

SUPPORT MEDITERRANEAN MEMBER STATES
TOWARDS COHERENT AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE MSFD



Call:

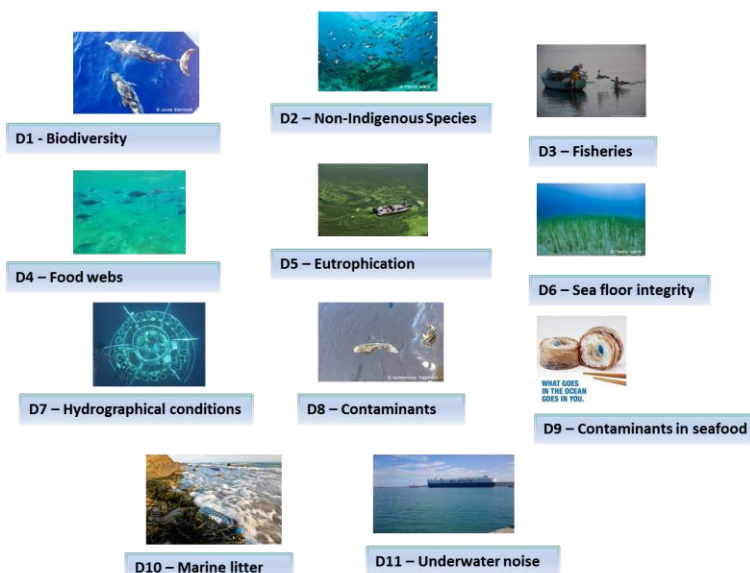
Implementation of the Second Cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive:
achieving coherent, coordinated and consistent updates of the determinations of Good
Environmental Status, initial assessments and environmental targets

GA No. 1 L0661/2016/748067/SUB/ENV.C2
1/3/2017 – 28/2/2019

HarmoNIA First Stakeholder workshop,
20 April 2018, Athens



Good Environmental Status (GES) - Descriptors



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

European Commission found extremely low coherence and consistency between Mediterranean Member States, regarding:

Definitions of GES, targets

Definitions of assessment areas

Development of monitoring programmes

Preparation of Programmes of Measures

Key objectives of the MEDCIS project are:

(in accordance to the objectives of the Union grant programme concerned)

- to facilitate the implementation of the next phase of MSFD by providing the criteria and methodological standards, towards coordinated approaches between MSs, by reviewing, comparing, selecting and adapting appropriate existing approaches in criteria, methodological standards and protocols at the regional/subregional scale.
- to focus on Mediterranean regional/subregional cooperation and standardization, taking in consideration the basin specificities and therefore recommend suitable approaches for this region to ensure consistency in those selected by each MS and allowing comparisons at any possible scale within the region.

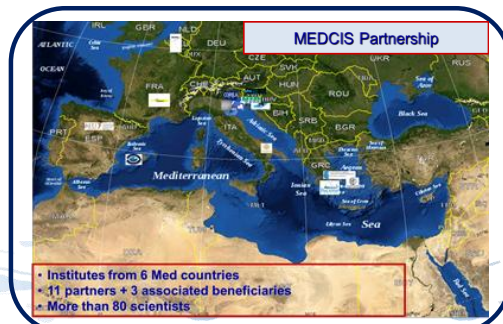
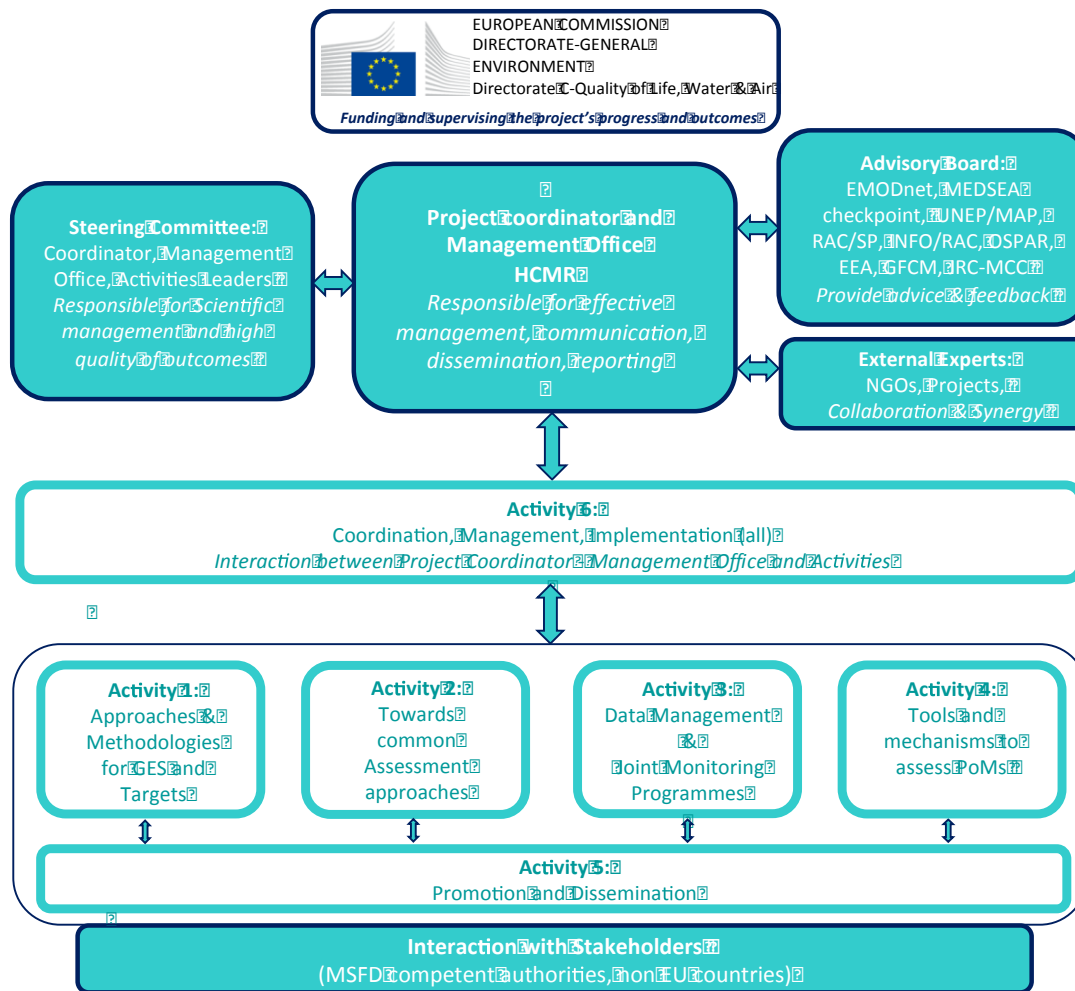
MEDCIS will take in consideration all descriptors, but will focus on:

- ***Biodiversity (including NIS and seafloor integrity)***
- ***Marine litter***
- ***Noise***



Key Figures of MEDCIS

- **Project Duration: 24 months**
- **Start: 1st March 2017**
- **6 Activities/Work Packages**
- **Total Budget 1.247.050 €**
- **EC contribution to budget 997.897 € (80,00%)**
- **151 man/months**



| | Activity Title | Activity Leader |
|------------|--|--|
| Activity 1 | Develop common approaches and methodologies towards GES and targets in Mediterranean regional/subregional scale. | J.-F. Cadiou, IFREMER (France) |
| Activity 2 | Proposals for common approaches towards assessment at regional/subregional scale in Mediterranean Sea. | A. Borja, AZTI (Spain) & A. Basset, U Salento (Italy) |
| Activity 3 | Standard and coherent data generation, management and access at regional and subregional Mediterranean levels from improved joint monitoring programs. | P. Campostrini, CORILA (Italy) & S. Deudero, IEO (Spain) |
| Activity 4 | Develop tools and mechanisms to describe and assess progress in the implementation of the PoMs. | K. Klancnik, IWRS (Slovenia) |
| Activity 5 | Promotion and Dissemination. | N. Streftaris, HCMR (Greece) |
| Activity 6 | Coordination/Management and Implementation of the MEDCIS project. | K. Pagou HCMR (Greece) |

Activity 1 Objectives

- **1.1 : review, and where necessary, update the determinations of Good Environmental Status**
 - According to the recommendations of the Commission's assessment of the 1st cycle
 - Using the outcomes of the scientific and technical review of the GES Decision (including the revised GES Decision, if adopted)
 - Considering adaptations required by the specificities of the Mediterranean region/ subregions

- **1.2: update environmental targets and associated indicators**
 - Addressing these where appropriate at Mediterranean regional/subregional level
 - Developing common approaches to the establishment of national targets

Activity 1 – Milestones & Deliverables

MS1.1 – Scientific Workshop (M12) ✓

MS1.2 – Stakeholder meeting (M23)

D1.1.1 – Determination of the GES in the Med. gap analysis, priority needs to improve coherence (M6) ✓

D1.2 – Report on the case studies (M20)

D1.3 – Recommendations for GES and Environmental targets in the Mediterranean region/subregions (M22)

Activity 2 Objectives

- **2.1: Establish nested sets of geographical assessment areas for the Mediterranean;**
20 February 2018, Athens, EEA, ETC/ICM, HCMR, 2nd Workshop for the delineation of subdivisions relevant for MSFD assessments/reporting in the Mediterranean Sea”
- **2.2: Develop case study test of the assessment tools’ performance across scales in the nested geographical assessment areas;**
- **2.3: Update the 2012 assessment (MSFD Art. 8), in accordance with Annex III of MSFD and with the criteria and methodological standards in the GES Decision for the Mediterranean**
- **2.4: Develop ways of communicating assessment results in accessible manner to general public and policymakers (in collaboration with Activity 5)**



Activity 2 – Milestones & Deliverables

MS2.1 - A set of geographical assessment areas for the Mediterranean **(M6)** ✓

MS2.2 - A specific and adapted case study for the Mediterranean in NEAT software **(M8)** ✓

MS2.3 - Stakeholders' workshop (during the general assembly and in coordination with Act 3&5) **(M12)** ✓

MS2.4 - A specific case study concerning modelling work for Indicator 11.1.2 in Hellenic waters **(M12)** ✓

MS2.5 - Presentation of the results and recommendations to stakeholders at the final conference and stakeholder meeting **(M23)**

D2.1 - Report of acoustic modelling results for Indicator 11.1.2 in Hellenic waters. **(M20)**

D2.2 - An assessment of the environmental status of the Mediterranean, with all the information associated **(M22)**

Activity 3 Objectives

(related to monitoring/reporting activities)

- **3.2: Contribute to further improve monitoring programs (MSFD Art. 11) in the Mediterranean region or subregions, as regards their coordination, the development of joint monitoring programs and/or improvements in their design, which lead to more efficient and effective monitoring, particularly for assessment of the distribution and extent of pressures and their impacts.**

This will include linking to monitoring programs for other EU policies (e.g. Water Framework Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, CFP).

It could also include making more effective use of monitoring undertaken by the private sector (e.g. operational monitoring required in industry licenses). Special attention will be paid to NIS and Marine Litter monitoring programs.

- **3.4: Propose a strategy for reporting monitoring data related to common indicators at sub-regional scale, taking into account European scale approaches, INSPIRE requirements and recommendations, and existing EMODnet practices.**



Activity 3 Tasks (Monitoring)

TASK 3.2:

Assessing the methodological standardization and coordination among MSFD national monitoring plans, and its harmonization with UNEP/MAP EcAp IMAP

Task 3.4:

Proposals for facilitating the planning and implementation of future Joint Monitoring and Data Management Programs on MSFD Descriptors 2 (NIS)



Activity 3 Objectives

(related to data management)

- **3.1: To improve the management of, the access to and the publication of data and information used in the assessments and from monitoring programs, in accordance with MSFD Art. 19(3) and the INSPIRE Directive. To adopt and promote the use of existing international standards and protocols for data management (e.g. GBIF, OBIS, EMODnet, LifeWatch, LTER) and, where there are not such standards, propose new ones, based on available existing experience and best practices.**
- **3.3: To perform an exercise on a selected set of data and information to achieve concretely the previous objectives in practice: collect relevant data and information to be used in the framework of the project and analyse them with regard their compliance and availability in big aggregation systems (e.g. OBIS, GIBIF, EMODnet).**

Activity 3 – Deliverables

D.3.1 – Analysis of INSPIRE data models for interoperability per group of Descriptors (based on MS3.2 - **M18**)

D.3.2 – Report on data availability from MSFD monitoring activities in North Adriatic (**M12**) **delayed**

D.3.3 – Analysis of data flow for MSFD reporting per group of Descriptors (based on MS3.2) (**M18**)

D.3.4 – Report on the common approaches of the monitoring programs, the coherence of the assessment and the interoperability readiness/capabilities of the repositories in the North Adriatic areas (**M23**)

D.3.5 – Report on proposals for optimizing existing MSFD related monitoring plans on NIS and marine litter in the Mediterranean (**M23**)

Activity 3 – Milestones

MS3.1 Workshop on NIS and Marine Litter with participation of invited external specialists **(M12)** ✓

MS3.2 Workshop with experts on data model for MSFD indicators and INSPIRE data specifications **(M19)**

MS3.3 Workshop on “Data flow for MSFD” with representatives of MS authorities, EMODnet portals and INFO/RAC **(M15)**.

MS3.4 Stakeholders workshop (Act 5), (directed both to the MSs national responsible for MSFD monitoring programs implementation and to their equivalents in other Mediterranean countries in relation to UNEP-MAP EcAp, for disseminating the results & planning future specific actions to overcome detected inconsistencies and enhancing the design of new Coordinated/Joint Monitoring Programs and Data management systems at Mediterranean **(M12 → M15)**).

MS3.5 Presentation of the results and recommendations to stakeholders at the final conference and stakeholder meeting **(M23)**.

Activity 4 Objectives

- **4.1: build the information base for a more coherent and comparable joint implementation of PoMs in the Mediterranean EU Member States**
- **4.2: identify possible regional joint or coordinated measures**
- **4.3: build a common approach for assessment of PoMs implementation effectiveness to contribute to coherent and consistent reporting under art. 18 of MSFD**

Activity 4 – Milestones & Deliverables

MS4.1 Catalogue Workshop (M12) 

MS4.3 Final conference & stakeholder meeting (M23)

D4.1 Catalogue of PoMs (M14)

D4.2 Best practices & descriptions of potential regional joint or coordinated measures (M23)

D4.3 Report on Assessment of Implementation Progress and Effectiveness of PoMs (M23)

Activity 5 Objectives

- **5.1: Disseminate the results in the region and facilitate the information and engagement of the various stakeholders in the basin**
- **5.2: Connect and Interact with other relevant projects and initiatives running in other European Regional Seas (adding value to projects' results and marking some implementation actions before the project ends)**
- **5.3: Foster the dialogue and interaction with and among competent authorities at national, sub-regional and regional/EU level, in order to engage them directly to the results of MEDCIS**
- **5.4: Widen the participation of stakeholders and share the integrated results of the project for the whole basin, taking advantage of the existing structure of the Barcelona Convention**

.....(cont.)

Objectives of Activity 5 (cont.)

- **5.5: Present the progress of work and gather input from the relevant meetings at (sub)regional level (e.g. relevant groups established under the auspices of UNEP/MAP) and EU level (e.g. Working Groups and Technical Groups established in the context of the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy)**

- **5.6: Organise common actions, together with the other relevant projects in the Med as well as the winning DG-ENV projects in the different regional seas, to achieve the EU approach (e.g. common meetings, a final joint workshop/meeting, homogenisation of work to be done etc.)**



Activity 5 – Milestones & Deliverables

MS5.1 DCP report (M1) ✓

MS5.2 1st Platform Meeting (M1) ✓

MS5.3 Project Website (M6) ✓

MS5.4 2nd Platform Meeting (M12) ✓

MS5.5 2nd Pilot Game for MSFD tested for Italy (M12) ✓

MS5.6 2nd Platform Meeting (M23)

D5.1 Stakeholder Game for MSFD issues (M22)

D5.2 Position Paper (M23)

Engagement of Stakeholders and Policy Makers,

a) Platform of Competent Authorities (CAs)*

- **Creation:** Initial identification (by the project partners) of 1 member from the national MSFD CAs from all MS
- **Aim:** to promote/facilitate the dialogue and interaction within and between CAs members and MEDCIS partners (scope to ensure that the outcomes are MSFD oriented are of direct use by the countries)
- **Platform representatives:** bring the expertise and interact, discuss and agree on gaps, needs, barriers and priorities
- **Platform's role:** an active observatory, providing feedback, update the needs and promote solutions in an integrated way; formulate the project's final products to the exact needs of the MSFD users

Main tasks of Platforms

Organisation of 3 Workshops

1. At the beginning of the project
 - Information on the platform activities the work & aims of MEDCIS
2. At the end of the 1st year
 - Platform Members will be asked to comment and review the deliverables and outcomes of the project so far
 - Provide advise on the needs for the Mediterranean approach of the implementation
3. At end of the project
 - Review and comments of the deliverables
 - Carry forward & implement the results of the project at country level
 - Interaction with the results of projects in the other regional seas (ideas and knowledge are exchanged at different levels and regions)

Activity 6

Coordination / Management and Implementation

Objectives :

- Coordinate Activities & Facilitate communication between partners within and across Activities
- Manage and monitor the progress of the project ensuring that the project meets its objectives within the time (and budget) limits
- Work closely with Act5 to Link MEDCIS to international and national projects, stakeholders, national authorities & policy leads for MSFD
- Communicate and outreach Project results and scientific developments on all levels of society: policy, public, scientific community (in tandem with Activity 5)



Milestones (done & foreseen meetings):

MS6.1: Kick off & 1st SC Meeting (M1- Brussels, M2 - Rome)
(responsible: HCMR).

MS6.2: 2nd SC Meeting (M6) (responsible: HCMR). (M7, September 2017, Ljubljana)

MS6.3: 3rd SC Meeting (M12) (responsible: HCMR). Athens, February 2018

MS6.4: General Assembly & Scientific Workshops (M12)
(responsible: HCMR). Athens, February 2018

* Remote SC Meeting (SKYPE), 24/4/2018

MS6.5: 4th SC Meeting (M16) (responsible: HCMR), tbd.

MS6.6: 5th SC Meeting (M20) (responsible: HCMR).

MS6.7: Final General Assembly & Conference (M24) (responsible: HCMR).

Deliverables:

D6.1: Inception report specifying the proposed methodology for the tasks of the project (M2) (responsible: HCMR).

D6.2: (PR1) 1st Progress report (Months 1-6) advanced draft of the tasks performed and some preliminary conclusions (M7-M8) (responsible: HCMR).

D6.3: (PR2) 2nd Progress report (Months 7-13) advanced draft of the tasks performed and some preliminary conclusions (max 2 pages) (M14) (responsible: HCMR).

D6.4: (PR3) 3rd Progress report (Months 14-20) advanced draft of the tasks performed and some preliminary conclusions (max 2 pages) (M21) (responsible: HCMR).

D6.5: Final report which describes clearly the executed tasks and results covering the complete reporting period, including all the specific products and deliverables produced in the context of this project and an executive summary (maximum 6 pages) (M24) (responsible: HCMR).

Meetings where MEDCIS activities were involved during the first year:

- **KO** with DG ENV officers, **Brussels 14th March 2017**, HCMR, IFREMER, UoSalento, CORILA, IEO, IWRS. Presentation of project's workplan.
- **KO, Rome 5th April 2017**, (all partners involved, as well as external experts and stakeholders).
- **Side meetings** of Activities 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, **Rome 5th April 2017**, (all partners, all activities).
- **SC meeting, Rome 6th April 2017** (All Activities). AB members also participated and gave advice.
- **Plan Bleu 5th workshop on the science-policy interface (SPI)** strengthening and the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) coordination group meeting on IMAP spatial and temporal scales of monitoring and assessment, back to back with the Quality Status Report (QSR) meeting, Nice, France, **27-28th April 2017** (Activity 2, J.-F. Cadiou participated).
- **Coordination meeting with UNEP/MAP** for the tasks of Activity 5, Athens **5th May 2017**, (Activity 5 & 6).

- Several **SKYPE meetings** between partners, within activities
- EEA (ETC/ICM) and INFO/RAC from UNEP/MAP (organisers) “Workshop for the **delineation of subdivisions** relevant for MSFD assessments/reporting in the Mediterranean Sea” where MEDCIS was represented by Alberto Basset,
- **ISPRA, Rome 21st - 22nd June 2017.**
- Training workshop on the use of **NEAT** software to assess the status of marine environment. AZTI, HCMR, UoSalento, UoA, NIB, IWRS, **Athens 4th July 2017** (Activity 2).
- SKYPE with ODYSSEA H2020 project, for collaboration among projects, 7th July 2017 (Activity 5 & 6). Invitation (accepted) to participate to the **1st ODYSSEA project’s stakeholder workshop, on the 25th October 2017, in Rome**
- **TG DATA**, 12-13/2/2018, Brussels (A. Giorgeti)
- **2nd MRU workshop** (EEA, DG ENV, MEDCIS project), **Athens, 20 February 2018**
- **MEDCIS 1st GA, 3rd SC, AB, stakeholder platforms** meetings (with the other MED projects), 21st February Athens
- **MEDCIS Scientific workshops** (NIS, PoMs, Biodiversity, Litter, Noise, Pollution) 20th, 22nd and 23rd February, Athens
- **MEDCIS side activities** meeting, 22nd February, Athens
- **HarmonIA** 1st stakeholder workshop, 20th April 2018, Athens

Conclusions from the MRUs workshop

- *Good common understanding. Recognised added value of these workshops.*
- *The delimitations of subdivisions are still uncertain (nationally and internationally) although information is shared.*
- *In most cases, the scale of reporting for each descriptor and criteria is not decided. Further coordination at subregional level needed.*
- *More coordination is foreseen, esp. in the Western Med, with new channels opened in the Adriatic and Ionian & Central subregions.*
- *More guidance on coding was asked and sent by email to WG DIKE.*

Actions on MRUs

| <i>WHAT</i> | <i>WHEN</i> |
|--|----------------------|
| <i>Ask the EEA for help delimiting subdivisions</i> | <i>30 March 2018</i> |
| <i>Updates of Marine waters shapefiles</i> | <i>30 April 2018</i> |
| <i>Updates of the 4geo.xml & Lists of MRUs (names)</i> | <i>30 May 2018</i> |
| <i>Updates of the MRU shapefiles</i> | <i>30 June 2018</i> |

Conclusions from the 1st Joint Stakeholders' workshop of the MSFD Mediterranean projects

- The workshop gave good insights on what is expected from the projects;
- This coordination could help the projects propose solutions, share results and avoid duplication of effort;
- The stakeholders were invited to comment/advice/interact not only during workshops;
- The present MED projects are aiming towards the 2nd MSFD phase, to integrate approaches and methodologies. There is not a good time alignment for 2018 assessment;
- MSs asked for assistance to develop common methodologies, thresholds and targets, and for assessment. Previous projects have produced results and recommendations on these (ActionMed, PERSEUS, DEVOTES, etc);

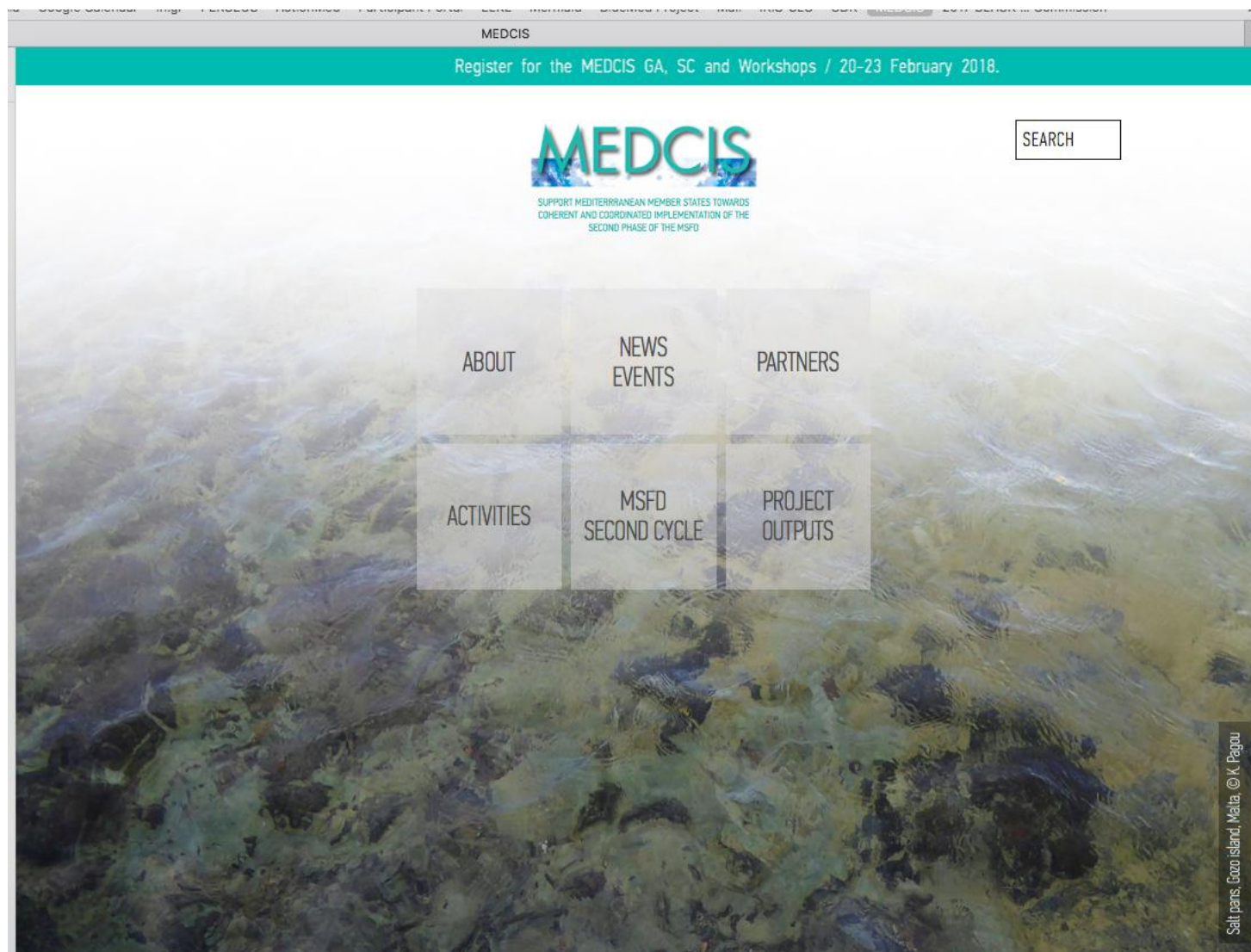


- The projects' outcomes can be used by UNEP/MAP and by EU and should be in a format to be of easy use;
- Stronger link/interaction between projects and competent authorities is needed, though most partners in the projects are involved in their countries in the MSFD process. Better coordination is seek for the next reporting period;
- Adoption by non-EU Med countries of projects' results (e.g. GES definitions, etc) might be possible through the EcAp II project (funded by EC and run by UNEP/MAP).





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Thank You!

Project acronym: **MEDCIS**
Project title: **Support Mediterranean Member States towards
Coherent and coordinated Implementation
of the second phase of the MSFD**
Coordinator: **Dr Kalliopi Pagou** (HCMR)
Instrument: **DG Environment**
Grant Agreement No: **11.0661/2016/748067/SUB/ENV.C2**
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