

EuroMed Information Notes

Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and MEDA Regional Activities

June 2002



European Commission

Euromed Information Notes

**Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
and
MEDA Regional Activities**

June 2002

European Commission

Note to this edition

The *Euromed Information Notes* describe the activities carried out by the European Commission under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the MEDA Programme, focusing on the regional activities.

The *Euromed Information Notes* are updated periodically and available on the web at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional_en.htm

This edition has undergone a major revision and restructuring in relation to the previous one (October 2001). Also, all the information notes have been updated to include the latest developments and activities since October 2001.

Moreover, information notes have been added on:

- Middle East Peace Process
- Euro-Arab Management School
- Euromed Civil Forum
- Euromed Visitors Programme
- MEDA Dissemination Activities

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The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the MEDA Programme

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Barcelona on 27-28 November 1995, marked the starting point of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process), a wide framework of political, economic and social relations between the 15 Member States of the European Union and 12 Partners of the Southern Mediterranean (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey).

The Barcelona Process is a unique and ambitious initiative, which laid the foundations of a new regional relationship and which represents a turning point in Euro-Mediterranean relations. In the Barcelona Declaration, the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners established the three main objectives of the Partnership:

1. The definition of a common area of peace and stability through the reinforcement of political and security dialogue (Political and Security Chapter).
2. The construction of a zone of shared prosperity through an economic and financial partnership and the gradual establishment of a free trade zone (Economic and Financial Chapter).
3. The rapprochement between peoples through a social, cultural and human partnership aimed at encouraging understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies (Social, Cultural and Human Chapter).

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership comprises two complementary dimensions:

- **Bilateral dimension.** The European Union carries out a number of activities bilaterally with each country. The most important are the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements that the Union negotiates with the Mediterranean Partners individually. They reflect the general principles governing the new Euro-Mediterranean relationship, although they each contain characteristics specific to the relations between the EU and each Mediterranean Partner.
- **Regional dimension.** Regional dialogue represents one of the most innovative aspects of the Partnership, covering at the same time the political, economic and cultural fields (regional co-operation). Regional co-operation has a considerable strategic impact as it deals with problems that are common to many Mediterranean Partners while it emphasises the national complementarities.

The multilateral dimension supports and complements the bilateral actions and dialogue taking place under the Association Agreements.

The existing MEDA programme became the main financial instrument for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. From 1995 to 2001, MEDA committed over €5,071 million in co-operation programmes, projects and other supporting activities. The regional activity has been also reflected in an increase of the budget. In 2001, €228.3 million have been committed in regional activities in comparison to the €159.8 million in 2000. The other important source of funding is the European Investment Bank that has lent €7,424 million for developing activities in the Euro-Mediterranean Partners since 1995.

The Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, composed of representatives of the European Union and the Mediterranean Partners, meets on average every two to three months, to ensure the overall guidance of the established work programme for co-operation. The European Commission prepares and manages the monitoring of all the partnership work. In this framework, every six months, on average, two ministerial meetings and five meetings at expert level take place.

Since the Barcelona Conference in 1995, 5 Euro-Mediterranean Conferences of Ministers of Foreign Affairs were held, in Malta in April 1997, in Stuttgart in April 1999, in Marseilles in November 2000, in Brussels on 5-6 November 2001 and in Valencia, under the Spanish Presidency, on 22-23 April 2002. In addition, informal Foreign Ministers meetings took place in Palermo in June 1998 and in Lisbon in May 2000 (“think tank”).

During the Stuttgart conference, Libya was welcomed for the first time as special guest of the Presidency. At Marseilles, Brussels, and Valencia, Libya was again present. Its full participation in the Partnership, however, remains open.

The Fifth Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers Conference held on 22 and 23 April in Valencia has been regarded as very successful, giving a new impulse to the Barcelona Process. The *Presidency Conclusions* of the Conference can be found at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/conf/val/concl.pdf

An *Action Plan* for immediate implementation was agreed by all participants during the Valencia Conference. This includes a number of short and medium term initiatives aimed at reinforcing the three chapters of the Barcelona Process:

- Within the **Political and Security aspects** of the Action Plan the Conference adopted guidelines on political dialogue, as well as on co-operation in the fight against terrorism.
- Under the **Economic and Financial chapter** the Conference noted that the four countries involved in the ‘Agadir Process’ expect to sign a free trade agreement shortly for implementation from the beginning of 2003; there was much interest in the new EIB investment facility for the region. In the Action Plan the European Commission is asked to pursue the work on trade matters agreed by the Toledo Ministerial meeting and to continue work on transport, energy and telecommunications interconnection, and internal market harmonisation. Emphasis is also placed on the need for a strategic framework for sustainable development in the Partnership.
- Within the **Social, Cultural and Human partnership** Ministers endorsed the Framework Document on ‘Co-operation in the field of Justice, in combating drugs, organised crime and terrorism as well as co-operation in the treatment of issues related to the social integration of migrants, migration and movements of people’. They also agreed to the principle of creating a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote a dialogue of cultures and civilisations, and endorsed an Action Programme in the same area focussing on Youth, Education, and the Media.

The complete *Action Plan* of the Valencia Conference can be found at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/conf/val/action.pdf

Milestones of the Barcelona Process, 1995-2002

27-28 November 1995	Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Barcelona
15-16 April 1997	Second Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Malta
1 July 1997	Entry into force of the Interim Association Agreement between the EU and the PLO on behalf of the Palestinian Authority
1 March 1998	Entry into force of the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement
3-4 June 1998	Ad-hoc Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Palermo
28-29 January 1999	Euro-Mediterranean Conference on regional co-operation, Valencia
15-16 April 1999	Third Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Stuttgart
1 March 2000	Entry into force of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement
25-26 May 2000	Euro-Mediterranean Think Tank Meeting, Lisbon
1 June 2000	Entry into force of the EU-Israel Association Agreement
15-16 November 2000	Fourth Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Marseilles
5-6 November 2001	Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Brussels
22-23 April 2002	Fifth Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Valencia
1 May 2002	Entry into force of the EU-Jordan Association Agreement

Sectoral Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conferences

Culture	Bologna	22-23 April 1996
Industry	Brussels	20-21 May 1996
Information society	Rome	30-31 May 1996
Energy	Trieste	7-9 June 1999
Local water management	Marseilles	25-26 November 1996
Environment	Helsinki	28 November 1997
Energy (2nd)	Brussels	11 May 1998
Culture (2nd)	Rhodes	25-26 September 1998
Industry (2nd)	Klagenfurt	3-4 October 1998
Local water management (2nd)	Turin	18-19 October 1999
Health	Montpellier	3 December 1999
Industry (3rd)	Limassol	21-22 June 2000
Trade	Brussels	29 May 2001
Trade (2 nd)	Toledo	19 March 2002
Industry (4 th)	Malaga	9-10 April 2002
Planned Ministerial Meetings		
Environment (2 nd)	Athens	8-10 July 2002
Energy (3 rd)		First half 2003
Migration		Second half 2003

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/index.htm

The Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area and the Association Agreements

In the Barcelona Declaration, the 27 Euro-Mediterranean Partners agreed on the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA) by the target date of 2010. This is to be achieved by means of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements negotiated and concluded between the European Union and 9 out of the 12 Mediterranean Partners, together with free trade agreements between the Partners themselves: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority. The other three Partners, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey are covered by Association Agreements dating back to the 1960s and 1970s which envisage eventual membership of the European Union and provide inter alia for customs unions with the European Union (completed with Turkey and well advanced with Cyprus).

The Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements are free-trade agreements, but they have a much wider scope. The details differ from one Partner to another but they contain certain common features:

Political provisions. Respect for human rights and democratic principles are an essential element of the Agreements and the architecture of each Agreement is such as to enable it to be suspended in the event of major human rights violations; a political dialogue is provided for at various levels and at regular intervals.

Trade. Free trade is to be established in accordance with WTO rules over a transitional period which may last up to 12 years as regards tariff dismantling by the Partners; trade in agricultural products is to be “gradually liberalised”; gradual liberalisation of trade in services is provided for starting from the GATS (General Agreement on Tariffs in Services).

Other economic provisions. These provisions are aimed at the greatest possible harmonisation between the EU and the Partners. They include maintenance of a high level of protection of intellectual property rights, gradual liberalisation of public procurement, adjustment of provisions relating to competition, state aid and monopolies; provisions on the liberalisation of capital movements; economic co-operation in a wide range of sectors (e.g. industry, environment, energy, transport, customs, etc.).

Financial co-operation. The Agreements provide for EU financial assistance for the Partners (except Cyprus, Israel and Malta), the main areas for such co-operation and for an economic dialogue, but no amounts of financial assistance are specified.

Social and cultural co-operation. The Agreements contain provisions on workers’ rights and other social matters; as well as for the re-admission of nationals and non-nationals illegally arriving on the territory of one party from the other.

Institutional and final provisions. An Association Council (ministerial) and Committee (officials) are set up as well as an arbitration procedure. The Agreements are of unlimited duration and may be denounced with a six-month period of notice. After signature, each Agreement has to be ratified by the European Parliament, by each EU Member State and the Mediterranean Partner before it enters into force. This explains the long delay between signature and entry into force.

Progress of Negotiations on Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements

Mediterranean Partner	Conclusion of Negotiations	Signature of agreement	Entry into force
Tunisia	June 1995	July 1995	March 1998
Israel	September 1995	November 1995	June 2000
Morocco	November 1995	February 1996	March 2000
Palestinian Authority	December 1996	February 1997	July 1997
Jordan	April 1997	November 1997	May 2002
Egypt	June 1999	June 2001	Ratification pending
Algeria	December 2001	April 2002	Ratification pending
Lebanon	December 2001	June 2002	Ratification pending
Syria	Negotiations in progress	-	-

TRADE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS - TRADE WORKING GROUPS

A first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Trade was held on 29 May 2001 in Brussels. The objective of the conference was to reinvigorate the trade chapter of the Barcelona Process following the conclusions of the November 2000 Marseilles conference. Ministers agreed on the need to intensify the efforts to reinforce the economic and commercial chapters of the partnership in view of the objective to establish the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area. They also agreed to create two working groups: one on Rules of Origin and one on Services.

The European Commission took the steps necessary to create the Working Group on Rules of Origin and the first meeting, in which the Member States of the EU and the Mediterranean Partners participated, was held in July 2001. A second meeting, with the additional participation of the countries involved in the present pan-European cumulation, was held in September 2001.

Following these meetings, the report to be presented to the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Trade was examined and approved by all participants in the third meeting on 20 December 2001.

The Working Group examined the modalities and the calendar for the introduction of a common model of cumulation with the aim of extending the pan-European system of cumulation to all the Mediterranean partners. A separate study covering all sectors has been undertaken by the Commission services on the economic impact of the measures under consideration.

The first meeting of the working group on services took place in December 2001, with the objective of exchanging information and sharing experiences in this field. Four priority sectors were singled out for in depth discussion (Transport, Telecommunication, Tourism and Business services). A second meeting covering the first two priority sectors is foreseen to take place in October 2002.

The second Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Trade was held in Toledo, Spain, on 19 March 2002. During this meeting, it was decided to pursue further the strategy of developing concrete measures complementary to tariff dismantling aimed at achieving an effective Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area. Moreover:

- Trade Ministers asked the Working Group on Rules of Origin to continue its technical work to solve the practical problems and to prepare a report on the state of play of the implementation of the system of pan-Euro-Mediterranean cumulation of origin.
- They set up a programme of meetings for the Working Group on Services.
- They created a Working Group on Trade Measures relevant for Regional Integration in charge of implementing an Action Plan on Trade and Investment Facilitation whose first task will be to simplify and modernise customs procedures.

The first meeting of the new Working Group on Trade Measures relevant for Regional Integration will take place in July 2002. At their next meeting which is due to take place in the second half of 2003 under the Italian presidency of the EU, Euromed Trade Ministers will review the progress made.

THE AGADIR DECLARATION

An important sub-regional initiative was initiated by Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan at Agadir in May 2001. These four partners expressed in a Declaration their intention to set up a free-trade area among themselves. This initiative is also significant since it links Maghreb and Mashrak countries. It is no coincidence that it concerns the partners who are the most advanced in the Association process.

The objectives of the "Agadir Process" are to achieve enhanced economic and industrial integration, encourage investment, enhance competitiveness and increase intra-regional trade in the four countries concerned. The process is meant to be open to other Euromed Partners, which are signatories of Association Agreements with the EU.

It is hoped that the Agadir Agreement will be implemented from 2003 with full free trade among the four signatories to be achieved by 2006 to be followed by others. In line with the outcome of the Working Group on rules of origin the necessary changes should be made to the origin protocols to the Agreements to facilitate participation in the pan-European system of cumulation for those partners wishing to do so. The Working Group set up on services should agree on principles for the harmonisation of the regulatory framework and prepare the ground for the conclusion of bilateral liberalisation agreements. Help will also be needed to consider the implications of trade and environment issues in shaping the Agadir Agreement.

The EU has pledged to support the Agadir Process from both a financial and technical point of view. A sub-regional programme is foreseen for commitment in 2003, with € 4 million earmarked for such support. DG EuropeAid Co-operation Office is in charge of preparation. The Programme will address the objectives set in the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP), namely to encourage sustainable South-South trade and integration among Association Agreement signatories, starting on a sub-regional basis.

The Regional Indicative Programme 2002-2004 includes the project *Helping the Association Agreement signatories to develop free trade among themselves, and with the EU* for the year 2003. This programme aims at encouraging South-South trade and integration, starting on a sub-regional basis and at introducing pan Euro-Mediterranean cumulation of origin and the liberalisation of trade in services. The programme will work for the creation of a pool of technical assistance to help progress towards South-South free trade and the implementation of the conclusions of the two Working Groups on rules of origin and on services.

More Information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/med_ass_agreemnts.htm		
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The MEDA Programme

Initiated in 1995, the MEDA Programme is the principal financial instrument of the European Union for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and its activities. The support it provides for these countries is used to attain three objectives: to strengthen political stability and democracy in a common area of peace and security; to create an area of shared prosperity and to support the creation of a free trade-area between the UE and the Mediterranean Partners by 2010; and to create closer ties between the peoples of these countries through cultural, social and human partnership.

For the period 1995-2001 MEDA accounted for €5,071 million of the total €6,400 million of budgetary resources allocated for financial co-operation between the European Union and its Mediterranean Partners. These grants from the Community budget are accompanied by substantial lending from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Over this period, 86 % of the resources allocated to MEDA were channelled bilaterally to the eligible Partners for bilateral funding: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority. Another 12 % of the resources were devoted to regional activities: all 12 Mediterranean Partners and the 15 EU Member States are eligible to benefit from these activities. Two percent were set aside for technical assistance offices.

Complementing the national approach with a regional MEDA programme will ensure the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership objectives are achieved since: (i) there are significant gains to be obtained in terms of efficiency or enhanced impact by implementing through one regional programme instead of several national ones; or, (ii) the issues addressed have a trans-national dimension and require regional (or sub-regional) co-operation if they are to be tackled successfully, notably in a perspective of South-South integration.

MEDA is now in its second programming period (2000-2006) with a budget of €5,350 million.

THE MEDA SYSTEM

The legal basis of the MEDA Programme is the 1996 MEDA Regulation (Council Regulation no EC/1488/96). This Regulation was amended in November 2000 and the resulting system is usually called MEDA II. The main areas of intervention and objectives are directly derived from those of the 1995 Barcelona Declaration. The Regulation establishes the MED Committee to allow EU Member States to advise the European Commission in implementing the MEDA Programme. The Committee gives its opinion on the programming documents.

MEDA resources are subject to programming: strategy papers covering four years period are established at national and regional level. Based on these papers, three-year national indicative programmes (NIPs) are drawn up jointly for the bilateral channel through dialogue with the Mediterranean partners, EU Member States and other donors, and a regional indicative programme (RIP) covers multilateral activities. The indicative programmes follow the 1996 Council guidelines. Annually adopted financing plans are derived from the NIPs and the RIP. The strategy papers, NIPs and the RIP are established in liaison with the European Investment Bank.

The European Commission's External Relations Directorate-General is responsible for drawing up the strategy papers and the three-year indicative programmes. Based on this input, the

EuropeAid Co-operation Office establishes the annual financing plans and manages the projects and programmes from the identification to the evaluation phase.

The annual appropriations for financial commitments and payments of the MEDA line in the EU budget are authorised by the budgetary authority (EU Council and European Parliament) on a proposal from the Commission within the limits of the financial perspective.

BILATERAL CO-OPERATION

The priorities for MEDA resources at the bilateral level are:

- support to economic transition: the aim is to prepare for the implementation of free trade through increasing competitiveness with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth, in particular through development of the private sector;
- strengthening the socio-economic balance: the aim is to alleviate the short-term costs of economic transition through appropriate measures in the field of social policy.

One of the major reforms in the European Union co-operation activities is 'deconcentration', which means devolution of the regional activities to the European Commission's Delegations in the beneficiary countries. The process is already well under way in the Mediterranean region and devolution took place in early January 2002 in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. It is being pursued in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and in the West Bank/Gaza Strip starting in July 2002. Devolution means that bilateral MEDA programmes and projects are managed mainly within Delegations. Therefore, a considerable transfer of responsibilities, staff, and budgetary resources from Commission Headquarters in Brussels to the Delegations is involved. When this process is over, the Headquarters will act essentially as a guidance provider, a supervisor, an advisor, and an auditor for these activities.

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Regional co-operation is an innovative approach of the Barcelona Process which itself is essentially a regional response to the opportunities and challenges resulting from the proximity of the Mediterranean area to Europe. Regional co-operation has a considerable strategic impact as it deals with problems that are common to many Mediterranean Partners while it emphasises national complementarities.

The general aim of this form of co-operation is to promote closer integration between the 27 partners (15 EU Member States and the 12 Mediterranean Partners). More specifically, regional co-operation is intended:

- to be a catalyst to reinforce the effects of bilateral co-operation;
- to intensify "South-South" co-operation (i.e. co-operation among the Mediterranean Partners themselves starting, where appropriate, on a sub-regional basis); and
- to tackle issues that have a transnational dimension (e.g. infrastructure interconnection or harmonisation of standards).

Therefore, regional MEDA programmes complement and reinforce bilateral programmes. They cover a wide range of issues relating to all three chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

In the political and security partnership, activities contribute to the creation of a region of peace and stability.

In the economic and financial partnership, the objectives at a regional level are: to conduct a dialogue on the alignment of sectoral economic policies; to foster co-operation between non-governmental entities such as chambers of commerce, economic institutes and trade promotion bodies; to carry out regional projects which usefully complement bilateral measures; and to support the setting up of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (foreseen for 2010), including support to sub-regional free trade agreements.

The aim of the social, cultural and human partnership is to bring people closer, promote understanding between them and improve their perception of each other. These goals apply in a variety of areas including justice and home affairs, the dialogue between cultures and civilisations, cultural heritage, audio-visual, youth and the media.

While the regional programmes are open to participation of all Partners, they are implemented in a flexible way with individual activities often open to smaller groups of Partners (sub regional or “cluster” approach).

Given the nature of these activities, the European Commission implements and monitors these activities from its headquarters, with the possible exception of specific sub-regional activities.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE MEDA PROGRAMME

The beneficiaries of MEDA activities may include not only States (the Mediterranean Partners except for Cyprus, Malta and Israel on the bilateral level, all 27 Partners on a regional level) and regions but also local authorities, regional organisations, public agencies, local or traditional communities, organisations supporting business, private operators, co-operatives, mutual societies, associations, foundations and non-governmental organisations (as defined in the MEDA Regulation). Support for civil society is an integral part of the objectives of the partnership.

The European Commission regularly publishes all the information on tender forecasts, notices and awards for service, supply and works contracts as well as calls for proposals for projects to be subsidised, via the Official Journal and the web site.

More Information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/index_en.htm http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/meda.htm MEDA II regulation: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/meda2_reg.htm Tenders and calls http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/tender/index_en.htm		
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The Role of the European Investment Bank

The activities of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in the Mediterranean region are placed in the political framework of the European Union and are run in close co-operation with the European Commission and, if necessary, with other international financial institutions. The EIB projects in the Mediterranean area ensure a solid basis for a sustainable economic development of Mediterranean Partners. All these operations have to be seen in the context of the Economic and Financial Chapter of the Barcelona Process and are compatible with the development strategy of the beneficiary countries and coherent with the activities of other donors and other financing agencies.

EIB loans in the Mediterranean region are granted for specific investment projects and particularly for the support of SMEs.

For 1995-2001, the EIB loans totalled €7,424 million. For 2000-2007, the EIB's Euromed II lending mandate is €6,400 million. The Bank committed itself to contribute a further €1,000 million from its own resources and at its own risk over the same period for transnational projects.

During 2000 and 2001, the EIB also managed MEDA funds consisting of interest rate subsidies for four bilateral environmental project loans amounting to around €38 million and of four risk capital operations amounting to €68 million.

In addition a regional Risk Capital Facility project launched in 2001 is intended to help the Mediterranean Partners that are actively pursuing economic restructuring, by specifically supporting:

- competitive restructuring and strengthening of the balance sheets of local companies, with priority being given to outward-oriented businesses;
- restructuring of the financial sector in an open market economy context with a view to promoting financially strong, accountable and prudentially healthy financial intermediaries, to enhancing the efficiency of service and financial product diversification, and to developing partnerships with regional and European financial intermediaries that would underpin stronger trade and investment relations; and
- elimination of public monopolies and privatisation of state enterprises where the competitive marketplace can produce goods and services more efficiently.

More Information:

<http://eib.eu.int> or <http://www.eib.org>

EIB lending activities:

<http://www.eib.org/lending/activity.htm>

The brochure *Working in Partnership with the Mediterranean countries* is available at:

http://eib.org/pub/divers/med_en.pdf (English) ; http://eib.org/pub/divers/med_es.pdf (Spanish)

http://eib.org/pub/divers/med_fr.pdf (French) ; http://eib.org/pub/divers/med_it.pdf (Italian)

http://eib.org/pub/divers/med_ar.pdf (Arabic)

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Overview of Euro-Mediterranean Financial Co-operation

1995 - 2001

The MEDA Programme has produced actual commitments of €5,071.5 million for the period 1995-2001 and payments of €1,622.5 million during the same period.

The EIB has lent a total of €7,424 million for the period 1995-2001. In the last three years, the amounts lent by the EIB have considerably increased.

Commitments in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (€million)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
MEDA budget	173	403	981	941	937	879.1	757.4	5,071.5
EIB budget	1,038	681	1,122	966	1,002	1,214	1,401	7,424
Total	1,211	1,084	2,103	1,907	1,939	2,093.1	2,158.4	12,495.5

MEDA Commitments per country 1995-2001 (€million)

MEDA Bilateral	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	TOTAL
Algeria			41	95	28	30.2	60	254.2
Egypt		75	203	397	11	12.7		698.7
Jordan	7	100	10	8	129	15	20	289
Lebanon		10	86		86			182
Morocco	30		235	219	172	140.6	120	916.6
Syria		13	42		44	38	8	145
Tunisia	20	120	138	19	131	75.7	90	593.7
Turkey		33	70	132	140	310.4	147	832.4
West Bank / Gaza Strip	3	20	41	5	42	96.7		207.7
Total bilateral	60	371	866	875	783	719.3	445	4,119.3
Regional	113	32	93	46	133	159.8	228.3	806.1
Technical assistance			22	20	21		84.1	146.1
Total	173	404	981	941	937	879.1	757.4	5,071.5

Loans managed by the EIB from 1998 to 2001 (€million)

	1998	1999	2000	2001
EIB funds	966	1,002	1,214	1,401
MEDA funds committed in risk-capital operations and for interest rate subsidies and managed by EIB	54	56	106	50
Total	934	801	1,299	1,550

EIB loans per country 1995-2001 (€million)

Country	Amount (in €)	Percentage
Algeria	1,483	16.6
Cyprus	485.8	5.4
Egypt	1,549	17.3
Israel	44.8	0.5
Jordan	408.6	4.6
Lebanon	446	5
Malta	37.8	0.4
Morocco	1,508	16.8
Palestinian Authority	193	2.2
Syria	210.7	2.4
Tunisia	1,081.4	12.1
Turkey	1,508.4	16.8
Total	8,956.5	100 %

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCING

Commitments

Over the period 1995-2001, commitments went to four main types of operations:

- Support to structural adjustment: $\pm 15\%$ of total commitments.
- Support to economic transition and private sector development: $\pm 30\%$ of total.
- Classical development projects: $\pm 41\%$ of total.
- Regional projects: $\pm 14\%$ of total (including 2% technical assistance).

All commitments available for the MEDA Programme in 2001 have been used, which was not the case before. A total of €403.7 million was paid out, out of €412.5 million made available. The payment-commitment ratio has gone up from 26% in the period 1995-1999 to 37.5% in 2000, and 53.2% in 2001. The level of 'sleeping' commitments (some projects for which no payment has been made over 2 years) has decreased by half in 2001, which tends to show some real improvement in project implementation.

Payments

- All the commitment credits available in 2001 were 100 % used up (€756.5 million)
- The amount of payments made under the Mediterranean budget in 2001 (€ 550 million) represents an increase over 2000 (about 25 %). For the MEDA programme alone, more than €400 million was paid out in 2001 as against €330 million in 2000.

More Information:		
MEDA report: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/meda/index_en.htm		
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The Euro and the Mediterranean Partners

The EU is the largest trading partner of the 12 Mediterranean Partners (50 % of the region's external trade in goods and services), which also owe, for a majority of them, the larger part of their foreign debt to EU Member States. The EU is also a major source of service revenue for the Mediterranean Partners as it accounts for more than 40 % of tourists travelling to the region. For these reasons, the introduction of the Euro has a major impact on the economies of the Mediterranean Partners.

EUROPA, the European Commission web site, publishes regularly updated information on the Euro, at:

<http://europa.eu.int/euro>

It is also possible to obtain information on the Euro on the European Central Bank web site, at:

<http://www.ecb.int>

Specific information on the impact of the Euro on the Mediterranean Partners can be found in a document at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/publications/euro_papers/2001/eup24en.pdf

Political and Security Partnership

Towards a Peaceful and Stable Mediterranean Area

The Senior Officials responsible for the political and security dialogue have met regularly, at least 4 times a year, since 1995 to pursue a dialogue on political and security co-operation, notably respect for human rights and democracy and the other fundamental values which the partners share, as set out in the Barcelona Declaration.

In this context they have developed a series of concrete confidence-building measures, put into force as “partnership-building measures”, in support of creating peace and stability in the region; those so far agreed are:

- training and information seminars for diplomats,
- network of foreign policy institutes (EuroMeSCo),
- co-operation among civil protection services on natural and man-made disasters,
- register of bilateral agreements,
- exchange of information on international conventions on human rights, disarmament, humanitarian rights.

Senior Officials have also discussed the drafting of an instrument to implement the Barcelona Declaration commitment to create an area of peace and stability. This instrument is known as the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Peace and Stability. The pace of negotiations of a text intensified during 2000. In 2001, due to Arab/Israeli tension, the pace of negotiations decreased, but Ministers have reaffirmed their commitment to the aim of adopting the Charter as soon as the political situation allows.

Peace and stability in the South-Mediterranean region are therefore essential conditions to foresee a real and durable Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. While matters relating to the Middle East Peace Process are not the direct concern of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the absence of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement limits the possibilities for progress in political and security co-operation.

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EuroMeSCo		
The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Foreign Policy Institutes		
Type of Action: Partnership Building Measure		
BUDGET: € 1.93 million (MEDA)	START DATE: January 2001	DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Declaration stipulates that simultaneously with the work of the senior officials responsible for the political and security dialogue “the foreign policy institutes of the Euro-Mediterranean region will be encouraged to establish a network for more intensive co-operation which could become operational as of 1996”. The objective is to provide the analysis of the institutes for the construction of an area of peace and stability.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The EuroMeSCo network of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Policy Institutes was established in June 1996 at Sesimbra under the co-ordination of the Lisbon Institute of International Strategic Studies (IEEI). Two working parties were formed:

1. on political and security co-operation, which includes the issues of democratisation, social changes and the economic aspects of security;
2. confidence building measures, disarmament and conflict prevention and all the aspects of preventive diplomacy.

Each working party produced written contributions, while a newsletter provides general information to the members of the network.

The network includes 38 member institutes and 14 observers. It has held several meetings of the Working Parties and two joint meetings with senior officials. The first was organised on 11 March 1997 at The Hague under the Netherlands presidency and permitted the development of the debate on the political dialogue. The annual Conference in Tunis on 30 September and 1 October 1997 identified new work topics and welcomed new members to the network. A second informal joint meeting took place in Bonn on 20 March 1999.

The annual Conference in London in May 1998 decided to diversify the issues for reflection e.g. to introduce consideration of the Charter for Peace and Stability as well as the political conditions for regional integration. Moreover, it was decided to decentralise the operation of the network by entrusting certain work topics to the co-ordination of institutes that are willing to do so. A number of “EuroMeSCo papers” have been published.

EuroMeSCo’s work programme is divided into four main sections: research programme, information programme, networking & interface, and annual activities.

Since March 2002, EuroMeSCo is moderating a discussion Forum on Euro-Mediterranean issues, notably due to the current crisis in the Mediterranean region, which has clear implications for EuroMeSCo, in view of its declared objectives.

NEXT STEPS

Under its 2000-2003 research programme, EuroMeSCo is involved in exploring five main topics:

1. devising mechanisms to implement the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Peace and Stability;
2. evaluating the synergy generated by progress on each chapter of Barcelona towards the expected political outcome of the Process, as well as addressing its specificity and potential;
3. studying the implications of Europe's foreign, security and defence policies, and the evolving design of its own implementation mechanisms, on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership process and region as a whole;
4. exploring the potential for as well as identifying the hindrances to sub-regional co-operation;
5. addressing the issue of governance in light of the Barcelona commitment to the protection of human rights and the promotion of democracy.

Over the coming years, aside from 30-35 smaller workshops held by all five working groups to explore each project area in detail, EuroMeSCo will also be organising three annual conferences and general assemblies.

EuroMeSCo - Mediterranean Network of Foreign Policy Institutes

Members	
Algeria	INESG - Institut National des Etudes de Stratégie Globale
Austria	AIIA - Austrian Institute for International Affairs
Belgium	CERMAC - Centre d'Etude et de Recherches sur le Monde Arabe Contemporain IEE - Institut d'Études Européennes
Cyprus	KYKEM - Cyprus Research Centre
Denmark	DUPI - Danish Institute of International Affairs
Egypt	AI-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies
Finland	FIIA - Finnish Institute for International Affairs TAPRI – Tampere Peace Research Institute
France	IFRI - Institut Français des Relations Internationales FMES - Fondation Méditerranéenne d'Etudes Stratégiques
Germany	SWP - Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik DGAP - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik
Greece	ELIAMEP - Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy
Ireland	IEA - Institute for European Affairs
Israel	JCSS - The Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies
Italy	IAI - Istituto Affari Internazionali
Jordan	CSS - Centre for Strategic Studies
Lebanon	LCPS - Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies
Luxembourg	IEIS - Institute for European and International Studies
Malta	FIS - Foundation for International Studies at the University of Malta MEDAC - Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
Morocco	CESR - Centre d'Etudes Stratégiques de Rabat GERM - Groupement d'Etudes et de Recherches sur la Méditerranée
Netherlands	Clingendael - Netherlands Institute for International Relations
Palestine	PASSIA - Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs NISS - National Institute for Strategic Studies
Portugal	IEEI - Instituto de Estudos Estratégicos e Internacionais
Spain	CERI - Centro Español de Relaciones Internacionales Cidob - Centre d'Informació i Documentació a Barcelona
Sweden	UI/SIIA - Swedish Institute of International Affairs
Syria	University of Aleppo
Tunisia	AEI - Association des Etudes Internationales ITES - Institut Tunisien des Etudes Stratégiques
Turkey	FPI - Foreign Policy Institute ERCMC – Economic Research Centre on Mediterranean Countries
United Kingdom	RIIA - Royal Institute for International Affairs - Chatham House CEMS - Centre for Euro-Mediterranean Studies at the University of Reading

Observers	
Belgium	TEPSA - Trans European Policy Studies Association, Brussels
Cyprus	IRDC - Research and Development Center Intercollege, Nicosia
France	ISS/WEU - WEU Institute for Security Studies, Paris
Germany	ZEI – Center for Europe Integration Studies, Bonn
Israel	MDCMEAS - The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv LDIIR - The Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, Jerusalem
Netherlands	ECDPM - European Centre for Development Policy Management, Maastricht
Portugal	CNSCE - North-South Centre, Lisbon
Spain	AGREEM - Asociacion de Amistad Grupo de Estudios Europeos Mediterraneo, Madrid UNISCI – Unidad de Investigaciones sobre Seguridad y Cooperacion Internacional, Madrid
Sweden	SIPRI - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
United Kingdom	IISS - International Institute for Strategic Studies, London University of Warwick, Coventry CLS - Center for Lebanese Studies, Oxford

EuroMeSCo Papers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership: Gradually Becoming a Mediterranean State, February 1998. • Les processus de transition politique au Proche-Orient, September 1998. • Israel and the Barcelona Process, October 1998. • Foreign Investment and the Rule of Law, March 1999. • La zone de libre-échange euro-méditerranéenne, March 1999. • Réforme politique et changements sociaux : l'exemple des pays du Maghreb, April 1999. • Building Blocks for the Euro-Med Charter for Peace and Stability, January 2000. • Turkish Perceptions of the Mediterranean, March 2000. • International Implications of Domestic Security, April 2000. • La politique de visa dans l'espace euro-méditerranéen, April 2000. • The Antipersonnel Landmines Issue in the Mediterranean, April 2000. • La complémentarité entre l'UE et les Etats-Unis dans le processus de paix israélo-arabe - les implications pour le Partenariat euro-méditerranéen (PEM), April 2000. • Intégration et coopération sous-régionale en Méditerranée, April 2000. • Syrian views of an Association Agreement with the European Union, December 2001. • Civil Society Co-operation in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: From Declarations to Practice, May 2002.

All EuroMeSCo publications are available from the network's web site. The printed versions of the documents can be requested to the EuroMeSCo Secretariat.

More Information:		
http://www.euromesco.net		
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Disaster Management		
Co-operation between Civil Protection Services		
Type of Action: Partnership Building Measure		
BUDGET: € 1,909,504 (MEDA)	START DATE: June 1998	DURATION: 5 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The project objective is the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean system of prevention, of reduction and of management of natural and man-made disasters. It aims at contributing to political confidence within the Partnership by developing the exchange of experience, co-operation and training between the European and Mediterranean civil protection authorities to cope with natural and man-made disasters which constitute a high risk in the region.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The co-operation network of the civil protection services of the 27 Partners concentrates on: training and information, exchange of experts, networking of civil protection schools, technical assistance, and awareness-raising and the education of citizens.

The project is based on prevention and capacity to react. It deals with the major generic risks, which represent the greatest dangers in terms of massive loss of lives, and of property (earthquakes, floods, forest or industrial fires, etc.). In a first phase it deals with a limited number of risks, by drawing the lessons of previous experiences.

The project is developed on a voluntary basis and is co-ordinated by a Steering Committee. It will make it possible to promote mutual knowledge between institutions responsible for civil protection and understanding of the risks which threaten the Mediterranean region, with a view to building confidence and consensus and if necessary to act collectively in the future.

The project consists of ten training courses, exchanges of approximately 150 experts, and ten scientific and technical missions. Information and awareness-raising activities will be undertaken in the region.

During the year 2001, four training and information courses were organised, focusing on issues such as preparedness, emergency communications, preparedness and response to marine emergencies and forest fire fighting.

In 2001, 15 exchanges of experts missions were also fielded by senior experts from the Mediterranean Partners specialised on Risk and Emergency Management in three EU Member States, namely The Netherlands, Italy and Finland.

The second and final meeting of the Network of Civil Protection Schools was held at the premises of the National Institute for Civil Protection Training in Paris from 17th to 19th May 2001. The 3-day work defined the preferred action lines for multilateral co-operation in Civil-Protection training curricula and colleges.

NEXT STEPS

Two technical assistance missions will be fielded in Egypt and Jordan in 2002.

More Information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/civil/prote/cpactiv/cpact10d.htm		
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Malta Seminars		
The Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars for Diplomats		
Type of Action: Partnership Building Measure		
BUDGET: € ~ 120,000 per seminar (MEDA)	START DATE: 1997	DURATION: 7 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The objective of the Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars for Diplomats is to train junior diplomats of the Euro-Mediterranean departments. The Seminars provide participants with regular and updated information as well as issues for discussion on relations between the European Union and the Mediterranean Partners. Its objectives are also to improve the flow of information, the exchange of perspectives and the promotion of a dialogue between the various cultures and civilisations in the Mediterranean area. Furthermore, the meetings serve as valuable networking functions, as officials attending the meetings are all directly involved in the current implementation stage of the Barcelona Process.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Malta Seminars involve information and training sessions for junior diplomats responsible for the Euro-Mediterranean portfolio in the 27 Partners, and take place twice a year in Malta. They are managed by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies in Malta (MEDAC) in close co-operation with the European Commission. For the participants, they constitute a bi-annual information and discussion forum on the three chapters of the Barcelona Process. Moreover, these seminars allow the establishment of informal contacts between participants and the progressive creation of a network of Euro-Mediterranean diplomats.

The Malta Seminars began in October 1996, and have since then taken place regularly every six months. Eleven sessions have taken place (October 1996, March and November 1997, May and November 1998, April and November 1999, April and November 2000, May and November 2001).

All of the Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training sessions were geared towards mid-ranking diplomats. At the same time an effort was made to attract junior representatives who had attended previous meetings for the purpose of building a core group across the Euro-Mediterranean area dealing with Euro-Mediterranean matters. An additional feature at recent Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars has been the organising of workshops and working groups within the seminars. This approach has helped participants work more closely together when examining issues pertaining to the Euro-Mediterranean process.

An important complementary component of the Seminars is the dissemination of Euro-Mediterranean documentation and literature. The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies ensures the proper distribution of relevant documents distributed in each session to former participants to the seminars.

The 12th Information & Training Seminar for Diplomats took place from 3 to 6 May 2002. Presentations were made on all three chapters of the Barcelona Process, covering in particular the Sense of Ownership, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership after Valencia, the Agadir Process of sub-regional integration, and Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations.

NEXT STEPS

The next seminar will take place in November 2002.

More Information: http://www.euromed-seminars.org.mt		
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The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum

Type of Action: **Partnership Building Measure**

BUDGET: € 115,000 per year

START DATE: October 1998

DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

In the Barcelona Declaration, the 27 partners agreed that "contacts between parliamentarians, regional authorities, local authorities and social partners will be encouraged". As concrete and practical measures, they consequently stated that "the European Parliament is invited to take the initiative with other parliaments concerning the future Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Dialogue, which could enable the elected representatives of the partners to exchange ideas on a wide range of issues".

The aim of the Parliamentary Forum is to involve the people of the region more closely in the political activities. The Forum plays an important role in raising awareness of and attachment to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with a view to integrating civil society in political developments, encouraging participation and enhancing legitimacy. The Forum provides a space for Civil Society to debate the goals and priorities of the Barcelona Process.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Members of the European Parliament and of parliaments of non-EU Mediterranean countries signatory to the Barcelona Declaration, met in Strasbourg on 13 March 1997 and agreed on the need to create a parliamentary dimension to the Barcelona Process. They decided to seek the authorisation of their respective parliaments to the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum and whose role shall be to provide democratic oversight of the development of the Barcelona Process.

After several preparatory meetings, the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum finally met in Brussels on 27-28 October 1998, for the first time bringing together over one hundred delegates parliamentarians from all over the EU and the Mediterranean.

The Forum adopted a declaration expressing their expectations that the Parliaments will play a key role in the construction and consolidation of the Barcelona Process and "confer a parliamentary dimension on the comprehensive Euro-Mediterranean Partnership process initiated at the Barcelona Ministerial Conference". At the same time, they welcomed the resumption of the peace process as well as the Wye Plantation agreement.

The Second Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum was held in Brussels on 8-9 February 2001. The three aspects of the partnership were addressed. Discussions also focused on related initiatives and documents put forward by the European institutions during the year 2000.

In addition to the Parliamentary Forum, three meetings of Speakers or Presidents of Euro-Mediterranean Parliaments were held the first one in Palma de Mallorca in March 1999, the second one in Alexandria in May 2000 and the third one in Athens in February 2002. In accordance with what is envisaged in the association agreements, bilateral Inter-Parliamentary Meetings are held as well.

It was agreed at the second Forum that annual Parliamentary Fora should be held. A Third extraordinary meeting of the Forum was held in Brussels on 8 November 2001, with the

following topic on the agenda: 'Strengthening the inter-cultural dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean'. This meeting, co-chaired by the presidents of the European Parliament and of the Moroccan House of Representatives, was also attended by the president of the European Commission, the secretary-general of the Council of the EU and the secretary-general of the League of Arab States. It was a response at international parliamentary level to the September 11th terrorist attacks.

Since the First Meeting, the Forum has been co-chaired by the presidents of the European Parliament and of the Moroccan House of Representatives. The Forum consists of a maximum of 180 members (45 issued from the EP, 45 from the parliaments of the EU Member Countries and 90 from the parliaments of the Mediterranean Partner Countries). Recently, three Working Groups have been constituted: one on Rules of Procedure, another responsible for Migration and Exchanges between Peoples, and a third one on the Follow-up of last meetings.

NEXT STEPS

The Fourth Forum was held in Bari (Italy) on the 17th and 18th of June 2002 following an invitation from the Italian Parliament. For the first time, delegates met outside Brussels, in a Mediterranean coastal town. They also accepted the invitation from the Hellenic Parliament to meet in the first half of 2003 in Greece. Two documents were adopted: a Final Declaration and a Resolution on Migration.

More Information: http://www.europarl.eu.int/conferences/euomed/euomed_3/background_en.htm		
Second Forum: http://www.europarl.eu.int/conferences/euomed/default_en.htm		
Third Forum: http://www.europarl.eu.int/conferences/euomed/euomed_3/default_en.htm		
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Human Rights and Democracy in the Mediterranean Region

Type of Action: **Programme**

BUDGET: € 36 million

START DATE: 1996

DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

Created following an initiative of the European Parliament, the MEDA Democracy Programme was launched in 1996 to promote human rights in the 12 Mediterranean Partners. Later, on 8 May 2001, the European Commission adopted a Communication on "The EU's Role in promoting Human Rights and Democratisation in Third Countries" which concentrates mainly on developing a coherent strategy in this field for EU external assistance. The aim is to set this policy in the context of the Commission's overall strategic approach in external relations for the coming years. As a result, the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) was launched. MEDA Democracy has been included in EIDHR.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The MEDA Democracy Programme granted subsidies to non-profit-making associations in order to implement operations which aim mainly to promote democracy, the rule of law, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and of association, and the protection of vulnerable groups (women, youth). More than 171 actions were supported under this programme from 1996 to 1999.

The EIDHR intends to have a more strategic, prioritised and longer-term approach, so as to enhance its impact and effectiveness in view of the comparatively limited budget and the resources to manage it.

NEXT STEPS

In order to achieve a more strategic, long-term approach, the EIDHR will support a limited number of thematic priorities aimed at addressing specific medium to long-term goals. To this effect, the 2002-2004 programming document has identified the following four thematic priorities:

- support to strengthen democratisation, good governance and the rule of law
- activities in support of the abolition of the death penalty
- support for the fight against torture and impunity and for international tribunals and criminal court
- combating racism and xenophobia and discrimination against minorities and indigenous peoples

In this sense, four calls for proposals opened (deadline 29 July 2002):

1. The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights Support for the Abolition of the Death Penalty.
2. The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights Promoting International Justice.
3. European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights Combating against Racism Xenophobia and Discrimination against ethnic minorities and indigenous people.
4. European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights Prevention of the Torture Provision of Support for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims.

Some projects launched in 2001

Title	Co-ordinator	Beneficiary countries	Budget (€)
Promoting independent journalism: a training and capacity building program for journalists in the Southern Mediterranean region	International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) (Belgium)	Tunisia, Morocco, WB/GS, Lebanon, Jordan, Algeria, Egypt	839,194
The programme for the Amelioration of Prison Condition	The Human Rights Centre for the Assistance of Prisoners (Egypt)	Egypt	1,102,444
Human Rights in Times of Emergency	B'Tselem: the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories	WB/GS, Israel	439,513
Promoting Citizenship in Syria	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (Germany)	Syria, Lebanon	641,886
Protection for the Human Rights of Migrant Workers and Asylum-Seekers in Lebanon	Caritas-Sverige (Sweden)	Lebanon	953,500
Strengthening of Civil Society in Morocco's rural zone – The necessary balance between Population, Associations, Local Leaders and Institutions	Migrations and Development (France)	Morocco	699,017
Daily Human Rights Education	Centro Nord/Sud (Italy)	WB/GS	379,579
Project for the Enforcement of International Humanitarian Law in Times of Conflict	Hamoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual (Israel)	WB/GS	407,525
Promoting human rights in primary and secondary school textbooks	Economic and social History Foundation (Turkey)	Turkey	469,904
All Human Rights for all: Promotion of Awareness and Respect for Human Rights among DISK members	Türkiye Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu	Turkey	704,078

Projects following the Call for Proposals on Centres for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture (2001)

DARNA: House for Victims of Terrorist Rape	CLEF – Insertion (France)	Algeria	650,560
Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building in the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims	IRCT – International Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (Denmark)	Middle East (+ other Regions of the World)	1,588,674 (for all the Regions)
Social Support and Legal Assistance for the Rehabilitation of torture Survivors	Human Rights Foundation of Turkey	Turkey	588,150

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/intro/index.htm

Evaluation:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/evaluation/program/medhome.htm>

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Middle East Peace Process		
Type of Action: Regional Projects		
BUDGET: € 76.23 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1995	DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The main objective of the Middle East Peace Projects is to support the Middle East Peace Process and to increase regional co-operation between Israelis and Arabs in integrated cross-border development, environment, health, legal matters, economics, education, media and civil society issues through the funding of a number of projects. These projects aim at fostering an integrated approach to common problems in the region and at demonstrating the possibility of concrete Israeli-Arab co-operation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Total assistance for the period 1995-2000 amounted to € 76.23 million from the MEDA Programme. In 2000, the Commission could successfully expand funding of such Israeli-Arab co-operation to €22.9 million despite the deadlock of the peace process in the past few years. This package includes renewed assistance for civil society activities and cross-border co-operation, where Israelis and Arabs meet at non-governmental and expert levels. In addition, projects in fields such as environment, judicial, science education and media co-operation were identified. This assistance makes the EU the largest financial donor to such efforts in bringing reconciliation to the people of the Middle East.

Within the context of the Middle East Peace Process, one of the projects is the Water Data Banks (WDB). These are designed to provide information for the better management of the scarce water resources of the sub-region carried out by the Core Partners to the Middle East Peace Process (Israel, Palestinian Authority and Jordan).

NEXT STEPS

In 2002, various Middle East Peace Projects were already started up. These operations aims at supporting the peace efforts in order to achieve a broad basis for sustainable peace in the Middle East region. Furthermore, the Commission is keen to go ahead with the support of activities linked to the Middle East Peace Process. The launching of the "EU Partnership for Peace" programme and the provision of funds for new Middle East Peace Projects is to be mentioned in this context.

Middle East Peace Process Projects 1995-1998

Projects	EU financing (€million)		
	1995	1997	1998
I Planning of Regional Infrastructure	7	8.6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Projects Jordan (dams, conveyance systems), feasibility studies, geo-technical investigations • Regional Planning Gulf of Aqaba area/ SEMED area (tourism, trade, industry, infrastructure) • Regional Transport Infrastructure (traffic studies, roads, railways) • Interconnection of electricity grids, feasibility studies, design • Eastern Mediterranean Regional Planning (tourism, infrastructure etc.) 			
II Water	1	5.5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Water Data Banks Middle East • Desalination Research Centre in Oman • Water Conference for Sustainable Growth 			
III Regional Veterinary Co-operation	0.7	0.7	
IV REDWG (Regional Economic Development Working Group)	0.5	0.4	0.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat in Amman, Jordan 			
V Civil Society Co-operation			5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society activities – Israeli-Arab NGO projects 			
VI Various studies, workshops, experts, etc	2.1		
Subtotal	11.3	15.2	5.1
TOTAL 1995-1998			31.6

Middle East Peace Projects 1999

SECTORS	Projects	EU Financing (€million)
Regional Economic Co-operation	Secretariat of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) in Amman	0.16
Civil Society and cross-border networks	Civil Society activities. Israeli-Arab NGO Projects	5
Agriculture	Regional Animal Health (Veterinary) Co-operation	4.6
Municipal Cross-Border Co-operation	Co-operation North (Jenin – West Bank; Gilboa, Beit Shean, Haifa - Israel) cross-border co-operation between four Israeli and Palestinian governorates including the establishment of a permanent joint secretariat in Jenin.	3
Regional Economic Think Tank	Network of economic and strategic institutes to prepare recommendations for future of regional economic co-operation and integration	1
Environment	Regional Desertification Control Initiative, together with the World Bank.	3
Environment	ECOPEACE - regional co-operation programme on sustainable tourism in the Gulf of Aqaba and protection project for the Dead Sea Basin	0.57
Water	Completion of Regional Water Data Banks project: upgrading of hydrology measuring equipment and stations plus training of core parties' experts	3.9
Refugees	Individual measures in support of projects in the multilateral Refugee Working Group.	0.5
	TOTAL	21.73

Middle East Peace Projects 2000

SECTORS	Projects	EU Financing (€million)
Regional Development	Regional Development in the Southeastern Mediterranean Area (SEMED) and the Taba-Eilat-Aqaba Macro Area (TEAM)	9.1
Environment	For Birds and People in the Jordan Valley	2.3
Justice and Home Affairs	Israeli-Palestinian Judicial Co-operation	1
Regional Economic Think Tank	Regional Economic Integration Research Network, Phase II	1
Education	Israeli-Palestinian Co-operation in Science Education	2
Civil Society and Cross-Border Networks	Civil society activities	5
Media	Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian Media Co-operation	2.5
TOTAL		22.9

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/mepp

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Economic and Financial Partnership (I)

Economic Transition and Private Sector Development

For the purpose of these Euromed Information Notes, existing programmes under the 2nd chapter could be divided into two main areas of activity: economic dialogue, economic transition, industrial and private sector development programmes, and environment and infrastructure support programmes.

OBJECTIVES

One of the major objectives of the Barcelona Process is to create an area of shared prosperity with sustainable and balanced economic and social development. Along the lines of this principle objective, the Barcelona Declaration establishes the following long-term objectives:

1. acceleration of the pace of sustainable socio-economic development;
2. improvement of the living conditions, increase of employment and reduction of the development gap in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
3. regional integration and co-operation.

INSTRUMENTS

To achieve these objectives the partners set up an economic and financial partnership which constitutes the Second chapter of the Barcelona Declaration based on:

1. **Progressive establishment of a free-trade area**, with the conclusion of Association Agreements between the EU and the Mediterranean Partners. The EU has concluded 11 Agreements so far with the 12 Partners, and the conclusion of an Agreement between a number of Mediterranean Partners (South-South Agreement) should follow as a result of the Agadir Declaration in June 2001.
2. **Economic co-operation and concerted action in relevant areas**, with the setting up of economic co-operation programmes and a reinforced economic dialogue between government experts and senior officials;
3. **Substantial increase in the EU's financial assistance to the Mediterranean Partners**, with the establishment of the MEDA budget line. MEDA I, for the period 1995-1999, committed €3,435 Million. The financial allocation under MEDA II amounts to €5,350 million for the period 2000-2006.

The European Commission's role in the management of the MEDA Programme is to support the economic transition and modernisation of partner countries and to supply financial and technical assistance where necessary.

PROGRAMMING OF PRIORITIES

The financial assistance and the economic co-operation are pursued, like the other chapters, both at bilateral and regional levels and are subject to programming through the National Indicative Programmes and the Regional Indicative Programme.

As far as regional co-operation is concerned, future programmes to be launched under the 2002-2004 programming exercise, identify three priority areas:

1. making the Euro-Med Free Trade Area a reality,
2. promoting regional infrastructure initiatives
3. promoting environment sustainability.

These strategic priorities for the period 2002-2004 within the economic chapter of the Barcelona Process aim at focussing activities on a limited number of areas for greater concentration and improved impact of programmes.

ECONOMIC DIALOGUE AND ECONOMIC TRANSITION

To allow an open discussion on major issues concerning economic transition in the Mediterranean region, the European Commission has organised five meetings of government experts. The last of these meetings was held in June 2002 and discussed the issues of growth and employment in the region.

In a number of Mediterranean partners, the Commission supports economic reforms through Structural Adjustment or Sectoral Facilities in the form of direct budgetary support. These facilities encourage the adoption of structural or sector reforms, including improved social protection, to facilitate modernisation of the Partners' economic structures.

With the support of the EU, the EIB and international and multilateral financial institutions, the Mediterranean Partners have implemented substantial economic reforms aiming at:

- Macro-economic stabilisation founded upon sound fiscal and monetary policy.
- Privatisation and deregulation.
- Liberalisation of international trade, in the context of the gradual development of a Euro Mediterranean Free Trade Area.
- Simplification and improvement of regulations and administrative procedures.
- Enhancement of social protection.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION

The development of the private sector is essential for economic growth in Mediterranean Partners. The conclusion, or the prospect of conclusion, of Association Agreements with the European Union has been a main catalyst for economic changes in the region. The opening up of external trade, in particular with the EU as their largest trading partner, has been a factor that has promoted transition and increased awareness of the need for policy and structural reforms in the region.

ACTIONS

The MEDA Programme budget allocated to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership allows for intervention in favour of Mediterranean Partners in the areas of structural adjustment and private sector development. For this reason the EU is involved in a range of bilateral and regional activities in the areas:

Private Sector Development. The projects supporting private sector development represent almost €850 million, spread among 30 bilateral projects, and about ten regional projects. On a bilateral level these projects are grouped together in three sectors: industry/SME support (Business Centres, Industrial Modernisation Programmes - IMPs); modernisation of the financial sector; and privatisation and private participation in infrastructures. At regional level activities include support to economic networks, to industrial co-operation, business-to-business meetings, etc.

SME Support. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) and business co-operation play a central role in the Euro-Mediterranean policy. In order to strengthen the private sector in the Southern Mediterranean area, the instruments and programmes already in force in the EU to encourage links among SMEs have been extended to the Mediterranean Partners since 1992. These initiatives cover mainly: the organisation of business-to-business meetings, the Euro-Info-Correspondence Centres and since 1995, the setting up of Business Centres.

Industrial Co-operation. A new generation of projects has been prepared to address problems of industrial modernisation at a more strategic level. Industrial Modernisation Programmes currently exist in Egypt and Jordan, and one such programme is under preparation for Tunisia.

Modernisation of the Financial Sector. Programmes of support to the financial sector which represent nearly €63 million in appropriation commitments are particularly geared to upgrading banks in the organisation and management of their commercial activity. Micro-credit programmes, and programmes for setting up guarantee funds in order to help them support SME development have been added.

Privatisation of Enterprises. Funding has also been oriented towards supporting the Partners' efforts to privatise their industrial structure. These programmes aim to assist governments in defining and implementing their privatisation policy, in communicating with investors but also with the public in their own country. Moreover, they provide additional legal, fiscal and accounting advice for privatisation transactions, in order to allow governments to start discussions with national or international investors with maximum transparency and effectiveness. Recently, privatisation programmes have provided increasing support for the privatisation of infrastructures such as telecom, electricity, water, transport, etc. Support focuses on the establishment of a new regulatory framework separating the new political role of technical ministries from the controlling body, an impartial framework for the newly opened market destined to promote the development of the sectors involved, the effectiveness of the market mechanisms implemented, and consumer protection.

Networks. The European Commission has been supporting efforts to develop Euro-Mediterranean co-operation networks since 1995. The aims of these networks are to promote a better mutual understanding, to foster the exchange of best practices and to strengthen Mediterranean institutions through an active co-operation between similar organisations from the 27 partners.

The range of activities to be supported has been developed according to the needs identified in each country and those studied on a regional level. The actions chosen are the fruit of a continuous dialogue between Euro-Mediterranean partners, whether it is on a private level or with public authorities.

A regional programme of technical assistance, managed jointly by the Commission and the World Bank, makes it possible to facilitate the adoption of private participation operations in infrastructure.

Still at a regional level, the Commission and the United Kingdom organised two Euro-Mediterranean conferences in London, one in March 1997 on private investment, the other in March 1998 on capital markets. Another Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Investment was held in Lisbon in February/March 2000.

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euomed/index.htm

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Euro-Mediterranean SMEs Co-operation		
Type of Action: Regional Project		
BUDGET: €2.8 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1998	DURATION: 6 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and business co-operation play a central role in the Euro-Mediterranean policy. In order to strengthen the private sector in the Southern Mediterranean area, the instruments and programmes already in force in the EU to encourage links among SMEs have been extended to the Mediterranean Partners since 1992. These initiatives cover mainly the organisation of business-to-business meetings.

There are basically three types of activities: 1) the participation of Mediterranean companies in Europartenariats, 2) the Med-Partenariats and 3) Med-Interprise events.

Since 1998, all these actions have been grouped within the programme “Euro-Mediterranean SMEs Co-operation”.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS

Europartenariat meetings took place twice a year in one region of the European Union considered as a priority by the regional policy of the EU. These multi-sector events brought together several hundred companies from the EU, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America and, since 1992, the Mediterranean partners. In 2000 approximately 400 Southern Mediterranean SMEs took part in Denmark’s and Italy’s Europartenariats.

Med-Partenariat events, based on the experience and methodology of the Europartenariat programme, are multi-sector business conventions based on appointments set in advance, open to SMEs from the Mediterranean basin and from the European Union, taking place in the Mediterranean Partners. They are designed to encourage co-operation between SMEs from the EU and from the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East and between the Mediterranean companies themselves.

Six Med-Partenariat meetings have already taken place: Turkey, April 1994; Morocco, May 1995; Israel, October 1995; Jordan, July 1997; Tunisia, September 1997; Egypt, October 2000. Each of these events has enabled companies from the host country to negotiate business connections with several hundred visiting companies from the European Union and the Mediterranean basin. Since 1996 Central and Eastern European delegations have been participating in the Med-Partenariat meetings as well.

The Med-Interprise approach is similar to the Med-Partenariat one but on a more sector and country oriented basis. One Mediterranean country links up with two to three Member States of the European Union to facilitate effective co-operation between SMEs in a limited number of sectors. Thirteen Med-Interprise meetings have already taken place in Tunisia, Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon, Cyprus, Syria, Egypt, Malta and the West Bank and Gaza Strip . These meetings have brought together approximately 1400 Mediterranean SMEs and 900 European companies.

Summing up, thanks to the above-mentioned instruments, since the end of 1992 more than 6500 companies from the Mediterranean partner countries have been able to meet targeted counterparts from the European Union. In the year 2000 approximately 1000 companies from these Mediterranean Partners took part in these events.

NEXT STEPS

For the time being, the preparation of new events is on track. It is intended to organise Medpartenariats in Syria and Algeria, and Medinterprises in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Europartenariat/MED-Partenariat 1999-2000

TYPE	PLACE	DATES	Host/visiting companies	Main organiser
Europartenariat	Vienna (Austria)	10-11.05. 1999	235 Mediterranean companies visiting	Wirtschaftskammer Österreich
Europartenariat	Potsdam (Germany)	28-29.10. 1999	218 Mediterranean companies visiting	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Mittelstand und Technologie Brandenburg
Europartenariat	Aalborg (Denmark)	08-09.06. 2000	About 170 Mediterranean companies visiting	Europartenariat Denmark 2000 Aps
Med-Partenariat	Cairo (Egypt)	03-04.10. 2000	About 400 "host" enterprises, 150 Mediterranean and 350 European companies visiting	Egyptian Industrial Federation and Magicx
Europartenariat	Palermo (Italy)	04-05.12. 2000	About 300 Mediterranean companies visiting	Mondimpresa

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Euro-Mediterranean Economic Networks		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: €3.5 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1997	DURATION: 5 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

Funds from the MEDA Programme are also channelled to the strengthening of co-operation between economic and trade associations from both sides of the Mediterranean with a view to creating a business environment conducive to commercial and industrial co-operation.

The European Commission is currently financing a programme aiming at the development of Euro-Mediterranean networks:

- Chambers of Commerce and Industry,
- Unions of Crafts and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises,
- Trade Promotion Organisations, and
- Trade Fairs Associations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

ArchiMedes: Chambers of Commerce and Industry Partnership

The ArchiMedes project, implemented between February 1999 and June 2001, provided opportunities for transfer of know-how and best practices between Chambers of Commerce. It has involved over 250 Chambers of Commerce and Industry across the EU and all 12 Mediterranean Partners in one or more of the project's activities

Beneficiary	Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Eurochambers)	
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits exchanges (Mercure MED), over 89 visits organised • Training of Med-CCI personnel, 8 workshops held • Assistance to bring Mediterranean Partner and European Chambers of Commerce and Industry closer and develop common long-term strategies, with 15 projects implemented in partnership between the Euro-MED Chambers and 7 on site missions • Internet network, with technical assistance provided to selected partners • Newsletter, with 8 published editions • Two Annual conferences (Milan, March 1999 and Barcelona, May 2001 - over 380 participants overall) 	
Contact Point	Dirk VANTYGHM Eurochambres a.i.s.b.l. Rue Archimède 5 - Bte 3B 1000 Brussels, Belgium	Tel: +32-2-2820878 Fax: +32-2-2800191 E-mail: Eurocham@mail.interpac.be Web site: http://www.eurochambres.be/archimedes

Network of Trade Promotion Organisations

Beneficiary	GEPCI European Group for the Promotion of International Trade	
Components	EU-MED Meetings (Palermo and Tunis, over 200 participants overall) Internet network, involving 12 Trade Promotion Organisations (7 MEDA, 5 EU) Training Med-TPOs personnel (38 training seminars and workshops, over 400 participants)	
Contact Point	Hélène CHAUBIRON GEPCI World Trade Center Tour 1 -12e étage Bld. Emile Jacqmain 162 B-1000 Brussels, Belgium	Tel: +32-2-2063644 Fax: +32-2-2063645 E-mail: gepci@obcebdbh.be Web sites: http://www.obcebdbh.be/en/Services/gepci.html http://www.euromedtpos.org (members only)

MEDAPME: Network of Craftsmen and SME Trade Organisations

Beneficiary	European Union of Crafts and SMEs (UEAPME)	
Components	Training executives of Mediterranean trade organisations (4 seminars) Creation of a Permanent Platform for Exchanges, (MEDAPLATFORM), comprising human resources, new information and communication technologies (NICT), in order to be the instrument of MEDAPME for assisting implementation of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation projects Annual conferences (Brussels, 1999, Paris, 2000)	
Contact Point	Birte HENKELMANN UEAPME Maison de l'Economie Européenne Rue Jacques de Lalaing, 4 B-1040 Brussels, Belgium	Tel: +32-2-2307599 Fax: +32.2-2307861 E-mail: ueapme@euronet.be Web site: http://www.euromeda.com

Network of Mediterranean Fairs

Beneficiary	Mediterranean Trade Fairs Association (MTFA)	
Components	Sectoral seminars during fairs in Europe (4 seminars realised)	
Contact Point	Fausto BERINI GELI c/o Fira de Barcelona Av. Reina Maria Cristina s/n E-08004 Barcelona, Spain	Tel: +34-93-2332018 Fax: +34-93-2332020 E-mail: mlopez@firabcn.es Web site: http://mtfa.org

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UNIMED Business Network		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 2.5 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2000	DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The European Commission decided in late 1999 to finance a network to facilitate the exchange of best practices, training and visits exchanges for staff of Mediterranean employers' associations, and to establish permanent communication between network members.

The network is co-ordinated by the European Organisation of Employers' Federations (UNICE) and supported by the European Union. The project aims at strengthening employer organisations in the Mediterranean countries and networking them with their sister organisations in the European Union.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

UNIMED network activities have three main components:

1. Training and assistance for the development of trade organisations in the South Mediterranean.
2. Information and networking of the Euro-Mediterranean trade organisations, including an Internet based network.
3. Multilateral rapprochement, including the creation of a Mediterranean organisation similar to UNICE.

A major achievement of the multilateral rapprochement action is in fact an Agreement between Mediterranean Employers' Federations on the establishment of a regional organisation to represent Mediterranean industrial interests. The new structure is known as UMCE, after the French acronym of Union of Mediterranean Employers' Federations, and is intended to be an important part of the process leading to the eventual setting up of the Free Trade Area in 2010. Decisive progress, including approbation of Statutes has been made in 2001 for the setting up of UMCE.

The official launching of UMCE, which brings together non-sectoral trade organisations of the 12 Mediterranean Partners took place in Istanbul on 28 February 2002.

The fifth Euro-Mediterranean Business summit, held in Istanbul on 1 and 2 March 2002 brought together representatives of business organisations and governments from the European and the Mediterranean countries as well as representatives of the EU Commission, international institutions and chief executive officers of interested companies and financial institutions. The Euro-Mediterranean organisations discussed their priorities regarding the Mediterranean industrial partnership and the proposals to be communicated to their respective governments and the EU institutions.

NEXT STEPS

It is foreseen to organise a new type of training activity. This would be a five-day executive development programme, organised in collaboration with the Euro-Arab Management School (Granada, Spain) (see p.46), and hosted by the national Spanish employer organisation (CEOE) in Valencia through its specialised structure for Euro-Mediterranean business co-operation MEDVALENCIA. It will enable participants to acquire new perspectives in the management of business associations, with the support of faculties from the best European business schools.

Moreover, UNIMED training and support plans, including 132 expert missions in MEDA countries and 60 training internships by Mediterranean professionals and executives in their EU counterpart organisations, are to be implemented in various phases until December 2002 by all 12 Mediterranean employers' organisations. This will lead to devise National Training Plans for each Mediterranean Business Association or Federation of Employers.

The final conference, which will present the results of the project and discuss possible future actions, is foreseen for February/March 2003.

More Information: http://www.unimedbn.org		
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	E-mail: unimed@unice.be	

FEMISE		
The Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Institutes		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 2 million (phase I) (MEDA) € 6.3 million (phase II) (MEDA)	START DATE: 1998 (phase I) 2001 (phase II)	DURATION: 2 years 4 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

About thirty European and Mediterranean economic research institutes held their first meeting in Marseilles in March 1997 and decided to create a Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Institutes (FEMISE). Its objective was to produce independent analysis of economic problems relating to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, like the fiscal implications of the free trade area and the impact of EU enlargement on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

A Euro-Mediterranean Forum comprising some 90 independent economic institutes in Europe and the Mediterranean Partners was then set up with financial support from the European Commission. As from August 1998 the task of the FEMISE network has been to conduct economic research on the main economic themes of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

The overall objective of FEMISE is to provide support from the main independent economic institutes in the region to the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean economic zone envisaged in the 1995 Barcelona Declaration. Moving towards such a zone is a three-pronged operation: introducing free trade, supporting economic transition (i.e. reform of state economic policies and structures), and boosting private investment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

FEMISE will facilitate the enhancement of economic research on the Partnership's priority areas, the exchange of data and analyses between member institutes and their better integration in international economic research. FEMISE has among his main tasks to carry out socio-economic studies on the main themes of the Euro-Mediterranean economic zone:

1. evolution of Mediterranean agriculture in the context of Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements;
2. evolution of flows of goods, capital and services in the same context;
3. implications of these agreements for fiscal policies;
4. impact of economic transition on poverty;
5. consequences for the Mediterranean of introducing the Euro;
6. consequences for the Mediterranean of EU enlargement.

The FEMISE network currently comprises 90 members from the 27 partners and remains open to other institutes. A Steering Committee has been set up and workshops are convened on a regular basis, as well as, one yearly meeting of the entire membership.

NEXT STEPS

FEMISE is continuing with a second phase from 2001 to 2004 (€ 6.3 million). Its activities include the elaboration of a number of research and working papers, the preparation of 10 country profiles, the organisation of international conferences and the upgrading of their web site. The network now links more than 100 economic research institutes and universities.

In 2002, FEMISE has launched a second call for proposals, aiming to:

1. Improve the understanding of the evolution of the Euro-Mediterranean region in terms of its national and regional dimensions, through research work of indisputable academic level.
2. Suggest developments adapted to the objectives of the Barcelona Process, presuming that such research would have "policy-oriented" conclusions.
3. Seize the opportunity offered by this programme in order to promote research capacities on the region particularly, in Mediterranean Partners, through the creation of multinational teams.

The Call for Proposals which has been aimed at EU and MEDA researchers has focused on the following subjects, the first three extending topics studied during the first phase of FEMISE:

- agriculture in transition
- impact of association agreements on capital flows, goods and services
- poverty, informal sector, health and labour
- role of the state
- education, training and role of women
- South-South integration.

FEMISE Network

Co-ordinators	
Egypt	Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, Cairo
France	Institut de la Méditerranée, Marseilles
Members	
Algeria	A.N.S.E.D.I., Algiers
Algeria	Centre National d'Etudes et d'Analyses pour la Planification, Algiers
Algeria	C.R.E.A.D. - Université d'Oran, Oran
Austria	IHS - Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna
Austria	Universität Wien, Vienna
Austria	WIFO-Wirtschaftsforschungsinstitut, Vienna
Belgium	Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels
Cyprus	INEKYM - Institut Europe - Chypre - Méditerranée, Athienou
Cyprus	Research and Development Center - Intercollege, Nicosia
Denmark	Department of Middle East Studies - Odense University, Odense
Denmark	Roskilde University, Roskilde
Egypt	Economic and Political Sciences Faculty, Cairo University, Cairo
Egypt	ECES-The Egyptian Centre for Economic Studies, Cairo
Egypt	Centre of Agricultural Economic Studies, Cairo
Egypt	School of Business, Economics & Communications, Cairo
Egypt	American University in Cairo, Cairo
Finland	TAPRI, University of Tampere, Tampere
Finland	University of Helsinki, Department of Economics, Helsinki
France	Agropolis - Université Montpellier I- ISEM, Montpellier
France	Université Paris I, Faculté des Sciences Economiques, Paris
France	C.E.F.I. Université de la Méditerranée, Aix-en-Provence
France	CEPII-Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales, Paris
France	Réseau EMMA - Université Paris-Sud et Université de Nice
Germany	German Development Institute, Berlin
Germany	German Orient Institute, Hamburg
Germany	IWH - Institute for Economic Research Halle, Halle
Germany	Kiel Institute for World Economy - Kiel University, Kiel
Germany	RWI - Rhine Westphalia Institute for Economic Research, Essen
Greece	Idryma Mesogeiakon Meleton, Fondation d'Etudes Méditerranéennes, Athens
Greece	IMEO- Institute for the Study of Greek Economy, Athens
Greece	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki
Greece	Dynmed-Balkans, Larissa
Ireland	Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin
Ireland	The University of Dublin - Trinity College, Dublin
Ireland	University College Dublin - Department of Economics, Dublin

Israel	Bar-Ilan University - Economic Research Institute, Ramat-Gan
Israel	Interdisciplinary Centre for Technological Analysis & Forecasting, Tel Aviv
Israel	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The H. Kohl Institute for European Studies, Jerusalem
Italy	CENSIS - Centro Studi Investimenti Sociali, Rome
Italy	IREM – Istituto di Ricerche sull' Economia Mediterranea, Napoli
Italy	ISPROM - Istituto di Studi e Programmi per il Mediterraneo, Sassari
Italy	Istituto d'Economia - Università Luigi Bocconi, Milan
Italy	Politecnico di Milano - Dipartimento di Scienze del Territorio, Milan
Italy	European University Institute, The Robert Schuman Centre, Florence
Jordan	Department of Economics, Jordan University, Amman
Jordan	The Royal Scientific Society, Amman
Lebanon	Université St Joseph - Faculté de Gestion, Beirut
Lebanon	Université St Joseph - Faculté de Sciences Economiques, Beirut
Lebanon	Institute of Money & Banking, American University of Beirut, Beirut
Luxembourg	Centre Universitaire - Cellule C.R.E.A., Luxembourg
Malta	European Documentation and Research Centre, Msida
Malta	University of Malta - ECMS, Sliema
Morocco	Centre Marocain de Conjoncture, Casablanca
Morocco	Université Hassan II - Centre de Recherches Méditerranéennes, Casablanca
Morocco	Université Mohammed V - Centre d'études stratégiques
Morocco	Ecole de Statistique et d'Etudes Economiques, Rabat
Netherlands	Economic Faculty - Erasmus University, Rotterdam
Netherlands	Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam
Netherlands	Institute of Social Studies, The Hague
Palestine	Birzeit University, Accounting Department, Birzeit
Palestine	The Palestinian Centre for Regional Studies, Al-Bireh
Palestine	Institute for Graduate Studies in Business & Economics, Al-Quds University, Bethlehem
Portugal	Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestao, Lisbon
Portugal	Escola Superior Agraria de Beja, Beja
Spain	Centre d'Estudis de Planificacio - Fundacio d'Investigacions, Barcelona
Spain	GIDIME - Universidad Complutense, Madrid
Spain	Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Facultad de Ciencias Economicas y Empresariales, Madrid
Spain	Instituto de Economia Internacional, Universitat de Valencia, Valencia
Sweden	Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm
Sweden	School of Economics & Management, Lund University, Lund
Sweden	PADRIGU - Development Research, Gothenburg
Syria	Faculty of Economics, Halab University, Aleppo
Syria	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, Damascus
Syria	MEDEA-Mediterranean Experts for Development & Environmental Affairs, Lattakia
Tunisia	CETIMA - Centre d'Etudes Méditerranéennes et Internationales, Tunis
Tunisia	Faculté des Sciences économiques et de gestion, Université de Sfax, Sfax
Tunisia	IRMC-Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain, Tunis
Tunisia	Faculté des Sciences économiques et de gestion, Université Tunis III, Tunis
Turkey	Bilkent University, Department of Economics, Ankara
Turkey	Centre for Mediterranean Studies, Ankara
Turkey	Bogazici University, Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation, Istanbul
Turkey	Department of Economics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara
Turkey	Université Méditerranéenne – Centre de Recherches Economiques de Pays Méditerranéens, Antalya
United Kingdom	Centre for Development Studies & European Research Institute, Bath
United Kingdom	Sussex European Institute, University of Sussex, Brighton
United Kingdom	CEPR-Centre for Economic Policy Research, London
United Kingdom	School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, London
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Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Co-operation		
Type of Action: Regional Programmes		
BUDGET: €30 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1996	DURATION: 10 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIONS

The Barcelona Process stresses the important role of industrial co-operation in creating a Euro-Mediterranean area of shared prosperity through the introduction of free trade, the implementation of economic transition, and the revitalisation of investment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS

In May 1996, the Ministers of Industry of the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners held their first Conference in Brussels and approved the "Brussels Declaration on EU-MED Industrial Co-operation". The Declaration defines a number of priority actions including the creation of a conducive legal and administrative framework for investment, the strengthening of industrial zones, support to specialised service centres, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and the development of regional networks between economic operators.

Based on the recommendations for regional co-operation within the framework of the Conference of Foreign Ministers in Stuttgart in April 1999 and the experience of the first three years in the field of Euro-Mediterranean industrial co-operation, working methods and programming structures have been refined.

Within the framework of the new strategy, priority areas have been identified and regional programmes have been defined for the following priority areas:

- EuroMed internal market
- Promotion of investments
- Industrial and technological innovation

The EuroMed Market programme was launched in May 2002. It aims at facilitating the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area by the year 2010, as well as to promote deeper economic co-operation among the Mediterranean partners.

The programme has the following specific objectives:

- To develop a shared understanding of the necessary regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms, in the eight priority areas covered by the Commission Communication on "the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Single Market".
- To support the development of efficient administrations in the Mediterranean Partners, facilitate the fulfilment of their obligations under the Association Agreements, and stimulate the setting up of the necessary enforcement structures, to implement the regulations.
- To improve co-operation among the administrations in the participating MEDA countries to enable exchange of experience and best practices.

The programme consists of three major components, each of them with several activities:

- Information and exchange of experience: conferences; workshops; studies and publications.

- Training and targeted technical assistance: training seminars; training for trainers; expert missions for targeted technical assistance.
- Networking: creation of a website; twinning programmes; study visits.

Its budget amounts to €9.9 million for a period of three years.

The Investment Promotion Programme was signed in 2002 and consists of three main components:

1. To strengthen the capacity of Mediterranean Investment Promotion Agencies through training and exchange activities;
2. To set up an operational network of European and Mediterranean Investment Promotion Agencies through inter-institutions communication actions (Internet site, newsletter etc);
3. To promote investment at regional level through mutual information actions, promotional material and joint participation of several Euro-Mediterranean agencies at promotional events. In addition, an in-depth study on sectoral flows of foreign direct investment in the Mediterranean countries has been made. Conclusions of this study, presented to the Ministers during the Limassol Conference, include recommendations and propositions for action, which will be analysed in the framework of the regional programme.

Its budget amounts to €3.95 million for a period of three years.

NEXT STEPS

Within the framework of industrial co-operation, the following programme will be launched in the second half of 2002:

Innovation, Technology and Quality Programme. It will consist of two main components:

1. *Innovation and technology at the service of businesses*, including actions for promoting the development of sectoral technical and innovation centres in the Mediterranean Partners, setting up a Euro-Mediterranean network of technical and innovation centres, awareness-raising activities for businesses through the transfer of good practice and specific actions for technical and innovation centres for developing co-operation with laboratories, research centres, technological poles from European Union or Mediterranean countries.
2. *Quality*, the aim of which will be to launch, at regional level, a number of information and training actions related to standardisation, certification and quality of industrial products and metrology. Special emphasis will be given to networking of administrative units responsible of quality promotion in the Mediterranean countries and their connection with the Euro-Mediterranean network of technical and innovation centres.

Its budget amounts to €15 million for a period of three years.

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Euro-Arab Management School		
Type of Action: Regional project		
BUDGET: 8.3 million € (MEDA and Member States funding)	START DATE: 1995	DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Euro-Arab Management School (EAMS) is a joint project of the European Commission and the League of Arab States. EAMS was established in 1995 to provide education, training and other services for the development of business between Arab and European companies. The Spanish Government strongly supported the initiative and offered the seat and the legal accreditation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

EAMS is a management development service provider to different players located in both the Arab World and Europe, with the mission of bridging across businesses from different geographic, cultural and socio-economic realities.

EAMS has established a network of 44 Academic Institutions among leading business schools and management centres from Algeria, Bahrein, Belgium, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Palestinian Territories, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Corporate support, at the highest international level, is provided by a wide network of companies operating from Europe and the Arab world, ensuring that EAMS meets the standards needed by today's entrepreneurs and managers.

The Academic Council guarantees the rigorous standards of EAMS by close evaluation of its educational and research programmes and by assisting in the recruitment of permanent and affiliate faculty.

The schools activities fall into the following categories:

- high-level practical management education and training dedicated to the advancement of modern business practices among the Euro-Mediterranean partners;
- design and implementation of performance improvement solutions that respond to the needs of various organisations in the area;
- capacity building of management education and development institutions;
- practical training to assist European public and private organisations to understand the business environment in the Arab World;
- contribution to the success of European business activities in the Arab World.

NEXT STEPS

Some events will be held between June and December 2002 in the framework of the Euro-Arab Management School programme:

- Inauguration of the Euro-Arab Management Diploma, 17 June, Sfax (Tunisia).
- Inauguration of the new Master of Tourism Management (part-time programme combining 11 residential modules delivered in Granada, Cairo and Casablanca with on-line distance learning), 24 June.
- Master of Management Learning and Development (18 months), programme on a part-time basis, delivered in Granada, Cairo and Dubai, October.

- Seminar for Deans and Directors of Higher Education Institutions in the field of Business Management on "Leadership and Governance in Business Education". 30 September – 4 October, Granada (Spain).
- Faculty Development Programme for Business and Management Educators, 9-20 December, Granada (Spain).

More Information: http://www.eams.fundea.es		
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The Activities of the European Investment Bank in the Region		
Type of Action: Regional Projects		
BUDGET: € 7,424 million (EIB)	START DATE: 1990s	DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

In the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Union funds three kinds of European Investment Bank activities under MEDA. Firstly, EIB loans in the field of environment are the subject of interest rate subsidies (projects on wastewater, solid waste and industrial depollution). Secondly, funds are used to finance risk capital operations of the EIB, which are intended to strengthen the financial sector of the Partners. In addition, the EIB grants loans to the Mediterranean Partners.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

As far as loans are concerned, the EIB signed 19 loans in 8 Mediterranean Partners amounting to €1,214 million in the year 2000 and €1,410 million in 2001. Major investment flows went into infrastructure, and industry reconstruction in Turkey after the 1999 earthquake. Other sectors covered were transport, communication, energy, environmental protection, industry and tourism.

NEXT STEPS

Under the new Euro-Med Lending Mandate (II), the EIB is to lend up to €6,425 million during the period 2000-2006 supplemented by €1 billion on its own resources.

The Regional Strategy Paper 2000-2006 elaborated by the Commission defines the precise framework for an economic take-off of the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East. In this context, the regional Risk Capital Facility will be a key instrument to enhance the support for economic transition and to strengthen the development of the private sector of the Mediterranean Partners.

Furthermore, the Risk Capital Facility has to be seen in a larger context. The envisaged risk capital operations will be essential tools in re-invigorating the Barcelona Process and in supporting the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area by the year 2010. The operations of the Risk Capital Facility (€100 million) focus 1) on the objectives of up-grading the financial sector of the Partners in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East, 2) on the objective of raising the competitiveness of the Partners' enterprise sector and 3) on privatisation. Implementation may take place either through reliable and solid local national or sub-regional financial intermediaries including local banks and investment funds or through non-financial companies.

EIB loans in 2000

Partner	Project	Description	Loan amount: €million	Interest rate subsidy: €million
Egypt	National Drainage Programme	Development and rehabilitation of water drainage system in the Nil valley	50	12.7
Tunisia	Solid Waste	Development of various waste sites plus waste treatment centres	25	5.4
Turkey	Bursa Wastewater Treatment	Extension and modernisation of the wastewater treatment facilities	80	16.1
West Bank and Gaza Strip	Gaza Water and Sanitation II	New wastewater treatment plant plus additional equipment in the Northern Gaza Strip	14	3.713
Total			169	37.913

EIB Risk Capital Operations in 2000

Partner	Project	Description	Risk Capital Amount (€million)
Jordan	Private Sector Support	Support for the restructuring and the development of Jordanian SMEs in the context of the envisaged Euro-Med Free Trade Area	15
Regional	Regional Investment Fund	Support of societies or investment funds which place their funds in several partner countries	20
Tunisia	Private Sector Support	Support for private sector development in order to strengthen the competitiveness of companies and to promote privatisation	30
West Bank and Gaza Strip	Cairo Amman Bank Global Loan II	Support for SMEs development in all sectors of the Palestinian economy in order to promote export growth	3
Total			68

EIB loans in 2001

Partner	Description of the project	Financing (€million)
Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a drinking water supply network between the Taksebt dam and Algiers 	225
Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipping a new hospital in Nicosia 	50
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a natural gas –fired combined-cycle powerplant in Cairo Financing small and medium-scale ventures (30 million: global loan to the Export Development of Egypt) 	150
		30
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing small and medium-scale ventures (global loan to the Bank of Valetta) 	25
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a plumped storage power plant, south-east of Casablanca Construction of 2 motorways between Sidi, El Yamani and Tangier and between Casablanca and El Jadida Improvement of drinking water supplies in 70 Moroccan towns Rehabilitation of hydro-cultural equipment for irrigate areas in the south of the country 	90
		100
		50
		40
Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading medium-voltage power-transformer and distribution facilities 	115
Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and develop the road network around Lake Bizerta, north of Tunis Upgrade drinking water supplies to the eastern coast region of Sahel and Sfax Finance small and medium-scale ventures mounted by Tunisian enterprises via ten Tunisian banks 	30
		95
		100
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wastewater treatment and sewerage networks in the city of Mersin on the Mediterranean coast Urban development in Eskisehir Reconstruction of industrial facilities in earthquake-damaged regions Financing small and medium-scale ventures through global loans (Turkiye Vakiflar Bankasi Tao, Turkiye Sinai Kalkinma Bankasi AS and Sinai Yatirim Bankasi AS) 	60
		110
		75
		125
MED Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A conditional loan from risk capital resources for € 6 millions to EFG-Hermes Middle East Technology Fund Ltd to finance participation in investment funds supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the high tech sector 	6
Total		1,476

More Information:

<http://eib.eu.int>
<http://www.eib.org>
<http://www.eib.org/lending/activity.htm>

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Economic and Financial Partnership (II)

Developing Euro-Mediterranean Infrastructures and Promoting Environmental Sustainability

The promotion and the protection of the environment is an essential dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The challenges related to the scarcity of water and environment degradation should be tackled at national and regional levels with the perspective to ensure the sustainable development of the region. Water and environment programmes have the objective to stop degradation and protect the particularly fragile Mediterranean eco-region. The “Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment” is the most relevant environmental regional programme under MEDA which, through policy orientation discussions, networking, capacity building and pilot demonstration projects, constitutes a basic instrument in promoting environment integration in the Partnership.

The cost, performance, reliability, security and safety of infrastructures constitute a key factor of competitiveness in the Mediterranean region. In the sectors of energy, transport and telecommunications, regional programmes bring together policy makers and experts in these fields. The objective is to discuss and co-ordinate strategic orientations, harmonise the regulatory environment, and promote co-operation and networking. The programmes aim at facilitating investment, the integration and the interconnection of the energy, transport and telecommunication networks in the region. A number of programmes also finance specific projects (e.g., the Energy programme and Telecommunications EUMEDIS Programme) in order to implement and enhance co-operation activities between European and Mediterranean partners.

To finance infrastructure needs, governments do not always have the necessary resources or borrowing capacity. Private Participation in Mediterranean Infrastructure (PPMI) is one of the instruments for Mediterranean countries to meet the huge growth in infrastructure needed to keep pace with their development. PPMI can bring increased efficiency in construction and operation. It also reduces financing and management burdens on public sector institutions. Support for private participation in infrastructure facilitates economic growth and the adaptation of public sector institutions to their new role as facilitator rather than market player.

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euomed/index.htm

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Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for the Environment		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: €6 million (MEDA) €30 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1997 2001	DURATION: 3 years 4 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment is a framework programme for the protection of the Mediterranean environment, within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The objectives of the Programme were agreed held in Helsinki on the 28 November 1997 and follow the Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment was adopted unanimously by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment is the common basis for environmental purposes (as regards both policy orientation and funding at regional and national levels) in the Mediterranean region. Therefore, it is understood that:

- efforts need to be concentrated at both national and regional levels;
- coherence and synergies need to be ensured with existing multilateral programmes and legal instruments, while respecting the specificity of each forum;
- opportunities to attract more funding for the environment in the region need to be increased while optimising use of the existing ones;
- transparency and broad public support of the Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment need to be secured in view of ensuring its full implementation.

The Partners have selected by consensus five priority areas of action for Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment:

1. integrated water management,
2. integrated waste management,
3. hot spots (covering both polluted areas and threatened bio-diversity elements),
4. integrated coastal zone management, and
5. combating desertification.

Supportive measures have also been foreseen, which include training, capacity building, networking, environmental impact assessments, awareness campaigns etc.

A Steering Committee of Med Environmental NGOs was created in November 1997 to facilitate such consultations in a co-ordinated way.

The funding of the projects under Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment can also be done through European Investment Bank loans. Other donors (public and private) should join in and be mobilised in the same direction, as well. Active participation at all levels, including representatives of civil society, is indispensable to ensure successful implementation of this common exercise.

The Fourth meeting on the Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment took place from 23 to 25 April 2002.

NEXT STEPS

Proposals for the implementation of a more ambitious Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment II were submitted following the call published on 4 July 2001 (closed in October 2001). The evaluation of the proposals has been completed and 8 projects have been selected for award of contracts. This second phase has substantially increased funding and it aims at creating dynamics toward a more sustainable approach overall.

The next call for proposals is foreseen for 2004, with a budget of € 15 million.

Projects launched following call for proposals in 1999

Title	Co-ordinator	Countries	Budget (€)
Conservation and Management of Biodiversity Hotspots: Developing a Mediterranean Network under the MEDA Regional Indicative Programme	World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF European Policy	Tunisia, Lebanon, Morocco	1,117,800
Promoting Sustainable Use of Agricultural Land through the Introduction of Organic Farming	Egyptian Biodynamic Association (EBDA)	Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey	810,310
Regional Community Solid Waste Management Programme	Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)	The Netherlands, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	902,147
Integrated Coastal Management between Jbeil / Amsheet and Latakia	ENVIROTECH	Italy, Lebanon, Syria	1,401,100
Mediterranean Urban Waste Management Programme	United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS-UNDP)	Spain, Egypt	720,840
Water Community Programme to promote community-based awareness	ECOPEACE – Friends of the Earth Middle-East (FOEME)	Belgium, Israel, West Bank, Gaza	561,063

Projects launched following call for proposals in 2001

Title	Co-ordinator	Countries	Budget (€)
Urban air quality improvement through Air Quality Plans and the Institutional Strengthening of Local Administration on Air Quality	Institut Català d'Energia (ICAEN) from Barcelona (Spain)	Spain, Cyprus, Lebanon, Morocco	2,020,745
Regional project for the development of marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean Region	The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), acronym (MedMPA)	Italy, France, Spain, Tunisia	1,748,374
Implementation of a Photo Voltaic Water Pumping Programme in Mediterranean Countries	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid - Instituto de Energía Solar (IES/UPM)	France, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia	2,291,013
Regional Solid Waste Management Project in METAP Mashreq and Maghreb Countries	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	Tunisia	5,000,000

More Information:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/smap/home.htm>

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Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management

Type of Action: **Regional Programme**

BUDGET: € 40 million (MEDA)

START DATE: 2001

DURATION: 5 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Declaration recognises sustainable management of water resources as one of the priority areas under the Economic and Financial Partnership Chapter of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Specifically, the scope of co-operation in this area is described in the work programme annexed to the Barcelona Declaration with emphasis on the following strategic orientations:

- to take stock of the water situation,
- to identify ways of reinforcing regional co-operation,
- to make proposals for rationalising the planning and management of water resources, and
- to contribute towards the creation of new sources of water.

Subsequently, the first ministerial conference on Local Water Management, (Marseilles, 1996) set out the general guidelines of a future water programme and also led to a decision to proceed with the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the Know-How in the Water sector (EMWIS/SEMIDE) (see p.82). The priority assigned to the water sector within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was reiterated at the Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Foreign Ministers in Stuttgart on 15-16 April 1999; the specific type of interventions were stipulated in the Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan of the 1999 Turin Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Local Water Management.

On 7 June 2000, the Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum was set up to serve as a consultative body in the area of water policy in the Mediterranean/Middle East region. It assembles representatives of the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners and the Commission as well as NGOs and water agencies with observer status.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS

During the Turin Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting, six areas of action and four horizontal themes for the implementation of regional programmes were identified:

Areas of Action: Integrated management of local drinking water supply, sanitation and sewage; Local water resources and water demand management (quantity and quality) within catchment areas and islands; Prevention and mitigation of the negative effects of drought and equitable management of water scarcity; Irrigation water management; Use of non-conventional water resources; Preparation of national and local scenarios for the period until 2025 that enable precise objectives to be set and actions to be taken for sustainable water management.

Horizontal Themes: Strengthening institutional capacities and training; Exchange of information and know-how; Transfer of know-how and technology; Awareness raising, mobilisation and promotion of commitment of the population.

The main operational components of the programme include the following:

- The funding of regional projects through a Call for Proposals by the European Commission, in the above sectors and horizontal themes.
- The designation by EU Member States and Mediterranean MPs of Water Facilitators (WF), within the national administrations. The main tasks of WF include the support to the dissemination of information to facilitate project operation by interested parties in the framework of the 'Call for Proposals' and in coherence with national policies and programmes.
- Other important tasks, also inscribed within the activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Programme, include the promotion of institutional strengthening, public awareness, dissemination of project results and provision of a feedback mechanisms as an input to future national and regional field level.
- The appointment of a Supervision and Monitoring organisation (Euro-Mediterranean non-profit-making organisation) to assist the beneficiary countries and implementing partners with the follow-up of approved projects at field.

NEXT STEPS

A Call for Proposals was published in January 2002 with the deadline for submission of applications set for 31st May 2002. Contracts will be awarded to successful applicants before the end of 2002, with implementation commencing in the first months of 2003.

A number of countries have already nominated Water Facilitators (Austria, France, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt). The remaining Mediterranean Partners are expected to finalise the process of nomination before the end of 2002.

More Information:		
Marseilles Ministerial Conferences on Local Water Management Http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/conf/sect/water.htm		
Turin Ministerial Conferences on Local Water Management Http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/conf.sect/water2.htm		
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EMWIS / SEMIDE

Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the Know-How in the Water Sector

Type of Action: **Regional Programme**

BUDGET: €2.42 million (MEDA and Member States funding) | START DATE: 1999 | DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Declaration recognises the sustainable management of water resources as a priority and recommends the development of a series of actions including the strengthening of regional co-operation.

The principle of setting up a Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the Know-How in the Water Sector (EMWIS and SEMIDE in French) was decided on the occasion of the Marseilles Ministerial Conference on Local Water Management (25-26 November 1996). The substance was agreed at the meeting of the Directors-General for Water held in Naples (9-10 December 1997).

EMWIS is conceived as an information exchange and dissemination tool among the countries members of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in support of the implementation of the Turin Action Plan defined at the Second Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Local Water Management, Turin (18-19 October 1999).

The EMWIS aims to:

- facilitate the access to water information in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- develop the sharing of water information in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- elaborate common outputs and co-operation programmes.

EMWIS is expected to act as a complement to the activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management (see p.54) towards the strengthening of Euro-Mediterranean but also intra-Mediterranean regional co-operation in the management of water resources. The latter is largely characterised by the scarcity, insufficient utilisation and increasing need for the promotion of sustainable and integrated management in the water sector.

With this in mind, the EMWIS aims at the provision to the countries of the region of an instrument for collecting, treating and disseminating of water information which is currently too compartmentalised, scattered and fragmented. For the first three years of operation, the system has been concerned with collection, exchange and dissemination of information in the areas of documentation, institutions, training, research and development, and data management.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The first phase of EMWIS has been developed with the financial support of Spain, Italy and France, for an amount of €1.32 million and the European Commission for €1.18 million.

EMWIS is composed of a Steering Committee, a Co-ordination Committee, a Technical Unit and National Focal Points. The Steering Committee is responsible for defining the main strategic orientations, validating the results obtained in each phase, and validating EMWIS

annual action plan and budget proposed by the Co-ordination Committee. The Co-ordination Committee includes the representatives of the National Focal Points and the Technical Unit. The National Focal Points are composed of small teams within a public or parastatal organisation in charge of gathering and disseminating documentation and information relating to the water sector in each country. The Technical Unit based in France is composed of a consortium of three national operators: CEDEX (Spain), OIEau (France), and SOGESID S.p.a. (Italy). These operators constitute a permanent structure, which assures, with the National Focal Points, the execution of the annual activity plan. The Technical Unit is responsible for proposing to the Steering Committee the main strategic orientations, annual action plans and budgets, defined with the National Focal Points, co-ordinating, encouraging and should the case arise, providing a technical support to the activities to the National Focal Points.

Currently, 13 countries, including 9 Mediterranean Partners, have joined and designated a focal point. The EMWIS work programme started in October 1999. More information on the set-up of the information system can be found on its web site.

More Information: http://www.emwis.org (English) http://www.semide.org (French)		
Marseilles Ministerial Conferences on Local Water Management http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euomed/conf/sect/water.htm		
Turin Ministerial Conferences on Local Water Management http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euomed/conf.sect/water2.htm http://www.hydrocontrol.com/torino/default.htm		
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Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation in the Energy Sector

Type of Action: **Regional Programme**

BUDGET: € 13.8 million (MEDA)

START DATE: 1997

DURATION: 7 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Ministerial Conference held in November 1995 agreed to strengthen co-operation and dialogue in the field of energy policy through creating an adequate environment for investment and energy companies' operations, including energy networks extensions and interconnections. The Barcelona Declaration's work programme includes a chapter on energy.

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Energy Ministers (Brussels, 11 May 1998), agreed that the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the field of energy should be based on the following objectives:

- security of supply, by the development and diversification of energy sources and by close international co-operation, taking into account the complementarity and the mutual benefits between energy consumers and suppliers;
- competitiveness of the energy industry, in particular with a view to the achievement of the free trade area foreseen by the year 2010 and by means of enhanced industrial co-operation, taking into account the different economic and social conditions in each country;
- protection of the environment, by securing safe and clean production, transport and use of energy, and by encouraging energy efficiency and renewable energy.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum was launched as a follow-up to the conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Trieste, June 1996. The objectives were to have a flexible framework to ensure the continuity of the dialogue amongst all the partners at the political as well as experts' level and to promote projects of regional interest.

The Forum prepared an Action Plan (1998-2002) comprising two main axes:

1. Co-operation at political and administrative level aiming to strengthen the institutional and legislative framework of the Mediterranean Partners and to draw up policy guidelines.
2. Industrial co-operation aiming to adapt energy companies to developments in demand, to increase energy efficiency in industry, and to facilitate co-operation among businesses across the Mediterranean.

Following this action plan, seven energy projects have been launched.

NEXT STEPS

Given that all energy related regional projects have recently come on stream, an evaluation of the outgoing projects in the sector is expected to take place at the end of 2002/beginning of 2003.

MEDA Regional Energy Projects

Title	Implementation	Countries	Funding (€)
Legal and institutional energy frameworks	The programme started at the beginning of 2002 and will be implemented on a period of 3 years (will end at the end of 2004)	Germany (DECON, Deutsch Energie Consult: co-ordinator) , France, Portugal, Italy and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	2,250,000
Support for the ad hoc groups (energy policy, interconnections, economic analysis) of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum	The programme started at the beginning of 2002 and will end at the end of 2003 (Duration: 2 years)	Ireland (ESBI International: co-ordinator) , France, Greece, Italy, Spain and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	1,880,000
Applications of thermal solar energy in the Mediterranean basin	The programme started in April 2001 and will end at the beginning of 2004 (Duration: 3 years)	France (ADEME: co-ordinator), Greece, Italy, Portugal, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia	1,500,000
Energy and urban environment in the Mediterranean Partners	The programme started at the end of 2001 and will end at the end of 2003 (Duration: 2 years)	Spain (IDEA: co-ordinator), France, Greece, Italy, and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	1,900,000
Mediterranean Electric Ring	The programme started at the beginning of 2001 and will end at the end of 2002 (Duration: 2 years)	Italy (ENEL: co-ordinator), France, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey	2,126,924
Reforms of the companies of the energy sector	The programme started at the beginning of 2002 and will be implemented on a period of 3 years (will end at the end of 2004)	Denmark, France (BCEOM: co-ordinator), Italy and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	2,300,000
Mediterranean Energy Policy Training Network	The programme started at the beginning of 2001 and will end at the end of 2002 (Duration: 2 years)	Greece (EPU-NTUA (National Technical University of Athens): co-ordinator), France, Spain and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	1,810,000
Total			13,766,924

More Information:

Commission Communication on Euromed Transport and Energy Co-operation, March 2001
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report26_en.pdf

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Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation in the Transport Sector

Type of Action: **Regional Projects**

TOTAL BUDGET: 37.4 (MEDA)

START DATE: 1997

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Conference and subsequent Conferences of Foreign Ministers recognised the importance of efficient transport links between the EU and its Mediterranean Partners, and among the Partners themselves for the development of trade patterns and the smooth operation of the Euro-Mediterranean economic and financial partnership.

The first programme to be launched was on Regional Maritime Transport that supported eleven projects. These were mainly training courses on port management and handling hazardous goods in ports. One of the projects had as principal objective to assist the national authorities of the beneficiary Mediterranean Partners to develop action plans and legal framework as well as to enable them to adequately and efficiently fulfil their obligations.

A Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum was created in September 1998. The objective of the Transport Forum is to co-ordinate common approaches and to develop co-operation in the transport sector in the region.

More precisely, in line with the recommendations of the Commission Communication on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the Transport Sector, the Forum is to draw up an action plan for transport, including at the same time the proposed measures, the means of carrying them out and a timetable for implementation.

This action plan will have as basic components:

- the adoption of an intermodal air-sea transportation system in the Mediterranean region, through improvement and the modernisation of the ports and airports;
- the abolition of unjustified restrictions and the simplification of procedures;
- the strengthening of maritime and air safety;
- the harmonisation of environmental rules on a high level, including more effective control of pollution due to maritime transport; and
- the adoption of harmonised traffic management systems.

Besides the predominant interest for the sea and air transportation system, the development of East-West land connections on the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean will also be of high importance, as well as the connection of the Mediterranean networks of transport to the trans-European networks, in order to ensure their interoperability.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The first meeting of the Forum took place in Malta on 23 and 24 March 1999. The Forum adopted the multimodal approach as a working platform (all modes of transport and their connections) which has also been adopted for the EU's common transport policy. The Forum has set two work priorities, namely the definition of a transport infrastructure network in the Mediterranean and the adoption of the measures that are necessary for the facilitation of transport operations. Six subtopics have been identified: GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System), Citizens' transport network, transport safety, maritime transport, research & development, and statistics.

The second annual meeting of the Transport Forum took place in Brussels on 8-9 November 2000 and was of a technical nature. The Forum approved the establishment of working groups dealing with specialised transport issues: maritime transport, global navigation satellite systems, infrastructure network and research and development. The Research and Development Working Group dealt with the preparation of the call for proposals in the framework of the European Commission's V R&D Framework Programme.

The implementation of the maritime regional projects that were part of the MEDA I Programme continued during 2000. Some of the projects of the package have already been completed and others have started in 2001.

In the framework of the regional co-operation project on statistics MEDSTAT (see p.65), a specific subproject regarding transport statistics has been launched. Due to the collaboration among partners already developed it was possible to make substantial progress towards the design of a statistical data basis for the transport sector in the Mediterranean region.

During the year 2000 the preparation of a new project on transport policy in the Mediterranean Region reached an advanced stage and the general lines of the project were submitted to the Mediterranean Partners and endorsed in the Transport Forum meeting of November 2000. The project will assist in the preparation of the overall diagnosis of the regional transport system and of a Regional Transport Action Plan addressing both policy and institutional measures and physical infrastructure issues. Moreover, the project will also contribute to the reinforcement of the policy dialogue among regional actors, promote the co-operation of the private sector and establish tools for monitoring the performance of the sector.

The project was approved by the European Commission in November 2001 and implementation is expected to start at the end of 2002. The so-called first Regional Euro-Mediterranean Transport Programme (€ 20 million) aims at improving the functioning and increasing the efficiency of the Mediterranean transport system and will concentrate on policy reforms and training/policy dialogue with transport policy makers. Such regional approach would have the important side-benefit of developing a strategy for regional infrastructure development and building local capacity for the preparation and implementation of related bilateral MEDA projects.

NEXT STEPS

A Forum on Transport will take place in Brussels 16 to 18 July 2002.

More Information: Commission Communication on Euromed Transport and Energy Co-operation, March 2001 http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report26_en.pdf		
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EUMEDIS		
The Euro-Mediterranean Information Society Initiative		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: €65 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1999	DURATION: 8 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference of 27-28 November 1995 stressed in its economic chapter that the support for the development of the Mediterranean scientific and technological community, together with the upgrading and modernisation of local telecommunications infrastructure, are two pivotal elements for the success of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

In February 1999, the European Commission approved a comprehensive regional MEDA initiative for the development of the Euro-Mediterranean Information Society specifically designed to reduce the region's informational and technological gap vis-à-vis the neighbouring countries. EUMEDIS aims at developing regional applications with user communities in the largest number of Mediterranean Partners. The programme is also complementary to a regional telecommunications regulatory framework project "New Approaches to Telecom Policy" launched at the beginning of this year (see p.65).

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

EUMEDIS activities are divided in 2 strands:

1. EUMEDIS strand one covers the provision of basic resources for the development of the information society. It will fund:
 - the creation of a network of Mediterranean Information Society Focal Points;
 - (internet-based) interconnection between the European research network and the Mediterranean research networks.
2. In the second strand of the initiative, EUMEDIS will fund regional pilot projects in five sectors of application of the information and communication technologies, namely: education, electronic commerce and economic co-operation, healthcare networks, multimedia access to cultural heritage and tourism and industry and innovation.

The implementation of EUMEDIS is taking place in consultation with the Euro-Mediterranean Information Society Forum, which provides for an assessment of experience in the region and the feedback of the civil society on the effects of the programme.

NEXT STEPS

Following a successful call for proposals published in March 2000, 16 proposals were retained for funding. Further 9 proposals were included in a reserve list.

EUMEDIS projects that have already started at the beginning of 2002

Title	Co-ordinator	Other countries	Budget (€)
MEDINA: Mediterranean by Internet Access, an Access Gate for sustainable Development of Cultural Tourism in the Mediterranean	Istituto per il Mediterraneo (IMED)	Italy, Greece, Austria, Belgium, France, Algeria, Cyprus, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria	2,231,544
Tourist itineraries following the ancient trade Routes of the Mediterranean: trade and culture a bridge between civilisations.	Association for Trans-regional, Local and European Co-operation (TECLA)	Italy, Greece, Egypt, Malta, Morocco, Turkey	1,000,028
STRABON : Système d'Information Multilingue pour le Patrimoine culturel euro-méditerranéen	La Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (MSH)	France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia	2,964,000
DEADALUS: Delivery of Mediterranean Destination links in Unified Environment	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche : Istituto per le Informatiche Multimediali	Italy, Greece, Spain , Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Tunisia and Turkey	2,008,294
EUMEDCONNECT Phase I	DANTE	UK, Italy, France, Greece, Spain and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	195,040
MEDChartNET	International Maritime Academy, IMO-IMA	Italy, Greece, Spain , Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey	3,894,643
SMITE/ Improving Competitiveness of SME's Through IT based Environmental Business Planning	National Technical University of Athens	Greece, Denmark, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey	1,298,397
Avicenna virtual campus	UNESCO	France, Italy, Spain, UK, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	3,697,102
Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters	Mediterranean Council for Buens and Fire Disasters	Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Israel	1,650
East Mediterranean Public Health Information System (EMPHIS)	Fondation Mérieux	France, Greece, Italy, UK, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	2,679,434
Fundacio CIREM	Fundacio CIREM	Spain, Denmark, Algeria, Cyprus Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Turkey	1,899,930
MEDFORIST	Groupe ESC Grenoble	France, Finland, Greece, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	2,249,635
E_MED TEX-NET Cluster for the Development of a Euro-Mediterranean Network in the Textile Clothing Sector	Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris	France, Germany, Greece, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia	1,239,617
Mouvement Euromed pour le Management et la qualité des petites entreprises et entreprises artisanales	Assemblée Permanente des Chambres des Métiers	France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	1,679,892
EU MEDCANCER-GMED Network	European Genetic Foundation	Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia	1,040
MED NET "U"	Nettuno	Italy, France, Greece, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	4,110,012
ODISEAME	CEDETEL	Spain, German, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority	2,180

More Information: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/international/mediterranean/index_en.htm		
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NATP		
New Approaches Regarding Telecommunication Policy Among Mediterranean Partners		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: €2.15 million (MEDA)	START DATE: December 1999	DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The project "New Approaches to Telecom Policy", is intended to accompany a vital transformation essential for the Mediterranean Partners: the opening of the telecommunications sector and the increased participation of the private sector in infrastructure modernisation.

The aim of this project is to develop competitiveness by improving the quality and lowering the cost of telecommunication services, and to facilitate the Mediterranean Partners' integration into the world economy and into the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area planned for 2010.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

To achieve its objectives, the project will carry out the following activities:

- Organisation of events, such as annual regional telecom conferences to exchange experience and information
- Training sessions with a view to providing decision-makers and regulators with the tools they require to design and set up their reform programme.
- Public relations and communications: short press releases, bulletins and newsletters in order to reach the public in a selective manner in the various sectors.

This component of transfer of know-how is the most important part of the project.

The project also has a strong information and communication component, the main element being the creation of a virtual Observatory of Mediterranean Telecommunications, which will allow an exchange between the participants of the various activities, as well as with a larger audience. It will set up discussion groups and will provide links with the most important regional telecom-related web sites. It will encourage the exchange of all types of information on statistics and comparisons.

Targets of the project are political decision-makers, and current and future regulators. The project will also involve existing operators, investors, potential new operators, major user communities (industries and trade, consumers' associations), groups of experts, academics, journalists (opinion makers), and trade unions.

This ambitious project will not only allow a genuine Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on telecommunications policy, but also contribute to the development of a more open, more effective and dynamic sector in the Mediterranean Partners.

NEXT STEPS

The project will conclude in December 2002.

More Information: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/international/mediterranean/index_en.htm		
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Private Participation in Mediterranean Infrastructure		
Type of Action: Regional Project		
BUDGET: € 2.6 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1997	DURATION: 6 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

In March 1997, the European Commission and the World Bank formally agreed a joint EU/World Bank project called "Private Participation in Mediterranean Infrastructure". A second operation was agreed between the Commission and the World Bank in January 2001 for a period of 3 years.

The aim of the project is to support the efforts of Mediterranean governments to increase competition and private participation in infrastructure sectors. The specific objectives are:

- To increase the efficiency of infrastructure sectors and improve the delivery of core public services through policy reforms fostering competition and the mobilisation of private investment.
- To facilitate the integration of the Mediterranean Partners in the world economy and accompany and support the transition and adjustment process resulting from the implementation of the association agreements between the Mediterranean Partners and the EU.
- To spread international best practice and develop and/or support new approaches for managing infrastructure sectors and fostering the development of the private sector.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The programme provides short-term technical assistance and training, and it promotes the exchange of best practice between the 27 Euro-Mediterranean Partners.

The programme's activities include cross-sectoral and sector-specific work, with emphasis on:

- Sectors: transport, energy, water & sanitation, etc.
- Topics: market structure, competition, regulation, privatisation, etc.
- Capacity and institutional building, and policy advice.

An important element of the programme is the awareness raising and exchange of experiences, that include activities such as organisation of and support to regional seminars and conferences, study tours, regional exchange of capacity building, reports and publications, web site, etc.

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Cultural, Social and Human Partnership

Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations in the Mediterranean Region

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is based on the delicate compromise between on one hand the existence, recognition and mutual respect of different civilisations and cultural traditions on either side of the Mediterranean and on the other hand on enhancing the appreciation of mutual roots.

The aim of the social, cultural and human partnership is to bring people on both sides of the Mediterranean basin closer, to promote better mutual understanding, and to improve their perception of each other. These goals have been directly addressed by a variety of regional activities, specifically those working on cultural heritage, audio-visual, youth, media, women and the development of civil society areas. In this regard, the Barcelona Declaration stresses:

- the importance of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue;
- the importance of the role of the media in the knowledge and mutual understanding among cultures;
- the development of human resources in the cultural field: cultural exchange, language learning, and implementation of educational and cultural programmes while respecting cultural identities.

The Barcelona Work Programme provides two specific action headings:

- One on the dialogue between cultures and civilisations, which calls for meetings in the cultural field in order to make specific proposals for action, and in the religious field, in order to fight intolerance and fanaticism
- The other on the media, calling for closer media interaction.

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Brussels in November 2001 emphasised the dialogue of cultures and civilisations, which should focus more specifically on youth, education and the media.

Moreover, the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers Conference, held in Valencia (Spain) on 22 and 23 April 2002, recognised the need for a new approach to promote cultural dialogue and exchange in the Mediterranean area. The Conference proposed to create a new Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote better mutual understanding in the region through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges and to extend the very successful higher education programme, Tempus, to the non-candidate Mediterranean partners.

It is important to consider, however, that these social, cultural and human partnership projects are not the only MEDA regional projects promoting and encouraging dialogue between cultures and civilisations. By definition, all the regional programmes and projects are bringing people together to work in the different areas, and this is their great added value: the creation of Mediterranean multi-national and multi-cultural consortia collaborating in sectoral projects and working together to achieve the same objectives.

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Euromed Heritage		
Regional Programme for Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Heritage		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 17.2 million (phase I) € 30 million (phase II)	START DATE: 1997 (phase I) 2001 (phase II)	DURATION: 6 years (phase I) 7 years (phase II)

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

During the Ministerial Conference held in Bologna on Euro-Mediterranean cultural heritage, the Ministers considered cultural heritage as a high priority field of action, due to the richness and needs of this domain, its visibility for a broad public and its effects on cultural tourism and creation of employment. The Euromed Heritage programme was then launched, aiming at the preservation and development of the Euro-Mediterranean cultural heritage.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Programme covers 4 fields:

1. Highlighting heritage by establishing an inventory and promoting networking of historical sites and cultural institutions, and by promoting high-quality cultural tourism.
2. Heritage policy support (institutional support and legislation) through exchange of experiences, and transfers of know-how and technical assistance.
3. Knowledge of heritage through the dissemination of information, the use of multimedia techniques, awareness programmes with the public and decision-makers, as well as making an inventory of Mediterranean heritage, know-how, methodology and techniques.
4. Training in skills related to heritage and cultural activities.

After the first call for proposals, 15 projects were launched, concerning both material and non-material cultural heritage. These projects are now nearing completion.

The Euromed Heritage programme was reinforced at the end of 2000 by adding €30 million for its second phase. A call for proposals launched in January 2001 (closed in April 2001) gave the following results:

- 106 proposals were received.
- 77 proposals were technically evaluated having passed the eligibility check.
- 10 proposals have been retained for funding.

NEXT STEPS

Ten Euromed Heritage II projects started their activities in early 2002, for a period of three years, covering three areas of intervention:

- Knowledge: development of research, communication and inventories of material and immaterial heritage.
- Human resources: development of innovative training systems, circulation of know-how.
- Development: integrated management of heritage development, awareness of heritage in related economic sectors, public and private investment.

Euromed Heritage I Projects

Title	Co-ordinator	Countries	Budget (€)	Objective
CORPUS http://www.meda-corpus.net	Ecole d'Avignon	France, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey, Belgium, Spain, Finland, Greece, Portugal	1,041,050	Conservation of traditional Mediterranean architecture
SALAMBO	FEMP Council of Europe	Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, France, Italy, Portugal, Greece	272,812	Professional qualification for architectural heritage arts
IPAMED	Institut National du Patrimoine	France, Algeria, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, France, Italy	1,120,050	Computerised cartography of the historical heritage
RIAS	Ministerio de Education Generaldes bellas Artes y Bienes Culturales	Portugal, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal	285,379	Organisation of a Euro-Mediterranean Forum for Underwater Archaeological Heritage (F.E.M.A.M)
MAGHREB COURSE	ICCROM (International)	Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy	2,622,635	Conservation and restoration of the Maghreb cultural heritage. Post-graduate training course in Algiers, Rabat and Tunis
UNIMED HERIT	UNIMED	Italy, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Germany, Spain, Greece, Portugal	404,565	Post-graduate training course in cultural heritage and heritage management
PISA http://www.pisanet.org	IMED	Italy, Algeria, Israel, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Germany, France, Greece	3,210,037	Integrated programming of archaeological sites
UNIMED SYMPOSIUM	UNIMED	Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey, Germany, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal	114,440	Conference on intangible culture
MUSEUM WITH NO FRONTIERS http://www.mwnf.org	OING MSF	Austria, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey, Spain, Finland, Italy, Portugal, Sweden	1,604,460	Exhibition trail on Islamic art and civilisation in the Mediterranean
UNIMED AUDIT	UNIMED	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Syria, Italy, Portugal	324,130	Comparison intervention policies for cultural heritage
LES FETES DU SOLEIL	Municipality of Siena	Italy, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Tunisia, France, Portugal	646,272	Knowledge and dissemination of cultural intangible heritage: the traditional and popular festivities
EXPO 2000	City of Hildesheim	Germany, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Spain, Greece, France, Italy, Portugal	58,840 + 400,000	Exhibition on Euromed cultural heritage in connection with EXPO 2000 in Hanover
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HERITAGE DAYS	Fondation Roi Baudouin	Belgium, Cyprus, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Spain, France, Italy, Greece	146,625	Feasibility study for extending the European Heritage Days to non-European Mediterranean countries
MANUMED	Centre de Conservation du Livre (Arles)	France, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Spain, Greece, Sweden	1,284,625	Safeguard and development of the heritage of libraries in the Near East
MUSEO-MED	ICOM	Greece, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Malta, Cyprus	97,089	Technical assistance in museology and in museography
Euromed Heritage Exhibition	City of Hildesheim	Germany, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Spain, Greece, France, Italy, Portugal	210,000	"Saving Cultural Heritage" Exhibition

Euromed Heritage II Projects:

Title	Co-ordinator	Other countries	Budget (€)
DELTA	Instituto per il Mediterraneo	Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority	2,915,896
PRODECOM	Chambre des beaux arts de la Méditerranée	France, Greece, Algeria, Morocco, Turkey	643,637
Filières innovantes, savoir-faire locaux et partenariat euro-méditerranéen	Politecnico de Milano	Italy, France, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey	2,832,000
La navigation du savoir	Université de Malte	Malta, France, Italy, Spain, Algeria, Cyprus, Tunisia	1,772,501
The Mediterranean Voices and Cultural Practice in Mediterranean Cities	University of North London	UK, France, Italy, Spain, Egypt, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Turkey	Under discussion
MEDIMUSES	En Chordais	Ireland, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, UK, Jordan, Cyprus, Lebanon	2,998,192
Training, Education, Management and Prehistory in the Mediterranean (TEMPER)	Chancellor and Scholars of the University of Cambridge	UK, Greece, Israel, Malta, Turkey	1,113,902
Patrimoines partagés	CNRS Délégation DR 8	France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia	2,657,772
Creation of new cultural heritage horizons through distance learning nodes in the Mediterranean IKONOS	Malta Center for Restoration	Malta, Greece, UK, Algeria, Cyprus, Jordan, Morocco	2,535,092
Unimed Cultural Heritage II	Università del Mediterraneo	Italy, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey	1,516,890
Dyonisos	Innova	Italy, Belgium, France, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey	891,188

More Information:

Euromed Heritage I project list

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/euromedheritage-proj_en.pdf

Euromed Special Feature on Euromed Heritage II, September 2000

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/special_feature17_en.pdf

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Euromed Audiovisual		
Regional Programme for Euro-Mediterranean Audiovisual Co-operation		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 20 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2000	DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

In April 1997 the second Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers in Malta chose the audio-visual sector as one of the priority areas for the social, cultural and human partnership chapter. Government experts of the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners then defined the major axes of audiovisual co-operation at the Thessaloniki Conference in November 1997.

The Euromed Audiovisual Programme giving substance to the Thessaloniki conclusions aims at new forms of co-operation between European and Mediterranean operators in the audiovisual sector. This programme supports regional multi-annual projects in the fields of television and cinema, particularly in the following areas: preservation of archives, production and co-production support, broadcasting/distribution and circulation of audiovisual products. Its objectives are:

- to develop the audiovisual sector in the southern Mediterranean via co-operation between operators;
- to promote the transfer of technology and know-how;
- to promote vocational training;
- to encourage co-operation between producers and distributors at Euro-Mediterranean level;
- to develop the region's audiovisual and film heritage;
- to encourage the promotion and distribution of films from the EU and the Mediterranean Partners.

In general, Euromed Audiovisual aims to contribute to mutual understanding between the peoples of Europe and the South Mediterranean region, by emphasising their common values and the richness of the region's cultural diversity.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Following these objectives, the European Commission launched a call for proposals for the first Euromed Audiovisual Programme in August 1998 that resulted in six projects being implemented since February/March 2000.

In July 2001, the annual conference of the Euromed Audiovisual programme and its projects was held in Seville. During the successful conference, two workshops were held: one on film distribution and circulation in the Euro-Mediterranean region including a movie mini-market and another one on experiences acquired in TV archiving in Europe that the Mediterranean Partners can benefit from. This conference also helped to consolidate the different regional project networks and to review project progress after more than one year of implementation of the Euromed Audiovisual programme.

NEXT STEPS

The third annual conference of the Euromed Audiovisual programme bringing together all project co-ordinators and partners is planned for October 2002 in Cairo, Egypt. A movie mini-market will also be held at the conference.

Euromed Audiovisual Projects

Title	Co-ordinator	Address	Other countries	EU grant (€)	Objective
EUROMEDIA TOON- VIVA CARTHAGO (Television / co-production)	Ahmed B. E. Attia, Director Ciné-téléfilms (Tunisia)	16 rue Ali Bach Hamba 1000 Tunis – Tunisia tel: +216-1-343684 +216-1-353285 fax: +216-1-351688 E-mail: attiactf@gnet.tn	Belgium, France, Italy Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	3,988,000	Co-production of a series of 27 cartoon episodes each about the legendary characters who have made the history of the Mediterranean since the foundation of Carthage in the 10th century before Christ until the 7th century AD
EUROPA CINEMAS (Cinema / support fund for distribution and circulation)	Claude-Eric Poiroux Director General Europa Cinémas (France)	54 rue Beaubourg 75003 Paris – France tel: +33-1-42715370 fax: +33-1-42714755 E-mail: europacinema@magic.fr http://www.europacinemas.org	France & Europa Cinémas network in all EU Member States, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey	4,000,000	Support fund for the distribution and circulation of European and South Mediterranean non-national films in the Mediterranean Partners and South Mediterranean films in the EU.
CAPMED (Television / audiovisual archives)	Emanuel Hoog, President Contact: Mrs Nancy Angel Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (France)	Rue de la Charité, 2 13002 Marseille – France tel: +33-1-49832688 / +33-4-91143340 fax: +33-4-91143345 E-mail: nangel@ina.fr http://www.cap-med.net	France, Greece, Italy, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey	3,825,000	Preservation and restoration of TV archives in the Mediterranean Partners and the creation of a reference database of these archives
ELLES... AUX ABORDS DE L'AN 2000 (Television / documentary)	Youssef Chahine, Director Contact: Mrs Marianne Khoury MISR International Films (Egypt)	35 Champollion street 11511 Cairo – Egypt Tel: +20-2-5788124 +20-2-5788038 fax: +20-2-5788033 E-mail: mifl@starnet.com.eg	Denmark, France Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	1,200,000	Co-production of a TV series of 12 episodes about at least 24 prominent Mediterranean Arab women distinguished by their leading roles in their societies due to their artistic or literary talent, or to their feminist political commitment
CINEMA MED Cinema (travelling festival + training + film restoration)	Michele Capasso, Director Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo (Italy)	Via Depretis, 130 80 133 Napoli-Italy Tel: +39-81-5523033 Fax: +39-81-4203273 E-mail: mediterraneo@mbx.idn.it http://www.cinemamed.org http://www.medlab.org	France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	1,000,000	1) Promotion of Mediterranean Partners' films through the organisation of a travelling festival devoted to Arab and non-Arab cinematography of the Mediterranean region. 2) Organisation of training modules on the theoretical and practical aspects of script writing. 3) Restoration of films and organisation of a retrospective devoted to Salah Abu Seif, an Egyptian filmmaker.

MEDEA Support fund for pre-production (cinema / television)	Elena Angulo Aramburu, Director Contact: Mrs. Alicia Gallardo Empresa Pública de Gestión de Programas Culturales (Spain)	C/ Santa Teresa nº8 41004 Seville – Spain	France, Netherlands, Spain, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Turkey	4,000,000	Support mechanism for the development (pre-production) phase of 75 co-productions (documentaries and fiction films) plus training.
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More Information:

Euromed Special Feature on Euromed audiovisual co-operation, July 2001
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/special_feature24_en.pdf

External audiovisual co-operation:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/extern/coop_en.htm

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Euromed Youth		
The Euro-Mediterranean Youth Action Programme		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: €6 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1999	DURATION: 7 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Declaration stressed that "youth exchanges should be the means to prepare future generations for a closer co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean partners. A Euro-Mediterranean youth exchange programme should therefore be established based on experience acquired in Europe and taking account of the partners' needs". The second Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Malta in April 1997 reiterated that a programme of activities for youth should be put forward shortly. At the end of 1998, a Euro-Mediterranean Youth Action Programme was adopted.

The programme's goals are to facilitate the integration of young people into social and professional life and stimulate the democratisation of the civil society of the Mediterranean Partners. Its more specific aims are to improve mutual comprehension and cohesion between young people across the Mediterranean basin, based on and committed to mutual respect, tolerance and dialogue between the various cultures. Furthermore, it aims at increasing the importance of youth organisations, developing active citizenship of young people and especially young women and promoting the exchange of information, experience and expertise between youth organisations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

To achieve its aims, the programme is supporting the establishment and activities of the Euro-Mediterranean platform of youth organisations of the partners, which was founded with the technical support of the European Union Youth Forum. This platform is representing youth movements and is acting as the interface with authorities responsible for youth matters, giving young people the floor in decisions which concern them, in particular the setting up and development of democratic youth policies.

The Programme is implemented locally by a national co-ordinator, designated by the national authority. These co-ordinators will ensure, in close co-operation with the respective delegations of the European Commission, the promotion and management of the programme and they will join the existing network of national co-ordination structures (National Agencies) in the EU countries.

These activities will be complemented by preparatory and accompanying measures such as training courses, dissemination of information material as well as study visits. The Programme emphasises mainly young people's or youth associations' initiatives compared with top-down activities organised traditionally by adults for young people, like summer youth camps.

216 projects have been selected since 1999. More than 3.000 young people have participated in the projects implemented until the summer of 2001. The EU countries have presented 111 projects, grouping 1,605 participants together while the Mediterranean Partners presented 23 projects, grouping 1,483 participants together.

The need to launch speedily a more ambitious multi-annual Euromed Youth II Programme (€10 million) was confirmed in June 2001 by an independent evaluation.

NEXT STEPS

A second phase of the Euromed Youth programme has been approved in 2001 to be launched in 2003 (€14 million: €10 million from MEDA, the remainder from the EU Youth Programme).

More Information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/priorities/euromed.html http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/youthprogram.html Euromed Special Feature on the Euromed Youth Action Programme, October 2001 http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/special_feature25_en.pdf		
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Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions

Type of Action: **Regional Meetings**

BUDGET: € 1.3 million (MEDA)

START DATE: 1995

DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Declaration invited the Economic and Social Committee to take the initiative in establishing links with its Mediterranean counterparts and equivalent bodies in order to contribute to a better understanding of the major issues relevant to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

In line with the decision taken at the Barcelona Conference, economic and social councils or similar institutions have met since 1995 on a regular basis. During these meetings, major issues to relevant to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership have been discussed, including migration flows, the creation of a free trade area, energy and water resources, the external debt of the South and East Mediterranean countries, infrastructure investment, vocational training, environmental protection, the role of women in economic and social life, agricultural training, and innovation policies of SMEs and the craft sector.

In order to enhance the consultative role of economic and social partners and social dialogue in the Mediterranean, regional projects have been developed in partnership with the European Commission.

The latest Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions was held in Athens on 6-7 March 2002. Two themes were discussed: international trade and social development, and the foreign debt of the Southern Mediterranean countries.

NEXT STEPS

The next Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions will take place in 2003 in Malta. The issues proposed for discussion then are the greater involvement of civil society organisations in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership at national and regional level, and the impact of new technologies in knowledge and employment.

More Information:

Athens Summit 2002

http://www.esc.eu.int/pages/en/acs/events_e.htm

Euro-Mediterranean partnership – review & prospects five years on

http://www.esc.eu.int/pages/avis/10_01/en/CES1332-2001_AC_en.doc

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Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum		
Type of Action: Regional Activity		
BUDGET: € 1,951,808 (1995-2002) (MEDA)	START DATE: 1995	DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The Barcelona Declaration, adopted in November 1995, considers co-operation between civil societies as an essential element of Euro-Mediterranean relations. This represents a fundamental political evolution, as it enables a direct relationship between the representatives of civil societies.

The Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum have the objectives of articulating a process which will consolidate the co-operation of civil society in the Euro-Mediterranean area, revise, evaluate and relaunch common working projects and strengthen the Euromed networks. This process is based on the willingness to dialogue with institutions, and this same willingness presupposes the total definition of the spaces corresponding to civil society itself and of the spaces corresponding to public institutions.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum is a non-institutional initiative for co-ordination and debate among the civil societies of the Mediterranean basin. It gathers some 1.200 European and Mediterranean social, economic and cultural agents. The Forum has been reconvened each year since the Barcelona Conference.

Starting in Barcelona, 7 civil forums, with distinct characteristics and formations, have been held. The first three were: Barcelona (1995), Malta (1997), devoted to cultural issues and Naples (1997), a larger meeting that brought together the major representatives of civil society, as well as of European and Mediterranean institutions in eleven workshops.

In Stuttgart in April 1999, three forums debated the role of the trade unions in economic development and industrial relations, environment as well as human rights. A Civil Forum, which was complementary to the previous ones, was held in Lisbon in May 2000 preceding the “think tank” meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers. In November 2000, the different components of civil society (NGOs, trade unions and local/territorial authorities) met again in a forum held in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers (Barcelona IV) in Marseilles.

A Civil Forum was held on 19-20 October 2001 in Brussels preceding the Euro-Mediterranean conference of Foreign Ministers in Brussels in November. On the agenda were issues of peace and conflict prevention in the Euro-Mediterranean region, migration and movement of persons as well as cultural exchanges.

Finally, the last forum was held in Valencia in 12-14 April 2002. This meeting was structured around eleven focal topics that formed the basis for debate and analysis: voluntarism; youth; women; environment; development and co-operation; migrations and interculturalism; human rights; democracy and the role of the state; resolution of conflicts; alternative Euro-Mediterranean relationships are possible; socio-economic rights, job insecurity and social exclusion; and culture.

NEXT STEPS

In the next months the Forum will work to implement the Valencia roadmap. The priorities will be to optimise the relationship between the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the civil societies.

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Cultural and Information Activities of the European Commission Delegations in the Mediterranean Region

Type of Action: **Regional and Local Activities**

BUDGET: € 9,956,115 (MEDA 1998-2002) START DATE: 1995 DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

In accordance with the Social, Cultural and Human Chapter of the Barcelona Declaration, which calls for dialogue and exchange between cultures and civilisations in the EU and the Mediterranean Partners, the European Commission Delegations have carried out a number of activities. The Delegations of the European Commission in the 12 Mediterranean Partners receive annual funding for a wide range of local and regional cultural and informational activities (theatrical productions, films, music, fine arts, heritage, cultural information services...).

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The activities of the Delegations are:

- Local cultural activities: these are bilateral activities identified by the Delegations, in co-operation with local organisers (such as local associations, NGOs, Embassies of EU Member States, local Cultural Institutes). Typical activities include dance, music and film festivals, theatre productions, seminars and exhibitions.
- Regional cultural activities: these are joint cultural activities, which include at least 2 Mediterranean Delegations. For each activity there is a "leading" Delegation, whose function is to co-ordinate all the Delegations and local partners participating in the action. A wide range of activities can be envisaged, in such different fields as theatrical productions, film, music, fine arts, heritage, literature, cultural information services, etc.
- Information activities: these are bilateral activities organised by the Delegations, which aim at ensuring the visibility of the Barcelona Process in the Mediterranean Partners, as well as promoting a better understanding of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and of the MEDA-funded programmes and projects. Typical activities include contacts with the local media, information seminars, visits to MEDA funded projects, brochures and leaflets.

NEXT STEPS

These cultural and information activities are identified by the Delegations and proposed to Headquarters on an annual basis. In 2001, €2.2 million have been allocated for these activities. A total budget of €2.7 million has been approved to cover the activities in 2002.

The budgets allocated to the above-mentioned activities for the years 1998-2002

Activities / years	1998 €	1999 €	2000 €	2001 €	2002 €
Regional cultural activities	580,000	107,756	603,800	696,000	780,000
Local cultural activities	870,000	995,000	1,078,600	1,202,770	1,490,475
Local information activities	230,000	262,000	293,700	301,560	464,454
Total (€)	1,680,000	1,364,756	1,976,100	2,200,330	2,734,929

European Commission's Delegations web site:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/delegations/intro/index.htm

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Statistics, Information and Communication

Ever since the start of the Barcelona Process improving mutual understanding, and breaking down prejudice and ignorance across the Mediterranean have been major goals of the new relationship between the EU and its southern neighbours. Moreover, activities within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership can only be successfully implemented and have their full impact if backed by accurate information, and effective communication.

Raw data are needed to bring Euro-Mediterranean realities into focus, and that is the role of statistics. In addition, awareness of the Partnership's progress and achievements comes through personal contacts and continuing access to information.

Three types of regional activities have so far been carried out to contribute to those objectives. They are the MEDSTAT Regional Programme of statistical co-operation; the Euromed Visitors Programme for media and NGO representatives; and Euromed information and dissemination activities.

MEDSTAT Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Co-operation		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 20 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1996	DURATION: 6 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The MEDSTAT programme aims at developing the information systems and improving the quality of existing services provided by the 12 Mediterranean Partners statistical systems (National Statistical Offices and other institutions involved in the production of statistics). It was set up particularly to assist these institutions to:

- identify requirements for economic and social information, in so far as they are defined and provided for in the Barcelona Declaration.
- provide market operators in due course with relevant and reliable macro and micro-economic information.

More specifically, the programme aims at strengthening the statistical systems of the Mediterranean Partners with a view to:

- Identifying the needs of the users and facilitating the use of data sources in a context of development of the market economy.
- Adopting compatible international and European methodologies, classifications and standards.
- Ensuring compatibility and comparability of statistical data from the Mediterranean Partners with those from the statistical sources of the EU, EFTA and other international organisations.
- Developing swift and efficient systems of information exchange.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Statistical co-operation comprises technical assistance including training, statistical developments (preparation, collection, analysis, production, and dissemination of data), information technology and organisation of seminars and conferences.

A number of identification missions in each Mediterranean Partner were carried out aiming to:

- carry out a detailed examination of the national statistical systems (NSS) to highlight strong and weak points in collaboration with data users and producers;
- determine the capacity of the NSS to meet the needs of national and international data users in terms of effectiveness, adequacy and timeliness;
- study the legal framework, the organisation of the statistical service and the financial, human resource, equipment and infrastructure availability and constraints;
- propose appropriate short and medium term technical assistance.

Following the priorities identified during these missions, a number of MEDSTAT sub-programmes were established: external trade, environment, transport, migration, tourism, national accounts, non observed economy; and two horizontal sub-programmes: training and information systems.

MEDSTAT is managed by a Directors' committee, which brings together at least once a year the Directors-General of the statistical services of the Euro-Mediterranean partners, including EFTA. Its work involves a critical report on activities since the previous meeting, and

guidelines for work in the short and medium term. Eurostat is responsible for the general technical supervision of the programme.

In order to evaluate the results and difficulties of the MEDSTAT programme and also to put forward further possible proposals in the statistical field, a Reflection Group was established in 1998. This Reflection Group has later become a permanent official structure of the MEDSTAT programme: the main role of the Reflection Group is to reflect on the decisions to be submitted to and to prepare the yearly Directors' Committee.

The "Euro-Mediterranean Statistics" bulletin is published twice a year and thematic reports "Statistics in brief" are regularly drafted. They are also available on the Eurostat web site (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat>).

An external evaluation took place in 2000. The conclusions were very positive and included useful recommendations to improve the development of the programme. The evaluation pointed out that MEDSTAT should pay more attention to users' needs. Hence the increased links with organisations such as FEMISE and Paris 21. Another recommendation concerns the need for improvement of the visibility of the programme: as a consequence a MEDSTAT Focal Point has been established within Eurostat and the setting up of Info Points is envisaged in various Mediterranean countries.

NEXT STEPS

An additional budget of €30 million has been allocated to MEDSTAT II. The second phase will start in 2003 and will include two new sub-programmes: MED-SOC (social statistics) and MED-AGRI (agriculture). The aims are to consolidate the results of the first programme and to further its scope (social indicators, agriculture, etc.) so as to produce harmonised series of statistics over a period of time meaningful at national and regional levels, as an essential tool to accompany the establishment of free trade.

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More Information:		
http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/acpalamed/library?l=/cooperation_activities/med_mediterranean/regional_projects/medstat		
Euromed Special Feature on MEDSTAT Regional Programme, May 2002 http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/special_feature30_en.pdf		
Statistical information can also be found in the databases: New Cronos (Theme 1 "euro-med") & COMEXT.		
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Euromed Visitors Programme		
Visits of Mediterranean Media and Civil Society Representatives to the EU		
Type of Action: Regional Activity		
BUDGET: € 25,000 per visit (MEDA)	START DATE: 1998	DURATION: on-going

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The main objective of the Euromed Visitors Programme is to allow representatives from media and civil society from the Mediterranean Partners to acquaint themselves with the European Union and to acquire knowledge about the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, in particular with respect to their specific field of activity.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

During a one-week visit to Brussels the groups of 15 visitors hear presentations and can debate about the different aspects of the EU, its history, treaties, institutions, and key issues. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the EU's bilateral and multilateral relations and co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners play a central role in this respect. The visitors have the opportunity to have direct exchanges with EU officials, Members of the European Parliament, as well as other personalities, and to visit its major institutions (European Commission, EU Council and the European Parliament).

These visits do not only have the purpose of informing the participants but also to foster future co-operation among them across national boundaries in the specific sector ("south-south co-operation").

In 2000, six visits were organised. In 2001, five visits were organised covering 54 journalists and 15 members of the civil society from the 12 Mediterranean Partners.

Feedback from these visits has been very positive and informal networks of EU knowledgeable journalists are emerging in many countries.

NEXT STEPS

Following a visit of 15 media and civil society representatives from the three Maghreb Partner countries in April 2002, a group of media representatives (TV and written press) from the five Mashrak Partner countries and territories visited Brussels in June 2002.

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Dissemination Activities

In order to inform about the different activities under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the MEDA programme, a number of dissemination products are produced:

The **Euromed publications** are prepared and distributed regularly by Commission services with a view to keep those interested informed about the most recent activities. These are:

Euromed Synopsis: weekly news bulletin listing the main ongoing and forthcoming projects, programmes and events related to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Euromed Special Feature: monthly publication that addresses in-depth one specific issue within the framework of the Barcelona Process. This might be a regional programme, a Mediterranean Partner profile, a project or a theme of common interest to the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners.

Euromed Report: publication for quick dissemination of conclusions of major meetings, important communications and other documents, political statements, press releases and summaries of reports concerning the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Monthly Calendar of the Barcelona Process: the calendar brings to the attention of the general public important information on events related to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It is divided into three sections: calendar of priority actions of the Barcelona Process; information sheets on future meetings; and conclusions of previous meetings.

All 4 publications are issued in English and in French, though in some cases the document used for an Euromed Report is only available in one language. The translation of these documents into Arabic is foreseen to start in Autumn 2002. The Euromed publications are sent electronically to more than 2,500 readers in the EU and Mediterranean countries, and are also on-line. Registration can be done via email: europaaid-euromedinfo@cec.eu.int

Annual reports: the annual report on the implementation of the MEDA Programme and the report on the external assistance of the European Commission are valuable information sources on the political, economic situation in the Mediterranean Partners, on the financial assistance and on programmes and projects in the Mediterranean region.

Brochures: The main brochures produced on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership are:

- *The Barcelona process, five years on - 1995-2000* (December 2000, English and French)
- *Union européenne - Maghreb : 25 ans de coopération - 1976-2001* (January 2001, French)
- *The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - 2001 Review* (April 2002, English, French and Spanish).

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication.htm (pour les brochure)

Annual Report on the External Assistance of the European Commission:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/reports/aidco_2000_annual_report_meda_en.pdf

Annual report of the MEDA Programme:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/meda/index_en.htm

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EUROMED GLOSSARY

Documents, Committees, Terms and Concepts

- Barcelona Declaration** Main policy document adopted by 15 European Union Member States, 12 Mediterranean Partners (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey) and the European Commission on 28 November 1995 (at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers in Barcelona). The document outlines three areas of partnership relations: political stability and security; economic and financial co-operation; social, cultural and human co-operation. The text sets out the political framework and goals, which should be achieved by the implementation of activities. As regards the economic and financial partnership, one goal is the gradual establishment of a free-trade area with the year 2010 as the target date for the removal of all tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in manufactured goods. This is accompanied by substantial financial aid and co-operation from the EU to the Partners. Trade in agricultural products and services will be progressively liberalised through reciprocal preferential market access. A Work Programme completes the Declaration. Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 27 partners govern the Barcelona Process.
- Euro-Mediterranean Partner (and Mediterranean Region)** In EU terminology the term is used synonymously for countries and territories which have entered into the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Under the MEDA Regulation the 12 Mediterranean countries and territories (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) are partners of the EU based on the multilateral document of the Barcelona Declaration and all of them legal Partners through the Association Agreements and the individual agreements on Financing Framework Conventions (FFC). In a less political sense the term “Mediterranean Region“ is used.
- Euromed Committee/Barcelona Committee** The Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process (Euromed Committee or Barcelona Committee) follows regional aspects of the Barcelona process. The Committee, which meets on a quarterly basis at ambassadorial level, is chaired by the EU Council Presidency and consists of the EU and the 12 Mediterranean Partners. The Committee acts as an overall steering committee for the process with the right to agree on guidelines for activities to be financed in accordance with the MEDA Regional Indicative Programme; it also prepares for ministerial meetings, ad hoc conferences of ministers of various portfolios, and of senior officials, experts and representatives of civil society. Preparatory and follow-up work for meetings is the responsibility of the European Commission. Political and security questions (the first Barcelona chapter/basket) are tackled in separate meetings of senior officials of the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners.
- Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements (EMAA)** Individual agreements between the EU and each of the Mediterranean Partners in relation to the Barcelona Declaration signed by Foreign Ministers and ratified by Parliaments. They outline the strategic areas of co-operation with regard to association policies and determine priorities for the implementation of activities, which are instrumental for the achievement of the goals of the Barcelona Declaration. For Tunisia, the Palestinian Authority, Morocco, Israel, and Jordan, EMAAs have entered into force. Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements have been signed with Egypt, Algeria and Lebanon and are awaiting ratification. Negotiations are under way with Syria. Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, all eligible for future EU membership, are covered by former Association Agreements with trade accords (customs unions).

Association Committees and Association Council (AC)	An Association Council (AC) is established to oversee the progress of the EMAA with each Mediterranean Partner. Normally once a year the issues arising within the framework of EMAA implementation will be discussed. The AC is chaired on a rotating basis by the Partner's government and the EU and draws its members from these two sources. Bilateral Association Committees under the AC are established with responsibilities for the technical implementation of the EMAA.
Financial Protocols	Agreements on financial and technical co-operation between Mediterranean countries (Israel, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon) and the European Commission concluded for five-year periods. There have been four protocol periods. The last, fourth period lasted from 1991-95, but funds from 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th periods are still available, and protocols are still active. The MEDA Programme has replaced the Protocols. For Turkey, Malta, and Cyprus protocol periods have been different.
MEDA Regulation	Council Regulation EC/1488/96 (OJ L 187 of 01.07.1998) as amended by Council Regulation EC/2698/2000 (OJ L 311 of 12.12.2000) (in the following: MEDA Regulation) is the legal basis for the MEDA budget line B7-410, which is the main financial instrument of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It outlines the rules for the Commission's management of the €5.35 billion for the period 2000 to 2006 with detailed provisions concerning development co-operation (Articles 2-5), the role and function of the MED Committee of the Member States (Article 11) and the relationship with the European Investment Bank (Articles 6-7 and 12-15). An annex covers the main sectors for co-operation.
MED Committee	The MED Committee is established to allow the 15 EU Member States to advise the European Commission in implementing the MEDA Programme. The role and function of the MED Committee (composed of Member States and Commission representatives) is determined by the MEDA Regulation. The MED Committee gives its opinion on the Regional and National Financing Plans and on the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) and Regional Indicative Programmes (RIP), as well as on the country and regional strategy papers. It also gives its opinion on individual projects if they are not included in the Financing Plans. Furthermore, the MED Committee approves projects financed under other EU budget lines for the Mediterranean region (e.g. peace process support programme, rehabilitation etc.)
Strategy Papers	Country and Regional Strategy Papers set out long-term objectives of co-operation and identify priority areas of intervention over a five-year period. They are submitted by the European Commission to the MED Committee for opinion. The present Strategy Papers have been approved for the period 2002-2006.
Guidelines for MEDA Indicative Programmes	Approved on 6.12.1996 by the EU Council, the document is the main operational guideline for the Commission's strategic programming exercises and outlines the standardised requirements for the indicative programming approach, the focus areas for co-operation and the contents with regard to the establishment of National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) and the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP).
National Indicative Programmes (NIPs)	NIPs shall be based on the corresponding strategy papers and take into account the priorities identified with the Mediterranean partners. They should define the priority sectors for EU support, include indicative financial amounts and list the criteria for funding the programme concerned. They are drawn up for a three-year period.

**Regional
Indicative
Programme (RIP)**

The RIP reflects the programme priorities, which are relevant for the region as a whole. The RIP accounts for approximately 12% of the MEDA global financial reference. It is complementary to the NIPs. The rolling three-year RIP is based on the Regional Co-operation Strategy Paper covering the period 2002-2006 as defined under the MEDA Regulation.

Financing Plan

National and Regional Financing Plans are drawn up on an annual basis. They include a list of all projects to be financed. Prepared by the Commission, they are submitted to the MED Committee for opinion.

**Financing
Framework
Convention (FFC)**

Formal bilateral agreement between the European Commission and each individual Mediterranean Partner. They include financial rules concerning transfer of MEDA funds to the Partner and are thereby in general a pre-requisite for disbursement and the basic legal requirement for the signing of Financing Agreements with the Mediterranean Partners (with exceptions such as regional activities, Structural Adjustment Facilities).