

Activity 5.1.2 Broader engagement to anticipate and clarify political, societal and ethical issues

In 2013 the Commission will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Union citizenship under the Maastricht Treaty that entered into force on 1 November 1993. The European Commission therefore proposed to designate 2013 as the "European Year of Citizens". One of the challenges for the "Year of Citizens" will be to raise citizens' awareness of how they can benefit from EU rights and policies, and to stimulate citizens' active participation in EU policy-making. The SiS 2013 Work Programme will support this initiative through six themes for Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plans, which call for collective reflexion and deliberations among stakeholders from academia, policy, industry and civil society for tackling societal challenges in ways that match up with the values, interests and needs of EU citizens.

The six MMLAP themes proposed for 2013 build on the experience acquired from the nine MMLAPs in progress, with a focus on the societal challenges which are identified in the European Commission proposal for a regulation establishing Horizon 2020, in response to the Europe 2020 strategy. The MMLAP on "*infectious diseases*" is related to the challenge named "*Health, demographic change and well-being*" in Horizon 2020. The MMLAPs on "*Water challenge*" and "*Assessment of sustainable innovation*" notably respond to the challenge called "*Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials*". The MMLAP dealing with "*Societal engagement for integrated urban development*" relates to the "*Smart, green and integrated transport*" challenge. The MMLAPs on "*Ethics assessment*" and "*ICT- Internet and the society*" respond to the Horizon 2020 challenge on "*Inclusive, innovative and secure societies*".

SiS.2013.1.2-1: Mobilisation and Mutual Learning (MML) Action Plans: mainstreaming Science in Society actions in research

Topic description:

Context: The European Research Area is targeting efforts in research and innovation on the current challenges faced by society. They are complex, multidimensional and require the engagement of different actors alongside researchers.

Objective: The Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plan (MMLAP) is a mechanism for effectively tackling research and innovation related challenges by proactively forging partnerships with complementary perspectives, knowledge and experiences. The MMLAP shall comprise at least one of each of the following types of partners: research performing or funding organisations, industry / businesses, policy makers, Civil Society Organisations. The consortium may include as well media, education establishments, science academies, museums, science centres, etc. The MMLAP therefore develops forms of dialogue and cooperation between science and society at different stages of the research and innovation process. The MMLAP will contribute to further incorporating Science in Society issues into the system of Research and Innovation (public engagement, ethics, gender perspectives, science education, communication and access to and dissemination of scientific information). The partners will pool experiences and knowledge and better focus their respective efforts to shape research in emerging science, technology and innovation in response to the views and needs of society.

The mobilisation of societal actors in this process, the opening up to civil society and the multidisciplinary dimension are crucial elements for ensuring performance excellence, relevance and responsiveness of research and innovation to the needs of all stakeholders. This approach is a key for increasing trust and the acceptability of research and innovation processes and outcomes among the general public, and to a larger extent, for ensuring a widespread use of technologies.

Each MMLAP will include, among others, the following work packages:

- A 'Dialogue and Participation' Work Package: building a common approach concerning the societal challenge among the different MMLAP partners during the first six months; identification and discussion of topics and opportunities for future cooperative multi-actor research. The dialogue between the partners will be based on a participatory process. Particular attention will be given to making the different types of knowledge concerned accessible to all MMLAP partners, through capacity-building, training, etc.. In order to improve the competencies and quality of leadership, the project should seek from an early stage to learn from the experience acquired by other running MMLs.

- A 'Communication' Work Package: production of a common communication strategy, joint activities, and education materials, which actively involve all types of partners in order to effectively disseminate any significant MML results in appropriate ways 'tailored' to reach the various targeted audiences;

- An 'Evaluation' Work Package:

- In-depth independent evaluation of the methodology and implementation progress of the MMLAP and of its potential impacts on citizens and civil society, throughout the duration of the project, in relation to its objectives and expected impacts.
- Inclusion of an 'internal observer' whose task will be to contribute to a reflexive analysis of the implementation process, to facilitate links between the work packages, and to ensure that the partners of the MMLAP benefit from a common global overview of the various activities.

- A 'Policy Watch' Work Package: The proposal should demonstrate a good knowledge of EU strategic priorities and include the means to monitor throughout the project other EU related initiatives and policy developments at local, national and European levels, in order to better connect with policy cycles.

- An 'Heritage' Work Package: MMLAP partners will set up a strategy whose functions are to ensure the sustainability of the work carried out and to give future participants wishing to pursue this work the means to efficiently implement the MML recommendations.. Before the end of the project, subsequent financial possibilities from other national and EU sources will be identified.

The MMLAP consortium is expected to include relevant expertise and experience from various types of partners (research performing or funding organisations, industry / businesses, policy makers, Civil Society Organisations, media, education establishments, science academies, museums, science centres) to implement the planned actions and efficiently manage the whole Plan.

The MMLAP consortium must consist of at least 10 independent legal entities established in at least 10 different EU Member States or Associated countries.

The MMLAP is expected notably to take into account the results of other research projects that have been funded under EU framework programmes⁷ or any relevant national and international programmes.

The partners build the proposed MMLAP in an integrated, systemic and transdisciplinary way to address the questions raised under each of the six selected Specific Challenges. This aspect will be evaluated under criterion 1.

The MMLAP activities may take place at different stages of the research cycle. However, since this topic uses the funding scheme Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action), the cost of performing research as such cannot be covered by the grant.

The MMLAP activities can be implemented combining local, regional and national levels. Ensuring a balanced distribution of roles and responsibilities between the different types of participants will be evaluated under criterion 2. The budget will reflect this distribution and include financial means to allow the appropriate participation of all participants. Particular attention must be paid to ensuring efficient management of the MMLAP, including appropriate experience and skills in the management team.

The MMLAPs proposed under this topic must address one of the following Specific Challenges that are relevant to the Europe 2020 Strategy and where a more structured dialogue and cooperation between research organisations and other stakeholders is sought. Each proposal must state clearly which Specific Challenge it addresses:

- Specific Challenge 3: Water Challenge

2012 is the European Year for Water and the Cypriot Presidency has put 'Water & climate as a key priority in its political agenda. Currently, a European Innovation Partnership on Water is being developed, whereas the World Water Forum, which took place in Marseille in March 2012, increased the momentum for a sustainable water management at the global level. The drought that will be affecting many parts of EU in 2012 will make Europeans more aware of the need to save water and be more receptive to water efficiency messages.

⁷ A list of related EU funded projects will be provided on SiS webpage.

Since the adoption of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in 2000, EU water policy took an integrated approach on the basis of the concept of river basin management aimed at achieving good status of all EU waters by 2015. However, as pointed out in the 2010 State of the Environment Report, the achievement of EU water policy goals appears far from certain due to a number of old and emerging challenges. Article 14 of the WFD specifically requires member states "to encourage the active involvement of interested parties" in the implementation of the directive. However, despite the regular science-policy interactions occurring within the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for WFD, which is a stable exchange platform among Member States and stakeholders, a number of substantial and persisting difficulties hinder the effective science-policy interactions in the European Union. A commonly shared diagnosis is the need for a streamlined flow of information, appropriate education efforts and cross-border capacity-building at all levels.

The Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources, which will be the EU policy response to these challenges, is the specific policy context in which the MMLAP topic on 'Water challenge' is to be inscribed.⁸ The Blueprint Roadmap will aim at ensuring good quality water in sufficient quantities for all legitimate uses, and by being closely related to the EU's 2020 strategy, its recommendations should be implemented by 2020. However, it will drive policy for a longer duration as the analysis underpinning the Blueprint will cover the period up to 2050.

In this context, the MMLAP on Water challenge will set up a system of mediation between Researchers, policy-makers, users/citizens and businesses, at appropriate EU, national and regional levels and create platforms of constructive dialogue and participatory research across sectors, disciplines and types of stakeholders, linked with an EU integrated management of water resources. The 'Water' MMLAP has the following objectives:

- Raise the awareness of researchers about the concerns of the European publics, both as users and as citizens,
- Explore inputs to responsible and innovative mechanisms that will enable Member States to anticipate the challenges linked with the implementation of the Blueprint roadmap to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources,
- Embed the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation in the 'Water resources' management',
- Provide evidence for a new paradigm of resilient and adaptive management of water resources, balancing environmental, economic and social priorities, through integrated approaches and effective cooperation between public authorities and stakeholders,
- Explore and assess opportunities for collaboration of R&I organisations, universities, SMEs and Civil Society to boost innovation in the water sector,
- Facilitate the transfer of research results into policy.

The MML should seek to establish links with the actors that are involved in the development of the European Innovation Partnership on Water. The MMLAP could have a specific focus on participatory research, participation of social scientists, participation of socially responsible companies, social-network analysis and multi-criteria analysis; cultural and institutional aspects, ethical dilemmas and the role of ethics to provide frameworks for the

⁸ The Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources (still under preparation) will be officially presented during the GREEN WEEK (22-25 May 2012) by the Commissioners ENV and CLIMA and it will be effectively released on 26/11/2012 under the Cypriot Presidency.

conceptualisation of different water management perspectives; ethical - formal and non-formal - 'water use' education for the youth [UNESCO report⁹], links between social innovation and water challenges, links with EU transversal processes: Mediterranean, Arab, Central Asia; challenges linked with urbanisation.

⁹ In 2011, UNESCO published a report on 'Water Ethics and Water Resource Management': <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001922/192256e.pdf>