

**Synthesis report and recommendations  
regarding the mid-term assessment of the Horizon 2020 initiative  
to de-pollute the Mediterranean.**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The relatively large number of reports and studies in view of the Mid-term Review of the Horizon 2020 Initiative require that a synthesis effort be made and a coherent message and set of recommendations is fed into the preparations for the Ministerial Meeting.

➤ **Objective**

The objective of the assignment is to develop a synthesis report for policy makers regarding the Mid-term Review of the Horizon 2020 initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean, in the form of a summary description of the achievements and remaining challenges, and proposed technical, institutional and strategic recommendations for the next phase (2014-2020). The draft synthesis report is to be presented at the *ad hoc* H2020 Steering Group Meeting foreseen for March 2014, and the final version as background document in the announced UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change.

➤ **Tasks**

1. Desk review of the technical assessments/reports that provide the information base for the Mid-Term Review, i.e:
  - CB/MEP Mid-term Evaluation (by external consultants)
  - Horizon2020 Regional Report (comparing and measuring progress across the Mediterranean region in relation to the Horizon2020 Initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean) (EEA)
  - Situation paper on the setting-up of the Horizon 2020 Reporting Mechanism (EEA)
  - Three parallel studies on the updating of action plans for protecting the Mediterranean Sea from pollution, i.e.:
    - MeHSIP-PPIF's Validation Mechanism for Horizon 2020 Projects with Secured Funding
    - UNEP/MAP MEDPOL study on the Evaluation of the implementation of the policy component of the National Action Plans (NAPs)
    - UfM study on the evaluation of the implementation of the investment component of the NAPs and the update of the investment portfolio in order to meet the UNEP/MAP 2025 environmental targets (targets of SAP Med and of more recent regional plans).
2. A comprehensive mapping of EU-funded research activities since 2006 that addressed H2020 areas in the Mediterranean region. The Consultant will also make proposals on what H2020-related areas should be better targeted by research activities and how to feed these research outputs into the H2020 components.

3. Mapping, based on available information (desk review), of activities in support of H2020 objectives, supported by other donors than EU; at bilateral as well as regional level.
4. Drafting of a synthesis report under the supervision of the relevant Commission DGs (ENV / DEVCO) and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat, and in consultation with the EIB, the EEA, UNEP-MAP and other relevant stakeholders, in particular Mediterranean countries.
5. Attendance to selected meetings: the consultant will be required to attend the kick off meeting in Brussels to agree on the outline of the synthesis report and the methodology, as well as the Horizon 2020 Steering Group meeting on 19 and 20 November, and present the synthesis report at the stakeholders' conference to be organised early in 2014, as well as at the Ad hoc Steering Group meeting of the Horizon 2020 in March 2014 (location to be defined).

➤ **The synthesis report (purpose, outline and process)**

- Objective and purpose: the synthesis report is aimed at presenting in a concise and structured manner the main findings of the above mentioned technical assessments/reports undertaken as part of the Mid-term Review of the Horizon 2020 Initiative. The report is not supposed to be a mere executive summary of the technical assessments but rather an orientation paper for policy and decision-makers in view of identifying strategic recommendations for the second phase of the H2020 initiative. The report should respond to the following fundamental questions:
  - *State of play/Progress*:
    - Is the Mediterranean marine environment in a better situation now than in 2006? How the responsibility for pollution sources or for ongoing investments can be divided between EU / Balkans / Southern countries bordering the Sea?
    - Is our knowledge of the state of the environment better now? Has reporting improved?
    - Are investments underway? Are they pertinent and effective? Which criteria have been used? Are the investments associated to the hotspots? Are the most polluting hotspots being tackled?
    - Has the regulatory framework in the countries been enhanced since 2006? Has enforcement improved?
    - Have we developed tools to address the problems which may not yet have paid off but which will help in the future? If so, are those tools increasingly used?
    - Which actors are presently on the scene? Is there a reasonable division of labour between them?
  - *The future steps*:
    - Is the Horizon 2020 Initiative still relevant, in terms of objectives, fields (components), actions and budget, program indicators, including whether the current structure and focus of H2020 are still valid or whether new elements should be added?

- If yes, what needs to be done to achieve the target set out in the Initiative? (Which activities should be continued or reinforced, which ones need to be discontinued, which ones restructured/modified to render them effective, which additional activities are required)? Could stronger links be made to the Barcelona Convention commitments?
- Are organizations, institutional set up, role of each partners (EC, leaders of each component and UfMS, but also UNEP/MAP) optimized and could they be simplified or clarified?

The consultant should incorporate in the report an assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the initiative as well as the likely sustainability of results. The consultant should also assess as well whether the Horizon 2020 three components have created synergies among themselves and reinforced one another (coherence). The consultant should take into account in his/her assessment the EU priorities for 2020, including the new Multiannual Financial Framework, the political developments in the region, and other initiatives that may serve to reinforce the objectives, results and impacts of the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

The consultant is required to use his/her professional judgement and experience in the assessment making constructive, realistic and attainable suggestions.

- Length: given its purpose, the paper should be short and focused (between 8-10 pages, excluding graphics, tables and annexes)
- Structure: the synthesis report could be organised along the following lines:
  - Presentation of Horizon 2020 and the Mid-term Review context (objectives, components, scope of the revision, etc.);
  - Short presentation of activities carried out so far to support it, as well as other relevant actions;
  - Results to date, responding to the first 6 questions above;
  - Other actions supporting the H2020, division of labour....;
  - Challenges ahead (in terms of institutional and capacity gaps, knowledge gaps and investments needs);
  - Conclusions/recommendations for the next phase of H2020 (2014-2020), including a discussion on methodological approach.

The final outline of the report should be agreed with the Commission Services during the inception phase as well as the timetable of deliverables.