

2nd Steering Committee of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project
8th meeting of the H2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) Group
16-18 October 2017
Hotel H10 MARINA, Av. Bogatell, 64-68 E
08005 Olympic Village Barcelona, Spain

Background note

This note provides additional information on the objectives, set-up of the meeting and description of sessions, in light of the progress on ENI SEIS II South project activities. It outlines the context of the cooperation with the partners and countries in the Southern Mediterranean region, as well as the intended outcome from each session.

Objectives of the meeting

- I. To take stock of the progress achieved since the 1st Project Steering Committee in December 2016 and capture relevant developments linked to the key priority areas and governance structure(s) at national level in the context of H2020 work programme and the H2020 Review and Monitoring sub-group.
- II. To endorse the regional plan of activities of the ENI SEIS South Support Mechanism until 2020 with focus on the project activities in 2018.
- III. To identify synergies/actions for joint implementation in the coming period with relevant projects, partners and other existing initiatives in the context of the H2020 work programme and the H2020 RM mandate.

Set-up

This is a joint meeting of the 2nd Steering Committee of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project and the 8th meeting of the Horizon2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) Group, in line with the model adopted in December 2016. The meeting duration covers 2 and ½ days with bilateral discussions foreseen in the margins before or after the plenary. Each session will be co-chaired by the representatives of the EEA, UNEP/MAP, European Commission, partner countries and/or regional organisations.

Structuring elements

1. [Joint partnership between EEA and UNEP/MAP](#) in the implementation of ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project.
2. Relevant developments across the [project work packages](#) and progress in the implementation of the [Horizon2020 programme of work](#).
3. Regional and country-level activities in the context of the H2020 Initiative and other relevant processes, activities and developments.
4. Identification of way forward in preparation of the 2nd regional H2020 assessment (expected in 2019).

Expected outcome

Common understanding of process towards the preparation of the 2nd regional assessment and endorsement of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism planned activities in the context of the H2020 programme of work for the year 2018.



Participation

Invitation to this meeting was extended to three country representatives (i.e. the two SEIS National Focal Points and one MED POL Focal Point or their representatives) for the nine ENI partner countries, two representatives for the West Balkan region and Turkey, as well as European Commission (DG NEAR, DG ENV, Eurostat) and UfM representatives, relevant regional partners/initiatives, other H2020 components and EU Member States.

Description of sessions and summary of progress

Day 1. Monday, 16 October 2017

Session 1. Setting the scene. Stock-taking of progress

This session will set the scene, clarify the meeting objectives and highlight the political context and progress with the cooperation in the field of environment with the Mediterranean partner countries. The combined 2nd Steering Committee of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project with the 8th meeting of the H2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) Group brings together the H2020 initiative with the EU policy framework in the implementation of SEIS together with other ongoing and planned regional projects/initiatives in the Mediterranean in the period up to 2020. Relevant developments and achievements from the UNEP/MAP programme of work will be also presented. This session will be co-chaired by EEA and UNEP/MAP.

Session 2. Developments in the cooperation with the partner countries since the previous SC meeting in Athens, Dec 2016

The objective of this session will be on reviewing the progress achieved in the SEIS Support Mechanism activities and the H2020 Review and Monitoring work since the previous meeting in Athens, 12-14 December 2016. The presentations will cover the achievements made across the six work packages of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project and progress in the implementation of the H2020 programme of work for the second period of the initiative. For co-chairing this session the representatives from the European Commission and Union for Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS) will be invited.

The presentations will be made by the project team from EEA, UNEP/MAP and partners (ETC, InfoRAC, ..) and will cover:

- Progress on the envisaged in-country support – this are the activities on Work Package 1, covering relevant governance aspects, work of National Implementation Teams, validation of the work plans at national level and deployment of the SSFA agreement with UNEP/MAP. The countries will present national-level activities under session 3 on the following day.
- Latest developments with respect to data, indicators and assessment covering work on Work Packages 2 & 3, where focus will be on outcome from the [workshop on indicators](#) held in May 2017 in Copenhagen, the [thematic webinars](#) held with the partners and countries in September 2017, as well as the roadmap for the preparation of regional assessment in the context of relevant regional processes and other reports in the pipeline.
- Latest developments with respect to the regional infrastructure will be presented by EEA and UNEP/MAP – InfoRAC colleagues (Work Package 4). The objective is to pave the way forward with concrete solutions to build the regional infrastructure supporting implementation of SEIS and objectives of the Barcelona Convention and to reflect on strategies deployed on data management and infrastructure implementation.



- Coordination, visibility and synergies with partners' projects and activities covers the activities under Work Packages 5 & 6. Contributions from partners will be invited for the last part of the first day.

Day 2. Tuesday, 17 October 2017

Session 3. Country level activities – national SEIS work plan of activities in the context of H2020 Initiative

The objective of this session is to present progress made at national level on the H2020 Initiative and SEIS developments by the country representatives. Presentations are envisaged by the partner countries, approximately 15 min per country in line with the additional guidance in a separate message/note - 3 slides per country), structured around the following elements:

- Progress at national level on H2020 work
- Governance at national level
- National Work Plan activities

The country presentations will be run in alphabetical order starting from the ENI South partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia), followed by the West Balkan representatives (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro) and Turkey. Representatives from EU member states will be invited to complement with their own experiences as well.

Session 4. Key activities – towards H2020 assessment

This session is aimed to be run as interactive discussions, potentially in 3 separate working groups moderated by EEA, UNEP/MAP and partner organisation(s). The objective is to increase the interaction between all the participants and give them the possibility to engage in each topic. Rapporteurs will be assigned in each group to report back to the plenary. The key elements for discussion will be:

- Developing core H2020 **indicators** and data (indicators in a regional context, H2020 set, additional aspects/indicators from NAP....)
- Ensuring appropriate data sharing processes and **infrastructure development** – in support of preparing the process for the regional assessment in synergy with relevant projects and activities.
- Building-up **assessments** – covering wide spectrum of envisaged national, regional and thematic assessment activities planned in the coming period

The expected outcome is an agreement and decision on the way ahead that would impact the project activities in 2018, as well as recommendations for partners contributing/involve in the process.



Day 3. Wednesday, 18 October 2017

Session 5. Regional plan of activities of the ENI SEIS South Support Mechanism in 2020 perspective

The session will aim to endorse the regional work plan of activities of the SEIS Support Mechanism project until 2020 with focus on 2018 activities. The presentation of the work plan will cover the relevant aspects discussed/presented in the previous 2 sessions and will follow the individual project work packages as well as the identified thematic areas of work. The leading experts for each thematic area will present the plans for 2018.

Draft regional work plan to be shared in advance of the meeting.

Session 6. Next steps

This is the wrapping-up and concluding session, summarising the next steps and way forward.

Proposals for the time and place of the next meeting are welcome, the countries should be invited to indicate their interest in hosting the 2019 event. Time for any other items the participants would like to bring forward.

In the margins of the meeting (morning of 16 Oct and afternoon of 18 Oct), bilateral meetings between EEA-UNEP/MAP and the partner country representatives are being scheduled.

