

Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action MIRA

EC Contribution : 2 997 713 €

Starting Date : 01.01.2008

Duration : 48 months

PRESENTATION

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

MIRA aims at developing and supporting the Euro Mediterranean dialogue by bringing together policymakers and stakeholders of the Mediterranean Partners Countries and EU Member States. This dialogue will go hand in hand with the political dialogue created by the Barcelona Process of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue through the Monitoring Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in RTD, also named the Barcelona RTD Monitoring Committee (MoCo). The scope of this project is to create a dialogue and action platform to identify common interests in Research areas, set up S&T priorities, support capacity building activities, enhance the interaction between various cooperation instruments of the EC and EU Member States. MIRA will promote actions in order to monitor, develop, promote and contribute to the creation of synergies among the various S&T cooperation programmes between the MPCs and the EU Member States, and foster the participation of the MPCs in the Framework Programme. Indeed, an observatory of EU-MPCs cooperation in S&T will be created in the project framework.

DIALOGUE

One of the main objectives of MIRA is to strengthen the dialogue between the EU and the MPCs on S&T issues by supporting the existing policy dialogue structure, such as MoCo (SOM) and develop new activities, including conferences and working meetings.

Planned dialogue activities :

- Supporting the organization of the annual MoCo meetings in cooperation with the EU Presidency and the EC's services.
- Discussions between MoCo ad-hoc groups and representatives of EC Directorates General and of the EC delegations in MPCs to explore synergistic activities of different EU programmes.
- Arranging a screening conference to aim at compiling a 'State of the Art' through the screening and monitoring of ongoing and completed projects, and other initiatives regarding S&T priority identification.
- Creating and handling the dialogue platform on present and future common problems and interests on research initiatives between the EU and MPCs.
- Establishing a Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS) discussion platform to aim at launching a dialogue among companies, administrations and researchers on how S&T cooperation could support its setting up ; a Science Industry Working Group will be created to study the framework of relationships between industry and research in the MPCs.
- Discussing and reviewing the implementation of FP7 priorities at the international level. This will be done by identifying the interests and open questions of DG Research Thematic Directorates (either before or directly following the screening conference) and organizing thematic workshops on FP7 thematics.

- A pilot action promoting the establishment of a technology transfer network between the EU and MPCs.
- A conference of EU-MPCs Cooperation Programme Managers, including bilateral and multilateral schemes, to search for complementarities and synergies between the types of actions.

IMPLEMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION

MIRA will facilitate participation in FP7 through capacity building in the MPCs through the evaluation of the current information points, the managers and scientists trainings ; the promotion of projects writing seminars ; the recommendations to the national Authorities. The project will develop dissemination material to be used in all MPCs on the opportunities offered by FP7 to the academy and the industrial sector. Public events will be organized in the MPCs on information of the content and opportunities offered by FP7, dedicated especially to SICAs. The development of the partner search tools should help enhance cooperation between the EU and MPC stakeholders and increase the participation of MPC organizations to the activities of FP7. Besides the awareness activities targeting a broad scientific community, MIRA will organize training activities for project managers so as to build common knowledge and competences for administrators, regulators and managers in the Mediterranean countries. The project communication will be managed by means of a central Internet-based forum.

MONITORING AND REVIEW ACTIVITIES

The project will develop a continuous monitoring and review of ongoing EU-MPCs cooperation activities in the field of S&T. It will identify specific S&T indicators in MPCs to be used by the MIRA observatory so as to monitor the S&T cooperation activities between the EU and the MPCs. The observatory will possibly help promote the creation of an academic taskforce able to tackle and measure the social impact of research. Anyway, it will provide the necessary feedback to the MoCo on the progress and impact of the EU-MPCs cooperation so as to help the policymakers update their policies and priorities of cooperation. It will also provide valuable input in the preparation of EC strategic papers in the area of bi-regional S&T cooperation. The MIRA website, as a powerful mean of information and knowledge management system, will be used as an tool for the monitoring of the internal activity and the production of review reports on EU-MPC S&T activities.

List of Mira Partners

CSIC, Spain (Coordinator)

MENESFCRS, Morocco

IRD, France

DGSRT, Tunisia

MHESR, Egypt

DLR, Germany

CNR, Italy

NHRF, Greece

DRSDT, Algeria

TUBA, Turkey

MCST, Malta

HCST, Jordan

CIHEAM, Italy

TETHYS, France

WIP, Germany

CDER, Algeria
ISERD, Israel
ASRT, Egypt
CNRS, Lebanon
FCT, Portugal
MADRI+D, Spain
AOU, Lebanon
TUBITAK, Turkey
MEC, Spain
DGDSC, Palestinian administered areas
ONST, Tunisia
CNRST, Morocco
BC, United Kingdom

A NEW SCENARIO

The creation of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and its implication in the regional dialogue EU-MPC on S&T together with the positive evaluation of the results of the INCONET Projects in their first two years of existence, has urged the Commission to support the enlargement of the timing and content of these projects. In the case of Project MIRA, the new political scenario created by the signing of the UfM agreement has introduced the need to reorient some of the targets of the project toward a consistent support of the research agenda included in the programmed objectives of the UfM. The inclusion of new partners representative of the decision-makers in S&T of the UfM countries is needed ; then, new activities have to be organized to identify the specific needs from the research area to implement the programmes approved by the UfM. The changes in the objectives and composition of the MoCo (SOM), recognized and reinforced in the Ministerial Declaration of Marseilles the 3-4 November 2008, speeds the insertion of the institutions of the countries not yet present in MIRA and responsible for such dialogue at the UfM level, as new partners to foster, at their own national level, the activities of MIRA.

List of the latest new Mira Partners

PB, Cyprus
MCA, Bosnia and Herzegovina
MPIN, Montenegro
MICINN, Spain

