MED-Dialogue

Promoting ICT Dialogue and Cooperation with the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) towards HORIZON2020

Dear Reader,

We are running the second half of the 2nd year of the MED-Dialogue project and we are publishing our sixth issue of our Newsletter. Following the information posted in MED-Dialogue Newsletter (Issue 5) that released in March 2015, Issue 6 focuses on presenting the MED-Dialogue achievements and results of the project during April - September 2015.

Thank you for your interest in our work!
The MED-Dialogue team!

Table of contents

Project coordinator

Thies Wittig,
IT Consult, Germany
t.wittig@itconsult-eu.de

MED-Dialogue & MOSAIC present the Strategic ICT Research priorities for the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs)

MED-Dialogue in cooperation with MOSAIC identified the strategic ICT priorities for the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) as a vital step in defining the areas of future collaboration between the EU and the MED region.

The methodology followed consisted of the following two steps:

1. Interviewing more than 200 stakeholders in all MPCs
2. Organizing a Focus event in Tunisia on 7-8 May 2015 where MPC experts analyzed the findings of the interviews (1st step)

The results of the process confirmed the first findings of the ICT Strategic Priorities as below:
  • Future Internet
  • Content tech&info management
  • Internet of Things
  • Cybersecurity

View the detailed report which is available also in MED-Dialogue's website.

MED-Dialogue's Awareness & Training event in Cairo, 25-26 May 2015!

MED-Dialogue started its 2nd round of Awareness & Training events. The first event was held in Cairo University on 25-26 May 2015 with more than 50 participants. Taking into consideration comments received during last year's events the focus was given to:

◊ the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for researchers mobility and
◊ to practical exercises for proposal development with a detailed overview of the ICT-related topics across H2020.

For these exercises different call texts were given to the audience in order to work on them and highlight the important phrases. The subsequent discussions were very lively and the participants were highly motivated, actively engaged and learned the first steps to present themselves both in a meaningful and attractive way. The presentations as well as the videos of most sessions are available on our website.

MED-Dialogue @ EU's Workshop: "Research and Innovation in the MED: EU Different Instruments toward Shared Goals"

MED-Dialogue as part of the EU-MPC ICT Cluster was present at the European's Commission Workshop "Research and Innovation Clusters for Development" which was held in Cairo on 27 May 2015.

The workshop, organised in the context of the 'European year for development' and brought together participants in R&I clusters funded under different EU programmes (i.e. FP7, CBC-MED, bilateral RDI programmes) in the Euro Med region aiming at exploring potential synergies and sharing experiences.

MED-Dialogue represented by Thies Wittig from IT Consult gave a presentation about project objectives and results achieved so far. Particular attention was given to the project since it is the only one running at this time with a strong focus on training research & innovation actors in the MPC on H2020.
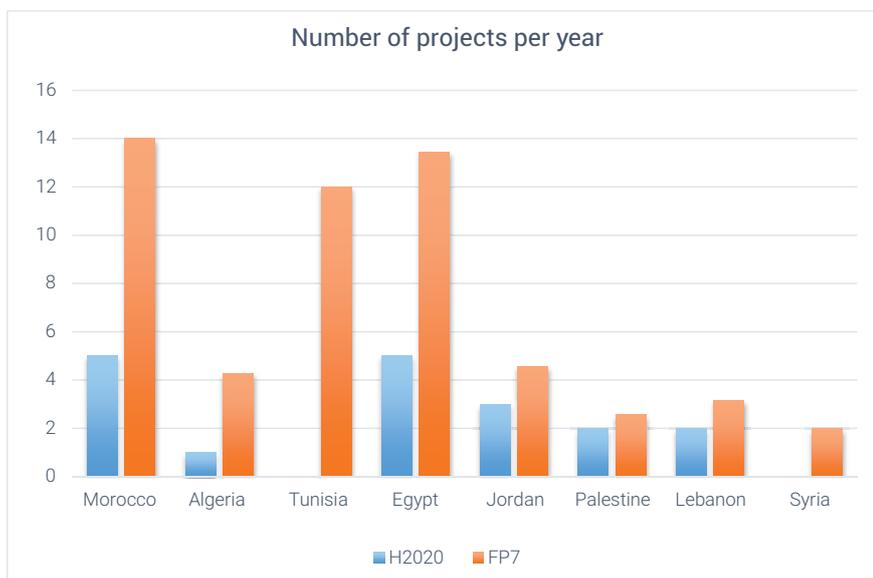
HORIZON 2020 - The first 100 calls!
How successful were the MPCs in H2020 so far?

The first 100 calls of H2020 in 2014 have been evaluated, and the number of proposals and applicants is indeed impressive: a total of 36.732 eligible proposals were submitted under Horizon 2020's first calls (for the entire FP7 the number was 135.514). Out of these 4.315 were retained for funding, which gives an overall success rate of eligible full proposals of around 14%, compared with around 20% for the whole of FP7. It is interesting to note that there was an increased interest from potential applicants in the new programme, demonstrated by the fact that 38% of successful applicants were newcomers.

It seems that most MPCs had a difficult start, with much less successful proposals than in FP7.

One of the reasons is certainly the end of the INCO actions in the FP7 Capacities Programme and the limited number of call explicitly targeting the region. The MPCs now really have to "play in" the main court of LEIT and Societal Challenges, competing against the European players – not an easy task.

A comparison of the first figures in H2020 with FP7 is shown in the following chart, where the FP7 figures are given as an annual average over the 7 years to get a more realistic comparison with the first year of H2020: clearly more training and awareness on H2020 is necessary in the MPC, as well as a stronger networking element. Both these activities are one of the main focus areas of MED-Dialogue for the coming year.

Number of projects per year

View Med-Dialogue's new Reports

A number of new reports are available for download on our website.

- The ICT Strategic Research Agenda for the MPC 2nd Edition
- Joint recommendation for H2020 Work Programme
- Recommendations for the Innovation in SMEs component of H2020
- Position Paper on the Digital Agenda
- Position Paper on the e-Infrastructures in the MPC

The Digital Agenda for Europe - a blueprint for the MED countries?

"More and more of us manage our lives online, and we need to know that we are fully protected, and we are getting what we expect: high quality service throughout the EU. EU law gives us the right to travel, work or trade anywhere in the EU – whether we're going on holiday or setting up a business – but the Internet does not stop at the border. We should benefit from the best content, deals and services, wherever we are in the EU, without being geo-blocked. Businesses should be able to market and share their bright ideas across the EU."

Digital Agenda for Europe

This is the view of Europe and if we would just replace the "EU" in the above text by "MPC", would it still be viable? We think that overall it would be, some aspects are clearly more long-term and some achievements the EU has already realised still need to be accomplished in the MPC, but some time in future the MPC need to think about a single market approach in order to improve their competitiveness in the global economy. Until that time it is certainly worthwhile to have a close look at the more than 130 actions defined in the DAE, many of them are already now highly relevant for each country in the region, single market or not.

MED-Dialogue made the first step in analysing the DAE action with respect to their applicability in the MED countries and to identify which of these are already implemented as policies or regulations, or are in the process of being implemented. These first results have been published on the MED-Dialogue website and they will undergo a further refinement with clear policy recommendations by our senior advisory group on the next Focus Event in October.

MED-Dialogue's Upcoming Events

1. Join the 2nd round of MED-Dialogue's Training & Awareness events in Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. More information can be found here. The registration for Palestine event (Hebron, 6-7 October) is open.
2. The 2nd Focus Event with our Advisory Group of senior experts from the MPC will be held in Jordan in October, focusing on the Digital Agenda of Europe. More information will be available soon here.
3. MED-Dialogue @ ICT 2015 event in Lisbon 20-22/10/2015! Come and Visit us!

Upcoming Events in EU & MPC

EXPOTECH Technology Week 2015 Ramalla & Gaza, 5-8 October 2015 http://expotech.ps/2015	**5th International Symposium ISKO-Maghreb' 2015: Knowledge Organization in the perspective of Digital Humanities: Reasearches and Applications** Hammamet, Tunisia, 13-14 November 2015 http://projetat.cerist.dz/isko/index.php/isko-2015
The 4th Palestinian International Conference on Computer and Information Technology Hebron, 7-8 October 2015 http://piccit.ppu.edu	**ICT4ALL 2015: E-transformation** Hammamet, Tunisia, 16-19 November 2015 http://ict4all.tn
Smart City Exhibition 2015 BolognaFierre,14-16 October 2015 www.smartcityexhibition.it	**European Data Forum 2015** Luxembourg, 16-17 November 2015 http://2015.data-forum.eu/
ICT 2015 Innovate, Connect, Transform Lisbon, Portugal, 20-22 October 2015 http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict2015-innovate-connect-transform-lisbon-20-22-october-2015	**Knowledge Discovery and Data Analysis** Esi, Algiers, 15-18 November 2015 www.esi.dz/kdda/
ITU in Africa Casablanca, 21-22 October 2015 www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/default.aspx	**e-AGE 2015:Revealing and Harvesting Knowledge** Casablanca, Morocco, 7-8 December 2015 www.asrenorg.net/eage2015
International Conference on Pattern Analysis and Intelligent System Tebessa, Algeria, 26-27 October 2015 www.univ-tebessa-pais.alwajiz.com/index.html	**4th International Conference on Electrical Engineering** Boumerdes, Algeria, 13-15 December 2015 http://icee2015.univ-boumerdes.dz/
International Conference on Coding and Cryptography USTHB, Alger, 2-5 November 2015 www.usthb.dz/spip.php?article1037	**12th ACS/IEEE International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications "AICCSA 2015"** Marrakech, Morocco on November 17-20, 2015 http://aiccsa.net/website/home
Third international conference on Wireless Technologies embedded and intelligent Systems (WITS-2016) will be organized by ENSA Kenitra Morocco, 21-22 April, 2016 http://www.univ-ibntofail.ac.ma/ensak/wits2016	

Do you want to be part of it and know about it?

Join our newsletter in our website (www.med-dialogue.eu),
Contact the Project Coordinator t.wittig@itconsult-eu.de
Follow MED-Dialogue in Twitter (@MED_Dialogue)
Join us on Linkedin (Med-Dialogue)