



International Action for Sustainability of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Environment

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## IASON

### Specific Support Action

**Requested Budget: 452,550 €**



Final Scientific Conference - Istanbul, 11 May 2006





## Main Objectives

- **Contribution to design European environmental RTD strategy for the region**
- **To continue the environmental evaluation and reinforce RTD capacity**
- **Establishment of a permanent platform to sustain scientific community networking between EU candidate countries and NIS countries**
- **Develop proposals for the sustainable management of the region**





## Specific aims 1

- To distil the collected scientific knowledge regarding the Mediterranean and the Black Sea as a system of interconnected basins with special emphasis on response of the ecosystem on natural variability and anthropogenic forcing.
- To identify policies and intervention tools on the coastal and marine environment in the Mediterranean and Black Sea system.
  - Identification of the various diverging policies and policy tools, their effectiveness and consequences on the ecosystem and on the economies, is of prime importance





## Specific aims 2

- To identify potential hazards and threats to the environmental state and stability of the Mediterranean and Black Sea system, focusing on the stresses directly related to Global Change and anthropogenic pressures.
- To reinforce RTD capacity by identifying the needs of an environmental and resource monitoring network, necessary for an adequate knowledge of the state and functions of the system.
- Examine the available observation networks developed within the framework of projects of a different scope (i.e., operational oceanography) and
- Examine ways that they could become beneficial for the monitoring of global change.





## Potential impact

- Develop the objectives of European environmental science strategy in the region, and constitute the future backbone of the implementation of such a strategy.
- Set the framework for the future development of response strategies to environmental stresses and risk management policies for the whole region.
- Direct benefit of the exploitations of the results on a regional, national and international level and among different national agencies and organisations. (European, national authorities, e.g. the European Commission, the EEA, CIESM, research and coastal management policy makers of national authorities of the coastal states, general public)





## Added value at European level

- Co-operation between EU countries, associated candidate countries and NIS countries representing the whole region throughout the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and the interconnected areas between the two seas.
- First time that the Eastern Mediterranean and Black sea are set as an interconnected large area with unique contrasts and similarities in the wide environmental spectrum described in the proposal.
- The mobility of scientists within and between the EU Member States and candidate and NIS countries will set the stage for a competent future cooperation and networking.
- IASON outputs will add a new platform through which the management of the south-eastern boundaries of Europe will be able to be harmonised and coordinated with the EU policies.





## Transfer of knowledge

- Among the EU participants and the candidate countries there are high-qualified scientific groups  
→ transfer of knowledge and expertise across scientific borders and different scientific communities among and between EU, candidate and NIS countries.





## WPs

- ✓ **WP1 (Project Coordination)**
- ✓ **WP2 (Ecosystem Functioning)**
- ✓ **WP3 (Resources: current state and trends)**
- ✓ **WP4 (Pressures on the Coastal Zone)**
- ✓ **WP5 (Management Policies)**
- ✓ **WP6 (A Science Plan for the Region)**







## WP1 (Project Coordination)

### Objectives

- **Create and maintain an international interdisciplinary platform coordinating the scientific potential of the region, in order to develop projects securing the ecologically-sound, sustainable management of the region.**
- **Ensure efficient communication among project partners and between project partners and EU.**





## WP2 (Ecosystem Functioning)

### Objectives

- **Compile the available information on the environmental status of the two interconnected basins, highlighting the functions, variability and exchanges of the system in terms of their physical, biogeochemical and ecological characteristics.**
- **Review in a comparative way the genetic makeup of the populations in the two seas.**





## WP3 (Resources: current state and trends)

### Objectives

- To review studies on resource characteristics and the sensitivity to variability of climatic conditions and anthropogenic forcing
- To emphasise the dynamics and processes controlling the health and wealth of marine resources





## WP4 (Pressures on the Coastal Zone)

### Objectives

- To assess the current state of the system's coastal zone
- To assess and prioritise the potential hazards and threats to the coastal zone of the Mediterranean and Black Sea system.





## WP5 (Management Policies)

### Objectives

- To identify and compare policy principles and intervention tools affecting the coastal and marine environment in the Mediterranean and Black Sea system.
- To assess and prioritise the potential hazards and threats to the environmental state, stability and resources of the Mediterranean and Black Sea system.
- To set the stage for the development of orchestrated policies directed to healing environmental damage and ensure sustainability of the ecosystem and marine resources.





## WP6 (A Science Plan for the Region)

### Objectives

- **Contribute towards the development of a future E.U. Science Plan in the region, which would meet the requirements for monitoring and forecasting the impact of Global change and anthropogenic activity and interactively respond to long-term and crisis management requirements.**
- **Produce a detailed plan for environmental monitoring and forecasting, enabling the sustainable management of the region's natural resources.**

