

7th IMP MED Working Group meeting

Brussels, October 2014

What EU support to IMP in the Mediterranean beyond 2014?

NB: This paper is an updated version of the paper presented at the IMP MED project regional meeting in Bremen, May 2014.

The IMP-MED project will come to an end in November 2014. Over its four years of existence, not only the project will have developed a regional awareness on IMP and spread the knowledge around its concepts and tools, but also the project will have initiated some concrete IMP developments, both at regional and national level.

It is acknowledged by the European Commission that further support is needed to anchor more firmly IMP in the Mediterranean region. As regards Mediterranean countries eligible¹ to the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), such support can be provided in various ways:

1. REGIONAL ENI COOPERATION: SUPPORTING IMP THROUGH AN UMBRELLA FACILITY FOR REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

The European Commission has established a regional facility to promote regional policy dialogue with and among ENI South countries, in various sectors and topics, one of them being IMP. A budget has been earmarked for each sector (€ 1.7 million for IMP).

The facility will consolidate and develop further what has been initiated by the IMP-MED project over 2010-2014, aiming at reaching common understandings and identifying joint actions.

The expected results for the IMP dialogue under this facility are to maintain the existing networks and to further develop the regional dialogue and exchange of best practices conducive to a change in practices, rules and norms in line with the IMP principles.

The regional facility will provide resources and expertise that aim at maintaining continuous and structured dialogue and exchange of best practices.

The IMP support activities will be:

¹ Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Israël. Official cooperation with Syria is suspended until further notice.

- conferences, workshops and regional seminars, and technical assistance at regional level,
- drafting of background documents and discussion papers,
- drafting of research reports,
- establishment of working groups,
- study visits,
- expert missions,
- country-specific activities, provided that they can clearly contribute to the regional policy dialogue in the said sector.

These activities will be steered by EuropeAid (DG DEVCO) and DG MARE.

The expected results for IMP will be:

- Stakeholders around the Mediterranean have developed a common understanding and knowledge of IMP principles and best practices;
- Some countries with a particularly strong interest in the matter may have proceeded to the holding of national IMP dialogues, leading to the setting up of an IMP governance structure.

What are the target groups?

Due to its cross-sectorial nature, regional dialogue on IMP has to involve a wide range of stakeholders, starting from the various relevant Ministries or government bodies, private sector organisations, CSOs / NGOs.

Budget and timetable

The budget for IMP support activities has been set at € 1.7 million. The indicative operational implementation period is 48 months.

The umbrella facility for regional policy dialogue has been formally approved in August 2014, when it reached the stage of a financing decision being taken.

A call for tender will be launched at the start of 2015, which would lead to the operational implementation starting in the second semester 2015.

2. MAINSTREAMING IMP IN THE OTHER ENI COOPERATION INSTRUMENTS

Due to the cross-sectorial nature of IMP, there are opportunities to embed IMP approaches and tools in a variety of projects and programmes dealing with transport, environment, fisheries, energy or even institutional governance.

2.1. Bilateral ENI cooperation programmes

Bilateral cooperation absorbs about 80% of the ENI² funds. Each country's multi-annual programming document (Single Strategic Frameworks, SSFs) identifies three priority sectors. According to the final versions

² Formally ENPI, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

of the SSFs (http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/documents/financing-the-enp/index_en.htm), there are opportunities to address IMP in such sectors like “*diversification of the economy and private sector*”, “*Inclusive growth and competitiveness*”, “*Private Sector and Trade*”, or “*Employment and private sector development*”.

These opportunities must be explored and discussed with the EU Delegation locally.

2.2. Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC)

ENI-CBC programmes combine ENI³ and ERDF⁴ funding and enable EU and non-EU countries to cooperate on issues of common interest.

Among the 13 CBC programmes established along the Eastern and Southern external borders of the European Union:

- Italy-Tunisia programme (the only sea crossing programme): <http://www.italietunisie.eu/>. Managing Authority: The Region of Sicily, Palermo. No on-going project that is relevant to IMP.
- CBC Med: The Joint Managing Authority is Regione Autonoma della Sardegna. 56 projects funded (ENPI contribution nearly 125 million EUR).

Examples:

MARE NOSTRUM (Facilitating cross-border ICZM implementation)
http://www.enpicbcmcd.eu/sites/default/files/mare_nostrum_final.pdf

Management of port areas in the Mediterranean Sea Basin (MAPMED)
http://www.enpicbcmcd.eu/documenti/29_153_20110916202515.pdf

Objectives and priorities are being defined for its next period 2014-2020 within the ENI CBC Mediterranean programme that will still be managed by the Region of Sardinia. Projects will be selected through open calls, following a demand-driven and competitive process. Implementation of this next phase is expected to start towards the end of 2015/beginning 2016.

In addition, there will be a new CBC Atlantic programme, covering Morocco, Portugal and Spain.

2.3. Institutional support

These instruments provide public, rather than private expertise. They were originally developed for countries that were candidates to the EU, in the framework of the enlargement process. They follow a peer-to-peer approach: civil servants from public administrations partner countries interact with their counterparts in EU Member States. Expertise is delivered preferably in areas related to the EU regulations (= EU *acquis*)

It consists of two main instruments:

- **TAIEX** (= Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) mobilizes short-term technical assistance to support public administrations in a number of areas, primarily with regard to approximation, application and

³ European Neighbourhood Instrument

enforcement of EU legislation. Assistance is given through expert missions, workshops or seminars and study visits. Budget €38.5 million for all EU neighbours, East and South (2006-2013)

An example:

TAIEX: Improving data collection and management in the maritime and air transport sectors (Algeria, April 2013)

- **Twinning:** Civil servants from EU member state are seconded to work in partner administration for minimum 12 months, bringing practical expertise on EU laws and administration.

- *Since 2004, nearly 270 twinning projects launched in 12 Neighbourhood countries for overall budget of €295 million*

Two examples:

Egypt – Institutional building and legislation approximation in maritime safety

Tunisia - Support to the strengthening of the maritime authority and administration (« Appui au renforcement de l'administration et de l'autorité maritimes en Tunisie »), in preparation

- ❑ Whom to contact?: Programme Administration Offices (PAOs)

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/overview/documents/1310_taiex_national_contact_points.pdf

2.4. Neighbourhood Investment Facility – NIF

The NIF provides grant funding to be combined with loans from European PFIs (Partner Financial Institutions: EIB, EBRD, KfW, AFD). It targets infrastructure projects in transport, energy, social and environment sectors as well as private sector initiatives (in particular micro + SMEs).

For ENPI South, as of Oct. 2013, 30 projects had received €250 million of NIF grants, which leveraged €3.5 billion in loans. In selecting projects that will be supported by the NIF, the EU places great importance on promoting high environmental and social standards

The NIF envelope (€745 million (2007-2013) for the entire EU Neighbourhood) was split 50 / 50% between the South and East Neighbourhood. For 2014-2020, the NIF envelope for the Southern Neighbourhood only will be around €500 million.

An example:

Transport Facility (8.2 M€), under implementation