

3rd Steering Committee of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project

9th meeting of the H2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) Group

6-7 November 2018, IMLAUER Hotel

Rotensterngasse 10 – 12A-1020 Vienna, Austria

Summary Report

Objectives of the meeting

- I. To take stock of the progress achieved in 2018 and capture relevant developments linked to the key priority areas and governance structure(s) at national level in the context of SEIS/H2020 and the H2020 Review and Monitoring sub-group.
- II. To present and endorse the regional plan of activities of the ENI SEIS South Support Mechanism until 2020 with focus on the project activities in 2019.
- 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 was a joint meeting of the 3rd Steering Committee of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project and the 9th meeting of the Horizon2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) Group, in line with the model adopted in December 2016. The meeting (1, 5 day) was structured as plenary sessions only. Each session was co-chaired by the representatives of the EEA, UNEP/MAP, European Commission, partner countries and/or regional organisations. Bilateral meetings with country representatives took place on Monday, 5 November afternoon and Wednesday, 7 November afternoon specifically to address administration of the InCountry support, technical discussions on thematic areas and infrastructure development.

Participation

The meeting gathered 36 participants with representatives from 8 ENI South countries (i.e. the two SEIS National Focal Points and one MED POL Focal Point or their representatives), two representatives from Montenegro and Turkey, as well as European Commission DG NEAR, UfM Secretariat (through Skype), partner organisations Info-RAC, CEDARE and Zoï Environment Network.

Key highlights from the meeting

The joint meeting of the 3rd Steering Committee of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project and the 9th meeting of the Horizon2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) Group:

- took stock of the political and policy developments and the contributions of the regional institutions involved;
- took stock of progress achieved in 2018 with respect to the review and monitoring component of H2020 and implementation of ENI SEIS II South and discussed relevant developments linked to selection and agreement on set of indicators, preparation of



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indicators factsheets and recent development of infrastructure for data reporting and agreed on the way forward to fulfil the mandate under H2020 roadmap ;

- acknowledged processes put in place towards building the information systems in the countries to populate the selected set of indicators for regional assessment;
- acknowledged delays in the implementation of the project, national activities that are behind schedule in particular as regard the signature of bilateral agreements (Small Scale Funding Agreements) to operationalise the in-country support and implement SEIS national work plans;
- discussed and agreed on the steps towards the next H2020 assessment to fulfil , highlighting that there is no duplication of work, the assessment will make use of information from State of Environment and Development report (drivers) and Quality Status Report (state).

Description of sessions and summary of progress

Day 1. Tuesday, 6 November 2018

Opening

Mr Ronan Uhel, Head of Programme Natural System and Sustainability at the European Environment Agency, opened the meeting, clarified the meeting objectives and highlighted the political context and progress on the cooperation in the field of environment with the Mediterranean partner countries. He pointed out that the agenda for the meeting targeted the operational level on getting an overview of where we stand in this process, and of the regional capacity to derive national information for the Horizon 2020 assessment in preparation for 2019 in time for the Ministerial meeting planned in early 2020. He also referred to the parallel regional assessment on the State of the Environment and Development (SoED) and the need to find convergence and synergies between the two regional assessments.

Session 1. Political context for regional environmental cooperation

In her opening remarks, Ms Sylvie Fontaine, Task Manager "Environment, Water and Agriculture" at European Commission DG NEAR, referred to the importance of the ENI SEIS II project to drive all H2020 related projects, through its objectives to strengthen the mechanisms for data collection and reporting. She linked it to the capacity-building component of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean Sea and it's project support SWIM-H2020 Support mechanism. She informed that the current project is due to end on 30th April 2019 and a new project is expected to start right after. As for the other implementation project under the Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment component, she informed that the support of DG NEAR to the European Investment Bank (EIB) on the Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme (MeHSIP) has come to an end, whereas a new External Investment Plans mechanism is in place. EIB is currently looking for alternative funding for the continuation of MeHSIP.

Ms Fontaine also made reference to the project SwitchMED on circular economy implemented by UNIDO, UN Environment and partners, indicating that this project will end in December 2018 and that a follow-up phase is currently under discussion.



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Ms. Alessandra Sensi, Senior Programme Manager at the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat, gave an overview of the process and progress made since 2014 highlighted the political context and made reference to the upcoming working group on environment and climate change meeting in Barcelona. This meeting will help collect countries and stakeholders' views and inputs on the post-2020 priorities for action of the post-2020 UfM work program on environment and climate change in the Mediterranean region to be progressively discussed for future inclusion in the 2nd UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change scheduled for early 2020.

Ms Sensi also referred to the external evaluation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change which will help shape the programme beyond 2020, potentially “Horizon 2030 Initiative”.

Ms Tatjana Hema, Deputy Coordinator at UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan (UN Environment/MAP), welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of assessments as they bring policy change. She acknowledged the difficulties and challenges of this process, and the need to work with many actors at the national level. Ms Hema gave a comprehensive overview of the main and upcoming activities at UN Environment MAP, also in view of the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP meeting) to take place on 3-5 December 2019 in Naples, Italy. This presents an opportunity to bring in the results of the H2020 Initiative and other important developments on marine litter and plastics at global level.

Ms Hema referred to the roadmap for 2023 Quality Status Report (QSR) and emphasized that the work under ENI SEIS II will greatly support the vision and help strengthening capacities for the next publication of QSR. The H2020 indicators developed under ENI SEIS II complement the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) providing a more complete picture, hence the importance that national monitoring programmes are implemented and providing data. Ms Hema identified the synergies with the SoED regional assessment, highlighting the importance of good coordination at the regional level and outreach to partners.

Mr Ahmed Abdelrehim, Regional Programme Manager at CEDARE, informed the participants on a number of assessment reports that are planned for the region, including the West Asia assessment as part of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process, the preparation of next Environment Outlook for the Arab region and the recently published Egyptian state of environment report, the State of Water in the Arab Region and the Africa Waste Management Outlook. He referred to the voluntary production of 44 indicators in the region, which are now streamlined with the SDGs, and to the work of a number of networks in the region, such as Africa Environmental Information Network (AEIN) and the Africa open data portal.

Session 2. Developments in the cooperation, review of progress, national achievements in regional setting

This session reviewed the progress achieved in the SEIS Support Mechanism activities and the H2020 Review and Monitoring work both at the regional and national level.

Ms Cécile Roddier-Quefelec, Project Coordinator - ENI SEIS Support Mechanism South, explained that the focus of the work in the third year of implementation was on the development of the H2020 indicators and their methodological specifications. She acknowledged the significant delays in the



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indicator work, as well as in infrastructure, national processes for sharing data sets and project implementation in general. A number of visits to countries were organized during the past months which gave the opportunity to meet with the stakeholders involved. Ms. Roddier-Quefelec reminded the participants of the political demand for reporting, data and indicators and expressed optimism on the national capacities for upcoming environmental reporting (H2020 reporting exercise, SDGs, QSR, etc) as a direct result of SEIS support mechanism.

Ms Hema gave an overview of the status of bilateral funding agreements (Small Scale Funding Agreements - SSFAs) with the partner countries, with 4 SSFAs in place (Morocco, Israel, Jordan and Palestine), 3 SSFAs in the process of being signed (Tunisia, Egypt and Libya). No progress on the SSFA with Lebanon has been achieved. Ms Hema advised that the most correct approach is for countries to recruit national consultants to support the implementation of the SSFA.

A main component of this session comprised a series of country presentations on the progress made at national level with regards to H2020 Initiative and SEIS developments structured around the following elements:

1. Coordination
2. Data production
3. (Indicator) Assessment
4. Sustainability

The country presentations ran in alphabetical order starting from the ENI South partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia), followed by Montenegro and Turkey.

Country presentations gave an overview of where the countries stand in terms of establishing the SEIS vision and SEIS principles. The majority of the countries (6 out of 8) have established good national networks and improved their Inter-institutional coordination/ by building committees and signing memorandum of understanding; the remaining countries (2 out of 8) need further support to establishing governance/cooperation capacities. Some of the countries have advanced data production, collection dissemination and data exchange while in other countries work is still in progress. Not all the countries (only 2 out of 8) have established appropriate systems for Indicator production (adoption of methodology, indicator assessment, publication) which shows the necessity of support in this field. In terms of analytical and assessment capacities (national SoER, contribution to regional assessment processes) only 3 out of 8 have build national capacities and produce state of environment reports on regular basis.

Among the experiences presented, the following key points are to be noted: Egypt (as well as Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) highlighted their achievements on marine litter management, awareness of sustainable environment and capacity building on waste management. Israel presented a number of success stories including phasing out of Shafdan, the largest waste water treatment, its experience on implementing PRTR and an IT platform for landfills, sorting facilities and transfer stations. Jordan shared its experience on online air quality monitoring and its ambitions project with support of GIZ to establish a list of environment indicators that covers indicators from various initiatives. Libya informed on the progress in the development of the Quality Status for Libyan Marine Environment. Morocco presented the highlights of their eutrophication and nutrient indicator assessment and their work on



assessment spatial units. Palestine updated the participants on the progress under the SSFA with respect to data, indicators and assessments, the launch of SDI and developments on the water information system. Tunisia informed about monitoring activities in line with IMAP, its health data portal and recently published report on sustainable development.

Table 1: Overview of National Progress

Activity	Algeria	Egypt	Israel	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Palestine	Tunisia
Inter-institutional coordination/ national team-committee, thematic cooperation	●	▲	▲	▲	NA	●	▲	▲	▲
Data production, collection, dissemination/exchange	●	●	▲	●		▲	●	●	▲
Indicator production (adoption of methodology, indicator assessment, publication)	●	●	●	▲		●	▲	●	●
Analytical and assessment capacities (national SoER, contribution to regional assessment processes)	●	▲	▲	●		●	●	●	▲
Continuity of different line of work and networks	Subject to a country visit	NSO solid authorise data provider, Institutional memory		National committee, staff consolidated		Ensure CB	Integrated in existing structures (regions, MEDPOL)	SDI MoLG, national funding	Need political support
▲	Task progressing well - on track								
●	Progress made but task not completed yet								
●	No progress								

Day 2. Wednesday, 7 November 2018

Session 2. Developments in the cooperation, review of progress, national achievements in regional setting (con't)

Ms Céline Ndong, Project Officer - ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism - at INFO/RAC, presented the last developments with respect to the regional infrastructure. In particular, the elaboration of the Data Dictionaries relative to the three H2020 thematic areas (Water, Waste and Industrial Emissions) and development of the regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) platform called InfoMAPNode. After a brief summary of the outputs of the 1st workshop on the Infrastructure and Data Management held 4-5 October in Rome, Ms Ndong presented the timetable as regard support to the countries on the SDI implementation.

Michael Assouline, ICT and Data Management Expert at European Environment Agency, reported on the state of play in developing infrastructure and reporting tool. He mentioned that EEA and Info RAC have been working at setting up a regional infrastructure for reporting for the establishment of H2020 data flows on waste water, municipal waste, and industrial emissions and marine litter. Efforts have been put in place to develop and maintain the INFOMAP system together with REPORTNET system. In parallel, an analysis of UNeMAP databases to avoid duplication in reporting was conducted to ensure and maximise synergies. Mr Assouline reiterated that databases such as MEDPOL will be used to avoid duplication of reporting. In addition, he pointed out points to be addressed by countries under the infrastructure development: update of spatial layers regarding administrative units, catchment areas, coastal cities, coastal regions, etc., data managers' nomination.



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Furthermore spreadsheets for data collection of water, waste and industrial emission data based on data dictionaries have been developed. A data call for the collection of H2020 data will be launched soon.

Session 3. Regional plan of activities of the ENI SEIS South Support Mechanism in 2020 perspective

Ms Roddier-Quefelec presented an overview of the activities and key milestones planned for 2019-2020 according to project Work packages. The proposed work plan 2019 take into account a potential six-month extension (till July 2020).

The focus for 2019-2020 will be on WPs 1, 2, 3 and 4.

WP1- In Country support

- Provide technical assistance and increase country support in order to speed up the implementation of national work plans and ensure that the activities are fully covered. Make sure that the countries have the adequate resources and are in position to work on data collection, populate indicators and contribute to the regional assessment.
- Work collectively to overcome the delays and ensure the report is delivered in the coming 6 to 9 months. Run the DPSIR framework in practice and expand the national networks to contribute to the assessment.
- Dedicated regional PRTR Best practices workshop in February 2019. UN Environment MAP has been working on gap analysis and the revision of the guidance documents and prepared draft legislation. The workshop will enable exchange of experience between countries running already a PRTR and countries implementing PRTR under SSFA.
- Organisation of country visits and stakeholders meeting to ensure high political support from the key stakeholders and support raise awareness and establish a forum for discussion. The content and subject of discussion will depend on when the visits are scheduled - it can focus on framing the assessment if it is beginning of next year; if it is later in May/June it can be used to discuss the results of the assessment. For the country visits 4 countries are in the pipeline for dedicated country visit (Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia). The dates of the visits have to be suggested by the countries
- Additional support using study tours to share knowledge either with a European country or South-South
- Update and adjust the national work plans

WP2 Indicators and Assessment - WP 3 Data and statistics

- Populate and assess the H2020 indicators by March/April to ensure its use for the compilation of the assessment. Ensure access and data availability within the national context.
- Regional workshop focusing on the assessment dedicated to different thematic to work on further guidance (mobilize thematic network). This workshop can be held back-to-back with UFM working group on water meetings, or SWIM events and hence use the opportunity of reaching out to the expert network.



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- Regional thematic assessment workshop on waste, can be held within the activities under Barcelona convention, for example Marine litter workshop.
- Industrial emission regional workshop, tentatively back to back with NBB/PRTR event organised by UNeMAP-MEDPOL in first semester 2019 in parallel to national workshops dedicated to assessment.
- Finally one regional workshop to look at the whole assessment and evaluate the work achieved, tentatively at end of September 2019.
- Complementary to that there is a possibility to have regional exchange of experience and testing the system in practice and learning from each other.
- In terms of implementing the SEIS vision, a report on where we stand compared to the beginning project will also be prepared.

UN Environment MAP informed about the next CORMON meeting, to take place on 2-4 April 2019 in Montenegro.

Mr Uhel reminded that the operating model needs to embrace the complexity of the region including Northern Mediterranean, West Balkans, Turkey as members of Eionet and make use of the reporting obligation under Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) to also contribute and provide the necessary data for the regional H2020 assessment. He pointed out the necessity of connecting the different pieces of information, from Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Ecosystem approach/IMAP in coordination with the regional sea conventions and group of marine Network directors. Organising information and monitoring data for assessment being at the core of all the discussions held at EU Mediterranean level.

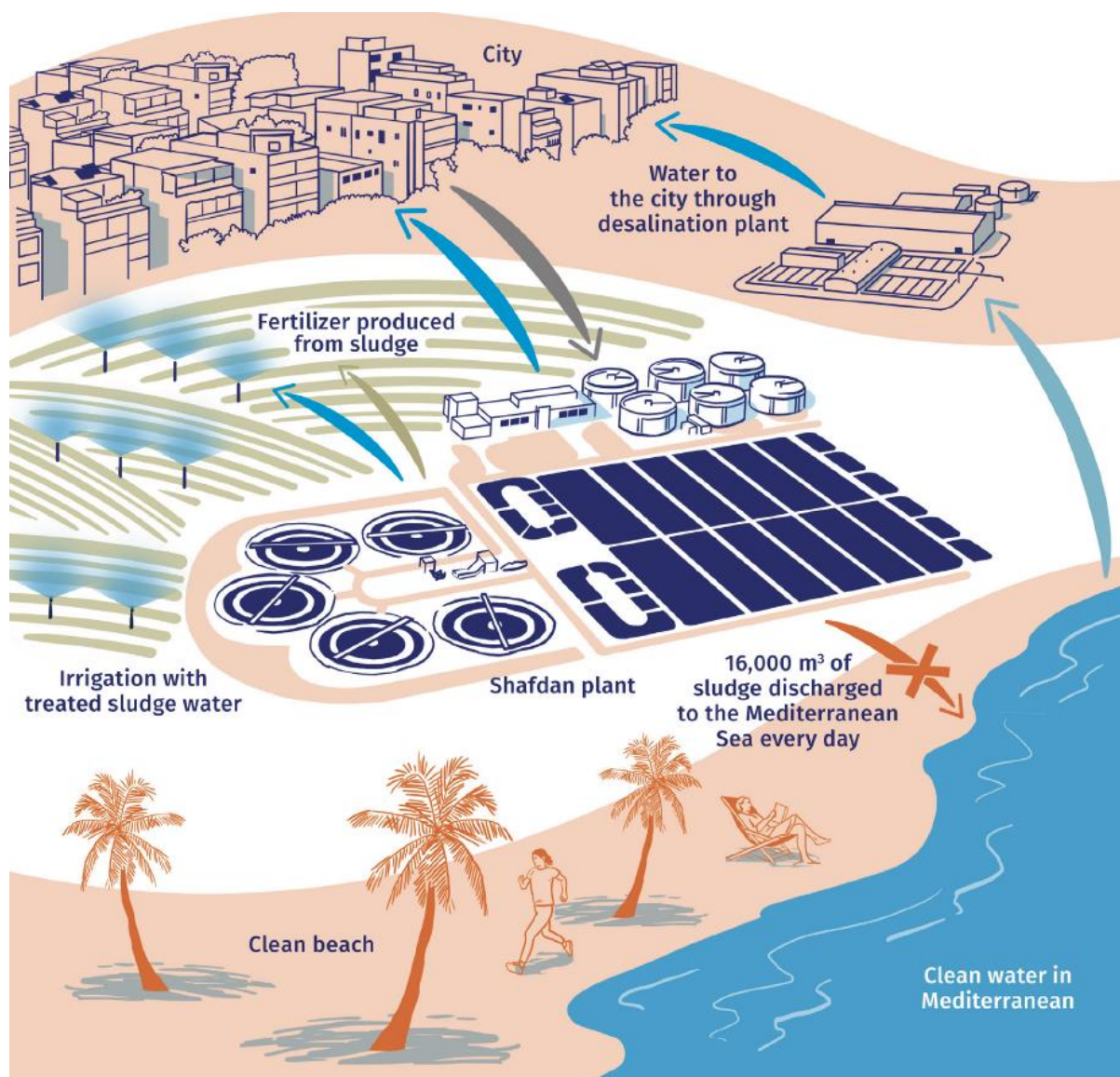
WP4 Data management and infrastructure

- From mid-December 2018, H2020 data call to be launched based on H2020 Data Dictionaries. INFO/RAC to give access of the shape file relative to the hydrologic basins, coastal line, buffer zone, the Mediterranean Regions and the user guide of the SDI in the InfoMAPNode.
- Finalisation of the regional infrastructure reporting tools.
- Organisation of the support countries on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) implementation through webinars and country visits/technical assistance missions - mid January to May 2019. Countries are invited to confirm during the bilateral discussions availability for such support.
- From January 2019 to February 2019, INFO/RAC will start the elaboration of the data policy proposal;
- Organization of the 2nd Regional Workshop on Data management and Infrastructure.

As part of the communication and visibility activity, Mr Otto Simonett, Zoë Environment Network presented some proposals to increase visibility of the efforts and best practices at national level. As important as it is, work on environmental data and indicators is often perceived as a thankless and invisible task. Thus, new ways to provide visibility have been explored under ENI-SEIS II: So-called 'visual tweets', headlines of success stories packaged into an illustrated narrative were developed.



This will enable countries and the involved agencies to present their work in a communicative manner, both online (e.g. social media) but also as brochures, posters or roll-ups presented and disseminated at events. The highly distilled format also makes the translation into other languages quite straightforward. It is envisaged to feature all the countries' success stories in this format to provide visibility to the tremendous amount of work being done in the region.



Session 4. Conclusions

In the concluding session of the meeting, EEA and UN Environment MAP presented the proposed regional work plan for 2019-2020. It was underlined the increased focus on the assistance to countries that would require strong coordination and full engagement from the partner countries in the ENI South region.



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It was agreed that the detailed plan of activities (Gantt chart with separate work packages) will be shared with the countries straight after the meeting in order to ensure full integration of the H2020/SEIS activities within the national planning for 2019/2020 period.

The participants were also informed about the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change where a consolidation report from the previous meeting would be presented and initiated contribution to the post-2020 agenda.

The fact that the project had certain delay in the inception phase would be addressed through requesting a no-cost 6-month extension after January 2020 (current formal end of the project). In view of this it was suggested next year to hold separately the H2020 Review and Monitoring meeting (potentially in September-October 2019) and the ENI SEIS II South project Steering Committee (tentatively in the spring of 2020 – time to be fixed following confirmation of the date for the UfM Ministerial in early 2020).

Within the margins of the meeting, bilateral meetings between EEA-UN Environment MAP and partner country representatives took place on 5 and 7 October 2018 in the afternoon.



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