

**SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
PRIORITY 6.3
GLOBAL CHANGE AND ECOSYSTEMS**



SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTION

Project full title: International Action for Sustainability of the
Mediterranean and Black Sea EnvirOnmeNt

Project acronym: IASON



Proposal/Contract no.: 515234

**HCMR
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1. INTRODUCTION

Following the successful conclusion of the negotiations procedure between the European Commission and the Coordinator (H.C.M.R.) of IASON S.S.A., the kick-off meeting of the Project -in accordance to what was scheduled and stated in Annex I- was held in HCMR headquarters in Anavyssos, Greece, on the 3rd and 4th of February 2005.

Representatives and/ or scientists from all the participating institutions and organizations were invited to attend the proceedings of this meeting. A detailed list of all the scientists, who followed the event, is addressed in Annex II (Table 1, page 20).

The proceedings followed the structure and the contents of the provisional agenda, that was introduced by the Chairman of the meeting, Dr. Evangelos Papathanasiou, Director of Institute of Oceanography and Member of the Board of Directors in Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, as the participants have unanimously adopted it. The Agenda is addressed hereafter,

Thursday 3 February 2005

Session 1: 15:30-17:00

- Welcome, Adoption of the Agenda
- Overview of the meeting activities
- IASON overview (1): Objectives, WP's, Participants/WP, **E. Papathanassiou**
- IASON overview (2): Budget and financial information, **K. Sarantakos**
- IASON overview (3): Important dates, deliverables and deadlines **E.D. Christou**
- General discussion

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee break

Session 2: 17:30-19:00

- Invited presentation: The European initiative: FP6, 4th call, and FP7, **E. Lipiatou**
- Guidelines for the presentation of the WP Leaders **E. Papathanassiou**
- Split into smaller groups according to WPs.
- Group discussion and work planning in each WP (WP2-WP5)

Friday 4 February 2005

8:30 – 9:30 Steering Committee Meeting (including WP1)

Session 3: 9:30 – 11:00

- Continuing of group discussion and work planning in each WP

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

Session 4: 11:00-13:00

- PRESENTATION OF THE WP WORK COMPLETED BY THE VARIOUS GROUPS
- Group discussion WP6 (Plenary)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

Session 5: 14:30-16:00

- Integration of the working plans and implementation details. Detailed presentation of important deadlines/meetings-venues per WGs etc. **Dr. A. Karageorgis**
- General discussion and comments

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

Session 6: 16:30-17:00

- AoB
- Close of the Kick-off Meeting

This particular Report aims at providing essential information on: (a) major topics that were discussed during the meeting, (b) important dates for meetings/ workshops/ conferences and deliverables that were decided, as well as (c) reforms and modifications proposed and accepted in order to reinforce the project's evolution procedure and therefore the final product.

The Report will adopt the structure of the meeting; the presentation concerning the Work Packages though, will follow numerical order. It was also presumed that it would be most suitable to refer to Dr. Lipiatou's invited presentation at the final part of the Report (Annex I), because this structure provides two important advantages. First, it will help maintaining the integrity of the presentation of IASON SSA Kick-off meeting and secondary, it is the most appropriate way to conclude and to make -at the same time- the connection to the future.

2. IASON OVERVIEW AND GUIDELINES

2.1 Overview (Session 1)

The first session of the meeting was dedicated in providing all the essential information concerning the Project to all the participants. As it was presumed, following to the initial approval of the IASON SSA Project's proposal, a cycle of negotiations began between the E.U. and the coordinator (HCMR) relating to the information provided for each participant (detailed data, legal status, cost models e.t.c) and the budget structure as well (with reference to the Contract Preparation Forms). Therefore, there was a need to introduce to all the participants all changes and adaptations that have been made, in order to reconfigure -if required- the starting point and the working basis.

As it was stated, there have been made only some minor changes concerning the budget structure (due to the adaptation of different cost models, or due to the imposition of a certain flat rate in indirect cost category).

The objectives remain the same, as they were settled in *Annex I – Description of Work*, where one is invited to refer for more detailed information.

The starting month of the Project is January 2005 and its total duration is eighteen months (end month June 2006).

Discussion and planning for WP 5, revealed a significant matter concerning the date for deliverables D3.1 and D3.2, as they are considered as important prerequisites. It was identified that the date, which was initially defined for D3.1 and D3.2 release (month 16), was leaving a small period for the members of WP 5 to process and incorporate these deliverables, in order to produce a consistent end-product. Therefore, the Chairman -Dr. Papathanassiou- proposed that the Deliverables' Table should be reformed, by taking into account these particular needs. Accordingly, it was decided deliverables D3.1 and D3.2 to be transferred two months earlier, in month 14. An updated *Table of Deliverables* for the total duration of the Project is presented in Annex III, page 22).

2.2 Guidelines (Session 2)

Before splitting into smaller groups, according to the synthesis of each Work Package group, the Chairman addressed the guidelines for the discussion and the final outcome of these groups. These guidelines were also aiming to provide a common platform for the *Presentation of the Work completed in each WP group meeting*, during the 4th Session of the meeting. These guidelines were introduced under the topic 'What do we need to know' and stand as follows:

1. Input of information. How will the WP achieve the goals/ deliverables?
Contribution from the participants.
2. How many meetings per WP will take place, where and when?
3. Synthesis of the results. How will the WP make the best synthesis? Planning is required.
 - Synthesis in multidisciplinary way
 - Interaction with all WP participants
4. Do we need task/ deliverable leaders in each WP?
5. Important dates for each WP (meetings, deliverables e.t.c.)

Finally, a general remark was addressed concerning the intermediate annual Management Report, according to which, an effort should be performed in order that the progress, which is to be presented, would be measurable.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE WORK COMPLETED BY THE VARIOUS WP GROUPS

3.1 Work package 1: Project Coordination

Work package leader: Dr. E. Papathanassiou, email vpapath@ath.hcmr.gr

The first meeting of the Steering Committee -comprised of the six Work Package Leaders (Dr. E.Papathanasiou, Dr. F.Boero, Dr. K.Mikhailov, Dr. N.Panin, Dr. L.Mee, Dr. C.Becken and Dr. F.S.Civilli) and the HCMR task leaders, for WP1, Dr. A.Karageorgis, Dr. V.Zervakis, Dr. E.Christou and Mrs M.Eleftheriou- has been held on the 4th of February 2005. During the meeting, the general guidelines for the Project's coordination were discussed and settled. The dates for important events and deliverables were examined and clearly defined as well.

In particular, concerning the *Kick-off Meeting Report* it was decided that an extended draft version should be available by the 25th of February 2005, to be circulated among the WP Leaders for revisions, in order that the Report (D1.1) could be released by March 2005.

The dissemination plan should strongly incorporate a training component (establishing a bond to the activities of WP 6) aiming at multiple recipients and at a wider basis. The development of the Project's web page will serve decisively this principle and therefore this activity is considered of high priority. As Mrs Eleftheriou (task leader for the web page) stated, the development will follow two stages. The first one, to be concluded by the end of April 2005, will lead to the release of a restricted to public-access web page, which will function as a virtual library and contain all the literature gathered and evaluated by the participants and especially the grey literature, which should furthermore be at least transformed in a comprehensive abstract in English. Following that first stage and by the month of September 2005, IASON should release a second open-access version of the web page, in which the Reports and other important documents or data will be included.

It was also decided that all the products (i.e stand alone reports) and any other outcome of the Project could have a common cover and layout so that eventually 'IASON PRODUCTS' would be recognized for their contribution in the area.

The Steering Committee recognized the need for an intermediate meeting, before the Final Conference. The proposal was made for September 2005, more likely in Athens. Taking this opportunity and in order to save money, time and effort, the other WPs might also agree to meet and discuss the progress of their deliverables -at the same period and place- especially as the deliverables will have to be released soon after. Accordingly, it was agreed between the WP groups that had made a provision for intermediate meetings, to meet in September 2005 in Athens.

Readdressing the training component, the chairman, Dr. Papathanassiou, proposed to organize an educational 12-15 days cruise on HCMR's oceanographic vessel AEGEO, departing from Piraeus and arriving at Istanbul, Varna, Costanza, Sevastopol, Gilenzik and taking pre-agreed scientific stations along the way. The vessel could reach a port every night, where the participants from each country could organize 'open doors' events with the local population. The scientists on board could present their mission and the results of the project. In that cruise, 10 postgraduate students and 10 scientists from all partners could participate. In order to broaden the initiative, there could be set an intermediate terminal in Istanbul, where the first teams of students and scientists could disembark and two new teams could get onboard. The vessel, after Gilenzik, will reach Istanbul, where the Final Conference was agreed to be held in April-May 2006, by the S.C. The final date of the event will be agreed in the next S.C. meeting.

The organisation of IASON's SSA Final Conference back-to-back to the oceanographic campaign will reveal the interconnection between the two basins and will emphasize on the establishment of a more condensed cooperation platform between the various local Institutions and Organizations working on the sustainability of the two interacting marine ecosystems. The conception of the challenge will be completed by the combination of the educational cruise on AEGEO with the IASON's Final Conference and, if possible, in connection with the BSC Ministerial Conference as well. The organization tasks for AEGEO's trip could take into consideration the exact dates of the Annual Conference of the BSC, and schedule the departure of the vessel in time, so that it would arrive in Istanbul by the conclusion of the BSC Conference. The R/V AEGEO will remain on dock during the period of the IASON Final Conference. Throughout its stay a variety of events could be organized on board as well as in the surrounding facilities of the port. The Turkish partners could help on this direction, by acting as local organisers.

All these comprise an ambitious plan, where certain drawbacks could interfere. These drawbacks were identified from the beginning and amongst them, the most significant are: (a)the shortage of money, (b)the clearance of the ports and (c)the allocation of the responsibilities for the organisation of activities locally at each station/ port. Although this plan has not been foreseen from the beginning, the S.C. thought that this kind of action could not only initiate the recognition and the ambition of the project, but it would also act as a vehicle to convey the message to the local scientific communities not involved in the project. The partners have agreed to support such initiatives and it has been decided that the local Institutions will undertake and carry out the arrangements for the clearance of the ports and for the organization of the activities. As it concerns the supplementary funding which is required, HCMR could try to obtain from other National Sources additional funding. A brief presentation of the scope and objectives of IASON Project could be arranged at each port together with the preliminary results of the cruise, in order to reveal the integration and the consensus accomplished for the transnational approach on the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea ecosystems.

3.2 Work package 2: Ecosystem functioning

Work package leader: Prof. F. Boero, email boero@unile.it

During the meeting of WP2, the WP Leader exposed the content of each task and asked volunteers to lead each task. The working protocol was decided as follows:

1. Each task leader will identify the members of each task force from the list of expertises declared by the participants in IASON.
2. Once the composition of a task force will be known, then it will be divided by the task leader in groups associated to a given geographic area, within the broader area covered by IASON, identifying at the same time -possibly- a responsible for each area.
3. Each task force member will provide:
 - a list of papers and reports from his/her area. The most important contributions are to be singled out explicitly, with some comments on their bearing on the general topic of the task.
 - a PDF file of the most relevant articles and reports (if possible). The bibliographic list and the PDF files will become part of a database and a virtual library that will be posted on the web page of the project. The virtual library will have restricted access to IASON members only, due to copyright problems. Some of the personnel money can be allocated to pay technicians to scan important papers and reports that are not in PDF format.

The participants of the groups agreed on a deadline set in June 2005, in order that it could be feasible to provide relevant information to the Steering Committee meeting in September 2005.

4. Each task leader will gather all bibliographic lists and PDF files from the members, will assemble the lists into an integrated one, and will write the final report of the task, deriving information mainly from the comments to the key publications. The material will then be sent to the WP Leader.
5. In case of particular reports, which may incorporate certain difficulties, the task leader could decide to organise a workshop aiming at reaching a consensus on the relevant issues to be addressed in the document (the WP Leader will be present in all the workshops of the WP).
6. The reports are going to be circulated through the whole WP group and it is to be decided if it would be worthwhile organising a general workshop.
7. The WP Leader, the task leaders and a selected group of advisors (identified by the task leaders during the progress of the project) will meet and write the outline of the final WP report.
8. The final report will be circulated through the whole group and, if necessary, a workshop will be organised to form it in its final version.

An information gap was identified in the field of biodiversity, therefore, it was agreed that the task leaders should -accordingly to the particular needs of each task- reach experts in the field of biodiversity.

All the people in the room exchanged names and email addresses. The participants were prompted to volunteer for leading a Task. Several members volunteered for the first three tasks, but no one volunteered for task 4. Therefore, the WP Leader will be provisionally the leader for that task. Task 4 would be probably accomplished only after the conclusion of the first three tasks. The WP Leader has initially formed the task groups, by taking into consideration the expertise declared by each member of IASON. The groups could be widened.

For *Task 2.1*, the group has agreed to assign two leaders, Dr. V.Zervakis and Dr. E.Ozsoy. Dr.A.Tselepides will be the leader in *Task 2.2*, whilst Dr.A.Magoulas will be responsible for the conclusion of *Task 2.3*. In *Task 2.4*, as it was previously addressed, Dr. F.Boero will lead the efforts.

3.3 Work package 3: Resources: current state and trends

Work package leader: Dr. K. Mikhailov, email: konstantinmikhailov@yahoo.com

The members of WP3 introduced themselves, made a brief presentation of the Institutions they come from and of the field of their expertise. The WP leader presented the content of the four tasks and, following that, a session of discussions commenced in order to define the particular objectives, the working strategy and finally to assign the members of each task work-group. The strategy and planning that was agreed could be summarized as follows:

1. The members of each task group will contribute by providing:
 - a list of papers and reports from the corresponding scientific area. Emphasis will be given in retrieving gray literature, which would exist in local reports or local languages and in updating them in a ‘user-friendly’ form (in most cases by preparing a comprehensive abstract in English). The most substantial issues are to be referred.
 - a PDF version of papers and reports -where possible- relevant to the subject of the task.

All the aforementioned will be included to the virtual library hosted in the IASON project web page.

2. Each task leader will collect and assemble the material, which will be sent by the members of each group and produce a report on the task. Following that, all the reports are going to be delivered to the WP leader.
3. The reports will be circulated among the WP group members. An optional workshop was proposed; a decision has to be made for its organization, probably .in Sept.2005.
4. The WP group or a representative part of the group -depending on the participation of the members in other WP too- will meet to prepare a draft Final WP Report.
5. The final report will then be circulated for discussion and comments within the group

It was decided a template to be prepared for task 3.1, within 2 weeks, in which the categories will be pointed out in order to form an overview of the existing information in both biological and socioeconomic sphere of research. Each category should be specified for obtaining the appropriate information.

The WP leader asked for volunteers to lead each task. In *Task 3.1*, Dr. K. Mikhailov will lead the efforts. Dr V.Lykousis will be responsible for *Task 3.2* and Dr. F.Brumer will lead in *Task 3.3*. Finally, in *Task 3.4*, Dr. E.Roth will coordinate activities and ensure the link with WP5. As not all of the WP3 group members were present to the inception meeting -due to their participation in several other WP- each task leader will have to define the members for each task group, amongst IASON Partners.

It was agreed that a first workshop should be held in parallel to the intermediate meeting of WP5 group, which was scheduled for September – October 2005. The objective will be to provide WP5 group with input, from the information bank of WP3, which presumably should reach a satisfactory status by this point of time. A second workshop will also be conducted - dates to be specified (most likely January-February 2006)- corresponding to the shortened period for the release of the deliverables D3.1 and D3.2.

Dr. C.Papaconstantinou of HCMR, will additionally have to provide the members of WP5 and WP2 with necessary information concerning fisheries in Mediterranean Sea. His contribution (especially through tasks 3.1 and 3.3) is considered critical by these particular groups.

3.4 Work package 4: Pressures on the Coastal Zone

Work package leader: Prof. N. Panin, email: panin@geoecomar.ro

A work-group was formed for analysing and planning the activities within WP4 context. The group discussed in details the main objectives and tasks to be performed in WP4. The main objectives of the WP4 are the following:

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

The characteristics of the system composed by the Mediterranean and Black Sea have been analysed. Concerning the Mediterranean Sea, the project will focus on the eastern basin, but will take also into account several case studies from the Western part of the sea. A special attention will be paid to the interconnection between the two seas (Bosporous and Dardanelles straits, Sea of Marmara) as well as to the near-straits zones.

The sources of information were passed in review. For the Black Sea literature published in English, French, German, Spanish and in local languages too (of the riparian countries) will be taken into consideration. A very important source of data is represented by the Reports of the Black Sea Environmental Programme and GEF/UNDP Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project. Within the first of them, the riparian countries presented in 1994-1995 national reports on the environmental state of their coastal zone that listed the main polluting sources and the most important environmental problems and threats. Every country has a national environmental monitoring programme for the coastal zone and the results as well as the related databases could also be used for documenting the reports for WP4.

For the Mediterranean Sea, the MedPol database will constitute the main source of information as well as the numerous reports and literature originating from several European projects, national and international monitoring programmes, studies etc.

Intermediate deadlines for the different tasks have been defined. In particular, for *Task 4.1* the deadline has been set in June 2005, for *Task 4.2* in October 2005 and *Task 4.3* in November 2005. Final reports (deliverables) will be presented in month 14. An additional meeting of the contributors has been settled for November 2005 in Bucharest, Romania and will be organised by the National Institute of Marine Geology and Geo-ecology - GeoEcoMar. The members have structured the methodology for their work by setting leaders for each task. Furthermore, as a significant effort will be required, in order that all available information could be retrieved and processed, it was agreed that the allocation of responsibilities should be widened, including more than one persons as responsible. Following that philosophy, a list of contributors was prepared and a way of interactive link among them was suggested, which in brief is addressed bellow:

In *Task 4.1* two persons per basin will carry out the efforts: Dr. A. Karageorgis and Dr. H.Barak in the Mediterranean Sea and Dr. A.Oros and Dr. R.Kosyan in the Black Sea. The group discussion for the particular task also revealed the need for a review on the available hydrodynamic and ecological models, activity that will be carried out by Dr. V.Maderych and Dr.Y.Krestenitis.

In *Task 4.2*, all activities will be organized and supervised by Dr. D.Conley and Dr. B.Rinkevich.

In *Task 4.3*, which is considerably related to WP5 Dr. H.Barak will lead the efforts in the Mediterranean and Dr N.Panin and Dr. R.Kosyan will be in charge for the Black Sea.

During the presentation of the work concluded, during the WP groups' discussion (Session 4 of the kick-off meeting) and complying with the incentive of the S.C. and of several other WPs groups to meet again in September 2005, the participants in WP4 agreed too on an intermediate meeting to be held in September 2005, in Athens.

Dr. Boero, WP2 leader, identified an overlap between several activities of the two Work packages and prompted for interaction among them. He also proposed the establishment of a network between CIESM and IASON.

3.5 Work package 5: Management Policies

Work package leader: Prof. L.Mee, email: lmee@plymouth.ac.uk

Much of Work Package 5 depends upon information received from the other WPs. A strategy has been developed to make best use of the efforts of all partners in the WP and this will be addressed below. In general, a need for information considering fisheries was identified and, in particular, a significant gap in that field was recognised in the Mediterranean region. The reason is that as it concerns the Black Sea, this field is covered by BSC, but in the Mediterranean no relevant information could be retrieved. Towards that direction, the involvement of G.F.C.M. is considered of high importance, as it could provide inputs. Co.Nis.Ma will also be asked to contribute and Dr. C.Papakonstantinou will be requested to provide information concerning fisheries.

The work was organized in three phases. At the end of each phase a meeting was agreed in order for a more integrated processing and evaluation of the results.

Through the explicit discussion of *Task 5.1*, it was realised that an effort for the compilation of all policies in a national level would be significantly complicated and hard, if not impossible, in-between the context of the particular SSA Project. Therefore, the demand was set in the level of policy principles and in a regional (international) scale. Taking into consideration the facts that:

(a)in nowadays, a considerable effort by the E.U. is in force to produce policy in the shape of directives and guidelines and

(b)the two Conventions are strongly occupied in the legislative/ institutional field and retain a very rich library of policies concerning the two sea basins

it becomes clear that the activities of the task would be more efficiently carried out by the two conventions, with the coordination by Prof. Laurence Mee. Consequently, Dr.Becken (UNEP/MAP) and Dr.Tarasova (BSC) were set in charge for the compilation of the policy principles. Following to that, it was agreed that a common formatted matrix should be produced, for the input of the related information and data, which would be primarily circulated among the WP5 members and secondarily among other WP groups.

In more details, the steps for completing *Task 5.1* were set as follows:

1. Existing tables prepared for the European Marine Strategy Process will be sent to Prof.Mee by Dr.Tarasova before 21 February 2005
2. Prof. Mee will prepare a general matrix for gathering information on policies and their underlying principles as applied in the region. The tables will also consider spatial scales of the policies. They will be sent out to WP5 members for comments by 4 March 2005.
3. WP5 members will comment on the tables and LM will revise. Deadline 18 March 2005.
4. Tables will be used by the Conventions to gather information within their aegis. Dr.Papakonstantinou will be requested to provide information on fisheries issues not covered by the Mediterranean Action Plan. All information will be circulated to the group by 1 September 2005.
5. The appropriate specialist members of WP5 will meet probably in Istanbul in September or early October 2005 in order to discuss the information gathered and to identify gaps that may be filled by subsequent research. The meeting will also begin work on Task 5.2 (see below, Task 5.2, strategy step 1).
6. Report (deliverable D5.1) to be completed by November 30, 2005.

As it concerns *Task 5.2* and Deliverable 5.2, which aims at the *Assessment of the projected socio-economic impact of the various hazards and threats on the stability/sustainability of the*

system (with input from D2.3, D3.3, D4.3), we have to note that it represents an enormous task. It was decided to be approached by the integration of information from the other WPs and then by applying a Delphi exercise (see www.elme-eu.org), in order to identify priorities and to assess the relevance of several social and economic impacts. The timeframe for this work is very tight, as most of the exercise must be completed within 2 months following the delivery of the other WP reports. All the aforementioned comprise the reason why, during the discussion in the 4th Session of the Kick-off meeting, it was agreed to shift deliverables D3.1 and D3.2 two months earlier, in month 14.

The task will be coordinated by Prof. Skourtos and Dr. Kontogianni (HCMR/ University of the Aegean). The steps involved are as follows:

1. Preparation of a list of questions regarding hazards, threats, resources availability issues and management responses to be considered by the other WPs. The list will be prepared during the September 2005 WP meeting in Istanbul and will be sent to all the other WP Leaders, in order to be processed in the meetings of their WPs.
2. Circulation of all incoming WP reports to WP5 members by the Project Coordinator.
3. Meeting in March 2006 of the full WP5 to be hosted by UNEP/MAP in Athens to discuss the reports (and response to the specific questions) and to conduct the Delphi exercise.
4. Report to be finalised by May 2006.

Task 5.3 will be jointly led by FEEM and UoP. There are several projects working in this innovative area at present and this task seems to be a good opportunity to bring together their methodology and expertise. This synergy was taken into account to form the strategy for this task. A similarity between the particular task and Task 6.3 was identified; therefore Prof. Mee will lead the efforts in Task 6.3 too. In order to accomplish the addressed objectives, experts in the field of socio-economic modelling should be reached. As a result, the steps to be taken were formed as follows:

1. UoP and FEEM will prepare a list of all relevant projects/ programmes by June 2005 (examples are the Blue Plan, ELME, Thresholds, daNUbs). These groups will be invited to attend (or at least to submit information to) a workshop to be held in FEEM, Venice.
2. A workshop for socio-ecological modelling will be held in FEEM, in December 2005. It will be a small workshop including a sub-group of relevant WP5 members plus invitees mentioned in the 1st step. The main aim will be to examine current models, with respect to their underlying principles and practical applications. The group will prepare an overview report.
3. Submission of the report to the Conventions in order to conduct an analysis of the capacity available in the region to implement these models and the needs for further capacity building.
4. Preparation of the final deliverable (WP5 report) by March 2006.

3.6 Work package 6: A Science Plan for the Region

Work package leader: Dr. Becken, email: scpb@unepmap.gr

The discussion on WP6 was held in plenary at the presence of all project members, during the 4th session of the meeting. As one can observe, all partners are involved in the activities and tasks of the particular WP, fact that validates the need for integration of the results of the other WPs. Of course, in such an extended working group basis, efficient coordination is the critical parameter. The plenary agreed on the allocation of responsibilities and duties as they are addressed hereafter.

The overall *Task 6.1* will be led by UNEP/MAP (MED POL)

In *Task 6.1.a*, the existing monitoring and assessment activities launched by UNEP/MAP (MED POL) and BSC will be examined and elaborated for D6.1. Other existing monitoring networks at the regional and national level will also be examined in cooperation with the project members and all the information will be elaborated in D.6.1.

In *Task 6.1.b*, in order to describe the specifications of a future-monitoring network, the gaps and needs of information will be identified by the partners at first. For this purpose, UNEP/MAP (MED POL) will have contacts with the other work packages and cooperatively elaborate a draft paper, which will be circulated later among all the other participants for comments and will be used as a basis in finalizing D6.1.

The following gaps/ needs of the existing monitoring activities were initially mentioned during the kick-off meeting:

- Need for integration of GOOS related activities and products for both seas to the future monitoring network,
- continuous monitoring of exchanges through the Turkish Straits System,
- consistent monitoring of biodiversity,
- need for definition of research needs and of the relevant monitoring activities on the impact of sea level rise, wind and waves related to coastal erosion, air-sea fluxes of nutrients, thermoaline circulation, animal/ plant species loss/ intrusion due to climate change etc.

Task 6.2 will be led by Dr. M.Zavaterelli (CoNISMa, University of Bologna). The task leader is going to have contacts directly with those partners experienced in coupled physical and ecosystem models. He could also contact 'external' experts, accordingly to particular needs, which may incur during the implementation of the task. All WPs leaders will provide their suggestions. The relevant deliverable will be produced by the expert group under the leadership of Dr. Zavaterelli. The WP6 leader will be responsible for following-up the work and the deadlines as well as for informing all the partners of the progress of the work.

During the plenary discussion, Prof.L. Mee -leader of WP5- stated the similarity between the objectives of *Task 6.3* and *Task 5.3* (in WP5) and proposed for that reason to join efforts. The proposal was agreed by the project coordinator and the plenary and Prof. Mee will lead the effort in *Task 6.3* as well. UNEP/MAP (MED POL) will cooperate with WP1 and WP5 to formulate the work programme of the task and arrange for the production of the related deliverable.

Task 6.4 will be led by UNEP/MAP (MED POL). As stated also in the discussion for WP1 (Chapter 3.1), the training component is considered very important for the Project's success. The bond between the two WPs will evolve the activities of this particular task, since that would mean at the same time the direct involvement of the SC, fact which would increase organizational skills and capacity. The project partners are going to propose the Institutes and Universities and a list of young researchers and graduate/ post-graduate students will be

prepared in consultation with them. The partners will be requested to act as national representatives while proposing nominees, especially for the Black sea countries. UNEP/MAP (MED POL) will ensure an adequate coverage from east Mediterranean. Several training activities were decided and scheduled during the SC/ WP1 meeting, during the second day of the kick-off meeting; all details (for the educational cruise on R/V AEGEO along with other related events and provisions) could be found in Chapter 3.1.

Finally, concerning the ‘overall deliverable’ of the Project, which is D6.4, the Meeting agreed on the fact that the SC should coordinate the preparation of the Scientific Policy Plan. Moreover, for that purpose all project products, delivered throughout its implementation, will be used to form the basis for the Science Plan. All the participants stressed out the importance of the incorporation of the research needs, identified by all the WPs groups, into the Science Plan for the region. It was also agreed, that the Science Plan Report should be as comprehensive and laconic as possible, because these characteristics would introduce an added value. The Report will be prepared before the Final Conference in Istanbul, in order to be discussed in plenary and reformed, if needed, before the submission to the E.C.

ANNEX I

Implementing FP6 while working towards FP7 (Dr. Lipiatou invited presentation)

In this final chapter, a comprehensive abstract of Dr. Lipiatou's invited presentation will be presented. The heading of the particular chapter was adopted by the reporting group.

As Dr. Lipiatou has mentioned, the evolution in E.C. philosophy concerning Research should be noticed, as a progressive transition has occurred, which led from the 'strict' research on environmental protection to the integration of sustainability into research.

Considering FP3 and FP4 as a starting point where *Research on ecosystem functioning, climate and environmental protection technologies* reflected E.C. approach, the elaboration of the research strategy began to implement the environmental dimension into development procedure, through FP5 (*Integration of the environmental dimension in research, with emphasis in climate change, water, coastal integration and urban dynamics*) and finally –in nowadays- the context of FP6 was formed, which promotes the sense of sustainability to be integrated in all areas of research and especially in Energy, Transportation and Agricultural sectors.

As a result, the structure of FP6 is dominated by the following three interrelated pillars (Priority 6: Sustainable Development, Global Change and Ecosystems):

- Sustainable energy systems (810 M€): clean energy, energy savings, alternative motor fuels, fuel cells, energy carriers/transport/storage
- Sustainable surface transport (610 M€): environmentally friendly transport, interoperability, safety
- Global change and ecosystems (700 M€): greenhouse gas emissions, water cycle, biodiversity and ecosystems, natural disasters, land management, climate observation, complementary research, cross-cutting issues

Concerning the third pillar in particular, during 2003-2006 period, the following topics are to be studied/ investigated:

- a. Impact and mechanisms of greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric pollutants on climate, ozone depletion and carbon sinks
- b. Water cycle, including soil-related aspects
- c. Biodiversity and ecosystems
- d. Mechanisms of desertification and natural disasters
- e. Strategies for sustainable land management, including coastal zones, agricultural land and forests
- f. Operational forecasting and modelling including global climatic change observation systems
- g. Complementary research
- h. Cross-cutting issue: Sustainable Development concepts and tools

Several statistical data were presented, by Dr. Lipiatou, concerning funds granted per member country and per candidate country regarding all research instruments. An overall conclusion was that in the case of member countries, the allocation of funds follows the demand of each country (Germany, France, UK are leading), whilst in candidates countries, a significant variance is observed (i.e Poland and Romania lead the ranking list in requested funds, whilst Czech Republic and Hungary present the best performance in funds granted, compared to their requested budget).

The budget for the 4th call in the particular sector will be formed at 205 M€ and its allocation between *Traditional Instruments* (STREP, CA, SSA) and *Integrated Projects or Networks of*

Excellence will comply to a proportion of 30% (or even more) for the first and at 70% for the second category.

Moving towards the future of EU Research, two basic communication documents of the E.C. have been published in order to form the context. These are the following:

- *Building our common Future Policy challenges and budgetary means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013* (COM (2004) 101 final)
- *Science and technology, the key to Europe's future - Guidelines for future European Union policy to support research* (COM (2004) 353)

Moreover, three dominating priorities in the policy-making philosophy should be stressed out:

- Sustainable development (competitiveness, cohesion and sustainable management and protection of natural resources)
- Giving full content to European citizenship
- The EU as a global partner

The first Priority incorporates a significant research objective, which could be introduced as “*Strengthening the European effort in research and technological development*”. At the same time, the whole effort should aim at creating a European research area (ERA), at achieving the 3% EU GDP target and at strengthening research. In accordance to the aforementioned, the proposal of the E.C will be to double the RTD budget.

The research priorities for future planning could be summarized in the following three categories:

- Political “exigencies” for research: Implementation of the 6th FP, Environment Technologies Action Plan, Environment & Health Action Plan, Global Earth Observation
- EU commitments: Sustainable Development Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Biodiversity
- Support to Environmental EU policies: Thematic strategies and Directives: Water, Soil, Marine, Urban

As a result, the opportunity to support new developments would reveal, in the following sectors:

- Earth Observation: Global Change, Natural Hazards and Sustainable Development
- Climate Change
 - Post-Kyoto scenarios, mitigation and adaptation strategies, scientific knowledge
- Sustainable Development
 - Sustainability impact assessment, integration of SD into management of land use and natural resources, modeling, externalities and thresholds
- Environmental technologies: technology platforms
- Ecosystems and biodiversity

An overall contribution of all the aforementioned will also be reflected in the preparation procedure of FP7, as they will aid in consolidating the various research topics and strengthening the policy platform. At the present time, the intention and planning for FP7, could be summarized as follows:

1. Consolidate transnational collaboration through common projects and networking in order to create European « Pole of Excellence »
2. Launch technological initiatives, at European scale, in order to implement common research agendas in support of a European Industry Policy in key areas of technological progress
3. Stimulate competition among individual teams, in particular in basic research, through the setting up of a European Research Agency

4. Reinforce human resources through the support of training and mobility of researchers in the perspective of enabling and developing European scientific careers;
5. Develop research infrastructure through support for the creation and for the exploitation of infrastructure of European interest as experienced with the Trans-European Networks;
6. Promote the co-ordination between national and regional research programs.

Finally, a calendar was provided by Dr. Lipiatou, concerning the FP7 elaboration procedure, which stands as follows:

LU Presidency (2005/1)	Commission Proposal on FP7 Rules for Participation
UK Presidency (2005/2)	Commission Proposal on SP of FP7
AT Presidency (2006/1)	Council & EP: Adoption of EC FP7 and Rules of Participation
FI Presidency (2006/2)	Council: Adoption of SP of FP7 Work programs adopted by Commission First Calls

ANNEX II

Table 1. List of participants

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ANNEX III

Table 2. Deliverables Timetable

WP	Title	Year 1												Year2					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Project coordination		D1.1		D1.2														D1.3
2	Ecosystem functioning														D2.1 D2.2				
3	Resources: current state and trends														D3.1 D3.2		D3.1 D3.2		
4	Pressures on the Coastal Zone														D4.1 D4.2				
5	Management Policies											D5.1					D5.2 D5.3		
6	A Science Plan for the Region							D6.1 D6.2						D6.3					D6.4