls.

ACTIVITIES

KHCCBIO bank will be developed for the purpose of collecting, processing, storing and distributing high-quality, clinically annotated biospecimens from consented patients.

This novel, Jordan-based biobank will also standardise and define collections of biological samples for patient-oriented research, to include hypothesis-driven collections, as well as collections for questions arising, for the ultimate improvement of patient diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and leading to a more personalised approach to healthcare. Sample procurement will be carried out by a team of highly trained KHCC technicians who will directly participate in surgeries and perform sample collections and data recording. Sample collection will be precisely documented and very short tissue cold (post-surgical) ischemia times between resection and fixation will be the standard.
KHCCBIO

Supporting the Establishment of a Cancer Biobank for Jordan and its Neighbouring Countries through Knowledge Transfer & Training

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LEB’IN

Lebanon–Europe ‘on boarding’ to innovate and enhance research links in health

Context and Objectives

LEB’IN is a support action project, aimed at stimulating win-win cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Lebanon in the thematic priority ‘Health’ and at integrating Lebanon into the European research area, in order to:

- Support Europe’s leading position and European competitiveness in health sciences through strategic partnerships with Lebanon by engaging the best Lebanese health scientists to work in and with Europe;
- Enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts with Lebanon, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;
- Address specific problems that Lebanon faces or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit. Consequently, the project aims to develop cooperation capacities between Lebanon and the European Union in the field of health, and — through twinning, capacity building and networking — to support joint Lebanese–European research activities relevant to the priorities identified in the FP7 work programme 2011.

In order to stimulate the cooperation, the LEB’IN project mission has four objectives:

- Map and assess the strengths, weakness and collaboration potential of the project coordinator, one of the leading Lebanese institutes, Université Saint-Joseph (USJ), and prepare USJ for the new step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives, and orienting its work towards national, regional and European needs;
- Set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between USJ and its long-term European partner, the Mediterranean University of Aix-Marseille II (UNIVMED) (France), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, improving work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing USJ for FP7 opportunities and for larger network development;
- Develop USJ’s cooperation capacities and awareness raising, significantly increasing its visibility at European level and its participation in the 7th (and future) framework programmes and setting the basis for long-term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project;
- Organise international events as well as information, training, networking and brokerage and dissemination workshops and sessions, thus developing USJ’s FP7 skills and raising awareness about collaboration opportunities in the health theme in order to promote the research capacities of USJ and to enlarge its network.
ACTIVITIES

LEB’IN will be implemented on the basis of the twinning concept between USJ and UNIVMED. The twinning brings together organisations from two countries, which put in common skills, knowledge, and data and establish joint research activities. The interest of implementing this kind of partnership is to achieve closer scientific collaboration with Lebanon and to ensure a sustainable improvement of the cooperation capacities of the French twinning partner UNIVMED and especially of the Lebanese partner USJ.

The twinning concept is based on mutual benefit and reciprocity. It could especially help the less known organisations in Europe, such as USJ, to demonstrate in-house research capacities and to gain new ones. It can also contribute to the improvement of relations between the partners by practical applications. The twinning approach allows the use of technologies, methods and strategies, which not available to one of the partners. Finally, putting together know-how and experience in the common field of research could contribute to fostering academic research achievements with significant scientific results in the area of health technological development for both parties. Twinning helps to create a sense of a common European identity — something that can never be imposed from above.

In order to make these results achievable, the twinning concept includes the implementation of different actions. It is about short-term exchanges of experts, setting-up of common working groups, organisation of scientific workshops, joint PhD students and practical data sharing.
LEB’IN
Lebanon–Europe ‘on boarding’ to innovate and enhance research links in health

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IGF1RHC

Targeting IGF-1 receptor in liver cancer with focus on its mechanistic role in transcription and its interaction with the cell cycle machinery

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The insulin-like growth factor-1 receptor (IGF-1R) is a cell surface receptor kinase which is vastly expressed in malignant tissues and plays crucial roles in the growth and survival of cancer cells. Targeting IGF-1R is today a very attractive concept pharmaceutically. Larsson’s group at KI has contributed extensively to the current knowledge about IGF-1R and demonstrated that the cyclolignan PPP inhibits IGF-1R signalling. An oral IGF-1R inhibitor of cyclolignan chemistry is presently being studied in patients with advanced cancer. Recently, they found that IGF-1R is SUMOylated, translocated to the nucleus, where it affects transcription. This is a novel and original function for IGF-1R and one of the goals of this project is to further study whether it is limited to tumour cells. If so, these findings will be a breakthrough and the foundation for the further development of specific therapeutic targeting of cancer.

ACTIVITIES

Here we aim to study two mechanistic aspects of IGF-1R: (1) its role as a transcription factor in tumour cells, (2) its interaction with the cell cycle machinery, as ultimate regulators of cell division. Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) was chosen as it has a very poor prognosis and a high mortality due to the absence of efficient treatments. It is one of Egypt’s national health priorities and its incidence is increasing in Europe. Three experimental models will be used: HCC cell lines in which SUMOylation, nuclear translocation of IGF-1R and, which genes it transcriptionally activates will be studied. We will induce HCC in knockout mice lacking Cdk2 and p27, generated by Aleem to study how IGF-1R interacts with loss of these cell cycle proteins, and how its inhibition by PPP affects the development and progression of HCC. Mouse embryo fibroblasts isolated from these mice will also be used for cell cycle analysis. We anticipate that IGF-1R modulates transcription of genes relevant to tumour growth leading to development of more specific therapeutic tools against liver cancer.
IGF1RHC

Targeting IGF-1 receptor in liver cancer with focus on its mechanistic role in transcription and its interaction with the cell cycle machinery

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PREVENTION T2D

Life style and Genetic Factors in Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of the projects were achieved. The initial time plan of the work was not respected. The original planned dates were from August 2009 to February 2010 but, due to delay in receiving the EC contribution, the actual implementation dates were from November 2009 to May 2010.

The main objectives of the fellowship were: (1) to be acquainted with the Finnish experience in prevention of type 2 diabetes (T2D) by changes in lifestyle and also through genetic prediction, (2) to plan and prepare for a lifestyle intervention programme to be implemented in Egypt. This required intensive training and coordination of knowledge exchange between the collaborating institutions from Finland and Egypt. The main objective of the project was achieved. It resulted in high-impact publications and excellent opportunities for presentations at the most prestigious international meetings.

The project planning can be considered successful from a management point of view. The researcher has carried out the planned researcher-months and has achieved the projects goals.

The main objectives of the re-integration period of the international Marie Curie fellowship (August 2009 — February 2010) were:

- To design a long intervention programme to start the implementation in Egypt in coordination with the implementing institutions;
- To revise the curriculum of staff training on different methodologies from different specialties and health education material for diabetic patients to change their lifestyle;
- To train specialists on genetic prediction to identify individuals at risk of developing T2D.

However, only two out of the three objectives were completely achieved. In fact, it seems that the re-integration period of six months was not sufficient to carry out the intervention in Egypt but just to initiate the programme by establishing active collaboration between the participating centres and by securing additional financial support for the long-term study from both national and international sources. It was planned to start the implementation by organising:

- The follow up workshop, and
- The training courses for the staff contributing in the project (lifestyle changes — genetic testing — ethical issues).

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

This fellowship has provided many training, integration and knowledge transfer opportunities. The fellow has made use of his previous experience in this project and has learnt a range of new techniques. He attended a number of other meetings at which he presented his work as either poster or oral presentations, allowing his research profile to be developed amongst the international community. These meetings led to highly successful collaboration with Egyptian institutions and research centres, and enabled knowledge transfer between the fellow’s group...
and theirs. Finally, the fellow is now in a good position to transfer his newly acquired skills and knowledge to subsequent postdoctoral or group-leader positions, in particular in his home country.

**ACTIVITIES**

The budget was spent on facilitating networking between stakeholders, on organising the workshop and the training course in November 2009, and on buying the necessary office supplies and printing facilities which was urgently needed to give technical support to the research team to help in preparing the prevention programmes and writing proposals for future funding.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Research realised the importance of the project and supported the attendance of the speakers (tickets and accommodation) through different programmes.

The Finnish collaborators also encouraged the implementation of the programme in Egypt by partially supporting the attendance of Prof. Hannu Mykkanen.

Many conferences and dissemination activities were organised

Moreover, the fellow prepared a high number of publications directly linked to this project:


During the six-month reintegration, there was follow-up to the recommendation of the Cairo
workshop in March 2009 through the following activities:
Several meetings with decision makers from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, and Ministry of Agriculture. These meeting were helpful to establish networking between concerned authorities and specialists.
▶ A meeting with Dr Nasr El Sayed, Assistant Minister of Health, in September 2009.
▶ A meeting with Dr Maged El Sherbini, Assistant Minister of Higher Education and Research during August 2009.
▶ A meeting with Director of the National Agricultural Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture:

The meeting with concerned specialists and institutions from different ministries aimed at establishing a national committee to put policies and strategies suitable for the Egyptian culture in different governorates and aimed at including different disciplines to prevent and control the disease.
PREVENTION T2D
Life style and Genetic Factors in Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes

COORDINATOR

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Appl a model for oncogene-targeted leukemia cure

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Acute promyelocytic leukaemia (APL) is probably one of the best-understood malignancies and the only one where highly efficient oncogene-targeted therapies (retinoic acid and arsenic) actually cure the disease. Our recent studies have addressed the molecular basis for transformation and demonstrated the essential role of sumoylation of the PML moiety of PML/RARA, relaxed DNA-binding specificity, binding to RXRA, for both transcriptional repression and transformation in primary cells, uncovering an unexpected level of complexity for \textit{in vivo} transformation. We have also explored PML nuclear bodies (NB) formation, enigmatic structures that are disrupted by PML/RARA expression, restored by either RA or arsenic and may thus contribute to transformation/response. Exploring the actual basis for therapy response, we have provided some evidence that PML/RARA degradation and loss of leukaemia-initiating cells, rather than differentiation, is key to APL clearance.

**ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The project will address the following issues: (i) genetically uncouple differentiation from APL eradication, (ii) model transformation and therapy response, (iii) analyse the regulation and role of PML NBs, (iv) explore other models where degradation of the driving oncogene may eradicate the disease through loss of LIC activity.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

These studies should not only provide a complete model for APL pathogenesis and treatment response, but also open new avenues in the field of PML nuclear body biogenesis and function, as well as transcriptional activation/degradation coupling. The proposed research could provide generally applicable strategies for a variety of malignancies that are similarly driven by fusion proteins. As previously, in the APL and adult T cell leukaemia models, our studies could also yield new directly clinically applicable therapeutic strategies.

**Period:** 01/07/2011 to 30/06/2016  
**Total cost:** EUR 2 500 000  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 2 500 000  
**Contract number:** 268729  

**Funding scheme:** ERC  
**Coordinator:** INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA SANTE ET DE LA RECHERCHE MEDICALE (INSERM)
HEALTH

STEMAPL

APL a model for oncogene-targeted leukemia cure

COORDINATOR

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VCVCL
Vector Control for Visceral and Cutaneous Leishmaniasis

Context and Objectives
This project addresses the concerns of the EU and WHO by developing an alternative vector control strategy that targets the insects responsible for transmitting VL and CL, leading to reduced disease transmission. Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) are parasitic diseases transmitted to humans through the bite of infected insects (sandflies). VL is fatal if not treated and CL may cause facial disfigurement. Both are more likely to affect children under the age of 15 year in European as well as southern Mediterranean countries. Precise figures are not available but reports suggest that between 36 000 and 65 000 cases may occur in endemic Mediterranean (including European) countries annually. The proportion of VL cases varies from 3 % to over 40 % depending on the country. The EU and WHO recognise the significance of the health problem and have called for research to develop innovative tools to control sandflies as vaccines are not available. This project addresses the concerns of the EU and WHO by developing an alternative vector control strategy that targets the insects responsible for transmitting VL and CL, leading to reduced disease transmission.

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2011
Total cost: EUR 15 000
Budget from EC: EUR 15 000
Contract number: 908199

Funding scheme: MC
Coordinator: INSTITUT PASTEUR DE TUNIS
Website: www.pasteur.tn

Activities
This project will determine through lab- and field-based behavioural and chemical studies if sex pheromones are present in Phlebotomus perniciosus and P. papatasi (vectors of VL and CL) and determine if they have practical applications. This approach is also being used by the Keele research group, funded by the Wellcome Trust, to develop sex-pheromone-based strategies for controlling the S. American vector of VL, Lutzomyia longipalpis. The success of the project depends on the complementary skills of the MC IIF and the research group at Keele University. The MC IIF has significant skills in maintaining colonies, handling and understanding the insects’ behaviour. The Keele group has significant ability to isolate, identify and synthesise insect sex pheromones and to translate the results of bench research into practical outcomes. The return phase consisted of field work in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, in Spain and Italy.

Expected Results and Outcomes
This research will lead to a new, environmentally benign, method of controlling sandflies that transmit VL and CL in European and other countries leading to a reduction in disease transmission.
VCVCL

Vector Control for Visceral and Cutaneous Leishmaniasis

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Information society and communication technologies
### Collaborative Research

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3D-COFORM
Tools and Expertise for 3D Collection Formation

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The 3D-COFORM project will advance the state of the art in 3D-digitsation and make 3D-documentation a practical everyday choice for digital documentation campaigns in the cultural heritage sector.

The project addresses all aspects of 3D-capture, 3D-processing, the semantics of shape, material properties, metadata and provenance and integration with other sources (textual and other media) —search, research and dissemination to the public and professionals alike. A strong technical research programme is complemented by research into practical business aspects: business models for exploitation of 3D assets; workflow planning and execution for mass digitisation; socioeconomic impact assessment; and above all the creation of a virtual centre of competence (VCC) in 3D digitisation. The VCC-3D will act as a catalyst in enhancing the sector’s capacity for mass digitisation of 3D assets — the tangible artifacts of the physical cultural heritage of the world.

The 3D-COFORM consortium brings together 19 partners, mainly former core partners in the EPOCH NoE, to form a world-class team on 3D-digisation complemented by an equally prestigious group of cultural heritage organisations, with the Victoria and Albert Museum as a full partner and signed-up collaboration from the Louvre, the Florentine Museums Authority, the Museum of the Imperial Forums in Rome, world heritage sites in Cyprus and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. The consortium also contains organisations tasked at a national level with helping museums move in these directions: CNRS-LC2RMF, the research arm of the French national museums, and CultNat, the digitisation body for cultural and natural heritage funded by the Egyptian government. The combination in 3D-COFORM of research and take-up activities (VCC-3D) will contribute decisively to reinforce 3D-digitisation capability and to the realisation of the objectives of the European initiative on digital libraries and its flagship project Europeana (European digital library).
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3d-coform
Tools and Expertise for 3D Collection Formation
3D-COFORM
Tools and Expertise for 3D Collection Formation

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E-AGRI

Crop Monitoring as an e-agriculture tool in developing countries

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The innovative application of Information society and communication technologies (ICT) in the rural domain, with a primary focus on agriculture, is a new paradigm of sustainable development in developing economies, as more than 50% of the population are still living in rural areas. European research institutions have developed a series of agricultural monitoring approaches to support the EU’s common agriculture policy (CAP). These approaches are based on European ICT, including space-based Earth observation (EO), geographical information systems and agrometeorological modeling.

The E-AGRI project aims to support the uptake of European ICT research results by setting up an advanced crop monitoring service in two developing economies, Morocco and China. Capacity-building activities will be carried out in a third developing country, Kenya, to raise the interest of local stakeholders about European e-agricultural practices and to pave the way for a possible transfer of technology in the future.

The objectives are fourfold.

- **Demonstration**: transfer and adaptation of European agricultural monitoring technology in three developing countries;
- **Dissemination**: establishing networks of users of crop monitoring technology across three continents;
- **Added values for the EU**: providing feedback and improvement for European expertise and know-how;
- **Collaboration**: creating synergy with other European crop monitoring and food security actions.

**ACTIVITIES**

The research and collaboration activities will be divided into six areas:

- **Crop yield monitoring using the CGMS model**: this includes an evaluation of technical and usability aspects of the model; identification of the main drivers for yield variability; adaptation of the model by including those biophysical drivers; and piloting of the CGMS model in two target regions.
- **Using the multi-model BioMA approach to monitor rice or wheat yield**: the activities include calibration of the BioMA models; evaluation of the suitability for multi-model monitoring and yield forecasting; and deployment of a software platform adapted to local users.
- **Crop yield forecasting using remote sensing indicators**: vegetation indices can be derived from satellite imagery and used in statistical models to predict crop yield. The tasks are structured to collect the official yield data; investigate the biophysical variables simulating best crop growth; and establish empirical statistical models for yield simulation.
- **Adaptation of the methodologies for area estimation developed by European institutions**: the tasks consist of sampling the target areas; analysing and interpreting the remote sensing data; and establishing regression models using estimators from
both sampling and remote sensing to estimate single crop areas.

- **Statistical analysis**: the CGMS statistical toolbox (CSt) is a tool to interactively explore the relationship between crop yield predictors and regional statistics. The main task is to set up a database with yield predictors derived from crop modelling and/or remote sensing-based approaches.

- **Dissemination and capacity building**: this will be implemented by organising workshops, disseminating documents and materials such as flyers and bulletins and preparing the ground for technological transfer in Kenya through a dedicated capacity-building programme.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

- Complete sets of the agricultural monitoring system set up in two study areas (Morocco and the Jianghuai plain in China) will be calibrated according to local environment conditions and therefore will be preoperational.

- Five workshops will be held for technological dissemination.

- Kenyan experts will be trained for basic technology transfer at the end of project.
E-AGRI

Crop Monitoring as an e-agriculture tool in developing countries
Supporting policy dialogues and cooperation with Africa to enhance ICT cooperative research links between Europe and Africa in the framework of the ‘Africa–EU strategic partnership 8 on science, information society and space’

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The 2007 Joint Africa–EU Strategy (JAES) defines long-term policy orientations between the two continents, based on a shared vision and common principles. The strategy’s first action plan outlines eight areas for ‘strategic partnership 8’ including ‘trade, regional integration and infrastructure’ (P3) and ‘science, information society and space’ (P8).

The ‘eighth Africa–EU strategic partnership’ (P8) interlinks three priorities for development policy, which singly and in conjunction with one another can leverage faster socioeconomic development in Africa: science, information society and space applications.

Africa and Europe have also recognised that the development of STI and the spread of ICT to all components of a society are key. The new P8 action plan lists as a priority the development of an inclusive information society in Africa. In that perspective a multi-stakeholder implementation group is being formed (co-chaired by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission (EC)) aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two regions.

The EuroAfrica-P8 project will therefore aim at supporting policy dialogue and cooperation with Africa to enhance ICT research links in the framework of Partnership 8. It will also seek to promote collaborative research on ICT in the framework of Partnerships 3 and 8, including to:

- carry on updating the identification/analysis of joint ICT research priorities;
- provide evidence-based recommendations to the EC/AUC for future cooperation initiatives;
- organise events in both regions synchronised with policy dialogue meetings;
- strengthen ICT cooperative research links between European/African organisations with the aim of reinforcing P8;
- support the activities of the P8 implementation group;
- enhance the participation of African organisations in framework programme ICT collaborative projects.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The EuroAfrica-P8 Project will specifically support dialogue between the EC and a strategic partner region such as Africa, to increase cooperation in collaborative ICT R & D research.

The project will include the identification and analysis of ICT research priorities, the provision of recommendations for future cooperation initiatives, the organisation of cooperation and thematic events synchronised — whenever possible — with dialogue meetings, and support to the EU–AU implementation group of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership 8.

Specific activities will also include addressing synergies with other programmes or initiatives as well as marketing and communication.

In addition, EuroAfrica-P8 will explicitly aim at strengthening international ICT research
cooperation and advancing related policy initiatives, within the context of the EU’s declared commitment to promote S & T cooperation with Africa concerning ICT.

One of the main obstacles identified as preventing more efficient S & T cooperation on ICT between Europe and Africa is the lack of awareness regarding instruments to support cooperation and shared areas of interest and, especially as far as Europe is concerned, limited awareness regarding Africa’s potential as a partner to engage in mutually beneficial cooperation. With a dedicated communication platform and several targeted information initiatives, EuroAfrica-P8 will significantly raise awareness in Europe and Africa of the opportunities for cooperation and available instruments, which could support partnerships.

By undertaking a series of surveys and analyses to better understand the existing landscape of Africa–Europe ICT research cooperation, EuroAfrica-P8 will be in a position, through analysis, to provide evidence-based recommendations to policymakers wishing to promote ICT research cooperation: through the analytical work undertaken by EuroAfrica-P8, policymakers will have a comprehensive series of recommendations covering specific ICT research cooperation opportunities between Africa and Europe.

Finally, EuroAfrica-P8 will provide new support to researchers and indeed ICT research stakeholders willing to engage in cooperation, as well as suggesting options to policymakers for promoting cooperation. EuroAfrica-P8 will encourage and support a high-level policy discussion on the importance of ICT research cooperation within its events and with the members of the implementation group of Partnership 8.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Carry on updating the identification and analysis of joint ICT research priorities between the two regions initiated during the EuroAfrica-Ict.org EU project (2010–11 – GA #248376).
- Provide recommendations to the EC and the AUC for future cooperation initiatives.
- Organise ‘FP7 — Horizon 2020/ICT’ awareness/training/cooperation workshops in Africa, thematic workshops in Europe and cooperation events (in Europe and Africa) synchronised, when possible, with policy dialogue meetings (providing inputs and follow-up on common R & D priorities, opportunities and challenges, etc.).
- Support the activities of the P8 Africa–EU implementation group co-chaired by the EC and the AUC.
- An EU implementation group co-chaired by the EC and the AUC.
**EuroAfrica-P8**

Supporting policy dialogues and cooperation with Africa to enhance ICT cooperative research links between Europe and Africa in the framework of the ‘Africa–EU strategic partnership 8 on science, information society and space’

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IDEALIST2011
Transnational cooperation among ICT National Contact Points

**Period:** 01/10/2008 to 30/09/2011
**Total cost:** EUR 3 525 882
**Budget from EC:** EUR 2 995 160
**Contract number:** 231367

**Funding scheme:** CSA
**Coordinator:** DEUTSCHES ZENTRUM FÜR LUFT- UND RAUMFAHRT E.V.

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of Idealist2011 is reinforcing the network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for ICT under FP7, by promoting further transnational cooperation within this network.

This cooperation will not be restricted to just ICT NCPs but a degree of collaboration and networking with similar networks in parallel themes (security, socioeconomic sciences and humanities, environment, transport, energy, health, etc.) — especially in the context of joint/coordinated calls — will also be covered. Special focus is put on helping less-experienced NCPs from Member States and associated countries to access the know-how accumulated in other countries and to apply it in a locally relevant and efficient manner.

Furthermore, Idealist2011 aims to address national and cross-border audiences, relying on the NCP network mainly established in the Member States and associated countries at national and regional levels to stimulate, encourage and facilitate participation in current and future European Union ICT research by organisations of all types. Special focus is put on newcomers and SMEs, including organisations from Member States, associated countries and third countries, which comprise east European partner countries (EEPcs), Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs) and selected third countries with high technical and economical potential.

**ACTIVITIES**

The activities of Idealist2011 are incremental to the formal NCP responsibilities as they address the international aspects not covered by the nationally funded NCP role. It is built upon:

- experience gained over more than 13 years from the six preceding projects covering FP4 to FP7;
- strengthening NCP cooperation with support for Member States, associated countries and ICPCs;
- provision of training and twinning for the less experienced NCPs;
- provision of partner search quality support;
- focused support for SMEs in the ICT sector and for organisations new to the framework programme;
- provision of NCP support for countries with S & T international agreements;
- promotion of opportunities and Idealist services ensuring a higher visibility of the NCPs.
IDEALIST2011
Transnational cooperation among ICT National Contact Points

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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

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Transnational cooperation among ICT National Contact Points

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IST-AFRICA 2010–11
Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The **IST-Africa Initiative** (2010 – 2011) is a strategic collaboration between 1 European and 13 African partners, 11 Ministries and 2 National Councils responsible for ICT (Information Communication Technologies) and/or STI (Science, Technology & Innovation) adoption, policy and research in North Africa (Egypt), Southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana, Mauritius), East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Burundi), West Africa (Senegal) and Central Africa (Cameroon).

Supporting implementation of the Africa – EU 8th Strategic Partnership (Science, Information Society, Space), the main objectives of the IST-Africa Initiative are to:

- Strengthen the research dimension of Information Society policy dialogues between the EC, AUC, European and African Member States and other regional stakeholders
- Organise events in Europe and Africa synchronised with policy dialogue meetings, provide input on common policy and R&D priorities, opportunities and challenges
- Identify and analyse African ICT policy and research priorities aligned with EU priorities, to provide necessary insight and recommendations for future co-operation
- Develop synergies with Africa focused on international dialogues and activities under the Capacities and People Programmes, and related activities by EU Member States & AS

**ACTIVITIES**

IST-Africa (2010 – 2011) will achieve these goals through the following actions:

- Organise 2 Ministerial level international research conferences that bring together government, industry, research and civil society to identify cooperation opportunities
- Author and Validate White Paper on “Supporting the Evolution of Sustainable Living Labs and Living Labs Networks in Africa” through consultation with key stakeholders at LL Workshops in IST-Africa Partner Countries
- Organise 2 IST-Africa Workshops at European research conferences
- Document and analyse ICT policies in IST-Africa Partner Countries, engage Stakeholders to identify research priorities and recommendations for future co-operation
- Strengthen international cooperation by promoting EU-African research cooperation under FP7, Capacities & People Programmes
- Maximize impact by publishing relevant policies, results & events on IST-Africa portal

**RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

Supporting EU-Africa P8 Joint Expert Group to identify priority areas for cooperation
- Inclusion of African research institutions in EU, ACP and AU funded research programmes
- Linkages established with EU universities to build research capacity in African universities
- Identification of priorities for cross-border research and implementation projects
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IST–AFRICA 2012–13

IST–Africa Initiative (2012–13) Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The IST Africa initiative (2012–13) is a strategic collaboration between one European and 19 African partners, 12 ministries and seven national councils responsible for ICT and/or STI (science, technology and innovation)-related adoption, policy and research in north Africa (Egypt, Tunisia), southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland, Malawi), east Africa (Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia), west Africa (Senegal, Ghana) and central Africa (Cameroon).

Supporting implementation of the Africa–EU eighth strategic partnership (science, information society, space), the main objectives of the IST–Africa initiative are to:

- strengthen the research dimension of information society and ICT policy dialogues between the European Commission (EC), African Union Commission (AUC), European and African Member States and key regional stakeholders;
- organise community building events synchronised with dialogue meetings, providing input on common R & D and cross-border priorities, opportunities and challenges;
- identify and analyse African ICT research priorities and provide recommendations for future Africa–EU cooperation initiatives;
- strengthen cooperative research links between European and relevant African national and regional organisations to establish and sustain focused, strategic partnerships.

**ACTIVITIES**

IST–Africa (2012–13) will achieve these goals through the following actions:

- organising two ministerial-level international research conferences, attracting government, industry, research institutions and civil society to discuss policy, results and strategic cooperation;
- organising two IST–Africa thematic working group meetings focused on ‘living labs’;
- organising two IST–Africa workshops at EU research conferences to raise awareness;
- organising IST–Africa FP7 training workshops in new partner countries (Zambia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Swaziland, Malawi) to identify research and future cooperation priorities;
- strengthening international cooperation by promoting EU–Africa research cooperation under FP7, Horizon 2020 and other programmes;
- maximising impact by promoting relevant activities, policy and results on the IST–Africa portal.

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Establishment of a national contact point (NCP) network across all IST–Africa partner countries
- Continued participation of African research institutions in EU, ACP and AU-funded research
- Linkages established with EU universities to build research capacity in African universities
- Leveraging identification of cross-border ICT research and implementation project priorities.
IST–AFRICA 2012–13

IST–Africa Initiative (2012–13) Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa

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### IST–AFRICA 2012–13

**IST–Africa Initiative (2012–13) Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa**

<table>
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<tr>
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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The JOIN-MED project focuses on the geographic region of the Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs), in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership agreement, in an effort to:

- satisfy the need for enhanced scientific and research cooperation with the EU, which is strongly promoted by the European Commission, and
- enhance the participation of the MPC countries in the European research programmes.

The Mediterranean Partnership was initiated at the Barcelona Conference in 1995 when the foreign ministers of all EU and southern Mediterranean countries met and agreed to establish a comprehensive partnership among the participants — the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Its emphasis is on strengthened political dialogue on a regular basis, the development of economic and financial cooperation and greater emphasis on the social, cultural and human dimensions.

In the context of the JOIN-MED project, the most relevant statements from the Barcelona Agreement are:

- the promotion of mechanisms to foster transfer of technology;
- increased participation in joint research projects;
- the encouragement of regional cooperation and integration.

These all aim to ‘reduce the gap between Mediterranean partner countries and their European neighbours’.

The first objective of JOIN-MED is to create a sustainable network of ICT research organisations in the MPCs and Europe, reinforcing the wider research cooperation between these two. To achieve this, JOIN-MED will organise a series of networking events in the MPCs that will bring researchers from different countries within them and the EU together. Furthermore, it will support the creation of institutionalised networks on a cross-regional basis, suggesting appropriate methodologies for accomplishing this.

To support all networking activities JOIN-MED will develop an interactive web-based directory of research organisations from both regions.

To help unlock the potential of the research capacity across the MPC, where R & D is still driven by national initiatives with very little cross-regional cooperation, JOIN-MED will promote closer research cooperation. This will achieved by moving from country-focused networking events to cross-regional ones.

The second objective of JOIN-MED is to support information society policy dialogue and the coordination of national policies on international S & T cooperation in the MPCs. This will be achieved by formulating a harmonised MPC ICT policy and through an open dialogue, among the MPCs as well as with Europe.

The third and fourth objectives of JOIN-MED are to promote a research community across the MPC region, where researchers and private industry will work together in joint projects, and to provide a series of networking events in
order to achieve this. So far, R &D in the MPCs is still driven by national initiatives with very little cross-regional cooperation. Cooperation and cross-fertilisation are crucial prerequisites to unlock the MPCs’ potential research capacity.

JOIN-MED will establish close links with existing and emerging cooperation projects addressing the MPCs, in particular the NCP network, to exploit synergies with the different objectives they pursue, maximise impact and contribute to the definition of cooperation strategies.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

These include creation of an effective dialogue with the policymakers in the MPCs and elaboration of a ‘harmonised ICT policy for the MPCs’ and a ‘policy for the future’ based on input and feedback from regional policymakers and thus representing a consolidated view of ICT policies in the MPCs. These documents are expected to provide essential input for policy development in the region that will enable closer and targeted scientific cooperation with Europe.

An MPC directory will be created and continuously updated containing more than 1,000 researchers and organisations from the region and from Europe, demonstrating the interest of the ICT community in the MPCs.

Institutionalised networks will be established that can take over the directory after the end of the project and continue promoting collaboration within FP7 in the MPCs.

Four networking events will be organised with at least 50 participants each, from both MPCs and the EU, as well as a final conference in Tunisia with at least 150 participants.

ACTIVITIES

- Review the emerging ICT-related policies and strategies in the MPCs.
- Actively support a policy dialogue between the MPCs and the EU to help focus the priorities of future research collaboration.
- Identify trends in ICT research that help shape future programme directions and identify suitable/promising research organisations in the MPCs and EU to join the network.
- Record the capabilities of the identified research organisations in an EU–MPC research directory.
- Plan, organise and execute thematic networking events involving both MPC and EU researchers.
- Facilitate the establishment of contacts and networks between existing and potential ICT actors from the MPC region and the EU in order to exchange ideas and pursue joint research collaboration.
- Disseminate information on the MPC research organisations (research directory, profiles, identified research capabilities) and JOIN-MED project achievements in the EU target groups (Commission, EU research organisations).
- Disseminate the outcomes of the JOIN-MED project (research directory, policy papers etc.) to broader target groups related to ICT in the MPC region.
JOIN-MED
Establishing the EU–Mediterranean ICT research network

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MEDAR
Mediterranean Arabic Language and Speech Technology

Context and Objectives
MEDAR addresses international cooperation between Europe and the Arabic-speaking Mediterranean region on speech and language technologies. The goals of the project are the production and availability of shareable language resources (LRs) and tools for Arabic, the advancement of Arabic language technology — in particular multilingual resources and tools — and cooperation between countries towards these goals. Cooperation is a key concept of the project.

The MEDAR consortium consists of 15 partners: seven from the south and east Mediterranean and eight from Europe. Nine are from universities and six from industry.

MEDAR has four main objectives:
- developing the cooperation roadmap based on foreseeable technological trends, market potential and cooperation possibilities;
- supporting the development of tools and resources on the basis of partners’ technologies and open source code for a baseline machine translation (MT) system and making the MT tools and resources available as an MT kit for education, research and open source development;
- updating the Basic Language Resource Kit (BLARK) report: a BLARK is the minimum set of resources and tools necessary for carrying out research and training in language technology. MEDAR has a focus on MT and MLIR (multilingual information retrieval);
- consolidating the network of players in all areas of Arabic HLT.

Period: 01/02/2008 to 31/07/2010
Total cost: EUR 798 553
Budget from EC: EUR 798 552
Contract number: 214602

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET
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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Virtual museums are a new model of communication for the museum sector that aim at creating a personalised, immersive and interactive way to enhance our understanding the past. The term virtual museum covers a wide variety of digital systems and applications that in most cases use virtual or augmented reality, interactivity and storytelling in a museum or online context.

Although the concept of a virtual museum is not new and although most virtual museums are located in Europe, the development and implementation of such systems has unfortunately not yielded a leading position for Europe in this sector. Not only has this sector not reached a sufficient level of maturity, as has the games or film industry, but the use of such systems is still far from fulfilling the vast potential that is present in museums and other cultural heritage organisations, because most people in the sector still consider such systems to be prototypes and unsuited for daily museum use. Virtual museums are a type of application where the research institutes still need to get connected to the industry and where the museums still need to find their way in specifying and using such systems in their daily practice.

Solving these problems would not only create a major benefit for the museum and cultural heritage sector but would also provide new business and job opportunities in a sector in which Europe has excellent experience and a long-standing tradition.

The Virtual Museums Transnational Network (V-MusT.net) is a European network of excellence that brings together research centres, universities, museums and companies that focus on the sector of virtual museums and have the knowledge and capacity to provide solutions for making this sector more mature and structured.

V-MusT.net bridges several technological domains: museology; social and cognitive sciences; digital preservation to focus on improving the quality and lifecycle of virtual museums; and integration of the museums of the 21st century. As a network, it enables heritage professionals around the world to connect, collaborate and advance the development and use of virtual museums.
V-MUST.NET
Virtual Museum Transnational Network

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Many projects are currently undertaking research and development in order to gain results in the short and medium term, whilst others are focusing on long-term strategies for IoT deployments and future research needs. In all cases, securing all research investment, in particular in Europe, with worldwide market accepted standards is vital. Unfortunately there is a vast amount of evidence, based upon market successes and failures, that, without standards accepted worldwide as validated by solid and cooperative actions, research investment can be wasted or in other cases the market could be fragmented by many technical solutions which are not interoperable.

In order to effectively capitalise on European research advances, Europe needs to ensure interoperability and acceptance of its solutions in a global context. For that, it is important to conduct key benchmarks and look at existing roadmaps in order to provide elements at European level, and to study whether all of these technical issues on validation and interoperability are efficiently considered. In carrying out such an analysis, all research projects and international initiatives will be considered and therefore a global coordination will be put in place in full synchronisation with existing support actions.

So whilst PROBE-IT will fully implement the objectives of the call, it will not provide overlap and support as large as the international collaboration and standardisation already provided by CASAGRAS2 or on global vision and collaboration as provided by the IOT-I project. PROBE-IT will cooperate with these two projects in complementing the global portfolio with benchmarks, roadmaps and other key inputs on validation and interoperability. PROBE-IT will focus on providing overall support to current and future IoT research programmes addressing all of these important and technical issues that no project is actually delivering.

- IoT deployments benchmarking.
- Support to validation and roadmapping.
- Support to validation and interoperability.
- Roadmap and future research needs in testing.
INFORMATION SOCIETY AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

PROBE-IT

Pursuing ROadmaps and BEnchmarks for the Internet of Things

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JEWEL
Jordan Europe Wide Enhanced research Links in ICT

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013
Total cost: EUR 591 091
Budget from EC: EUR 498 632
Contract number: 266507

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: JORDAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

JEWEL aims at stimulating win-win cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Jordan in the thematic priority ICT and at integrating Jordan into the European Research Area, in order to:

▶ Support European leading position and European competitiveness in ICT sciences through strategic partnerships with Jordan by engaging the best Jordan ICT-scientists to work in and with Europe;
▶ Enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts with Jordan, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;
▶ Address specific problems that Jordan face or that has a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

ACTIVITIES

In order to stimulate the cooperation, the JEWEL project mission has four activities:

▶ Map and assess the strengths, weakness and collaboration potential of the project coordinator, one of the leading Jordan Institute, JUST, and prepare JUST to the new step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives, and orienting its work towards the national, regional and European needs;
▶ Set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between JUST and its long term European partner, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, giving better work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing JUST for FP7 opportunities and for larger network development;
▶ Develop JUST’s cooperation capacities and raising awareness, significantly increasing its visibility on European level and its participation in the 7th (and future) Framework Programs and setting basis for —long term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project.
▶ Organise joint trainings and ensure skills improvements, by developing a concept of joint training modules and implementing them and building a more solid bridge between young researchers with different backgrounds.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The impact of the JEWEL project will be substantial in the short to medium term on policy, technology and socio-economic levels, since it will provide a solid framework for ICT research cooperation and strengthening the cooperation capacities not only of JUST, but also of Jordan and the surrounding Mediterranean region. The project combines different kind of scientific events, allowing networking, training and consequently, facilitating fruitful partnerships establishment. The new ICT-projects, which JUST will have the opportunity to undertake, will – thanks to JEWEL – impact more on Europe’s S&T research and excellence in the ICT sector.
INFORMATION SOCIETY AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

JEWEL
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RECOCAPE

Reinforcing Cooperation Capacity of Egypt in embedded ubiquitous computing

**Context and Objectives**

Software Engineering Competence Center (SECC) is one of the key players in the ICT sector in Egypt. It was inaugurated in 2001 by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to transform and promote the software and ICT industry in Egypt. It was embodied in the organizational structure of the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) in 2005. SECC has taken the mandate of increasing Egypt’s competency in recent technologies as Service-oriented Architecture, Enterprise Service Bus, Semantic Web, Model-Driven Development, and Embedded Ubiquitous Computing. The aim is to bridge the gap between the technologies needed to overcome the economical-social-environmental challenges and the current existing technologies. The objectives are:

- Setting up joint relevant experiments in the above relevant technologies
- Exchanging SECC staff with TECNALIA to work on FP7 proposal preparation and related running projects
- Disseminating knowledge through organizing key events, as the EuroMed SPI, to involve local stakeholders and generate regional impact
- Exploiting results through implementing cluster project involving local ICT businesses as per their needs to receive early verification and validation of project results

**Period:** 01/11/2011 to 31/10/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 496,518.5  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 609,279  
**Contract number:** 295039

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
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RECOCAPE

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EUMEDGRID-SUPPORT

Sustainability of e-infrastructures across the Mediterranean

**Period:** 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2011
**Total cost:** EUR 867 495
**Budget from EC:** EUR 740 000
**Contract number:** 246589

**Funding scheme:** CSA
**Coordinator:** ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

EUMEDGRID-Support aims at reinforcing the relevance of European e-infrastructures in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. The project will build on the results obtained by EUMEDCONNECT/EUMEDCONNECT2 and the preceding project EUMEDGRID, which successfully deployed a research and education network and a pilot grid infrastructure respectively, presently covering almost all the Mediterranean area. An agreement has been signed among the EUMEDGRID partners to keep open, to the best of their capabilities, the existing infrastructure and EUMEDGRID-Support wants to not only consolidate and expand it, but also to take a step forward towards its sustainability.

The overarching objective of EUMEDGRID-Support is to retain the European and Mediterranean country dialogue achieved in the past as well as to increase stakeholder and community awareness of the fundamental importance of e-infrastructures in the Mediterranean and their sustainability. The project will use the consolidated schema of a two-fold approach: a bottom-up approach, raising the awareness of researchers, students and technical personnel, which will exploit the usage of e-infrastructures in their work and appreciate their value, and a top-down approach at a high policy level, highlighting the benefits and justifying the necessity of e-infrastructures to influential stakeholders in order to push for the long-term stability and sustainability of such e-infrastructures.
EUMEDGRID-SUPPORT

Sustainability of eInfrastructures across the Mediterranean

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INDICATE

International Network for a Digital Cultural Heritage e-Infrastructure

Period: 01/09/2010 to 31/10/2011
Total cost: EUR 682 192
Budget from EC: EUR 599 948
Contract number: 261324

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: ISTITUTO CENTRALE PER IL CATALOGO UNICO DELLE BIBLIOTECHE ITALIANE (ICCU)
Website: http://www.indicate-project.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The INDICATE project coordinates policy and best practice regarding the use of e-infrastructures for digital cultural heritage.

A special focus is cooperation among cultural and e-infrastructure organisations from the EU and the Mediterranean countries.

The project has established a network of common interest made up of experts and researchers in all the relevant fields, whose sustainability is planned for the long term, beyond the project duration. The network aims to share experience, promote standards and guidelines, seek harmonisation of best practice and policy, and act as a conduit for knowledge transfer from countries with more experience of an e-infrastructures-enabled e-culture to those who are beginning to investigate this area.

The project is rooted in the reality of research pilots and case studies which act as exemplars and demonstrators of the issues and processes that are relevant to establishing cultural initiatives on the e-infrastructures platform.

Three key problems are considered in the case studies: long-term preservation, virtual exhibitions and management and processing of geocoded cultural content. The pilots are accessible through the INDICATE eCulture Science Gateway, which supports federations of identity providers.

The results inform a wide-reaching dissemination package, including two conferences in Catania and Cairo, three technical workshops (in Ankara, Amman and Ljubljana) and a policy workshop in Paris.

The project builds on a wealth of experience in effective international coordination of digitisation, digital cultural heritage and e-infrastructures-enabled culture. It takes full cognisance and advantage of e-infrastructures and cultural projects which have gone before and actively seeks interaction and synergies with other projects in this area.

The impact on international collaboration and on digital cultural heritage in the Mediterranean region is substantial.
INDICATE
International Network for a Digital Cultural Heritage e-Infrastructure

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**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVE**

The Cyprus Institute is developing a Computation-based Science and Technology Research Centre (CSTRC) that will include a high-performance computing (HPC) facility on a scale expected to be in the tens of teraflops, with an associated research and educational centre devoted to computational science. The CSTRC will be designed primarily to serve the needs of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region. This Support Action aims to ensure that in its planning and early development phases the CSTRC develops strong anchors in both the European ICT infrastructure and the Eastern Mediterranean scientific community, thereby helping to build scientific and technological bridges between Europe and the Middle East and to narrow the digital gap between the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western World.

**ACTIVITIES**

This will be achieved through the action of a consortium of European and US leaders in the fields of HPC and computational science and of prominent Eastern Mediterranean research institutions. The consortium will conduct studies, prospective work and outreach activities relevant to the integration of CSTRC in the EU HPC landscape and to the attainment of its regional dimension. Planned actions include the assessment of needs for computational resources within the scientific community of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, the coordination of HPC resources and their integration in Europe and the region, the planning of the access of users, the preparation of research and educational programmes in computational science, as well as a feasibility study for the amelioration of the network connectivity in the region. Dissemination and outreach actions, including an International Conference and several users workshops, will also be conducted.

**EXPECTED IMPACT**

All of these will bring significant contributions to the EC’s objectives in the fields of e-science, e-infrastructures and their integration on a European and regional Eastern Mediterranean scales.
LINKSCEEM
Linking Scientific Computing in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean

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LINKSCEEM-2
Linking Scientific Computing in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean - Phase 2

**Context and Objectives**
This project proposes the development of a high performance computing eco-system in the Eastern Mediterranean region by interlinking and co-ordinating regional compute, data and visualisation resources to form an integrated e-platform.

**Activities**
The project provides training activities and user support, and engages the regional communities through networking activities such as workshops, exchange of visitors and organization of joint events. Its focus is on virtual research communities in three fields that are clearly relevant to the region and of global importance, namely Climate Modelling, Digital Cultural Heritage and Synchrotron applications. Regional HPC centres is contributing resources to support user communities in the region with the Computation-based Science and Technology Research Centre of the Cyprus Institute, the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (Egypt) and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt) being initially the major contributors. SESAME, (Jordan/UNESCO), a major experimental facility with a broad user community, is promoting networking in the region.

**Expected Impact**
An upgraded connection between Cyprus and Jordan will provide the needed bandwidth for the transfer of SESAME data. The Julich Supercomputing Center and the National Center of Supercomputing Applications of the University of Illinois will provide know-how at the highest level for running and integrating such facilities, whereas international leaders in the three thematic areas will ensure transfer of state-of-the-art techniques to the regional user communities, thereby linking the Eastern Mediterranean with the European and international computational science activities.

**Period:** 01/09/2010 to 31/08/2014
**Total cost:** EUR 4 121 340
**Budget from EC:** EUR 2 450 000
**Contract number:** 261600
**Funding scheme:** CP-CSA
**Coordinator:** THE CYPRUS RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
**Website:** http://www.linksceem.eu/joomla/
LINKSCEEM-2

Linking Scientific Computing in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean - Phase 2

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PAERIP

Promoting African–European Research Infrastructure Partnerships

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The project will create a dedicated initiative to promote research infrastructure partnerships between Europe and Africa. There is currently significant political attention on promoting science and technology partnerships between the European Union and Africa. The Joint Africa–European Union (EU) strategy, adopted by Heads of Government at the December 2007 Lisbon summit, notably includes a dedicated science, information society and space initiative. Several collaborative efforts are currently being implanted under this partnership, with the support of the African Union Commission, the European Commission and African and European Union Member States. None of these initiatives are, however, specifically addressing research infrastructures. The ‘Promoting African–European research infrastructure partnerships’ (PAERIP) proposal is specifically focused on addressing this void notably by undertaking a series of relevant studies, which will inform the organisation of policy dialogue and cooperation promotion events.
PAERIP
Promoting African–European Research Infrastructure Partnerships

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International cooperation activities
### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

#### REGIONAL COORDINATION ACTIONS

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

MIRA
Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action

**Period:** 01/01/2008 to 01/01/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 4 920 000  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 3 990 000  
**Contract number:** 211359

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

With 30 partners across the Mediterranean, Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA) provides a functional dialogue and action platform to support Euro-Mediterranean science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation. A dialogue is supported by providing inputs and analysis from the field of collaborations between research and innovation communities from the European Union and Mediterranean countries especially through 7th Framework Programme. An important task is also to support the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS) by providing a think tank and implementing pilot actions.

**DIALOGUE ACTIVITIES**

An important aspect of MIRA activities is to stimulate dialogue and knowledge sharing as well to identify research topics of common interests, set-up S&T priorities and monitor the content of the thematic priorities of FP7 with respect to the Mediterranean region.

Indeed, MIRA offers a platform for sharing analysis with a focus on connecting global trends and issues to regional specificities. In terms of Innovation policies, it contributes to put together different stakeholders to identify and assess the relevance of activities to be performed to advance toward the Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS). For example, it promotes activities where the scientific and business communities can exchange their expertise and needs in close cooperation with the national administrations and multi-national actors such as the European Investment Bank (“Fora”). Based on the field experience, MIRA also gather opinions and convey messages to the national authorities through the formulation of recommendations on ways of improving administrative issues.

MIRA also supports the activities of the Union for Mediterranean and European Neighborhood Partnership Instruments (ENPI) that need the identification and development of a Research agenda in support of its objectives. For example, MIRA mobilizes an Expert Working Group in charge of elaborating a scientific agenda in support to the Programme Horizon 2020 for the decontamination of the Mediterranean Sea.

The outcomes of these activities contribute to feed the S&T policy dialogue conducted within the "Monitoring Committee for Euro-Mediterranean S&T Cooperation” (MoCo), senior official meeting composed by the Ministries responsible for S&T of the Governments of the EU and Mediterranean Countries.
IMPLEMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

MIRA supports the participation of the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) in the Framework Programme through capacity building and networking activities:
- Setting regional networks such as the networking of research institutions or the networking of Technology Transfer Units.
- Organizing Brokerage Events to propitate opportunities of collaborations between scientists and entrepreneurs.
- Increasing the capacities of MPC’s by organising trainings to build common knowledge and competences for administrators, regulators and managers.
- Supporting the regional network of National Contact Points (or FP7 Contact points) established since six years in order to increase awareness on FP7 opportunities and other programmes and policies dedicated to support the RTD collaboration between Europe and the MPCs, and between the MPC.

The project communication is provided by a central Internet-based forum and the website: www.miraproject.eu

MONITORING AND REVIEW ACTIVITIES

One of the main objectives of MIRA is the creation of an Observatory of the EU-MPC S&T cooperation able to provide the necessary feedback to the MoCo on the progress and impact of the EU-MPCs S&T cooperation since the Cairo Declaration of 2007. This feedback helps the policymakers to update their policies and priorities of cooperation as well provides a valuable input in the preparation of EC strategic papers in the area of bi-regional S&T cooperation. The observatory helps to promote the creation of an academic task-force able to tackle and measure the social impact of research.

One part of the continuous monitoring activities is related to the S&T and scientific capacities, e.g. bibliometric studies. Another part is dedicated to the identification of specific S&T indicators for the assessment of the international scientific cooperation in the Mediterranean region. It also proposes a methodology for the setting of a permanent Observatory beyond the life of the project, through a network of MPC experts to monitor the S&T collaboration and policies in the Mediterranean region. The “White Paper on strategic indicators for the measurement and impact of international scientific cooperation and collaborations in the Mediterranean region” is, in this sense, a good example of the outcomes provided by the MIRA consortium.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

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Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action

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**CAAST-NET**

Coordination and Advancement of sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science & Technology Cooperation Network

**Context and Objectives**

CAAST-Net was developed against the background of an emerging global consensus that capacity in science and technology is essential not only to economic competitiveness, but also to sustainable development and poverty reduction. In Africa, a growing number of governments are prioritising S&T as a key sector of their national and regional growth and development programmes. With the internationalisation of research and development programmes as a policy objective shared by Europe and Africa, there has been an increasing emphasis on science and technology in Europe-Africa cooperation programmes.

The current environment for cooperation in science and technology between Europe and Africa is very conducive. The renewal, at the 2010 EU-Africa summit of heads of state and government, of the action plan for 2011-2013 of the Joint Africa-EU strategy with its 8th partnership on science, information society and space is illustrative of the very contemporary nature of the environment for cooperation. This environment, flowing from the acknowledged role of science, technology and innovation in economic transformation, sustainable development and poverty alleviation has contributed to the change in the perception of the potential of S&T we are witnessing on the African continent. Recent years have seen much greater interest in S&T cooperation with Africa, through collaborative R&D programmes such as the Framework Programmes, but also through development cooperation instruments such as the European Development Fund of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

Responding to this dynamic and complex landscape, in which S&T cooperation initiatives can appear fragmented and lacking in coherence with policy objectives, the analytical, policy dialogue and partnership interventions conducted by CAAST-Net, in alignment with the activities of a suite of international cooperation support actions, are playing a valuable role in supporting and encouraging the optimal evolution of the Europe-Africa S&T relationship.

CAAST-Net’s goal is to promote and facilitate an increase in the quality and quantity of EU-Africa cooperation in science and technology, focusing primarily on greater use of the EU’s Framework Programme, but recognising also the potential of the many European and African national programmes offering support to international cooperation in S&T, while encouraging ever better synergy between R&D and development cooperation programmes.

**Period:** 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2013  
**Total cost:** EUR 4,923,797  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 4,200,000  
**Contract number:** 212625

**Funding scheme:** CSA  
**Coordinator:** ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

CAAST-NET

Coordination and Advancement of sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science & Technology Cooperation Network

ACTIVITIES

To achieve this goal, CAAST-Net supports and facilitates EU-Africa debate and discussion among stakeholders on issues of S&T policy and the cooperation process. CAAST-Net encourages new Africa-EU S&T research partnerships through identifying and prioritising researchable topics of mutual interest and benefit, and it adds value to existing partnerships through networking and linking outputs to users. The project encourages synergy between S&T research partnerships and development cooperation instruments in order to apply the creation of new knowledge to achieving the MDGs, poverty alleviation and economic growth. In so doing CAAST-Net harnesses cooperation to address specific problems faced locally and regionally within Africa, as well as common problems of a global nature. Recognising the prominent role accorded in Africa to regional economic communities and sub-regional S&T platforms, CAAST-Net’s actions to foster EU-Africa cooperation and dialogue can offer a strategic additional dimension to regions’ capacity for implementation of priority continental S&T programmes. To inform all these actions CAAST-Net monitors the trends of EU-Africa cooperation under the Framework Programme, and in wider support of cooperation CAAST-Net seeks to strengthen the participation of African countries in the Framework Programme through raising awareness, providing information, brokering partnerships and offering training.
CAAST-NET
Coordination and Advancement of sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science & Technology Cooperation Network

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

INCONET–GCC

Science and technology international cooperation network for gulf cooperation countries aiming at the promotion of bi-regional dialogue

Period: 01/01/2010 to 01/01/2013
Total cost: EUR 2 650 000
Budget from EC: EUR 1 970 000
Contract number: 244401

Funding scheme: xx
Coordinator: EUROCONSULTANTS S.A.

OBJECTIVES

The core objectives of INCONET–GCC are:
- to support the bi-regional dialogue on S & T between stakeholders from EU Member States, associated countries and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries;
- to promote regional interaction for the identification and prioritisation of common research agendas of mutual interest and benefit in a transparent and methodologically sound way;
- to enhance the participation of researchers from the GCC in EC-funded projects of mutual interest and benefit by implementing capacity-building measures and by accompanying tailor-made networking activities;
- to implement a series of analyses feeding the policy dialogue and increasing its efficiency, monitoring the project’s own activities, with particular emphasis on their sustainability, and implementing coherent dissemination activities in order to increase its visibility and impact.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

It will promote actions in order to monitor, develop, promote and contribute to the creation of synergies among the various S & T cooperation programmes between the GCC and EU, and foster the participation of the GCC in the European framework programme for research and technological development. An observatory of EU–GCC cooperation in S & T will be created in the project framework.

ACTIVITIES

INCONET–GCC aims to develop and support the bi-regional dialogue on S & T by bringing together policymakers and stakeholders from the GCC countries and the EU. It aims to create a dialogue and action platform to identify common interests in research areas, set up S & T priorities, support capacity building activities, and enhance the interaction between different EC cooperation instruments.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

INCONET–GCC

Science and technology international cooperation network for gulf cooperation countries aiming at the promotion of bi-regional dialogue

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

EARN

Euro-Algerian Research Networking

**OBJECTIVES**

The European Union and Algeria recently initiated a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement in order to promote their cooperation in several fields related to research and innovation. In this context, the project's aim is to improve and open opportunities of cooperation and to support the bilateral dialogue between Algeria and Europe. In practice, the objectives are fivefold:

- to provide information on European and Algerian funding programmes designed to promote cooperation projects between Algerian and European researchers;
- to provide supportive schemes for identifying suitable partners in Algeria and the EU;
- to implement a network of contact points in the different thematic areas of the framework programme and to train R & D managers dedicated to support and advise Algerian researchers on legal and administrative issues related to project management;
- to contribute to building a bridge between science, innovation and the industrial sector by promoting dialogue on innovation support schemes;
- to identify and analyse research priorities of mutual interest so as to support the science and technology dialogue between both sides.

**ACTIVITIES**

In order to reach its goals, the project is divided into six main work packages.

- **WP1**: Creating a knowledge base for enhanced EU–Algerian ST & I cooperation — it provides the analytical basis for the project work. The Algerian S & T landscape will be described as well as the existing bilateral cooperation programmes. Finally, the existing EU–Algerian S & T links will be analysed.
- **WP2**: Setting the scene for the creation of thematic FP7 contacts in Algeria — this represents a core part of the work. It focuses essentially on the creation of an efficient NCP system, by contributing to an adequate set-up of an Algerian thematic NCPs’ network, and facilitating networking activities in Algeria, with Arabic NCPs as well as with EU NCP networks.
- **WP3**: Information, training and mentoring — this concentrates on providing efficient services to the research communities from both sides. A web portal will support the information actions for disseminating knowledge on EU and Algerian research and on the Algerian science system. Training and mentoring activities will bring the necessary knowledge for efficient participation in EU framework programmes.

**PERIOD**: 01/01/2010 to 01/01/2013

**TOTAL COST**: EUR 570 404

**BUDGET FROM EC**: EUR 509 964

**CONTRACT NUMBER**: 266535

**FUNDING SCHEME**: Support actions

**COORDINATOR**: ZENIT ZENTRUM FÜR INNOVATION UND TECHNIK
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

EARN
Euro-Algerian Research Networking

▪ WP4: From science to innovation: Building an EU–Algerian innovation bridge — this attempts to shift the project’s focus from a pure scientific to a more innovation-orientated view, by reviewing existing innovation support tools and elaborating policy options for Algeria, as well as training and linking Algerian activities with good practices in Europe.

▪ WP5: Facilitating the policy agenda — this will support the bilateral EU–Algerian dialogue on current and future issues of a joint ST & I policy agenda by systematically analysing the information emerging from the previous work packages.

▪ WP6: Project management — this will guarantee the successful achievement of EARN’s objectives and will ensure a balanced view between the European and Algerian priorities. A strong collaboration between EARN and other EU projects in the region will be established so as to learn from previous experiences and build on these exchanges.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

EARN is expected to contribute to the measurable increase of effective collaborations between Algerian and European researchers, improvement of mutual understanding of the respective research systems, a functioning NCP system for Algerian researchers who want to become part of the European research area. Finally, the translation of research results into an increased competitiveness of Algerian industries will be ensured by analyses and policy learning.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

EARN
Euro-Algerian Research Networking

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EU–JordanNet

ENHANCEMENT OF JORDAN–EUROPEAN S & T PARTNERSHIPS

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

EU–JordanNet, which is coordinated by the Jordanian NCP, aims at enhancing and developing the S & T partnership, in close cooperation with the ‘Support to research and technological development and innovation initiatives and strategies in Jordan’ (SRTD) project through the following objectives.

- **Capacity building:** Support the Jordanian NCP and the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres by enhancing the understanding of the structure and the procedures of the FP7 cooperation and people programmes, and through training in management of international contracts in the research area.

- **S & T awareness and cooperation:** Improve science and technology cooperation between Jordan and Europe by creating awareness about the thematic areas of FP7 among the Jordanian researchers and private industry through specialised thematic workshops, training Jordanians on how to write FP7 proposals, and promoting the policy dialogue with the relevant policymakers in Jordan.

- **Information and partner service:** Development of information facilities to provide a wide range of services to the Jordanian research community, as well as the research administrators of the information points.

- **‘Promote the people’ programme in Jordan:** Increase the exchange of Jordanian researchers with their European counterparts through awareness meetings in Jordan addressing the research community, and training of administrative staff on the specific procedures of the Marie Curie Actions.

- **Create an S & T observatory on Jordanian research and technology cooperation:** Based on a set of indicators it aims at comparing the changing profiles and positions of R & D actors.

- **The SRTD project. Develop synergies and complementarities with the SRTD project and support the process of implementing the S & T agreement between Jordan and the EU.**

ACTIVITIES

EU–JordanNet aims at increasing the research cooperation between Jordan and Europe. Although Jordan has been quite active in EU framework programmes over the past few years, awareness of the EU programmes in Jordan and of the Jordanian research community in Europe still needs considerable improvement. In concrete terms, EU–JordanNet will carry out a capacity-building programme to support the Jordanian NCP and the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres to enhance their understanding of the structure and the procedures of the FP7 cooperation and people programmes. EU–JordanNet will carry out a major S & T awareness and cooperation campaign on FP7 in Jordan, addressing Jordanian researchers and the private sector. It will focus on three thematic areas: health, ICT and the environment.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

EU–JordanNet

ENHANCEMENT OF JORDAN–EUROPEAN S & T PARTNERSHIPS

Since the people programme has received limited attention in Jordan in the past, a specific awareness activity will focus on the new Marie Curie activities, aimed at increasing the mobility of researchers between Jordan and Europe. EU–JordanNet will train Jordanians on how to write FP7 proposals and help them in creating partnerships with EU researchers. Furthermore, it will identify the priority areas for S & T cooperation between Jordan and the EU and promote policy dialogue with the relevant policymakers in Jordan to enable a targeted national research strategy. A number of activities are planned to support these two main aims: an information and partner service with a directory of Jordanian and European researchers that will serve as a partner–search facility and an inventory of existing Jordan–EU cooperation.

The project will also develop an S & T observatory on Jordanian research and technology cooperation with Europe, enabling the research institution in Jordan to grasp in quantitative and qualitative terms its position in Jordanian and world scientific and technological production.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The expected impact of the project is improved S & T cooperation between Europe and Jordan through providing access to information and by identifying priorities and the best partners for research. It is expected that this will translate into a measurable increase of effective collaborations, as well as less readily measurable improvement in mutual understanding of the respective research systems in Europe and Jordan.

EU–JordanNet will achieve this impact by:

- strengthening the cooperation between Europe and Jordan through a significant increase in S & T cooperation;
- improving the mutual interest and benefit in S & T cooperation between the EU and Jordan through increasing researchers’ mobility in the ‘Marie Curie Action of the people’ programme;
- a clear identification of the research priorities for Jordan in the fields of health, ICT and environment, to help the Jordanian government formulate and implement national research strategies;
- supporting the network of information focal points in the universities and research centres by providing specialised training on different aspects of FP7.
EU–JordanNet

ENHANCEMENT OF JORDAN–EUROPEAN S & T PARTNERSHIPS

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OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is to foster and build up a network consisting of scientific and technological organisations and enterprises, involved in RTD activities, belonging to the European and Tunisian areas. The main goals are to create a community of actors able to share knowledge, know-how, skills and information, and also to address S & T cooperation in strategic fields of mutual interests through an integrated set of actions including:

- raising awareness of European scientific and technological programmes;
- scouting of the main priorities in the S & T target areas, highlighting the mutual benefits coming from S & T cooperation;
- improving the transfer of knowledge and skills development between the two areas;
- spreading and sharing best practices in order to present the state of the art and the prospects in S & T fields of cooperation.

DESCRIPTION

The ETC project intends to build and enhance a network of European and Tunisian public and private research centres and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in RTD activities. Specifically, it aims to improve and to expand cooperation between Europe and Tunisia by:

- setting up a dialogue between the major stakeholders responsible for European–Tunisian S & T cooperation;
- evaluating past, present and future collaboration between Tunisia and Europe in S & T and proposing ways of optimising the rules and instruments;
- generating partnership opportunities between scientific and technological communities from both sides;
- improving the visibility of results and collaboration between Tunisia and Europe;
- sharing best practices and providing wider access to information.

To perform its strategy, a very important step of the ETC project will be the setting-up of the information platform VINCE, designed by Innova BIc, to make access to knowledge more friendly, spreading information in real time and match-making S & T actors in Europe and Tunisia. The platform and its tools allow for the creation of a virtual and collaborative environment, strengthening interactions between and among the project’s stakeholders and will simplify the interactions between the project target audience and stakeholders of the two areas.

Finally, the ETC project will be able to build-up and to enhance an active partnership capable of increasing Tunisian international collaboration opportunities and facing Tunisian strategic challenges, with positive inputs in their relationship with Europe. Moreover, the ETC project, in order to support cooperation activities, will employ the use of the Arabic language (as well as French and English) to disseminate information regarding:

- European cooperation programmes,
- calls for proposal,
- best practices on project redaction and project cycle management,
- forecasting results for the Delphi analysis.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

ETC
EUROPEAN–TUNISIAN COOPERATION

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

ShERACA
SHAPEING EGYPT’S ASSOCIATION TO THE ERA AND COOPERATION ACTION

OBJECTIVES

Out of the conviction of the pivotal role of science and technology as a vehicle towards sustainable economic development, Egypt and the EU signed an agreement for scientific and technological cooperation in June 2005, consolidating their longstanding endeavours in this area. A Joint EU–Egypt Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) was established with the functions of ensuring, evaluating and reviewing the implementation of the agreement. The JSTCC also aims to identify potential sectors of cooperation, priorities of research policies, and explore future orientations and prospects for cooperation within the agreement.

Parallel to the abovementioned efforts, the EU and Egypt signed, in 2007, the research, development and innovation (RDI) agreement (MEDA — EUR 11 million) to enhance Egypt’s economic growth and international competitiveness through improving its research, development and innovation performance.

On the regional front, Egypt is actively pursuing a pivotal role in the EU–MPC cooperation in science and technology. In this context, both Egyptian beneficiaries in the current proposal are actively participating in the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA).

Despite the existence of the abovementioned initiatives to enhance EU–Egypt partnership, coupled with the highly skilled Egyptian researchers’ community, Egypt’s participation in different ERA activities still has a vast potential for improvement. The overall objective of ‘ShERACA’ (an Arabic word meaning ‘partnership’) is to enhance the participation and involvement of Egyptian R & D stakeholders and key players in the various ERA activities. Such an objective will be carried out in synergy with the regional and bilateral actions currently running; namely the MIRA and the RDI programme.

In pursuing this overall objective, and in line with the INCO BILAT call, the project aims at:

▶ promoting, enhancing and supporting the partnership between EU and Egypt’s science, technology and innovation stakeholders;
▶ strengthening EU–Egypt research cooperation capacity;
▶ increasing the visibility of the Egyptian research capacity in Europe;
▶ supporting and reinforcing the structure and capacity of the Egyptian national contact points (NCPs);
▶ complementing the role of the JSTCC in enhancing the S & T policy dialogue between the EU and Egypt.

DESCRIPTION

ShERACA’s objectives are fulfilled through the following core activities:

▶ capacity building of Egyptian NCPs and thematic advisors;
▶ integration of Egyptian NCPs in the NCP thematic networks;
▶ development of a mobility portal linked to the EU mobility portal (EURAXESS);
▶ mapping of Egyptian organisations’ research capacity;

Period: 01/12/2009 to 01/12/2012
Total cost: EUR 576 085
Budget from EC: EUR 499 987
Contract number: 244364

Funding scheme: Support actions
Coordinator: MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
Website: http://www.sheraca.eg.net/
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

ShERACA

SHAPING EGYPT’S ASSOCIATION TO THE ERA AND COOPERATION ACTION

- identification of common research priorities;
- identification and networking opportunities for potential partners;
- dissemination for awareness and engagement activities;
- sound management and communication strategy.

In order to raise awareness among Egyptian and European stakeholders of the project’s aims and objectives, to ensure that all potential cooperation opportunities receive adequate coverage and to update stakeholders with pertinent news and opportunities, dissemination activities are carried out.

The main expected impact of the project is to improve S & T cooperation between the EU and Egypt. This will be accomplished through the following three outcomes.

- Providing access to information
  The design of the work packages ensures that access to information on ERA activities and on the state and advancement of the scientific and technological collaboration between the EU and Egypt is a sustainable process, extending beyond the lifetime of ShERACA.

- Identifying priorities
  The identification of short, medium and long-term priorities is one of the core activities of ShERACA. It starts nationally with working groups discussing and suggesting topics for cooperation and ends with regional workshops and brokerage events to agree on topics of common interest. This procedure is complementary to the EU–Egypt policy dialogue in the JSTCC, where common priorities are considered during technical meetings with the thematic directorates. It is important to underline here the added value of taking the priority setting one step further by extending the process of identifying priorities to a regional (MPC) level synergising with the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA project).

- Identifying best partners
  Since human capital is the basis of any action, identifying and selecting the best partners, both Egyptian and EU, is a vital impact of this proposal, which has been comprehensively addressed in most work packages.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

ShERACA
SHAPING EGYPT’S ASSOCIATION TO THE ERA AND COOPERATION ACTION

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

M2ERA
MOROCCO TO ERA

OBJECTIVES

The M2ERA project aims to reinforce the S & T cooperation and partnership between Morocco and Europe in order to foster the integration of Morocco into the European research area.

The activities foreseen in this project will complement previous initiatives implemented at the regional level, such as ERA-MED (strengthening the European research area in Mediterranean countries) and MIRA (Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action). They will target specific needs of Morocco, such as supporting capacity building, promoting partnership and reinforcing policy dialogue.

DESCRIPTION

The activities planned within M2ERA project include those listed below.

▶ Study of the Moroccan–European S & T cooperation
An analysis of the Moroccan-European cooperation under the framework programmes is vital to the process of updating policies and priorities. It will identify the most significant barriers to Moroccan researchers’ interest in FPs. The socioeconomic impact of these projects will be studied, and then successful projects will be awarded. Furthermore, the most relevant project results will be disseminated to stakeholders and policymakers. This action will be carried out in synergy with previous and current relevant initiatives funded by the European Commission and related to Euro-Med cooperation in S & T
ASBIMED (Assessment of the bilateral scientific cooperation between the European Member States, accession countries, candidate countries, and the Mediterranean partner countries), ESTIME (Evaluation of science, technology and innovation capabilities in the Mediterranean countries), ERA-MED and MIRA.

▶ Capacity building for implementing thematic NCPs
The reinforcement of the national contact point in Morocco, by implementing thematic NCPs, will provide a sustainable structure for the FP’s promotion as well as collaboration between Europe and Morocco.

The creation of thematic NCPs will be based on a benchmark approach to define the appropriate scheme, taking into account local context and needs. Training and twinning activities are foreseen for the thematic NCPs.

▶ Promotion of partnership between Europe and Morocco
The links between research communities from both sides will be supported by the following activities: identification of suitable research partners in Morocco and Europe; support of their participation in mutual events; initiation of Moroccan diaspora to support Moroccan–European cooperation; increase of awareness of Moroccan–European scientific collaboration.

Period: 01/12/2008 to 01/12/2011
Total cost: EUR 577,284
Budget from EC: EUR 500,000
Contract number: 222745

Funding scheme: Support actions
Coordinator: ASSOCIATION R&D MAROC
Website: http://www.pin.edunet.ma/m2era.php
International Cooperation Activities

M2ERA
Morocco to ERA

Actions to improve the Moroccan environment for FP7 participation will be implemented to support institutional capacity in order to offer Moroccan researchers a better environment in which to carry out cooperation projects with European partners, support dialogue at political level and implement the S & T agreement between Morocco and Europe. The identification of bilateral priorities and future actions for Moroccan–European cooperation will be discussed in coordination with MIRA project activities.

In order to strengthen the awareness of S & T collaboration opportunities between Morocco and Europe and to increase the effective participation of Morocco to FP7, special attention will be paid to:

- disseminating project actions and results to a wider audience;
- organising information and awareness events;
- producing tailor-made promotional material;
- creating information tools (databases, CDs, website, etc.);
- disseminating project results to stakeholders and policymakers in Morocco and at European level.

The project is implemented by a consortium involving three Moroccan and three European institutions. The distribution of tasks reflects the leading role of the Moroccan partners to ensure a better involvement of local participants in the success of the project. The M2ERA project will greatly benefit from the participation of European partners in all actions. All European partners are key actors in S & T diffusion. They have developed specific information tools, competences and contact networks in S & T.

The impact of M2ERA is to be evaluated in accordance with the strategic objectives of FP7 activities, especially under the objective ‘Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S & T partnerships’. This should allow the establishment of information facilities to promote European–Moroccan S & T cooperation.

M2ERA will address the following points.

- Information and links on existing collaboration: existing S & T collaborations in Morocco–Europe will be investigated.
- Information on Community programmes and improvement of the Moroccan environment for participation in FP7: information tools will be developed to diffuse collaboration opportunities in FP7 (seminars, material, website) and training activities will be carried out.
- Assistance in identifying suitable research partners and forming research partnerships: potential partners will be identified both in Morocco and in Europe. A database on Moroccan partners will be developed and made available both on a CD-ROM and on the website.
- Participation in events to promote collaboration: support will be given to selected groups to attend mutual events (the project expects to organise an event in Europe).
M2ERA
MOROCCO TO ERA

- Actions to exchange information and experience with the information platforms present in Member States: actions will be implemented to develop collaboration between thematic contact points in Morocco and similar structures in Member States.
- Support policy dialogue and implement the S & T agreement between Morocco and the EC: actions will be developed to improve this dialogue, mainly through the direct involvement of the Moroccan ministry in charge of research.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

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MOROCCO TO ERA

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Nanotechnologies and new materials
**Collaborative Research**

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<td>Consumer Open Innovation and Open Manufacturing Interaction for Individual Garments</td>
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**Competence Building**

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<td>New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to Ancient Material Studies</td>
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BIONEXGEN
Development of the next generation bioreactor system

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology is regarded as key element of advanced wastewater reclamation and reuse schemes and can considerably contribute to sustainable water management. MBR technology is used for wastewater treatment and reuse in municipal, agricultural and a variety of industrial sectors in Europe and MENA. The market pull is the increasing demand for clean water complying with the strict European and MENA regulations. The growing European MBR market is dominated by two suppliers from Canada and Japan. Although the European scientific community is strong in R & D, its expertise remains fragmented and lacks organisation and communication within Europe. Despite the fact that the technical feasibility of this technology has been demonstrated through a large number of small- and large-scale applications, membrane fouling is regarded as an important bottleneck for further development. It is the main limitation to the faster development of this process, particularly when it leads to flux losses that cleaning cannot restore. The objective of the BioNexGen project is therefore to develop a new class of functional low fouling membranes for membrane bioreactor technology with high and constant water flux (25 l/m²/h) and high rejection of organic pollutants with low molecular weight (down to 300 Da).

**ACTIVITIES**

The consortium consisting of European and MENA partners will develop a novel single-step NF MBR operated with low energy consumption due to less aeration needed (0.2 Nm³/m²/h). Small footprint, flexible design, and automated operation make it ideal for localised, decentralised wastewater treatment and recycling in the European and MENA countries.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

Successful delivery will have a major impact on the competitiveness of the SME partners in the project and the European and MENA MBR market. Furthermore it will significantly contribute to scientific and technological cooperation between European and MENA countries in the provision of safe water.

**Period:** 01/09/2010 to 28/02/2014  
**Total cost:** EUR 4 433 794  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 3 419 571  
**Contract number:** 246039

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** HOCHSCHULE KARLSRUHE TECHNIK UND WIRTSCHAFT  
**Website:** www.bionexgen.eu
BIonEXGEn

Development of the next generation bioreactor system

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NANOTECHNOLOGIES AND NEW MATERIALS

CAPWA

Capture of evaporated water with novel membranes

Context and Objectives

One of the major challenges of this century is the provision of safe drinking water for a growing population. The shortage of water resources in arid areas requires the availability of more efficient and cheaper drinking water production processes. For groundwater, it is often sufficient to aerate and disinfect to produce drinking water. However, in large parts of the world the use of groundwater from aquifers is not possible due to excessive use and global climate change that allow the penetration of salty seawater into the aquifers. Population growth, not surprisingly, leads to more pollution of aquifers rendering the water quality unsuitable for drinking water purposes without excessive treatment. In contrast, there are always large quantities of water vapour present in air. The objective of CapWa is to produce a commercially available membrane modular system suitable for industrial applications within 3–4 years.

Activities

The starting point will be the water vapour selective composite membranes that are developed in the proof-of-principle project. At the same time, fundamental research will also be done on other alternative water selecting coatings. For both of these membrane paths the scale-up from lab- to industrial-scale membrane production will be developed in CapWa. The modular membrane system will also be developed and tested in the flue gas duct of a gas and coal-fired power plant, a cooling tower (or geothermal well) and in a paper or board mill. To achieve this goal the selective membranes must be thermal/chemically stable under the existing environmental conditions (50–150 °C) and resistant to fouling.

Expected Results and Outcomes

The produced demin water from this system should be competitive with existing demin water technologies. To be competitive with existing demin production lines, the construction of the end system must be efficient and user friendly.
NANOTECHNOLOGIES AND NEW MATERIALS

CAPWA

Capture of evaporated water with novel membranes

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NATIOMEM
Nano-structured TiON Photo-Catalytic Membranes for Water Treatment

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

More than 1.2 billion people, mostly in poor regions, suffer from water scarcity, due to a global shortfall of potable water caused by population growth, over-exploitation, and pollution. NATIOMEM plans to alleviate this by developing a novel technology for treating contaminated surfaces and wastewater so that it will be potable. This technology will not require electrical power, chemicals or other logistical support, and hence will be suitable for poor areas lacking infrastructure. The technology uses membranes functionalised with a photocatalytic material, e.g. N-doped TiO2 (TiON). Raw water will be directed through the membrane while it is exposed to solar radiation. The membrane will filter out particles and microorganisms larger than the its pore size, and TiON photocatalysis will kill microorganisms, decompose and mineralise organic pollutants, and oxidise dissolved metals, thus providing a one-step treatment against a broad spectrum of contaminants.

**ACTIVITIES**

In the NATIOMEM project, functionalised membranes will be developed via two approaches: (1) coating conventional membranes with TiON nanostructured films, using several candidate deposition methods, and (2) electrospinning TiON fibres, from which membranes will be fabricated. The functionalised membranes will be characterised for their morphological, physical, mechanical, chemical, and, in particular, their photocatalytic properties, and the most effective will be extensively tested to determine their pollution abatement mechanisms and kinetics. A pilot plant incorporating these photocatalytic membranes will be designed and field tested in the Middle East and in Africa.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The results of these tests will be correlated with potential end-user requirements to set the stage for industrial exploitation. Achieving this result will be a breakthrough in water purification and reclamation technology, advancing far beyond the state-of-the-art with a system which is simple, solar enabled, and chemical free.

**PERIOD:** 01/07/2010 to 30/06/2013
**TOTAL COST:** EUR 4 093 310
**BUDGET FROM EC:** EUR 2 993 230
**CONTRACT NUMBER:** 245513

**FUNDING SCHEME:** Collaborative Project
**COORDINATOR:** DHI
**WEBSITE:** www.natiomem.eu
NATIOMEM

Nano-structured TiON Photo-Catalytic Membranes for Water Treatment

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NO BUG

Novel release system and Bio-based Utilities for insect repellent textiles and Garments

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

In several applications of professional textiles and clothes, mosquito repellency is an important issue. Two major problems arise: repellents currently in use are harmful and resistance to conventional repellents increases, and the lifetime of release systems is too short. Solving these two problems are the main goals of the NO BUG project.

ACTIVITIES

Novel biorepellents will be considered and evaluated as well as two release systems (multilayer coating and textile bioaggregates) in order to repel mosquitoes causing malaria or dengue. Novel release concepts are multilayer coatings and in situ release of the active compounds. Targeted prototypes are textiles for health workers and bed nets (mosquitoes).

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The project will study the best conditions for use of the biorepellents and how to integrate them in the textile products. Testing, exploitation and dissemination will be active parts of the work.

Period: 15/10/2009 to 14/10/2013
Total cost: EUR 4 264 318
Budget from EC: EUR 3 055 400
Contract number: 228639

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: UNIVERSITEIT GENT
Website: http://www.no-bug.info/
NO BUG

Novel release system and Bio-based Utilities for insect repellent textiles and Garments

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OPEN GARMENTS

Consumer Open Innovation and Open Manufacturing Interaction for Individual Garments

Context and Objectives

The overall objective of Open Garments is to develop a manufacturing service provider (MSP) business model enabling individual garments. This model will enable a new way of design, production and sales of consumer designed and configured garments, based on the provision of individualised services and products to customers and partners. This will lead to new product designs, to a greater customer satisfaction, and to an improvement in the stability and competitiveness of SMEs. Applying this, the European textile and clothing industry will be able to create and provide individual garments with a very high degree of customisation in terms of fit, fashion and function at a comparable price in typically 72 hours.

Activities

The idea is to empower the consumer as designer, producer and retailer for individual garments by: (1) taking the creativity and the willingness of consumers by means of web-based virtual communities of individuals, (2) adopting and integrating (mainly) existing digital technologies for design and production of individual garments in a framework of open innovation and (a new concept of) open manufacturing, and (3) turning this into a new MSP concept for SMEs with an appropriate business model and tools, which coordinates, supports and manages the open innovation community and the open manufacturing network.

Expected Results and Outcomes

Targeted results are to develop: (1) the concept of open innovation for individual garments together with free tools and working virtual communities, (2) the concept of open manufacturing for flexible and quick manufacturing of individual garments, together with tools and working micro-plants in micro-enterprises, (3) adopted technologies for digital fabric printing and rapid manufacturing of accessories, and (4) a business model for the knowledge-based MSP together with design and production tools and services for open innovation and open manufacturing. The MSP business model will be developed, implemented and tested in real industrial environments.

Period: 01/09/2008 to 31/08/2011
Total cost: EUR 5 165 800
Budget from EC: EUR 3 614 960
Contract number: 213461

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: DEUTSCHE INSTITUTE FÜR TEXTIL- UND FASERFORSCHUNG DENKENDORF
Website: http://www.open-garments.eu/
OPEN GARMENTS

Consumer Open Innovation and Open Manufacturing Interaction for Individual Garments

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The overall objective of the JOCHERA project is to reinforce the University of Jordan’s (UJ) cooperation capacities for cultural heritage research in the context of the European research area and development of the conservation centre of excellence to respond to Jordan’s cultural and socioeconomic needs. Specific objectives of the action have been formulated as follows:

- To reinforce UJ’s cooperation capacities through targeted trainings for research management, IPR issues and FP7 project writing and management;
- To involve environmental, material and cultural stakeholders in formulating the future cultural heritage strategy;
- To strengthen UJ for internationalisation and improved coordination between research and business stakeholders;
- To enhance EU–Jordan S&T partnerships in cultural heritage research and the dissemination of related research results to Jordanian and European audiences;
- To support Jordan’s young researchers in fields of cultural heritage protection research.

**OBJECTIVES**

**ACTIVITIES**

The strengthening includes first of all twinning with research centres in Member States/associated countries, training activities, capacity-building activities and also research centres’ strategy activities. JOCHERA will establish and implement a framework to reinforce the cooperation capacities and research activities in Jordan’s cultural heritage protection sector by defining cultural heritage research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European cultural heritage research initiatives and developing a strategy for research centres based on a thorough analysis of the current situation, cooperation patterns, relevant actors, needs and opportunities.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

- In order to achieve these goals, the project will perform the following activities: Twinning and joint research plans: an overall analysis and make an overview of Jordan’s research and innovation priorities, needs and capacities on cultural heritage research.
- Training modules development and upgrading infrastructures: realisation of training workshops where the Framework Programme, the Cooperation and People work programmes, the evaluation, administration and management procedures as well as means and ways to communicate project ideas and research results will be presented.
- Strategic development of UJ and enhancing innovation by (a) developing the UJ strategy for internationalisation of the research centre, and (b) improving research and development performance in Jordan’s cultural heritage sector through the creation of a framework for mobilising innovation resources and engaging cultural stakeholders while fostering links between the research and private sectors, national incubators and business angels networks and enterprise Europe Network at Jordan Enterprise.
Network facilitation and dissemination will be ensured, by (a) facilitating networking activities between Jordan and European researchers in cultural heritage protection; and (b) spreading project activities and results as widely as possible, so as to reach the largest possible audience.
JOCHERA

Jordan Conservation of Cultural Heritage in ERA

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FUNDACION TECNALIA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
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REDINN SRL
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Adm-ERA

Reinforcing Additive Manufacturing research cooperation between the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute and the European Research Area

**OBJECTIVES**

The overall aim of the AdM-ERA project is to integrate the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute (CMRDI) into the European research area (ERA), by developing cooperation with European research and innovation organisations in its two strongest material research topics: (a) additive manufacturing of Ti and CoCr alloys based prostheses, and (b) additive manufacturing of biocompatible ceramic materials: HA, PEEK and TCP. These are also research topics highly relevant to the FP7 NMP and FP7 PPP-FoF work programmes. The specific objectives of the project are (i) to develop CMRDI’s research partnerships; (ii) to increase CMRDI’s scientific visibility; (iii) to increase CMRDI’s human potential and (iv) to increase CMRDI’s medium- to long-term research quality and capability.

**ACTIVITIES**

The AdM-ERA project will focus on capacity-building activities in three research topics that correspond closely with research priorities in the FP7 NMP and FP7 PPP-FoF work programmes:

- **Research Topic A: additive manufacturing of Ti and CoCr alloys based prostheses.**
  - A2. Manufacturing of Ti alloys prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques.
  - A4. Evaluating the mechanical and metallurgical properties of Ti and CoCr prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques.

- **Research Topic B: additive manufacturing of biocompatible ceramic materials: HA, PEEK and TCP.**
  - B1. Preparation of biocompatible ceramics for prostheses works.
  - B3. Evaluating the mechanical and metallurgical properties of TCP, HA and PEEK alloys using additive manufacturing techniques.
Adm-ERA

Reinforcing Additive Manufacturing research cooperation between the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute and the European Research Area

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NASERA

Reinforcing Nanostructured material research cooperation between the Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium and the Europan Research Area

Period: 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2014  
Total cost: EUR 716.955  
Budget from EC: EUR 498.394  
Contract number: 295000

Funding scheme: CSA  
Coordinator: Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium  
Website: www.udts.dz

OBJECTIVES

UDTS is a major R&D entity under the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Algeria with a high potential for integration into ERA. Since its establishment in 1988, UDTS’ main mission was to conduct scientific research activities and technological innovation in silicon material and semiconductor science and technology: photovoltaic, functional nanostructures, measurement and detection systems, optoelectronics, photonics. In 2010, UDTS has evolved into a National Research Centre and is planned to set up, with the support of local universities and research entities, a technology Cluster in material science with a sufficient research capabilities to reach International norms and standards. The overall aim of the NaS-ERA project is to integrate the Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium (UDTS) into the European Research Area (ERA), by developing cooperation with European research and innovation organisations in its 3 strongest research topics: i) Production of functional nanostructures, ii) Development of new detection methods, and iii) Design and development of new sensors.

ACTIVITIES

The NaS-ERA project will build upon UDTS’s existing strengths as a high-quality research institution via capacity building activities with the following 4 excellent European research and innovation organisations: 1) CNRS – Laboratoire de Physique de la Matière Condensée, 2) National Institute of Metrological Research, 3) Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials, and 4) Intelligentsia Consultants. The capacity building activities will involve twinning and training development for UDTS researchers focused on the Production of functional nanostructures, the Development of new detection methods, the Design and development of new sensors, and the FP7 programme. Also, it will involve dissemination and strategy development to support the UDTS organisation.
NASERA

Reinforcing Nanostructured material research cooperation between the Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium and the Europan Research Area

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NARNIA

New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to Ancient Material Studies

**CONTEXT**

The **New Archaeological Research Network** for **Integrating Approaches to ancient material studies** in the eastern Mediterranean (NARNIA) is an innovative endeavour to establish a competent and highly-specialised research network for the study of ancient materials and techniques from the eastern Mediterranean. NARNIA partners firmly believe that the most significant and comprehensive ancient material studies are those which employ techniques coming from the field of natural sciences in the recording of the morphological, micro-structural and compositional characteristics of ancient artefacts under study. However, it is also well known that while there may be the need and good will for such interdisciplinary analytical studies of ancient material remains, the cost of acquiring and maintaining analytical equipment and reimbursing scientific staff to use and support them are prohibitive for many institutions. Therefore, NARNIA’s *raison d’être* is to establish a broad partnership of research institutions and private enterprises which eliminates such infrastructural and financial barriers and which creates a systematic and integrated analytical approach for the study of the rich archaeological record of the eastern Mediterranean region.

**OBJECTIVES**

- High-quality and multidisciplinary training of young researchers for skills and research development.
- The interdisciplinary study of ancient materials contributing to historical and cultural knowledge of the eastern Mediterranean region.
- Application of techniques coming both from the soft and hard sciences and testing of their suitability and complementarity for the study of ancient materials.
- The dissemination of research results and outreach actions.
- Research and methodology outlines for future research and educational collaborative programmes, taking into account the requirement of complementarity and interoperation between different European and regional institutions for the implementation of best practices.
- Recommendations for future research collaboration and access to physical and virtual research infrastructures, particularly for users from the eastern Mediterranean region, for the development of research in the region on holistic and multidisciplinary grounds.

**Period:** 01/12/2010 to 30/11/2014  
**Funding scheme:** MC  
**Total cost:** EUR 4,610,223  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 4,610,223  
**Contract number:** 265010  
**Coordinator:** UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS  
**Website:** http://narnia-itn.eu/
NARNIA
New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to Ancient Material Studies

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Security
### COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

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<td>261795</td>
<td>Common assessment and analysis of risk in global supply chains</td>
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### NETWORKING

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<td>NMFRDISASTER</td>
<td>218057</td>
<td>Identifying the Needs of Medical First Responder in Disasters</td>
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</table>
CASSANDRA
Common assessment and analysis of risk in global supply chains

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The challenges facing international intermodal container logistics are efficiency and security. These seemingly conflicting issues have a common solution: supply chain visibility, where data for visibility can be shared between business and government.

Since technical solutions already exist, the challenge lies in integrating solutions across the supply chain. CASSANDRA aims are to:
- facilitate the adoption of a risk-based approach in the supply chain, on the basis of integral monitoring data on cargo flows and container integrity,
- build interfaces between existing visibility solutions, and visualisation tools, in an open architecture,
- demonstrate the integration of data and risk assessment in supply chains in three major trading routes to and from Europe,
- evaluate the quality of the integral data with business and government,
- facilitate a dialogue between business and government to gain consensus on the criteria for data sharing between business and government.

ACTIVITIES

The project participants cover all relevant stakeholders, including some global players. This expertise will guarantee the successful adoption of the CASSANDRA solutions. The value drivers in CASSANDRA include:
- logistics efficiency benefits,
- security benefits for business as a result of the risk self-assessment,
- security benefits for government as a result of the high-quality and complete data for government risk analysis.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

CASSANDRA will contribute to the priorities of the Taxation and Customs Union DG, will facilitate security and crime-fighting priorities of the Enterprise and Industry DG, the Home Affairs DG and the Justice DG, and will enable priorities in the Mobility and Transport DG’s Freight Logistics Action Plan, and will build on previous work in standardisation bodies. The development of integral supply chain data that is the basis for risk-based supply chain management and the input for government supervision tasks, as envisaged in CASSANDRA, will set a new standard for global door-to-door goods flows to and from Europe: efficient and secure!
CASSANDRA
Common assessment and analysis of risk in global supply chains

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CASSANDRA
Common assessment and analysis of risk in global supply chains

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OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Identifying the needs of medical first responder in disasters (NMFRDisaster) is a project coordinating medical first responders with research institutes in order to identify the need for further research in the following areas: (1) training methodology and technology used to train medical first responders for disasters, (2) understanding the human impact of disaster on first responders, (3) ethical and legal issues influencing the medical response to disasters, (4) personal protective equipment used in chemical and biological incidents, and (5) use of blood and blood products in disasters.

ACTIVITIES

This will be achieved through preliminary research on existing know-how followed by a workshop where the needs of the first responders will be identified, matched with existing knowledge and products, and then by setting the roadmap for future R & D needs.
NMFRDISASTER
Identifying the Needs of Medical First Responder in Disasters

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CHAPTER 9
Socio-economic Sciences
## COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>CLICO</td>
<td>24443</td>
<td>Climate Change, Hydro-conflicts and Human Security</td>
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<td>EUMAGINE</td>
<td>244703</td>
<td>Imagining Europe from the outside: On the role of democracy and human rights perceptions in constructing migration aspirations and decision towards Europe</td>
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<td>JAD-PBP</td>
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<td>Prospective Analysis for the Mediterranean Region</td>
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<td>Science Education for Diversity</td>
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<td>SHEMERA</td>
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<td>Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation on gender and science: SHE Euro-Mediterranean Research Area</td>
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## COMPETENCE BUILDING

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## MOBILITY

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<td>CEES</td>
<td>230658</td>
<td>‘C-E-E-S’ (Citizen oriented Evaluation of E-Government Services: A Reference Process Model)</td>
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</table>
CLICO
Climate Change, Hydro-conflicts and Human Security

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Media headlines are dominated by the prospect of regional water wars. Clearly, climate change poses several threats to human security. In particular, hydro-climatic hazards such as droughts and floods have a considerable capacity to exacerbate social tensions, and intra- and inter-state conflicts. Still, cooperation often trumps conflict. There are surprisingly few peer-reviewed studies rigorously addressing links between climate change, hydrological systems, conflict and security. CLICO will fill this gap in knowledge about the social dimensions of climate change, by assessing whether hydro-climatic hazards intensify social tensions and conflicts in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Sahel, or if they provide a catalyst for cooperation and peace. It will examine why some countries and communities are more vulnerable to droughts, floods and related conflicts, and what types of policies and institutions are necessary to ensure adaptation, security and peace in the face of global and regional hydro-climatic change.

ACTIVITIES

The project will mobilise 13 research teams from Europe, north Africa, the Sahel and the Middle East and will bring together for the first time some of the world’s leading researchers in water resource, vulnerability, and peace and security studies. Ten cases of hydro-conflicts will be studied ranging from Niger, Sudan, and the Jordan and Nile basins to Cyprus, Italy and the Sinai desert. A large dataset — the first of its kind — of hydro-conflicts in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Sahel will be regressed against climatic, hydrological and socioeconomic variables. Policies and institutions at the national, international and trans-boundary levels will be investigated and their ability to face climate change and ensure human security will be assessed.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Project results will be synthesised in a report that will identify potential security hotspots in the region and provide fresh policy ideas for promoting peace and security under changing hydro-climatic conditions.
COORDINATOR

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES

CLICO
Climate Change, Hydro-conflicts and Human Security
EUMAGINE

Imagining Europe from the outside: On the role of democracy and human rights perceptions in constructing migration aspirations and decision towards Europe

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</table>

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

By means of a non-Eurocentric, theoretically and empirically sound cross-country and cross-region research design, EUMAGINE studies the impact of perceptions of human rights and democracy on international migration aspirations and decisions. Special attention goes to human rights (including women’s rights) and democracy perceptions in Europe, specific European countries, and the relative popularity of Europe in comparison and competition with the US, Russia, Canada and Australia.

The core idea of the project is that macro- and meso-level discourses on human rights and democracy influence micro-level perceptions on these themes in countries of origin and transit, which in turn influence migratory aspirations and decisions.

**ACTIVITIES**

To reach its objectives, the consortium of EUMAGINE (consisting of seven partners: Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium, coordinator), University of Oxford (United Kingdom), International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (Norway), Koc University (Turkey), Université Mohamed V (Morocco), the Kennan Institute (Ukraine) and Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Sénégal)) will study four major ‘source’ and ‘transit’ countries, namely Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and Ukraine. For research purposes, the consortium is divided in four geographical duo teams (each composed of an EU and non-EU partner). The project is based on a multidisciplinary, mixed-method approach (survey, in-depth interviews and observations), adopts a case study approach and compares and contrasts a diversity of important international emigration countries, various types of regions within these countries, several modes of migration, various types of influential discourses, and different profiles of potential migrants.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

EUMAGINE will provide insights on how perceptions of human rights and democracy are related to migration aspirations and decisions. EUMAGINE is a gender-sensitive project in the way that the team will address gender issues at all stages of the research cycle. Dissemination of the (intermediary) project results will be planned carefully and formulated in a dissemination programme elaborated from the start of the project.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES

EUMAGINE

Imagining Europe from the outside: On the role of democracy and human rights perceptions in constructing migration aspirations and decision towards Europe

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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Peace is elusive and the quest for peace is perpetual. In Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East, peace and war exist in parallel and contemporary peace-support operations simultaneously involve combat operations and building peace. Hence, the goal of establishing just and durable peace is a fundamental challenge to contemporary peacemakers and academics alike.

In order to shed new theoretical and conceptual light on the problematics of building just and durable peace and to offer policy-relevant advice, the JAD-PbP team has identified three critical challenges, which constitute the core of the proposal. The first challenge focuses on the quest for justice in contemporary peace processes, which has become increasingly apparent as several violent conflicts and wars are distinguished by gross human rights violation and ethnic cleansing. The second challenge concerns the quest for durable peace. Several contemporary conflicts tend to resist negotiated settlement. Yet, the ones that do reach a peace agreement still have a poor track record on implementation. The third challenge relates to the quest for effective strategies, particularly concerning the involvement of international actors in peace building. JAD-PbP is convinced that the only way to address these challenges is through an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on insights in peace and conflict research, international law, political science and international relations.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

JAD-PbP has four core scientific objectives: (1) enhance the theoretical and methodological conceptualisation of just and durable peace; (2) analyse the legal and democratic accountability of peace-building strategies, including mapping international law and norms on the use of force for humanitarian reasons; (3) examine the effectiveness of general peace-building strategies and evaluate the extent to which they enhance just and durable peace; and (4) examine and compare the EU’s peace-building strategies in the western Balkans and the Middle East.
SOCIÉTÉS ÉCONOMIQUES ET SOCIALES

JAD-PBP
Just and durable peace by piece

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MEDPRO

Prospective Analysis for the Mediterranean region

Period: 01/03/2010 to 28/02/2013
Total cost: EUR 3,550,937
Budget from EC: EUR 2,647,330
Contract number: 244578

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES
Website: http://www.medpro-foresight.eu/

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

MEDPRO project undertakes a deep foresight analysis of the development issues in eleven countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean participating in the Barcelona process and in the Union for the Mediterranean. The project undertakes an analysis of the current state and prospective development in the main areas of socioeconomic development: geopolitics and governance; demography, ageing, migration, health and gender issues; sustainable development, management of resources, adaptation to global warming; energy and climate change mitigation; economic development, trade and investment; and financial services and capital markets and human capital, education and development of skills.

ACTIVITIES

The project brings the partial foresight analyses in these areas into a broader framework of quantitative general equilibrium modelling, and is completed with qualitative scenarios for regional and broader integration within the region and with the EU and policy conclusions for the EU approach. Given the broad scope of the research to be undertaken, the consortium has been composed with the aim of ensuring three equally important qualities: scientific excellence, multidisciplinary structure and deep insight into Mediterranean affairs. The coordinating institute is therefore collaborating closely with three other institutes with deep insight in Mediterranean affairs and the European neighbourhood policy.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Whereas the main objective is to provide targeted scientific support to the future development of the relations between the EU and the Mediterranean region, the impact of this project will be underpinned by an exceptional effort of dissemination in both the EU and the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES

MEDPRO
Prospective Analysis for the Mediterranean region

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MEDPRO

Prospective Analysis for the Mediterranean region
SEARCH
Sharing Knowledge Assets: InteRegionally Cohesive Neighborhoods

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The EU has experienced successive enlargements in recent years with the accession of new Member States. These have changed the EU map, broadening frontiers and thus resulting in new neighbouring countries. Their integration offers new opportunities but also implies some risks. Even though the ENP has been shown to be a integration tool, which has provided an effective and clear framework to establish cooperation links within neighbouring countries, some important areas with considerable potential for further progress.

ACTIVITIES

SEARCH will focus attention on some areas which so far have been neglected in the analysis of the impact of the ENP but which are of central interest in the economic literature on cohesion. It is divided into eight 8 WPs: WP1 will obtain a background framework. In WP2 to WP5, scientific research will be carried out analysing different aspects that the ENP should strengthen in the future. WP6 will collect and analyse the policy implications from previous research. WP7 will communicate the research results and the policy recommendations through the correct communication channels to the potential users. WP8 will ensure the coordination of the SEARCH project consortium’s work with the previous experience of UB-AQR. It includes a remarkable well-balanced consortium with partners from 16 different countries, different backgrounds and expertise, giving an extensive vision to focus adequately on the project’s objective of identifying policies that will strengthen the relationship between the EU and the NCs.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The main impacts will be the advancement of research on ENP state-of-the-art, obtaining relevant results for contributing to the formulation of future ENP, the involvement of relevant communities, stakeholders and practitioners in ENP research, the critical mass of resources involved and the establishment of a basis to develop new strategic partnerships among EU and NCs. In short, SEARCH is a well defined project, relevant to the topic and with an experienced consortium.

Period: 01/08/2011 to 31/07/2014
Total cost: EUR 3 265 961
Budget from EC: EUR 2 636 942
Contract number: 266834

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA
Website: www.ub.edu/searchproject
SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES

SEARCH

Sharing Knowledge Assets: InterRegionally Cohesive Neighborhoods

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TRANS-NET

Transnationalisation, Migration and Transformation: Multi-Level Analysis of Migrant Transnationalism (TRANS-NET)

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the TRANS-NET project was to clarify and compare the complex and multi-level processes of migrant transnationalism in four transnational spaces: Estonia–Finland, India–UK, Morocco–France and Turkey–Germany. Processes of transnationalism in four transnational social spaces were analysed in the political, economic, socio-cultural and educational domains and with respect to the macro, meso and micro levels. Research data were gathered through content analysis of policy documents and by semi-structured and life-course interviews.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

It became evident that the transnational spaces are decidedly asymmetric. It was also acknowledged that the extent and intensity of transnational activities changes during the migrants’ life course. Thus, conceiving of transnational migrants in static categories is failing to appreciate the dynamism through the life-course transitions, inter-generational shifts and changing labour market conditions.

**Period:** 01/03/2008 to 28/02/2011  
**Total cost:** EUR 1 916 160  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 1 499 920  
**Contract number:** 217226  
**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
**Website:** http://www.uta.fi/projects/trans-net/
TRANS-NET

Transnationalisation, Migration and Transformation: Multi-Level Analysis of Migrant Transnationalism (TRANS-NET)

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EUROMED-2030
Forward looking on the long-term challenges for the Mediterranean area

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of the expert group is to elaborate and explore the main drivers that may affect or impact the Mediterranean area in the next 20 years, thus integrating the long-term dimension in policy preparations.

This forward-looking analysis should help to understand, anticipate, and better shape future developments.

The expert group has three main tasks: to identify the main trends, tensions, and transitions in the area.

The trends addressed concern demographics and macro-economics, water and environment, energy and climate change, education and science, values and religion, geopolitics and governance.

The main tensions are among socioeconomic groups, and between competing visions of the State and competing visions of reform. In addition, there are tensions arising from hostility between States and between different expectations of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

The four identified transitions concern managing conflicts, win-win solutions, deeper EuroMed integration, and towards a EuroMed community.

Finally, the expert group — composed of 20 experts from both sides of the Mediterranean — will give recommendations and potential measures on the different issues and especially on EuroMed cooperation in the fields of education, science, research and innovation.
EUROMED-2030
Forward looking on the long-term challenges for the Mediterranean area

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**SED**

**Science Education for Diversity**

**Period:** 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2012  
**Total cost:** EUR 1 409 822  
**Budget from EC:** EUR 999 982  
**Contract number:** 244717

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project  
**Coordinator:** THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER  
**Website:** http://www.science-education-for-diversity.eu/

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**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

Young people in Europe are not acquiring the scientific literacy they need to participate as citizens in democratic decision making about issues that involve science. In addition, recruitment to careers in science is falling in Europe, which is a challenge to Europe’s future in the knowledge economy. We will learn how to respond to this situation in collaboration with international partners in countries where engagement with science education remains high.

Understanding the dynamics of the relationships between culture, gender and science education in the diverse contexts offered by the countries brought together by this project — the UK, the Netherlands, Turkey, Lebanon, India and Malaysia — will give us a good basis for designing new approaches to science education that will appeal to all students.

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**ACTIVITIES**

We will develop a theoretical understanding of the relationship between cultural diversity, gender and science education and also provide guidelines for effective intervention to improve engagement with science education. We will use case study and design study approaches to understand the process whereby attitudes towards science are formed between the ages of 10 and 14. The evidence suggests that social networking technologies have contributed to creating a multiplicity of identities amongst young people in a way that can make the apparent unity and authority presented by school science appear irrelevant. In response, we will explore using the same technology to engage young people in the real enterprise of science as shared enquiry across boundaries in a spirit of risk and dialogue where issues that matter to the future of the planet are at stake.

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**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The outcomes will be literature reviews, insights into how attitudes to science are formed, guidelines for curricula and pedagogical development to encourage more people to engage with science education and examples of good practice.
SED
Science Education for Diversity

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SOCIETE GÉNÉRALE

SHE MÉDITERRANÉE

Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation on gender and science: SHE Euro-
Mediterranean Research Area

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this project is to enhance research cooperation on gender and science between the European Union and Mediterranean countries.

Research cooperation is aimed at better understanding the roots of gender inequality in science in the area, taking into account cultural diversities and traditions, and analysing how the Mediterranean countries are addressing this issue. It will deal with gender equality from a two-fold perspective: the representation of women in scientific research and technological development, and the integration of the gender dimension in research policy.

ACTIVITIES

The project will provide a state-of-the-art description, data collection and relevant comparative analysis on gender and science in all the Mediterranean countries, focusing on three key themes: statistics on women in science, gender equality policies and research on gender inequalities in science careers.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

These results will be made accessible to the research community and policymakers via an online database, publishable reports and workshops. With the overall purpose of enhancing networking and steering policy-making on gender and science in the years to come, the project will finally develop recommendations for policymakers aimed at enhancing the presence of women in scientific research and technological development at all levels, and ensuring a better integration of the gender dimension in research policy. The Mediterranean countries included in the project are the Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs), i.e. the Mediterranean countries included in the list of international cooperation partner countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian-administered areas, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

Period: 01/05/2011 to 30/04/2014
Total cost: EUR 2 372 195
Budget from EC: EUR 1 991 838
Contract number: 266633

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: FUNDACIO CENTRE D’INICIATIVES
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Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation on gender and science: SHE Euro-Mediterranean Research Area

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The overall objective of the project is to encourage closer scientific cooperation between EU and Palestinian scientists in the field of multilingual and multicultural knowledge-sharing technologies. This objective is attained through integrating Birzeit University Sina Institute (BZU Sina Institute), which is the largest ICT research centre in Palestine and among few in the Arab world in this field, into the European research area. BZU Sina Institute will twin with four leading European research institutions that are pioneers in the area of multilingual knowledge sharing and have an excellent profile in research cooperation at the European and international levels. This collective expertise and scientific excellence will be utilised to help BZU Sina Institute enhance its research cooperation capacity.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

- Widen the R & D strategy of BZU Sina Institute to account for the needs of the Arab and EU societies in knowledge-sharing technologies.
- Set up joint research and cooperation. Settling the scientific and technical issues listed above can be seen as a set-up (or preparatory activities) for future joint research and cooperation. In addition, it will facilitate exchanging knowledge and enhancing the cooperation capacity of BZU Sina Institute.
- Facilitate co-supervision of PhD students, which is a concrete and sustainable venue of scientific cooperation between Birzeit University and the EU partner universities. This will also enhance the capacity of BZU professors in co-supervision cooperation, especially with EU universities, as well as facilitate future joint diplomas. Settling the scientific and technical issues listed above will certainly help students carry out further research in the area and be a focal point for continued collaboration between partners.
- Organise joint summer courses to facilitate direct dissemination and exchange of knowledge. These courses will address topics related to the above issues and technologies, and will be attended by college students, PhD students, researchers, faculty members, and industry practitioners, and also serve as networking venues between participants.
- Build competency and facilitate the participation of BZU Sina Institute in FP7 (and future Framework Programmes). The concrete research cooperation between the EU partners and BZU Sina Institute, which will be set up in this project, will certainly facilitate the Institute’s participation in future in FP7. This is because the scientific challenges addressed in this project are in line with the FP7 thematic priorities, and they build on successful FP7 projects and culture. Not only will two workshops on writing FP7 proposals be organised but, more concretely, two FP7 proposals will be prepared and submitted as part of the deliverables of this project.
- Increase the visibility and impact of BZU Sina Institute at the regional and international levels. This goal will be achieved indirectly through all activities in the project, and directly by organising industrial and academic conferences. In addition, the project is designed to allow project associates to contribute to the project goals. This helps BZU Sina Institute cooperate and network with other knowledge providers and up-takers in the field. The project associates may provide certain know-how, realistic use cases, and disseminate and apply knowledge and tools developed at BZU Sina Institute.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES

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Integrating Sina Institute into the European Research Area

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CEES

Citizen oriented Evaluation of E-Government Services: A Reference Process Model

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The CEES project aims to develop a process model and a scientific evaluation framework to measure the citizen satisfaction index for e-government services. This will be a harmonised and standardised process model which could be used by other e-government implementers worldwide. In order to achieve its aim, CEES has the following set of objectives:

▶ to develop a citizen-oriented satisfaction model for e-government services;
▶ to develop a reference CSM based on the field trial results;
▶ to develop a reference process model;
▶ to apply developed CSM in Turkey for the verification of the model;
▶ to verify a draft reference process model in the UK and Lebanon;
▶ to disseminate results outside the consortium.

ACTIVITIES

▶ An e-government workshop took place in 2010.
▶ A European and Mediterranean conference on information systems took place in 2011.

One more European and Mediterranean Conference on Information Systems is planned for 2012.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

▶ A new methodology based on data development analysis will be implemented and tested for evaluating e-government services for the first time in the literature.
▶ Managers will be able to recommend interventions to improve inefficient services based on the identified best practice (benchmark - set of efficient services) whether nationally or among international partners.
▶ Further testing will be conducted in Lebanon, the UK and Turkey for validation and robustness of the approach.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES

CEES

Citizen oriented Evaluation of E-Government Services: A Reference Process Model

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SIRIUS

Sustainable Irrigation water management and River-basin governance: Implementing User-driven Services

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

SIRIUS addresses efficient water resource management in water-scarce environments. It focuses in particular on water for food production with the perspective of a sustainable agriculture in the context of integrated river-basin management, including drought management. It aims at developing innovative and new GMES service capacities for the user community of irrigation water management and sustainable food production, in accordance with the vision of bridging and integrating sustainable development and economic competitiveness.

**ACTIVITIES**

SIRIUS merges two previously separate strands of activities: those under the umbrella of GMES, related to land products and services (which address water to some extent), and those conducted under FP5/6-Environment and national programmes, related to EO-assisted user-driven products and services for the water and irrigation community. As such, it will draw on existing GMES core services as much as possible, by integrating these products into some of the required input for the new water management services. It also makes direct use of the EO-assisted systems and services developed in the FP6 project PLEIADEs and its precursor EU or national projects, like DEMETER, IRRIMED, ERMOT, MONIDRI, AGRASER — all addressing the irrigation water and food production sectors, and some of which have resulted in sustainable system implementation since 2005.

**EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

SIRIUS addresses users (water managers and food producers) at scales ranging from farms, through irrigation schemes or aquifers, to river basins. It will provide them with maps of irrigation water requirements, crop water consumption and a range of further products for sustainable irrigation water use and management under conditions of water scarcity and drought, integrated in leading-edge participatory spatial online decision-support systems. The SIRIUS service concept considers the economic, environmental, technical, social, and political dimensions in an integrated way.
SIRIUS
Sustainable Irrigation water management and River-basin governance: Implementing User-driven Services

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MYOCEAN

Development and pre-operational validation of upgraded GMES Marine Core Services and capabilities

Period: 01/01/2009 to 31/03/2012
Total cost: EUR 54 940 178
Budget from EC: EUR 33 800 000
Contract number: 218812

The project includes the following tasks:
- The definition of a first set of operational marine core services, first package of an enlarged MCS portfolio;
- The operational development of European upgraded capacities acting as a common denominator for Member States, EU needs for reference marine information;
- The pre-operational validation of these MCS infrastructures and services and their formal commissioning;
- The marketing and promotion of marine core services for use widening;
- The elaboration of a committed organisation to support in the long-term MCS operations, evolution and research.

Expected results and outcomes

MyOcean inherits, benefits and pursues a European operational oceanography strategy started within EUROGOOS networks, and progressively implemented through subsequent projects: MERSEA Strand1, MERSEA, BOSS4. BOSS4 will provide a Version 0 of marine core services fast tracks. MyOcean’s work plan shall cover the development, validation and pre-operations of the following versions of MCS V1 and V2.

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

MyOcean is the project to set up infrastructures, services and resources to prepare the operational deployment of first marine core services.

MyOcean responds to a call for the development of upgraded capabilities for existing GMES fast-track services and related (pre)operational services.

MyOcean involves a consortium of 67 partners spread in maritime countries, federated around a core team of MCS operators; connected to key R & D players with independent experts; rich in key intermediate users ready to commit to the service validation and promotion and play the role of beta-testers.

ACTIVITIES

MyOcean is not ‘the MCS’ but shall provide the major building blocks and umbrella to allow the operational deployment of a full MCS in cooperation with external providers (national met services, EMSA, etc.). MyOcean proposes to set an incremental logic and a governance to remain sustainable after the project and able to welcome new science and new services.
MYOCEAN

Development and pre-operational validation of upgraded GMES Marine Core Services and capabilities

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EAMNET

Europe–Africa Marine Network

Context and Objectives

EAMNet aims to construct a network linking earth observation (EO) information providers, user networks and centres of excellence in Europe and Africa in the area of coastal and marine observations towards sustainable development in Africa. The network will undertake capacity building and maintenance and build upon existing infrastructure and expertise in Africa. The overall aim is to improve the exploitation of EO data for coastal and oceanic monitoring towards an Africa-wide observation system (GOOS-Africa). It will provide an interface between European GMES-related core and downstream services and R & D projects (notably MyOcean) and African initiatives (e.g. AMESd) with the emerging GMES-Africa initiative. It will also provide further links with GEO.

Activities

Specifically, EAMNet will:

- Promote exploitation of existing and new marine EO data streams produced in Europe and Africa (e.g. MyOcean, OSI-SAF and DevCoCast) and disseminate the data using fast and reliable systems (GEONETcast);
- harmonise and contribute to the evolution and improvement of the application of these data;
- improve the coverage of the marine GEONETCast reception network;
- contribute to existing training courses undertaken in AMESD, DevCoCast and other initiatives;
- develop EO-specific modules within the courses of three African universities;
- coordinate R & D activities in Africa with GMES projects in Europe and promote best practice through targeted exchange of personnel and open fellowships;
- connect the African and EU marine communities by co-organising yearly symposia (in parallel with the alternating AARSE and AMESd meetings), maintaining a website and publishing a regular newsletter;
- identify the requirements of the African stakeholders for the provision of GMES services;
- contribute to the implementation of the action plan for GMES and Africa partnership resulting from the Lisbon process on ‘GMES and Africa’ and planned to be endorsed at the next EU–Africa summit.

Funding Scheme: CSA
Coordinator: PLYMOUTH MARINE LABORATORY
Website: http://www.eamnet.eu

Period: 01/03/2010 to 28/02/2013
Total cost: EUR 1 360 799
Budget from EC: EUR 997 067
Contract number: 242379
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EAMNET
Europe–Africa Marine Network
GARNET-E
GMES for Africa: Regional Network for Information Exchange and Training in Emergencies

**Context and Objectives**

At the highest level, the overarching objective of GARNET-E is to contribute to the partial realignment of the ‘GMES Emergency Response in Africa’ agenda, from technical activities focused purely on risk and poverty reduction and response using European capabilities, to those more directed to building sustainable local capacities, leading to real wealth creation in Africa. This will be achieved through the two sub-objectives; firstly to enable the integration of African requirements in the definition of future operation of the GMES Emergency Response Service in Africa; and secondly to encourage the strengthening and building of regional and local capabilities in order to allow African users and policy makers to access Earth Observation-derived information provided by the Emergency Response Service.

**Period:** 01/05/2010 to 30/04/2012
**Total cost:** EUR 1334 951
**Budget from EC:** 999 470
**Contract number:** 242385

**Funding scheme:** CSA
**Coordinator:** INFOTERRA LIMITED
**Website:** http://www.gmes-garnete.net

**Activities**

The project also aims at enhancing information exchange, mainly through training workshops on the operations of GMES Emergency Response and the International Charter Space and Major Disaster, as well as to improve the quality and efficacy of the GMES Emergency Response Service itself, through consideration of requirements gathering exercised and the ingestion of in situ data.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

GARNET-E seeks to develop a network of EU, African organizations and African users in order to build economic, technical and commercial capacity within African States in support of enhanced emergency response capabilities in Africa. GARNET-E is fundamentally about engagement of people and organisations in a development process. Ultimately the success of the project will be measured by the likelihood of any future implementation of the GMES Emergency Response Service in Africa.
GARNET-E
GMES for Africa: Regional Network for Information Exchange and Training in Emergencies

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OPENAIR

OPtimisation for low Environmental Noise impact AIRcraft

**Context and Objectives**

Reducing noise from aircraft operations perceived by airport neighbouring communities is a major challenge facing the aircraft manufacturing industry, social society and the air transport business. By adopting a whole aircraft approach based on the latest developments in active / adaptive technologies, flow control techniques and advances in computational aero-acoustics applied to the major causes of noise at source, OPENAIR aims to deliver a step change in noise reduction, beyond the SILENCE(r) achievements.

**Activities**

The workplan clearly supports realistic exploitation of promising design concepts driven by noise reduction and will result in the development and validation up to TRL 5 of “2nd Generation” technology solutions. OPENAIR’s multidisciplinary approach and composition is suited to the projected integrated, lightweight solutions. The process includes a down-selection in mid project. The selected technologies will be subjected to scaled rig tests, and the resulting data will support assessment of the noise reduction solutions on powerplant and airframe configurations across the current and future European range of products.

**Expected Results and Outcomes**

The project exploitation plan will include detailed proposals for further demonstration in the Clean Sky JTI. The verification of the technologies applicability will be assured by addressing identified integration and environmental tradeoffs (performance, weight, emissions). In this way OPENAIR will develop solutions that can play a significant role, in continuity with the previous Generation 1 effort, enabling future products to meet the ACARE noise goals and improving current fleet noise levels through retrofitting. This capability is key to providing the flexibility needed to simultaneously accommodate market requirements in all segments, global traffic growth and environmental constraints, while addressing the global environmental research agenda of the EU.

**Period:** 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2013
**Total cost:** EUR 30 135 872
**Budget from EC:** EUR 18 273 829
**Contract number:** 234313

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative Project
**Coordinator:** SNECMA SA
**Website:** http://openair.xnoise.eu/
OPENAIR

OPtimisation for low Environmental Noise impact AIRcraft

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Optimisation for low Environmental Noise impact AIRcraft

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X-NOISE EV
Aviation Noise Research Network and Coordination

**Period:** 01/12/2010 to 30/11/2014
**Total cost:** EUR 2 227 745
**Budget from EC:** EUR 1 997 976
**Contract number:** 265943

**Funding scheme:** CSA
**Coordinator:** COLLIN DOMINIQUE
**Website:** http://www.xnoise.eu/index.php?id=387

**CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**

The X-NOISE EV Coordination Action, through its network structure and comprehensive workplan involving experts groups, scientific workshops, international cooperation seminars and a common information system, addresses the noise challenges faced by Aviation. To this end, it will more specifically:

- Evaluate EU-funded projects results and assess their contribution to the state-of-the-art.
- Formulate, through development of common strategies and complementarity with national activities, priorities and key topics for future projects aimed at noise reduction at source, low noise operations, and improved understanding and modelling of the impact of aircraft noise in the community, including environmental interdependencies.
- Ensure dissemination and exploitation of research findings, including technical information aimed at Regulatory Bodies and Policymaking Agencies.
- Contribute to an improved integration of the European Aviation Noise Research Community through a network of National Focal Points covering all countries with such technical interest.
- Identify potential reinforcement of future projects partnership through extended international networking and dedicated processes to foster new collaborations and promote novel ideas.

The project scope is fully consistent with the FP7 Transport workprogramme (Aeronautics), significantly contributing to the objectives of reducing Aircraft Noise by 10 dB per operation as set by the ACARE 2020 Vision, while addressing key factors associated with Airport Noise issues. Over 4 years, the project will involve 29 partners from 21 countries (FR, UK, ES, NL, BE, DE, SE, IT, PL, HE, HU, CZ, LT, IE, PT, RO, CH, RU, UKR, EG, BR), combining the complementary skills and expertise of industry partners, SMEs, universities and research establishments to cover the whole field of interest.
X-NOISE EV
Aviation Noise Research Network and Coordination

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ENHANCING SAFETY AND SECURITY ASPECTS IN TRANSPORT RESEARCH IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The ESTEEM project aimed at contributing to the coordination of transport research activities and policies between the EU and the Neighbour Countries. More specifically, its main objective was to strengthen and enhance the links between Maghreb Countries (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco) and South European Countries – namely Italy, France and Spain – in order to identify strategic priorities and topics for safety and security related research in the transport sector.

ACTIVITIES

ESTEEM involved a six-member Consortium from Italy, Spain, France, Algeria and Morocco. The six organizations, with different, but complementary fields of expertise related to transportation, identified common priority research themes on road safety.

The following road safety research areas were identified as those with the highest relevance for the Maghreb Countries:

- Data collection and analysis, methodologies and tools for road safety and safety and security aspects for hazardous goods transportation.
- Human factors in safety of terrestrial (rail, road and maritime) transport systems (with attention to systems and tools for supporting decisions during emergency situations, modelling and educating the users on how to increase their awareness).
- Information and communication technologies (related to traffic control and guidance systems, technologies for tracing and tracking vessel traffic, etc.)
- Safety, security and environmental aspects for infrastructure design (with attention also to infrastructures maintenance and safety of vulnerable users).

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

- Analysis of the state of the art analysis on safety and security related research in the selected in the Maghreb Countries (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco);
- Surveys in the three Maghreb Countries to identify priority research actions to be undertaken;
- Organisation of two workshops in order to validate the survey results with the aim of identifying specific topics and defining potential guidelines and roadmaps for future research. to foster the coordination of research activities
- Development of a strategic plan for future road safety research to be realised in the Maghreb Countries.
ESTEEM
Enhancing Safety and security aspects in Transport rEsearch in the EuroMeditteranean region

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### ALGERIA

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- Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari Boumediène
- Centre de recherche en astronomie, astrophysique et géophysique
- Institut Supérieur de Gestion et de Planification
- Centre de recherche sur l’information scientifique et technique
- Institut National de Santé Publique
- Institut Pasteur d’Algérie EPIC (IPA)
- Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium
- University Saad Dahlab of Blida
- Université Badjji-Mokhtar-Annaba – Laboratoire Bioressources Marines
- Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d’Algérie (INRAA)
- Centre de Développement des Energies Renouvelables (CDER)
- Université El-Hadj-Lakhdar Batna
- Association culturelle M’Barek Aït Menguellet

### ARGENTINA

- Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto (UNRC)
- Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva

### ARMENIA

- Information Society Technologies Center (ISTC)

### ARUBA

- Shield Group Inc.

### AUSTRALIA

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| Tallinna Tehnikaülikool | **MYOCEAN** |
| Tallinna Ülikool | **TRANS-NET** |
| Tartu Ülikool | **SEARCH** |

**ETHIOPIA**

| Addis Ababa University (AAU) | **CLICO** |
| Arba Minch Health Center | **CLARA** |
| Arba Minch Town Egnan New Mayet Compost Production Youth Association | **CLARA** |
| Arba Minch Town Municipality | **CLARA** |
| Arba Minch University (AMU) | **CLARA** |
| Arba Minch Water Supply and Sewerage Service Enterprise (AWSSE) | **CLARA** |
| GeoSAS Consulting Service PLC | **GARNET-E, AGRICAB** |
| Mekelle University | **SOLIBAM, EAU4FOOD, WAHARA** |
| Wubet le Arba Minch Micro and Small Scale Trade and Industry Association | **CLARA** |

**FINLAND**

| Åbo Akademi | **MAREX** |
| European Forest Institute | **AGORA** |
| Helsingin yliopisto – University of Helsinki | **MAREX** |
| Ilmatieteen laitos | **MYOCEAN, FUME** |
| Jyväskylän yliopisto – University of Jyväskylä | **CAAST-NET** |
| Pellervon taloudellisen tutkimuslaitoksen kannatusyhdistys ry | **SUSTAINMED** |
| Suomen ympäristökeskus | **MYOCEAN** |
| Tampereen yliopisto – University of Tampere | **TRANS-NET** |
| Technical Research Center of Finland | RECOCAPE |
| Teknologian tutkimuskeskus (VTT) | FOODSEG |
| Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö | ERAFRICA |

**FRANCE**

<p>| ACRİ-ST SAS | MYOCEAN |
| Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l’alimentation, de l’environnement et du travail | ICONZ |
| Airbus Operations SAS | OPENAIR, X-NOISE EV |
| Aircelle SA | OPENAIR |
| Alma Consulting Group SAS | RAPSODI |
| ARTTIC | OPENAIR |
| Association de Coordination Technique pour l’Industrie Agro-alimentaire | BIO CIRCLE, BIO CIRCLE 2, AFTER, EARN |
| Association pour les Transferts de Technologies du Mans | OPENAIR |
| Atmostat | OPENAIR |
| BiotechMarine | MAREX |
| Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) | SHARE, PERPETUATE, COMET |
| Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD) | CAAST-NET, ARIMNET, AFTER, CA2AFRICA, EAU4FOOD, ANIMALCHANGE, AFROMAISON |
| Centre International des Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes / Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen de Montpellier (CIHEAM/IAMM) | SUSTAINMED |
| Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) | LEISHDRUG, OPENAIR, MYOCEAN, CITYZEN, CB-WR-MED, MAP2ERA, EARN, EUMEDGRID-SUPPORT, PRO-EEL, AQUAMED, NEXTGEN, FUME, 3D-COFORM, MEDAR, NASERA |
| Centre National d’Études Spatiales (CNES) | GEONETCAB |
| Centre National du Machinisme Agricole, du Génie rural, des Eaux et Forêts (CEMAGREF) | FUME, CLIMB |
| Collecte Localisation Satellites SA | MYOCEAN |</p>
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### Georgia

| International Center for Advancement of Research, Technology and Innovation | IDEALIST2014 |

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Vivai Torsanlorenzo
DEPBAL2

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NEUROMED

**IVORY COAST**

Université d’Abobo-Adjamé
IWWA

**JORDAN**

Al-ahlyya Amman University
MEDAR

Department of Antiquities
SMOOHS, INDICATE

Hashemite University
BIOWALK4BIOFUELS, NARNIA, JORIEW

Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation
EU-JORDANNET

Jordan University of Science and Technology
JEWEL

Jordanian Universities Network (JUNet)
EUMEDGRID-SUPPORT, LINKSCEEM-2

Kawar Energy Ltd Co. LLC
NATIOMEM

King Hussein Cancer Center
KHCCBIO

National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension
WASSERMED

National Energy Research Center
RESSOL-MEDBUILD, MED-CSD, J-ERACenter

Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT)
EU-JORDANNET

Regional Centre on Conflict Prevention
JAD-PBP

Royal Botanic Garden
BOTERA

Royal Scientific Society
JOIN-MED, SHEMERA, EU-JORDANNET, UJERA

Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME)
LINKSCEEM, LINKSCEEM-2

The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST)
MIRA, EU-JORDANNET, UJERA

University of Jordan
WASSERMED, SHEMERA, JOCHERA

Yarmouk University (YU)
ULIXES

**KAZAKHSTAN**

Independent Expert Consulting Board to Promote Scientific Research Activity in Kazakhstan
BIO CIRCLE, BIO CIRCLE 2
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**LESOTHO**

| Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology | IST-AFRICA 2010 - 11 |

**LITHUANIA**

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**MADAGASCAR**

| Direction of Research, Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research (DR-MENRS) | CAAST-NET |
| University of Antananarivo | AFTER |

**MALAYSIA**

| Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman – Tunku Abdul Rahman College | SED |

**MALI**

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University of Pretoria | VEG-I-TRADE, ANIMALCHANGE, OH-NEXTGEN
University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg | MASCOT
Water Research Commission | CLARA
WR Nyabeze and Associates | DEWFORA

SPAIN
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Acciona Infraestructuras S.A. | CLIMATE FOR CULTURE
Agencia de Residuos de Cataluña | BAT4MED
Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) | MIRA, LEISHDRUG, PROBIOLIVES, LEDRA, FUME, VEG-I-TRADE, SOLIBAM, SIRRIMED, SUSTAINMED, CA2AFRICA, CARBOCHANGE, MEDSEA, EAU4FOOD, CREAM, ULIXES, SUWARESA, MIRAGE, MYOCEAN
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Androme Ibérica S.L. | OPEN GARMENTS
Anotec Consulting S.L. | X-NOISE EV
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Asociación de Fabricantes de Riego Españoles (AFRE) | SIRRIMED
Asociación NGVA Europe | BIOWALK4BIOFUELS
Atos Origin Sociedad Anónima Española | CASSANDRA
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| Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology | IST-AFRICA 2010 - 11 |
| Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute | TXOTX |
| University of Dar es Salaam | TXOTX, EAMNET |

**THAILAND**

| Thailand National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) | INCONTACT-ONE WORLD, BIO CIRCLE |

**TUNISIA**

<p>| Tunis Carthage University | SHEMERA |
| Centre de Biotechnologie Borj Cedria | BIO CIRCLE 2 |
| Centre de Biotechnologie de Sfax (CBS) | CLARA, BIONEXGEN, BIOPROTECH |
| Centre de Calcul El-Khawarizmi | EUMEDGRID-SUPPORT |
| Centre des Recherches et des Technologies de l’Energie | ETRERA |
| Centre de Recherches et des Technologies des Eaux (CERTE) | CLIMB, CB-WR-MED, IRSES |
| Centre d’études et recherches prospectives | EUNAM |
| Centre International des Technologies de l’Environnement de Tunis (CITET) | WATERBIOTECH, BAT4MED |
| Centre National de l’Informatique (CNI) | JOIN-MED |
| Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire | PARAVAC |
| Ecole Supérieure des Communications de Tunis | FIRESENS |
| Ecole Nationale d’Ingénieurs de Tunis (ENIT) | CAPWA |
| Hôpital d’enfants de Tunis | DEEP |
| Institut des régions arides | WAHARA |
| Hôpital Farhat Hached de Sousse | MASCOT |</p>
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This publication has been prepared on the occasion of the “Euro-Mediterranean Conference for Research and Innovation: An agenda for a renewed partnership” organised by the European Commission, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, in Barcelona on 2 and 3 April 2012. It includes all the projects with participation of at least one partner from the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian administrated areas, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia – which have been supported under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The projects are organised in eleven thematic chapters which include collaborative research, networking, competence building, infrastructure and mobility projects. A short description and a list of all participating organisations and contact persons are provided for each project. This publication should facilitate networking and increase the dissemination of information concerning research and innovation activities between the European Union and the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

Project information