

Subject: Report of SIMWESTMED Steering Committee meeting on June 14th 2017

Attached documents: Three annex

The meeting was held in St. Julian's, Malta, and hosted by the Planning Authority of Malta

Participants

List attached (Annex I)

Round table introduction

The meeting began by a round table introduction of the participants to remind their identity and position.

Project introduction

Slides attached (Annex II)

Steering Committee rules

Slides attached (Annex II, slide 4)

The Steering Committee was established at the initial stage of the project.

This Committee is responsible for providing guidance to the Project Group on the scope of the Action.

It is composed of a single representative from

- the coordinator
- competent authorities of involved MS
- each partner

- EASME
- the Commission

Full members of the Steering Committee can delegate their participation to meetings of the Steering Committee.

Objectives of the project

Slides attached (Annex II, slides 5 to 10)

The activities undertaken in the Project by the Partners aim

- either to Support the implementation of the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning in Member States marine waters,
- or to Launch and carry out concrete, cross-border MSP cooperation between Member States in the Western Mediterranean region,

in accordance with the Grant Agreement action description and its corresponding budget allocated for the realization of the tasks.

The project aims to build a share knowledge base, to develop studies and methodologies and to focus on specific aspects on geographical sites in case studies.

Administrative matters (Collaborative Agreement Status, Prefinancing payment, financial schedule)

Slides attached (Annex II, slides 12 and 13)

The Collaborative Agreement (Research Collaboration Agreement) has been agreed by all the beneficiaries of the project. One signature is still missing but coming thus the process of agreement is nearly finished.

The prefinancing payment has been operated by the Coordinator to the beneficiaries of the project, except to AFB and CEREMA because their prepayment requires that the Collaboration Agreement process is completed.

Next milestone of the financial schedule of the project is 31/08/2017. It reminded that all partners should submit a financial statement (draft) of the half of the Reporting period¹ (01/01/2017 to 30/06/2017), financial statement tables only, no supporting documents.

Project area of interest

Slides attached (Annex II, slides 14 and 15)

The project area of interest is to be revised to correct the Grant Agreement description of the area of the project (FAO37-1 area) accordingly with the area where the action is undertaken:

- Eastern limit: the use of FAO37-1 as a reference to delineate the area of the project is inconsistent with the inclusion of Malta's waters.
- Western limit: Project Group discussions on 13th of June raised that Gibraltar strait area could be excluded of the area of the project because it won't be studied in this project, whereas there are a lot of available data covering this area. This need to be confirmed by Spanish Steering Members.

The Eastern and Western limits of the project will be reviewed by the Coordinator with Partners of the countries involved (Eastern: Malta, Italy and Coordinator, Western: Spain and Coordinator). Afterwards, the revised area will be submitted for approval to the entire Steering Committee. Finally, an amendment of the Grant Agreement will be requested by the Coordinator to EASME.

Steering Committee Schedule

Slides attached (Annex II, slides 21 and 22)

Next meeting of the Steering Committee should be set by the end of the year 2017, back to back with the Project Group meeting.

(On side of the meeting) IEO has proposed to host these meetings in one of its sites. Islands of Majorqua in December could be an option to held the meetings.

General progress

Slides attached (Annex II, slides 16 and 20)

Implementation of the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning in Member States' marine waters

The national processes of France, Spain, Malta and Italy were presented.

Slides attached (Annex III)

C1.1 Initial assessment

CORILA is leading the Initial Assessment component of the project. It presented a draft Initial Assessment report outline at the Partner's Kick-Off meeting in February in Rome. Since then, the dateline of the IA was extended from april to july 2017 (as done in SUPREME) and a workplan for the IA task was proposed: gathering of the information regarding each country on the basis of a fiche template, said country fiche.

To be able to complete the country fiche, partners have requested more explanations on the objectives of the country fiche and amendments to its content.

The project group meeting on 13th of June gave the opportunity to partners to initiate discussions on this. During the Steering Committee, CORILA presented the list of topics that were discussed between the partners participating to the working group session organized during the project group meeting.

CORILA will continue to collect the proposals and comments of the partners regarding the content of the country fiche, and will in particular wait one to two weeks until MATTM has provided its comments to finalize the country fiche template. The sooner the CF template is finished is the better to respect the timeline of the component.

CORILA reminds that this fiche is a guide for partners in order to support the partners collection of relevant information for establishing the Initial Assessment.

C1.3.6 Case studies

List of case studies indicated in the Grant Agreement is:

- Case Study #1: Var
- Case Study #2: Tuscany
- Case Study #3: Gulf of Lion
- Case Study #4: Strait of Sicily (Italy-Malta)
- Case Study #5: Tyrrhenian Sites (Sardinia and Tuscany)

Discussions about case studies took place during the project group meeting regarding the revision of the preliminary list of the Grant Agreement and their content.

Some proposals were raised:

- PAP/RAC: merge case study#5 Tyrrhenian sites(Sardinia and Tuscany) and case study #2 Tuscany,
- Maritime and Littoral Delegation, France: have a transboundary case study between France and Italy,
- PAP/RAC: build some activities of case study #1 Var on PAC-VAR Project (Camp France) results, and set some meetings/workshops of SIMWESTMED project back to back with PAC-VAR project closing event (5-6? October 2017). The opportunity for a SIMWESTMED meeting organized by PAP/RAC in October is immediately accepted by the Coordinator.

- align the Strait of Sicily case study (Malta/Italy) with the ones realized in SUPREME project (MSP transboundary similar project of the Eastern Mediterranean)
- define the Gulf of Lion (Spain/France) case study from Barcelona to Marseille (Spanish Partners)

To progress on the definition of geographical area, scope and content of the case studies, it is proposed to describe the case studies in case study fiches. The coordinator will provide a template of fiche. These fiches should be a synthetic document (area of the case study, particular knowledge on environment, uses and activities, issues, tasks proposed) to be filed by the partners undertaking tasks in the case studies. Case studies focus on specific aspects of activities undertaken by partners in the project. Thus, content proposed by partners should be in line with the activities already undertaken by them in the project, and with the budget allocated to them for these tasks.

When the fiche is completed, the final version is submitted to the Steering Group Members by the Coordinator.

PAP/RAC would like that progress are made as soon as possible on case studies and ideally validated before the end of July in particular to know if its proposals are accepted or not (see above).

Because partners need to have internal consultations, in particular with countries authorities, to adjust the case study proposal, process can last after July. But it is recommended that partners give priority to the case study definition.

Partners will prepare their proposal and will work with the other partners involved in undertaking the tasks to build a consistent case study ideally **before the end of July 2017**. It will then be submitted to the Steering Committee Members.

Other matters

Approval process of the Steering Committee meeting

MATTM commented that the Steering Committee was more an information meeting than a steering meeting.

The Coordinator agrees that at this stage of the project, informing the Steering Group is crucial and that there was no decision to be taken by the Steering Group, in particular because any partners or Steering Group Members has raised an issue of the level of the Steering Committee.

MATTM asked clarification on the decision process of the Steering Committee meeting, indicating that the Steering group should approve conclusions during the meeting, as usually done in Italy, in order that disagreements appear clearly in the report.

The Coordinator explained that the report meeting is to be circulated for review after the meeting to the participants, as usually done in France, and gives the opportunity to the participants to assure that their views expressed during the meeting are written.

(On side of the meeting) The coordinator proposes to MATTM to adapt the format of the meeting next time, to allow the Steering Members to approve conclusions during the meeting.