MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Scientific Committee MED PACT – PAMLED

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Place Municipality of Prato, Italy

Participants
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Preamble

Within the Med Pact Project "Building Effective Partnerships among European and Mediterranean Municipalities for Local Economic Development Promotion" the second official meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Project was held following the Kick-Off Meeting run in Prato on 02-04 April 2007¹.

The purpose of today’s meeting has been to follow-up the preparatory work set off at the Kick-Off Meeting (Activity 1) of all the 8 Project Partners, in the framework of the Activity 2 foreseen by the Project Action Plan. The Activity 2 entails to the “Community consulting through local stakeholders’ involvement in the MEDA and the European Countries – preparation and implementation”. In this sense, the Activity 2 intends to encourage specific local stakeholders to get involved in the local development process of the public administration of reference; to identify specific potentialities in each territories trying to single out a shared vision and a strategy, that encourages the involvement of citizens and organisations in the local development decision-process of the public administration, through a participatory approach.

In this respect, the role of the Scientific Committee of the Project is twofold:
A) to support the MEDA partners in the identification of a common bottom-up approach to foster the achievement of the Activity objective within the identification of proper methodological tools and contents, as based on the recommendations agreed at the Kick-Off Meeting (Activity 1);
B) to support and coordinate the European partners in the identification of common issues and topics of interest with the MEDA partners; of their good/best practices and management potentialities that can be subject to an exchange of experiences and transfer of added value with the MEDA partners in the two overall Project topics, as well as those sub-topics identified at the Kick-Off Meeting in Prato, and others that may arise during the implementation of the same Activity 2.

In sum, in this preparatory phase of Activity 2 the Scientific Committee shall define, in a comprehensive format, the content and the methodological tools to be transferred to the Project Partners for the implementation phase f the Activity 2 in each of their territories.

Issues discussed

Working methodology attaining the Project topics and the agreement reached

Following the recommendations reached at the Kick-Off Meeting, the Scientific Committee discussed in detail on:
a) the characteristic elements of the Project flow;

¹ The first official meeting of the Scientific Committee was held in Prato (Municipality’s Offices) on 5th March 2007.
b) the choice between drafting an open type of assessment format for the partners, that includes all possible arguments of interest and priorities among those emerged during the Kick-Off meeting, or considering instead to aggregate such proposed sub-topics under a two-three main fields of action to use of a more specific and sustainable methodology, as emerged during the Kick-Off itself. **The latter option has been picked out.**

c) the importance to remind the partners that the implementation of the Activity 2 entails a process of validation of the same sub-topics they have proposed at the Kick-Off;

d) To clarify the main shared issues of interest common to all 8 partners in a synthesis of 2/3 topics, in order to allow that the Working Groups to be constituted in September in Bodrum (Activity 3) to perform efficiently, and in a streamlined manner on recognised and agreed areas of analysis (Activity’s Objective).

The Scientific Committee agrees that the various sub-topics proposed at the Kick-Off Meeting should be finally selected on the following analysis:

1. on a common priority direction of interest and sustainability already specified by the MEDA partners;
2. by matching together the strengths and weaknesses coming from the experiences of the European and the MEDA partners;

Additionally, the study of the good/best practices of the European partners can be useful to standardise a series of existing documents, and that are still not currently used or considered valid to the aims of this Project.

**Identification of Project’ Priorities**

The sub-topics of interest and priority proposed by the three MEDA partners may be summarised as:

**City of MARRAKECH**
- To develop methods and tools of communications with the citizens referred to sustainable development;
- Promotion of tourism in the rural areas;
- Planning of road traffic in the City;

**Municipality of BODRUM**
- Management of Public Utilities: rubbish collection & Water management (governance of the territory);
- Improvement of the tourist policy and management;
- Moving of industrial zones out of the centre;

**Municipality of SIN-EL-FIL**
- Tourist policies and tourist events;
- Valorisation of tourist local resources;
- the Municipality intends to develop a strategic plan in terms of a participatory approach to the economic (LED), urban, and environmental development of the territory, that includes the citizenry, the NGOs, various stakeholders and associations.

In sum, the sub-topics of interest and priority in the MEDA countries have elements in common with their European counterparts’ experiences, added values, interests and good practices, as emerged at the Kick-Off, may be summarised in the following macro-areas of interest:

- Tourism and Culture: its development and promotion (sub-topic 2 treated at the Kick-Off);
- Management of the heights/peak times’ impact caused by unsteady/variable strains/pressure on the government of the territory (attaining to the sub-topic of Sustainable Development and Territorial Management and thus comprising several fields of interest) – to analyse the response of the local government’s partner to this challenge;
- Management of the differentiated waste collection (Public Utilities); - TBC (to be confirmed)

The implementation of the Activity 2 shall run in parallel in the two main Project areas: MEDA and the Europe.

**Methodological approach with the MEDA Partners**

In respect to the methodological approach to be implemented with the MEDA Partners, the proposal of the SC follows the direction the partners’ validation of the sub-topics herein proposed through a direct communication
between the subcontractors as members of the Scientific Committee, and each MEDA partner of reference (at
distance).
A validation process that shall involve the representatives of the public administration in a participatory approach,
as well as all other potential stakeholders and actors of the territory.

**Methodological approach with the European Partners**

In respect to the European Partners, the methodological approach agreed is twofold:

**a)** Based on the sub-topics so far identified at the Kick-Off, the Scientific Committee and the partners shall
draft a list of strengths and weaknesses of their experiences, as well as availability to involve other representatives
of the public administration in a first assessment phase of the existing arguments to identify good/best practices,
sectors of added values, etc.;

**b)** Based on the priority sub-topics that the MEDA partners have identified the European partners shall assess
their potentialities of exchange of experiences in common with their counterparts of the Mediterranean, through a
reasoned and concrete list of sectors and sub-topics, and an overall selection of the good/best practices to
consider.

**Assumption:** Remember the element of the human resources available in the MEDA and the European partner
territories, and their capacity to carry out the assessment.

**To conclude**
The validation of the sub-topics proposed shall result in a final common and shared methodological format for the
MEDA partners to be finalised after the completion of the initial assessment phase (July-August). The definitive
format shall then come up from a comparison and matching of areas of interests of the MEDA partners with the
added value and the experiences that the European partners may offer them.

**Note:** The SC agrees that it is not necessary for the project partners to participate in each of the two Working
Groups that will be established in September in Bodrum (Activity 3).

**Decisions undertaken**

The steps for the Project Manager and the Scientific Committee in the coming days (latest **Wednesday 16th May**
to be completed) are the following:

A)** The Project Manager shall draft and circulate to all partners the official conclusive report of the Kick-Off
Meeting (drafting on-going upon the EU reporting format);

**B)** The Project Manager shall draft and circulate to all partners both the conclusive individual and overall table
files of identification of the sub-topics as agreed at the Kick-Off Meeting of Prato. The table files shall be
accompanied by a narrative note of explanation of the methodology of the macro areas resulting from the
Kick-Off Meeting and that each partner needs to validate;

**C)** Upon a draft prepared by the Project Manager, the members of the Scientific Committee UCODEP and Local
Global shall prepare the final version of the Methodological Note attaining Activity 2, to be circulated to all
partners;

**D)** The Project Manager shall draft and circulate to all partners the administrative note of reference attaining the
Project implementation for the 1st Project Year, following the material and Project Manual already distributed
during the Kick-Off Meeting.