



The UFM updates the Depollution Investment Portfolio for the Mediterranean

Regarding the implementation of projects to prevent the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, the Union for the Mediterranean prepared an updated picture of the investment portfolio in the 21 countries bordering the Sea, plus Jordan, based on the 2003 UNEP/MAP Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and the 2005 National Action Plans (NAPs).

The portfolio consists of all projects presented in the NAPs, as well as other recently identified projects, important for the countries to reach the 2025 targets agreed upon within the UNEP/MAP regional plans. More than 900 investment projects or needs are identified in the 3 sectors of waste water, solid waste and industrial emissions, either already operational, under construction, planned or to be developed in the future. This list provides valuable information for each project such as location, size, reduction of pollutants' loads, cost, status of implementation and funding, etc.

Although certain information gaps persist, the picture offered by the UfM report shows that significant achievements have been made since 2006, not only in the European Union but also in some non-EU countries of the Mediterranean region. Nearly half of the 127 pollution Hot Spots defined by UNEP/MAP in 2003 are considered "cleaned" thanks to those investment projects which are operational or under construction. Nevertheless, some countries show insufficient levels of investment to reach the 2025 targets, and additional funds are required for projects preparation and the strengthening of "clean production" measures such as reduction of pollution at source.

Next steps for the UfM Secretariat will be to select the exemplary projects offering greatest impact from a regional point of view, so as to assist their development and support towards the UfM labelling. Working jointly with UNEP/MAP, sessions will be organized with non-EU countries in order to (i) fill remaining information gaps and where possible replace estimations with accurate data important for all sectors, such as industrial, in some countries, and (ii) select supporting investment projects for which promoters are interested in obtaining the UfM label.