

Final Summary Report

4th Meeting of the Horizon 2020 Capacity Building Sub-Group

Brussels, 19 November 2013

09.00-13.00

The half-day meeting took place at the Albert Borschette Conference Centre, rue Froissart 36, directly before the 6th Meeting of the H2020 Steering Group. The Agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are attached in annex, whereas all presentations and background documents are available at: <http://www.h2020.net/en/resources/meeting-documents/viewcategory/269.html>.



After the brief opening remarks, the Team Leader (Michael Scoullos) and Deputy Team Leader (Emad Adly) of the H2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (CB/MEP), which is the EU funded project supporting the implementation of the H2020 capacity building component, presented the achievements of this project so far, as well as the challenges met along the way. The proposed work plan of activities, until CB/MEP comes to an end in October 2014, was also included in the presentation. Egypt, Israel and Tunisia then presented the impact of the CB activities at national level.

The overall outcome of the presentations was that the project has delivered quite well, sufficiently addressing the needs of the countries with a good level of expertise and sound logistical support. Its careful design and the ownership generated had as a result a negligible negative impact by the political turmoil in the region, with the exception of Syria and Libya. Areas for improvement that were identified mainly had to do with the nomination of appropriate trainees, the trainings follow up in the countries and better coordination with the other components of Horizon 2020. Libya, which participated in an H2020 meeting for the first time, confirmed the major needs of the country for capacity building support. Despite of the fact that a national focal point is not yet appointed benefitting as soon as possible is anticipated.

In the next session dedicated to “the way forward”, Michael Scoullos presented the project Consortium’s recommendations for the Capacity Building Work Programme for the next phase of Horizon 2020 (2014-

How do we ensure the continuity without losing the momentum?

- By avoiding having any gap
- By keeping the vitality and enthusiasm of the countries and other stakeholders involved
- By building on our successes and overcoming our weaknesses
- By remaining focused
- Through thoughtful design
- Through robust implementation
- By ensuring local involvement
- By ensuring synergies with processes and programmes

2020), while Eva Roben (ibf International Consulting) presented the key findings for the present phase and recommendations for the next, as they resulted from an independent Mid-Term Evaluation of CB/MEP. The project was found to have delivered good results according to all evaluation criteria: relevance is excellent and all other aspects good. Most countries nevertheless expressed their strong reservation about the high level (40%) of trainees that the evaluation determined as either irrelevant or not having the competence or mandate to implement knowledge and tools acquired during the trainings. Their common estimate sets this at a level not exceeding 20%. It was also highlighted that this number should also be read in perspective since it only represents about 1,5% of all people who has received training.

The afternoon session was a *tour de table* and discussion on what was presented throughout the morning with a particular emphasis on recommendations for the 2014-2020 phase and providing input to the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change of 2014. The main recommendations that can be distilled from this session are listed directly below:

- Enhanced coordination at national level is needed. H2020 Focal Points could be supported in strengthening their role, eventually by including assistance to their work by national experts contracted by the programme. Communication among focal points and consortium experts could be further encouraged.
- Country reports/bulletins on H2020 related achievements could boost effectiveness and inspire synergies and replication.
- Trainings on legislation to support national frameworks and on enforcement mechanisms are needed in some countries.
- More activities in the field should be planned with local case studies and eventually pilot programmes.
- Specific training cycles should be designed with knowledge deepening for selected trainees. ‘Deepening’ is more suitable for national and sub-regional trainings.
- De-centralised cooperation can also provide multiplication of the impact and continuity for H2020 capacity building activities.
- Training of Trainers methodology should be central.
- Differentiated trainings for specific target groups, for example decision makers, should be developed and incorporated.
- Differentiated trainings for specific economic/industrial sectors should also be considered.
- Differentiation on specific local issues/areas should be integrated, where appropriate.
- Study visits could have longer duration.
- Short exchanges/internships among administrations, etc. could be included in the programming if requested by two or more countries.
- A higher percentage of trainees nominated from other than the Focal Point sources should be considered, including from statistical offices.
- Fine-tuning of selection process is required.



- Enhanced participation of civil society should be built-in.
- Enhanced environmental and sustainable development education and awareness, also through targeting the media, should be part of the programming.
- Facilitated e-learning eventually coupled with alternative methods of examination (e.g. through ‘theses’) could be developed.
- Further input/synergy from relevant science and technology programmes should be integrated.
- Post-training monitoring and follow-up should be further developed and built in.
- Efforts for evaluation of direct impacts should also be enhanced.

