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Dear colleague,

We are pleased to send you the first newsletter of the IDEM project (“Implementation of the MSFD to the DEep Mediterranean Sea”). The IDEM project, started in April 2017, will stretch over a period of 24 months and will involve institutional partners of the Mediterranean area from EU and non-EU countries. The IDEM consortium is composed by 9 partners belonging to 6 countries: Università Politecnica delle Marche (coordinator, UNIVPM, Italy), Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR, Italy), Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, Spain), Department of Fisheries and Marine Research - Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (DFMR, Cyprus), Agenzia Nazionale per le Nuove Tecnologie, l’Energia e lo Sviluppo Economico Sostenibile (ENEA, Italy), Institut Français de Research pour l’Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER, France), Tel Aviv University (TAU, Israel), Universitat de Barcelona (UB, Spain) and University of Malta (UM, Malta).

Newsletter n°1 is now released following:

- the first IDEM kick off meeting (Barcelona, 2017, May 24),
- the publication of the project website (<http://msfd-idem.eu>)
- the contacting of engaged and potentially involved stakeholders through a first short written presentation regarding the IDEM project.

#### a. Fundamental baselines and context of the IDEM project

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD 2008/56/EC) represents the tool of the EU’s Integrated Maritime Policy to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine waters by 2020. Targeting GES of only the continental shelves, while disregarding the deeper Mediterranean environments, does not satisfy a real ecosystem based approach to EU Seas management and protection. In this context, the **IDEM project** aims to support the next phase of MSFD implementation, in particular to achieve a regionally coherent, coordinated and consistent initial environmental assessment and determination of Good Environmental Status (GES), as well as the definition of sets of environmental targets for the **Mediterranean deep Sea** (below 200 m of depth). Monitoring, assessing its environmental status and managing the deep sea, through the implementation of knowledge of ecosystems biodiversity, functions and services, are crucial actions for ensuring the sustainability of neighboring coastal zones and their resources, which rely on the functioning of deep-sea ecosystems.

Overall, IDEM includes review of literature for MSFD implementation in the Mediterranean deep Sea, collection of databases aimed to create GIS maps of the spatial extent of the descriptors/criteria/indicators as well as pressures/impacts on the Mediterranean deep-sea ecosystems, adaptation of MSFD descriptors/criteria/indicators to the Mediterranean deep Sea, identification of threshold/baseline values for GES, identification of gaps in knowledge concerning descriptors in the Mediterranean deep Sea (for each sub-basin), identification of guidelines for monitoring deep-sea and for designation of areas to be potentially protected, stakeholders engagement and dissemination of results.

## **b. Stakeholder participation is welcome!**

The engaged and potentially involved stakeholders of the IDEM project were identified into different groups, according to the typology of interest and involvement in the MSFD implementation. Stakeholders involvement includes policy makers (EC Environment, Maritime Affairs & Fisheries, national ministries for the environment), national bodies responsible for MSFD, bodies responsible for the exploitation, management and conservation of coastal and deep-sea resources, scientific bodies and institutions, NGOs. Stakeholders will receive the IDEM newsletters and will also be invited to participate in activities of public engagement, such as workshops and scientific meetings, for the establishment of a participatory multi-actor dialogue among researchers, policy makers, civil society organisations, NGOs and citizens.

## **c. Past and forthcoming events**

Following the "IDEM kick off meeting", held in Barcelona in May 2017, the IDEM project was recently presented at the 1st Joint Stakeholders' workshop of the MED projects QUITEMED, INDICIT, MEDCIS, IDEM on February 21st, Athens (by skype). The presentation is aimed to facilitate the inclusion of potential stakeholders/actors of the MSFD process and to share information about projects. The event was co-organized by DG ENV, EEA and HCMR (MEDCIS project).

The next presentation of the IDEM project will be carried out at the Working Group on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (WGVME), in Rome (26 Feb-28 February). The IDEM project participation will take into consideration technical elements for the management of deep-sea fisheries and the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. The event was organized by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

## **d. Websites**

To follow are links to some websites that are worth consulting for actions related to the development of the IDEM project and the trend of implementation of the MSFD:

- European Commission / Environment - Marine and Coast

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/index_en.htm)

- Support Mediterranean Member States towards coherent and coordinated implementation of the second phase of the MSFD: <http://medcis.eu>

- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM): <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/en/>

-Marine Strategy Framework Directive MSFD(2008/56/EC)" - IDEM kick off meeting: <http://www.msfd-idem.eu/?q=content/marine-strategy-framework-directive-msfd-idem-kom-barcelona>



For further details see the Idem Project website: [www.msfd-idem.eu](http://www.msfd-idem.eu)

*Kind regards,*

Giancarlo Morgana

IDEM Project – Task 4.2- Stakeholders inclusion



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[www.msfd-idem.eu](http://www.msfd-idem.eu)

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