



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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1- Identification

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Objective concerned European territorial cooperation
	Eligible area concerned MED Space*
	Programming period 2007-2013
	Programme reference (ITC Code) 2007CB163OP045
	Programme title MED
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT	Year reported 2008
	Date of approval of the annual report by the Monitoring Committee XXX

➤ List of eligible ERDF regions:

- The entire country of Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Slovenia
- The entire country of Italy except for the the Valley of Aosta and Trentino- Alto Adige
- The Algarve and Alentejo regions (Portugal) ; Gibraltar (United Kingdom) ; Ceuta, Melilla, Andalusia, Murcia, Valencia, Catalonia, Aragon, Balearic islands (Spain) ; Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Rhône-Alpes (France).

➤ List of eligible IPA regions:

- The entire country of Croatia and Montenegro (also Bosnia-Herzegovina from 2009).

➤ List of acronyms :

- OP > Operational Programme
- TA > Technical Assistance
- JTS > Joint Technical Secretariat
- MS > Member States
- MA > Managing Authority
- WG > Working Group
- IPA > Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
- ENPI CBC > European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and Cross-Border Cooperation
- LO > Liaison Office
- AA > Audit Authority
- DIACT > Délégation Interministérielle à l'Aménagement et à la Compétitivité des Territoires
- MC > Monitoring Committee
- SC > Selection Committee
- GOA > Group of Auditors
- GD > General Direction
- CA > Certifying Authority
- RAE > Annual Report

2- Overview of the implementation of operational programme

2.1. Progress establishment and analysis

The year 2008 represents the first operational year of the MED Programme. Following the approval of the OP on 20th December 2007, the Authorities of the Programme were created and they drafted and approved their internal policies and procedures in the meetings of the Monitoring Committee on 24th and 25th January and the *Group of Auditors* on 29th May.

In addition to the approval of the rules of procedures, the Monitoring Committee approved the Technical Assistance (TA) budget, as well as the text and the documents for the first MED call for proposals (1st phase) and the official establishment of the MED Selection Committee.

The Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority and Audit Authority were already established by definition (institutions). It should be noted that the JTS MED started to operate with a reduced number of members (4) on 21st January 2008 and received the last recruit on 2nd May 2008 to reach a total staff of nine persons based in Marseille. Between April and June, two representatives from JTS Liaison Offices in Valencia (Spain) and Thessaloniki (Greece) took up to their positions. Thus, in June, the JTS was complete.

The first call for proposals (pre-application phase) was launched on 3rd March 2008 and closed on 2nd May 2008. A total of 531 pre-applications were received (see pre-application statistics, applicants' status, priorities, first call, Annex 1). The MED Selection Committee, established by the Monitoring Committee, met on 16th and 17th July and 109 pre-applications were accepted for the second phase of the first call for proposals (see minutes – Status and results of selection, Annex 2). The second phase remained open from 1st August until 31st October 2008. All pre-selected operations to the exception of one (because of issues within the partnership), submitted their final application.

On 31st March 2008, the Communication Plan was submitted for information and comments to the Member States (MS). On 18th April, it was submitted to the European Commission that approved the final document.

The Programme's communication (www.programmemed.eu) and management (<https://med.presage-cte.org>) websites were updated constantly to include the preparation for the opening of the first call for proposals with an *application pack* that allowed the application form to be completed online. These monitoring and communication tools then provided updated information regarding the evaluation of the projects and the steps to proceed with.

At the request of the Monitoring Committee, the MA / JTS also put in place and coordinated two MS working groups, one on "Identification and monitoring of the economic operators" and the other on "Preparation and organisation of calls for strategic projects". These two workgroups met twice during the year 2008, between May and October.

The most important decisions concerning each Working Group (WG) respectively regard:

WG n°1

- Approval of terms of reference
- Launch of calls regarding objectives 2.2 «Promotion of renewable energies and improvement of energy efficiency» and 2.3 «Maritime risks prevention and strengthening of maritime safety»

- Launch of a call for tenders for one/some experts and the drafting of the terms of reference
- Allocation of a 15 M€ envelop for 2009 (Strategic Projects)

WG n°2

- Approval of terms of reference
- Approval of rules « de minimis » to control the threshold for state aid to economic operators
- Approval of two templates for the declaration to match partners' profile: *state aid non relevant* or *de minimis*. These declarations (one or the other) will have to be provided by all partners of any project applying within the MED Programme.

The MA / JTS also launched several public contracts starting from September 2008, including one to outsource the implementation of controls on the management system and on operations (offer selected in January 2009). Other public tenders included communication tools and in particular the organization of the annual event in December (see agenda, Annex 3)

Finally, amongst the major activities of the year, the enlargement of the MED Programme to a third IPA country, Bosnia-Herzegovina, merits to be mentioned. The Monitoring Committee of 15th October validated the adhesion. (see minutes, Annex 4). The new version of the OP was approved by the Commission in early 2009.

Calls for tenders closed in 2008: calls for preparation of annual event

Calls for tenders closed in 2009: Second Level Control Externalisation (Deloitte & Associated).

To complete the overview of the 2008 activities, in the sense of communication it is important to note that the public and private sector showed an exceptional interest in the MED Programme through the information and communication activities that took place in the different MS. Many other activities of the JTS confirm this interest: one to one interviews with project operators, consulting for project ideas (standard template established by the JTS), a great number of telephone calls and emails. These activities have been implemented in collaboration with the national authorities designated in the OP.

Amongst other activities organized by the Interact Programme the JTS MED participated in autumn 2008 in a training / exchange network of managers of the territorial cooperation programmes and continued, in collaboration with the MA and the MS, the *task force* activity in order to finalise all administrative documents (*templates*) necessary for the proper implementation of the OP. The following documents have been drafted and approved by the Monitoring Committee (during the meeting or by written procedure):

- First Level Control Guidelines
- Audit Trail
- State Aid declaration
- « de minimis » declaration
- Subsidy Contract
- Partnership Agreement
- Postponed Eligibility and Evaluation chart

The first analysis that can be made from these activities is that the MED Programme has advanced within an appropriate rhythm during the year 2008. The Programme has mobilised all its resources and structured its administrative procedures at the same time as launching the first call for proposals that was finalised on the 4th and 5th February 2009 with the selection of 50 "classical" projects (*bottom-up*). Nevertheless, because of delays in the national internal organization of some MS, communication of the management and control system of the programme to the Commission within

the time limits could not be completed on time (communication was finally made on 27th March 2009).

In 2009, with the implementation of the first generation of MED projects, all the contracting, management, control and payment circuits can be tested in practise and finalised.

- **Information on the physical progress of the operational programme:**

The year 2008 did not yet allow having on-going projects. Only the first phase of the first call for proposals was completed in July; the second phase being closed on 31st October. The instruction and evaluation of 109 applications of the second phase of the call, continued until January 2009. The only activities that were implemented and paid for, either by the Managing Authority or the National Coordination Points are related to the Technical Assistance.

All the National Coordination Points were involved in the implementation of the Programme in collaboration with the MA/JTS for common administrative work from one side (application and control procedures, transnational communication) and for information and technical assistance activities towards project holders within their national framework from another side.

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1:	Achievement										
	Target ¹										
	Baseline										
.....	...										
Indicator n:	Achievement										
	Target ²										
	Baseline										

1 The target can be given either annually or for the whole programming period.

2 The target can be given either annually or for the whole programming period.

Quantification of projects at the priority level (Situation 2007: OP)

Priority axis	Indicators	Unit of measure	Target value *	Base-line value ****
1	Projects for strengthening innovation capacities	No.	47	2
2	Projects for protection of environment and promotion of a sustainable territorial development	No.	55	92
3	Projects for the improvement of mobility and of territorial accessibility	No.	32	42
4	Projects for the promotion of a polycentric and integrated development of the Med Space	No.	16	46
1,2,3,4	Projects involving different Med Programme priorities	No.	30	0

**This value was calculated by comparing the average amount that could be allocated to each Med project (approximately 1.6 million Euros corresponding to 1.2 million ERDF contribution) to the ERDF contribution for each priority axis.*

***** The base-line values for selected performance indicators are not always available since the information on the established permanent networks or on the strategies adopted beyond the financing will not be known until the end of the programmes still underway during the period 2000-2006. The core values, however, could be defined for the Med projects participation. These values have been calculated on the basis of data available for the Medocc and Archimed programmes. They are proportional to the ERDF amount allocated to the Med Programme compared to the amount that was allocated to the Medocc and Archimed programmes.*

Ex-ante quantification and key indicators: situation in 2007 (OP)

Type	Description	Unit of measure	Base-line values	Target values **
Projects	Projects for water management	No.	11	3
	Projects for the improvement of accessibility	No.	42	32
	Risk management projects	No.	28	14
	Projects for the development of innovation and RTD networks	No.	0	48

*** These values were calculated based on the number of projects that could be financed within each priority axis. For example, the number of projects related to "improvement of accessibility" refers to the number of project on "improving mobility and territorial accessibility".*

- **Financial information (all financial data are in euro)**

See TA table Annex 5. No declaration of expenditure on 31/12/2008.

Priority axes by source of funding (EUR)

	Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the managing authority	Corresponding public contribution	Private expenditure ³	Expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	Total payments received from the Commission
Priority Axis 1 Specify the Fund Of which ESF type expenditure Of which ERDF type expenditure					
Priority Axis ... Specify the Fund Of which ESF type expenditure Of which ERDF type expenditure					
Priority Axis 5 (TA) Specify the Fund Of which ESF type expenditure Of which ERDF type expenditure	408 048,92	102 018,23	0,00	408 048,92 (306 030,69 ERDF)	
				100%	
Grand Total					17 387 219,79
Total in transitional regions in the grand total					
Total in non transitional regions in the grand total					
ESF type expenditure in the grand total where the Operational Programme is co-financed by the ERDF					
ERDF type expenditure in the grand total where the Operational Programme is co-financed by the ESF					

3 Only applicable to operational programmes expressed in total cost.

- **Information on the breakdown of the use of funds by category– not applicable**
- **Participation allocated by target groups– not applicable**
- **Participation refunded or reused– not applicable**
- **Qualitative analysis – not applicable**

2.2. Information on compliance with Community law– not applicable

2.3. Major problems encountered and measures taken

- PRESAGE CTE : improvements and testing of the application during summer 2008
 - Selection chart : better coherence and understanding (approval by the SC in October 2008)
 - Application form 1st and 2nd phase : simplification of the template form for the 1st phase (approval by the SC in October 2008)
 - difficulties to identify « economic operators » bodies as beneficiaries and to observe the rules regarding state aid : self-declaration made by partners
 - Resignation from the representant of the Thessaloniki LO : new recruitment in 2009
- Cf. 2.7 Modalities of monitoring

2.4. Changing the context of the implementation of the programme (if applicable) – not applicable

2.5. Significant changes according to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 (if applicable) – not applicable

2.6. Complementarity with other instruments

The OP foresees a structured coordination between the MED and the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Basin programmes. ENPI programme is also operational on a major part of the MED eligible space. In 2008, the coordination between programmes should have been coordinated by the MED liaison office (LO) based in the region of Valencia in Spain. A person paid by the MED programme and another by the ENPI Mediterranean Basin programme should have ensured, in particular, all communication between the stakeholders of both programmes. The late approval of the ENPI's OP in the summer of 2008 prevented in fact the office from operating in its full capacity. The MED LO representative has thus occupied a role of information, in coordination with the STC in Marseille rather than with its counterpart from the ENPI programme (please see the work plan 2008 of the Liaison Office in Valencia). She most particularly handled the following tasks:

- Implementation of the Liaison Office
- To follow up of the ENPI CBC Med Programme, in order to ensure the necessary compatibility between MED and ENPI MB Programmes, according to the article 9.3 of the ENPI Regulation.
- Definition of 2008 Working Plan with the LO of Thessaloniki
- To carry out LO's daily administrative work (translations, reports, drafting of contracts between the MA and the hosting Authority of the LO).
- Steering beneficiaries towards one or other programme (MED/ENPI-MED).
- Attendance to the Projects Selection Committee. Marseille, 16th, 17th July 2008.
- Attendance to the JTS meeting regarding staff, tasks and activities of the LO. Marseille, 18th July 2008.
- To set up contacts with the *Europe Aid-Cooperation Office*; EC; Managing Authority ENPI in Sardinia, antenna ENPI in Aqaba.

- Attendance to the training seminar and the meeting of the ENPI staff regarding the information on working methods, the planning and the implementation of the ENPI CBC MED Programme. Amman, 6th, 7th October 2008.
- Attendance to the Monitoring Committee. Paris, 15th October 2008.
- Attendance to the coordinating meeting between the JTS, the MA and the LO. Marseille, 16th October 2008.
- Attendance to the Monitoring INTERACT ENPI seminar: « Main challenges for ENPI CBC ». Marseille, 17th and 18th November 2008.
- Attendance to the INTERACT seminar: « *South Network Conference for Stakeholders* ». Valence, 23rd December 2008.

The Liaison Office, once operational for both programmes, will contribute to the capitalisation and coordination of the existing tools for these programmes.

Similarly, the OP provides also that a liaison office in Thessaloniki be established during the year 2008. The person representing the MED programme is responsible for the coordination and the capitalisation with partners and programmes in IPA countries. The person also ensures the exchange of information between these programmes and the MED Programme. Recruiting was carried out in June, but for personal reasons, the person in charge resigned in September: since then, the position has been vacant. For this reason the LO missions could only be very partially fulfilled with missions of setting up contacts and leading investigations with the Countries and partners from the IPA areas.

Broadly speaking, the Med Programme ensures the complementarity between its actions, the Structural Funds measures under the Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives and with other instruments. This follow-up is possible when the MS of the programme provide in particular the necessary information to the JTS on their national and regional programmes. This task is especially carried out on the preparation of the Selection Committees.

The complementarity between programmes intends to exclude double funding and those projects that would pursue contradictory objectives to other EU programmes.

2.7. Modalities of monitoring

Amongst the procedures for monitoring the Programme, the methodology and criteria for evaluation of the projects could be placed in the first-level of general monitoring. Indeed, the year 2008 was extremely important from this point of view because it has enabled to test the relevance and effectiveness of the candidature system in two phases. The assessment of the first call has been rather lukewarm. After an initial observation, we must recognize that the two phases of the first call did not yield the desired results. Instead, they forced the JTS and the Selection Committee to carry out a double evaluation with assessment criteria almost identical without a clearly identified added value, in particular a double administrative effort which was also detrimental to candidates since the evaluation was centred on criteria linked to the respect of expressed conditions than on the enhancement of the value of the ideas of the projects and their content: the evaluation chart does not permit that type of work, a good writing is sufficient to obtain high scores. This has not necessarily allowed enhancing the technical quality of the pre-applications, because of the lack of technical and human resources but also because of a high number of applications that presented an old logic of networks, exchanges and studies.

The second call (2009) will also be established in two phases (nevertheless having simplified the first), but it is true that if the impressions of the first call should be confirmed, the monitoring for

the third call may be reconsidered. It would be possible either to revert to a single phase or maintain two phases, but to use the first phase in a highly selective manner and accompany collectively the projects selected for the second phase with the participation and support of the National Coordination Points. In the current scenario, this support is impossible with more than 100 candidates and only three months for the final writing of the application form. The fact that the intervention capacity is limited partly explains the low qualitative difference between the pre-application and the application phases. Indeed, the progress between the two phases is small, especially for the projects that put a lot of efforts into their proposal at the beginning of the application. More interesting, is the progress of the project that hadn't yet completed their partnership, budget or carry out.

The programme uses the computerized monitoring tool Presage CTE developed by the DIACT at the national level in France. This tool, based on the same format than a tool of the UrbactI Programme, is decentralized and allows all actors of the programme to fill in and to find information about them directly through Internet. Thus, the project data showing their technical and financial progress will be directly available and accessible to the authorities of Member States and, of course, to all the partners of an operation and their first-level controllers. Access is available through usernames and passwords that attribute the different roles and assign different read-only or read-write rights.

During 2008, the work of finalizing the computerized tool has continued in particular with regard to the submission of the application with the particularity of two phases for the MED Programme. It was subsequently extended to the instruction phase (with access to it for the Programme authorities) and the implementation phase of the projects. This work will continue in 2009 with the control and payment phases.

The Presage CTE site is the result of the work of the preparation of management documents, which extend directly from the Structural Funds regulations. Monitoring arrangements are therefore what is expected by the Commission, including in particular the development and approval of the audit trail for compliance with all stages.

Once the projects begin to make their progress reports (end 2009), it will be possible to track the indicators.

The novelty of this tool led to an inevitable period of adjustment, both for the authorities of the programme and for the applicants. Adjustments have been made to make the tool more effective. Thus important adjustments were made during summer 2008 to make the application more efficient, allowing a better difference between the 1st and the 2nd phase of a MED call for "classical projects" from a quality content point of view.

Finally, the programme plans to launch the mid-term evaluation (*in itinere*) starting from the year 2010 with a preparation phase in 2009.

2.8. National performance reserve (if applicable, and the annual implementation report submitted for 2010 only) Not applicable

3- Implementation by priority

3.1. Priority 1: Strengthening innovation capacities

3.1.1. Achievement of objectives and review of progress accomplished No running operation in 2008

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Indicators	Achievement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1	No of transnational co-operation networks including research centres, economic operators and training centres/universities for facilitating technology transfer and the dissemination of innovative practices and know-how										
	Target:										15
	Baseline										
Indicator 2	No of transnational studies/ plans/ strategies developed for facilitating innovation capitalisation and dissemination among resource, innovation and entrepreneurship centres										
	Target:										15
	Baseline										
Indicator 3	No of SMEs involved in exchanges of experiences and technology transfer										
	Target:										20
	Baseline										
Indicator 4	No of transnational structures for disseminating common standards for enhancing regional policies and innovations capacities										
	Target:										2
	Baseline										
Indicator 5	No of projects for supporting innovation processes in the Med space										
	Target:										18
	Baseline										

- **Qualitative analysis**

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

3.2. Priority 2 : Protection of the environment and promotion of a sustainable territorial development

3.2.1. Achievement of objectives and review of progress accomplished No running operation in 2008

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Indicators	Achievement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1	No of studies/planning guidelines/plans /methods/tools strategies realised/tested concerning - environmental maritime cooperation and safety - improvement on energy savings involving Med countries - non-state actors - public authorities authorities/bodies project partners but not being beneficiaries										
	Target :										15
	Baseline										
Indicator 2	No of transnational management plans developed in the space on natural risks and hazards										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										

Indicator 3	No awareness-raising activities/initiatives carried out/promoted in the space on - natural resources and heritage - energy use - maritime, coastal and island issues climate change										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										
Indicator 4	No transnational projects on integrated coastal management involving Med countries: - non-state actors - public authorities institutions in charge of coastal protection										
	Target:										15
	Baseline										
Indicator 5	No transnational seminars and forums on water management involving Med countries - non-state actors - national and regional maritime authorities qualified authorities/agencies (i.e. ports authorities, agencies/institutions for maritime pollution, public/private bodies for ship control)										
	Target:										15
	Baseline										

Indicator 6	<p>No of transnational partnerships/collaborative networks, organised in the space, aimed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protect the landscape, natural resources and heritage system (e.g. water management, cultural heritage) - prevent natural risks - enhance maritime cooperation - exchange information and management methods on renewable energies use and energy consumption reduction - enhance integrated territorial development and sustainable tourism <p>involving in different countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non state actors - public authorities <p>authorities/bodies project partners but not being beneficiaries</p>										
	Target:										40
	Baseline										

- **Qualitative analysis**

3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

3.3. Priority 3 : Improvement of mobility and of territorial accessibility

3.3.1. Achievement of objectives and review of progress accomplished No running operation in 2008

- Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

Indicators	Achievement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1	No of projects on : - innovative maritime traffic management systems accessibility of islands										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										
Indicator 2	No of projects promoting transnational initiatives/ strategies for the use of: - multimodal platforms - intermodality existing networks (sea, road, rail)										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										
Indicator 3	No of projects developing transnational on line services and particularly addressed to develop digital services in isolated territories										
	Target :										5
	Baseline										
Indicator 4	No of databases, electronic archives, monitoring and analysis systems for water management and risk prevention										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										

Indicator 5	No of projects to promote multimodal transport systems (particularly environmental-friendly ones) involving: - local, regional and national authorities - institutes and agencies for territorial development										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										
Indicator 6	No of networks supporting the use of ICTs involving: - territorial administrations - civil society (association of users) economic actors (companies specialised in ICT services)										
	Target:										10
	Baseline										

- **Qualitative analysis**

3.3.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

3.4. Priority 4 : Promotion of a polycentric and integrated development of the MED space

3.4.1. Achievement of objectives and review of progress accomplished No running operation in 2008

• **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Indicators	Achievement	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1	No of transnational networks involving different territorial systems (towns, metropolis, etc.) for supporting the management of cultural poles										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										
Indicator 2	No of bodies involved in good practices exchange for - planning tools cultural innovation										
	Target:										10
	Baseline										
Indicator 3	No of projects/ reports/ comparative analysis involving Med large urban areas for building integrated territorial development strategies on - environmental/energy policies - ports and transports - economic development										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										
Indicator 4	No of protection plans implemented through projects on - historical heritage - cultural resources (material and immaterial)										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										
Indicator 5	No of cooperation initiatives involving: - towns - metropolis rural areas										
	Target:										
	Baseline										

	Target:										15
	Baseline										
Indicator 6	No of isolated areas - involved in project activities - reached by dissemination of good practices involved in new territorial development strategies										
	Target:										5
	Baseline										

- **Qualitative analysis**

3.4.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

3.5. Priority 5 : Technical Assistance

3.5.1. Achievement of objectives and review of progress accomplished Cf. 6

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Indicator	Réalisations	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1:	Indicator :	No of meetings held at transnational level									
		7 (6 Task force + 1 launching conference)	10 (2 MC+ 2 SC+ 1 GOA+ 4 WG + 1 annual event)								17
	Target	30									
	Baseline										
Indicator 2:	Indicator:	Operations number :									
	submitted		531	/							
	eligible		277	/							
	financed		/	50							
	Target	150									
	Baseline										

*MC = *Monitoring Committee*; SC = *Selection Committee*; GOA = *Group of Auditors*; WG = *Working Group*

The total amount of technical assistance engaged over the year 2008 by the MA/JTS rises with 808 286.67 € (not final amount) on a total budget of 15,455,306 € for all the period.

- **Qualitative analysis**
Cf. 6

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them Cf. 6

4. ESF programmes: conformity and concentration

Not applicable

5. ERDF programmes / Cohesion Fund: capital projects (if applicable)

Not applicable

6. Technical assistance

The total expenditure incurred in 2008 concerns the technical assistance of the programme. The first project expenses are unlikely to be declared prior to September 2009 and cover the expenses incurred and paid in 2008 (charges for preparation of the application).

TA MED tables (Annex 5)

As we have seen in section 2.1, the year 2008 is the year of the operational start up of the MED programme.

The activity of the *task force* in 2007 allowed the faster and more efficient installation of the JTS MED, especially with respect to the candidates and the launch of the first call for proposals. Thus, on 3 March the programme was able to start this operational phase.

The launch of the first call (first phase) involved the MA / JTS but also the MS for the finalization and approval of all documents of the *application pack* as well as the verification and improvement of the system PRESAGE CTE (submission of online applications).

The opening of the call for projects also needed communicating a series of information to the project operators (see the section "Information and publicity" below) that heavily impacted the JTS and the National contact points workload, including a high-demand telephone and email response system in real time (almost full time in the 10 last days of the call), with support also from the MS and the computer technical assistance put in place by the DIACT for PRESAGE CTE.

At the closure of the call, 531 applications were submitted. The instruction and assessment took place in two months from May to June. The first Selection Committee was held on 16 and 17 July. The second phase of the pre-selected projects (109) started on 1 August and closed on 31 October. The examination and evaluation steps took place between November 2008 and January 2009. The PRESAGE CTE tool constantly followed the progress of the format of the applications and the required information.

Along with the activities for the project holders, three other areas required the MA / JTS resources: a) the advancement of all documents and procedures for monitoring; b) the progress of documents and methods of control (first and second level); and c) the progress of documents and methods of communication.

Extensive work was completed for the production, in particular, of the Subsidy contract and partnership agreement (and the amendments) and also the guidance notes for the First Level Control, the audit trail, the state aid and the "de minimis" declarations. All these documents have been subject to written procedures and approved by the MED Monitoring Committee. See below the list of written procedures of the Monitoring Committee and of the Selection Committee.

In addition, the MA / JTS worked together with the MS in the drafting and finalization for approval of the internal rules and procedures of the Monitoring Committee, the Selection Committee, *ad hoc* Working Groups (WG) and with the Audit Authority (AA) for the rules and procedures of the Group of Auditors (GOA).

The year 2008 also allowed completing the public procurement for the second-level control, jointly with the MA / AA for the "Technical Specifications of outsourcing of operational controls and audits" that has enabled the selection of Deloitte & Associated in the month of January 2009.

Concerning the communication activities, the MA, prepared a first operational version of the website www.programmemed.eu, while the JTS was being installed. This website immediately became the main information tool.

However, it took heavy diagnostic work to understand its structure and architecture, its operational functionality and also its planned, but not yet operational, functionality. In collaboration with the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and its external service provider, the JTS revisited the entire website to complete an inventory and define a better reliability and stability of the website for requirements of the Programme. Furthermore, the production and availability of some features not yet active, including the extranet and the database, are one of the main tasks of the JTS.

Drafting the communication plan and having it approved by the EC as well as the preparation of the annual event on 18 December in Marseille have been two other major assignments

The preparation of the annual event was associated with the management of three different public procurements: the graphics for the Programme's new brochure, the printing (including posters and kakemonos), and the production of promotional items.

Two working groups were organized in 2008 to answer two specific questions from the authorities of the Programme and the MS: 1) How to identify and support strategic projects in the preparation for calls dedicated to them? 2) How to manage the issue of state aid to economic operators in order not to distort the competition rules?

In 2008, these groups met twice each. The WG on economic operators led to a proposal to limit participation of economic operators respecting the "de minimis" rule. This proposal was approved by the Monitoring Committee on 15 October (this rule was later reinforced in March 2009 by a written procedure introducing a further restriction: all commercial enterprises must submit to the "de minimis" rule, no choice on the basis of the nature of activities). On the other hand, no consensus was found for the WG on strategic projects and its work continues in the first quarter of 2009.

The Monitoring Committee of 15 October also accepted the request of Bosnia-Herzegovina to join the MED Programme as an IPA country. The MA was responsible for changing the OP accordingly and transmitting it to the Commission for final validation. The OP MED with enlargement of the space to include Bosnia and Herzegovina was approved by the Commission on 6 March 2009.

Amongst the decisions made by the Monitoring Committee, three issues were processed: a) the acceptance by the Member States of the MED Programme of the procedure for the simplification of the application modalities, starting from the 2nd call (notably the application form, the possible use of copies, scans and fax copies) as well as b) the principle of a « pedagogical file » aiming at assessing the financial and human resources of each partner and c) the modalities and time limits for appealing after communication to the Lead Partners of results from the Selection Committee.

In conclusion, it should be noted that amongst the costs of technical assistance are also the costs of the Liaison Office in Valencia with its missions in also Marseille.

More information: participation in meetings of WG on Strategic Projects; meetings of Monitoring and Selection Committees; meetings for coordination with the JTS and MA; participation to the Annual Event of the MED Programme; participation to the event organized by INTERACT – ENPI on “challenges for the CBC” and mission fulfilled in Amman (Jordan) attending the training seminar organized by the RCBI (Regional Capacity Building Initiative) on working method, planning and implementation of the ENPI MED Basin Programme.

Regarding the activities of the LO, it has to be noted that because of delays in the approbation of the ENPI MED Basin OP and its implementation, the 2008 Work Plan was subject to slight changes.

Therefore, the activities already performed this year by the LO, in accordance with the tasks planned in the OP, can be summarized as follows: the implementation of the Office in Valencia, the organisation of the administrative activities of the LO (translation, contracts, reports,...), contacts with the Cooperation-Aid Bureau of the EC; ENPI MA in Sardinia, ENPI antenna in Aqaba. In coordination with the JTS in Marseille, the LO has responded to the demands of the projects regarding the general information on the programmes to guide the applicants taking into account the differences between MED and ENPI. Counselling was parted as follows: 12 interviews, 50 written answers by email, and 55-60 phone calls; 20% of counselling concerned the ENPI MED basin. Meanwhile, the LO organized a MED Information Day in Valencia in coordination with the Spanish NCP.

Regarding communication and dissemination about the Programme, the LO drafted, in collaboration with the communication officer of the JTS, a text introducing the LO to be displayed on the Website and the next brochure of the programme. In addition, a comparative and interactive brochure is being created about the MED and ENPI MED Basin to facilitate the information about the programmes and the choice of programme by the project holders.

JTS officers took also part in training organized by Interact in April and November in Brussels and again in November in Lille on State Aid and financial management within the programmes of Territorial cooperation.

- List of written procedures in 2008 :

Monitoring Committee

- Rules of Procedures of the Monitoring Committee – 29th February
- Subsidy contract/Partnership agreement/amendments/commitment letter – 5th May
- Eligibility of 10 projects non-validated in PRESAGE – 9th June
- Annual Report 2007 – 13th June
- Working Plan LO Valencia – 17th June
- Validation of expenses TA 2007 – 10th July
- Rules of Procedures of the Selection Committee – 11th July
- Modification of the evaluation grid + selection criteria for the 2nd call – 11th November
- Decision making 2nd Monitoring Committee – 20th November
- Pedagogical File – 25th November
- Control Guidelines - 28th November
- Modifications of the Implementation Guide – 28th November
- WG Strategic projects : procedure to prepare calls – 11th December
- Relaxing of Eligibility criteria for the second call – 15th December
- Text for second call – 15th December
- Audit Trail for the Programme - 23rd December

Selection Committee

- Decision making – 22nd September
- Pre-programmation of the Agro-environmed project – 8th October

Activities undertaken on national territories :

France

The actions of the French National coordination for 2008 were as follows:

- Organisation and coordination of **regional technical seminars** within the four eligible French regions. These events aimed at enabling the French project holders to take a better stand on the 1st MED call for proposals as well as introducing the ENPI CBC Med and the Interregional IV C Programmes. Meetings took place:
 - Ajaccio 6th March ;
 - Marseille 3rd April ;
 - Montpellier 11th April ;
 - Lyon 16th April 2008 ;
- Launch of a call for master engineering assistance on **emergence of projects and collective coaching of potential project holders** within European territorial MED cooperation and neighbouring (ENPI CBC) programmes. The mission of the service provider will allow:
 - Identifying regional institutions, bodies, private operators capable of participating in this type of projects, either because of their competences or their participation in former projects ;
 - Preparing the thematic capitalisation from the projects and operators aiming at the main priorities of the two programmes ;

- Contributing to inform project holders in the matter of preparation and implementation of projects through informative meetings and workshops supervised by the national authorities in charge of these programmes ;
 - Identifying and collecting project ideas from potential project holders, using templates defined on the basis of the service provider's proposal (in coordination with the "project ideas forum" initiated by the Managing Authority of the programme) ;
 - Providing collective coaching « from the idea to the project » on priority issues of the programmes ;
 - Providing feedback and capitalisation to the benefit of the national partnership of the two programmes and to the potential project holders.
- Organisation and coordination of the **National Committee on July 6th and 7th** formed by delegates of the SGAR and the Regions and the monitoring national services. The aim was to review the projects and the formulated technical advices in order to prepare the Selection Committee in charge of pre-selecting the projects.
 - Providing consulting and assistance to the potential project holders in the matter of preparing projects, searching for partners, solving problems of eligibility of bodies and expenses.

Italy

The Italian National Contact Point carried out the following activities, in coordination with the Italian regions:

- Organisation of a National TN MED Information Day, attended also by the JTS, on 27th March 2008 for over 400 participants;
- Dedicated webpage opened hosted on Campania Region site with Programme Documents and FAQ in Italian for potential beneficiaries applying to the 1st Call;
- Links to the dedicated webpage and programme/1st call information published on TN MED Italian Regional institutional websites;
- Provision of information on the Programme (telephone and email);
- Technical assistance to Italian project partners (email and telephone assistance in the 1st phase) and dedicated assistance to Italian Lead Partners of pre-selected 2nd phase proposals in workshop meetings organised in Florence (10th October 2008), Palermo (6th October 2008) and Rome (date?);
- Thematic seminars hosted by Italian Regions as follows:
 - Strategic project generation - Tuscany Region, Florence 10th October 2008;
 - Environment and sustainable development - Emilia Romagna Region, Bologna 26th November 2008;
 - Accessibility and transport – Calabria Region, Rome 4th December 2008;
 - Polycentrism – Liguria Region, Genoa 11th December 2008.
- Organisation of National Committees and Regional Coordination Meetings;

- Coordination of drafting of national documents to propose Transnationality ;
- Coordination of national consultations for all Programme documents sent in written procedure and discussed in transnational committees.

Spain

The Spanish National Contact Point organised an Information Day, on the 4th April 2008, with the participation of the JTS of the Med Programme and the Liaison Office located in Valencia. This event had an audience of 200 people.

...

The JTS MED was also represented at the seminar to launch the Interact Point of Valencia, on the 25 and 26 November, while the MA represented the MED Programme at the conference organized by Interact Vienna on 1 April in Sarajevo on the participation of IPA countries in the framework of the territorial cooperation Objective.

7. Information and publicity

As already explained, the communication website www.programmemed.eu (open since 2007) was the main vehicle for any public information. Revision and development work (already described in previous chapter) was conducted throughout 2008 and will continue in 2009 with new functions.

In addition to what was mentioned before, it is important to indicate that about 190 informal project ideas were submitted by a tool developed in the website during the pre-application period. These project ideas are not managed and evaluated as official applications by the MA / JTS, who simply verify if its content is complete before being published on the MED website to facilitate partner's research.

Also in terms of information to potential project operators, the three support measures by the JTS MED should be noted: a) information diffusion in the member countries; b) individual interviews and c) a first analysis of project ideas:

- a) During the period March-April, the JTS was present in Portugal, Spain, France, , Italy, Malta, Cyprus and Greece to participate in national or regional information days for the launch of the first call for proposals, at the request and in collaboration with the respective national coordination. In total, about a thousand potential candidates (also with a significant presence of the private sector) were affected by this campaign.
- b) During the same period between March and April, the JTS received approximately 20 candidates who asked spontaneously for an interview. Moreover, it organized three days of formal consultations (10, 16 and 17 April) with a total of 44 project holders received.
- c) Fifteen project holders were also received between September and October for the completion of their application in the second phase.
- d) During the opening of the pre-application period, the JTS finally responded to more than 70 conformity verification forms for project ideas for the MED Programme.

Concerning the production of information elements and additional publicity, the Programme hosted its annual event with participation of approximately 350 people.

This event was held in Marseille on 18 December. In addition to the assessment of the first call (not yet final on that date), the day was focused mainly on introducing a debate on the progress of discussions on strategic projects in the MED Programme through presentations from external experts and also the second call with MED news especially in relation to the application form and

the PRESAGE CTE system (simplification of the drafting and compilation of documentation attached). The second part was provided directly by the JTS.

The availability of a Partners' Café encouraged publicity and exchange of project ideas between participants as well as the development of links for potential partnerships based on survey (paper questionnaire) amongst participants, although its organisation as well as the display of information have to be improved to support even more exchanges.

The European Commission (DG REGIO) and several MS were present. The annual event also helped to formalize the transition from the French Presidency to the Italian Presidency.

The folder type distributed on this day consisted of:

1. A MED briefcase
2. Agenda of the day
3. New MED brochure (8 pages); see Annex 6
4. Four thematic sheets (transnationality, concrete project, Liaison Offices of Valencia and Thessaloniki)
5. Notepad + MED pen
6. MED roller clip badge
7. Power point presentations of the day in either English or French; these documents are available on the website www.programmemed.eu in both the Programme's languages)
8. A satisfaction questionnaire
9. Projects ideas form for Partners' café