



ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME PROPOSED FOR THE PERIOD 2008-2009

Plan Bleu
Regional Activity Centre

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BP/RAC

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The medium-term progress of Plan Bleu activities is developed in the documents entitled « Strategic Orientations » and “Framework for Strategic Intervention” that constitute the main basis of these proposals for the period 2008-2009.

The role of Plan Bleu is to produce information and knowledge in order to alert decision-makers and other players about the environmental and sustainable development stakes in the Mediterranean and to design future scenarios to enlighten decision-making.

For the two-year period 2008-2009, in conformity with its medium-term objectives, Plan Bleu proposes to focus its MAP activities on:

- The development of a more easily accessible geographical and statistical information system for environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean.
- The preparation of a « report on the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean», the first of a regular publication to give information to the Contracting Parties.
- More in-depth work on the topics « rural development », « tourism», « urban areas » and « transport » consistent with the work programme of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

I. MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MISESD)

The diversity of the themes and issues involved in the sustainable development, the Mediterranean specificities and the profusion of data sources currently available call for a place to consolidate this information that is too widely dispersed for the moment. By developing its information system, the desire of Plan Bleu is to facilitate access to a set of information that will be the base of the three pillars of sustainable development and will illustrate their interaction, thus contributing to the MAP (INFOMAP) communication and information strategy.

MISESD will be a supple multi-source system continuously supplied with « reliable » information. The information will be of three kinds:

- 1) Geographical information;
- 2) Statistical data;
- 3) Meta-data (information on the data).

1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Plan Bleu's work relies on information and data mainly collected for the immediate needs.

Plan Bleu's objective, as described in the framework of its intervention from 2007-2015 is to consolidate the Mediterranean Information System on the Environment and Sustainable Development (MISESD) in order to make the information easily accessible to all the interested parties via a web interface.

This means structuring and setting the rate of data and information collection in order to have a set of updated reliable information.

2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

2.1. Data collection and updating

Plan Bleu will continue to collect the data from the many sources with the help of MISESD, concentrating first of all on international sources to consolidate and update a minimum set of information.

Specific data that is unavailable in the national and international systems will necessitate collection from experts and/or academics via direct contacts or ad hoc studies/experts' reports.

2.2. Information processing

The collected information will be presented in a shared, accessible, form that will of course be harmonised with those chosen by international (SDS, ISO, W3C, SDI, etc.) or European (Inspire) programmes.

When several sources are available, MISESD will manage this information while at the same time helping the users to choose according to their needs: for regional studies (Mediterranean) and international comparisons (rating/benchmarking), international sources that already publish harmonised, validated data will be favoured. On the other hand, national sources will be advised for local studies for a specific country.

MISESD will facilitate data processing via the Geographic Information System (GIS) and via pre-defined requests for the calculation and illustration of indicators.

Updating of MISESD will enable Plan Bleu to produce publications according to the topical activities calendar and international deadlines such as that for Horizon 2020. It will also give the possibility to produce more classical publications such as periodic statistical reports and theme atlases that will also be available via the WEB interface.

2.3. Technical aspects

From a technical point of view, the development of MISESD will be based on a customer/server structure to enter requests via a WEB interface in the geographical and statistical data bases managed by Plan Bleu. These requests will lead to the creation of tables, graphs and maps and will give access to meta-data and to technical memos in a convivial and interactive way.

The informatics options selected will favour the standard software used in similar systems.

2.4. Planned activities

A development phase starting with technical studies will be the first activity:

- An assessment of what already exists: an inventory of the statistical and geographical information at Plan Bleu (statistics in data bases, tables, GIS files, sources, etc.),
- An analysis of user needs (by using the «users» survey for contracting parties and international parties),
- A «users» survey within Plan Bleu,
- A technical study with a critical report on similar systems and the various aids available on the market.

These studies will be followed by the specifying and structuring of the information, then the designing and implementing of the system.

After testing, internal regular using of MISESD is planned for 2008 and, then, in 2009 the system will be accessible on Internet.

2.5. 2007-2009 Calendar

2 nd half of 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Inventory of existing data▪ User surveys▪ Technical studies on data base software, GIS and WEB interfaces▪ Selection of technical possibilities
1 st half 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Making of a prototype▪ Developing and testing of the system
2 nd half 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Making available for Plan Bleu▪ Finalising of system
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Putting on line of the WEB interface (intranet and internet)▪ Regular systematic updating of MISESD and its products

II. REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (RESD)

Aiming at meeting the demand for regular information on the part of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, a **Report on the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean (RESD)** will be published every two years before the conference of the Contracting Parties.

This report will present:

- An analysis of the striking factors and the progress made for the environment and sustainable development in all the Mediterranean countries;
- A thematic file taking stock of the important issues in the Mediterranean region with deeper consideration of the stakes involved;
- The products related to the sustainable development indicators and statistical attachments.

RESD will rely on a set of « indicator » files that aim to monitor the progress made in the countries in terms of sustainable development and the implementing of the MSSD. These summarised sheets will present analyses of the trends observed in the form of tables, graphs and maps, by referring especially to the actions and objectives of the MSSD. The indicator sheets will be regularly updated with data from the MISESD and will be disseminated on the Plan Bleu website.

In this report there will also be an assessment of the progress made by the Mediterranean countries in sustainable development on the basis of a multi-criteria analysis of the indicators including those of the MSSD. The publication of the first RESD in both French and English is scheduled for the 3rd quarter of 2009 in print and in the form of a CD-ROM or DVD. Apart from distribution via publishers, the report will also be accessible on the Plan Bleu Internet site.

1. CALENDAR

2007	Designing of a first set of « indicators » sheets followed by regular updating
2008	Multi-criteria assessment of Mediterranean performance in the direction of sustainable development
2009	Publication of the first two-yearly Report on the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

III. THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

1. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Mediterranean rural space is characterised by its great ecological and socio-economic fragility. Problems of degradation of the ecosystems and of the resources are of crucial importance, with desertification, (erosion, salinisation, deforestation, etc.), the loss of high quality peri-urban agricultural land and degradation of the biodiversity and the landscapes. Rural poverty and environmental problems could continue to grow with globalisation and the trend towards Euro-Mediterranean free-trade. The implementing of strategies and policies for sustainable agricultural and rural development is essential to reduce and anticipate risks and to situate agriculture and rural areas in globalisation in a better way. Integrated development projects that reconcile protection and the enhancement of the environment and human and economic development exist and need to be multiplied. Valorising of Mediterranean quality (products, land and diet) and the promoting of productive efficient agriculture are a great opportunity for the future.

1.1. General objectives

The activities on the priority topic « agriculture and rural development in the Mediterranean », carried out together with CIHEAM since 2007, have the following objectives:

- To produce information that facilitates the MSSD implementation and follow-up in the field of « agriculture and rural development »,
- To accelerate the defining of strategies and the implementing of proactive policies for sustainable rural development by demonstrating the economic, environmental and social advantages connected with this development,
- To identify the existing or potential obstacles and levers in national or local policies and in international cooperation in order to progress towards the objectives of the MSSD.
- To monitor the progress in the region and in the countries in terms of the objectives and orientations of the MSSD.
- To obtain and enhance information regionally, nationally and locally.

1.2. Specific objectives

1.2.1. To make a report on the progress made by:

- Documenting of the MSSD follow-up indicators,
- Carrying out regional studies situating the Mediterranean region as a whole in relation to the MSSD objectives on one hand and in relation to the rest of the world on the other.

- Analysing the defining and implementing of sustainable rural development policies and programmes in some countries, supported with concrete examples of good practices (case studies),
- Analysing the experience of international cooperation for sustainable rural development (regional cooperation, development aid).

1.2.2. To enable regional experience-sharing by:

- Organising a workshop to discuss and finalise the regional report presenting the policies, programmes or local action for rural development implemented at the various territorial levels: regional studies/analyses, national reports, case studies;
- Participating in a regional seminar that presents and enhances this regional report after its publication.

To formulate recommendations for progress to be achieved in order to reach the strategic objectives both in the countries and regionally.

1.3. Planned activities

1.3.1. Mobilising of a group of experts t

- Make up a list of MSSD follow up indicators on « agriculture and rural development »;
- Define the themes for priority studies in the regional studies to be carried out to promote the sharing of good practices on a regional scale;
- Develop the terms of reference for the reports entrusted to the national experts which will include case studies;
- Identify the objectives and conditions for the organising of a regional workshop in 2008;
- Define the contents of the regional report and identify its partners.

1.3.2. Work on the priority and complementary indicators

Dissemination and documentation of the set of indicators.

1.3.3. National reports

working out of the terms of reference for the national experts entrusted with drawing up the national reports or coordinating the drawing up of the report in the volunteer countries; possible missions in the countries to support the compiling of these reports and to contribute to improving contacts and inter-ministry dynamics.

1.3.4. Regional analyses

Definition of the priority themes, selection and monitoring of the experts;

1.3.5. Organisation of a regional workshop

Early 2008 to analyse and comment on the experts' work.

The results of this regional workshop will be presented at the 2008 MCSD and could be the object of meetings to examine the situation in the voluntary countries to discuss follow-up nationally.

1.3.6. Writing of a regional report

Plan Bleu and CIHEAM, together with other regional partners, will draw up the final regional report, the contents of which could be the following:

- A regional summary hinging on the MSSD objectives (see frame), on the evolution of national, European and Euro-Mediterranean strategies and policies and making them coherent;
- Indicators from national information to facilitate the assessment and comparison of performance;
- Examples of good practices ;
- Recommendations for the progress to be made to reach the strategic objectives.

Publication of this report is planned for the beginning of 2009 and distribution in five languages could be carried out by ICAMAS in the framework of the *Mediterra* collection.

1.3.7. Organisation of a regional seminar to present the final report

After the publishing of the report and to enhance it, a regional presentation seminar will be organised by CIHEAM in association with Plan Bleu.

1.4. Calendar

January 2007 – June 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Experts' meeting- Identifying of priority study themes- Selecting of indicators- Designing of the terms of reference for the national experts involved in the preparation of the national reports
June 2007	Launching of the regional analyses and the national expertises
Early 2008	Handing in of experts' work
1st quarter 2008	Preparing of the intermediate report
March 2008	Regional workshop, presentation and discussion of the intermediate report
May 2008	Presentation of the work to the MCSD
2 nd half 2008	Handing in of the final report
Early 2009	Publication of the regional report (<i>Mediterra 2009</i>) Regional seminar to present the final report

2. TOURISM

Tourism in the Mediterranean is a dynamic sector of activity in terms of growth, of job creation, of inflow of capital and of cover for balance of goods and services.

In 2005, the Mediterranean countries took in 246 million international tourists, i.e. 30.5% of worldwide international tourism. During the decade 1995-2004, some Mediterranean countries benefited from a high average annual growth rate in international tourism. This was the case for Croatia (20 % per annum), Syria (15.7 %), Egypt (11.7 %), Algeria and Turkey (10.1 %).

By 2025, national and international tourism could reach 637 million visits to the Mediterranean countries, 312 million of which would be on the Mediterranean coasts.

Even such little information gives an indication of the extent of the pressure that tourism will exert on the environment and natural resources as well as the potential for social and economic development that it represents.

2.1. General objectives

One of the 7 MSSD priority topics is « promotion of sustainable tourism. The objectives are:

- Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental impacts of tourism, especially in existing coastal tourist areas.
- Promote sustainable tourism, which in turn reinforces social cohesion and cultural and economic development, enhances Mediterranean diversity and specificities and strengthens synergies with other economic sectors, especially agriculture.
- Increase the added value of tourism for local communities and actors in developing countries.
- Improve governance for sustainable tourism

2.2. Specific objectives

Since 2007 Plan Bleu activities on the priority topic of sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean have had the following objectives:

- To produce information facilitating the follow up and the implementing of the MSSD and the NSSD in the field of “sustainable tourism”;
- To accelerate the definition of the strategies and the implementing of proactive policies for sustainable tourism by demonstrating the economic, environmental and social advantages linked to their development;
- To identify the existing and potential obstacles and levers in the national and local policies and in international cooperation, in order to make progress towards the MSSD objectives;
- To monitor progress in the region and in the countries with regard to the MSSD objectives and orientations;
- To obtain information regionally, nationally and locally.

2.3. Planned Activities

The work of Plan Bleu is hinged on two axes: the first one is an in-depth report on the progress made in the countries with regard to the recommendations for tourism adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1999; the second one is the profile of sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean both now and in the future. Well targeted case studies (taking up again some of the destinations presented in 1998 at the Antalya regional workshop) will demonstrate in a concrete way what is happening in the field. All this work will be mainly based on the MSSD follow up indicators for tourism, together with national and regional analyses in order to understand the various situations in Mediterranean tourism. In April 2008 a regional workshop will be organised.

A progress study will be carried out in various countries, by mobilising Plan Bleu's tourism experts. The results, completed with policy analyses, will make up national reports to be presented during the regional workshop in 2008.

The report on the sustainability of Mediterranean tourism will be drawn up regionally using some of the MSSD follow up indicators as well as composite indicators of the « ecological footprint » type and ratios quantifying the pressure of tourism on the environment and on natural resources. This work will be spread out over more than one year and the preliminary results will be presented at the regional workshop in 2008.

As far as possible, case studies will aim at updating work carried out ten years ago. In the regional workshop of 2008 they will serve for exchanging experience, for spreading good practices and for examining again from all angles the recommendations if need be.

2.4. Calendar

1st half 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of the indicators, preparation of the terms of reference for the national analyses and for the regional study - Search for partners
July 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting of a technical committee - Discussion and validation of the complementary indicators for MSSD follow up and of the terms of reference
September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launching of national analyses and of the regional study
February 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handing in of national analyses - Preliminary results of the regional study
March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of national studies
April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional workshop
May 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the work to the MCSD
2 nd half 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drawing up of the final report - Publication

3. URBAN MOBILITY

The question of urban mobility— more and more people circulate in extended urban areas – is in keeping with the wider frame of reflection on the transformation of cities and the modes of urban development. In the Mediterranean there is a fast rise in urban development in the southern and eastern countries while the North experiences urban sprawl. The type of spatial development of urban areas over the next three decades will determine their energy consumption and the greenhouse gas emissions in the second half of the century. The amplitude of these emissions will not be the same, depending on whether the southern countries converge towards spread out, polycentric town models implying long distances in which automobiles are needed, as on the Côte d’Azur or to denser, mono-centric cities where the town-planning and transport offer could go in the direction of public transport as in Barcelona.

What will be the future of mobility in the next twenty or thirty years? To what extent are environmental and sustainable development stakes taken into account in urban and transport planning? What answers are there to contain urban sprawl? What challenges do the public authorities have to take up to direct their urban planning and transport policies more efficiently at local level? These are the main questions to which Plan Bleu would like to find an answer.

3.1. General objectives

Since 2007, Plan Bleu’s activity concerning urban mobility has had the objective of monitoring the evolution towards the MSSD objectives and orientations concerning the promotion of sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean and especially the promoting of spatial planning integrating transport and urban extension policies (§ 2.6. of the MSSD).

3.2. Specific objectives

The main objective is to improve information and knowledge about the evolution of urban mobility and its impact, thus giving the possibility to alert the decision-makers and others, and to support the diagnoses to create better urban planning and transport policies, to implement and monitor them.

Two other objectives are also aimed at:

- Promoting the development of local expertise, especially cross examinations by transport specialists and urban planning experts concerning urban and peri-urban mobility ;
- Awareness-raising of decision-makers, professionals and other local players about the impact on the environment and sustainable development by urban and peri-urban mobility.

3.3. Planned activities

Six case studies concerning urban mobility are scheduled in 2007-2008. The experts' reports produced for the six case studies will be debated in local workshops in each of the towns being studied. This will give a solid base to organise the regional forum to exchange experiences about urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean that will take place in 2009. The activities will be led together with INRETS, the World Bank (KNA MENA agency in Marseille), CODATU and MEDCITES.

3.3.1. Data and indicators to analyse the trends

To define the evolution in mobility two sources of information are favoured: household surveys concerning travel, unavoidable in order to have reliable data, but also in-depth studies generally carried out prior to the making of a general plan for urban transport or a plan for urban mobility.

Information on a series of 10 indicators, most of which were already used in the 2005 Plan Bleu report on the environment and development in the Mediterranean, will be given on at least two dates. The scale to bear in mind is the greater urban area even the urban region, depending on the cases. The main indicators selected:

- Indicators on the evolution of the mobility: number and flow of frequent movement, commuting from home to work, modal distribution depending on the type of area of residence: town centre, outer city, periphery, and so on, the trips, the time and distance budgets.
- Indicators of urban density, of the energy consumption in the urban areas, and the urban transport
- Impact indicators:
- Climate change: CO₂ emissions, share by urban and outer urban transport
- Congestion: monetary costs of the losses in time due to congestion
- Public and private transport: respective performance of the urban transport systems, formal or informal, in terms of area served, quality of the services, occupation rate and pollution engendered.

Information for these indicators also gives the possibility to establish the typology of the towns based on distances travelled and the density of the town.

3.3.2. Case studies and local workshops

Six case studies on urban mobility will be made: three in 2007 and three in 2008, with the support of local experts for advice. In each urban area a binomial made up of a transport economy expert and of an urban planning expert will be mobilised.

The choice of urban areas was guided by a dual consideration: to include in the sample some large capital cities, but also smaller cities and to have reliable information over twelve or fifteen years. The case studies for 2007 will concern Tunis, Alexandria and Istanbul; for 2008, the list that has not yet been finalised will include: Aleppo, Tripoli (Lebanon), Algiers and

Tangiers. These studies will complete the steps initiated by Plan Bleu in 2005-2006 relative to Sfax, Batna, Barcelona and Aix-Marseille.

The experts' reports produced for the case studies will be discussed during the workshops to be organised during the examined urban areas. The workshops at issue are small-sized and with short duration addressed to the experts, councillor and civil servant. They will allow discussing the thematic results and the dimension of sustainable development in urban mobility. This methodology, already applied by Plan Bleu in 2005-2006, proved very useful to back up local expertise.

3.3.3. *Experience exchanges*

A regional forum on urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean will be organised during the third quarter of 2009. Obviously of a vocational nature, this forum will call for communications essentially from those in the field, and will bear on transversal themes defined from the results of the case studies. It will also inform about local practices and experience that will correspond to a real taking into account of the concerns for sustainable development in the transport and urban planning policies.

3.4. Calendar

2007: 1st half year	- Search for partners, selection of indicators, choice of urban areas, identification of the local consultants, preparation of the terms of reference for the case studies
2nd half year	- Three case studies - Regional seminar on urban mobility in the Mediterranean (in association with the World Bank, CODATU), in Morocco, December 2007
2008	- Three case studies - Six local workshops - First summary of the case studies and the choice of transversal themes for the 2009 forum
2009	- Presentation of the work to the MCSD - Regional forum on urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean - Summary report

4. IMPACT OF TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean has always been a trading area with a lot of mobility. A wonderful instrument for freedom, with the development of individual motorisation, and for economic development, transport exerts at the same time ever-growing pressure on the environment: rise in greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change, consumption of space by the development of facilities, alteration of air quality because of emission pollutant substances in the atmosphere, noise disturbance, degradation of the marine environment, road accident toll, etc.

While other parts of the world are starting to take the measure of this contradiction especially the European Union, transport chains, via the liberalising of commercial trade, are being developed in the southern and eastern Mediterranean without putting in place the essential environmental and social control instruments.

4.1. General objectives

Reflecting about the putting in place of these controls at regional level supposes the sharing of a common vision concerning the impact of transport in its current form. This vision should answer the following questions, especially:

- Can a decoupling of development of the economy and transport development be observed?
- What is the environmental, social, and economic impact of transport in the Mediterranean? What are the most relevant indicators to monitor this impact? What value do they have?
- What will be the evolution of these indicators?

4.2. Specific objectives

To answer these questions data such as the greenhouse gases from this sector of activity, an estimation of congestion costs, the share of transport costs in the households' budget, the space taken by transport facilities or the level of noise pollution linked to transport is needed. It is Plan Bleu's ambition to contribute to collecting this data so as to promote the setting up of a real observation system for Mediterranean transport.

Indeed, apart from existing initiatives what the region needs for this sector is real analytical and prospective aid. Plan Bleu suggest to work it out so as to organise a permanent watch on connection between transport/environment and sustainable development.

4.2.1. Planned activities

Information for a series of regional and national indicators will be collected and analysed.

These indicators include:

- The evolution of traffic movement:
 - Traveling of traffic, goods and persons in travelers per km and tones per km
 - Evolution in traffic and in its composition, modal distribution, etc.
 - Elasticity of traffic compared to GNP
- Environmental, economic and social impact of transport:
 - Climate change: CO₂ emissions
 - Air pollution: COV, Nox and particle emissions
 - Noise pollution: number of persons affected by noise over 55 dB linked to transport
 - Congestion: monetary cost of loss in time linked to congestion, as a percentage of GDP
 - Encroachment on land by transport facilities: in hectares and share of the country's surface area
 - Death toll linked to transport

- Tonnage of hydrocarbons and of pollutants spilled in the Mediterranean sea by maritime traffic
- Share of transport costs in the households' budget.

Besides this, investigation of the assessment methodology for some complex indicators such as congestion costs or tonnage of pollutants spilled in the sea would help to better manage some questions related to the economic costs of external factors.

Questions such as the decoupling of traffic growth and growth in GDP, impact on the coastal areas of the construction of transport facilities and epidemiological monitoring of the impact of some problems connected with transport should be the object of in-depth analyses.

Calendar

2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators selection - Methodological work to calculate complex indicators - Prospective studies on decoupling in the transport sector
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of feasibility of a Mediterranean transport/environment observatory - Consulting of potential partners - Workshop for the handing in of the work - Summary report