



EUROPEAN
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Community research

Regions of Knowledge
&
Research Potential

WASTE-CLUSTER INITIATIVE



Université Cadi Ayyad

1st WASTE-CLUSTER meeting
13, 14 & 15 January 2010

Marrakech – Morocco

Hotel Ryad Mogador Menara
Avenue Mohamed VI
40000 Marrakech

DRAFT PROGRAMME

(updated: January 2010)

The **WASTE-CLUSTER** is a genuine 'research-driven' cluster of cooperating regions with a strong emphasis on exchange of best practices and knowledge transfer.



International Organizing Committee

Manuel VALIENTE
Laila MANDI

Naaila OUAZZANI
Jose Luis BRIANSO
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Boumedién TANOUTI
Ilse VAN DEN BREEMER
Johanna KILPI-KOSKI
Helder ROSENDO

Irmela BRACH
Fabrice QUERTAIN
Jozsef MIKITA

WHAT is the WASTE-CLUSTER initiative ?

*Exchange of best practices and knowledge transfer
in waste and waste-water management
as well as textile and clothing
for the benefit of the regional and social development
of the Mediterranean Partners.*

Research and innovation are crucial in addressing the major issues facing the EU and its partner countries and upholding economic growth, social responsibility and sustainable development.

Recently, the **WASTE-CLUSTER initiative** was launched with the ambition of involving different European Community funded research projects in an exchange of knowledge and experiences, learning from each other's strengths and weaknesses, defining regional strategies, investing in strengths through integral use of national and regional funding.

The **WASTE-CLUSTER** as it stands currently is a *'genuine research-driven cluster' of cooperating regions with a strong emphasis on exchange of best practices and knowledge transfer.*

Due to the involvement of partners from the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs), the cluster's main target is **knowledge transfer** from North to South to directly enhance visibility of the MPCs in the cluster and prepare the grounds for their **integration into the European Research Area (ERA).**

WHO is participating ?

The WASTE-cluster is currently composed of **4 projects with 43 partners** funded under the **Regions of Knowledge & Research Potential** programmes.

Participating countries are **Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, Finland, Netherlands, Portugal, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom.**

In order to **contribute to the objectives of the WASTE-cluster**, interested participants/clusters/networks, key stakeholders, managing authorities, scientific teams etc. can **join anytime.**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

(updated January 2010)

Day 1 – 13.1.2010

MORNING SESSION

***The morning session will be chaired by:
Irmela BRACH – European Commission***

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 9.30h | OPENING ADDRESS Zahoud ABDELKBIR [tbc] <i>Secrétaire d'Etat auprès du Ministre de l'Energie, des Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement – chargé de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (MA)</i> |
| 10.00h | INTRODUCTORY REMARKS Nour-eddine BOUTAYEB [tbc] <i>Wali Directeur-Général des collectivités locales Ministère de l'Intérieur du Royaume (MA)</i> |
| 10.20h | WELCOME ADDRESS Mohamed MARZAK <i>Président de l'université Cadi Ayad (MA)</i> |
| 10.40h | KEYNOTE SPEECH Facilitating the Mediterranean Partner Countries' participation in the European Research Area by strengthening the link between Research, Development & Innovation while enhancing the innovation and technology transfer culture Robert-Jan SMITS <i>European Commission – Director European Research Area: research programmes and capacity</i> |
| 11.00 – 11.30h | COFFEE / TEA BREAK |
| 11.30h | Mediterranean Partner Countries are important to us – what can our programmes "<i>Regions of Knowledge & Research Potential</i>" do for you? Irmela BRACH <i>European Commission Responsible for information, communication and dissemination</i> |
| 12.00h | Presentation of the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA) and the potential synergies with other projects towards Horizon 2020 Abdelhamid El ZOHEIRY <i>Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (EG) Coordinator, Research Development and Innovation Programme and FP7 MIRA</i> |
| 12.30h – 15.00h | LUNCH BREAK |

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session will be chaired by:
**Laila MANDI – Directrice du Centre National d'Etude et de
recherché sur l'eau et l'Energie - Université Cadi Ayyad**

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 15.00h | <p>Clusters as a key factor for economic growth</p> <p>René TOENNISSON <i>Tartu Science Park (EE) - member of the Expert Advisory Group for Regions of Knowledge & Research Potential</i></p> |
| 15.45h | <p>What is the FOOD-CLUSTER, how does it work, which are the achievements until now and what is still coming up?</p> <p>Keith A. HARRAP <i>Independent Scientific Advisor (FOOD-Cluster coordinator – policy expert)</i></p> |
| 16.30h | <p>Presentation of the individual projects</p> |
| | <p>SOWAEUMED project Network in solid waste and waste water treatment between Europe and the Mediterranean Countries</p> <p>Manuel VALIENTE <i>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona</i></p> |
| | <p>StInno project Sustainable Innovations and Treatment in industrial waste water clusters</p> <p>Johanna KILPI-KOSKI <i>Lahti Science and Business Park</i></p> |
| | <p>WASTEKIT project Waste management focussing on knowledge and integration to create transnational economic development</p> <p>Ilse VAN DEN BREEMER <i>Amsterdam Innovation Motor</i></p> |
| | <p>TEMP Project Textile Excellence in EU MED partners</p> <p>Helder ROSENDO <i>CITEVE - Centro Tecnológico das Industrias Textil e do Vestuário de Portugal</i></p> |
| 17.30h | <p>end of day 1</p> |

Evening of Day 1

Social event:

19.00h

GALA DINNER "chez Ali"

Spectacle – folklore – fantasia – Moroccan cuisine



"Le complexe des mille et une nuits"

An unbelievable night of entertainment, offers the chance to experience the sights and sounds of Moroccan musicians and dancers, while eating a 5 course meal in caidal tents.

Berber Tribes singing and greeting you upon arrival, it delivers all sorts of entertainment-food, song, dance, horse back stunts, fireworks, parades, acrobats, belly dancers.

Chez Ali vous propose un dîner spectacle sous tentes berbères dans une ambiance envoutante avec, entre autre, danseuses, acrobates, cavaliers, feux d'artifices, musique folklorique...

Day 2 – 14.1.2010

MORNING SESSION

*The morning session will be chaired by:
Keith A. HARRAP – Independent Scientific
Advisor*

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 9.00h | KEYNOTE SPEECH New synergies in funding sustainable development and innovation in European Southern Neighbourhood Countries Sylvia SCHREIBER <i>Director of Stuttgart Regional Office – member of the Expert Advisory Group for Regions of Knowledge & Research Potential</i> |
| 9.40h | What can the Euro-Mediterranean HORIZON 2020 initiative do to create synergies with the WASTE-CLUSTER? Michael SCULLOS <i>Team Leader of Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme</i> |
| 10.00h | How could the WASTE-cluster collaborate – first ideas Xavier GELLYNCK <i>University of Gent (FOOD-CLUSTER Manager – economic expert)</i> |
| 10.30h – 11.00h | COFFEE / TEA BREAK |
| 11.00h | Where could/does the WASTE-cluster go and how can synergies with the MIRA project and the HORIZON 2020 initiative be enhanced? <i>round table discussion</i> moderator: Xavier GELLYNCK rapporteur: Keith A. HARRAP participants: Abdelhamid El ZOHEIRY Michael SCULLOS Sylvia SCHREIBER Manuel VALIENTE Johanna KILPI-KOSKI Ilse van den BREEMER Helder ROSENDO |
| 12.00h | CONCLUSIONS on Cluster business Future working arrangements, meetings, methodologies, communication, desired outputs... Sylvia SCHREIBER – Stuttgart Regional Office Xavier GELLYNCK – University of Gent Keith A. HARRAP – Independent Scientific Advisor Irmela BRACH – European Commission – DG RTD |
| 12.30h – 14.00h | LUNCH BREAK |

AFTERNOON SESSION

**The afternoon session will be chaired by:
Sylvia SCHREIBER – Director of Stuttgart Region
Brussels Office**

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 14.00h | <p>The importance of networking between academia, industry and Managing Authorities</p> <p>Samir BENSAID <i>Directeur Général de l'Institut International de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement de l'ONEP</i></p> |
| 14.30h | <p>Project management & reporting</p> <p>Irmela BRACH <i>European Commission – DG RTD Responsible for information, communication & dissemination</i></p> |
| 14.50h | <p>Preparation for the ES-Presidency conference – sessions & posters</p> <p>Irmela BRACH <i>European Commission – DG RTD Responsible for information, communication & dissemination</i></p> |
| 15.00h | <p>BROKERAGE EVENT</p> <p><i>Event scheduled upon request of all coordinators – the intention is to invite key stakeholders from Morocco to attract attention to the starting cluster activities, enhance awareness on opportunities offered and network in view of further projects to be built (seeking synergies).</i></p> <p><i>Responsible: Montserrat Lopez Mesas Manuel Valiente Gustavo Perez All members of SOWAEUMED</i></p> |
| 18.00h | end of day 2 |
| 19.00h | SOCIAL EVENT – optional / paid by participants |

Day 3 – 15.1.2010
MORNING SESSION

The morning session will be chaired by:
**Keith A. HARRAP – Independent Scientific
Advisor**

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 9.00h | SWOT TRAINING session <i>Xavier GELLYNCK & Bert VERMEIRE</i> <i>Gent University</i> |
| 10.30h – 11.00h | COFFEE / TEA BREAK |
| 11.00h | SWOT TRAINING session – continued <i>Xavier GELLYNCK & Bert VERMEIRE</i> <i>Gent University</i> |
| 12.30h | Strategic Orientation Round (SOR) preparation <i>Xavier GELLYNCK & Bert VERMEIRE</i> <i>Gent University</i> |
| 13.00h | CONCLUDING REMARKS <i>Irmela BRACH</i> <i>European Commission</i> <i>Responsible for information, communication and dissemination</i> |
| 13.30h | end of the meeting |
| 13.30h | LUNCH |

WHAT will the WASTE-CLUSTER achieve ?

In a first step, a **group of 43 participants** issued from 4 distinct contracts and partners in the WASTE- CLUSTER, joined for identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (**SWOT**). The first SWOT training of all partners has taken place in January 2010 during their first joint meeting in Morocco. The partners will come up by June 2010 with conclusions delivering input for their region's strategic orientation in the field/sector.

The **regional strategies** will then be used to complement the EU-wide strategy as a tool for exploration and dialogue between the clustered projects and will finally deliver a positive contribution to the objective of bringing EU waste and water treatment expertise and the expertise in the textile and clothing sector together in the ERA.

Strategic orientation rounds (SOR) are foreseen around summer 2010 in each of the projects with the goal of enabling each of the regions to express their strategic orientation at European level in order to better grasp regional communalities and differences. This contributes to the final objective of fostering **mutual learning and cooperation** between EU-MPC waste-related research projects. A further goal is to support each of the projects in underpinning their activities by an **explicit strategic vision on the development of their region** in the field, making **efforts to support their willingness to submit further proposals under FP7 and/or other activities of the EU.**

SORs might reveal that broadening the resource base of regional RTD infrastructure is vital for innovation in the EU-MPC regions. In particular the extent of financial resources and knowledge resources could be identified as main challenges, revealing the **pivotal role of regional policy, not only in the EU, but also in the MPCs.**

Many regions, not only in Europe but also in the MPCs, place their hopes on EU funding because regional or national instruments are not sufficient, or even sometimes fail. However, regional policy with the funding instruments from SF, ERDF and ESF, or in the case of the MPCs, funding instruments such as the ENPI and/or the Horizon 2020 initiative is also perceived as a crucial element in bringing these funds closer to the regional actors as well as to the scientists at stake. This demonstrates that **regional policy initiatives and European funding should go hand in hand, irrespective if EU or MPCs..** Regional/National policy makers should contribute with their understanding of local dynamics and their own communication channels. Europe, in turn, contributes with funding instruments for companies and RTD centres to develop research areas of strategic but mutual interest.

WHAT synergies the WASTE-CLUSTER could establish?

Within the WASTE-CLUSTER, **key stakeholders are working together in pursuit of regional economic development** and the strengthening of the European Research Area (ERA).

Following the logic of identifying similarities and complementarities among the participating projects' activities, the ultimate aim is to explore possible synergies among the projects in terms of concrete actions as well as in terms of **funding opportunities with other European and local funding instruments**.

The **Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA project)** financed by the FP7 programme "international cooperation" offers possibilities to **realize complementary activities** with the WASTE-CLUSTER initiative at various levels.

Opportunities for **benchmarking and exchange of best practices** regarding **strategies**, structures and resources associated with **technology transfer** could be seized in order to **increase the efficiency** of the proposed measures by the WASTE Cluster initiative to further **enhance its visibility and impact**.

Further synergies could be explored under the "Capacity-building" component of the **Horizon 2020 political initiative** that will launch a regional support programme sponsored by the **European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI)** towards the end of 2009, early 2010. Its purpose is to support the implementation of Horizon 2020 through **capacity-building and awareness raising activities**. It will equally promote the integration of environmental issues in the policies of other sectors such as transport and energy.

WHAT will be the impact of the WASTE-CLUSTER ?

The **outcomes from the WASTE-Cluster** at a macro level need to be **assessed in the context of the overall policy and strategic objectives of the Commission with respect to the MPCs scientific, technical and innovation priorities** as defined in their cooperation agreement and approved by the Joint Committee for the next years.

As the activities of the project partners develop subsequent to the initial assessment being undertaken on their SWOT/SOR positioning, the progress being achieved at project level will have to be monitored and recorded. The project outcomes then can be used as building blocks to **portray the activities and effectiveness of the Cluster** as a whole. Currently, these activities can not be funded due to a severe lack of support through the individual projects – efforts are ongoing to attract other funding sources to realise the objectives of the cluster and to establish 'synergies' in action with other on-going projects with a similar thematic and ambition.

Due to the already critical mass in number of projects (4) and participants (43), the **impact of this clustering activity** is awaited to be further enhanced, contributing to a higher visibility of the individual partners/projects, leading to a better integration of the participants from the MPCs into the ERA and enabling them to prepare more and better proposals to enhance their participation under FP7.

LIST of PARTICIPANTS in the projects:

| <i>first name & name</i> | <i>organisation</i> | <i>country</i> | <i>project</i> |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| Manuel VALIENTE | Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona | ES | SOWAEUMED |
| Mamoun MUHAMMED | Royal Institute of Technology | SE | |
| Bogomil OBELIC | Ruđer Bošković Institute | HR | |
| Laila MANDI | Université Cadi Ayyad | MA | |
| Marco ARREDONDO | NADREC S.A. | ES | |
| Mongi SEFFEN | SOUSSE University | TN | |
| | | | |
| Ilse VAN DEN BREEMER | Amsterdam Innovation Motor | NL | WASTEKIT |
| Harmen VELDMAN | Gemeente Amsterdam Afval Energie Bedrijf | | |
| Francesco DIMAIO | Delft University of Technology | | |
| Yoeri Nikolaai David VAN ALTEREN | Van Gansewinkel | | |
| Erik KNOL | Qeam | | |
| Stefano VALENTINI | Aster | IT | |
| Attilio RAIMONDI | Emilia-Romagna Region | | |
| Sergio PICCININI | Research Centre on Animal Production | | |
| Giancarlo FERLINI | Conserve Italia Group | | |
| Nadia NIKOLOVA | Sofia Municipality | BG | |
| Sabina NIKOLOVA | Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce & Industry | | |
| Yoncho PELOVSKY | Balkan Science & Education Centre for Ecology & Environment Protection | | |
| Venko BESCHOV | Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | | |
| Boyan RASHEV | Denkstatt Bulgaria BOO | | |
| Kathryn CAMPBELL-SAVOURS | Yorkshire Forward | UK | |
| Neil LOWRIE | University of Sheffield | | |
| Tony FORDHAM | ITI Energy Ltd | | |
| Paul Trevor WILLIAMS | University of Leeds | | |
| Tony SHARKEY | Yorwaste | | |
| | | | |

| <i>first name & name</i> | <i>organisation</i> | <i>country</i> | <i>project</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Johanna KILPI-KOSKI</i> | Lahti Science and Business Park | FI | StInno |
| Mari KUPARINEN | Lappeenranta University of Technology | | |
| Timo PIHKALA | Regional Council of Päijät-Häme | | |
| Olli DAHL | Teknillinen Korkeakoulu | | |
| Ann-Christin BAYARD | Sustainable Sweden South East | SE | |
| Mattias NYLANDER | Regional Council of Kalmar | | |
| William HOGLAND | University of Kalmar | | |
| Vagelis PAPADAKIS | Patras Science Park | GR | |
| Christos TZOMAKAS | Regional Council of Western Greece | | |
| Christakis PARASKEVA | Foundation of Research and Technology of Hellas /ICE-HT | | |
| Michael RAVIV | International Association of Mediterranean Agro-Industrial Waste | IT | |
| Mark Anthony BACON | University of Lancaster | UK | |
| | | | |
| <i>Helder ROSENDO</i> | Technological Centre for the Textile and Clothing Industry of Portugal | PT | TEMP |
| Paulo VAZ | Portuguese Textile Association | | |
| Raja MNIF | Industry Promotional Agency | TN | |
| Nejib KARAFI | Centre Technique du Textile | | |
| Dave ANILKUMAR | Treviso Tecnologia | IT | |
| Enrico VENTURINI | Next Technology Tecnotessile Societa Nazionale di Ricerca r.l | | |
| | | | |

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