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Horizon 2020

**Work Programme
for the second phase of the
Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean
(2015-2020)**



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1 Introduction

The Mediterranean Sea is the largest of the semi-enclosed European seas, surrounded by 21 countries that share a coastline of 46,000 km. The Mediterranean region is home to around 480 million people across three continents: Europe, Africa and Asia. More than 33% of its inhabitants are concentrated in its coastal administrative entities, covering less than 12% of the surface of the Mediterranean countries. During the 20th century, the Mediterranean environment has been progressively degraded. During the last decade, new and growing pressures have further contributed to its rapid deterioration.

At the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference on Environment in 2006, Environment Ministers and Heads of Delegation committed to substantially reduce the pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020. To this effect, Ministers launched the “Horizon 2020 Initiative”, *“urging all actors on the national, regional and international level to work together”*. Ministers also endorsed a timetable of key activities to be implemented during the first phase of the Initiative covering the period 2007-2013.

The Horizon 2020 Initiative aims at **tackling by 2020 the sources of pollution that are said to account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial pollution**. The H2020 Initiative supports and complements the implementation of the commitments under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention). In particular, it aims at tackling the pollution “Hot-Spots” identified by most countries in the UNEP/MAP report “Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis in the Mediterranean Sea”¹ and which became part of countries’ National Action Plans (NAPs), elaborated in 2003-2005 and endorsed by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP). The NAPs included priorities to meet intermediate short-and mid-term targets (2010 and 2015). Finally, the H2020 Initiative has been integrated into the work of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) as part of the Flagship for De-polluting the Mediterranean, thereby becoming a joint endeavour and commitment of all 43 UfM countries.

2013 marked the halfway point of the Horizon 2020 Initiative. A number of assessments, studies and reports were conducted to feed into an overall Mid-term Review.² These studies are the result of the joint collaboration of the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Commission (EC) and UNEP/MAP. In 2013, the COP to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols mandated UNEP/MAP to initiate the process to update the National Action Plans that provided the framework to define priority actions during the first phase of the H2020 Initiative. The revision process should be finalised by November 2015 to enable the NAPs endorsement at the next COP.

The mid-term review process culminated in the UfM Ministerial meeting on Environment and Climate Change held in Athens on 13 May 2014. The Horizon 2020 Initiative was one of the three priorities discussed by Ministers. In the ensuing declaration, UfM Ministers reaffirmed their commitment towards the Horizon 2020 Initiative acknowledging the significant achievements but also recognising that *“progress, in some cases, has been delayed by insufficient implementation of national policies and measures providing for the sustainable financing and management of the infrastructures, that new priorities are emerging, and also that challenges remain to have an accurate picture of the state of the Mediterranean Sea”*. Ministers also stressed *“that unless the efforts to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020 are considerably intensified, the goal will not be fully met”*.

In the face of these challenges, Ministers give the H2020 Steering Group the mandate to develop and adopt a work programme for the second phase by December 2014 and request it to regularly report on its progress to Senior Officials. The Ministerial Declaration also included a series of more concrete H2020-related commitments that guide and inspire this work programme (See Annex 2 for the full text of the Ministerial Declaration).

¹ UNEP/MAP/MED POL: Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for the Mediterranean Sea, UNEP/MAP, Athens, 2005 - <http://www.themedpartnership.org/med/documents/library/background-documents/tda/en/attachments%7Cattachments%3A000%7Cfile>

² <http://h2020.net/resources/h2020-mid-term-review-documents/finish/287/3202.html>.



**Main commitments related to H2020 included in the
UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change**

- Endorsement of the **Second phase** (mandate given to the H2020 Steering Group for adoption of work programme in December);
- Broadening the **scope**: more focus on pollution prevention and pay attention to emerging issues including hazardous waste and marine litter;
- Increased **synergies** with the Barcelona Convention (SCP & ECAP decisions, regional monitoring system, Hot-Spots and project prioritisation, MoU, mainstreaming of focal points);
- Commitment regarding **implementation and enforcement** of legislation;
- Commitment to apply **SEIS** principles in line with ECAP Decision;
- Commitment to initiate **reforms** at national level to create an attractive investment environment;
- Welcoming of **MeHSIP II** and commitment to continue **pipeline of projects**, including new methodology to identify Hot-Spots under the BCN NAPs revision and project prioritisation;
- Revamp of the **pollution reduction sub-group**

A more general requirement is the need to integrate green economy principles in the H2020 Initiative work programme. By calling for strengthening its pollution prevention dimension, Ministers are acknowledging the crucial role of green economy principles and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns to prevent the further deterioration of the Mediterranean Sea as well as to ensure the sustainability of results (including pollution abatement investments). Ministers called for increased synergies in this area, which implies adopting a broader vision and range of activities in each component.

2 Institutional structure of the H2020 Initiative and relationship and synergies among the various components

The UfM Ministerial Declaration reaffirmed the continued relevance of the four components of the Horizon 2020 Initiative (capacity building, pollution reduction investments, monitoring and review, and research). Traditionally the work on the four components has been organised and coordinated within three sub-groups:

- Capacity Building sub-group for achieving H2020 objectives, chaired by the NGO Mediterranean Information Office-Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (Mio-ESCDE);
- Investments for Pollution Reduction sub-group, chaired by the EIB;
- Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group, chaired by the EEA.

Three EU-funded regional projects supported each of these sub-groups in the Southern Mediterranean countries, in complement with other activities.

One of the challenges in the first phase was certain confusion between the sub-groups and the EU-funded regional projects. As a consequence, the ownership of the H2020 Initiative did not reach the entire Mediterranean region, thereby limiting the range of activities implemented outside the EU-funded regional projects and their visibility. Also, the potential for wider networking and exchange of best practices/experience was not fully exploited. In addition, the Mid-term Review acknowledged that the research component had been less integrated into the H2020 structures in this first phase. No particular mechanism was set in place for screening results of research projects in the region or for feeding these results back into the H2020 Initiative or national decision-making processes. The Mid-term Review also noted that coordination and cross-fertilisation among the various components and funding instruments should also be improved.

The UfM Ministerial Declaration, echoing the conclusions of the Mid-term Review, called for reshaping the institutional structure, including the coordinating entities, as well as for the reactivation of some of the groups. The need to increase synergies among the various components was also mentioned.

Relationship and synergies among the various components

At the heart of the work programme is the revision of the National Action Plans under the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. Even UfM partners who are not parties to the Barcelona Convention have developed NAPs and will start their revision process. The revised NAPs are supposed to identify the main legislative and institutional gaps (and related actions), identify and prioritise investment and capacity building needs, and update the pollution Hot-Spots. The NAPs objective is to comply with legally binding obligations under the Regional Plans adopted in the framework of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention and achieve good environmental status for the Mediterranean ecological objectives on pollution, eutrophication and marine litter. The NAPs become the basic assessment and planning tools that underpin the identification of priorities in each country and thus the more concrete challenges to be addressed by this work programme in each of its components. The NAPs also help to identify the areas where a common regional approach or cooperation will be most useful. Therefore, they will serve as the instrument where regional and national needs meet, allowing for the joint programming of the various components and ensuring synergies among them.

On this basis and with the aim to enhance ownership by all partners, the work programme for each component tries as much as possible to define specific priorities and objectives that apply to the entire Mediterranean region. It also identifies existing or future initiatives that could help partners to implement their commitments.

The continuous cross-fertilisation and coordination among components and groups will be ensured by the H2020 Steering Group. The co-chairs of the various groups will meet at least annually to discuss the progress on the implementation of the work programme under each component and identify areas where the support from the other components would be needed. This will also require close monitoring of the programming/implementation of any future specific project in support of the implementation of the various components. The co-chairs will report to the annual meeting of the H2020 Steering Group on the progress and will make recommendations to increase synergies and cross-fertilisation. Based on these, the H2020 Steering Group should ensure joint programming and operational synergies and make the necessary adjustments or propose the right solutions to challenges. Whenever possible, the H2020 Steering Group meetings will be organised back to back with UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL Focal Points meetings to address the Minister's request to streamline national focal points.

3 Work programme

3.1 Capacity Building & Policy Component

The 2006 H2020 timetable called for the identification of priority needs for capacity building measures and potential for transfer of technology through BATs and BREFs. As regard the policy and legislative framework, all Mediterranean countries were invited to implement the Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration, as adopted in 2002, as well as the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2005), and to issue progress reports on their implementation. Mediterranean countries not having already done so were also encouraged to ratify the Barcelona Convention and its main protocols and advance on the implementation of the NAPs adopted under its LBS Protocol to achieve good environmental status according to the agreed timetables. EU Member States were in addition called to meet the deadlines of EU legislation and implement the Marine Strategy Framework Directive as the main contribution to meeting their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. The roadmap also called onto the Commission to integrate environmental governance into the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans.

Main achievements of the CB component in the period 2006-2013





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- **Policy and Regulatory Framework:** almost all Mediterranean countries have now accepted the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and the LBS protocol; a considerable number of Mediterranean countries have also ratified a significant number of the other protocols. Out of 7 protocols of the Barcelona Convention, 6 are in force. All Mediterranean countries have largely developed the legislative framework necessary to support the implementation of the NAPs;
- **Capacity Building** activities and trainings were identified based on policy and technological developments and priorities included in the NAPs and other instruments, and implemented through, among others, the support of MAP and the EU-funded CB/MEP, RENA (now ECRAN) and TAIEX/Twinning. These activities contributed to promote a number of essential environmental and green economy principles (such as polluter pays, producer responsibility, waste hierarchy) into the national frameworks. Sector-specific and more technical training, including support to national consultations, was also undertaken. Training targeted a broad range of stakeholders (administration, private sector and civil society). Finally, a number of innovative training and awareness raising tools were developed and the Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development developed and adopted. Synergies were achieved between the capacity building and the other two components of H2020 (RMR and Pollution Reduction);
- **Environmental governance:** the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries included in the ENP Action Plans environmental governance objectives, as well as many H2020-related common objectives. CB/MEP included several activities to promote environmental mainstreaming, as well as the integration of SCP and resource efficiency, also using the MSSD/MCSD framework.

Main challenges for the period 2014-2020

The UfM Ministerial Declaration emphasises the need for all partner countries to *undertake firm steps to ensure the full implementation and enforcement of policies supporting the H2020 Initiative goals (...) and the priorities included in the NAPs, when required, with the support of the capacity building component* and to *“accelerate the necessary reforms to create a favourable and sustainable investment environment”*. The Ministerial Declaration also mentions the need to *“develop the necessary incentives for increasing knowledge and technology transfer”*.

The midterm evaluation of the NAP implementation and the H2020 Mid-term Review conclude that the main policy and legislative framework required to achieve the Barcelona Convention and H2020 objectives is broadly in place. However, gaps exist in relation to by-laws and strategies as well as sustainable investments, public participation and access to information in environmental matters. Environmental mainstreaming could be improved and the policy framework makes very little use of economic instruments and other pollution prevention tools (SCP, BATs, BEPs, BREFs).

Many capacity needs are identified with relation to implementation, enforcement and compliance. The institutional structures that should support the implementation and enforcement of legislation are deficient, in particular with relation to permitting, inspections and application of sanctions, and the private sector often lacks the necessary knowledge and capacity to comply with the legislation.

The focus for the period 2014-2020 should therefore be that each partner country strengthens its policy and regulatory framework, by improving its comprehensiveness, and the implementation and degree of enforcement, including ratification of Barcelona Convention Protocols. This would require to identify the main legislative/institutional gaps and inspection capacities needs of the partner countries. The conclusions and priorities included in the revised NAPs will serve as the reference point to identify and prioritise those gaps. In addition to the NAPs, in the case of EU Member States, the conclusions included in the *Communication on improving the delivery of benefits from EU environment measures: building confidence through better knowledge and responsiveness* will also need to be taken into account. It will also require reinforcing mutual cooperation among all partner countries so that best practices, success stories and efficient approaches and technologies are shared and replicated across the region. Synergies with other regional initiatives should be ensured.



General objective

To strengthen the comprehensiveness, implementation and enforcement of environmental policy and legislation, to enhance environmental mainstreaming at national level into other policies and to support better environmental governance, with a view to reducing and preventing marine pollution in order to achieve good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea.

Specific objectives

- 1. To improve the ability of national policies and legislation to support pollution reduction and prevention by reviewing, updating and completing the national environmental policy and legislative framework (including by promoting the use, where relevant, of economic instruments) and by making the necessary legislative reforms to create a favourable and sustainable investment environment;*
- 2. To improve the capacity of partner countries to implement and enforce national environmental legislation and the private sector's compliance capacity, including by facilitating knowledge and technology transfer and by promoting regional cooperation as well as North-to-South and South-to-South exchanges;*
- 3. To enhance environmental mainstreaming in key sectors policy frameworks and the public and private sectors' practice, including by strengthening the institutional framework and increasing the public and private sectors' capacity;*
- 4. To enable key national and regional stakeholders/actors to actively participate in decision making process and to contribute to the implementation of environmental objectives.*

3.2 Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment Component

The 2006 H2020 timetable called for the update of information related to pollution Hot-Spots, identification of investment projects, preparation of priority projects and coordination between Financial Institutions (FIs). The EIB led the activities during the first phase through the MeHSIP Project Preparation and Implementation Facility (PPIF). In recent years the UfMS became an important actor leading the assessment of the investment component of pollution reduction National Action Plans (NAPs) adopted in the framework of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, under the UNEP/MAP MEDPOL programme.

Main achievements of the Investment component in the period 2006-2013

- Identification of key investment needs in the 21 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea plus Jordan necessary to meet the agreed UNEP/MAP targets for 2025 in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP Med - 2000) and in more recent Regional Plans focused on certain pollutants: more than 900 projects or investment needs have been identified with key information (2/3 of them being either completed, undergoing, or planned with secured funding). Under MeHSIP PPIF, the Horizon 2020 Projects list was prepared to establish a common reference point for pollution reduction projects in the southern Mediterranean region. This list contains 113 projects across the partner countries among the abovementioned 900 projects for all riparian countries, with an estimated total value of approximately €7.74bn, of which the pipeline of projects that has not yet secured funding include 44 projects with an estimated budget of €2,87bn;
- Under MeHSIP PPIF, 4 priority demonstration projects were prepared with feasibility studies and ESIA's completed; one of the projects, which is fully funded, is expected to remove the pollution Hot-Spot of Lake Bizerte in Tunisia and it has been labelled by the UfM since recognised as a flagship project; and
- Methodology to evaluate environmental impact of each project - through pollutants' loads estimation was developed as defined in the UfMS study - as well as experience-based definition of conditions of success - see EIB validation exercise.

Main challenges for the period 2014-2020



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The UfM Ministerial Declaration welcomed *"the significant achievements in moving forward investments in critical infrastructures, and "MeHSIP-II" and stressed "the strategic focus provided by UNEP/MAP Hot-Spots list and National Action Plans (NAPs)". In the Ministerial Declaration, partners committed to "undertake to ensure adequate project preparation and implementation" and reaffirmed "their commitment to support the elaboration of a pipeline of relevant projects" inviting "all relevant actors to continue the collaborative work to develop criteria for sustainable investments prioritisation, building amongst others on the results of the study delivered by the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM Secretariat), and aligning as appropriate with the NAPs revision process currently undertaken by UNEP/MAP". Ministers and heads of delegation also emphasised "the need to revamp the H2020 Pollution Reduction sub-group, and call in particular for the full involvement of the UfM Secretariat".*

Lessons learned from the first phase and orientations of the recent UfM Ministerial declaration will be instrumental in addressing properly the main following challenges in the second phase of Horizon 2020:

- Closing the existing information gaps about projects – either lack of projects in the industrial sector and in some countries, or erroneous and lack of key information- in relation with and during the UNEP/MAP process of revision of the NAPs, as a basis for assessing environmental priorities in the region and providing a clear and homogeneous picture for the investment portfolio;
- Improving the prioritisation methodology and preparation modalities – involving not only feasibility studies but all pre-requisite actions necessary to ensure good conditions for implementing the project, in particular regarding projects in the field of reduction of pollution at source or recycling, collection and treatment of wastewater, solid waste and reduction of industrial emissions;
- Better involving various relevant donors and FIs regarding the investment portfolio at both stages of project preparation and implementation, through financial mechanisms including a good mix of grants or loans, so as to implement projects with the greatest potential of pollution reduction from a regional point of view and accelerate the removal of pollution Hot-Spots;
- Identify and address factors that inhibit sustainable implementation and operation of projects, in particular through financial mechanisms including a good pricing of services.

General objective

To identify, finance and implement priority H2020 investment projects.

Specific objectives

1. *To update key information on projects and prioritise and plan investments needed to meet the overall objective;*
2. *To prepare needed priority investment projects and, in the process, to strengthen the project preparation capacity of public sector institutions and the private sector. UfM labelling could present an added value to highlight specifically relevant and exemplary regional actions;*
3. *To secure funding and implement these projects.*

A further horizontal objective would be to ensure synergies within the H2020 programme, notably through knowledge management and transfer of information and/or technology related to investment between the PRPI and the Capacity Building, the Review and Monitoring and the Research components.

These objectives would be met through combination of planning and coordination meetings, regional studies or workshops and project preparation under several technical assistance programmes and, for the preparation of projects, through facilities such as the Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme (MeHSIP II) in the Southern countries, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds in Western Balkans or Turkey and Cohesion/Regional funds in EU countries. Each UfM country is expected to adopt and enforce the right policy and regulatory frameworks that can attract and leverage sustainable investment.





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Exchange of experience and coordination between FIs regarding preparation and implementation of projects is likely to improve the efficiency and the pace of investments towards the common objective of pollution reduction and prevention. Recognising the achievements of the MeHSIP PPIF, a new Facility has been set-up under the H2020 PRP Investment component – the MeHSIP II. The overall objective of the MeHSIP II Facility is to promote adequate and sound water, wastewater, waste and industrial emissions management in the Southern Mediterranean region in order to reduce health risks and achieve improved quality life and to contribute to achieving the H2020 goal of de-polluting the Mediterranean. The specific objectives of the activities under MeHSIP II are to: (i) increase the number of bankable projects in priority sectors capable of being readily financed and implemented, ensuring that their operation is efficient and sustainable in the long-term; and (ii) strengthen the project preparation capacity of public sector institutions and private sector. The Facility will also contribute to much needed creation of jobs in these key sectors and beyond. As an example, MeHSIP II will use lessons learned through achievements and solutions but also difficulties of MeHSIP in its first phase and sharing this with other FIs should help improving their own working modalities. These specific objectives are further outlined in the Annex table listing the outputs and associated deadlines for actions under this component.

3.3 Monitoring and Review Component

The 2006 H2020 timetable called for establishing a regular mechanism to review and monitor the State of the Mediterranean Sea Environment and progress of the Horizon 2020 Initiative. A participatory setup was established with all Mediterranean partner countries and relevant regional institutions: the Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group (4 meetings took place in 2008, 2011, 2012 and 2013) complemented by specific ENPI-SEIS working groups (3 meetings of the environmental indicators working group) and 4 meetings of the information technology working group). The implementation of the RMR activities is supported by the EU funded project ENPI-SEIS south coordinated by the EEA in partnership with UNEP/MAP.

Main achievements of the Monitoring and Review component in the period 2006-2013

- Designed a coherent indicator process and framework, identify, develop factsheets and populate 6 key indicators;
- Laid down the first steps towards establishing a common H2020 reporting mechanism – restricted during the first phase to ENP-South partner countries. Almost all ENP-South countries provided data and information related to the agreed indicators;
- Preliminary setup of reporting infrastructure using and strengthening EEA and UNEP/MAP reporting tools;
- Produced and published (May 2014) a joint EEA-UNEP/MAP report “Horizon 2020 Mediterranean report – Toward Shared Environmental Information Systems” using the DPSIR (Driving Forces-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses) framework to assess the H2020 issues, then contributing to the Mid-term Review of the initiative. This builds on indicators and national assessments provided by the countries for this first exercise, and on previous regional assessments and reports (2008 UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu contribution to UfM summit, UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu SoER 2009, EEA SoER 2010 with Regional Sea prospects, UNEP/MAP Integrated Assessment State of Marine Environment based on ecosystem approach 2011, UNEP-MAP MCSOE 2012, EU common implementation strategy of the MSFD);
- Established a H2020 network of thematic experts (national and regional level) covering governance, thematic and infrastructure issues;
- Enhanced the country capacities in data production and collection, and indicator development to support regular assessments;
- Continuous coordination and synergies with the other H2020 components, as well as with the research projects and networks, such as MIRA3, SEA-ERA4, Pegaso⁵, Perseus⁶.

Main challenges for the period 2014-2020

³ Mediterranean Innovation and Research coordination Action <http://www.miraproject.eu/>

⁴ Towards Integrated Marine Research Strategy and Programmes, <http://www.seas-era.eu/>

⁵ People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast <http://www.pegasoproject.eu/>

⁶ Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research for the Southern European Seas, <http://www.perseus-net.eu/>



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In the Ministerial Declaration, Ministers "agree to strengthen [H2020] pollution prevention dimension and to pay attention to emerging and related issues, such as hazardous waste and marine litter", and emphasised the need for all partner countries "to address data needs by applying the principles of Shared Environment Information Systems (SEIS) in line with the commitments under the ECAP Decisions of the Barcelona Convention, also contributing to its regional integrated monitoring" allowing "having an accurate picture of the State of the Mediterranean Sea.

The main challenge for the second phase is to ensure the systemic production and sharing of quality assessed data, indicators and information relevant to Horizon 2020, providing consistency between the effectiveness of measures implemented under the Barcelona Convention with what is effectively available to build-up a full assessment on the State of the Mediterranean Sea. In that respect and following lessons learned and recommendations from the 1st H2020 reporting process and assessment, the focus of the second phase should be on a continuous support and strengthening to the production line (Monitoring, Data, Indicator, Assessment, and Knowledge), ensuring appropriate prioritisation and mainstreaming of all assessments of the current thematic scope of H2020 to be complemented with the prevention dimension and emerging issues in line with the on-going ECAP/MFSD work, NAPs update and MSSD review.

The second challenge is to enhance the country ownership of the H2020 Monitoring and Review process (not only from RM representative, but from all partners), ensuring sustainability of the governance structure and an integrated coordination. This should allow the establishment of links and synergies to support sustainable investments, the enhancement of country capacity on science-policy interface and use of assessments to take effective measures and monitor their implementation.

General objective for the second half of H2020:

To ensure the availability, quality, accessibility and sustainability of monitoring data and information needed for the knowledge base supporting regular H2020 assessment.

Specific objectives:

1. *To enhance optimal national information systems allowing for systemic production of indicator-based reporting and sharing of data;*
2. *To expand the existing H2020 priorities with a particular focus on water, solid waste and industrial emissions, identify and address additional priority areas;*
3. *To ensure the sustainability of the governance setup of the H2020 review processes;*
4. *To encourage the integration of outcome of the H2020 review in the policy making process at regional and national level.*

In addition, specific actions (e.g. coordination mechanism, streamlining of the networks of focal points and related meetings, organisation of H2020 forum and conference) will be implemented to ensure complementarity, coherence and synergies among all H2020 components.

3.4 Research Component

The 2006 H2020 timetable had planned that the EU's 7th Framework Programme for research (FP7) would be open to non-EU countries, and that this opportunity would be sufficiently advertised. Priority needs in research would be regularly updated and research results would be made available to H2020 partners.

Main achievements of the Research component in the period 2006-2013

FP7 was open to non-EU countries in the Mediterranean region. A total of about 30 FP7 projects were in the remit of H2020, addressing the two broad challenges of pollution prevention at source and water quality monitoring and assessment. Out of these, 12 targeted the Mediterranean region specifically and, among these latter ones, all but one





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entailed international cooperation with non-EU Mediterranean countries. Partners from and/or case studies on non-EU Mediterranean countries were also present in three other projects within this portfolio.

The need to identify research priorities and to support effective coordination, cooperation and dissemination of research results has been addressed by several EU's FP7 projects that have brought together partners from all around the Mediterranean, such as: i) MIRA (2008-2013); ii) MedSpring (2013-2016), a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions, research organisations, associations and civil society on energy, high quality affordable food, and scarcity of resources; iii) ERANETMED (2013-2017) that aims to enhance co-ownership through innovation and competitive research on the societal challenges of the Mediterranean region.

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Joint Programming Initiative "Water challenges for a changing world" (Water JPI) provides a framework for future Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) activities and European investments in the water sector. Despite not being centred on the Mediterranean, the Water JPI provides a platform for R&I dialogue among EU Member States and with non-EU countries. The SRIA identifies inter alia research needs in relation to emerging pollutants and reducing soil and water pollution.

UNEP/MAP is strengthening its work on the policy / science interface by i) improving the knowledge and assessment of marine pollution, with a particular focus on diffuse sources and the cumulative impact of different points and diffuse sources of pressure on the marine environment; ii) promoting a more integrated scientific support to fill the knowledge gap as well as to enhance the implementation of several measures agreed in the Regional Plans (POPs, resource efficiency on water, solid waste and energy, marine litter and microplastic).

Main challenges for the period 2014-2020

As rightly identified by the UfM Ministerial declaration, the main challenge to be addressed is the lack of effective transfer of research results into policy decision-making.

The EU's "Framework Programme on Research and Innovation Horizon 2020" 2014-2020 will contribute to addressing this challenge by providing policy social-relevant research and diffuse results to/for policy making.

General objective

To increase the knowledge-base and develop innovative technologies, including their dissemination and transfer for the prevention and reduction of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.

Specific objectives

1. *To address research gaps needed to achieve the H2020 objective by:*
 - a. *Identifying research needs taking into account available knowledge, existing relevant joint research agendas, and reflecting those, as far as possible, in research programmes;*
 - b. *Promoting the participation of non-EU H2020 countries in EU programmes on research and innovation activities.*
2. *To develop mechanisms to improve the science – policy/practice interface*
 - a. *Analyse and monitor findings from H2020-relevant research and innovation projects and transfer knowledge to policy making and practices in relation to H2020.*
 - b. *Establish effective links between the research component of H2020 and its other components.*

