

## **ENI SEIS II South Regional Workshop on H2020 Water cluster**

**9-10 July 2019**

**Hotel de Region, Marseilles, France**

### **Background Note**

***This note is divided in 3 parts:***

- 1. Sections I and II provide information on the objectives and structure of the workshop***
- 2. Sections III – V provides information on the policy background leading to the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> H2020 assessment***
- 3. Sections VI-VII provide guidance on the expected country interventions***

### **I Objectives of the workshop**

In accordance with the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism Action Plan, and in support to the regional assessment of the Union for the Mediterranean H2020 Initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean, this meeting aims:

- to review and provide guidance on assessment of the H2020/NAP water cluster indicators at national and regional level; and
- to make progress on the overall water thematic assessment of the H2020 indicator-based assessment report

### **II Workshop structure**

The workshop agenda (1,5 day) consists of both informative and interactive/group sessions. The group sessions will provide the opportunity for the thematic experts to discuss and contribute to the development of water indicators, further engage in the preparation of the H2020 indicator-based assessment report and enhance capacities to use of indicator-based assessments to inform national policy. The country interventions will allow for sharing experiences and providing information on illustrative case studies.

### **III Background**

At the 10th Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona in 2005, the Euro-Mediterranean countries agreed to increase their efforts to substantially reduce the pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020. Ministers renewed their commitments during the first UfM Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and Climate Change on 13 May 2014 in Athens, during which the second phase (2015-2020) of the Horizon 2020 initiative was endorsed. This initiative tackles the main sources of pollution to the Mediterranean Sea, namely municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial pollution. In parallel, the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention committed updating their National Action Programmes (NAPs), which were endorsed by COP19 (Athens, February 2016). The updated NAPs identify and prioritise specific, urgently needed actions that shall be considered during the implementation of the Horizon 2020 work programme (2015-2020).

### **IV Horizon 2020 Indicators**

A review mechanism has been developed to monitor the progress of the implementation of the H2020 initiative, particularly through appropriate information-sharing systems that are easily accessible to all Mediterranean



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partners. The H2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) group with the support of the ENI SEIS II South support mechanism is developing a coherent indicator-based reporting process for H2020 that improves knowledge on the Mediterranean environment and supports the preparation of the State of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment report.

The activities under ENI SEIS II South support mechanism are clustered into the following three thematic cluster and a cross-cutting issues:

- Waste – municipal and industrial waste, including domestic and hazardous waste
- **Water – inland, coastal and marine water, including freshwater and wastewater**
- Industrial emissions – emissions to air, to water and to soil. Pollutants and parameters to be in line with Barcelona Convention and H2020 requirements
- Cross-cutting issues – linking to developments in the areas of climate change (adaptation and mitigation activities), Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), Sustainable development Goals (SDGs), environmental accounting.

In 2017 and 2018, the H2020 Indicator set was revised as part of ENI SEIS II South project. A mapping exercise of the current regional indicators against the different policies and their reporting requirements was performed, specifying how the H2020 Indicators are related to the other regional processes. Ensuring the alignment of H2020 indicators with other ongoing assessment processes in the Mediterranean was paramount in revising the H2020 assessment framework (2015-2020), not only to support an integrated assessment but also to reduce the reporting burden for countries and optimise the use of data for different purposes.

The revised H2020 indicators for the 2nd Phase resulted from an extensive revision and participatory process, which started with the 1st Indicators workshop, held in Copenhagen in May 2017. Following subsequent consultations with countries, the final list of indicators and their methodological specifications were agreed during the 2nd Indicators Workshop, held in Athens in April 2018. The final list of WATER H2020 Indicators (Ind 3.1-5.2) is presented below. For each WATER indicator, data dictionaries, indicator specification sheets and guidance for indicator assessments were developed in 2017-2018.

*Table 1: List of WATER H2020/NAP Indicators*

INDICATORS	SUB-INDICATORS
<b>IND 3. Access to Sanitation</b>	3.1 Share of total, urban and rural population with access to an improved sanitation system (ISS)
	3.2 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (SMSS)
<b>IND 4. Municipal Wastewater Management</b>	4.1 Municipal wastewater collected and wastewater treated
	4.2 Direct use of treated municipal wastewater
	4.3 Release of nutrients from municipal wastewater
<b>IND 5. Coastal and Marine Water Quality</b>	5.1 Nutrient concentrations in transitional, coastal and marine waters
	5.2 Bathing water quality



## V Towards the 2nd H2020 Indicator-based Assessment Report

The indicator-based assessment “Horizon 2020 Mediterranean report - Toward shared environmental information systems”, published in 2014 at end of phase 1 of the Horizon 2020 Initiative highlights the following findings for the priority area WATER:

- Sanitation has improved steadily in the region over the last decade. Between 2003 and 2011 the proportion of the population with access to sanitation increased from 87.5 to 92 %. There are still 17.6 million people in the region without sanitation, a third of them living in urban areas.
- There is great potential to reuse wastewater in the region. Currently only around 1% of wastewater is reused, so it is possible to make better use of this resource instead of discharging it into the sea.

The 2nd H2020 indicator-based assessment report, due in end 2019, will consist of three main products (Fig. 1):

1. **National Indicator Fact Sheets:** reports developed by the ENI South countries with the support of technical assistance provided as part of the Small-Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs), describing their national situation with respect to the H2020 indicators, in line with the Indicator Specification sheets and the guidance on Indicator Assessment;
2. **Integrated Regional Assessment:** a basin wide integrated assessment addressing the three priority areas of H2020 and progress towards reduction of the key sources of pollution, in particular on how H2020 Initiative has contributed to such achievements;
3. **Synthesis report:** including infographics with key messages from the regional assessment, achievements, lessons learned and main recommendations



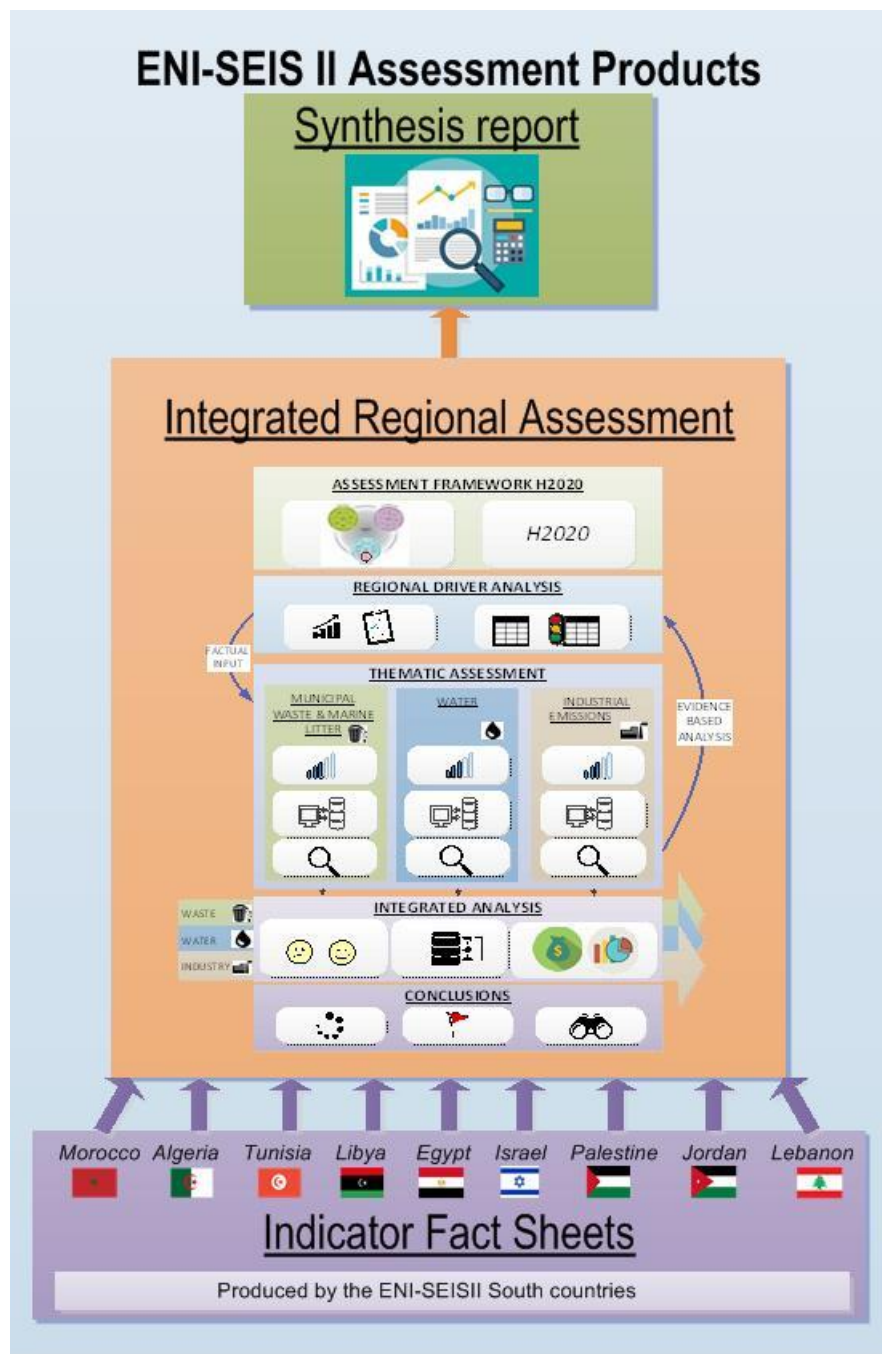


Figure 1: Components of ENI SEIS II Assessment products



In 2017-2018, the H2020 assessment framework was revised in a way that it complements ongoing regional initiatives and provides the highest added value for the Mediterranean region and its countries. The second H2020 assessment is based on an integrated approach, covering the three priority pollution sources of the Mediterranean Sea (waste, WATER and industrial emissions) and across all levels of the Drivers-Pressure-State-Impact-Responses (DPSIR) framework (Fig. 2). Rather than focusing mainly on describing the problem, the assessment will highlight the progress towards tackling pollution from those key sources, namely what has been achieved (e.g. through policies, H2020 investments and cooperation), and how this can be potentially reflected through the H2020 indicators set, across the chain “pressure-state-impact”. The assessment aims to put emphasis on solutions and best practices.

1. The assessment will be introduced with a chapter on the assessment framework H2020, where the three pillars of H2020 will be explained briefly. In addition, the concept of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and the importance thereof for a holistic approach of the system will be introduced. The scope of SEIS II and the boundaries of the pollution definition, as a small component of EBM will be clarified.
2. The second chapter of the assessment is an analysis of the regional drivers behind the pressures of pollution. Socio-economic trends and regional policies will be discussed and analysed in light of the thematic assessment on the progress on addressing pressures of pollution for the three components of pollution.
3. The third chapter is the thematic assessment which will assess in parallel Municipal waste & Marine litter, WATER and Industrial emissions. In this chapter, indicators trends, the progress on data and information in the region and uncertainties related to the indicators, and an explanation of the findings in light of the responses and drivers will be provided.

The development of the H2020 assessment will complement and integrate other regional assessments, such as the State of Environment and Development (SoED) report, currently in preparation and planned to be published in 2019, and the Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean Sea (2017, 2023) based on 11 Ecological Objectives related to State and Impacts. The SoED together with the underlying Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme/Ecosystem Approach (IMAP/EcAp) contributing to the QSR cycle can reciprocally benefit from and contribute to the H2020 assessment.

The assessment based on the WATER indicators will link directly to the mid-term evaluation of the National Action Plans and of the existing Regional Plans, in particular the Regional Plan on the Reduction of BOD5 from Urban Wastewater. In line with the corresponding COP Decisions and the H2020 Initiative, the thematic chapter on WATER of the H2020 Assessment aims to provide evidence-based analyses based on all relevant H2020/NAP indicators, populated with data, and focusing on Pressures, Drivers and Responses. The updated set of H2020/NAP indicators will inform on the necessary investment measures needed to reduce impacts on the Mediterranean marine environment, which will in turn provide an invaluable source of information for updating the findings of the evaluation of the Regional Plan.



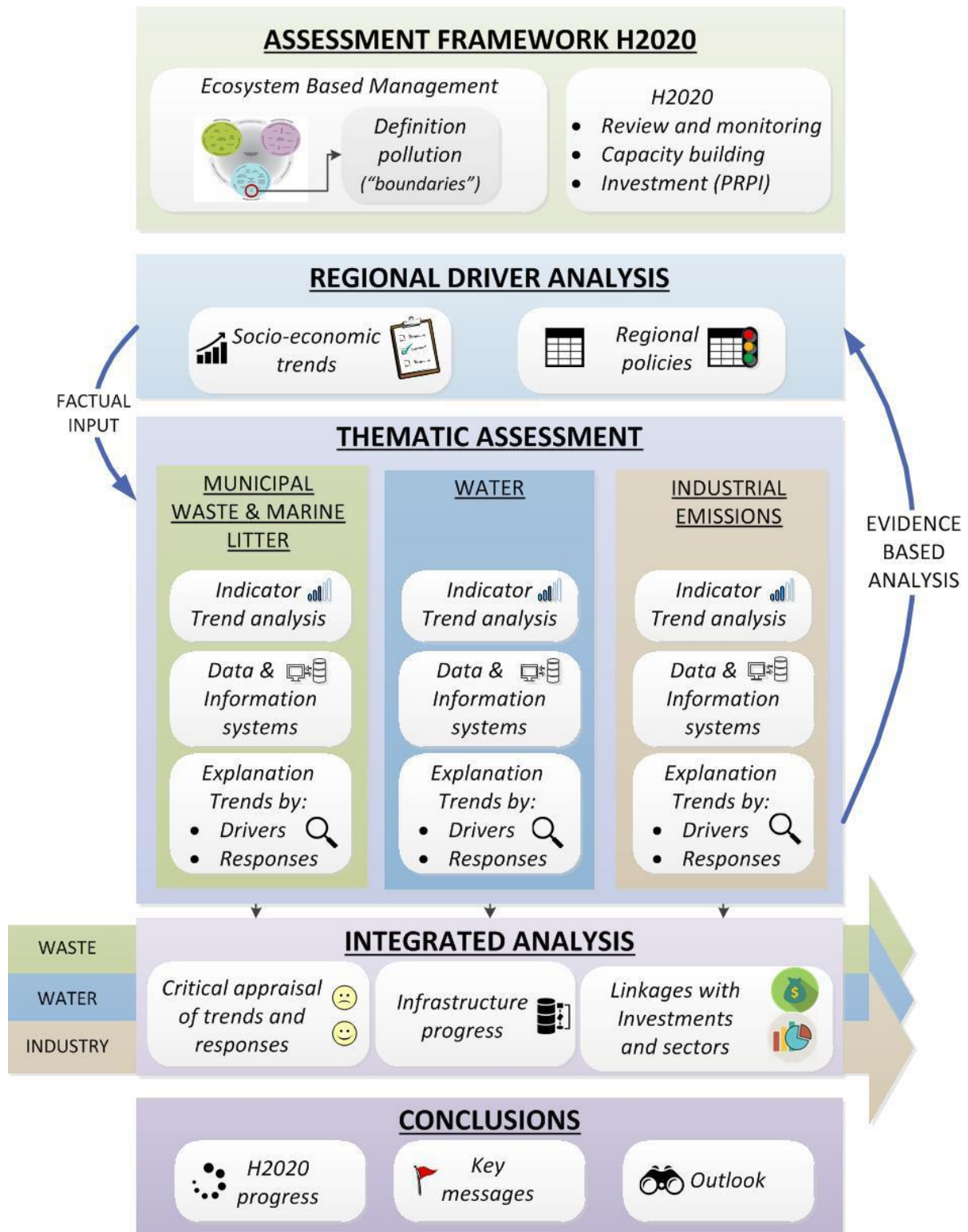


Figure 2 shows a schematic representation of the components of the H2020 assessment



## VI General guidance on country interventions

Country representatives are asked to reflect on the following set of questions, in preparation for the workshop and as input to Agenda Sessions 2, 4 and 5, taking in consideration the national perspective and the contribution of the national activities in light of the regional assessment.

### **1. What is the national data landscape and what are the main improvements in the national (and regional) information systems? (Infrastructure)**

- i. Are countries monitoring the issue? How is the landscape in terms of data availability (both in terms of scientific monitoring/measurements as well as the production of environment statistics?
- ii. What are the main data gaps and uncertainties that persist?
- iii. What are main gaps and challenges in populating WATER indicators (as the first step towards an assessment – see point 3. below)?

### **2. How are the identified trends related to the prevailing sectors? (Drivers)**

- i. What are the main drivers for change in economic sectors?
- ii. What are the main socio-economic and regulatory/legislative drivers for change?
- iii. Are there innovative solutions pushing for change such as Circular Economy, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Blue economy, Nature Based Solutions for pollution control (Case Studies from countries)?

### **3. What are main challenges for developing the WATER assessment? (Pressures, State, Impacts)**

- i. Which are the prominent trends for the WATER thematic? (see Table 1 List of WATER H2020/NAP Indicators)
- ii. What could be the key messages for the H2020 WATER issue?
- iii. Cross-linkages between WATER and other thematics – e.g. land-based sources such as industrial emissions and riverine inputs, socio-economics, climate change, tourism etc

### **4. How do the identified trends reflect the national responses to preventing pollution from wastewater (Responses)**

- i. How is the NAPs implementation contributing to preventing pollution from wastewater? (NAPs midterm evaluation)
- ii. How are the relevant regional plans contributing to preventing pollution from wastewater at the national level?
- iii. Compliance measures aiming at the reduction and/or elimination of pollutants generated by wastewater
- iv. What about investment? And changes in the national regulatory/institutional framework? What about the national capacities (scientific/technical/legal-administrative/IT), place and role of civil society?



## VII Preparation of the country interventions

In order to prepare for the country interventions (See Agenda Session 4), country representatives are kindly asked to prepare 5-7 slides (preferably in English) on *Sharing national experiences: Progress on H2020 Initiative and SEIS developments at national level, with a focus on WATER indicators and assessment*. Only 1 intervention per country of approx. 10 minutes followed by a short period (approx. 5 minutes) for questions and answers, is planned. A presentation template will be provided in advance of the workshop, with the aim to enhance coherence on the information presented by countries for an easier compilation at the regional level. This template will closely follow the questions that are asked to reflect upon in section VI.

The country presentations will be run in alphabetical order unless another order is agreed beforehand with the Chairs, 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.

