

## **ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - BUILDING ON EXISTING EXPERIENCES -**

**Rome, 5-6 December 2007**

Venue: APAT's premises, via Curtatone, 3 – Rome (I)

### **BACKGROUND**

During 2007 the SMAP Regional Management and Support Unit (RMSU), co-lead by the Italian Environment Protection Agency (APAT) and the Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE), has focused on improving environmental stakeholders' access to updated information, capacity building and networking in the Mediterranean region. The tool SMAP-RMSU has developed for this purpose is the SMAP Clearing House, a web based information system developed in collaboration with European Environmental Agency and actors of the Mediterranean region. Based on the recommendations of the previous SMAP RMSU Regional Workshop on "Information and communication for improving environmental knowledge and reporting in the Mediterranean" held in Rome in October 2006, the activities have focused on:

- Reinforcing and enhancing the Network of national and regional organisations contributing and using the Clearing House;
- Mainstreaming the Clearing House thematically with the priority fields of the Euro-Mediterranean Horizon 2020 initiative, that aims to tackle the top sources of pollution by the year 2020;
- Improving technical functionalities of the Clearing House (building Arabic interface, improving search facilities, developing a portal toolkit enabling off-line use, setting up an expert Database, GeoMAP etc.);
- Working with EEA and other regional organisations in order to secure future maintenance and development of the SMAP Clearing House after SMAP-RMSU project completion in February 2008.

The workshop will present the outcomes of 2007 and provide a forum for discussion on a wide range of common challenges faced in improving the exchange of environmental knowledge in the region.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

- To summarize lessons learned of the SMAP Clearing House initiative at regional and national levels;
- To share recent experiences on exchange of environmental knowledge and information in the Mediterranean region (information systems, technical challenges, data issues, interoperability, communication);
- To discuss and make a proposal of sustainable ways forward for the SMAP Clearing House.

### **WORKSHOP LANGUAGE:**

Translation from/to English, French will be provided.

# Draft Agenda

Wednesday 5 December

**Registration : 8:30**

**9:00 –9:50 Introduction session:**

Welcome and Introduction remarks **Mr Roberto Caracciolo / Ms Maria Dalla Costa**, APAT

**Ms Tea Tornroos** - SMAP/RMSU coordinator : Main objectives of the workshop

**Mr Jesus Lavina** – EC/EuropeAid : Environment aspects of the European Neighborhood Policy

**Mr Volker G. Täube** - EC/EUROSTAT : Update on MEDSTAT II Programme, a platform in support to Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation

**First session: SMAP Clearing House – progress and lessons learned to ensure its sustainability and continuity at national and regional levels**

*Chairperson: Jesus Lavina, EuropeAid*

**9:50 – 10:45**

**Mr Alessandro Candeloro and Ms Monique Viel** – SMAP RMSU: State-of the-art of SMAP Clearing House (contents and technical aspects). Lessons learned and actions to mainstream it to support Horizon 2020.

Presentations by the **national CH partners** : Lessons learned (benefits, key issues, impact at national level) and future paths (sustainability of the national folder, national network, etc)

**Coffee break: 10 .45 – 11:15**

**11:15 – 13: 00**

Presentations by the **national CH partners**

Contributions on **thematic topics** (Desertification, Cleaner production)

Comments by **EEA**

Discussion

**Lunch : 13:00 – 14:30**

**Second Session: Environmental information exchange and reporting mechanisms in the Mediterranean : experiences, tools and links with the SMAP Clearing House.**

*Chairperson: TBC*

**14:30 – 15:45**

**Mr David Stanners** – EEA : Monitoring and indicators within Horizon 2020

**Ms Cecile Roddier-Quefelec** – MEDSTAT II Environmental sector: state-of-the-art, data exchange and links with Horizon 2020.

**Mr Saverio Civili** – UNEP/MAP MED-POL Coordinator – The management of the MED POL data base: present status and future developments.

**Mr Jean-Pierre Giraud** - UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu – Mediterranean indicators and information system on environment and sustainable development: future orientations.

Questions

**Coffee break: 15:45 - 16:15**

**16:15 – 17:30 (continue)**

**Ms Daria Povh** – UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC - information needs envisaged by the proposed ICZM protocol within the Barcelona Convention.

**Mr Jauad El Kharraz – EMWIS** – Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System: new perspective and data issues

Questions and conclusions

**17:30**     **Adjournment**

Thursday 6 December

**Third Session: Integrating Environmental Information Systems : Discussion on main challenges (users needs, data issues, technical challenges, interoperability, diffusion and communication)**

*Chairperson: Ms Maria dalla Costa, APAT*

**9:00 – 9.30** : Introduction by key discussants: EEA and CEDARE

**9:30- 11:00** Round table

**Coffee break: 11:00 – 11:30**

**11:30- 13:00** : Recommendations and conclusions

**Lunch : 13:00 – 14 :30**

**Fourth session: Training session for the SMAP CH partners on the Clearing House toolkit - *A specific tool to navigate and contribute to the Clearing House off line***

**14:30**     **Mr Alessandro Caneloro, SMAP RMSU Information Manager**

- Brief introduction to the new functionalities of the SMAP CH
- Installation of the toolkit and set up procedures on a local computer
- Navigation and posting of new items using the toolkit
- Import/export of information

**16:30**     **Closure of the training session**