



4th REGIONAL MEETING Bremen, 21st May 2014

Development of National IMP Work Plan

Background & Objectives

A number of countries worldwide have started to develop new policy frameworks for the sustainable use of the oceans which encompass every aspect of marine and maritime affairs, set specific goals in an inter-sectoral approach and put in place proper **governance and integration mechanisms**.

Since its creation in 2007, the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) has sought to enhance the sustainable development of the European maritime economy and to better protect the marine environment by facilitating the cooperation of all maritime players across sectors and borders.

EU Member States are increasingly applying coordinated approaches for the development of their maritime economy, through national strategies, such as in France, Portugal or Germany, or through specific initiatives, such as the UK Marine Bill, the Danish Maritime Strategy or the Irish science strategy. In 2011, Germany also adopted a plan to boost its maritime economy.

A number of Member States have set up inter-ministerial coordination or established ministerial posts, such as Cyprus, France, the Netherlands or Poland. Maritime regions such as Schleswig-Holstein, VästraGötaland and Brittany have further developed their regional maritime strategies since 2009.

In support of this new trend, the Integrated Maritime Policy for the Mediterranean (IMP-MED) Project was designed to raise awareness on IMP and its tools among the Partner Countries (PCs) (ENPI South countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, *Syria*¹, Tunisia), to promote dialogue, to enhance co-operation and partnership process at regional level, to support capacity building on IMP issues and to move towards concrete IMP developments both at national and regional level.

Phase 1 of the IMP-MED Project (up to November 2012) was a first opportunity for the Partner Countries to get specific technical assistance on IMP related issues. Phase 2 of the project (up to November 2014) seeks to build upon the first stage of raising awareness to more concrete engagements and towards cross-sectoral visions and actions by providing assistance to the Partner Countries in developing national IMPs and regional/ sub-regional IMPs.

This approach is in line with the IMP-MED Project Work Plan for Phase II, in particular to one of the project's key objectives aiming to promote "the elaboration of national maritime policies, with widened actual governance and explicit objectives in all maritime sectors of interest to the Partner Countries"². The project has been working on this objective since the beginning with good results and has managed to progressively engage key line ministries in

¹Syria has been suspended.

²Extracted from the "IMP-MED Phase 2 Work Plan".



fruitful discussions concerning the integrated approach to marine and maritime activities which has, in some cases, led to the creation/ set up of national IMP governance schemes and effective structures for inter-ministerial consultation on marine and maritime related issues.

With the end of the project in sight, the IMP-MED Team, in agreement with the European Commission, has proposed, during the 7th Technical Workshop last March, that each partner country currently participating in the IMP-MED project develops a **National IMP Work Plan** that would provide an outlook of the concrete integrated maritime policy targets for the country over the next years (the target of 2020 was proposed indicatively).

The objective of this initiative is to maintain the momentum of IMP development at the national level once the IMP-MED project is finished (i.e. after November 2014). Each national Work Plan will simply illustrate the current state of play and the future perspectives of the process started in each Partner Country over the past 3 years of the IMP-MED project. This exercise will serve multiple purposes:

1. It will allow each South Mediterranean partner country to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats involved in the development of an integrated approach to maritime affairs, the promotion of the marine and maritime economic activities at national level (the so called 'blue economy'), the implementation of cross-sectorial tools such as Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), etc.
2. It will help each partner country focus on what they plan to realistically achieve over the next few years (for instance over the period 2015-2020) in terms of IMP development and implementation (e.g. setting up national IMP governance schemes, promoting multi-sectorial dialogue frameworks at national level, supporting the establishment of maritime clusters, implementing cross-sectorial tools, etc), as well as of blue growth and jobs creation.
3. It will serve each partner country to specify concrete follow-up activities/ projects, identify national technical assistance needs, and determine the possible means of support (for instance use of instruments such as Twinning or TAIEX, UfM labelling for larger-scale projects, etc).
4. It will allow the EC to understand where the countries are heading to and what progress they intend to achieve over the next years, as well as to schedule its activities at regional and national level and allocate resources at initiatives of common interest for the partner countries. National Work Plans could provide an important basis for the EC to ensure that financing is channelled in the appropriate way to future IMP challenges and blue economy opportunities in the region and to individual countries.

Proposed content of the Work Plan

The proposed content of the Work Plan is outlined in the following table. The suggested outline structure of the Work Plan is only indicative and can be adapted to individual country needs.



Proposed Sections	Question to be answered
Description of current situation in maritime sector in the country, as well as at the end of the project (end of 2014)	<i>Where we are and where do we plan to be in November 2014 in terms of: IMP Governance structure, IMP tools (such as MSP and ICZM), Sectorial maritime policies, Maritime legislation, blue growth, etc.</i>
Realistic expectations of specific progress in different maritime sectors – emphasis to the IMP dimension	<i>Which IMP related objectives are the individual maritime sectors aiming to achieve over the next years? For example : Transport, Tourism, Fisheries etc.</i>
Steps under consideration for the development of an integrated national vision of maritime affairs	<i>How will sectorial maritime policies be made more integrated? For example: publication of national policy document, development and implementation of IMP tools such as integrated maritime surveillance or monitoring, MSP, ICZM, ocean law, etc.</i>
Steps under consideration for the progress in the governance structure	<i>What governance structure will improve maritime integration at the national (and/ or regional/ local level)? For example: National Maritime Committee, dialogue framework with stakeholders, creation of maritime clusters, etc.</i>
Proposed milestones and timeline from 2015 to 2020	<i>Which are the steps proposed to get to the desired targets?</i>

No obligation is made to the IMP-MED Project Partner Countries to produce such a National IMP Work Plan and, in case of interest in engaging in this exercise, countries are free to express their national objectives and expectations without any obligation of performance.

During the **4th Regional Workshop in Bremen** (21st May 2014) the Partner Countries who want to engage in this exercise will give confirmation and present a short outline of what they want to include in the Work Plan and the process to follow for its preparation.

Between May 2014 and end of September 2014, Partner Countries that have expressed interest will develop their Work Plans with support from the IMP-MED Team for review, suggestions, guidance (where requested). Over this period, Technical Assistance (TA) related missions to individual countries could represent an opportunity to discuss in more detail and refine the structure and exact scope of the Work Plans under development.

Countries will then be asked to make a short presentation of their National IMP Work Plans at the **8th IMP-MED project Technical Workshop**, back-to-back with the **7th meeting of the Working Group on IMP in the Mediterranean** (October 2014).