

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME
UNEP - MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

HS / EM / 1
15 October 1980
Original: ENGLISH

Government Expert Meeting
on Mediterranean Coastal
Human Settlements

Split, 22-24 September 1980

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT EXPERT MEETING
OF MEDITERRANEAN STATES ON THE „FEASIBILITY
STUDY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL
CO-OPERATIVE PROJECT ON MEDITERRANEAN
COASTAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS”**

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1. On the 22-24 September 1980 the Director of the Priority Actions Programme, Regional Activity Centre in Split, convened a meeting at Split, Yugoslavia, attended by Government experts of the Mediterranean States as the final stage of the project "Feasibility Study for the Development of a Regional Co-operative Project on Mediterranean Human Settlements".

Attendance

2. Delegates from ten Mediterranean coastal States participated in the meeting.
3. Representatives from three United Nations bodies, one specialized agency and two Regional Activity Centres also participated in the meeting. A list of participants is attached as annex I to this report.

Agenda item I - Opening of the meeting

4. Mr. A. Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan opened the meeting. This was followed by the unanimous election of the following Bureau: Chairman: Mr. F. Gašparović /Yugoslavia/, Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Najib /Morocco/ and Mr. J. Degaetano /Malta/ as Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption of agenda and timetable

5. The meeting adopted the draft agenda and timetable as contained in annex II to this report.

Item 3 - Opening addresses

6. Mrs. Vera Šodan, representing the Government of Yugoslavia welcomed the delegates to Split on behalf of the Government. Her address is given as annex III to this report.
7. Mr. Srđan Truta, representative of the City of Split, also addressed the delegates and expressed his wish that one of the pilot projects would be initiated in Yugoslavia.
8. Mr. A. Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, welcomed participants on behalf of the Executive Director and thanked the United Nations agencies, the specialized agencies and other organizations for their technical support and co-operations. He said that the meeting was expected to propose a regional programme in human settlements by means of a network of activities addressing themselves to a series of inter-connected problems.

9. Mr. R. Booth, Co-ordinator of the Joint UNDP/UNEP Co-operative Projects in the Mediterranean welcomed the leading role undertaken by PAP/RAC, Split, in the preparatory project in human settlements with the support of WHO/EURO. He also described the functions of the joint UNDP/UNEP unit in Geneva in the Priority Actions Programme /PAP/, and outlined the status of UNDP's involvement in other PAP sectors such as renewable sources of energy, aquaculture and water resources management.
10. Mr. O. Salama, representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements /Habitat/ expressed the willingness of his organization to assist in any regional project in human settlements which might emerge, adding that financing of preparatory activities up to \$ 50,000 might be available from Habitat.
11. Mr. E. Giroult, representative of the World Health Organization, European Office, stressed the health impact of poor housing and improper human settlements. WHO was particularly concerned by persistent high morbidity rates related to respiratory diseases during winter time in the major Mediterranean riparian cities which indicated that much improvement was still needed to provide all Mediterranean people with decent and safe dwellings in a healthy environment. This explained the deep involvement of his agency in the programme.
12. Mr. B. Kalogjera, Director of the Priority Actions Programme, Regional Activity Centre, thanked the three consultants, WHO and UNEP for the preparation of the two position papers and the Governments of Greece, Spain, Tunisia and Yugoslavia for co-operating with the consultants in the preparation of the papers.

Agenda item 4 - Discussion of Position Paper 1 - "Common Conditions and Problems Concerning Mediterranean Coastal Settlements"

13. Dr. Janić, as spokesman for the consultants presented Position Paper 1 and outlined its content saying that the document summarized problems relating to human settlements keeping in mind two basic principles: to improve the quality of life of inhabitants, and to protect the environment. In the policies to be formulated it is necessary to balance economic, social and ecological issues and to implement policies concerning housing, public utilities and land development. It was also important to improve information system for realizing the implementation of necessary actions and to have education and training in the various sectors.

14. The Chairman then opened the discussion by urging delegates to bring out the problems and to identify them for priority action. Regional co-operation was required in the planning stage followed by means of enforcement.
15. Participants from various countries mentioned problems they encountered in their respective countries: they ranged from the difficulty in controlling population migration from rural to urban areas, problems created by influx of tourists, difficulty in periodically up-dating urban planning, implementation of infrastructural projects because of financial considerations and the problem of pollution from various sources.
16. The Director of PAP/RAC said that a subject for priority action would be small coastal settlements. They might be regarded as historical because of the high level of their urban, social and cultural values and the specific character of their economic life.
17. The problem of noise was recognized as serious and one that required long-term solutions.
18. The Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre representative defined the respective roles of the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme. Although the limits of PAP activities were sometimes difficult to define, the guiding principle was that they be directed to urgent action, as present available knowledge could justify. As far as the subject of the meeting was concerned, a common basis should be found so that the Mediterranean Action Plan also be oriented to the needs of the local governments responsible for the planning of human settlements in Mediterranean areas.
19. The representative of UNDP/UNEP stressed the necessity of classifying technical subjects for regional co-operation in their short, medium and long-term character.
20. It was proposed that action should be taken on government priorities and so move from the general approach to more specific problems.
21. One participant agreed that problems should be classified according to criteria into short, medium and long-term action, with emphasis on the need to protect all forms of life from pollution, and to establish guidelines for countries to follow. He spelt out three main fields of action:

- /i/ the serious influx of populations to coastal zones;
 - /ii/ the necessity of improving living standards and housing;
 - /iii/ the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean, particularly from pollution from liquid and solid wastes.
22. Another participant considered that migration from rural to urban areas in most Mediterranean countries was an irreversible process. A hierarchy of service centres should be set up by Governments to serve groups of villages and settlements, and planning should strive towards a balanced human settlement system.
23. Policies regarding human settlements should be formulated according to the carrying capacity of the land and according to ecological conditions. Settlements located on or near rivers which discharged into the Mediterranean Sea should receive attention as well as those which were located in the coastal zone.
24. A priority action plan was proposed for the preservation of historical sites in coastal regions including appropriate pilot studies.
25. The Chairman summarized suggestions for priority activities, namely:
- /i/ a precise formulation of the report which would spell out problems met by countries in the preservation of the Mediterranean from the harmful effects of human activities;
 - /ii/ the negative impact of tourism;
 - /iii/ the inter-relationship between rural areas and urban areas.
 - /iv/ the improvement of transport between coastal and inland areas.

Agenda item 5 - Discussion of Position Paper 2 - "Proposals for Regional Co-operation in the field of Mediterranean Coastal Human Settlements"

26. Professor Mood, as spokesman for the consultants, presented Position Paper 2. He gave an outline of the document which was designed as the basis for the implementation of priority actions in human settlements. An examination of methodology used in the

projects should be made to ensure that they were fully applicable to Mediterranean countries. Each proposal represented not only the priority needs of countries, but an assessment of time needed to solve a particular problem.

27. The consultant suggested the following categories of time scales:
- "short term" meant implementation in 1-3 years
 - "medium term" meant implementation in 3 - 10 years
 - "long term" meant implementation in more than 10 years.

In formulating criteria and guidelines, implementation would vary from one country to another, while each country would necessarily adopt its own individual standards.

28. In the subsequent discussion participants reviewed regional co-operation under various headings. One field for co-operation, designed in flexible form, was migration from inland to coastal areas. Several countries would study population movements and analyse their causes, and the results and experience would then be compared between them. Clear guidelines could then be established with a view to reducing further migration trends.
29. It was also pointed out that, although land use policy should ideally be connected with physical planning, a coherent link between planning for human settlements and the actual use of land often did not exist in practice.
30. The need was felt for a clear definition of the appropriate terminology in planning. The meeting expressed the wish that a glossary of planning be established. One delegate insisted on the need to avoid a separation of the priority actions from the totality of public activities affecting the economy, social life and culture.
31. It was proposed that co-operation between countries could lead to the priority actions described in paragraph 40 of the Conclusions.
32. Additional proposals for priority action included:
- /i/ application and development of norms relative to the environment during the preparation of the town and physical plans; exchange of relevant methodologies; and development of evaluation methodology;
 - /ii/ selection and training of managers and specialists on the project;

- /iii/ systematic exchange of information and experience.
33. The Director of PAP/RAC suggested that pilot activities should be grouped under four headings which are reflected in the Conclusions.
 34. In addition, several participants made proposals for pilot projects which are outlined in annex IV.
 35. It was also suggested that the relevant outputs of PAP activities in aquaculture, renewable sources of energy, tourism, water and soils should be utilized in the development of the human settlements programme.

Conclusions

36. The meeting found the work papers an exhaustive presentation of human settlements problems in the Mediterranean and a good basis for discussion.
37. The meeting stressed the need for close co-operation between the PAP exercise in human settlements and the Blue Plan in order to ensure that the priority action was in line with long-term strategies.
38. It recognized that a regional programme in human settlements had certain major objectives:
 - to avoid saturation of the coastal areas;
 - to provide adequate housing for all, of a healthy nature and corresponding to Mediterranean conditions;
 - to protect the Mediterranean environment, the coastal areas and the sea.
39. The meeting further recognized that in the selection of activities from among the many which had been identified in the basic documents, certain criteria needed to be applied. Among them were:
 - /i/ specificity to Mediterranean conditions,
 - /ii/ capacity to produce results in the short term;
 - /iii/ application of existing knowledge in the first instance rather than development of new research;
 - /iv/ pilot projects to facilitate application elsewhere in the region.

40. Keeping the overall objectives in mind and using the above criteria, the meeting agreed on the following components of a Mediterranean regional programme in human settlements. They fell within four broad categories:
- /a/ impact of migrations on human settlements /their causes, effects, evaluation of government approaches to the problem such as housing, job creation etc./; problems of hygiene, communicable diseases;
 - /b/ regional, town and land use planning; urban and periurban transport; sea transport and port problems; the special problems of small communities and islands;
 - /c/ community facilities and services such as water supply, liquid waste disposal, solid waste treatment; new and appropriate technologies;
 - /d/ rehabilitation of historical centres of old towns and protection of man-made and natural sites.
41. In addition, it was agreed that a system should be established for the collection, evaluation and dissemination of information. The training of managers and specialists was also of high priority.
42. In order to develop co-operative programmes in the above fields, several participants and delegations expressed their interest by offering specific pilot projects, either ongoing or new, which are listed in annex IV.
43. The meeting expressed satisfaction with the co-operation provided so far by WHO and UNDP, and looked forward to the continued involvement of the United Nations, in particular UNCHS, and specialized agencies such as ILO and UNESCO and WHO as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and bilateral programmes concerned.
44. The meeting invited the secretariat to continue to develop the programme and submit it, if possible, to the next meeting of Contracting Parties.
- Vote of thanks
45. The meeting expressed its gratitude to the Government of Yugoslavia and to the Municipality of Split for the warm hospitality extended and for the excellent facilities provided.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

Title of Project: "Feasibility Study for the Development of
a Regional Co-operative Project on Mediterranean
Coastal Human Settlements"

Government Expert Meeting
Split, 22-24 September 1980

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of Draft Agenda and Timetable
Election of Officers
3. Address speeches - Representative of the Yugoslav Government
- Representative of the Town of Split
- UNEP
- UNDP/UNEP Co-ordination Unit in Geneva
4. Discussion of Position Paper 1: "Common conditions and problems
concerning Mediterranean coastal settlements"
5. Discussion of Position Paper 2: "Proposals for regional
cooperation in the field of Mediterranean coastal human settlements"
6. Adoption of the Report
7. Closure of the Meeting

TIMETABLE OF THE MEETING

Monday, 22 September	10,00	Opening of the Meeting Adoption of the Agenda Opening addresses Election of Officers
	11,00 - 13,00	Presentation of Paper 1 Discussion on Paper 1
	16,00 - 19,00	Completion of discussion on Paper 1
Tuesday, 23 September	9,00 - 10,30	Presentation of Paper 2
	11,00 - 13,00	Discussion on Paper 2
	16,00 - 19,00	Completion of discussion on Paper 2
Wednesday, 24 September	9,00 - 10,30	Presentation and discussion on WHO contribution paper
	11,00 - 13,00	Adoption of the Draft Report
	16,00 - 19,00	Adoption of the Draft Report Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

Statement by Mrs. Vera Šodan, Member of the Executive Council
of the Socialist Republic of Croatia

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome, on behalf of Government of Yugoslavia and Republic of Croatia, this Meeting of Government experts convened to discuss the problems of exceptional importance for all our countries, the problems of the development of Mediterranean cities.

The principal goal of this meeting, that is to steer the efforts of the Governments towards realistic development of Mediterranean towns reconciled with the environment; to enable transfer of well-known and applicable methods and experiences through actions to be carried out and monitored on site and not on writing desks of scientists, planners and designers, is a new approach to cooperation among Mediterranean countries.

The activities launched by the countries of this area at the initiative and with the help of UNEP /United Nations Environment Programme/ and other organizations of the UN system, especially of UNDP /United Nations Development Programme/, for us in the Region are a new form of active cooperation with the UN system. The national institutions, being involved in such cooperation, and in agreement with all Mediterranean countries, cooperating with UNEP, UNDP and other UN organizations, take over a great part of obligations within the frames of implementing the task set by the joint programme agreed upon at the meetings of Mediterranean countries.

Yugoslavia is very much interested in implementing the entire Mediterranean Action Plan /MAP/ but not only in form of fulfilling the obligations resulting from the fact that Yugoslavia is a signatory and Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention, but also and essentially because the activity of the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme /the Mediterranean Action Plan being its first programme/ is very convenient for a more intensive engagement of all the efforts in one country for international cooperation, so that the international cooperation helps in achieving harmonious environmental promotion and development of each country at a sound basis, taking into account the degree of development reached by each country.

The Mediterranean and Mediterranean life style are our common wealth and the care for it joins us maybe more than the fact that one

or another country is situated on one or the other continent.

We jointly receive to the Mediterranean millions and millions of visitors coming from all parts of the world, even though the prevalent number of inhabitants in our countries live in the Mediterranean area and, therefore, it is our obligation and responsibility to ensure an equitable development of all the countries situated either in the North, South or East of the Mediterranean, as well as to preserve the quality and peculiar features of our environment and culture.

Yugoslavia, which from the very beginning of activities that led to the Barcelona Convention and activated the MAP, takes part in all forms of cooperation in the Mediterranean, and considered it a duty to offer the Mediterranean countries Split to house the Centre for Regional Activities of Priority Action Plan. So, please, let be admitted the fact that the said centre is just geographically located in our country but it is our wish for such a centre to be a joint centre of Mediterranean countries wherefrom the further cooperation with UNEP, UNDP and other organizations will be carried on with the aim of intensifying the cooperation in many fields of mutual interest.

Town and settlements represent the principal factors in the development of every country. The town interrelations, human and natural environment, pose a difficult and intricate problem to be solved and, therefore, I wish this team to come to fruitful and efficient conclusions and to obtain success in implementing this exceptionally serious task.

Without the intention to prejudice the ways and methods of work, neither this meeting not at later stages the implementation of the priority actions on human settlements, I still think I can say that Yugoslavia, if this may be included in the conclusions relative to the future work, will be ready to propose one of "pilot areas" to be in our country, of course, in case that the idea would be accepted as a form of implementing this action.

My special words of greetings go to the delegations of all Mediterranean countries present at this meeting, to Mr. Aldo Manos, Co-ordinator of MAP and Head of European Office of UNEP, Mr. Roger Booth, the representative of UNDP, Mr. Ovadia Salama, the representative of HABITAT, Mr. Eric Giroult, the representative of WHO, and Mr. Jose Maria Pliego, the representative of Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre.

At the same time I wish to express my gratitude to all of you for the help given to the Centre in Split in initiating this action. I hope you will continue to contribute to this task in future.

ANNEX IV

Suggested topics for pilot projects /as presented/

Migration

Algeria's proposal for a region-wide study of causes and effects of migration from the interior to the coast; with an analysis of various Governments' programmes to deal with it, and their results /attached/.

Yugoslavia's proposal on increasing employment /attached/.

Planning

Spain's proposal to study one coastal area seriously degraded by uncontrolled development and one area in a zone where planning is in course.

Italy's suggestion to include a pilot study of a sub-region in the southern Adriatic in co-operation with Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia's proposal to use the Yugoslav/UNDP Adriatic projects and the Montenegro project as pilot projects.

Historic sites

Morocco's proposal on the Medina of Tangiers.

Algeria's proposal for the renewal and rehabilitation of historical cites on the coast.

Tunisia's proposal for the Medina of Sfax.

Yugoslavia's proposal for the area of Solin /attached/.

Technical subjects

A joint proposal from Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco to co-operate on the collection, treatment and disposal of liquid and solid wastes /attached/.

Existing project in Athens supported by UNDP/WHO.

Italy's suggestion concerning sea transport and ports.

Italy's suggestion of a study on beach erosion consequent upon building encroachment.

Small settlements

Greece's proposal concerning small settlements in the Halkidiki region which would include selection of a greater zone having many small settlements, and a study of the urban pattern and mechanisms for the implementation of existing regional plans.

A Proposal for a Priority Actions Project

1. The problem of migration of population from the hinterland towards the Mediterranean littoral.
2. The permanent migratory phenomena of the population from the hinterland to the littoral have become important and serious in several coastal countries of the Mediterranean, particularly in the developing countries where industrialization processes taking place in the proximity of harbours have stressed abandoning the rural and inland areas and heavy pressure on coastal cities.
3. Conditions that might lead to reducing such a migration and to reversing the trend, exist in numerous factors, among which could certainly be quoted increased employment and its better distribution over the whole of the territory, as well as providing satisfactory accommodation, better reception and standards of living in inland settlements and towns.
4. It is being proposed to investigate such phenomena in Mediterranean countries - and make a comparative study aimed at discovering the common features, acquired experiences and their results, and to suggest the feasible solutions and recommendations stemming from it. In the course of such studies, an opportunity may be found to develop, with the help of the countries interested in, experiences that could be subjects of pilot projects.
5. The experts from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia have shown interest for such a project.

Suggestions for the Increase of Employment in the
Hinterland of the Mediterranean Coastal Strip

1. The basic prerequisite for controlling the excessive population influx from the wide hinterland area to the limited coastal zone of the Mediterranean Region is creating and implementing of a programme aimed at increasing the active employment of the population living in the hinterland of the coastal zone.
2. While launching such a programme special consideration should be given to the utilization of local resources and advantages; to an optimum employment ratio of agricultural to non-agricultural activities; to complementary "division of labour"; relocation of some economic activities and services from the coast to the neighbouring hinterland; and to the development of handicrafts and infrastructure facilities.
3. As many of the areas backing the coastal zone are characterized by migration of active population into industrially developed countries of Western Europe for temporary employment, the programmes for increasing job opportunities in the hinterland of the coastal zone should include possibilities of rational utilization of their savings and skills acquired through work abroad, as well as financial, economic and professional co-operation with the developed countries - receivers of the Mediterranean migrants.
4. Employment programmes should include applicable and operative case studies serving for subsequent development of the models adapted to particular conditions of individual countries and areas of the Mediterranean Region.
5. The countries to be involved in such a programme would have to designate one research institution for co-ordination and/or accomplishment of one or more case studies in various areas of the Mediterranean.

A proposal for pilot studies: Solin

1. Split, being the largest town on the Yugoslav Adriatic coast, with its 220,000 inhabitants, faces a number of problems similar to those felt in the majority of Mediterranean coastal settlements which are the subject matter of the priority action on human settlements.
2. The town is situated on a 1-3 kilometre wide and 25 kilometre long coastal strip backed by high mountains, so that the utilization of space and the organization of town activities are influenced and determined by the town's form and size.
3. Its vast area of influence with approximately 1,000,000 inhabitants is economically underdeveloped and thus subjected to extensive movements of population who come to live in Split and seek better jobs and advantages the town can offer. The consequence of this phenomenon is an enormous increase in the town population /in 1945 there were approximately 50,000 residents, and in 1971 the figure was 150,000/.
4. Due to various historic circumstances, natural and physical factors in the northern sections of the town which are extended over the area of the Roman town of Salona, and which are today the intersections of all major roads where there is a freight harbour, numerous industries and nearby localities of raw materials /quarries/; and where the bulk of newcomers and migrants from the region live, the ecological situation is most alarming and reflected in a number of sanitary, communal and traffic problems.
5. Also keeping in mind that the area of ancient Salona is one of the most important early Christian entities in Europe situated along a picturesque karst river, and in the vicinity of a traditional group of rural houses and mills - the values that could be encroached and eventually destroyed by uncontrolled urbanization - the municipal authorities should as soon as possible initiate a revision of existing development plans for Solin; prepare adequate ecological studies to be the basis for these plans; and to undertake immediate action to alleviate the undesirable situation. This will require funds to be established and specialized teams to be organized to deal with the problems concerned. In this way, Yugoslavia could contribute to the development of the priority action on human settlements proposing Solin as a possible pilot area.
6. Experts and specialists who would be appointed for the exercise could also help in solving particular problems of Solin through various pilot studies.

A project on waste water and refuse disposal and treatment in coastal settlements

1. In the majority of coastal human settlements, especially those in the south of the Mediterranean, solid and liquid wastes are dumped without control and without previous treatment causing pollution and affecting the health of the inhabitants. Small and medium size agglomerations, having in general no relevant services and facilities required, very often lack the funds for solving such problems. When they do get the necessary funds, the installations and facilities they purchase appear to be inadequate and inefficient - and, even, completely inapplicable. It is proposed that a project /study/ dedicated to these problems be accepted among other priority projects.

/a/ Collection and disposal of refuse and solid wastes

Practical, efficient and non-expensive methods of collecting, treatment and disposal of solid wastes, especially in small and medium size Mediterranean coastal settlements, should be investigated. In addition to technical methods, the most acceptable systems, organization and management of these communal services are recommended.

/b/ Collection, treatment and disposal of liquid wastes and waste waters

Taking into consideration the geographical area, the size and the characteristics of settlements, the various low-cost methods of collecting and treatment of waste water should be investigated as well. The methods of treatment requiring limited specialized personnel to make them function will have to be selected. Various systems of management and organization of necessary communal services are suggested.

2. The experts from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia show their interest in such a project.