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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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Second Project Steering Committee Meeting of the MedProgramme Child Project 1.2

Meeting held by videoconference, 17 January 2023

Conclusions and recommendations

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Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) for Child Project 1.2 “Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project” (GEF ID 9717) of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607)

Videoconference, January 17, 2023

1. The First Project Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of Child Project 1.2 “Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project” (GEF ID 9717) was held by videoconference on 17 January 2023. The Meeting was organized by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and MedPCU.
2. The SCM was opened by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator by highlighting the importance and the innovative approach of the MedProgramme and its Child Project 1.2 combining policy with financial instruments towards achieving the international and regional environmental agreements, the GEF goals and targets, as well as countries’ commitments under the Barcelona Convention.
3. The GEF/UNEP Task Manager for International Waters highlighted the innovation of the MedProgramme covering four GEF focal areas (Chemicals & Waste, International Waters, Climate Change, Biodiversity) as a model for the region and other regions. The involvement and investment contributions of international financing institutions (IFIs) such as EIB and EBRD, as well as the interlinkages between the eight Child Projects were marked as highly pioneering.
4. The MedPCU introduced the MedProgramme, its objective and main progress to inform the participants about the overall aim of the programme and its Child Projects in the Mediterranean Region.
5. The Steering Committee highlighted the high amount of co-financing pledged by the participating countries to the MedProgramme, as well as the necessity to look for additional resources to meet the international environmental agreements, and countries’ needs and priorities. It also highlighted the importance to keep the door open for the countries to contribute and benefit from the MedProgramme through the implementation of its national activities.
6. The Steering Committee requested the MedPCU to support the countries in meeting their co-financing requirements. Bilateral meetings and dedicated sessions will be organized for this purpose.
7. The Executing Partners of Child Project 1.2, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and MED POL outlined the overall objective, components and activities related to the project and its two components (Component 1: National actions: Nutrient reduction investments in coastal hotspots, and Component 2: Regional actions: Harmonization of relevant standards). Both presentations covered planned activities for the whole duration of the Project.
8. The Steering Committee took note of the progress achieved by the Executing Partners since the start date of CP 1.2, and agreed on the importance of continuous collaboration among the different partners for the efficient implementation of the national activities under CP 1.2.
9. The EIB presented the detailed 2023 workplan related to Component 1 (National actions: Nutrient reduction investments in coastal hotspots) and MED POL presented the detailed 2023 workplan related to Component 2 (Regional actions: Harmonization of relevant standards).

10. The Steering Committee encouraged the partners to implement innovative solutions (e.g. cost recovery systems, new treatment technologies, new trends, nature-based solutions,...) for the sustainable management of the wastewater sector, including investment projects, taking into consideration the long-term running of the wastewater treatment plants.
11. The Steering Committee stressed the importance of collaboration and synergies among the key partners at the project level, as well as between the different Child Projects and UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention network, for better implementation and leveraging of resources among the MedProgramme.
12. The Steering Committee noted the importance of investments being defined as priorities in the strategic documents prepared by UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention network of partners (SAPs, NAPs).
13. The Steering Committee stressed the importance of continuing the discussion on the development of the regional standards or criteria related to Component 2 of CP 1.2.
14. The Steering Committee reviewed and approved the 2023 work plan for CP 1.2.
15. The MedPCU presented the total budget of the project and the proposed 2023 budget forecast.
16. The Steering Committee noted the overall budget corrections to harmonize the total budget by year to the total budget by component and approved the budget revision and the proposed forecast budget for 2023.