



GREAT Med

“Generating a Risk and Ecological Analysis Toolkit for the Mediterranean”

Rome, March 10-11-12, 2014

Kick-off Meeting Minutes (O1.1)



INTRODUCTION

On March 11-12, 2014 the kick-off meeting of the European project GREAT Med “Generating a Risk and Ecological Analysis Toolkit for the Mediterranean” took place at the Department of Environmental Biology, Sapienza University of Rome. Participants from the Partner institutions already met at the social dinner held on March 10, where they were welcomed by Prof. Carlo Blasi (Project Coordinator) and by Renato Grimaldi from the Italian Ministry of the Environment (Partner Associate).

The objectives of the kick-off meeting were to officially start up the project, to establish a common understanding of outputs and activities to be carried out by each partner, and to outline possible difficulties and solution procedures.

In particular, the following topics have been discussed:

- Project’s management and implementation plan, work packages and tasks;
- Gaps and obstacles that may occur during the project’s implementation and ways to overcome them;
- Establishment of a common vision and understanding between partners, with a view to the project’s goals, tasks and expected results.

The event was attended by project partners and by members of the GREAT Med Network, from Italy, Lebanon, Tunisia and France, for a total of 30 participants (Figure 1). Unfortunately, partners from Egypt could not be present, and their participation to the project itself is in doubt. Inge Keymuelen from the ENPI JTS (Join Technical Secretary) and two representatives of the Beneficiary’s auditor were present, as well.

ENPI	Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)	Inge Keymuelen
ITALY	Sapienza	Carlo Blasi, Raffaella Frondoni Maria Silvia Pinna Fabrizio Cumo, Elisabetta Dessj, Davide Astiaso Garcia, Daniele Bruschi, Claudia Cogoni, Roberto Cherubini, Elisa Pennacchia, Marzia Dimarco
	Municipality of Ladispoli (network)	Maria Concetta Palermo, Flavio Cerfolli, Manuela Colacchi
	Cinque Terre National Park (network)	Vittorio Alessandro, Patrizio Scarpellini
	Studio Di Gioacchino-Cippitani (external auditor)	Federica Pelini, Tiziana Scosta
FRANCE	IMBE University Aix-Marseille	Arne Saatkamp, Aggeliki Doxa, Emi Martin-Queller
	Calanques National Park (network)	Elodie Debize
TUNISIA	BIOECOS-MA, University of Sfax	Mohamed Chaieb, Imed Mezghani
	APAL (network)	Morsi Feki
	Tunisian Chemical Group (network)	Mohamed Fehmi Elhafi
LEBANON	LSGC University of Saint Joseph	Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat, Rana El Zein
	Bentael Reserve (network)	Youssef Matta
	Cultural Centre, Byblos Municipality (network)	Reine Howayek

Fig. 1 lists the participants to the kick-off meeting and their affiliations.



FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING 11 MARCH 2014

At 9.30 a.m. Carlo Blasi (Coordinator of the project) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He outlined the relevance of the project with reference to the general context of international Conventions on the Mediterranean and on biodiversity conservation and presented data on habitats of Community interest and important plant areas (IPAs) in Italy, to show the wealth of biodiversity in coastal area and the specific interest of the Department of Environmental Biology of Sapienza into the project.

Then, he asked the attending partners to briefly introduce themselves and their institution.

Moahmed Chaieb presented the Tunisian team, composed by 2 people from BIO-ECOSMA University of Sfax and two external experts, respectively from the Tunisian Chemical Group and from APAL (Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral).

Arne Saatkamp from France presented IMBE and its team, and also the external expert from the Calanques National Park.

Rana El Zein from Lebanon presented the Laboratory of seed germination and conservation (LSGC) of Saint Joseph University and its research team, and two external experts, from Byblos Municipality and from Bentaël Reserve.

Vittorio Alessandro, director of the Cinque Terre National Park, and Fulvio Cerfolli of the Municipality of Ladispoli, both members of the GREAT Med Network in Italy, introduced themselves and described potential risks due to maritime traffic and coastal erosion within the areas under their supervision.

Finally, Youssef Matta, external expert from Lebanon, showed a brief presentation on Bentaël Reserve and its management.

From this point onwards, the meeting was chaired by Davide Astiaso Garcia, WP1 leader and Project Contact Person.

Representatives of each WP coordinators presented activities tasks and deliverables included in their WPs, giving inputs on how to reach any specific output and expected result.

The details concerning the individual points discussed can be found in the slides of the individual presentations which are available in the web site.

Work Package 1 Management and Coordination - Presentation by Raffaella Frondoni (Sapienza, Italy)

The following points were discussed:

- Description of WP1 objectives and activities
- Management structure of the Project: Project coordinator, Financial Manager, Communication Manager, Project Contact Person, Partners Contact Persons, members of Steering and Technical Committees
- Overview of kick-off meeting activities: what was expected to be finalised during this event
- Presentation of the overall structure of the Project Management Handbook
- What WP1 needs from partners: collaboration, responsibility and regularity in communication and exchange

Work Package 2 Communication - Presentation by Magda Bou Daghar Kharrat (LSGC - Lebanon)

The following points were presented:

- Description of WP2 objectives and activities
- Presentation of actions and overall structure of the Communication and Visibility Plan
- Presentation of logo and graphic line
- Presentation of the project website www.greatmed.eu
- What WP2 needs from partners: proactive responsibility (regular input, contribution to information activities, helping with project dissemination events), sharing opinions & experiences, a communication manager assigned for each partner

Work Package 3 Capitalization of the results and GREAT Med Network - Due to the absence of representatives from CoRI, Claudia Cogoni (Sapienza, Italy) presented this WP

The following points were presented:

- Description of WP3 objectives and activities
- Presentation of a standard procedure for involving new institutions/associations in the GREAT Med network
- Planning of upcoming events (Regional Events and project capitalization Workshops) and deadlines
- Promotion of cross fertilization activities and collaboration with similar project such as Mare Nostrum, Providune e Med Jelly Risk.

Work Package 4 Biodiversity and land use analysis for toolkit elaboration – Presentation by Arne Saatkamp (IMBE, France)

The following points were presented:

- Description of WP4 objectives
- Overview of questions and methods for implementing WP4 activities (neutral and niche modelling to assess biodiversity vulnerability and develop a monitoring strategy, and a methodology for site prioritization for conservation purposes)
- New starting and end dates for some of the WP4 activities were proposed
- What WP4 needs from partners: at this early stage the main request is for information on availability and nature of biodiversity and environmental data (including spatial scale and resolution).

Work Package 5 Impact, pollution and hazard analysis for toolkit elaboration - Due to the absence of representatives from AFME, Davide Astiaso Garcia (Sapienza, Italy) presented this WP

The following points were presented:

- Description of WP5 objectives and timelines
- Description of WP5 outputs and deadlines
- Overview of WP5 activities and deliverables underlining three main themes: oil and HNS hazard assessment, coastal vulnerability assessment to oil pollution, urbanisation and habitat fragmentation assessment. The activities of each theme were grouped in three typologies: data gathering; data elaboration for the development of procedures and methodologies; data integration for the creation of an impact and hazard geodatabase
- What WP5 needs from partners: at this early stage the main request is for data gathering activities, in particular: collection of data on crude oil, petroleum products and HNS (Hazard and Noxious Substances); collection of data on shorelines typologies along the 5 case study areas; collection of data on land cover change, habitat fragmentation and tourist building and facilities.



Work Package 6 Toolkit development and application – Presentation by Daniele Bruschi from Sapienza

The following points were presented:

- Description of WP6 objectives and activities
- Need of a prompt interaction between WP4 and WP5 activities
- What WP6 needs from partners: at this early stage the main request is to contact the local administrations governing the case studies area and identify contact persons within them, and to provide all maps, photos, preliminary planning studies and documents useful for the final design activity.

In the afternoon, Inge Keymeulen (ENPI JTS Officer) gave a clear and exhaustive overview on the ENPI CBC MED Programme as a whole and then, in more detail, on contractual obligations, modifications of the project, reporting activities and budget basics, also answering many questions from partners and the Beneficiary's auditor.

Lastly, on behalf of the law and commercial office "Cippitani, Di Gioacchino e Iozzolino" (the Beneficiary's external auditor) Federica Pelini talked about the relationships between each partner and its auditor, considering responsibilities and obligations of Partners.

At 5:45 pm the Chair thanked members for their contributions and declared Day 1 of the meeting closed.

SECOND DAY OF THE MEETING 12 MARCH 2014

At 09.15 a.m. the chairman Davide Astiaso Garcia (WP1 leader and Project Contact Person) opened the meeting, which was entirely dedicated to the running of the first assemblies of the two management boards, respectively the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee.

The meeting ended at 1:50 pm.



GREAT Med Kick Off Meeting

Generating a Risk and Ecological Analysis Toolkit for the Mediterranean

Rome, March 10-11-12, 2014

Dep. of Environmental Biology

Aula Marini Bettolo (Plant Biology Institute),

Sapienza University of Rome

Piazzale A. Moro 5, 00185 Rome

Monday March 10

h 21 Welcome dinner at La Fontana di Venere, Vicolo dei Modelli 56, Rome

Tuesday March 11

TIME	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
9.00 – 9.30	Participants registration	
9.30 – 10.00	Welcome address to the participants and presentation of the project	Carlo Blasi, Project coordinator DEB (Dep. of Environmental Biology), Sapienza University

10.00 – 10.30	ROUTE DE TABLE Presentation of the Partners: each scientist-in-charge will briefly present their research team and activities - 5' each partner	All partners and invited experts
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 – 11.20	WP1 Management and coordination and Project Management Handbook	Raffaella Frondoni (Sapienza University)
11.20 – 11.40	WP2 Communication and Visibility Strategic Plan	Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat (LSGC, Saint Joseph University, Beirut)
11.40 – 12.00	WP3 Capitalization of the results and GREAT Med Network	Claudia Cogoni (Sapienza University)
12.00 – 12.20	WP4 Biodiversity and land use analysis for toolkit elaboration	Arne Saatkamp (IMBE, Marseille)
12.20 – 12.40	WP5 Impact, pollution and hazard analysis for toolkit elaboration	Davide Astiaso Garcia (Sapienza University)
12.40 – 13.00	WP6 Toolkit development and application	Daniele Bruschi (Sapienza University)
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 16.30	Presentation by ENPI Officers	Inge Keymeulen (JTS Project Officer)
16.30 – 16.50	Coffee break	
16.50 – 17.10	Partners and Auditors: Hints and Tips	Federica Pelini Beneficiary external auditor
17.10 – 18.00	Open discussion among all participants (partners and invited experts)	All partners and invited experts

Wednesday March 12

TIME	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
9.30 – 11.00	1st Steering Committee Meeting	All partners
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 12.30	1st Technical Committee Meeting	All partners
12.30 – 13.30	Final discussion and conclusions	All partners and invited experts