

Report

SIMWESTMED Steering Committee meeting #2 on 13th of February 2018

Attached documents:

- Annex I: Agenda of the meeting
- Annex II: Attendees list
- Annex III: Presentations showcased during the meeting

Participants

The list of participants is provided in Annex III.

MAPAMA, Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment, MSP competent authority in Spain, could not take part into the meeting because of conflicts of agenda and absence of video-conference.

EASME was not attending as it currently attends the EU Cross-border project alternately with EU DGMare. Its active participation in the project meetings is considered useful by the Coordinator.

Introduction

The Steering Committee meeting #2 was held in Marseille, France. It was hosted by the DREAL PACA and organized by Shom. The meeting was chaired by the Coordinator.

The Coordinator opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. It recalled that this Steering Committee meeting has been postponed from end of 2017 to February because the initial proposal of a Partner to host the Steering Committee was cancelled due to internal difficulties. Thus Shom proposed to organize these series of meetings but was not able to organize it before February.

It was reminded that the Steering Committee of SIMWESTMED project is composed of a single representative of the Coordinator, of the Partners, of the affiliated Partners, of the involved Member States authorities, of the European Commission and of EASME. Thus it was reminded that a request must be made to the Coordinator to increase the number of representatives during the Steering Committee meeting.

The role of the Steering Committee was reminded: it is responsible for providing guidance to the Project Group on the scope and focus of the proposed action.

The participants introduced themselves.

Adoption of agenda

The IMELS (called MATTM, in the Grant Agreement) commented that the Steering Committee meeting should conduce to decisions by the Steering Group.

This has been taken into account. Thus the Coordinator and the Partners have payed attention to identify the decisions or no-decisions all along the meeting.

The agenda was adopted, with addition of an item at the beginning, to vote an operating rule to improve the preparation of SIMWESTMED meetings, on proposal of the Coordinator.

Vote of an operating rule (“gentleman rule”)

The Steering Committee agrees that any proposal of amendment to the agenda of a SIMWESTMED project group or steering committee meeting, and any comment which can affect the agenda must be done five working days in advance to the said meetings. This will allow that the topic is discussed and prepared with the coordinator.

Project status

SIMWESTMED project brings together Spain, France, Italy and Malta with 2 objectives:

- Either to Support the implementation of MSP Directive in the Member States waters of sovereignty or jurisdiction,
- Either to Establish a concrete cross-border MSP cooperation

The partnership is built on public bodies, beneficiaries of the EU Grant Agreement funds. Competent authorities regarding MSP are Partners of the Project in the case of Italy or Malta (MIT, IMELS and PA), or are participating at the level of the Steering Committee (Spain: MAPAMA, France: SGMer, MTES, DIRM Med, and Prefecture maritime)

Deliverables are mainly reports aiming to provide analysis and recommendations.

The Steering Committee meeting is aimed to review the activities of the project, called “sub-components”.

The sub-components are driven by a leading partner and in some cases by two co-leading partners.

The leading partners have informed the Steering Group about the status of the sub-components, in brief.



IMELS requests the Project Coordinator to share with all partners a detailed sheet of the deadlines for the various sub-components, including the deadlines proposed for revisions and workings.

➤ **Status of C1.1.1 Initial Assessment**

See Annex III, p15-18.

The initial assessment corresponds to a state of the art document, based on contributions of the Partners, not fully completed but sufficient to understand the issues on MSP in the Western Mediterranean, and sufficient for the next steps of the project. It provides general views MSP oriented regarding each of the involved countries.

The Partners will have to review it soon (dateline to be decided during the Project Group meeting).

The Case Studies will go deeper in some topics.

First results of this work: there is a need for Member States to open discussions to homogenize their information MSP relevant including definition of a common wording.

On the basis of the gaps identified by CORILA for some sectors relevant to the MSP and provided in the Directive, such as for example the "Cultural Heritage", IMELS points out the importance to foresee the presence of all the relevant sectors for the MSP, in order to exhaustively develop the methodologies and approaches envisaged by the project's operational sub-components.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group.

➤ **Status of C1.3.3 Data and information requirements for MSP**

See Annex III, p46.

The data portal demonstrator will be available for the Partners to consult the data and information in April 2018.

The Analysis report will highlight the importance to discriminate the official data and reliable data from the other and will provide a definition for official data.

IMELS informs that it is working with ISPRA (the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research) to collect the data related to the Italian Initial Assessment 2012, of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Moreover, IMELS points out the need to have a clear distinction between official and un-official data within the inventory and the portal. The Un-official data could be used just as "food for thought", instead the formal outputs of the project that should be based only on official data.

In addition, IMELS advises that the identified gaps in data in other components should be treated in the C1.3.3 component, in particular on those data related to sectors.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group.

- **Status of C1.3.1 Develop and propose a conceptual methodology for transboundary MSP in the Western Med, with operational details on selected aspects - C1.3.1.1 Conceptual method: major steps**

See Annex III, p47-66.

The leading Partner has decided not to realize a proper SWOT analysis has initially planned but a compared analysis of the current state of implementation of the transboundary cooperation by the competent authorities of the Western Mediterranean region.

IMELS represents the need to align the contents and the methodologies of the tasks and in particular with the MSP Conceptual Framework.

Dateline is 30/09/2018. This work will take into account what happens in the Member States, in the Case Studies, and in the other sub-components.

The draft document is not shared yet.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group.

- **Status of C1.3.1.2 Recommendations and guidelines to support common understanding on a regional scale for the Western Mediterranean on MSP, C1.3.1.3 Recommendations for a synergic implementation of the regionally relevant policy instruments supporting the MSP implementation, considering the framework of ecosystem based approach as well**

Full drafts are shared and awaiting for comments of the partners.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group.



➤ **Status of C1.3.1.4 Report on land-sea interactions**

Initial draft shared for comments of the partners.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group.

➤ **Status of C1.3.1.5 Definition of the most appropriate geographical scales for MSP plans at national scales**

After the presentation of the activities within task C1.3.1.5., IMELS asks for further clarifications on specific contents, in particular on how a SWOT analysis could have been developed before applying recommendations to the case studies and analyzing the related feedback. On this issue, IMELS is available to discuss and to share with CEREMA the methodology that should be ready at the end of March.

➤ **C1.3.2 Spatial demands and future trends**

See Annex III, p68-71.

Marine conservation: MPA database completion and desk analysis on MPA policies. The action started in January. The deliverable is planned at the end of the project.

The Coconut project could be a relevant source of information regarding other marine protected areas than the one of MEDPAN.

IMELS underlines the need to get the first draft of this task as soon as possible in order to have a direct involvement in the Desk Analysis on MPA policies.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group.

➤ **C1.3.4.1 Interaction between uses and between uses and environment, including cumulative impacts**

See Annex III, p72-76.

Cerema would like to define a common tool to test in the Case Studies.

Workshop was organized in January in Venice regarding the tools for MSP. The participatory was by invitation.

IMELS indicates that this approach is close to IMELS objective for a common approach, but it needs an internal consultancy. IMELS shares its view that the search for a relevant common tool should start from the assessment of the tools in order to ensure their alignment with the EIA and SEA, as official tools on which the implementation of the MSP should be based.

EU DG Mare indicates that this topic is current topic of interest of the EU Member States, included in the agenda of the next meeting of the EU MSEG Mid-march. Inputs from the project and the Partners should be raised to this group to support identifying how to make the best use of the existing tools for MSP. The EU DG Mare advises that the sustainable growth should guide this reasoning.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group.

➤ **C1.2.2 Analysis of the MSP process**

See Annex III, p77-79.

This activity conduces to establish the state of the art of the MSP Directive implementation in France, Spain, Italy and Malta, based on desk research and interviews, and to produce an analysis of the role of the Regions (survey).

A fact sheet is available for the partners on the project place platform.

The deliverable should be reviewed by the summer by Shom and the others, then by the Steering Committee.

This work focusses on general governance of MSP, while C1.3.1.1 focuses on transboundary cooperation.

➤ **C1.3.5 Stakeholder engagement**

See Annex III, p80-83.

CPMR has asked for the partners to send a message to their contacts in order that they register via a form to obtain news from the Project. This was not efficient (10 contacts collected).

An alternative solution should be defined during the Project Group meeting. CPMR is also involved in the newsletter production. One is planned in March. CPRM is also planning to set a Workshop of stakeholders in fall 2018, proposal to be discussed.

IMELS requires that a template for the categorization of stakeholder contacts is defined, including the level of action (International, Regional, National or Local) and the sectors in which they operate. In particular, IMELS points out the need to identify similar categories and a comparable number of stakeholders for each partner.

The way to use this database of contacts has been debated with regard to the need to respect confidentiality: the partners can manage their own list of contacts or there can be a joint list managed by one Partner, less respectful of the confidentiality.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group

EU MSP

See Annex III, p84-92.

24-25 May 2018, Bruxelles, International MSP forum. Cross-border project Coordinators will be invited. Room of capacity 120 persons.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group

French MSP implementation process status: public consultation on sea basin strategy

See Annex III, p93-102.

Three axes of the French MSP Plans: MSP, Coastal Zones and MSFD

Currently: on going Consultation.

Soon: workshops with neighboring countries

NO DECISION of the Steering Group

Administrative and financial matters (C2)

See Annex III, p7-9.

A lot of documents and information requested for the 31st of January are still missing to complete the financial statement and the interim report. Contributions are needed with urgency.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group

Project monitoring (C2)

See Annex III, p10.

The Coordinator reminds the need to respect the commitments and the datelines according to the Grant Agreement and informs the Steering Group of a letter from EASME received by inal in the objective to support that the Project is on tracks.

NO DECISION of the Steering Group

Next meetings schedule (C2.3)

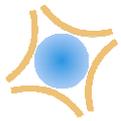
See Annex III, p12-11.

The Coordinator call for a Partner proposal to host the next Steering Committee and Project Group meeting around June.

It is proposed that the Steering Committee meeting last one entire day next time and takes place after the Project Group meeting.

A discussion took place about two options for the Final Conference of SIMWESTMED:
joint with SIMNORAT and SUPREME in Brussels, organized by themes and not regionally focused
joint with SUPREME, focusing on Mediterranean issues, organized by the CORILA in Venice.

The Steering Group agrees to set the Final Conference joint with SUPREME final Conference, in Venice by December 2018, organized by the CORILA.



Status of Case Studies: Gulf of Lion, Var, Tyrrhenian sites and Tuscany, Strait of Sicily (C1.3.6)

See Annex III, p5-6.

The case studies are aiming to illustrate specific issues related to MSP and to test some key aspects of the methodologies developed in the sub-components.

As such, they are feeding some of the other sub-components and they are expected to be completed before the end of the project and at least in September 2018, according to the Grant Agreement.

Discussions to design the case studies have begun during the Project Group meeting #1 and the Steering Committee meeting #1 in June 2017, in Malta.

It has taken a lot of time for the partners to agree on the scope of the case studies and only the Var Case Study fiche and the Strait of Sicily fiche were available in advance to the Steering Committee.

Because of these difficulties to agree while the project will be closed in December 2018, the Coordinator has encouraged the partners which proposal of tasks was ready, to start the Case Study activities (Var Case Study and the Strait of Sicily Case Study).

Regarding the Tyrrhenian sites and Tuscany Case study, IMELS points out that, given the limited time available, it is necessary to evaluate in detail the elements introduced in the new drafting version of the case study presented by PAP-RAC.

Regarding the Gulf of Lion Case study, given the detailed and exhaustive development of the first analytical part of the case study and given the robust and organized availability of data, IMELS highlights the appropriateness of the application of the task C1.3.1.5 "Definition of the most appropriate geographical scales for MSP plans at national scales" also to this case study.

The general Status of the case studies has been reviewed (*see table below*).

Name	Gulf of Lion	Var	Tyrrhenian Sites and Tuscany	Strait of Sicily
Scope				
Area	Spain, France	Var County (France)	Italy, France (to be confirmed)	Italy, Malta
Case study Fiche (agreement on scope)	Fiche nearly completed	Fiches available (2 fiches available, to be reformatted)	Fiche nearly completed	Fiche available
Main partners involved in the tasks	CEDEX, IEO, AFB, Cerema	UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC, Shom	CORILA, UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC	CORILA, PA
Tasks objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area assessment - Review of lessons of past and present projects - CEA and Interactions exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area assessment - Interactions and scenarios exercise - Stakeholders meetings, interviews, workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area assessment - Focus on legal instruments - CEA and Interactions exercise - Stakeholders meetings, interviews, workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area assessment - Cross border lessons of a past project - CEA and Interactions exercise - Stakeholders meetings, interviews, workshops
Tools applied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spain DCSMM method (CEA) - Carpe Diem (Fr) (CEA) - Cerema's method (Fr) (Interactions) - Tool4MSP (It) 	- DESEASON (Fr)	- Tool4MSP (It)	- Tool4MSP (It)
Timeline	Feb - Oct 2018	Oct 2017 -? 2018	Feb 2018 - Dec 2018	Jan - Dec 2018, CORILA part Jan - June 2018, PA part

Table: general status of the Case Studies

In SIMWESTMED project, the case studies structure varies from a case study to another one.

There have been a lot of discussions and exchanges to explain the differences in the approach taken in SIMWESTMED project against the one taken in SUPREME project regarding the case studies activities. These discussions allowed that every participant understand better the wills and constraints of the different members of the partnership.

IMELS considers that the Case Studies are the room where to test the full methodology developed into the operative project sub-components. It advises that the Case Studies should look after a complementarity among them, and the results should be coordinated, comparable and effective in order to support the national MSP implementation. Thus, IMELS points out that the structure of all the case studies should be similar.

Nevertheless, in SIMWESTMED project it is a need to consider the specificities of the Western Mediterranean region, in particular the fact that the countries involved are at different stages of the MSP implementation process, which conduces to various stakes for the Partners and their national authorities regarding SIMWESTMED project.

Moreover, it is needed to take into account the specificities listed below:

- the Partners roles, areas of speciality and mandates,
- the Partners internal constraints on the availability of human resources in particular, and on the possibility to subcontract,

In addition, it is required to take into account a limited time to undertake the tasks hardly compatible at this advanced stage of SIMWESTMED project with a full maritime spatial planning exercise.

List of decisions

- The Steering Committee agrees that any proposal of amendment to the agenda of a SIMWESTMED Project Group or Steering Committee meeting, and any comment which can affect the agenda must be done five working days in advance to the said meetings. This will allow that the topic is discussed and prepared with the Coordinator.
- Steering Committee agrees to set the Final Conference joint with SUPREME final Conference, in Venice by December 2018, organized by the CORILA.