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**2014 - 2020**  
Towards the new  
ENI CBC Med Programme  
Vers le nouveau  
Programme IEV CT Med  
نحو برنامج ENI CBC Med جديد

# **ENI CBC MED PROGRAMME**

**2014-2020**

## **ANNEX 1**

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

**FINAL**

Adopted by the European Commission on 17 December 2015

Decision No C(2015) 9133



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The Strategy of the Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 is based on the **decisions** taken by the 14 countries participating in the **Joint Programming Committee** and on a **consultation process** that was supported by an in-depth analysis of the socio-economic trends and environmental state of the area.

The consultation process extended over one and-a-half-year and consisted of successive intertwined stages briefly described hereinafter. The JPC meetings, along with those of the Head of Delegations (HoD), represented the ideal platforms for launching consultations, sharing results, proposing methodologies, leading to the definition of common positions on the Strategy and of the participating Countries' medium-term vision.

In order to select the objectives of the Programme and to identify its most relevant medium-term needs and the related priorities, a blended methodology was applied, combining top-down and bottom-up approaches, believing that the two approaches should not be considered as alternative or opposed to each other, but rather that the combination of the two may lead to better results.

A thorough review of the socio-economic trends and conditions as well as of the environmental state of the region, together with detailed analyses of the co-operation's area most relevant sectors, served the purpose of orienting and substantiating the choices of the JPC and paved the way for an informed selection of 2 out of 3 Overarching Objectives and 4 out of 11 Thematic Objectives proposed by the European Union. At the same time, project partners and stakeholders were invited to contribute and participate in the process. Their voices were brought up to the attention of the JPC and their opinions were included in a final round of consultations which lead the JPC to pick the MTNs shortlisted by both national Delegations and project partners.

Focusing the current Programme on a limited number of specific thematic sectors responds to the demands for thematic concentration posed by the EEAS and DG DEVCO for the new cycle of cross border cooperation programmes as a pre-requisite for improving programmes' impact and efficiency. At the same time, it is consistent with the outcomes of the ROM report of November 2013 on the CBC MED suggesting that broadly defined measures led to a very high number of applications, with obvious implications in terms of administrative overburden, effectiveness and also unfulfilled expectations.

More specifically, a total of 4 consultation rounds were undertaken.

A **first national consultation** was carried out between **March and May 2013** and was aimed at ascertaining the thematic sectors considered most relevant to the Programme, in light of the transformation and changes the area underwent due to major political and economic events.

This consultation was based on a semi-structured questionnaire, including both pre-defined answers and open questions. Participating countries were asked to express their preference for a set of 14 themes, ranking them by relevance, and to explicitly indicate if and which additional



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thematic sector(s) could have been included in the Programme Strategy. The 14 thematic sectors included in the consultation stemmed from the discussions of two previous JPC meetings held in Lisbon on December 2012 and in Rome on March 2013 respectively, as well as from the experience of the 2007-2013 Programme. Each Delegation was responsible for conducting the consultation in its own Country and deciding which national stakeholders to involve, consistently with its own institutional setting and decentralization framework. The questionnaire was also complemented by field visits carried out by the Managing Authority in the participating countries in order to present and clarify the consultation’s objectives and to share ideas. Field visits involved both delegations’ officers participating in the JPC and other institutional actors and/or relevant stakeholders. This process led to the selection of 8 topics on which to further focus the socio-economic and environmental analysis:

Innovation and Technology	Renewable energies	Water management	MSMEs	Waste treatment	Tourism	ICZM	Social inclusion / Poverty alleviation
39	39	39	37	37	35	34	33

The other sectors included in the consultation but not considered for further analysis were: Rural development (33); Cultural heritage (32); Transport networks (28); Fishing (28); Public health (28); Migration (23).

Four sectors reached the broadest possible consensus, meaning they were being considered as either “relevant” or “very relevant” by all national delegations: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Innovation and Technology (IT), Water Management (WM) and Renewable Energies/Energy Efficiency (REEE).

This first phase concluded with the selection of four additional sectors in consequence of the discussions and decisions of the HoD meeting which took place in Rome in 2013: WTR, ICZM, Tourism (considered “relevant” or “very relevant” by all Delegations but one) and SIPA (assessed as partially relevant by two Delegations). A table summarising the main findings of this first consultation is included at paragraph 2.2 of the JOP.

In parallel, a comprehensive situation analysis – including a selection of most relevant data– was undertaken and presented in May 2013 during the HoD meeting of Rome. The analysis also allows for a comparison with the previous programming phase of the area's main trends and outlook.

The **second consultation** took place between **September and December 2013** and was aimed at preliminarily identifying the most relevant common medium-term needs (MTNs) per each topic. The selection was based upon full-fledged sectoral analyses for each of the thematic sectors pre-identified through the first consultation. The analysis included analytical data and synoptic tables of the MTNs and of the related strengths and weaknesses emerging from desk research and data analysis and tweaked in consideration of the modified socio-economic context of the cooperation area. Sectoral fiches (including summary tables for strengths, weaknesses and medium-term needs) were shared with the national Delegations at the beginning of August and thoroughly



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discussed during the third JPC meeting of Barcelona at the end of September 2013. During this meeting, the JPC members agreed on launching a second consultation, also aiming at reducing the numerous needs identified per thematic sector. The consultation consisted of a semi-structured questionnaire composed of two sections: one aimed at ranking on a scale from 1 to 5 the identified MTNs on the basis of the relevance to the respondent (1 = least relevant; 5 = most relevant), and a second open section to include comments, suggestions and proposals.

The results of this step were complemented with an additional wider consultation on the medium term needs launched at the end of October 2013. This parallel consultation involved project stakeholders participating in the 2007-2013 capitalisation process, as well as external stakeholders –such as representatives of projects and programmes funded by the EU and other donors<sup>1</sup> included in *ad hoc* capitalization events –(projects and programmes funded by the EU and other donors) during. These events were organised consistently with a “clusterisation” effort that allowed a better classification and regrouping of projects funded under the ENPI CBC MED Programme 2007-2013 based on their main field of activity. Mainly, the clusterisation of projects was meant to represent an analytical and diagnostic tool, granting a multiplying effect in terms of spreading and sharing of results and good practices. Ultimately, the objective was to convey an effective message within and outside the Programme, as well as to conceive an effective tool for networking and partnership. The capitalization events helped supporting a number of medium-term needs selected as most relevant, and adding a few new MTNs for consideration in the new Joint Operational Programme.

The outcomes of this second national consultation were combined with the results of the capitalisation events and presented during the December 2013 HoD meeting in Rome. This composite information entailed an in-depth discussion in the wake of the DRAFT CBC PROGRAMMING CONCEPT NOTE 2014-2020 that had been made available at the 6<sup>th</sup> INTERACT ENPI Annual Conference of Athens, in November 2013.

The **third consultation** took place between **December 2013 and April 2014** and was aimed at the final selection of the overarching (OOs) and thematic objectives (TOs) of the Programme, as well as its priorities. The 2 OOs and 4 TOs were selected from the list made available in the ENI CBC Programming Document 2014-2020 and consistently with the main outcomes of the previous consultations, whereas the identification of the priorities was based on a set of questionnaires per thematic sector. The Participating Countries were requested to rank medium term needs (ideally maximum 3 per thematic objective) according to their importance. Overall, the objective was to select, among the MTNs deriving from the second consultation, those that could be turned into a priority which the Programme's features, and notably its cross-border dimension, could target best. Participating countries were also given the opportunity to include comments, rephrase proposals and introduce any other amendment deemed it as important. Moreover, the third consultation encompassed field visits to all participating Countries to discuss the potential impacts

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<sup>1</sup> As for example: FP7, ENPI CBC Italy-Tunisia, MED Programme, CIUDAD, Interreg IV C, etc.



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of the foreseen priorities and to explore typologies of initiatives that could be realistically funded under each priority.

The third round of consultation ended in May 2014 with the JPC meeting in Aqaba that formally approved the bulk of the Programme Strategy

A **fourth round of consultations** was eventually conducted between **June and July 2014** to collect national inputs on the Thematic Objectives and the MTNs resulting from the national consultations (Business and SME development; Support to education, research, technological development and innovation; Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty; Environmental protection, climate change adaptation) and to structure them as basis for discussion. The consultation gathered inputs on a selected number of issues, namely expected results, outputs and related result and output indicators. The experiences of the running ENPI CBC MED projects complemented the same issues with other technical inputs, including inputs on common output indicators identified for CBC programmes by INTERACT/EEAS. A preliminary list of expected results and outputs, as well as of the related indicators, was thoroughly discussed during the July 2014 HoD meeting. Additional technical inputs from external experts were discussed at the JPC meeting of January 2015 to fine-tune the expected results, the potential outputs and the related indicators.