



Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research and Innovation Gateway

EMEG (Euro-Mediterranean Expert Group)

2nd EMEG meeting and report on “Euro-Mediterranean Research and Innovation policy and policy dialogue in relation to societal challenges”

Rationale

1. Introduction

The 2nd EMEG meeting is planned in Tunisia (Hammamet) on 22-23 September 2014 and will focus on the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on research and innovation, with the aim of identifying ways and means for policy and policy dialogue to ensure impact on the MedSpring thematic challenges in water, food and energy. The aim of the present document is to pave the way to the work to be carried out by EMEG in view of the above meeting.

2. Background

In the last few years, the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on Research and Innovation has been developed through some key initiatives, which have spelled out several objectives to be reached for building a strong and stable cooperation.

The first initiative is the **Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conferences on Higher Education and Scientific Research**, held in Cairo in 2007. It represents the highest level of research policy dialogue in the Mediterranean, since North and South ministers were directly involved and committed their countries to the achievement of concrete objectives. On this occasion, ministers recognized that Education, Research and Technical Development Infrastructure (RTDI) did not receive sufficient attention in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and agreed on the creation of a common research area through the enhancement of MPCs participation in the Framework Programmes, taking into account their particular needs, areas of mutual interest and benefits.

The second pivotal initiative is the **Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Research and Innovation**, held in Barcelona in April 2012, which put an emphasis on the need to establish a renewed partnership in R&I, based on co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefits. Also, the Conference conclusions underline the importance of moving away from a “bilateral” approach and build on a more strategic “region to region” approach. On that occasion, the EC announced the preparation by interested EU Member States and South Mediterranean countries of a bi-regional programme based on Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), that would be a major initiative contributing to the implementation of the common agenda.

The policy dialogue framework is completed by the **Group of Senior Official (GSO) for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in RTD** (former MoCo), whose periodical meetings conclusions and recommendations represent a high level response to the challenges to be faced in order to boost

cooperation. GSO/MoCo has also the task of making recommendations to the EU for the joint implementation of RTD policy priorities. The last MoCo/GSO meetings agreed on the need of revisiting the past achievements of cooperation on the basis of the principles of partnership, co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefits. Also, Senior Officials highlighted the need to establish a medium/long term common R&I agenda.

Last but not least, an input to the development of Euro-Mediterranean research policy dialogue derives from the position paper circulated after the **1st EMEG meeting** (Lisbon, June 2013), which gives some recommendations on concrete actions to be adopted for ensuring a good governance of Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation.

3. Activities

The following main activities are envisaged (see also Figure 1):

Before EMEG meeting

a) Stocktaking of regional Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on Research and Innovation.

This activity will be carried out by the EMEG Co-ordination Team and EMEG members. This work will be furthered and discussed in the EMEG meeting. The stocktaking - conducted by the MedSpring coordinator team - will provide a comprehensive frame of policy objectives and targets agreed and outlined in major bi-regional and multi-lateral (north-south) policy dialogue events undertaken in the last 10 years.

Consequently, the analysis of policy dialogue in terms of real achievement and results will be conducted by the EMEG Co-ordination Team and EMEG members.

The following documents / material will be used:

- Literature review, including a stocktaking of FP7/H2020 (1st call) published topics
- Relevant outcomes from the MedSpring Open Consultation and 1st EMEG meeting: Position Paper
- Inputs deriving from MEDSPRING stakeholders meeting (Brussels, April 2014)
- Civil Society insights, collected through an Open Consultation via web (instant pools, live twitter, video-messages, ...) launched through the Agora (May-June 2014)
- EMEG experts inputs, collected through an ad-hoc on line consultation as well as in validating problems and outcomes (May-June 2014).
- Declarations and minutes of policy dialogue events.

The main outcome of such analysis will consist of a systematized overview and a prioritization of main problems and results (the latter being not necessarily achievements) of Euro-Mediterranean RDI policy dialogue, which will serve as a base for the identification of objectives, or still non-achieved objectives to be focused in the EMEG meeting.

During EMEG meeting

b) Identification of ways and means to address or re-address policy and policy dialogue, particularly regarding objectives and expected impacts, accounting the current scenarios.

This activity will be developed at the 2nd EMEG meeting. In particular, EMEG experts, within their respective thematic sub-groups, will be asked to:

- discuss the list of prioritized problems identified in activity a)
- assess how outcomes highlighted in activity a) may be considered as achieved.

This work will lead to the identification of new (or renewed) objectives and expected impacts of Euro-Mediterranean R&I policy dialogue and cooperation, which will be presented by each EMEG sub-group in a plenary session, followed by a discussion.

After this session, a key-note speech will be given by a highly reputed expert on policies and socio-economic issues to “inspire” EMEG in the identification of variables (here meant as *positive factors* and/or *barriers*) key to the successful achievement of the policy objectives previously outlined by EMEG groups. This is intended to be a real “innovative” output by EMEG as Euro-Mediterranean think-tank, aiming at merging research and policy in water, food and energy, taking into account the current frame of Euro-Mediterranean social and economic context.

The EMEG members will be then asked to provide suggestions for possible **actions**, which are key to enhance factors and overcome barriers. These actions should be considered as possible solutions, which could provide useful inputs for the orientation of national and international research programmes (e.g. H2020).

After EMEG meeting

Following the meeting, a **position paper** (under the title “*Stocktaking of policy dialogue*”) will be drafted. It will be articulated as follows:

- Main problems and results in R&I policy dialogue
- Policy objectives and expected impacts (per EMEG sub-groups, with the identification of overarching “paradigms”)
- Variables to improve effectiveness of policy dialogue
- Recommendations to policy and policy dialogue.

The draft version of the position paper will be shared among EMEG members, MedSpring partners and via web before submission to and discussion with the European Commission.

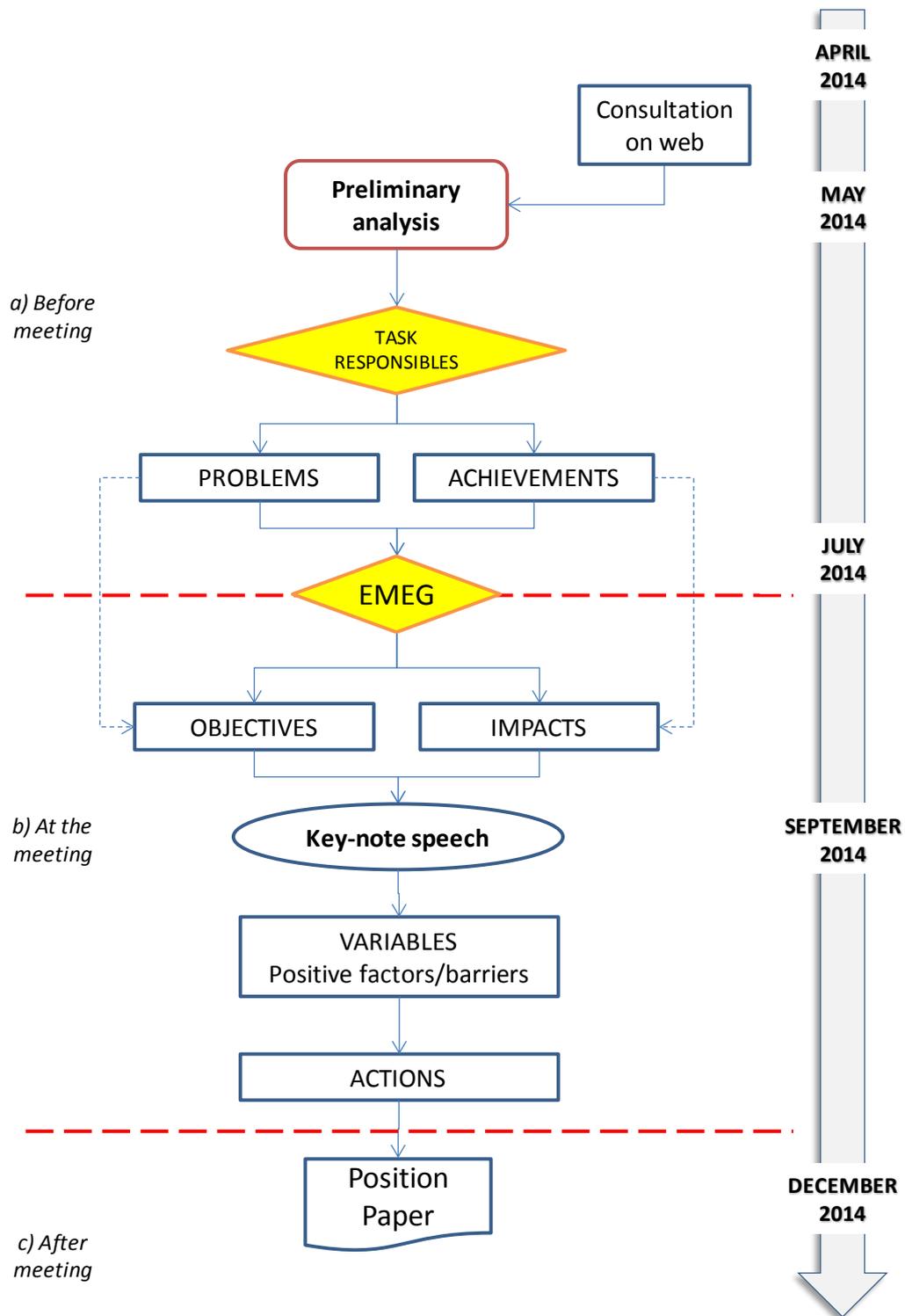


Figure 1 – Methodological approach

4. Working with the civil society

In order to substantiate experts' work and delivering, MED-SPRING will support an open dialogue with the civil society.

This dialogue has the scope of engaging the most interested and reactive part of the civil society as a real actor, allowing its involvement in assessing policy dialogue and providing suggestions for actions.

As in the previous EMEG meeting, the Agora community (structured groups, NGOs, young researchers and entrepreneurs, etc.) will be involved providing suggestions/opinions on R&I policies during the preliminary analysis. Later on, before the meeting, the web community will be asked to express its opinion (through the use of "instant-pools" or other web participatory tools) about prioritization of main problems in multilateral cooperation and policy dialogue.

5. Main meeting structure (2nd EMEG meeting on "Stocktaking of policy dialogue")

The meeting will be organized in Tunisia (Hammamet) on 22-23 September 2014.

The meeting will be based on a two days agenda having the following main structure:

- **1st day**
 - 9h15 – 10h00: (plenary session) Objectives and scope of the meeting
 - break
 - 10h30 – 12h30: (parallel groups) Identification/prioritization of objectives
 - lunch
 - 15h00 – 16h00: (parallel groups) Identification of expected impacts
 - break
 - 16h15 – 16h45: (plenary session) Presentation of key results
 - 16h45 - 18h00: (plenary session) Key-note speech and open debate
 - social dinner

- **2nd day**
 - 9h00 – 10h00: (plenary session) "Open market" (exchange among groups)
 - 10h00 – 12h30: (parallel groups) Analysis/identification of variables
 - 12h00 – 13h00: (plenary session) Presentation of key results
 - Lunch
 - 15h00 – 16h30: (parallel groups) identification of actions and inputs for position paper
 - break
 - 17h00 – 18h30 (plenary session) presentation by working group, preparation of overarching recommendation, conclusion

A detailed agenda will be available end June.