



Project no. INCO-CT-2004-510659

ASBIMED

“Assessment of the bilateral scientific co-operation (S/) between the European Union Member States (MS), Accession Countries (AC), Candidates Countries (CC) and the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MP)”

SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTION

SPECIFIC MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

PUBLISHABLE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Period covered: from 1.05.2004 to 30.04.2006

Date of preparation: 1.05.2005

Start date of project: 1.05.2004

Duration: 24 Months

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Project coordinator organisation name: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

Publishable executive summary

This Specific Support Action (SSA) was planned to perform an analysis of the scientific and technical bilateral co-operations between the 25 Member States (MS) and Turkey and the Mediterranean Partners Countries (MP) on topics and instruments, with the objective of contributing to the strategic objectives of implementing the European Research Area in the field of Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation and the MEDA Agenda in R+D Co-operation.

Specifically, this Specific Support Action studies the following aspects:

- The thematic priorities developed by the bilateral co-operation, and the intensity of this co-operation, expressed as the number of common publications, exchange of student, projects and man-months used thereon. In addition, joint participation in projects of the EU Fifth Framework Program will be analysed, as an indicator of preliminary traditional cooperation.
- The instruments used: travel grants, student exchange, common projects, access to infrastructures, seminars, etc, their performance and their relevance.
- The budget engaged in the bilateral co-operation and its distribution between priorities and instruments
- The key industrial or social sectors benefited by the bilateral co-operation. The degree of innovation introduced in the socio-economic tissue by the bilateral S+D co-operation.
- The institutions, their character (Universities, hospitals, Research centres, companies, etc), personalities and experts involved in the bilateral co-operation.

The consortium is composed by the following institutions:

Role*	No.	Participant name	Participant short name	Country
CO	1	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas	CSIC	ES
CR	2	Centre International d`Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes	CIHEAM	IT
CR	3	Observatoire des Sciences et des Techniques	OST	FR
CR	4	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	IRD	FR
CR	5	National Documentation Centre	EKT/NHRF	GR

*CO = Coordinator CR = Contractor

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The state of the art of the bilateral scientific and technical co-operation actions between the European Union and the Mediterranean Partners countries during the period 1998-2003 is starting to show its pattern and at the end of the first reporting period, there are interesting preliminary results coming out from the gathering of information from data provided by Member States in Turkey, data from Mediterranean Countries, topics and instruments of cooperation, that project partners have been performing. By now there have been analyzed 71 answers (see table 1) and we are expecting in the coming months to collect the maximum number of replies from the rest of contacted Programme Managers to be able to describe thoroughly how the bilateral scientific and technical cooperation has been carried out in terms of Programmes. From now and onward, it's foreseen to request information about Projects too, contacting successful project managers to try to compile best practices. From table 1, with data referred to programmes of bilateral co-operation, it's interesting to remark that, by number of programmes, France, Italy, Austria, Germany and Spain are, between member states, the most active ones. Cyprus still appears in the table as a Mediterranean country with an active collaboration with Greece. Other interesting preliminary results obtained from the rest of the enquiry are that France is the country with more programmes of cooperation with MPC, followed by Italy, Austria, Germany and Spain. Managing institutions are mainly Ministries, others than Foreign Affairs or Research and / or Education. The most common action is research project. Talking about subjects, the areas with more interest are Technological Sciences followed by Natural Sciences and Health Sciences. France is the country that contributes mostly and information about average funding was not provided in 42% of the answers.

A key tool in ASBIMED is a web site managed by CSIC, ASBIMED coordinator, (<http://www.asbimed.net>) to be used as data entry and also as data management to generate tables, graphs, and maps using characteristic tools from Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). All partners involved in the gathering information tasks participated actively contributing to the contents of the web pages and also to compose a formulary of study containing the key questions necessary to obtain proper answers to extract information according with the ASBIMED objectives. Also, Monitoring Committee members were invited to make comments and suggestions to contents. The formulary, to be filled in by a total of 225 programme managers contacted initially, has 28 questions oriented to obtain information about the following areas:

- General information about the programme (i.e. name, countries, managing institutions)
- Context analysis (i.e. other programmes related)
- Thematic content of the programme (syllabus UE)
- Economic description of the programme (type of funding, amount)
- Objectives of the programme (potential users, actors)

Every Programme Manager was contacted by email with information about how to fill in the questionnaire and an accompanying letter from the Commission. Partners were in charge of contacting them by phone, if necessary, and there was support from Euromednet partners, another SSA funded by INCO under 6th FP, as information points in MPC and also from MoCo members. It's expected to receive more replies in the next coming months.

Parallel to the analysis of collaboration in Programs described above, a bibliometric study based on an analysis of three components: scientific co-publications, fluxes of students and co-participations in the European 5th Framework Programme between 1998 and 2001 have been made by OST, partner 3. It's remarkable the Maghreb countries partnership (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) of collaboration with Member Countries, mostly with France. That clearly shows possibilities of progress for future European scientific cooperation with this area. Israel is the country with the most co-publications and stands out in number. A second group might be represented by Egypt and Morocco, followed by the rest of the countries. Fluxes of students from Mediterranean Partner countries had been mainly to France and Germany except students from Israel, Jordan and Egypt that went to English speaking countries. About FP5, results show a multilateral incentive process due to pre-existing bilateral relations, being either France or Spain, as member states, first partners in co-participations with Mediterranean partner's countries. Israel, as associated country, is the first partner for the most of them. Talking about priority areas, MPC participated mainly in International Cooperation during FP5.

Table 1. Results obtained from the 71 first replies to Asbimed formulary about Programmes of Bilateral Cooperation

	Austria	Belgium	Cyprus	Czech R	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxe	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	UK	SUM		
Algeria								7																		7		
Egypt	3								1				2										1			7		
Israel							1	2	4			1	3					1								12		
Jordan									1																	1		
Lebanon								1																		1		
Morocco	2	2						5					1										2			12		
Palestine	3							1															1			5		
Syria	1												1													2		
Tunisia	1							3	1				2										1			8		
Turkey									1	1			1													4		
MED Count								1					5										1			7		
Cyprus								1		1																2		
	10	2		0	0	0	1	21	8	2	0	1	15	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	68		
Algeria, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia																												
Lebanon	1																										1	
MED Count																												
Morocco	2																										2	
																								TOTAL		71		
NOTE:																												
Italy		MED Count																										5=4+1(Morocco, Israel)