

Strategic projects

approved in 2011/2012

First call for strategic projects on priority axis 2, objective 2.3 (re-opened in April 2011) , approved in October 2011

MEDESS4MS

Mediterranean Decision Support System for Marine Safety

Partnership:

Lead Partner: Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS), Cyprus and 21 partner from Cyprus, France, Spain, Italy, Malta, Greece, Montenegro.

Summary:

MEDESS-4MS service is dedicated to the maritime risks prevention and strengthening of maritime safety related to oil spill pollution in the Mediterranean. The main goal of MEDESS-4MS is to deliver an integrated operational multi model oil spill prediction service in the Mediterranean, connected to existing oil spill monitoring platforms (EMSA-CSN, REMPEC and AIS data), using well established oil spill modeling systems, the environmental data from the GMES European Marine Service and the MS national ocean forecasting systems.

MEDESS-4MS does not aim at developing new elementary service chains but will integrate and consolidate the existing ones, based on the experience gained through the interaction with operational response agencies, REMPEC and EMSA during real oil spill incidents in the region and the demonstrations and inter-calibration exercises carried out in the framework of EC projects.

All the activities in MEDESS4MS will be carried out in order to establish a sustainable integrated multi model oil spill prediction service; consortium and partners expertise, operational response agencies, international and European organizations and areas of responsibility, are well established to reach the project objectives. Seven of the project partners are operating during the last 10 years forecasting centers, while six partners are providing individually oil spill predictions at local and sub-regional level, in close cooperation with their national operational response agencies.

MEDNET

Mediterranean Network for Custom Procedures and Simplification of Clearance in Ports

Partnership:

Lead Partner: Road Network in the Mediterranean, Lazio Region, Italy and 18 partners from Albania, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain.

Summary:

The project aims to establish and operate a network of port authorities and transport experts in the Mediterranean region, focusing on the exchange of knowledge and expertise with regard to port and custom procedures and simplification of clearance for vessels and cargoes. This shall lead to an enhancement of the common understanding and promote the introduction of information systems to ports operation and potentially to other intermodal modes.

The MEDNET project intends to make a significant contribution towards customs procedures and simplification of clearance for vessels and cargoes in Mediterranean area through a series of activities. Initially, a state of the art analysis will record the past and current customs practices and related legislation and create a "Port Operations Observatory in the Mediterranean", whose purpose is the transparent sharing of best practice solutions with all stakeholders, extending, thus, the knowledge dissemination among European countries and the port community. Subsequently, the bottlenecks that hinder the efficient flow of information will be identified and current administrative, regulatory and technical barriers will be analyzed. In addition, the project will identify opportunities to simplify and speed up procedures. One of the main actions is the benchmarking of best practices, which will be carried out with the use of appropriate criteria. The project will also identify the required improvements for a specific port to reach the status of best practice. Pilot activities applied on specific ports, will test the selected best practices and their results. Moreover, a Strategic Action Plan will be developed, which will focus on the harmonization and normalization of procedures among ports to create an open market with the use of information systems and simplified procedures. More specifically, the Strategic Action Plan will include recommendations for best practices promotion and transferability to be used by ports, but also by decisions makers and private actors. The development of a Strategic Action Plan will have obvious implications to the facilitation of transport by removing non-physical barriers and will enable a more rigorous push towards seamless maritime traffic across borders.

Finally, a suitable exploitation plan will facilitate the capitalization of the long lasting effects of the project results. The exploitation plan will aim at creating an environment for harmonization and normalization, where project impacts will be maximized in the whole Mediterranean port community.

HOMER

Harmonising Open Data in the Mediterranean through Better Access and Reuse of Public Sector Information

Partnership:

Lead Partner: Piedmont Region, Innovation and Research, University Directorate (Italy) and 19 partners from Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain.

Summary:

HOMER focuses on the theme of Open Data, a world-wide policy aiming at making available and exploitable Public Sector Information (PSI). Governments increasingly recognize the benefits of making their data open and reusable.

Compared to Northern Europe, the Mediterranean area is still facing a digital divide gap in terms of market opportunities, e-government performances and transparency, mainly due to cultural, political and legal barriers. Fully aware of PSI benefits and of specific obstacles characterizing the MED space, HOMER contributes to bridge this gap, by promoting a coordinated and tailored approach in 8 Mediterranean countries in order to stimulate accessibility and re-use of PSI.

In line with the EU Digital Agenda, HOMER will facilitate the wider deployment of PSI in Mediterranean countries, enabling their public governments to better address the legal, cultural and technological challenges linked to PSI policy.

Starting from exposing 5 strategic sectors, characterizing the MED political agenda of the next decades (Agriculture, Tourism, Environment, Energy and Culture), consistent with the NSRF strategies of the partners and linked to the commitment of their internal departments, a dedicated Task Force composed of IT and Open data experts will be able to support HOMER institutional partners to face the legal cultural and technological obstacles of Open Data policy. In this way, during its first phase, HOMER will be able to open hundreds of public datasets, enhancing digital heritage transparency across the Mediterranean. But HOMER will go beyond this first milestone: the "opened" PSI will then be federated, setting up the basis for a transnational Open Data Federation. This second milestone will generate a concrete MED added value, increasing the amount of datasets accessible from each institutional portal and enhancing the level of opportunities offered by the exploitation of a wider and cross-border digital heritage in a transnational market.

Finally to demonstrate the Federation's tangible impact, HOMER will launch 2 pilots: one aiming to increase transparency and the level of participation of citizens in the decision making process, the second aiming to stimulate the exploitation of the federated PSI. Both pilots will be based on a tailored communication strategy, in line with the Community initiatives "Data.gov.eu" aiming at raising awareness about the benefits of exploiting PSI at transnational level. Pilot showcase will be then presented in 2014, to spread HOMER results to all Mediterranean governments interested to join the MED Open Data Federation

FUTURMED

Freight and passengers supporting infomobility systems for a sustainable improvement of the competitiveness of port-hinterland systems of the MED area

Partnership:

Lead Partner: Region Lazio, Italy and 16 partners from Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia.

Summary:

The main idea of the project is to improve the competitiveness of port systems in the MED area by improving accessibility through technology and procedural innovations, and guaranteeing sustainability of transport. The idea focuses on the realization of interoperable management information systems and on the reduction of externalities.

The project addresses three strategic sectors: freight, passenger and touristic traffics and intends to define and implement, by means of concerted territorial actions and pilot projects, sustainable middle- and long-term development strategies. These will be focused on:

- the removal of the current barriers concerning accessibility of ports (seaside and landside);
- on the integration of ports with the hinterland;
- on the development of logistics activities and intermodal transport connected with ports;
- on the development of infomobility aiming at fostering attractiveness and making port system more efficient;
- on the specialization of port systems.

The project intends to improve freight and passenger flows by means of experimental activities and pilot projects concerning interoperable information systems which integrate port systems with inland logistics infrastructures (e.g. dry ports) and with transport and service operators.

Such information systems will make benefit of the existing national ICT platforms and will be finalized to define the blueprint of an integrated one-stop-shop system transferable to all the MED area, composed of a specialized freight transport management system and a specialized passenger and touristic management system.

Such a system will involve the harmonization of data, in terms of structure, gathering and interpretation, in all the MED area. Specific applications will be developed:

- a dynamic system for the real-time management of freight and passenger flows, aiming at identifying actions to remove congestion and bottlenecks in the interface between ports and related territories (specifically ports included in cities).
- Solutions to digitalize intra-EU port-to-port and port-to-operators communications related to bureaucratic duties.