



First Steering Committee Meeting 16th January 2013

Date: 16 January 2013, h 15-19

Participants: Members of the Steering Committee of MedJellyrisk Project
Stefano Piraino, Chairman, Lead Partner-CONISMA (Italy)
Veronica Fuentes, PP1-ICM/CSIC representative (Spain)
Alan Deidun, PP2-UoM representative (Malta)
Nejib Daly, PP3-FSB representative (Tunisia)
Ons Daly, PP4-INAT representative (Tunisia)

Invited participants
Adriana Vella, UoM (DoB P.I., UoM Deputy leader)
Serena Zampardi, CONISMA (Assistant to Project Coordinator)

Venue: Auditorium Rieti, via Rieti 13, 00198 Rome,

Author: Serena Zampardi/Stefano Piraino

Subject: First SC Meeting report - This report summarizes the key points of discussion at the meeting. Conclusions and agreements are mentioned in the body of the report.

S. Piraino - Welcome and opening of the first Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting.

The PSC is the main “driving force” of the project by providing strategic direction and guidance to provide policy orientations and to monitor project activities. Chaired by the Lead Partner (LP), the PSC comprises one representative deputy from each Partner as agreed in the signed Partnership Agreement (PA) and annex 1 to PA. As scheduled in the workplan, the first PSC meeting takes place in coincidence with the kickoff Project Meeting at month 1. The Coordinator points out that a preparatory meeting was held in Rome in November 2012 and that standard PSC meetings will be held every six months (at months 6, 12, 24, 30, 36) by videoconferences to reduce carbon footprints. Extraordinary PSC meetings or videoconferences can be convened by the Project Leader whenever needed.

The agenda of the first PSC meeting refers to **Management, Coordination, Appointments and Technical Decisions**. The PSC meeting follows a morning workshop (h 9:30 - 13:30) with ENPI Project Officer, dr Raffaella Sardi, and with two Financial Officers (dr Fabrizio Floris and dr Severino Ostorero) who provided administrative and operational information.

WPI Management and Coordination - The Project Coordinator highlights the importance for each partner to establish a clear administrative pathway. A crucial point will be the appointment of auditors to start expenditure activities. PP1 and PP2 confirmed they have already appointed their auditors in Spain and Malta. PP3 and PP4 informed the two bodies are planning to appoint the same auditing company in the next weeks. Furthermore, as requested by PA, project-specific

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bank accounts will be opened by FSB and INAT in the next few weeks. The Coordinator reminds the transfer of prefinancing funds to Project Partners will be authorized only after the accomplishment of these tasks. Following requests for clarifications of budget lines and foreseen expenditures, the PSC agrees each Partner shall soon communicate to the LP any minor changes required for the optimal implementation of the project activities (in line with the 15% modification rule) in order to prepare a formal joint request to the ENPI JTS.

After that, the PSC group starts to discuss on specific issues related to activities planned in all different workpackages.

WP2 - Communication. WP2 activities deal with: *2.1 Programming and production of communication tools. 2.2 Web site development (MED-JELLYRISK web site), 2.3 Launch 4 JellyRisk information campaigns, 2.4 Launching local events and art works.*

All members are aware of the importance to start immediately all preparatory activities to be ready for the next summer season. It is suggested to involve undergraduate and master student for thesis on jellyfish sightings, jellyrisk and effectiveness of nets as well as all categories of volunteers. The importance to involve popular science magazines (FOCUS and MUY INTERESANTE, both Associate Partners) is stressed. The LP and PP1 will keep contact with the the Editors as soon as possible. The LP reports about a recent change in the position of the Chief Editor of FOCUS: however, negotiations with the new Editor have already started.

The group discusses about the creation of the Project Website. It is decided to assign this task to PP1 with the contributions by all Partners for the development and update of both the overall project website and the links to country-specific web pages.

The group discusses about the organization of informative events, attracting press and TV media, to promote dissemination and visibility to the Project. PP1 has already similar experience from activities implemented in the framework of a LIFE+ project along the coasts of Cataluña and available material will be shared with MEDJELLYRISK partners for further development.

The group discuss also about the need to create a "JELLYRISK"-specific poster, developing modifications from the original CIESM-JELLYWATCH poster with adaptations to new species (addition of *Porpita porpita*), layout (creation of different background with ENPI and JELLYRISK logos), and texts. Some preliminary logotypes for the website and for panels are shown.

A "Dropbox" folder will be created by the LP to share all informative material. A dedicated subfolder will be opened to Associate Partners in order to disseminate the presentatins given during the KO meeting.

WP3 Capitalization - The PSC agrees to rapidly set agreements with local stakeholders, national and international organizations, including the foundation of a Mediterranean Jellyfish Society.

With regards to the signatures of agreements with Beach Authorities and local stakeholders, the PSC points out the importance to pinpoint the 10 MCZ where many Project activities will be implemented (including installation of nets, see WP5 discussion). A preliminary list of sites is provided below here.

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WP4 Impact Assessment and Risk Mapping - Discussion initially focuses on a) launch of parallel, basin-wide citizen science campaigns in the different PP countries, and b) the development and application of probabilistic models of jellyfish blooms to draw risk maps. PP1 will explore contacts with companies with expertise in forecasting models. This activity will be at the end of the first year of the Project and the model will be implemented from the second year.

The group starts also a discussion on the need to create a shared monitoring protocol to be adopted across the different countries. A specific questionnaire to gather information on jellyfish from fishermen will be developed by PP2 (dr Adriana Vella) and PP4 (dr Ons Kefi Daly Yahia).

WP5 Mitigation of Jellyfish impacts

The discussion of the group goes back to the need of a rapid identification of the best MCZs where to implement the activities: creation of local task forces, installation of nets, training of operators. Preliminary proposal for main locations for installation of nets) are as follows:

- Malta: 2 beaches, 1 of them it's available every summer
- Spain: 3 beaches: Mar Menor using as testing place this summer, eventually other 2 in cataluna coast
- Italy: 3 Marine Protected Areas (Pelagic islands - Lampedusa, Egadi islands - Favignana, Ustica island) and the island of Vulcano, in the Municipality of Lipari (Aeolian islands, NE Sicily)

The PSC decides to gather all available information about the geomorphology of these localities to identify the most appropriate locations for project implementation, as well as to start negotiations for agreements. The discussion also deals with the number and size of nets modules. Australian colleagues will be contacted to gather information on technical specification relative to anti-Chironex nets. During the first day of the KO meeting, the LP has shown a prototype currently supplied by a company based in Italy that owns an international patent. This type of nets is currently installed in several localities along the French mediterranean coasts. Contacts with this and other companies have been already started to obtain the best value offers (price+quality). The procurement to buy the nets will be launched as soon as PP3, who is in charge of this task, will receive the prefinancing budget.

At 19:00 h, the PSC concludes its first meeting by setting the date for the next meeting to be held by SKYPE on the next 22nd January. Dr. Adriana Vella is invited to attend also the second PSC meeting.