

Euromed Information Notes

Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and MEDA Regional Activities



June 2005



European Commission



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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

For this edition the information notes have been updated to include developments and activities since June 2002.

Moreover, information notes have been added on:

- The European Neighbourhood Policy
- EuroMed Justice
- EuroMed Police co-operation project in the Mediterranean region
- Co-operation project on questions linked to the social integration of immigrants, migration and movement of persons
- Euromed Market
- ANIMA.
- Euromed Quality
- Euromed Innovation & Technology
- MED-ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)
- Euro-Mediterranean Training for Employment
- Training of Public Administrations
- GALILEO
- SAFEMED
- Role of Women in Economic Life
- Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures
- + a section on The Sustainability Impact Assessment within the note on the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area

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

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Foreword by Benita Ferrero-Waldner,

European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy

The Greek orator Demosthenes said that “small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises”.

As Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, I have a key challenge and personal goal of grasping the many opportunities that we have this year to build closer relations between the EU and our neighbours in the Mediterranean. With these countries, we share common bonds of geography, history, trade, migration and culture going back hundreds of years. The region is strategically important for the EU, and what happens in the Mediterranean directly impacts on our lives as European citizens.

In 2005 we have seen successful Presidential elections in the Palestinian Territories followed by the re-launch of the Middle East Peace Process in Sharm-el-Sheikh. April saw the inauguration of the Anna Lindh Foundation in Alexandria to promote cultural dialogue. A successful VII Barcelona Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Luxembourg in May produced the first agreed conclusions since the founding Barcelona Declaration of 1995, and the 10th Anniversary of the Barcelona Conference that launched the Partnership will be marked by an extraordinary summit meeting in late November. In preparation for the 10th Anniversary summit, we have issued a Communication setting out proposals for revitalising the Euro-Mediterranean relationship by focussing on three key areas: human rights and democratisation, economic growth and reform, and education. Under these headings, we have put forward a wide range of initiatives to provide the Euro-Med partnership with clear and concrete goals and the tools with which to achieve them.

We must seize these opportunities to help our Mediterranean partners reform their economies, boost employment prospects and improve the lives of their peoples. We have regional programmes that bring together officials, entrepreneurs, academics, professionals, and young people from both shores of the Mediterranean, helping to give substance to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and to make it a real partnership of people.

The following pages present the many EU programmes and projects which help to achieve our aims and demonstrate the many successes of the Barcelona Process during the last 10 years. We have concluded Association Agreements with virtually all countries involved; and set up ambitious bilateral and regional co-operation activities, most of them under the MEDA Programme. The EU is the region's major donor and, within that, the European Commission provides the lion's share, notably through its EuropeAid Co-operation Office. We have given more than €7 billion in grants to Mediterranean Partners during the period 1995-2004. Total European Investment Bank lending to the region stands at more than €13 billion and is rapidly increasing. And the Commission has proposed increased funding, including the creation of a new Partnership and Neighbourhood instrument for the period 2007-2013. The European Neighbourhood Policy, launched in 2004, reinforces the Barcelona Process, and will help to give our relations with the Mediterranean region a new operational focus.

But there remains a great deal to be done. The great Roman statesman Cicero said: “Whatever you do, do with all your might”, and it is that spirit of action that we and our partners need to adopt in 2005 in order to bring real meaning to the phrase “The Year of the Mediterranean”.

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 latest EU enlargement, effective since 1 May 2004, has brought two Mediterranean Partners (Cyprus and Malta) into the European Union, while adding a total of 10 to the number of Member States. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership thus comprises 35 members, 10 of them Mediterranean Partners.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership will be enhanced by the European Neighbourhood Policy (see pages 17-18).

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, the bilateral dimension for activities carried out bilaterally with each Mediterranean Partner, and the regional dimension for co-operation encompassing the whole region.

- **Bilateral dimension.** The European Union carries out a number of activities bilaterally with each country: the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements that the Union has negotiated with the Mediterranean Partners individually, and the bilateral co-operation based on financial payments and grants. They reflect the general principles governing the 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 also 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. Regional activities of the Partnership are described in detail in this publication.

The MEDA programme is the main financial instrument for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. From 1995 to 2004, MEDA has granted € 5,458 million in co-operation programmes, projects and other supporting activities, the regional activities representing around 10% of this budget. The other important source of funding is the European Investment Bank that has lent € 14 billion for developing activities in the Euro-Mediterranean Partners since 1974 (€ 3.7 billion in 2002-2003).

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 pilot 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, **6 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, in Valencia on 22-23 April 2002, and in Naples on 2-3 December 2003. In addition, informal or mid-term Foreign Ministers meetings took place in Palermo in June 1998, in Lisbon in May 2000 (“think tank”) in Crete (26-27 May 2003, in Dublin (5-6 May 2004), and in The Hague (29-30 November 2004).

During the Stuttgart conference, Libya was welcomed for the first time as special guest of the Presidency and has been present at subsequent meetings. During a meeting with European Commission President Romano Prodi on 27 February 2004, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi stated his country was ready to start working immediately to join the Barcelona Process.

The Fifth Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers Conference held on 22 and 23 April 2002 in **Valencia** reached agreement on an **Action Plan** to give 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

The *Action Plan* for immediate implementation 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 the impending signature by four countries involved in the ‘Agadir Process’ of a free trade agreement ; 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

The VI Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers took place on 2-3 December 2003 in Naples. It approved the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue of Cultures and the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, and discussed the future of the EIB Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP).

A Mid-Term Meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers was held on 5-6 May 2004 in Dublin, where Ministers agreed on setting up the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures in Alexandria, Egypt.

Another Mid-Term Meeting took place on 29-30 November in The Hague to review the Barcelona Process and discuss future prospects in view of Barcelona's 10th anniversary in November 2005. Ministers confirmed that the Barcelona Process, enhanced by the European Neighbourhood Policy, is the main initiative for the Mediterranean in which the EU and the Mediterranean Partners jointly participate, and the central instrument for partnership and dialogue for the Mediterranean. Agreement was reached on the Workplan for the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures. Ministers decided that 2005 will be the Year of the Mediterranean, and they entrusted the two Euro-Mediterranean independent networks of research organisations, EuroMeSCo and FEMISE, to provide contributions to the review of the Barcelona Process in their respective areas of competence (foreign policy and economics). On financial co-operation Ministers noted that the considerable improvement in the performance of MEDA is still increasing.

Milestones of the Barcelona Process, 1995-2005

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
26-27 May 2003	Mid-Term Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Crete
2-3 December 2003	Sixth Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Naples
5-6 May 2004	Mid-Term Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Dublin
29-30 November 2004	Mid-Term Euro-Mediterranean Conference, The Hague
30-31 May 2005	Seventh Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Luxembourg

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
Environment (2 nd)	Athens	8-10 July 2002
Energy (3 rd)	Athens	20-21 May 2003
Trade (3 rd)	Palermo	7 July 2003
Agriculture	Venice	27 November 2003
Infrastructure, Investment and Energy Supply Security	Rome	1-2 December 2003
Trade (4 th)	Istanbul	21 July 2004
Industry (5 th)	Caserta	4 October 2004
Information Society	Dundalk, Ireland	10-11 April 2005
Economy and Finance (1 st)	Skhirat, Morocco	19-20 June 2005

Planned Ministerial Meetings

More Information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euomed/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 then 12 Mediterranean Partners, together with free trade agreements between the Partners themselves: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority. Two former Mediterranean Partners, Cyprus and Malta, joined the EU on 1 May 2004. The other Partner, Turkey, is covered by an Association Agreement dating back to the 1960s, which envisages eventual membership of the European Union and provides inter alia for a customs union with the EU, which has been completed.

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. Political dialogue is provided for at various levels and at regular intervals. Respect for human rights and democratic principles are also 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.

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).

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 Israel, and Turkey which receives bilateral assistance under the pre-accession process), the main areas for such co-operation and for economic dialogue.

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	June 2004
Algeria	December 2001	April 2002	Ratification completed
Lebanon	December 2001	June 2002	Ratification pending
Syria	October 2004	-	-

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 Working Group on Rules of Origin set up by the European Commission held its first meeting, in which the Member States of the EU and the Mediterranean Partners participated, 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.

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, focusing on transport and telecommunications issues. Another meeting covering tourism and business services issues was held in May 2003. The second meeting of the Working Group on Trade in Services took place on 8 March.

The second Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Trade was held in Toledo, Spain, on 19 March 2002. Ministers set up a programme of meetings for the Working Group on Services. They also created a Working Group on Trade Measures relevant for Regional Integration in charge of implementing an Action Plan on Trade and Investment Facilitation.

The new Working Group met in July and December 2002. Discussions focussed, inter alia, on customs procedures, and concrete measures for harmonisation and simplification of procedures.

The 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Trade Conference held on 7 July 2003 in Palermo, Italy endorsed a draft Protocol on Rules of Origin, which will permit the inclusion of all Mediterranean Partners in the Pan-European system of cumulation of origin. The new Pan-Euro-Mediterranean system will effectively provide a common passport for trade in goods in the entire Euro-Mediterranean region, thus facilitating economic integration in the area. The harmonised rules have to be transposed by each Mediterranean Partner into its own legislation. On services there was agreement on the approach to further liberalise trade in the region. In addition, Ministers adopted a range of measures designed to harmonise, simplify, and rationalise customs procedures in the Mediterranean Partners. Finally Ministers launched a new area of activity by mandating experts to work on the approximation of legislation in the field of standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures. The Palermo Conclusions can be downloaded from the web site

http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/euromed/tmc_concl_en.htm

THE SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The European Commission has commissioned an independent assessment of the impact that the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area may have on the sustainable development of the region, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects. The project started in early 2004. The aim of the assessment is to provide a reliable and widely accepted analysis of the impact of trade measures on sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, with a view to the development of appropriate regional and national supporting initiatives and policies, to enhance beneficial impacts and mitigate potentially adverse ones. The European Commission's commitment to carry out the assessment was included in the Valencia Action Plan agreed by Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers in 2002. Phase 1 of the assessment involves consulting a wide range of stakeholders, from business and labour organisations to environmental groups and consumers, and defining the methodology for the study, notably the choice of indicators. The study has been entrusted to a consortium of universities, consultancies and international organisations and the project is co-ordinated by the Institute for Development Policy and Management, Manchester University.

A web site was launched in June to present the project and inform the public on arrangements for consultation: <http://idpm.man.ac.uk/sia-trade> ; e-mail addresses: sia-trade@man.ac.uk , sia-emfta@man.ac.uk

THE “AGADIR” PROCESS

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. The Free Trade Agreement itself was signed on 25 February 2004 in Agadir. 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 Mediterranean Partners, which are signatories of Association Agreements with the EU.

All four “Agadir partners” are proceeding with ratification of the Agreement with a view to its entry into force in early 2005. It is expected that the Agadir Agreement will be implemented as soon as possible 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 are 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, taking into foremost account the negotiations at GATS level.

The EU has pledged to support the Agadir Process from both a financial and technical point of view. The sub-regional programme *Helping the Association Agreement signatories to develop free trade among themselves, and with the EU* for the year 2003 has been approved in 2003 (€ 4 million). 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. The programme will work for the creation of a pool of technical assistance to help progress towards South-South free trade.

It has been agreed to set up a common technical secretariat to support the implementation of the agreement. Its location will be Amman. Detailed arrangements have yet to be worked out. EU technical assistance will help establish a technical unit in co-operation with the Jordanian

Ministry of Industry and Trade. Support will then be provided through the unit for priority activities under the Agadir Agreement on the basis of work plans to be approved by a committee including representatives of the four partner countries.

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 EU's main financial instrument for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and its activities. Bilateral aid under MEDA is granted to Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories. The same Partners as well as Israel and Turkey also benefit from the MEDA regional programme. The support it provides for the Mediterranean Partners 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.

The MEDA II programme (2000-2006) is the successor to MEDA I (1995-1999). Under MEDA II an indicative amount of € 5.35 billion will be made available compared to € 3.4 billion under MEDA I. Under MEDA II much progress has been made in improving Euro-Mediterranean financial and technical cooperation. These grants from the Community budget are accompanied by substantial lending from the European Investment Bank (EIB): € 14 billion between 1974 and 2003, and € 8-10 billion foreseen under FEMIP in the period 2002-2006.

Over MEDA II, around 90 % of the resources allocated to MEDA were channelled bilaterally to the eligible Partners for bilateral funding. Another 10 % of the resources were devoted to regional activities, all Mediterranean Partners and EU Member States being eligible to benefit from these activities.

THE MEDA SYSTEM

The legal basis of the MEDA Programme is the 1996 MEDA Regulation (Council Regulation No EC/1488/96) amended in November 2000 by the "MEDA II" Regulation (Council Regulation No EC/2698/2000 – non-consolidated version). 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 a 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. 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

Most assistance under the MEDA programme is extended through bilateral channels. Bilateral co-operation has two main priorities:

- Support for economic transition in view of the creation of a free trade area between the EU and the Mediterranean Partners. The objective is to increase competitiveness with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth, in particular through the 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 relevant fields of social policy.

All Mediterranean Partners benefit from bilateral MEDA co-operation except Israel and Turkey. Israel is not a beneficiary of bilateral MEDA co-operation due to its high level of economic development, and Turkey receives bilateral funding from the EU as a candidate to accession. Bilateral co-operation covers the so-called chapters of Barcelona, i.e. the Political and Security Chapter, the Economic and Financial Chapter and the Social, Cultural and Human Chapter. Detailed statistical information on MEDA bilateral co-operation can be found on page 19.

Bilateral programmes and projects under the **1st Chapter of Barcelona (Political and Security)** concern the promotion of Human Rights and Civil Society and co-operation on issues related to Justice, Freedom and Security.

- MEDA funding in the area of Human Rights/Civil Society has supported social activities carried out by civil society organisations. This has been the case for instance in Algeria with a programme of support to associations engaged in social development. In Egypt a € 20 million 'Children at Risk' programme aims at protecting particularly vulnerable girls and boys. In both programmes MEDA support has been used for training members of civil society organisations, and funding their projects.
- Programmes of support for human rights are funded in Jordan and Lebanon. Support has been provided to Jordanian NGOs and grassroots community associations to help promote human rights and the consolidation of democracy. In Lebanon the 'Afkar' programme (Arabic for 'idea') supports training in citizens' rights, reconciliation and dialogue between communities, as well as legal and social support for vulnerable groups.
- Justice, Freedom and Security issues have a growing significance in MEDA bilateral co-operation. This includes, for example, support to the modernisation and reform of the judiciary in Algeria, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia, as well as support to the modernisation of the police in Algeria. In addition, the legal migration of people between Morocco and the EU is being promoted through a 4-year capacity building programme. Border control management is another aspect of MEDA co-operation with Morocco, and soon this will also apply to MEDA co-operation with Algeria.

Bilateral programmes and projects under the **2nd Chapter of Barcelona (Economic and Financial)** include Economic and Commercial Co-operation (Structural Adjustment, Sector

Reform, Private Sector Development, and FEMIP); sector-based reform programmes in various areas; as well as Support programmes for the implementation of the Association Agreements.

- A key element of the MEDA programme is the support to countries that implement reforms leading to an environment more conducive to job creation and economic growth. While in the past under so-called Structural Adjustment Facilities emphasis was placed on programmes that supported macro-economic stability and the quality of public financial management, these programmes have increasingly taken the form of Sector Reform Programmes. These support reform efforts in areas such as public sector services, business environment, transport, telecom and water infrastructure, tax and the financial sector, and social services. Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan have benefited substantially from these programmes, but so have Egypt and the Palestinian Authority in recent years.

- Under Private Sector Development Programmes support is extended to small and medium-sized enterprises through Business Centres and Industrial Modernisation Programmes. All Mediterranean Partners receiving bilateral assistance are actually benefiting from this form of co-operation. Other key programmes under the Economic Chapter concern support for the development of the financial sector (for example in Egypt and Algeria) programmes in support of privatisation and private sector participation in infrastructure, as well as trade facilitation programmes.

- The Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP), created in 2002 and managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB), also plays an important role under this chapter of Barcelona. Lending to Mediterranean countries under FEMIP has reached € 2 billion annually. In addition, MEDA financial co-operation instruments managed by FEMIP such as support to risk capital operations; interest rate subsidies; and FEMIP's Technical Assistance Support Fund complement this wide range of instruments.

Under the **Social, Cultural and Human Chapter (3rd Chapter of Barcelona)** programmes of a social nature are funded, including the Fight against Poverty, Health, Education, Vocational Training and Employment, as well as Gender Equality. EU support in the fight against poverty has been channelled through Social Funds for Development, notably in Egypt and Lebanon. A second generation of programmes focuses on Local Development; programmes were recently agreed with Algeria and Jordan. Health is another priority and bilateral co-operation programmes in the health sector have been established in most Mediterranean Partners, notably in Egypt, Morocco, the Palestinian Territories and Syria. Much attention is paid to improving health service management.

Specific projects on promoting Gender Equality under MEDA I have been followed by gender mainstreaming in sector-based programmes and projects within MEDA II. Specific projects or project components have included the creation of gender focal points in Morocco's national and regional administrations, specific gender components within the "Children at Risk" project in Egypt, and the Argan Tree project in Morocco. Gender mainstreaming has become an established feature for MEDA funded programmes.

Developing Human Resources is one of the highest priorities for bilateral programmes. Between 2000 and 2004 an amount of € 216.3 million was allocated in this area. Tunisia, a major beneficiary in this respect, has received MEDA funding for every level of the education system, from basic education to vocational training and higher education (€ 193 million over a decade). Vocational Education and Training reforms have become increasingly important; almost all Mediterranean Partners now benefit from support in this key area. Special attention is being paid to the needs of business and the promotion of enterprise-based training.

Lastly, with the entry into force of the Association Agreements in a growing number of Mediterranean Partners, Programmes of support to the implementation of the Association Agreements (AA) are increasingly a standard feature of bilateral programmes under MEDA. The programmes aim at bringing the public sector of Mediterranean Partners up to standards that will enable them to fully implement the Association Agreement. The main instrument to help reach that goal is the institutional twinning between public administrations of Mediterranean Partners and EU Member States, a formula that worked very effectively in the countries that joined the EU in May 2004. The support programmes cover in principle all three chapters of the Barcelona Process. Twinning operations have already been successfully launched in Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon. The first twinning contract was signed in March 2005 between the Jordan Food and Drug Administration and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. Other activities in preparation relate to the Economic Chapter of Barcelona, but twinning projects in the field of Justice, Freedom and Security (Political and Security Chapter) will also be put in place.

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Regional co-operation 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 35 partners (25 EU Member States and the 10 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 cross-border 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, 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).

Very significant financial results for the period 2000-2004

At the financial level, MEDA II’s performance has vastly improved compared to MEDA I. This is illustrated by the ratio of payments and commitments which has increased from 29% under MEDA I (1995-1999) to 77% for MEDA II (2000-2004). This has been a continuous process under MEDA II. The payments/commitments ratio increased from 55% in 2000 to 115% by the end of 2003.

Another important result is that a commitment rate of 100% has been achieved for the last five years. Similarly, utilisation of payment credits has also been at 100% for the last five years.

The reasons for operational improvement of MEDA II as compared with MEDA I

The improved results of the MEDA II programme are a direct consequence of structural reforms undertaken by the new Commission from 2000 onwards. These reforms have allowed for a more rational and rapid implementation of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

This concerns in the first place the creation of the EuropeAid Cooperation Office in 2001. EuropeAid has introduced new working methods as a result of which implementation has become faster and more efficient.

Another important initiative has been the launch of the devolution process in 2002. Specialised manpower has been re-allocated from Brussels to Commission Delegations in Mediterranean third countries. This has made it possible to speed up the implementation rate and to improve the quality of bilateral projects considerably. Devolution of bilateral projects has been complete in the Mediterranean area since 2003, and those projects are now managed directly by the Delegations under the supervision of Headquarters. In addition, the devolution of some regional programmes to the Delegations started in 2004.

The implementation of a more coherent approach integrating all phases of a project, from programming to the final evaluation, has also contributed to a better articulation and a greater efficiency of the various instruments of co-operation.

The better balancing of important projects, based on substantial reforms within the Mediterranean Partners, and more classical technical assistance projects has also greatly contributed to the improvement in the quality and results of the MEDA II programme.

Finally, the extra emphasis given to partnership decision making has made it possible to ensure greater ownership for beneficiaries. This has also contributed significantly to better quality and improved results.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE MEDA PROGRAMME

The beneficiaries of MEDA activities may include not only States 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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<p align="center">Overview of Euro-Mediterranean Financial Co-operation 1995 – 2004</p>
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The MEDA Programme has produced actual commitments of € 6,156 million for the period 1995-2004 and payments of € 3,261 million during the same period. 2004 was a record year for payments (€ 801.1 million) and the payment/commitment ratio (115%).

MEDA I to MEDA II

Year	Commitments million €	Payments million €	Ratio P/C %
1995	173	50	29%
1996	370	155	42%
1997	911	208	23%
1998	809	222	27%
1999	797	240	30%
TOTAL MEDA I	3.060	875	29%
2000	569	315	55%
2001	603	318	53%
2002	612	454	74%
2003	615	498	81%
2004	697.6	801.1	115 %
TOTAL MEDA II	3.096	2.386	77%

After the first five years of MEDA II (2000 - 2004), the total amount already paid is more than double the total amount paid during the complete period of MEDA I (1995-1999), i.e. € 2,386 million compared to € 875 million. (This table does not include the amounts for Turkey)

from MEDA I to MEDA II : Commitments and Payments

	MEDA I			MEDA II												
	1995-1999		% P/E	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2000-2004		% P/C
	C	P		C	P	C	P	C	P	C	P	C	P			
Bilateral Cooperation																
Algeria	164,0	30,2	18	30,2	0,4	60	5,5	50,0	11,0	41,6	15,8	51,0	42,0	232,8	74,7	32
West Bank and Gaza	111,0	54	49	96,7	31,2	---	62,2	100,0	80,6	81,1	60,3	72,5	93,3	350,3	327,6	94
Egypt	686,0	157,1	23	12,7	64,4	---	62,5	78,0	25,7	103,8	56,9	159,0	150,6	353,5	360,1	102
Jordan	254,0	108,4	43	15	84,5	20	10,9	92,0	49,7	42,4	46,9	35,0	50,6	204,4	242,6	119
Lebanon	182,0	1,2	1	---	30,7	---	2,0	12,0	5,7	43,7	24,1	18,0	40,9	73,7	103,4	140
Morocco	656,0	127,6	19	140,6	39,9	120	41,1	122,0	101,9	142,7	102,4	151,8	157,7	677,1	443,0	65
Syria	99,0	0,0	0	38	0,3	8	1,9	36,0	8,5	0,7	10,1	53,0	18,2	135,7	39,0	29
Tunisia	428,0	168,0	39	75,7	15,9	90	69,0	92,2	89,5	48,7	69,3	22,0	74,0	328,6	317,7	97
Total bilateral	2.580,0	646,5	25	408,9	267,3	298	255,1	582,2	372,6	504,7	385,8	562,3	627,3	2.356,1	1.908,1	81
Regional Cooperation	480,0	228,8	48	159,8	48	305,3	62,7	29,4	81,4	110,0	111,9	135,3	173,8	739,8	477,8	65
TOTAL	3.060	875	29	568,7	315,3	603,3	317,8	611,6	454,0	614,7	497,7	697,6	801,1	3.096	2.386	77
Ratio P/E					55%		53%		74%		81%		115%			

More Information:

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

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The European Neighbourhood Policy and the Mediterranean Region

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) aims to share the benefits of the new enlarged EU (1 May 2004) with neighbouring countries to the East and to the South in strengthening stability, security and well-being for all concerned. It is designed to prevent the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU of 25 and its neighbours and to offer them the possibility to participate in various EU activities, through greater political, security, economic and cultural co-operation. Its basic objective is to create a ring of friends around the borders of the enlarged EU. It is an offer to all neighbours that are not concerned by EU accession. In the Mediterranean region, the ENP will concern 9 Med Partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Territories, Syria, and Tunisia), and will enhance the Barcelona Process.

The ENP was first outlined by the European Commission in its **Communication on Wider Europe** of March 2003. The Commission then presented a Strategy Paper and Country Reports on 12 May 2004. The **Strategy Paper** sets out the principles, geographical scope, methodology for implementation of the ENP and issues related to regional co-operation. It also explains how financial support for the implementation of the ENP will be provided and identifies how co-operation will be taken forward in areas such as economic and social development, trade and energy. **Country Reports** cover progress in implementation of bilateral agreements and related reforms. They reflect the political, economic, social and institutional situation in the countries and focus on the priority areas of the ENP, providing a starting point for developing joint Action Plans. Seven Country Reports were published last May, five of which covering Mediterranean Partners (Israel, Jordan, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, and Tunisia).

Draft Action Plans with a first group of ENP Partners, including the five Mediterranean Partners mentioned above, were presented by the Commission on 9 December 2004. These Action Plans are crucial political instruments for the further development of relations between the EU and its neighbours. They contain a set of jointly defined key priorities in selected areas. They are tailored to reflect the specific state of relations with each Partner, its needs and capacities, as well as the interests of the EU and the Partner concerned. Their implementation will be monitored on a regular basis, and the Action Plans adapted accordingly.

The European Commission is preparing Country Reports covering Egypt and Lebanon to be presented to the European Council in March 2005. This will help to identify priority areas on which Action Plans with those countries could focus.

As regards financial assistance, a **European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)** will from 2007 onwards follow the current MEDA and TACIS Programmes in the Mediterranean region and the EU's Eastern neighbours respectively. Drawing on substantially increased funds, it will support the ENP and its Action Plans, as well as the EU's strategic partnership with Russia. It will furthermore have an innovative component catering for the needs of cross-border co-operation at the EU's external borders.

Until the end of 2006, the Commission is substantially enhancing the co-ordination of existing instruments for cross-border co-operation within "Neighbourhood Programmes" such as the **MEDA Neighbourhood Programmes** for the Mediterranean region.

The first such programme, the € 14 million **Energy Neighbourhood Programme**, was adopted by the European Commission during the summer of 2004. It aims to speed up reform of the energy sector in the Mediterranean Partners, develop energy interconnections, and harmonise regulations and standards. Its three components are the integration of the Euro-Maghreb electricity market, the creation of a Euro-Mashrak gas market, and the energy interconnections between Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

For more information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/enp/index_en.htm

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 with other international financial institutions. The EIB appraisal and decision making bodies assure that the projects financed in the Mediterranean area contribute to a solid basis for a sustainable economic development of Mediterranean countries and territories (MPCs)¹. 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.

To give fresh impetus to growth in the MPCs, the Barcelona EU Council (March 2002) called for a major initiative for the Mediterranean Region, entrusting the EIB with the task of setting up a Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP). The Council's decision was grounded in the EIB's 30 years' experience in the MPCs. Since 1974, the Bank has made available over € 14 billion of loans in the "Barcelona Process" countries, spanning a wide array of sectors and financial instruments. EIB's lending in the Mediterranean Partner Countries is since provided under FEMIP. The Facility is a major step forward in financial and economic cooperation between the Union and the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). FEMIP's ultimate goal is to help the MPCs meet the challenges of economic and social modernisation and enhance regional integration in the run-up to the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area planned for 2010.

It foresees € 8-10 billion of loans funding investments in the MPCs by 2006. The EIB has at its disposal funds under the existing Euro-Mediterranean mandates, risk capital resources coming from the MEDA Programme as well as technical assistance and investment aid funds also provided by MEDA.

FEMIP's top priority is to bolster the proportion of financing it devotes to private-sector projects to 33% (especially SMEs and FDI). It places also emphasis on social-sector projects, particularly health, education and environmental protection, in the belief that this will make for social stability and encourage productive investment.

Set up following the Barcelona European Council in March 2002, it was inaugurated in October 2002. Satisfactory results during its first year of operations led the December 2003 European Council in Brussels to further reinforce FEMIP. It was reinforced with the following new features mainly in support of private sector development:

- stepping up financial support in the region through a special facility for risk financing for the private sector (the "SFE") and by setting up a trust fund;
- diversifying the range of financial products offered, notably by seeking possible ways of providing local currency financing;
- intensifying dialogue with the MPCs by organising meetings of the Committee of Experts to prepare the ground for the deliberations of FEMIP's Ministerial Committee and by establishing local offices in the Mashrak – where the Cairo office was established in June 2003 – and, some time in 2004, in the Maghreb.

¹ Algeria, Egypt, Gaza and the West Bank, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

MPCs are closely involved in FEMIP's implementation with an enhanced role to the Facility's Ministerial Committee, set to become the "Mediterranean ECOFIN Council", whose annual sessions are prepared by a high-level experts group meeting twice a year (in Marseilles, in February 2004, and in Amsterdam, in October 2004). Furthermore, the FEMIP has expanded its local presence by adding during 2004 two new offices in Rabat and Tunis to the existing Cairo office, inaugurated in September 2003, and by forging close links with the business communities in the Partner countries as well as in Europe.

Through FEMIP, the EIB has lent a total of € 3.7 billion over the last two years for operations from which nearly all the Mediterranean Partner Countries and Territories (MPCs) are benefiting. For 2004, FEMIP achieved financing operations totalling some € 2 billion.

EIB loans in the Mediterranean region are granted for specific investment 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.

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)

The Euro and the Mediterranean Partners

The EU is the largest trading partner of the 10 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. Since 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.

Since June 2003 a dialogue has been launched under the European Security and Defence Policy to discuss issues related to conflict prevention and crisis management. The aim is to associate the Mediterranean partners more closely with EU activities and to encourage their possible participation in EU-led peacekeeping operations.

Websites

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

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

Justice, Police and Migration		
Regional co-operation programme in the area of Justice, the Fight against illicit drugs, organised crime, and terrorism, as well as co-operation on the questions linked to the social integration of immigrants, migration, and movement of persons		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 6 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2004	DURATION: 3 years

Following the recommendations of the Foreign Ministers at their meeting in Marseilles (November 2000), a framework document on good governance and the rule of law was adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs during their meeting in Valencia in April 2003. The document endorsed the idea of a regional programme to in the field of justice, in combating drugs, organised crime and terrorism as well as co-operation in the treatment of issues relating to the social integration of migrants, migration and movements of persons.

OBJECTIVES

The focus should be on encouraging reform of and co-operation between judicial systems, combating organised crime and drugs, and ensuring a joint approach to the management of migratory flows, without losing sight of the overall balance of the partnership, notably with regard to the immigration issue.

The revitalisation of the process of government and development of democracy, human rights and the rule of law should considerably improve the attraction of the Mediterranean in investors' eyes and help bring the Mediterranean Partners closer to the EU.

DESCRIPTION

Following the « MEDA-Justice & Home Affairs Workshop » held from 16 to 19 June 2003, the Commission in agreement with all Mediterranean Partners decided to make a € 2 million contract for each strand of the Programme (Migration, Police, and Justice). The 3 strands are presented in the following pages.

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Cooperation project on questions linked to the social integration of immigrants, migration and movement of persons		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 2 million (MEDA)	START DATE: January 2004	DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIONS

The project aims at monitoring, analysing and forecasting migratory movement, its causes and its impact in Europe and in the Mediterranean Partners.

It is designed to assist governments and relevant bodies in the Mediterranean Partners in their efforts to develop and implement a migratory policy.

A multi-faced approach will be applied, simultaneously covering the various aspects of migration (demographic/economic, legal, social and political), while linking them with one another. This is a consistent approach as it covers the whole migratory process, including countries of origin and countries of destination, and uses homogeneous categories so as to ensure international comparability.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS

The project consists of the following components:

- Information and training in the 10 Mediterranean Partners (targeted education and applied research activities) with the aim of building Euro-Mediterranean expertise.
- Developing research to build expertise for governments and forward planning for the whole area.
- Information of Mediterranean Partners, EU Member States and international organizations on migration (publications, brochures, studies) and dissemination through a Web site.

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Euro-Med Police Cooperation Project in the MED Region		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 2 million (MEDA)	START DATE: February 2004	DURATION: 2 years

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIONS

The project aims to improve the police cooperation amongst the police forces of the Mediterranean Partners in the areas of organised crime, human beings trafficking, narcotics use and trafficking, international terrorism, human rights, and illegal immigration.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS

The aims of cooperation will be achieved by the creation of a network of specialised police officers and trainers by the creation of specific didactical material (training modules and case studies) and by the creation of thematic police report and information sharing on specific legislations.

These actions will be undertaken with the participation of officers from Mediterranean Partners and national experts from EU Member State. The material resulting from these actions will be known as “Euro-Med Police”. Under the same label a network of trainers and experts will be set up.

This network aims to facilitate the exchange of information and improve the international cooperation within the Mediterranean region.

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Euro-Med Justice		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 2 million (MEDA)	START DATE: January 2005	DURATION: 30 months

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIONS

The overall goal of the project is to support the strengthening and development of the institutional and administrative capacity, good governance and a sound public administration in the field of justice.

The project also aims at the creation of an inter-professional community of magistrates, lawyers and clerks in the framework of an open and modern justice service, strengthening the rule of law and the effective implementation of human rights.

This project will also promote the establishment of a multilateral cooperation framework in the sector concerned, by promoting a closer relationship between Mediterranean Partners and the UE Member States.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS

For the achievement of the objectives above, two components have been envisaged:

A component consisting of training activities and exchange of experience/best practice, through seminars and workshops that will bring together experts and trainers in order to develop subjects of current concern in the international scenario (ex. civil and criminal matters, administration of justice, traffic of the human being, money laundering etc.).

A component dealing with the setting up of a network (the Euro-Med judicial training network) and of a web page (hosted in the Internet site of the operator, the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht), focusing on the project activities.

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<p style="text-align: center;">EuroMeSCo The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Foreign Policy Institutes</p>		
Type of Action: Partnership Building Measure funded by the MEDA programme		
BUDGET: € 1.93 million (MEDA)	START DATE: January 2001	DURATION: 3 years

The Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo) network of foreign policy institutes was established in June 1996. It is co-ordinated by the Lisbon Institute of International Strategic Studies (IEEI), and carries out research on subjects related to the Barcelona Process.

OBJECTIVES

EuroMeSCo's main objective is to provide the analysis of member institutes for the construction of an area of peace and stability in the Mediterranean region.

DESCRIPTION

EuroMeSCo has been engaged in research and dissemination of information connected to its research activities. Its major co-operative activity - and one that involves the member-institutes most directly - is the research programme. Throughout the years, the meetings held have permitted the development of the debate on political dialogue and issues of reflection (consideration of the Charter for Peace and Stability; political conditions for regional integration), and the decentralisation of the operation.

Under its 2000-2003 research programme, EuroMeSCo was 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 the light of the Barcelona commitment to the protection of human rights and the promotion of democracy.

EuroMeSCo has held more than 20 events so far ("Working groups", seminars and meetings, annual conferences, general assembly), and has been very active in the production of research work. The latest meeting, which was held in Cairo at the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs on 20 November 2004, focused on "The EU and Egypt: What Relations?"

Currently a work programme is running (October 2004 to September 2005) to include the main activities and programmes in a redrafted Calendar and Schedule of Activities. The Research Programme, the Information Programme and the network will be strengthened by one-year projects, new forms of research projects, the updating of EuroMeSCo's surveys, as well as publishing further material (reports, working papers and briefs), improving public awareness, and staging new events. One of those will be the annual conference and general assembly that will be held in Morocco in early 2005.

The list of Foreign Policy Institutes making up the EuroMeSCo network (see below) and all EuroMeSCo publications are available from the network's web site. The printed versions of the documents can be requested to the EuroMeSCo Secretariat.

<http://www.euromesco.net>

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Disaster Management Co-operation between Civil Protection Services		
Type of Action: Partnership Building Measure funded by the MEDA programme		
BUDGET: € 1,909,504 (MEDA)	START DATE: June 1998	ENDED: January 2004

The MEDA funded Euro-Mediterranean Civil Protection Pilot Project ended in January 2004, with the main objectives fully achieved. The main concern within the project was to improve the safety of people living in the Mediterranean Partners. This remains a key issue for the European Commission.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives were to establish a Euro-Mediterranean Network of civil protection services and experts; to create a solid basis for more ambitious initiatives; and to build a framework for 'North-South' and 'South-South' co-operation.

A specific goal was the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean system of prevention, of reduction and of management of natural and man-made disasters. It aimed 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

The co-operation network of the civil protection services of the Euro-Mediterranean 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 was based on prevention and capacity to react. It dealt 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 dealt with a limited number of risks, by drawing the lessons of previous experiences.

The project was developed on a voluntary basis and co-ordinated by a Steering Committee promoting mutual knowledge between institutions responsible for civil protection and understanding of the risks which threaten the Mediterranean region; it consisted of ten training courses, exchanges of approximately 150 experts, and ten scientific and technical missions. In 2001, four training and information courses were organised and 15 exchanges of experts missions were also fielded by senior experts from the Mediterranean Partners specialised in Risk and Emergency Management. A final meeting of the Network of Civil Protection Schools was held in Paris from 17 to 19 May 2001, focusing on guidelines for multilateral co-operation in Civil-Protection training curricula and colleges. During 2002 and 2003, training and information courses were organised in Greece, Sweden and France, as well as exchanges of experts.

Project results were presented and discussed in January 2004 in Rome at the last Steering Committee meeting. Indeed, Committee members noted that the main objectives of the project had been fully achieved. It has been also decided to look at prospects for a Long Term Project that would continue the activities carried out within the Pilot Project, with a view to creating a Euro-Mediterranean Civil Protection System aiming at improving the safety of people living in the region. As the Long Term Project is forecast to take a long time to set up, the Committee

expressed its support to putting in place a short/medium term bridging initiative. Mediterranean Partners and EU Member States alike expressed their willingness and readiness to be closely involved in the bridging initiative and the Long Term Project.

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 funded by the MEDA programme		
BUDGET: € ~ 120,000 per seminar (MEDA)	START DATE: 1997	DURATION: 7 years

The Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars for Diplomats provide participants with regular and updated information as well as issues for discussion on relations between the European Union and the Mediterranean Partners.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Seminars is to train junior diplomats of the Euro-Mediterranean departments. They also aim to improve the flow of information, exchange ideas, and promote 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 of the Barcelona Process.

DESCRIPTION

The Malta Seminars involve information and training sessions for junior diplomats responsible for the Euro-Mediterranean portfolio in the 35 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 17 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, May and October 2002, April and October 2003, and April and December 2004). 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 14 Seminars held between 1996 and April 2003 have been recorded in a book produced by Malta University's Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies under the title 'Euromed Information and Training Seminars' (ISBN: 99932-0-262-2).

More Information:		
http://www.euromed-seminars.org.mt E-mail: academy@diplomacy.edu.mt		
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The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly		
Type of Action: Partnership Building Measure		
	START DATE: December 2003	DURATION: on-going

The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA), established in Naples on 3 December 2003 by decision of the Ministerial Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, is the most recent institution of the Barcelona Process. The EMPA opened its proceedings in Vouliagmeni (Athens) on 22 and 23 March 2004. Its first Bureau comprises the Presidents of the Egyptian People's Assembly, the European Parliament (EP), the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies and the Greek Parliament². The Presidency is held by each Bureau Member in turn for a year in the order indicated below. The Bureau co-ordinates the Assembly's work with the help of a small secretariat made up of officials from the Parliaments having representatives in the Bureau. The working languages are English, French and Arabic. The texts adopted by the EMPA are also available in Hebrew, Turkish as well as in other official languages of the European Union. The Assembly has added transparency and visibility to the Barcelona Process and strengthened its democratic nature.

From the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum to the EMPA

Participants in the 1995 Barcelona Conference highlighted the need to develop inter-institutional relations further in order to achieve the Partnership's objectives also at Parliamentary level and called on the European Parliament (EP) to take the necessary action for this purpose. And so EP representatives and delegates from the Mediterranean Partners' parliaments met for the first time in Strasbourg in March 1997 and decided to introduce a parliamentary dimension to the Barcelona Process by setting up a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum. The first Forum was convened in Brussels in October 1998 following several preparatory meetings. This involved delegates from the EP, the national parliaments (NPs) of the EU Member States and associated countries under the co-Chairmanship of the EP President and the President of Morocco's House of Representatives. The Forum promoted inter-parliamentary relations, based on the principles of equality, co-responsibility and solidarity. It adopted declarations and resolutions on specific issues, in particular migrations. After a second meeting held in Brussels in February 2001, the Forum met one more time in that city in November 2001 following the tragic events of September 11 to discuss closer inter-cultural dialogue between the two sides of the Mediterranean at a particularly sensitive time in international relations. The fourth Forum, meeting in Bari (Italy) in June 2002, set up a working group specifically tasked with paving the way for the establishment of a true Euro-Mediterranean Assembly and the drafting of its rules of procedure. The Forum's conversion into an Assembly, as proposed by the EP in a resolution of April 2002, was approved in Valencia by the Fifth Euro-Mediterranean Conference. The subsequent Ministerial Conference in Naples completed the Valencia proposal and formally launched the EMPA in December 2003. The last Forum's recommendation to the Sixth Euro-Mediterranean Conference, including details of the Forum's conversion into a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, was annexed to the Naples conclusions.

² This is the order in which the EMPA presidency rotates on an annual basis.

Nature and functions of the EMPA

- The EMPA is the parliamentary institution of the Barcelona Process and has a consultative role.
- It provides parliamentary impetus, input and support for the consolidation and development of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.
- It expresses its views on all issues relating to the Partnership, including the implementation of association agreements.
- It adopts legally non-binding resolutions or recommendations addressed to the Euro-Mediterranean Conference.

Membership

The EMPA is made up of parliamentarians appointed by:

- The NPs of the EU Member States;
- The NPs of the ten Mediterranean Partners, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey;
- The European Parliament.

The EMPA comprises a maximum of 240 members, including 120 Europeans (75 from the EU NPs and 45 from the EP) and 120 members from the NPs of the EU's Mediterranean Partners, to guarantee North-South parity. It is organised on the basis of national delegations and EP delegations, and meets at least yearly.

Committees, Presidency and Bureau

The Assembly is made up of three parliamentary committees - each with 80 members and a four-member Bureau - to deal with each of the partnership's chapters:

- The Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights;
- The Committee on Economic, Financial and Social Affairs and Education;
- The Committee on the Promotion of the Quality of Life, Human Exchanges and Culture.

The EMPA Bureau is made up of four members, two of whom are appointed by the NPs of the Mediterranean countries, one by the EU NPs and one by the EP. They are appointed for four years. The Presidency of the Assembly is held by a member of the Bureau, on the basis of a yearly rotation in order to guarantee North-South parity. The three other members are vice-presidents.

Deliberations and decision-making process

The EMPA takes decisions by consensus in the presence of half-plus-one of the delegations of each of the two components, i.e. the European side and the Mediterranean Partners. When consensus cannot be reached, the Assembly adopts decisions by a qualified majority of at least four-fifths of the delegations.

Relations with the Euro-Mediterranean Conference and the European Commission

The EMPA is complementary to the Barcelona Process institutions. Representatives of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference and of the European Commission take part in its meetings and have the right to speak.

Observers and guests

The following may obtain permanent observer status:

- Representatives of NPs of Mediterranean countries which are not part of the EU or of the Barcelona Process;
- Representatives of NPs of non-Mediterranean countries which are not EU candidate countries, provided that negotiations or discussions with a view to accession have been officially opened;
- Consultative and financial Barcelona Process bodies;
- Regional parliamentary and intergovernmental organisations which have so requested.

Permanent observers have the right to speak.

Representatives of the Libyan and Mauritanian parliaments take part in meetings as special guests. EU candidate countries – Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and the FYR of Macedonia – and other Balkan States also took part in the EMPA inaugural session as special guests. Other organisations may be invited by the Bureau.

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Middle East Peace Projects		
Type of Action: Regional Projects funded by the MEDA programme		
BUDGET: € 88.8 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1995	DURATION: on-going

Total assistance under the Middle East Peace Projects for the period 1995-2004 has amounted to € 96.3 million from the MEDA Programme. In 2002 the “EU Partnership for Peace” (PfP) programme was initiated. Projects for a total budget of around € 7 million were selected on the basis of a call for proposals. The basic purpose of the PfP projects is to bring together Palestinians/Arabs and Israelis to promote peace in the Middle East, to focus on final status issues and to launch media projects linked to peace issues. This assistance makes the EU the largest financial donor to such efforts in bringing reconciliation to people and the peoples of the Middle East.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The main objectives of the Middle East Peace Projects (MEPP) are to support the Middle East peace process and to increase regional co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians/Arabs in fields, such as integrated cross-border development, education, environment, legal matters, 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-Palestinian/Arab co-operation. The current major activity under the MEPP is the “EU Partnership for Peace” (PfP) programme.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

A new framework of Middle East Peace Projects amounting to € 10 million was approved in 2003. A Call for Proposals in the context of the “EU Partnership for Peace” programme was launched in mid 2003. As a follow-up of PfP 2002, projects in capacity-building, co-operation of university student groups and other educational institutions, health, agriculture, environment, community co-operation, rural development, as well as water have been selected. Moreover, special attention is directed to projects promoting non-violence and media projects raising public awareness concerning the issue of peace in the Middle East. In addition, new MEPP will be started up in order to support the Road Map process. The amount of € 7.5 million was allocated for 2004. A new Call for Proposals was launched in late 2004 for an amount of € 5.7 million.

Middle East Peace Process Projects 1995-1998

Projects	EU financing (€ million)		
	1995	1997	1998
I Planning of Regional Infrastructure	7.0	8.6	
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	1.0	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
Secretariat in Amman, Jordan			
V Civil Society Co-operation			5.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society activities – Israeli-Palestinian/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-Palestinian/Arab NGO Projects	5.00
Agriculture	Regional Animal Health (Veterinary) Co-operation	4.60
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.	3.00
Regional Economic Think Tank	Network of economic and strategic institutes to prepare recommendations for future of regional economic co-operation and integration	1.00
Environment	Regional Desertification Control Initiative, together with the World Bank.	3.00
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	3.90
Refugees	Individual measures in support of projects in the multilateral Refugee Working Group.	0.50
TOTAL		21.73

Middle East Peace Projects 2000

SECTORS	Projects	EU Financing (€ million)
Regional Development	Regional Development in the South-Eastern 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	1.0
Regional Economic Think Tank	Regional Economic Integration Research Network, Phase II	1.0
Education	Israeli-Palestinian Co-operation in Science Education	2.0
Civil Society and Cross-Border Networks	Civil society activities	5.0
Media	Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian Media Co-operation	2.5
TOTAL		22.9

Recent financial frameworks under MEPP

Activities	EU Financing (€ million)
Additional funds for "EU Partnership for Peace" (committed under MEDA 2002)	2.57
Middle East Peace Projects 2003	10.00

Middle East Peace Projects 2004

	Projects	EU Financing (€)
Contracts financed under MEPP 2004	The Heart of the Matter	500 000
	Journalists for Peace	499 200
	Cultural Heritage as a Tool for Peace	320 000
	Organisation of Four Workshops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip	2 300
	First World Congress: Imams & Rabbis for Peace	70 000
EU PfP 2004 Call for Proposal		5 700 000

More Information:

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

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Economic and Financial Partnership

Economic Transition and Private Sector Development

A fair number of EU programmes and projects deal with the 2nd Chapter of the Barcelona Process, the Economic and Financial Chapter.

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:

- Acceleration of the pace of sustainable socio-economic development;
- Improvement of the living conditions, increase of employment and reduction of the development gap in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- and 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:

- **The Progressive establishment of a free-trade area**, with the conclusion of Association Agreements between the EU and the Mediterranean Partners. The EU has concluded 9 Agreements so far with the 10 Partners, and an Agreement between four Mediterranean Partners (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia) was signed on 25 February 2004 as a follow-up to the Agadir Declaration of May 2001;
- **Economic co-operation and concerted action in relevant areas**, with the setting up of economic co-operation programmes and the promotion of reforms, including economic reforms, also in the context of the Neighbourhood Policy;
- **A 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

As far as regional co-operation is concerned, future programmes to be launched under the 2005-2006 programming exercise, areas are as follows:

Chapter II	Objectives	Indicative Amount
FEMISE (Forum Euro-Méditerranéen d'instituts de sciences économiques)	The programme expires in 2004. A continuation of the programme should be envisaged with the objective to ensure a long-term contribution to the Partnership by the FEMISE.	5,000,000
Regulatory approximation and Completion of the Euro-Med Free Trade Area.	In the fields covered by the Neighbourhood policy to contribute to national action plans and facilitate that Med partners work together in a number of areas where the final objective is the approximation of Med partner regulatory frameworks toward common EU legislation, especially as regards the internal market. The Euro-Med Trade Ministerial established an action plan in six phases for regulatory approximation in the field of free circulation of goods. The objective will be to achieve the goals identified in the work plan and create a single Euro-Mediterranean free trade Area with common or compatible standards and import and export procedures.	20,000,00

Support to the FEMIP

Support to the FEMIP (Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership)	Technical Assistance and capital risk facility	150,000,000
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ECONOMIC DIALOGUE AND ECONOMIC TRANSITION

To allow an open discussion on major issues concerning economic transition in the Mediterranean region, the European Commission organises regular meetings of government experts. The last of these meetings, at regional level, was held in June 2004 and discussed the issues of economic governance and regulatory reforms.

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 for the 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 following areas (regional programmes and projects are described in detail in the following sections, pages 46-60):

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT Over € 1.6 billion has been committed for activities supporting industrial and private sector development since 1995, spread among bilateral and regional programmes and projects. Bilateral activities cover four main areas: Support to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Industry (Business Centres, Industrial Modernisation Programmes - IMPs); Trade and Quality Promotion which include Trade liberalisation, Export Promotion, Trade facilitation, and Quality Promotion; Privatisation and Investment (Privatisation Policy, Technical assistance, Addressing the social impact; and support to Private Participation in Infrastructures); and Financial sector and EIB-managed instruments (see pages 71-74). At regional level activities notably include support to economic networks, industrial co-operation, and business-to-business meetings.

Support to SMEs and Industry Some 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 mainly cover the organisation of business-to-business meetings, the Euro-Info-Correspondence Centres and since 1995, the setting up of Business Centres. Eight Business Centre projects have been implemented under MEDA I in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, the Palestinian Territories, and Tunisia for a total budget of € 181 million. Business Centres activities focus in particular on upgrading companies, training businesspeople, providing information on European markets, promoting exports and enterprise partnerships. Under MEDA II Industrial Modernisation Programmes (IMPs) incorporate the activities of Business Centres while helping develop industrial policies, including financing facilities for SMEs such as guarantee funds. Five IMPs are currently being implemented in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Trade and Quality Promotion Assistance in this area includes trade-related projects such as Egypt's Trade Enhancement Programme in the fields of trade liberalisation, export promotion and customs reform, and Quality Management Programmes in Lebanon and Morocco, and in Syria soon. Through the Programmes of Support to the Implementation of the Association Agreements institutional building operations like twinning activities with EU Member States' Ministries are carried out in trade-related areas. In addition, trade promotion activities are also funded under the Business Centres Programmes and IMPs.

Support to Privatisation and Investment Since 1995, privatisation projects have been implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia for a total amount of € 116 million. Activities have been carried out in the following areas: Support to the definition and implementation of privatisation policies; Assistance in Legal, Tax, Audit, and Accounting

matters; Addressing the Social Impact of Privatisation; and Support for Private Sector Involvement in Infrastructure.

Financial Sector Development and EIB-managed instruments

MEDA funded technical assistance programmes and sector-based projects are being implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, the Palestinian Territories, and Tunisia. The main objectives are Financial Sector Liberalisation, Strengthening Prudential Regulation and Supervision, Modernisation of Payment Systems, Capacity Building of Commercial Banks, and Financial Instruments to increase SME Lending. In this area MEDA is contributing over € 77 million to guarantee schemes in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco.

EIB-managed instruments are described on pages 67-71.

Environment

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 SMAP Programme is the most relevant environmental regional programme under MEDA (see pages 71-73). The Local Water Management Programme is described on pages 74-75.

Infrastructure

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 pp 78-79, and Information Society 'EUMEDIS' Programme pp 88-90) 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 pp 94-95) 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.

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

Euro-Mediterranean SMEs Co-operation		
Type of Action: Regional Project funded by the MEDA programme		
BUDGET: € 2.8 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1998	DURATION: 7 years

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and business co-operation play a central role in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. These initiatives cover inter alia the organisation of business-to-business meetings.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose is to encourage links among SMEs and to strengthen the private sector in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East since the instruments and programmes already in force in the have been extended to the Mediterranean Partners since 1992.

DESCRIPTION

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”.

Europartenariat meetings took place twice a year in a 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 more than 400 SMEs from the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East took part in Denmark’s and Italy’s Europartenariats, which were the last two events of this kind.

Med-Partenariat events, based on the experience and methodology of the Europartenariat approach, 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. Med-Partenariat meetings were held in the following places: 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.

The Med-Interprise approach is similar to the Med-Partenariat one but on a more sector and country oriented basis. One Mediterranean Partner links up with around five Member States of the European Union to facilitate effective co-operation between SMEs in a limited number of sectors. Med-Interprise meetings were organised in Tunisia, Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon, Cyprus, Syria, Egypt, Malta and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

After the creation of EuropeAid Co-operation Office and based on a mid-term evaluation of the SMEs Co-operation programme, new activities were identified. In this context, the “**EU-Mashrak Partenariat**” took place from 23 to 25 October 2003 in Damascus, Syria. This special sub-regional activity brought together over 220 companies from Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, as well as around 200 enterprises from EU Member States for more than 2,000 scheduled meetings and over 1,000 non-scheduled ones aimed at establishing various types of business co-operation. The targeted sectors of this event were textiles, food processing,

construction, information technology and tourism. Summing up, thanks to the above-mentioned instruments, around 7,000 companies from the Mediterranean Partners have been able to meet targeted counterparts from the European Union since the end of 1992.

A **new series of Med-Interprise events** is being organised in Morocco, Tunisia, and Lebanon. A Med-Interprise Morocco event took place in December 2004, focusing on textiles, leather and agri-food. The event in Tunisia will be held for companies active in the electric and electronic industry, information and communication technology, and agri-food. Med-Interprise Lebanon will target information technology, printing, packaging, and food processing. For further information concerning those Med-Interprise events see the tables below.

SMEs co-operation events 1999-2004

TYPE	PLACE	DATES	Host/visiting companies	Main organiser
Europartenariat	Vienna (Austria)	10-11 May 1999	235 Mediterranean companies visiting	Wirtschaftskammer Österreich
Europartenariat	Potsdam (Germany)	28-29 October 1999	218 Mediterranean companies visiting	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Mittelstand und Technologie Brandenburg
Europartenariat	Aalborg (Denmark)	8-9 June 2000	About 170 Mediterranean companies visiting	Europartenariat Denmark 2000 Aps
Med-Partenariat	Cairo (Egypt)	3-4 October 2000	About 400 host companies, 150 Mediterranean and 350 European companies visiting	Egyptian Industrial Federation and Magicx
Europartenariat	Palermo (Italy)	4-5 December 2000	About 300 Mediterranean companies visiting	Mondimpresa
EU-Mashrak Partenariat	Damascus (Syria)	23-25 October 2003	Ca. 220 host companies from Syria, Jordan and Lebanon; ca. 200 visiting companies from the EU	Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce
Med-Interprise	Marrakech (Morocco)	6-8 December 2004	Host companies from Morocco; visiting companies from Italy, United Kingdom, France, Portugal, Spain	L'Agence Nationale pour la Promotion de la Petite et Moyenne Entreprise

Upcoming events

TYPE	PLACE	DATES	Host/visiting companies	Main organiser
Med-Interprise	Tunis (Tunisia)	8-10 February 2005	Host companies from Tunisia; visiting companies from Italy, Greece, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom	Agence de Promotion de l'Investissement Extérieur (FIPA Tunisia)
Med-Interprise	Beirut (Lebanon)	Spring 2005	Host companies from Lebanon; visiting companies from France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium	Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon

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UNIMED Business Network		
Type of Action: Regional Project funded by the MEDA programme		
BUDGET: € 2.5 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2000 CLOSING DATE: July 2004	DURATION: 4.5 years

The European Commission decided in late 1999 to finance a network to facilitate the exchange of best practices, training and exchanges of visits for staff of Mediterranean employers' associations, and to establish permanent communication between network members. The project, closed in July 2004, led to the creation of the Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (UMCE).

OBJECTIVES

The project aimed at strengthening employer organisations in the Mediterranean Partners and helping them liaise with their sister organisations in the European Union.

DESCRIPTION

UNIMED network activities had three main components:

Training and assistance for the development of trade organisations in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Information and networking of the Euro-Mediterranean trade organisations, including an internet based network.

Multilateral rapprochement, including the creation of a Mediterranean organisation similar to UNICE.

A major achievement of the multilateral rapprochement action was in fact an agreement between Mediterranean Employers' Federations on the establishment of a regional organisation to represent Mediterranean industrial interests. The new structure, known as "UMCE" ("Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises"), is intended to be an important part of the process leading to the eventual setting up of the Free Trade Area. The official launching of UMCE, which brings together non-sectoral trade organisations of the Mediterranean Partners, took place in Istanbul on 28 February 2002.

UNIMED training and support plans, including more than hundred expert missions in MEDA countries and dozens of training internships by Mediterranean professionals and executives in their EU counterpart organisations, were implemented in various phases until December 2002 by all Mediterranean employers' organisations. This led to devising National Training Plans for each Mediterranean Business Association or Federation of Employers. The final conference was organised in March 2003 in Rome. It presented the results of the project and discussed possible future actions.

On the basis of the experience gathered in the context of the project until 2003, a second phase of the project lasting until July 2004 was implemented. The responsibility for the implementation of Phase II was taken over by UMCE. Activities such as studies, seminars and workshops, further deepened the know-how gathered during the first phase of the project and strengthened the network of Mediterranean employers' associations.

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Members of UMCE

Algeria

Confédération Générale des Opérateurs Economiques Algériens - CGOEA

Cyprus

Employers & Industrialists Federation - OEB

Egypt

Federation of Egyptian Industries - FEI

Israel

Manufacturers Association of Israel - MAI

Jordan

Amman Chamber of Industry - ACI

Lebanon

Association of Lebanese Industrialists - ALI

Malta

Malta Federation of Industry - MFOI

Morocco

Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc - CGEM

Syria

Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce - FSCC

Tunisia

Union Tunisienne de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat - UTICA

Turkey

Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association - TÜSIAD

West Bank/Gaza Strip

Palestinian Federation of Industry - PFI

<p style="text-align: center;">FEMISE The Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Institutes</p>		
Type of Action: MEDA funded 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

About 30 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 I). The FEMISE network has since August 1998 carried out economic research on the main themes of the Economic and Financial chapter of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. This corresponds to the main goals pursued by the MEDA programme.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of FEMISE is to better assess the social and economic impact of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements and the institutional and economic progress made by Mediterranean Partners towards the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area and South-South co-operation. This contributes to improving the quality of economic policies in the Mediterranean area.

DESCRIPTION

FEMISE I (1998-2001) and FEMISE II (2001-2005) 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 its main tasks to undertake socio-economic research on topics defined as a priority for the future of the Euro-Mediterranean region:

- Economic transition and reforms,
- Agricultural liberalisation,
- Development and the poverty treatment,
- Policies as regards health and work,
- Education, training and the role of women in the company,
- Integration and cooperation between the countries of the South of the Mediterranean,
- Role of the State.

The results are presented to the governmental partners of the Barcelona Process.

About 40 studies have been or will be finalised by the network members on the above-mentioned topics in the framework of the second phase of the FEMISE project. Their objective is to:

Improve the understanding of the evolution of the Euro-Mediterranean region in terms of its national and regional dimensions.

Suggest developments adapted to the objectives of the Barcelona Process, presuming that such research would have "policy-oriented" conclusions.

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.

Other activities include the elaboration of research and working papers, the preparation of 10 country profiles which are after presented during country-seminars, the organisation of international conferences, and the upgrading of their web site.

The Annual Report 2004 will be published in the beginning of 2005 and will be available in English and in French on the FEMISE website.

In addition to the two country profiles which were presented during a country seminar in Egypt and in Jordan, two more country-profiles are just about to be finalised and should be presented to the local authorities in the presence of the European Commission in Morocco and Tunisia. The six last countries involved in these two activities are Algeria, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey, then the Palestinian Authority and Israel. Their reports will be finalised by the end of July 2005.

During the latest meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs which was held in The Hague on 29 and 30 November 2004, it was decided that a study on the assessment of the achievements and shortcomings of the Barcelona Process, including recommendations for the future, would be carried out in view of the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Process. The FEMISE network is in charge of the economic part of the assessment, which will be finalised by the end of February 2005.

FEMISE Network

Co-ordinators	
Egypt	Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, Cairo
France	Institut de la Méditerranée, Marseilles
Members	
Algeria	C.R.E.A.D., Alger
Algeria	Université d'Oran, Faculté des Sciences économiques, Oran
Austria	IHS - Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna
Belgium	Département d'Economie appliquée, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels
Belgium	Faculté des Sciences sociales, politiques et économiques de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels
Cyprus	Research and Development Center - Intercollege, Nicosia
Denmark	Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies - Odense University, Odense
Denmark	Roskilde University, Roskilde
Egypt	Economic and Political Sciences Faculty, Cairo University, Cairo
Egypt	Centre of Agricultural Economic Studies, Cairo
Egypt	School of Business, Economics & Communications, Cairo
Egypt	American University in Cairo, Cairo
Egypt	Centre for European Studies, Cairo
Egypt	Centre of Economic and Financial Research (CEFRS), Cairo University, Cairo
Finland	TAPRI, University of Tampere, Tampere
France	Agropolis – CIHEAM-IAM.M - 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	Université de Nice – Medcampus, Nice
France	ADIS, faculté Jean Monnet (Réseau EMMA) - Université Paris-Sud, Paris
France	CEREFI, Université Aix-Marseille III, Marseille
France	INRA Paris, Département Economie et Sociologie Rurale (ESR), Paris
France	Laboratoire d'Economie de Nantes, Faculté des Sciences Economiques , Université de Nantes
Germany	German Orient Institute, Hamburg
Germany	Institut für Wachstum und Konjunktur, Hamburg
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
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
Israel	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Agricultural Economics and Management, Faculty of Agriculture, Jerusalem
Italy	CENSIS - Centro Studi Investimenti Sociali, Roma
Italy	IREM – Istituto di Ricerche sull' Economia Mediterranea, Napoli
Italy	Istituto d'Economia - Università Luigi Bocconi, Milan
Italy	European University Institute, The Robert Schuman Centre, Florence

Italy	Inter-University Consortium for Research in Economics and Marketing of Agro food Products – Facolta di Agraria, universita della Tuscia, Viterbo
Italy	Ipalmo, Roma
Jordan	Department of Economics, Jordan University, Amman
Jordan	The Royal Scientific Society, Amman
Jordan	Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, Amman
Lebanon	Economics Department, American University of Beirut, Beirut
Lebanon	Département de Sciences économiques, Université de Balamand, Amioun el koura
Malta	European Documentation and Research Centre, Msida
Malta	University of Malta - EMCS, Sliema
Morocco	Centre Marocain de Conjoncture, Casablanca
Morocco	Université Mohammed V - Centre d'études stratégiques, Rabat
Morocco	Ecole de Statistique et d'Etudes Economiques, Rabat
Morocco	Al Akhawayn University, School of Business Administration, Ifrane
Morocco	Fondation Abderrahim Bouabib pour les Sciences et la Culture (FAB), Bettana-Sale
Morocco	Centre de recherches en Méditerranée, Casablanca
Netherlands	Economic Faculty - Erasmus University, Rotterdam
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
Palestine	Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute – MAS, Jerusalem
Poland	Faculty of Economic Sciences, Warsaw University, Warsaw
Spain	Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Facultad de Ciencias Economicas y Empresariales, Madrid
Spain	Instituto de Economia Internacional, Universitat de Valencia, Valencia
Syria	Faculty of Economics, Halab University, Halab
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	Faculté des Sciences économiques et de gestion, Université Tunis III, Tunis
Tunisia	Institut d'Economie Quantitative (IEQ), Tunis
Tunisia	Instituts de recherches sur le Maghreb contemporain - IRMC, Tunis
Turkey	Bilkent University, Department of Economics, Ankara
Turkey	Centre for Mediterranean Studies, Ankara
Turkey	TESEV-Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation, Istanbul
Turkey	Department of Economics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara
Turkey	Akdeniz University, Economic Research Center on Mediterranean Countries, Antalya
United Kingdom	Sussex European Institute, University of Sussex, Brighton
United Kingdom	School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, London
United Kingdom	Department of Economics, University of Cambridge, Cambridge

More Information:

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Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Co-operation		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programmes and Projects		
BUDGET: € 30 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1996	DURATION: 10 years

The Barcelona Declaration 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.

OBJECTIVES

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 legal and administrative framework conducive to 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.

DESCRIPTION

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:

- Euro-Mediterranean Internal Market
- Promotion of Investment
- Industrial and technological innovation
- Promotion of Quality

The four regional programmes set up in those areas (Euro-Med Market; ANIMA; Euro-Med Quality; and Euro-Med Innovation and Technology) are described in the following sections.

Euro-Med Market		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 9,173,426 (MEDA)	START DATE: 2002	DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES

The Euro-Med Market programme was launched in May 2002. It aims at facilitating the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area, 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 enforcement structures necessary for implementing the regulations.

To improve co-operation among the administrations in the participating Mediterranean Partners to allow for exchanges of experience and best practices.

DESCRIPTION

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; training, work placement, dissemination of success stories, study visits.

In the first phase of Euro-Med Market, eight regional training workshops were held in late 2002 and the first half of 2003. The following themes have been treated: Free movement of goods; Customs, taxation, rules of origin; Public procurement; Financial services; IPR; Data protection and regulatory aspects of e-commerce; Accounting and auditing; Competition rules. Under the second phase of the programme another series of eleven regional workshops took place to allow for a more thorough study of the themes. In July 2004 a new initiative was launched to facilitate the implementation of the Agadir Agreement by the 4 countries (Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia). In the context of intra-regional activities, a number of tailor-made seminars have taken place. The programme has been extended for a year (till May 2006).

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Euro-Mediterranean Network of Investment Promotion Agencies (ANIMA)		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional project		
BUDGET: € 3.95 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2002 END DATE: 2005	DURATION: 3 years (15/03/2002-15/03/2005) 6-month Extension (until 15/09/05)

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) in the 12 Mediterranean Partners, either from the EU or from other Med Partners, through reinforced co-operation between European and Mediterranean Investment Promotion Agencies (IPA).

The project is in line with the Barcelona Declaration, which stresses “the importance of creating an environment conducive to investment, in particular by the progressive elimination of obstacles to such investment which could lead to the transfer of technology and increase production and exports.”

DESCRIPTION

The ANIMA Programme consists of three main components:

- Strengthening the capacity of Mediterranean Investment Promotion Agencies through training and exchange activities;
- Setting up an operational network of European and Mediterranean Investment Promotion Agencies through communication between institutions (web site, newsletter, etc);
- Promoting investment at regional level through mutual information actions, promotional material, and joint participation of several Euro-Mediterranean agencies in promotional events. In addition, an in-depth study on sectoral flows of foreign direct investment in the Mediterranean Partners has been carried out. Conclusions of this study, presented to Ministers during the Limassol Conference, include recommendations and proposals for action, which will be analysed in the framework of the regional programme.

A consortium made up of France’s Agency for International Investment, Morocco’s Directorate of Foreign Investment, and Italy’s Foreign Trade Institute is in charge of managing activities carried out within the project. These activities are divided into three sections: Institutional support, Creation of a network, and Promotion of regional investment.

The Programme’s mid-term objective was to develop more operational activities such as producing an investment package, and staging road shows on top of the usual seminars, conferences and trainings. This should reinforce the credibility of Mediterranean Investment Promotion Agencies, and help establish the basis (prepare the ground) for a partnership that could gear the programme towards a more sustainable approach.

In this sense, inflections were made in order to develop more concrete actions. Two new activities were added to the first of the three main components mentioned above:

- Technical assistance missions to the MED Investment promotion agencies at their request; and
- To put staff of the MED Investment promotion agencies at the disposal of the Anima team for a period of 6 to 12 months.

Moreover, an extension of 6 months has been added to the project. Therefore the project will last with the support of the European Commission until 15 September 2005.

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Euro-Med Quality		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 7.26 million (MEDA)	START DATE: January, 2004	DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES

The programme's general objective is to help Mediterranean Partners establish a stable environment conducive to developing and marketing quality products that can withstand competition from imported goods and conquer export markets.

Euro-Med Quality's specific objectives are to raise awareness among businesspeople and other practitioners in Mediterranean Partners of quality-control procedures, including standardisation, metrology, testing, certification, and accreditation, and to set up a web site and data bases. The Programme also aims to train entrepreneurs in quality-control.

DESCRIPTION

Information and training will be provided to some 60 Quality Support Centres in the 12 Mediterranean Partners, and in turn to large numbers of businesses, particularly smaller ones. The Programme is co-ordinated by the EU's main standardisation body, the Centre for European Standardisation (CEN). It will be run in two major phases.

The first phase is about:

Analysing quality support entities and services in the Mediterranean Partners;

Networking and creating data bases of quality support centres, experts available as trainers, as well as organisations for quality promotion and control in Mediterranean Partners.

The Programme's second phase comprises training seminars (7 workshops took place), traineeships, service promotion activities, and working group meetings. More specifically, the following activities are foreseen:

Strengthening political involvement in and administrative co-operation on Quality;

Setting up a network of national authorities in charge of Quality Control and Promotion;

Training technical executives and trainers and monitoring testing performance;

Designing, installing and managing an ICT based system.

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Euro-Med Innovation and Technology		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 7.26 million (MEDA)	START DATE: Mid 2005	DURATION: 3 years

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the Euro-Med Innovation and Technology programme is the implementation of a framework to facilitate the development and marketing of innovative products by Mediterranean Partners' businesses (SMEs), able to compete with imported goods and to conquer export markets.

The programme beneficiaries are at three levels:

- Mediterranean National Authorities and public decision-making bodies,
- Intermediary bodies supporting businesses in the fields of Innovation and Technology,
- Networks bringing together poles of excellence, research centres and innovative client enterprises in clusters in the framework of regional or sub-regional partnerships.

DESCRIPTION

Priority activities within this programme to be implemented in the Mediterranean Partners will include:

1. Analysis of Mediterranean Innovation policies by country and support to a regional approach;
2. Dissemination, Information and communication events in the fields of Innovation, Technology transfer and networking through conferences, events and workshops in areas such as financial instruments and protection of intellectual property;
3. Development of capacity building and training involving exchanges between European and Mediterranean administrations, intermediary institutions as Innovation and Technology Centres (ITC) and innovative enterprise clusters to promote innovative methods, strategies and processes (i.e. action plans);
4. Support to the implementation of regional or sub-regional projects in Innovation through identification of sectoral partnerships, Euro-Mediterranean exchanges, management of enterprise clusters and implementation of industry/research links promoting incubators and science parks.

Two strands will be developed in parallel within the programme:

Strand I

Diagnosis of the regulatory systems and policies applied in Mediterranean Partners, networking between European and Mediterranean public and private stakeholders, and collecting of information concerning the mechanisms implemented in each Mediterranean Partner in order to build a regional database of actions undertaken and constraints.

Strand II

The second strand will have a more operational focus so as to increase the competitiveness of all the structures involved in innovation (national administrations and regional development agencies) through a number of pilot operations. Those will be initiated in a sub-regional and sectoral approach bringing together several Mediterranean Partners. Pilot operations could be launched following a selection performed by a Steering Committee composed of European and Mediterranean officials with the support of the European Commission. This selection will be made after an identification of technical selection criteria and adoption of action plans.

Within thematic fields, industrial co-operation and research and innovation activities will be promoted and developed through action plans and methods – on the basis of experience gained within European networks such as Relay Centres of Innovation (IRC), and in coherence with existing programmes

managed by the Commission's Research Directorate General and with poles of excellence. Transfer of technology between European and Mediterranean industrial partners will have to be promoted, implemented and harmonised across the MEDA region by developing exchanges of strategies and training.

In this context, the tasks to be carried out under the programme are:

- developing a suitable financial and tax incentive mechanism;
- improving the capacity of SMEs to identify methods of implementation for suitable innovation at company level;
- selecting existing innovative technologies and adapting them to the specific needs and priorities of businesses;
- facilitating SMEs' access to the economic and technological intelligence by suitable channels such as existing business support infrastructures, including web portals, ICT, Chambers of commerce, technological parks, and incubators;
- strengthening business participation in national and international programmes aiming at co-operation, technology transfer, sharing of knowledge, and benchmarking;
- boosting their participation in the international R&D projects which encourage the commercial use of knowledge and technology;
- reinforcing the representation of the interests of Mediterranean SMEs in the political and legislative process through facilitating periodic consultation of business associations such as UMCE, and upgrading their competences in innovation by training.

Similarly, the programme should be able to contribute to creating a regional dimension by setting up effective networks and strengthening partnerships in order to be in a position to help Mediterranean SMEs to seize new market opportunities with a view to improving the position of Mediterranean companies in the international value chain.

The programme could be implemented in linkage with others initiatives developed in parallel to realise the full potential of the pan-Euro-Mediterranean market and boost the competitiveness of Mediterranean companies in specific sectors (i.e. textile and clothing). These sectors will be identified by the programme's beneficiaries according to their priority needs and their wish to see European innovation networks extended to the Mediterranean region.

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<p style="text-align: center;">MED-ADR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Promotion of international commercial Arbitration and other alternative Dispute Resolution techniques in Mediterranean Partners</p>		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Project		
BUDGET: € 1,144,850	START DATE: January 2005	DURATION: 3 years

The fact that potential investors, particularly Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), are not familiar with the legal and judicial systems of the Mediterranean region, has proved to be one of the barriers preventing enhanced trade and investment relations with our Mediterranean Partners. Moreover, there is a general consensus on the scant knowledge of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms to prevent and manage disputes concerning transactions or investment. In 2001 the European Commission decided to launch a pilot project on ADR techniques in the Mediterranean Partners, with a focus on SMEs and a north-south / south-south approach. Feasibility studies carried out in 2002 confirmed the relevance of the initiative and provided the necessary framework for the decision to finance the project.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the ADR contract, which was signed in December 2004 with the ADR Center Srl as operator, is to facilitate international trade (including south-south trade) and foreign investment in Mediterranean Partners through increased confidence generated by enhanced commercial dispute resolution methods.

The specific objective of the project focuses on promoting awareness, acceptance and use of international arbitration and ADR in the region concerned, (with special reference to SMEs), as a means to solve international commercial disputes arising from: a). business transactions between Mediterranean and EU-based companies; b). business transactions between companies based in two or more Mediterranean Partners; and c). disputes arising from foreign investment.

The Project activities should lead to the expected results as follows:

increased awareness of the existence and usefulness of arbitration and ADR both among legal practitioners and businesspeople;

capacity building vis-à-vis relevant players: arbitration chambers, trade promotion agencies, chambers of commerce and the legal community;

enhancement of the effective functioning of the local legal enforcement systems by complementing the Judiciary with alternative systems to prevent and manage disputes;

formulation of recommendations and practical measures to facilitate taking up of the alternative mechanisms concerned;

medium term sustainability, requiring full involvement of the local organisations in the project from the inception phase.

DESCRIPTION

The implementation of the project will be based on four main components:

I. Dissemination of information on dispute settlement techniques

- seminars and panels, e-learning/computer assisted courses, web site.

II. Training of specialists

- training of local lawyers in dispute solving methods,
- e-learning/computer assisted scheme for potential arbitrators.

III. Technical assistance to South Mediterranean institutions/organisations

- Euro-Mediterranean twinning agreements for arbitration centres ;
- studies related to international commercial arbitration and conciliation;
- preparation of draft regulations on “informal” mediation/conciliation;
- networking among Euro-Mediterranean arbitration/ mediation centres.

IV. Standardisation and dissemination of contractual instruments

- expert group meeting on pro-forma contracts;

V. Management and co-ordination

- selection of the experts, organisations and participants for the various activities and components;
- monitoring and co-ordination of the implementation of activities;
- quality check;
- involvement and participation in the seminars and panels;
- provision of methodology support;
- meetings with European Commission services, including Delegations.

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Education and Training for Employment		
Type of Action: Regional Project funded by the MEDA programme		
BUDGET: € 5 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2004	DURATION: 3 years

The Mediterranean Partners are characterised by a generally high rate of unemployment. Young people, women and urban area dwellers in particular are affected by this phenomenon. In order to tackle this issue, the Barcelona process identifies the fields of education and training as some of the main tools for promoting economic and social development in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East. Technical/vocational education and training may be considered as one of the key means in this regard. This is why the European Commission included the “Education and Training for Employment” project into its regional MEDA activities.

OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of this project are:

- To support the Mediterranean Partners in the implementation of active policies in the field of technical and vocational education and training,
- To assist the Mediterranean Partners’ educational institutions in reinforcing and improving their educational capacities,
- To increase co-operation among Euro-Mediterranean education and training institutions,
- To combat and prevent unemployment and to support the integration of unemployed people, in particular young unemployed and women,
- To transfer and circulate methodologies for gathering, analysing and disseminating information in the fields of technical and vocational education and training, and
- To exchange best practices on training and other measures for increasing employability.

DESCRIPTION

Over the last few years, the project was prepared on the basis of a “bottom-up” approach. The identification phase of the operation foresaw various workshops and conferences, in which all Mediterranean Partners and most EU Member States actively participated. Background and concept papers were elaborated and agreed upon by all involved parties. As defined by the conclusions of the closing conference for the project’s identification phase on 18-19 September 2003 in Brussels, bringing together representatives from Med Partners and EU Member States, the “Education and Training for Employment” project is made up of four major components:

- 1) A yearly Euro-Med Forum on technical and vocational education and training: This Forum is intended to exchange experiences and good practices, to develop synergies with other projects, to report progress and to suggest amendments to the operation, if need be.
- 2) A Euro-Med network on Education and Training for Employment: This network is supposed to fulfil an observatory function, to disseminate information, to carry out comparative analysis and thematic studies and to promote regional co-operation in topics of relevant interest.
- 3) Support to self-employment and micro-enterprises creation: This component focuses in particular on the target group of young unemployed and envisages especially the reduction of youth unemployment by reinforcing support services for self-employment and micro-enterprises creation.

- 4) Development of e-learning: This set of activities aims at establishing and enhancing the capacity for the use of e-learning for training in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) and in other technical and vocational education and training related modules, on the basis of pilot projects.

The project is implemented by the “European Training Foundation” (ETF), the EU Agency specialised in vocational education and training based in Turin, Italy. In the course of the past years, ETF has gathered experience in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East. General consensus on the issue of ETF being the implementing body of the project was reached in the closing conference of the project’s identification phase on 18-19 September 2003 in Brussels among the Mediterranean partners and EU Member States present. The project was launched officially on 29 November 2004 in Turin, and the project activities are to be started.

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Training of Public Administrations		
Type of Action: Regional Project funded by the MEDA programme		
BUDGET: € 6 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2004	DURATION: 3 years

The project provides a co-operation framework to organise joint training activities in areas with a European dimension. Moreover, it promotes exchanges of information and best practice in training of public administrations, in good governance, and sound public administration. The project complements bilateral MEDA projects in the field of training and provides Mediterranean Partners with know-how concerning the implementation of the Association Agreements.

OBJECTIVES

This project targets the training of public administrations in the Mediterranean Partners. It is an activity designed to support and complement national initiatives for institutional reform, and to tackle in particular the training needs of public administrations of the Mediterranean Partners in dealing with EU affairs.

DESCRIPTION

The “Training of Public Administrations” project emphasises two particular aspects:

- Training of experts from the Mediterranean Partners’ public administrations: Seminars for officials are held, covering topics related to EU affairs (EU Basic Issues, EU Programmes, and EU Advanced Issues). A seminar module “Train the Trainers” is also offered. The training institutes of public administration of the Mediterranean Partners are actively involved in the preparation and the implementation of the training activities. Participation of up to 1,600 officials from public administrations and institutions from the Mediterranean Partners in the training seminars is envisaged.
- Setting up a network of training institutes of public administration: The network envisages co-operation among training institutes in order to strengthen their institutional capacity and to develop high quality training services for the public administrations in the MEDA region. This guarantees support for the reform process in the Mediterranean Partners’ administrations through exchanges of information, experiences and good practices. Moreover, the network represents a forum for co-ordinating and supporting the above mentioned training activities, and to promote good governance and sound administration.

The project is implemented by the Barcelona Antenna of the “European Institute of Public Administration” (EIPA) in Maastricht. EIPA is specialised in training of public administrations in EU affairs and provides an existing network in the sector ensuring an effective implementation of the project. After the inauguration meeting of the project network in April 2004 in Brussels, the training seminars were started up in September 2004 and will continue until the end of the project implementation at the end of 2006.

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Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for the Environment ("SMAP")		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 6 million (MEDA) € 30 million (MEDA) € 15 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1997 (SMAP I) 2001 (SMAP II) 2005 (SMAP III)	DURATION: 3 years 4 years 3 years

The Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment, consists of supporting SMAP (Short and Medium term priority environmental Action Programme), a framework programme for the protection of the environment in the region, co-ordinated by the European Commission. SMAP covers policy orientations and funding allocations at both regional and national levels. European Commission contributions to SMAP were provided in 3 phases.

OBJECTIVES

The Barcelona Declaration of 1995 acknowledged that it was important to "reconcile economic development with the protection of the environment, integrate environmental concerns with the relevant aspects of economic policy and lessen the negative results which might arise from development at environmental level." In the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, SMAP was adopted in November 1997 at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Helsinki. Its aim is to encourage all Mediterranean Partners to adopt sustainable strategies and policies and to improve the status of the environment in the region.

DESCRIPTION

The Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment is based on the following principles and modus operandi, that are to be applied for SMAP as a whole, as follows:

- Community funding should have a catalyst effect and financing efforts should be shared between Mediterranean Partners' national budgets and bilateral or multilateral resources;
- Coherence and synergies should be ensured with decisions and orientations agreed at international level by the EU and its Partners;
- Public participation and civil society support should be sought in order to pave the way for sustainable development.

Five priority areas of action are retained under SMAP:

1. Integrated water management,
2. Integrated waste management,
3. Hot spots (covering both polluted areas and threatened bio-diversity systems),
4. Integrated coastal zone management, and
5. Combating desertification.

Support measures encompassing training/capacity building, awareness campaigns, networking, environmental impact assessments, are more specifically targeted.

Consultations are carried out with Mediterranean environmental NGOs, through a NGO Steering Committee.

A meeting of the SMAP Correspondents, allowing exchanges of views and information about progress of SMAP implementation between the Mediterranean Partners, the EU Member States, other institutions involved in SMAP such as UNEP, and the NGO Steering Committee, which has an

observer status, take place annually. The 6th of these meetings took place on 21 and 22 June 2004 in Brussels.

Beside grants allocated on the basis of calls for proposals, funding for the environment can also be made available through loans from the European Investment Bank.

Within the framework of the second European Commission contribution to SMAP ("SMAP II"), 8 project proposals were selected for the award of co-financing grants under the MEDA Regional budget and some of them are still currently ongoing. These projects address a number of issues, covering fighting against desertification, marine and coastal protection, waste management, improved water management and air pollution control.

A third contribution to SMAP, amounting to € 15 million, was agreed by the EU in 2004. In the framework of the new programme (entitled "SMAP III") adopted in April 2004, a significant proportion of the budget (€ 4 million) will be aimed to assist the Mediterranean Partners in the formulation of strategies and policies pursuing environmental and sustainable development goals, whereas € 10.6 million will be allotted to the financing of integrated coastal zone management plans. The call will be issued in early 2005.

Projects launched following the first call for proposals in 1999

Title	Co-ordinator	Countries	EC 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, Turkey	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, Lebanon, Cyprus	720,840
Water Community Programme to promote community-based awareness	ECOPEACE – Friends of the Earth Middle-East (FOEME)	Belgium, Israël, Palestinian Territories, Jordan	561,063

Projects launched following the second call for proposals in 2001

Title	Co-ordinator	Countries	EC budget (€)
Urban air quality improvement through Air Quality Plans and the Institutional Strengthening of Local Administration in Air Quality Management	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)	Tunisia, Algeria, Cyprus, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Syria, France, Italy, Spain	1,748,374
Implementation of a Photo Voltaic Water Pumping Programme in Mediterranean Countries	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid - Instituto de Energia Solar (IES/UPM)	France, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia	2,291,013
Regional Solid Waste Management	International Bank for Reconstruct and Development (IBRD)	Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan,	5,000,000

Project in METAP Mashreq and Maghreb Countries		Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Palestinian Territories	
The Fara'a and Jerash Integrated Watershed Management project	Environmental Quality Authority (EQA) of the Palestinian Authority	Palestinian Territories, Jordan, the Netherlands	3,881,730
Demonstration Project on Strategies to combat desertification in arid lands with direct involvement of local agropastoral communities in North Africa	Nucleo di Ricerca sulla Desertificazione, Università di Sassari (Sardinia, Italy)	Morocco, Tunisia, Italy	3,446,678
Mise en place de systèmes de suivi-évaluation des programmes d'action de lutte contre la désertification dans les pays maghrébins	Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS)	Tunisia, Morocco	1,438,945
Integrated waste management for the olive-oil pressing industries in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan	UNDP Lebanon	Lebanon, Syria and Jordan	1,738,411

Additional initiatives financed under the Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for the Environment:

Rapport Environnement et Développement en Méditerranée	Plan Bleu pour la Méditerranée, Centre d'Activité Régionale PNUE, Sophia-Antipolis, France	Algérie, Chypre, Egypte, Israël, Liban, Malte, Maroc, Syrie, Territoires Palestiniens, Tunisie, Turquie	500,000
SMAP Regional Management and Support Unit	APAT-SYKE	All Med countries	3,124,000

More Information:

<http://smaprms.apat.it/EN/> (site of the Regional Management and Support Unit)
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/smap/home.htm>

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Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 40 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2001	DURATION: 5 years

The Barcelona Declaration recognises sustainable management of water resources as one of the priority areas under the Economic and Financial 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.

OBJECTIVES

The strategic orientations are:

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

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).

DESCRIPTION

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.

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 catchments 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 up to 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.

Other important tasks, also inscribed within the activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Programme, include the promotion of institutional strengthening, public awareness, and dissemination of project results and provision of a feedback mechanism as an input to future national and regional programmes.

The appointment of a Monitoring and Support organisation (Euro-Mediterranean non-profit-making organisation) to assist the beneficiary countries and implementing partners with the follow-up of approved projects at field.

A call for proposals was launched in January 2002, and the nine projects selected have started actions in late 2003 and early 2004. The projects are carried out by universities, research institutes, specialised agencies and NGO's.

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 (Phase I) START DATE: 2004 (Phase II)	DURATION: 3 years DURATION: 3 years

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. This is just what EMWIS is doing.

OBJECTIVES

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 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.

The second phase of EMWIS/SEMIDE has started in May 2003 with a total budget of € 3.3 million (€ 2 million from the European Commission and the rest to be provided by France, Italy and Spain). This phase focuses on assisting the Mediterranean Partners to develop their own water intranets to allow them to have more coherent water planning.

DESCRIPTION

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 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. In 2002, two information seminars aimed at raising awareness of the benefits of know-how and information exchanges among main water sector stakeholders took place in Jordan and Tunisia. An EMWIS/SEMIDE training seminar was also held in Rome in June.

The EMWIS/SEMIDE Co-ordination Committee, which met from 16 to 18 December 2002 to revise the state of play of the Information System, confirmed the work programme 2002-2005.

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/euromed/conf/sect/water.htm Turin Ministerial Conferences on Local Water Management http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/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: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 13.8 million (MEDA I) € 4.0 million (MEDA II)	START DATE: 1997 2005	DURATION: 7 years 3 years

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.

OBJECTIVES

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;
- environmental protection, by securing safe and clean production, transport and use of energy, and by encouraging energy efficiency and renewable energy.

DESCRIPTION

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 were launched.

A follow on project, entitled MED-ENEC and building upon the results achieved in the framework of the previous phase of the MEDA Regional Energy Programme, the recommendations of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum, and the conclusions of the two Conferences of Energy Ministers held in Athens in May 2003 and Rome in December 2003, has been approved in July 2004. This project, which aims to encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in the construction sector, amounts to 4 Million €. It will be the subject of a single tender, to be launched in early 2005.

MEDA Regional Energy Projects that started in 2001-2002

Title	Project Leader	Countries	Funding (€)
Legal and institutional energy frameworks	DECON (Deutsch Energie Consult), Germany	Germany, France, Portugal, Italy and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	2,249,6000
Support for the ad hoc groups (energy policy, interconnections, economic analysis) of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum	ESB International, Ireland.	Ireland, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	1,880,000
Applications of thermal solar energy in the Mediterranean basin	ADEME (Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie), France.	France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia	1,500,000
Energy and urban environment in the Mediterranean Partners	IDAE (Instituto para el Ahorro y la Diversificación de la Energía), Spain.	Spain , France, Greece, Italy, and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	1,900,000
Mediterranean Electric Ring	CESI (Centro Elettrotecnico Sperimentale Italiano), Italy.	Italy France, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey	2,126,924
Reform of the companies of the energy sector	BCEOM (Société Française d'Ingénierie), France.	Denmark, France (BCEOM: co-ordinator), Italy and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	2,269,771
Mediterranean Energy Policy Training Network	EPU-NTUA National Technical University of Athens, Greece.	Greece, France, Spain and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	1,690,150
Total			13,616,445

Additional energy-related initiatives financed under MEDA regional funding:

See the Urban air quality improvement project and the Photo voltaic water pumping project funded under the Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for the Environment (SMAP II)

More Information:

Commission Communication on Euromed Transport and Energy Co-operation, February 2004
http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional/energy_en.htm

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Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation in the Transport Sector		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Projects		
TOTAL BUDGET: Regional Maritime Programme	€ 5.1 million	START DATE: 1997
Regional Transport Programme II	€ 20 million	2001
Euro-Med Satellite Navigation (GNSS)	€ 4.5 million	2004
Euro-Med Co-operation on Maritime Safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED)	€ 4.5 million	2004

The Barcelona Conference 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. Four regional programmes have been launched, namely the Regional Maritime Transport programme; the Euromed Regional Transport programme; the GNSS-GALILEO project, and SAFEMED.

OBJECTIVES

In order to ensure co-ordination and co-operation in the transport sector, the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum was created in September 1998. The Forum is the reference body for developing regional cooperation in the transport sector. It is composed of representatives of the 35 Euro Mediterranean partners, the European Commission, financial institutions (EIB, World Bank), and the international organisations concerned (notably IMO, ICAO, UNECE).

The main areas of co-operation promoted by the Forum are:

- the adoption of an inter-modal air-sea transportation system in the Mediterranean region;
- 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 pollution control;
- the adoption of harmonised traffic management systems;
- the development of East-West land connections in the South Mediterranean; and
- the connection of the Mediterranean networks of transport to the trans-European networks.

DESCRIPTION

The Forum since its first meeting in Malta in 1999 has adopted the multimodal approach as a working platform and has set two priorities, namely the definition of a transport infrastructure network in the Mediterranean and the adoption of the measures necessary for the facilitation of transport operations. In its second annual meeting in Brussels in 2000 the Forum approved the establishment of working groups dealing with specific transport issues: maritime transport, global navigation satellite systems, infrastructure network, and research and development. The 3rd Forum took place in Brussels in July 2002 and discussed broad guidelines for two new regional MEDA projects to be launched, one relating to satellite navigation (EGNOS/GALILEO), and the other to maritime safety ("SAFEMED") for a total budget of € 9 million. The 4th Transport Forum took place in October 2003, where a whole account of the work taking place within on-going Euromed Regional Transport projects was given, and the Terms of Reference for the new "Maritime Safety" and "GNSS/GALILEO" projects were adopted. The 5th Forum took place on December 22 and 23, 2004 and agreed on the preparation of a Euro-Mediterranean regional transport policy paper that should be presented to the first Euromed Transport Ministerial Meeting scheduled for late 2005.

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The Euro-Mediterranean Regional Transport Programme		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Projects		
TOTAL BUDGET: € 20 million	START DATE: 2001	DURATION: 4 years

The 4 year Euro-Mediterranean Regional Transport Programme started in 2002. It consists of several separate projects that will run in parallel, a “main” contract, a regional “infrastructure” contract, and possibly other smaller contracts as and if required. The “main contract” started on February 1, 2003 and will run for 4 years. A project office has been established in Tunis. The regional “infrastructure” network contract was signed and work initiated in June 2003.

OBJECTIVES

The programme’s general aim is to increase the efficiency of the Mediterranean transport system. The specific objectives of the main contract are to:

- prepare the diagnosis of the Mediterranean transport system;
- prepare a Regional Transport Action Plan;
- conduct studies on specific transport issues;
- promote the dialogue of the Mediterranean Partners among themselves and with EU member states, including: organising the meetings of the transport Forum and its working groups;
- prepare, organise and conduct training activities related to the transport sector;
- organise the dissemination of information on transport sector issues;
- assist with the co-ordination of the project activities.

The specific objective of the infrastructure project is the modernisation of transport infrastructure through effective policies; a regional infrastructure network; policy dialogue; creating, developing, and planning capacity in the national transport agencies; and enabling policy makers and the general public to monitor transport sector performance.

A study will be prepared to deliver a set of priority multi-modal transport infrastructure investment projects that will support an efficient regional transport system. The Project should also assist in attracting direct foreign investment, encourage exports and facilitate cross border supply chains.

DESCRIPTION

The project will focus on policy reforms and training/policy dialogue with transport policy makers.

This year the Infrastructure contract is expected to produce a report to suggest the main corridors of the Mediterranean Transport Infrastructure Network as an extension of the TENs, and a methodology for pre-evaluating infrastructure proposals for financing. Similarly, the Transport Diagnostic Report will be finalised by the Main contract by the end of 2004. Both projects link their work with the newly created High Level Group on the extension of the TENs to the Neighbouring countries and their output will be the subject of discussions at Euro-Med Ministerial level and will serve as a basis for the drafting of a regional action plan.

More Information: http://www.euromedtransport.org		
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Regional Maritime Projects		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Projects		
TOTAL BUDGET: € 5.1 million	START DATE: 1997	

The Barcelona Declaration of 1995 stressed "...the importance of developing and improving infrastructures, including through the establishment of an efficient transport system". This gave rise to the first MEDA Regional programme, dedicated to the maritime sector, as it is the most important in transport relations between the Mediterranean Partners and the EU.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the programme were the development of water borne transport in the Mediterranean area, improvement of maritime safety, and protection of the environment.

DESCRIPTION

The programme consists of a number of projects dealing mainly with technical assistance. Ten projects have been signed under the programme. These projects mainly aim to assist national authorities in developing action plans for strengthening their maritime administration infrastructures to enhance their capacity to efficiently fulfil their international obligations. The projects also finance training courses on port management and handling hazardous goods in ports. The implementation of some maritime regional projects is still on-going. Some projects of the package have been completed.

Three projects are closed, namely:

- Seminar on the role of dredging in port development;
- Advanced course on port and management;
- Two seminars on the EU's maritime statistical data system.

Six projects have concluded their activities, and are in the closing-down process namely:

Feasibility study for an East Mediterranean Institute for Applied Research, Training and Information;
 Training courses in handling hazardous good's cargoes in ports and regional training programme on the preparation and response to accidents in ports involving chemical substances;
 Strengthening the maritime administrations of the Mediterranean: Capacity building for effective flag and port state functions;
 Development and strengthening of flag state capability for the implementation of the ISM code;
 Development and strengthening of flag state capability of Mediterranean maritime administrations for the implementation of the 1995 STCW Convention;
 Port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily wastes.

The project "Southern and South Eastern Mediterranean Hydrography and Nautical Cartography" has not fully achieved its goals.

More Information: http://www.euromedtransport.org		
Contact: Leonidas KIOUSSIS European Commission	EuropeAid Co-operation Office DG Transport and Energy DG	Tel: +32-2-2992851 Fax: +32-2-2955665
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Euro-Mediterranean Satellite Navigation (GNSS) Project (GALILEO)		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Project		
TOTAL BUDGET: € 4.5 million	START DATE: 2004	DURATION: 3 years

Satellite radio-navigation is a priority component of the Valencia Action Plan adopted by Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers in 2002. The Mediterranean region, due to its geographic and economic proximity, can benefit, in terms of regional development and safety, from EGNOS and GALILEO satellite navigation services.

OBJECTIVES

The principal aim of the project is to pave the way for the involvement of the Mediterranean Partners in EGNOS and GALILEO activities.

More specifically, the project aims at:

- Raising awareness among local decision makers, service providers and product manufacturers of the potential of EGNOS and GALILEO for the Mediterranean region;
- Establishing elements for a Mediterranean GNSS policy in order to encourage a common approach to radio navigation across all potential sectors of users ;
- Identifying the benefits of EGNOS and GALILEO for the region;
- Increasing safety of related operations in the Mediterranean region;
- Enhancing performance and promoting integration of Euro-Med navigation systems in various modes;
- Promoting interoperability of navigation, positioning and timing systems in adjacent regions;
- Fostering the emergence of national MEDA projects regarding the development of GALILEO services, initially through EGNOS.

DESCRIPTION

Training and demonstration activities on satellite navigation services in the Mediterranean area will be run. Activities launched within the project will be co-ordinated with the Galileo Euro-Med Co-operation Office, hosted by the Egypt's Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The work performed within the MEDA GNSS project will be organised in four main activities:

Activity A: GNSS Regional Plan

The GNSS Regional Plan will identify further activities for the region, assessing specific needs and the current status of GNSS in the region.

Activity B: Training and Awareness

This activity will aim to identify training needs and means, produce training and communication material, organise logistics for dissemination and awareness activities, implement an education and awareness campaign, and facilitate communication and networking among GNSS actors in the region.

Activity C: GNSS Services Demonstration

Demonstration projects for the development of GNSS services and applications in the Mediterranean area, encompassing various transport modes and non-transport applications, will be defined and implemented.

Activity D: GNSS Signal in Space Provision

This activity includes definition, design, development and validation of the additional infrastructure needed for an early provision of the GNSS signal in space.

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Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED)		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Project		
TOTAL BUDGET: € 4.5 million	START DATE: 2004	DURATION: 3 years

The Mediterranean is threatened by human activities that may cause severe pollution, even accidental deaths. The European Commission wants to focus co-operation on strengthening maritime safety and security in the Mediterranean, building on the achievements of the IMO and the added value created by the EU legislative framework. This has been underlined in the Commission's Communication on the development of a Euro-Mediterranean transport network (COM (2003) 376 final of 24 June 2003).

OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of the SAFEMED Project are

- Sustainable improvement in the protection of Mediterranean waters against the risk of accidents at sea and marine pollution.
- Further reduction of the gap between the international regulatory framework and EU legislation on maritime safety.

More specifically, the project aims at:

Building upon the results of the first MEDA Regional Maritime package of projects;

Ensuring a link with the IMO safety/pollution prevention framework and the EU's legislative programme;

Taking into account the legislation and implementation gap between EU Member States and Mediterranean Partners.

DESCRIPTION

The SAFEMED project will contain activities aiming at:

an effective flag State implementation and monitoring of classification societies

Mediterranean Partners will be invited, with the assistance of EU Member States, to assess their flag State compliance. An ad hoc training programme will be set up.

ensuring the safety of navigation through traffic monitoring

The development of a Mediterranean Sea traffic monitoring system compatible with the EU system will be promoted, as well as ad hoc infrastructure. A training programme for managers and operators of the traffic monitoring centres will be set up.

a better protection of the Mediterranean environment

The SAFEMED project will identify the impediments, if any, of the contracting parties to implement effectively the Barcelona Convention commitments, and ad hoc seminars will be set up. SAFEMED will also duly consider the efforts undertaken at EU level with regard to the problem of illicit oil discharges from ships.

upgrading the qualification of the personnel of maritime administrations Specific training programmes will be set up and legislative/administrative commitments might be identified.

drawing up a state of play of the implementation of IMO maritime security rules in the entire Mediterranean, and identifying priority actions if necessary.

More Information: http://www.euromedtransport.org		
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EUMEDIS The Euro-Mediterranean Information Society Initiative		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 65 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1999	DURATION: 8 years

The Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference of 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.

OBJECTIVES

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.92).

DESCRIPTION

EUMEDIS activities are divided in 2 strands:

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;
EUMEDCONNECT, an Internet-based interconnection between the European research networks (NRENs) and the Mediterranean research networks.

In the second strand of the initiative, EUMEDIS Pilot Projects, regional pilot experiences applying the information and communication technologies are funded in five sectors, 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.

Following a successful Call for Proposals published in March 2000, 20 projects started in 2002.

EUMEDIS projects that have already started at the beginning of 2002

EUMEDIS TITLE	Project Leader	Leader Country	Partner Countries	Budget (€)
EMPHIS: East Mediterranean Public Health Information System	Fondation Mérieux	F	France, Greece, Italy, UK, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	3,349,292
BURNET	Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters	IT	Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Israel	2,062,500
EMISPHER: Euro-Mediterranean Internet Satellite Platform for Health, Media Education and Research	Robert Roessle Clinic, CHARITE Berlin	D	Germany, Belgium, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey	2,350,101
PARADIGMA: Participative Approach to Disease Global Management	Ospedale Maggiore di Milano	IT	Austria, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Netherlands, Portugal, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	2,311,785
EUMED CANCER GEMED NETWORK	European Genetics Foundation	IT	Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia	1,300,000
EMED-TDS.COM	Ass. 'Euro Mediterranean Trade Distribution and Services' Initiative	IT	Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	2,249,314
MEDCHARTNET	IMO-International Maritime Academy	IT	Italy, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey	8,395,361
Tourist itineraries following the ancient trade Routes of the Mediterranean: trade and culture a bridge between civilisations	Ass. TECLA	IT	Italy, Greece, Egypt, Malta, Morocco, Turkey	1,339,532
DAEDALUS: Delivery of Mediterranean Destination links in Unified Environment	ITIM-CNR	IT	Italy, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Tunisia and Turkey	2,510,368
MEDINA: Mediterranean by Internet Access, an Access Gate for sustainable Development of Cultural Tourism in the Mediterranean	IMED Istituto per il Mediterraneo	IT	Italy, Greece, Austria, Belgium, France, Algeria, Cyprus, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria	2,898,862
STRABON: Système d'Information Multilingue pour le Patrimoine culturel euro-méditerranéen	Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme	F	France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia	3,705,000
ICT SOLUTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SMES	Fundacion CIREM, Fundacio Centre d'iniciatives i Recerques Europees a la Mediterrania	E	Spain, Denmark, Algeria, Cyprus, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Turkey	2,374,912
MED PRIDE: Mediterranean Project for Innovation Development	Sviluppo Italia S.p.A.	IT	Cyprus, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, United Kingdom	2,281,837
EMED TEX NET: Cluster for the Development of a Euro-Mediterranean Network in the Textile Clothing Sector	Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris	F	France, Germany, Greece, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia	1,549,521

SMITE: Improving Competitiveness of SME's Through IT based Environmental Business Planning	National Technical University of Athens, chemical Engineering Department, Laboratory of Industrial & Energy Economics	GR	Greece, Denmark, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey	1,622,997
Mouvement Euromed pour le Management et la qualité des petites entreprises et entreprises artisanales	APCM	F	France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	2,099,865
Med Net'U: Mediterranean Network for Unified Distance Learning	CONSORZIO NETTUNO	IT	Italy, France, Greece, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	5,137,515
AVICENNA VIRTUAL CAMPUS	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation	F	France, Italy, Spain, UK, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	4,621,522
MEDFORIST	Groupe ESC Grenoble-Centre TIME (ESCG)	F	France, Finland, Greece, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	2,812,044
ODISEAME	Centro para el Desarrollo de las Telecomunicaciones de Castilla y León	E	Spain, German, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority	2,724,743
EUMEDCONNECT Phase I	DANTE (Delivery of Advance Network Technology to Europe Limited)	UK	UK, Italy, France, Greece, Spain and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	195,040
EUMEDCONNECT Phase II	DANTE (Delivery of Advance Network Technology to Europe Limited)	UK	UK, Italy, France, Greece, Spain and the 12 Mediterranean Partners	9,804,965

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/international/mediterranean/index_en.htm

<http://www.eumedis.net>

<p style="text-align: center;">NATP New Approaches regarding Telecommunication Policy among Mediterranean Partners</p>		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 2.15 million (MEDA)	START DATE: December 1999 CLOSING DATE: December 2002	DURATION: 3 years

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

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this project was 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 the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area.

DESCRIPTION

To achieve its objectives, the project has carried 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 has allowed an exchange between the participants of the various activities, as well as with a larger audience. It has set up discussion groups and has provided links with the most important regional telecom-related web sites. Further, the project has encouraged 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 has also involved 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, which continues with a second phase, 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. The project concluded in December 2002. Second phase (NATP II) new activities will start in 2005.

MEDSTAT Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Co-operation		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET:		
MEDSTAT I: € 20 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 1996	DURATION: 6 years
MEDSTAT II: € 30 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2003	DURATION: 4 years

The MEDSTAT programme aims at developing statistical information systems and improving the quality of existing services provided by the Mediterranean Partners' statistical systems (National Statistical Offices and other institutions involved in the production of statistics) in order to meet the economic and social information requirements, as stated in the Barcelona Declaration and in accordance with the guidelines of the 4th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on 15-16 November 2000.

OBJECTIVES

One major objective is to facilitate the supply of specific data required within the framework of the implementation and monitoring of the Association Agreements with the Mediterranean Partners. Moreover, users will be provided with updated, reliable and relevant statistical data necessary for political decision-making and to ensure good governance.

More specifically, the programme contributes:

- to the institutional and inter-institutional strengthening of the National Statistical Institutes and of the statistical systems of the Mediterranean Partners,
- to the harmonisation of statistical data in line with European and international standards,
- to the constitution of databases and to the exchange of relevant data between the Euro-Mediterranean National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat,
- to greater visibility and better dissemination of the activities, results and data produced by the programme, and
- to the satisfaction of user needs within a more general framework of services for the users.

DESCRIPTION

Statistical co-operation comprises technical assistance including training, statistical developments (preparation, collection, analysis, production, surveys and dissemination of data), information technology, equipments and organisation of seminars and conferences. As far as the second phase of the programme – “MEDSTAT II” – is concerned, four principal themes including several sub-themes are covered:

Theme A - Capacity Building:

A.1 - MED-Training: Vocational training

A.2 - MED-IS: Statistical information systems

Theme B - Support to macro-economic follow-up:

B.1 - MED-Comext: Foreign trade

B.2 - MED-NA: National Accounts

Theme C - Consolidation of the sectoral sub-programmes:

- C.1 - MED-Env: Environment
- C.2 - MED-Migr: Migration
- C.3 - MED-Tour: Tourism
- C.4 - MED-Trans: Transport

Theme D - New sectoral sub-programmes:

- D.1 - MED-Agri: Agriculture
- D.2 - MED-Soc: Social statistics

The Directors' Committee which brings together at least once a year the Directors-General of the statistical services of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners, including EFTA, contributes general expertise to the MEDSTAT programme. Its work involves 1) the analysis of the activities undertaken in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean statistical co-operation since the previous meeting and 2) input for the work in the short and medium term future. DG EuropeAid Co-operation Office is in charge of the overall coordination of the MEDSTAT programme and Eurostat is responsible for the technical expertise concerning all issues linked to the statistical co-operation in the MEDA region. The latest Directors' Committee took place on 17-18 January in Brussels. The Committee laid out the basic framework for the next chapter of MEDSTAT II, which is currently being reinforced. On the basis of a general financial framework of € 30 million, tender procedures for MEDSTAT II are on-going and soon to be finalised. This should guarantee continuity of statistical co-operation under the MEDA programme.

As one of the information tools of MEDSTAT, 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>).

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		
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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 the 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 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 Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Brussels in November 2001 emphasised dialogue between 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. The launching of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between cultures has been decided in the Euromed Ministerial in Dublin. The headquarters will be in Alexandria, Egypt.

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.

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

Euromed HERITAGE Regional Programme for Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Heritage		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 17.2 million (phase I) € 30 million (phase II) € 10 million (phase III)	START DATE: 1997 (phase I) 2001 (phase II) 2003 (phase III)	DURATION: 6 years (phase I) 7 years (phase II) 5 years (phase III)

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.

OBJECTIVES

The Euromed Heritage programme has been launched, aiming at the preservation and development of the Euro-Mediterranean cultural heritage.

DESCRIPTION

The Programme covers 4 areas:

- Highlighting heritage by establishing an inventory and promoting networking of historical sites and cultural institutions, and by promoting high-quality cultural tourism.
- Heritage policy support (institutional support and legislation) through exchange of experiences, and transfers of know-how and technical assistance.
- 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.
- Training in skills related to heritage and cultural activities.

After the first call for proposals, 16 projects were launched, concerning both material and non-material cultural heritage. Five new contracts were signed in December 2002 for a duration of maximum 18 months. All projects are now completed and a final evaluation has been carried out.

The Euromed Heritage programme was reinforced at the end of 2000 by adding € 30 million for its second phase and in 2003 by adding € 10 million to fund four projects from the reserve list of the Euromed Heritage II call for proposals.

As a result, eleven Euromed Heritage II projects started their activities in 2002, and four Euromed Heritage III projects started in 2004 mostly 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 (Int./France)	Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Italy, Portugal, Greece	272,812	Professional qualification for architectural heritage arts
IPAMED	Institut National du Patrimoine (Tunisia)	France, Algeria, Palestinian Authority, France, Italy	1,120,050	Computerised cartography of the historical heritage
RIAS	Ministerio de Education Generaldes bellas Artes y Bienes Culturales (Spain)	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 HERITAGE TRAINING	ICCROM (Int. /Italy)	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)	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)	Italy, Algeria, Israel, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Germany, France, Greece	3,210,037	Integrated programming of archaeological sites
UNIMED SYMPOSIUM	UNIMED (Italy)	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)	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 (Italy)	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)	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)	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)	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 (France)	France, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Spain, Greece, Sweden	1,540,381	Safeguard and development of the heritage of libraries in the Near East
MUSEO-MED	ICOM (Greece)	Greece, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Malta, Cyprus	97,089	Technical assistance in museology and in museography
SAVING CULTURAL HERITAGE EXHIBITION	City of Hildesheim (Germany)	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

CORPUS LEVANT	Ecole D'Avignon (France)	Lebanon, Syria, Spain, France	334,000	Traditional architecture in Syria and Lebanon
ENCYCLOPEDIE DE LA MEDITERRANEE	SECUM – Sciences, Education et Cultures en Méditerranée (Italie)	Spain, Malta, Morocco, Algeria, Italy	227,000	Research and editing
COURS DU PATRIMOINE DU MAGHREB II	Ecole Nationale d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme (Tunisie)	Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Italy, France, Spain	282,450	Scholarships for professionals from Maghreb
ISLAMIC ART IN THE MEDITERRANEAN II	Musée Sans Frontières (Belgique)	Tunisia, Palestinian Authority, Morocco, United Kingdom	133,765	Palestinian Exhibition : « Pilgrimage, Science and Sufism – Islamic Art in the West Bank and Gaza »
VOIR & SEE MANUMED	Centre de Conservation du Livre (France)	Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Greece, Spain, Sweden	85,000	Visibility of Manumed

Euromed Heritage II Projects:

Title	Co-ordinator	Other countries	EC contribution (€)
DELTA : développement de Systèmes Culturels Territoriaux www.imednet.it/delta/	Instituto per il Mediterraneo (Italy)	Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Algeria, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority	2,915,896
PRODECOM : Produits, Développement, Communication www.chbeauxarts-prodecom.org	Chambre des beaux arts de la Méditerranée (France)	France, Greece, Algeria, Morocco, Turkey	643,637
Filières innovantes, savoir-faire locaux et partenariat euro-méditerranéen www.savoirs.polimi.it	Politecnico de Milano (Italy)	Italy, France, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey, Morocco, Syria	3,000,000
La navigation du savoir www.navigationsusavoir.net	Université de Malte	Malta, France, Italy, Spain, Algeria, Cyprus, Tunisia	3,000,000
The Mediterranean Voices and Cultural Practice in Mediterranean Cities www.med-voices.org	University of North London	UK, France, Italy, Spain, Egypt, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Turkey	2,879,771
MEDIMUSES www.medimuses.gr	En Chordais (Greece)	Ireland, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, UK, Jordan, Cyprus, Lebanon	2,998,192
TEMPER Training, Education, Management and Prehistory in the Mediterranean www.temper-euromed.org	Chancellor and Scholars of the University of Cambridge (UK)	UK, Greece, Israel, Malta, Turkey	1,113,902
Patrimoines partagés www.patrimoinespargés.org	CNRS Délégation DR 8 (France)	France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia	2,604,424
IKONOS Creation of new cultural heritage horizons through distance learning nodes in the Mediterranean www.ikonosheritage.org	Malta Center for Restoration	Malta, Greece, UK, Algeria, Cyprus, Jordan, Morocco	2,535,092

Unimed Cultural Heritage II www.heritage.uni-med.net	Università del Mediterraneo (Italy)	Italy, Spain, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey	1,516,890
Defence Systems in Mediterranean Coasts www.medanet.info/	Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo (Spain)	Spain, Egypt, Greece, Portugal, Syria, Italy	2,343,093

Euromed Heritage III Projects:

Discover Islamic Art	Musée Sans Frontières (int)	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	2.676.241
REHABIMED	Collegi d'Aparelladors i Arquitectes Tècnics de Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain)	Spain, France, Cyprus, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia	2.743.501
QANTARA	Institut du Monde Arabe (France)	France, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordania, Lebanon	2.934.811
Byzantium Early Islam	Elliniki Etairia (Greece)	Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Palestinian Authority, Israël	990.175

Other initiative financed under Euromed HERITAGE:

Regional Management and Support Unit (RMSU)	ICCD (Italy)	Regional	3.500.000
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More Information:

<http://www.euromedheritage.net>

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

Brochures: EUROMED HERITAGE "creating a future that cares for the past" (English and French), Euromed Heritage II – III : projects and partners/projets et partenaires

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Euromed Audiovisual Regional Programme for Euro-Mediterranean Audiovisual Co-operation		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 20 million (phase I) € 15 million (phase II)	START DATE: 2000 (phase I) 2005 (phase II)	DURATION: 4 years (phase I) 3 years (phase II)

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 Chapter of the Barcelona Process. Government experts of the Euro-Mediterranean partners then defined the major axes of audio-visual co-operation at the Thessaloniki Conference in November 1997. Much has been achieved since then in the way of audio-visual co-operation between the two sides of the Mediterranean within the Euromed Audiovisual Regional Programme.

OBJECTIVES

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

- to develop the audio-visual sector in the Southern Mediterranean region 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 enhance the region's audiovisual and film heritage;
- to encourage the promotion and distribution of films from the EU and the Mediterranean Partners.

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. Promoting Euro-Mediterranean dialogue between cultures and civilisations, the programme thus fulfils one of the major objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

DESCRIPTION

The Euromed-Audiovisual Programme is a key instrument for inter-cultural dialogue between the Mediterranean Partners and the European Union. All sensitive issues of audio-visual policy are addressed, like for instance the identification of structuring themes, the creation of an area of co-operation for the economic and cultural development of audio-visual media or direct support to the sector. Pictures and media techniques are overwhelmingly and increasingly present in the dissemination and acquisition of knowledge, and in the assertion of cultural diversity. This is why the Programme has a very special place at the heart of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The social, cultural and human partnership facilitates understanding between cultures, and exchanges between civil society players

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 less than four years, the MEDA funded Euromed Audiovisual Regional Programme has achieved significant results in fields as diverse as the circulation of films between the two shores of the Mediterranean, the preservation of the South Mediterranean's audio-

visual heritage, the training of professionals, and the production of cartoons and documentaries. In broader terms, the Programme has enabled audio-visual professionals from the 27 countries and territories (now 35) to get closer together within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and so to lay the first milestones on the way to a common audio-visual area.

The programme's second phase, Euromed Audiovisual II (€ 15 million for 2005-2007) will aim to develop training and provide technical assistance for drawing up new legislation, and to re-focus grants towards distributing, disseminating and screening Mediterranean films for cinema and television.

In addition, while the Euromed Audiovisual I Programme has been more specifically geared towards supporting production so as to bring about the emergence of a Mediterranean film market, the priorities announced for Phase II should rather lead to co-ordination among the most efficient distributors in order to ensure that European and Mediterranean films will be simultaneously released in cinemas in 2004-2007. Another objective will be to facilitate the establishment of a coherent production-distribution-screening process.

On the basis of consultations with every Ministry and administration, and industry organisations, and to respond to the problems raised in every trade and country, support will be provided by either sending experts or encouraging institutional twinning operations. As regards protecting films against piracy, technical assistance will be provided for raising awareness among the Partners' public administrations. In addition, support will be provided for 4 priority activities under the new Programme:

- Development, distribution, promotion and exploitation of audiovisual projects;
- Archive conservation;
- Raising awareness among Mediterranean Partners of the regulation related protection of audio-visual projects;
- Support to vocational training.

The establishment by national authorities of some regulation for the trade in order to provide a more secure basis for its development will be supported. Technical assistance will also be offered for harmonising legislation among Mediterranean Partners, based on EU existing instruments such as the "Television without frontiers" and the copyright directives.

A 'Vocational Training' strand will be developed with support from the MEDIA-Training Programme. Mediterranean audio-visual professionals will be offered a choice of training courses that will cover technical domains such as scriptwriting and learning to use digital equipment, as well as legal and financial aspects like financial engineering, production and co-production management, and marketing.

Archive conservation has been mentioned as such by national authorities from many Mediterranean Partners as concerning conservation and restoration of audio-visual works (television, cinema and radio).

More Information: Euromed Special Feature on Euro-Mediterranean audiovisual co-operation, July 2001 http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/special_feature24_en.pdf http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional/audiovisual_en.htm		
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Projects of the Euromed Audiovisual I programme

Title	Co-ordinator	Co-ordinates	Countries involved	EU Grant (€)	Objective
EUROPA CINEMAS (cinema – support fund to distributors and exhibitors)	Claude-Eric Poiroux Director General Europa Cinémas (France)	54 rue Beaubourg 75003 Paris – France	15 countries of the EU and all the Mediterranean partners countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey, Cyprus	4,530,000	Support fund for the distribution and exploitation of European and South Mediterranean films in the Mediterranean Partners. Support to exhibitors for programming South Mediterranean films in the EU countries.
		tel: +33-1-42715370 fax: +33-1-42714755			
		E-mail: europacinema@magic.fr http://www.europa-cinemas.org			
MEDEA (cinema / television – support fund for development of audiovisual works)	Alicia Gallardo Empresa Pública de Gestión de Programas Culturales (Spain)	C/ Santa Teresa nº8 41004 Seville – Spain	Belgium, France, Netherlands, Spain, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Turkey (final beneficiaries come from all Mediterranean Partners and many EU countries)	4,000,000	Support mechanism for the development (pre-production) phase of 87 co-productions (documentaries and fiction films) and implementation of 11 training modules for producers.
		tel: +34-95-5037250 fax: +34-95-5037265			
		E-mail: programamedea.epgpc@juntadeandalucia.es http://www.programamedea.com			
CINEMA MED (cinema – travelling festival + training + film restoration)	Michele Capasso, President Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo (Italy)	Via Depretis, 130 80 133 Napoli – Italy	France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	1,160,000	1) Promotion of Mediterranean Partners' films through the organisation of a travelling festival devoted to Arab cinematography of the Mediterranean region. 2) Organisation of training modules on the theoretical and practical aspects of script writing. 3) Film restoration and organisation of a retrospective devoted to Salah Abu Seif, an Egyptian filmmaker.
		Tel: +39-81-5523033 Fax: +39-81-4203273			
		E-mail: mediterraneo@mbx.idn.it http://www.cinemamed.org http://medlab.org			
CAPMED (television – audiovisual archives)	Nancy Angel Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (France)	Rue de la Charité, 2 13002 Marseille – France	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 linked to the Internet.
		tel: +33-4-91143340 fax: +33-4-91143345			
		E-mail: nangel@ina.fr http://www.cap-med.net			
ELLES... AUX ABORDS DE L'AN 2000 (television – documentary)	Marianne Khoury MISR International Films (Egypt)	35 Champollion street 11511 Cairo – Egypt	Denmark, France Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia (film directors from other Mediterranean Partners could join)	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
		tel: +20-2-5788124 fax: +20-2-5788033			
		E-mail: mifl@starnet.com.eg			
EUROMEDIA-TOON - VIVA CARTHAGO (television - co-production)	Ahmed B. E. Attia, Director CinéTéléfilms (Tunisia)	16 rue Ali Bach Hamba 1000 Tunis – Tunisia	Belgium, France, Italy Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey	3,988,000	Co-production of a series of 26 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
		tel: +216-71-343684 fax: +216-71-351688			
		E-mail: attiactf@gnet.tn			

**Participation of the 27 Euro-Mediterranean countries and territories
in the projects of the Euromed Audiovisual I programme**

Project	TOTAL	1	2	3	4	5	6
Partner	Sum	Europa Cinemas	Elles...	MEDEA*	Euromédiatoon - Viva Carthago	CapMed	Cinema Med
Algeria							
Cyprus							
Egypt							
Israel							
Jordan							
Lebanon							
Malta							
Morocco							
Palest. Authority							
Syria							
Tunisia							
Turkey							
Austria							
Belgium							
Denmark							
Finland							
France							
Greece							
Luxembourg							
Germany							
Ireland							
Italy							
Netherlands							
Portugal							
United Kingdom							
Spain							
Sweden							

Legend:

Project coordinator

Project partner



Footnote:

* MEDA project: the direct beneficiaries (film production companies receiving aid) come from all Mediterranean Partners and many EU States. These beneficiaries are not considered project partners.

Euromed Youth The Euro-Mediterranean Youth Action Programme		
Type of Action: Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 6 million (MEDA) (phase I) € 10 million (MEDA) (phase II)	START DATE: 1999 (phase I) 2002 (phase II)	DURATION: 4 years (phase I) 3 years (phase II)

The Barcelona Declaration stressed that "youth exchanges should be the means to prepare future generations for a closer co-operation among 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.

OBJECTIVES

The programme's goals are to facilitate the integration of young people into social and professional life and stimulate the democratisation of civil society in 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

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.

More than 15,000 young people have participated in the projects until 2004.

In the framework of the second phase, three Calls for Proposals are launched each year in areas such as the fight against racism and xenophobia, cross border co-operation and the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities into the programme. Over 250 projects have been selected for funding, covering activities such as youth exchanges, training and information, and voluntary service.

More Information:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/priorities/euomed.html>

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/youthprogram.html>

Euomed Special Feature on the Euomed Youth Action Programme, October 2001

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euomed/publication/special_feature25_en.pdf

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Regional Information and Communication Programme		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 10 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2003	DURATION: 2 years

Improving mutual understanding and eliminating misconceptions within the Euro-Mediterranean region are among the goals of the Barcelona Process. Those concerns lie at the heart of the Regional Information and Communication Programme, also known as Euro-Med Dialogue, whose activities will mainly unfold during 2005, the Year of the Mediterranean and 10th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process.

OBJECTIVES

After years of work and many results achieved, the need to increase the visibility of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and related activities is becoming more and more pressing. It is clear that efforts should be devoted to publicise not only the objectives and the advantages but more importantly perhaps the concrete achievements of the Partnership.

The programme aims to strengthen the visibility of the Barcelona Process and its perception by the general public and opinion leaders (media, political, institutions, business world and industry, civil society) in the whole area covered by the Partnership, with a strong emphasis on the Mediterranean Partners. It is essentially a dialogue whose objectives are to:

- Maximise awareness and understanding of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership by promoting debate, dialogue and interaction;
- Create a sense of shared vision;
- Increase a sense of local ownership;
- Put the subject of Euro-Med relations on the media agenda and the public horizon;
- Engage young people of the Region in the discussion about their future;
- Use dialogue and debate to strengthen independent opinion formation;
- Support and strengthen the emerging civil society.

DESCRIPTION

The activities of the programme focus on the region's media, (with an emphasis on the broadcast media), youth and civil society sectors. The general public will be reached through extensive media activities planned. The dialogue will be based on an interactive rather than passive communication model and will focus on news rather than information. Television will be a central focus and the use of new communications technologies will be maximised.

The wider target audience of this programme will be all the citizens of the Mediterranean Partners reached through specific target audiences that will be the multipliers that will allow the programme to reach individual citizens:

media (TV, radio, written press),
journalists,
political bodies (national, regional and local governments),
civil society,
business community,

academic community,
youth.

The programme has been devolved to European Commission Delegations in the Mediterranean Partners, and Commission Headquarters are responsible for ensuring coherence, co-ordination and political steering of the programme.

Within the Regional Programme a number of activities have already been planned. Additional ones will continue to be developed throughout the year.

1. Regional & Local television programmes

There will be at least 2 regional TV projects: one Arabic language and the other, a French language project.

The main TV projects have built-in options to re-broadcast the programmes in other countries, and where appropriate, to re-develop the productions in other (EU) languages.

The largest of the regional TV projects is an Arabic language project, involving a number of different TV productions, to be produced and broadcast by one of the major Arabic satellite TV channels. This project will produce up to 100 hours of programmes, composed of debates, talk-shows, and magazine programmes on Euro-Med relevant subjects. They will be seen mainly across the South Mediterranean region, where there is substantial viewing of this channel, but also across the EU and beyond. The potential audience for these programmes is 20 million viewers across the region.

The second project is designed essentially for audiences in the Maghreb countries, and additionally French-speaking EU countries. There will be a series of TV-magazine programmes on a main trans-national French language TV channel.

In addition, there will be TV programmes and series commissioned and broadcast on local (national) TV channels in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon. These will be a combination of new programmes with well-known local producers and presenters, and adaptations of existing programmes with existing loyal audiences. All programmes will be broadcast on the main national channels at prime time.

2. “May 9” and Tenth Anniversary celebrations – Live TV events

Included in and linked to these TV activities – are at least two live events, on the occasion of the 9 May (which may mark the launch of these Euro-Mediterranean communications activities) and the November “Tenth Anniversary of Barcelona” celebrations.

3. Newspaper supplements across the region

A series of newspaper supplements will be commissioned, with one of the major national newspapers in many of the Mediterranean Partners.

4. Radio series on main Arabic & French international stations

A series of 80 programmes will be broadcast in both Arabic and French language on mainstream international French and Arabic language radio stations. The programmes will deal

mainly with the themes in the 3rd chapter of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Social, cultural & human) and will involve many civil society players.

5. Euro-Med Senior Journalists network & conference

A network of high level journalists will be meeting in Jordan, selected from among the senior ranks of the broadcast and written media from both sides of the Mediterranean, for the first Euro-Med Journalists Conference.

6. Journalists' on-the-job training

Journalists (broadcast and print media) from all the Mediterranean Partners will be invited to take part in the 'On the job training programme'. This will give them day-to-day experience of covering EU and Euro-Med activities, learning about the EU and the Institutions, and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Up to 10 journalists per country may be able to participate in this programme.

7. Youth projects

Several projects aiming at and involving young people across the region have been prepared and researched. Among those so far proposed are youth competitions, a 'Youth TV magazine programme', and artistic competitions. All of these activities will deal with Euro-Mediterranean subjects relevant to the youth of Europe and the Mediterranean presented in an entertaining and informative fashion.

A series of youth competitions will take place at school or university level, in many of the Mediterranean Partners (and possibly EU countries) with quarter/semi- and final rounds taking place at international level. The final rounds may be televised.

8. Civil society activities

Euro-Mediterranean Partnership awareness raising activities are also expected to take place among the civil society sector. These activities will be defined by the main civil society organisations active in the region, but are likely to take the form of a network of online and face-to-face discussion groups and information sessions, with some training aspects.

9. Supporting the communications activities

In support to all of the above activities, the programme will produce the necessary supporting information material in print, electronic and audio-visual form. These may be made available for use in activities other than those planned within this programme.

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<p align="center">The Euro-Mediterranean Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures</p>		
<p align="center">Type of Action: Regional Instrument</p>		
BUDGET: € 5 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2005	DURATION: on-going

The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures was launched in the Naples Foreign Ministers' meeting in December 2003, which also agreed on the modalities of setting it up. During the Mid-term Ministerial Conference in Dublin in May 2004, Ministers accepted the offer of Egypt and Sweden that the Foundation should have its headquarters in Alexandria Library in tandem with the Swedish Institute in Alexandria.

OBJECTIVES

The Foundation will promote the dialogue between cultures and contribute to the visibility of the Barcelona Process through intellectual, cultural and civil society exchanges. In particular, the Foundation will

promote knowledge, recognition and mutual respect between the cultures, traditions and values which prevail in the partners.

to identify, develop and promote areas of cultural convergence between the Euro-Mediterranean countries and peoples, with the aim in particular of promoting tolerance, cultural understanding and avoiding stereotypes, xenophobia and racism,

encourage initiatives which aim at promoting a dialogue between religions in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

promote the human dimension of the partnership as well as the consolidation of the rule of law and of basic freedoms in accordance with the guidelines of the regional cooperation programme which was also adopted in this field by the Valencia Conference (April 2002).

underline the vital importance of ensuring that all partners encourage the development and deepening of the cultural and human dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in all its aspects and its various components at bilateral or multilateral level.

DESCRIPTION

The Foundation will perform the following tasks within its areas of activity:

- ☐ establish and coordinate, in consultation and in cooperation with the competent authorities and organisations of the members of the Euro Mediterranean partnership, a network of national networks in order to act as a catalyst to develop the activities of the networks and provide an inventory of co-operation between them. The Foundation will be organised, at least in the initial stage as a network of networks. Therefore each euro-Mediterranean partner identified appropriate institutions and organisations that at national level are working to develop a dialogue between cultures and civilisations within the framework of

the Euro-Mediterranean societies and selected the institution/organisation that should play the role of head of the national network. The Foundation will assist members of the networks in securing access to funding, bringing people and organisations together, spreading knowledge and sharing best practice with the aim of furthering the dialogue between cultures.

- ☐ promote intellectual, cultural and civil society exchanges,
- ☐ promote a continuous debate using in particular multi-media techniques (television, radio, periodical magazine, Internet) in co-operation with existing media and with the participation of people from both shores including journalists and young people ,
- ☐ give patronage to important events which promote mutual understanding, co-financed by large media groups and/or festivals and institutions already active in these areas,
- ☐ promote the activities of the Barcelona Process including by means of the Foundation itself (periodical magazine, web site).

The European Commission is providing funding of € 5 million from MEDA, managed by EuropeAid Co-operation Office, and the Euro-Mediterranean partners have announced commitments with a total figure superior to that amount. An Executive Director has been appointed in the person of Mr Traugott Schöfthaler. The Statute of the Foundation has been approved and the Foundation should be officially opened in the first half of 2005.

An Advisory Committee consisting of 12 members has been established of individuals chosen for their background in the field of intercultural dialogue and their independence to support the work of the Foundation. The members of the Advisory Committee have been selected amongst Euro-Mediterranean partners, taking into consideration the partners' geographical diversity, 6 from EU countries and 6 from Mediterranean Partners, appointed for three years, non-renewable. In addition, the Euro-Mediterranean Committee of the Barcelona Process acts as Board of Governors of the Foundation.

More Information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/euromed_foundation/index.htm		
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Euromed “Role of Women in Economic Life” Programme		
Type of Action: MEDA funded Regional Programme		
BUDGET: € 5 million (MEDA)	START DATE: 2005	DURATION: 3 years

The Mediterranean Partners display some of the lowest rates worldwide of women's participation in the paid labour force. This situation continues despite the fact that in several countries notable advances have been made in closing the gender gap in terms of educational enrolment and achievement, normally regarded as a key factor in enhancing women's economic participation. Under the 'Role of Women in Economic Life' programme, activities will be incorporated in existing National Action Plans for enhancing gender equality, such as those developed in the context of the follow-up to the Beijing Conference, or in new National Action Plans developed under the programme.

OBJECTIVES

The programme will promote opportunities for women's participation in economic life by developing and supporting measures to eliminate underlying structural obstacles in a number of areas, notably in policy formulation and planning, data collection and gender impact analysis, training and capacity-building, information-sharing and networking. Programme activities in the above-mentioned areas will result in enhancing the participation of women in ongoing programmes with an economic dimension, and the development of new programme approaches in key areas to facilitate women's participation.

The specific objectives of the programme include:

- Enhancing recognition of women's actual contribution to the economy, and recognition of the importance of reflecting this contribution in economic policy formulation, planning and budgeting
- Enhancing access to and participation in the labour market, and ensuring equal access to new opportunities provided by the globalisation process, through development of appropriate training, which is based on a needs analysis of target groups of women
- Enhancing access to credit facilities by the most needy women based upon an impact assessment of existing micro-credit/micro-finance initiatives, and the steering of new approaches based on a better knowledge of client demand, and existing savings and expenditure patterns
- Enhancing information and communication support to the specific activities and objectives of the proposed regional programme through the mass media, through internet exchanges, and through networking via associations at sub-regional and regional levels

DESCRIPTION

In order for the proposed regional programme to have optimal impact despite a relatively modest budget and a brief duration of two years, it is essential from the outset that operations under the programme be set within the framework of related ongoing activities, carried out at regional or national levels. Specifically, programme activities need not only be complementary to ongoing European Commission programmes in the region and in individual Mediterranean Partners, but must also be designed with reference to other processes which have gender equality mainstreaming as their objective. Foremost amongst these processes are the follow-up to the global conferences on women (MDGs), and activities related to the realisation of the commitments made under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Priority areas of intervention identified include:

- 1) Impact assessment of micro-credit/micro-finance schemes in the region; studies of the impact of macro-economic policies on women and men and Internet networks. These activities will be developed through a restricted Call for tender.
- 2) Development of gender-sensitive vocational training programmes, as well as training in leadership, and economic and legal literacy; capacity building of media institutions and public sector to provide ongoing support to gender equality and in particular to the enhanced economic participation of women. These activities will be developed through a restricted Call for Proposals.

Expected results can be summed up as follows:

Availability of gender-disaggregated data on women's contribution in all sectors of the economy, including the care economy, and the establishment of gender responsive budget initiatives;

Gender-sensitive training and capacity-building based upon needs analysis of different target groups;

Increase in the numbers of new businesses created by women;

Establishment of credit facilities responsive to the needs of the target groups;

Enhanced awareness and substantive support from media and IT professionals to the immediate goals of the programme and to the larger goal of gender equality in the region.

CALENDAR OF IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Launch of a Call for tender and a Call for Proposals by late 2004;
Selection of projects in early 2005;
Signature of contracts in the 1st half of 2005; and
Implementation of projects over 2 years (2005-2007).

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euomed/publication/special_feature24_en.pdf
http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional/medawomen_en.htm

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<p align="center">Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions</p>		
<p align="center">Type of Action: Regional Meetings</p>		
BUDGET: ± € 50,000 per annum	START DATE: 1995	DURATION: on-going

In line with the decision taken at the Barcelona Conference, economic and social councils and similar institutions have met since 1995 on a regular basis. During these meetings, major issues relevant to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership have been discussed.

OBJECTIVES

The Barcelona Declaration invited the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) 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

The main aspects of the programme include 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, innovation policies of SMEs and the craft sector, and international trade and social development.

The first summit was held in Madrid in December 1995. After Paris (November 1996), Casablanca (November 1997), Lisbon (September 1998), Antalya (November 1999), Naples (November 2000), Athens (March 2002), and Malta (November 2003), the latest summit was held in November 2004 in Valencia, Spain. The summits address issues that are crucial to the future of the Mediterranean region and make many recommendations to the political authorities of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

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

More Information:

Malta Summit 2003
<http://www.esc.eu.int/>

Greater involvement of civil society organisations in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership at national and regional level
<http://www.esc.eu.int/>

Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum		
Type of Action: Regional Activity		
BUDGET: according to each EU Presidency (MEDA)	START DATE: 1995	DURATION: on-going

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.

OBJECTIVES

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

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.

The forum met 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 inter-culturalism; 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.

During the following months the Forum has been working to implement the Valencia roadmap. The priorities are to optimise the relationship between the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the civil societies.

A forum was held in Chania (Crete) from 1 to 4 May 2003, preceding the mid-term Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers. The main issues discussed were the dialogue of cultures and religions and the peaceful solution of conflicts.

The forum preceding Barcelona VI took place in Naples on 28-30 November 2003 with two subjects on the agenda:

- Sustainable development including questions concerning employment,
- Good governance and civil society empowerment.

The first Extended Meeting of the **Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform** (Civil Forum) was held on 25 and 26 June in Limassol, Cyprus with the participation of over 80 representatives of regional, thematic, sub-regional, national and local networks. A Charter of common values and principles for membership of the Platform were adopted. A modus operandi for the transitional period until the holding of a founding general assembly in March 2005 was established, an action plan was approved, and a monitoring group was created, which will supervise decision implementation. In addition, preparations for the March 2005 assembly and Civil Forum were discussed in the light of the co-ordination meeting held on 21 June with representatives of the future Luxembourg Presidency of the EU, Luxembourg and Moroccan NGOs, the Platform, and the European Commission. Other subjects were debated, particularly the need to reinforce existing networks and stimulating emerging ones, and the relevance of Platform activities aiming to make the voice of civil society heard in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

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Information and 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: 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 35 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.

Euromed Calendar: this calendar brings to the attention of the general public important information on events related to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

All 4 publications are issued in English and in French, though in some cases the document used for a Euromed Report is only available in one language. The Euromed Synopsis is also published in Arabic on the web. The Euromed publications are sent electronically to more than 3,800 recipients in the EU and Mediterranean countries, and are also available on-line. Registration can be done via email: europeaid-euromedinfo@cec.eu.int

Annual report on the EC development policy and external assistance:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid>

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 2003, English, French and Spanish).
- *Europe and the Mediterranean: towards a closer partnership – An overview of the Barcelona Process in 2002* (2003, English and French)
- *Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations in the Barcelona Process* (December 2002, English and French)

More Information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/publications_en.htm

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).

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