



The Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation project-West MOPoCo(2019-2020):

- supports **Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia** in collaboration with Monaco;
- strengthens their cooperation in the field of preparedness for and response to oil and Highly Noxious Substances (HNS) marine pollution and improves the quality and interoperability of their response capacities.

A WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR



The Mediterranean Sea, being enclosed and densely covered by an intense maritime activity, is particularly vulnerable to marine pollutions. Communication and cooperative structures amongst Coastal States are already in place in the Western Mediterranean region to enable effective and timely response to pollution incidents. West MOPoCo is an ambitious project to gather the experiences and skills present in the region to go even further and increase our collective capacity to protect the marine environment and the coastal communities that depend on it, with the potential to be exemplary and benefit the entire Mediterranean.

Rear-Admiral Patrick Augier, Deputy Secretary General for the Sea

INTERNAL KICK-OFF MEETING

13 March 2019 - SGMer, Paris, France



The project **West MOPoCo** was officially launched on 13 March 2019 in Paris, France, where representatives from 11 Beneficiaries were gathered for the first project coordination meeting at the **Secretariat general for the sea (SGMer, project Coordinator)**. With the financial support of the **European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (DG ECHO)**, West MOPoCo will bring together for two years experts and officers operating in the field of marine pollution preparedness and response from **IMO (REMPEC), Cedre, ITOPF, ISPRA, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)** for the Baltic sea and the **Bonn Agreement** for the North Sea, collaborating with and providing technical support to the relevant administrations of Beneficiary countries, **Algeria (Commissariat National du Littoral), France, Italy, Malta (Transport Malta), Morocco (Secrétariat d'Etat chargé du Développement Durable), Spain (Ministerio de Fomento) and Tunisia (National Environment Protection Agency)**.

All twelve Beneficiaries will collaborate towards a safer marine environment in the Western Mediterranean, aiming to extend the benefits from the project outcomes to the entire Mediterranean and other sea basins.



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SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF RETOS™

24-26 April 2019 - REMPEC, Valletta, Malta

The workshop gathered representatives of national authorities of WestMOPoCo beneficiary countries responsible for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution. They could present their national contingency plans and then be trained in the use of the **RETOS™ and related Manual** to analyse and identify gaps in national oil preparedness and response programmes. Thanks to the support of Sea Alarm, participants also acquired knowledge on the **Self-assessment Tool for oiled wildlife preparedness**.

This workshop allowed for the development and adoption of a harmonised and clear approach to ensure a **high-quality assessment of national oil spill contingency plans**. A national workshop was organised in Morocco from 16-17 July to train officials who were not in a position to attend the sub-regional one in Malta.



START OF THE JOINT INTER-REGIONAL HNS MANUAL

12 June 2019 - REMPEC, Floriana, Malta

The methodology and content of the **Joint Inter-regional HNS Manual** developed by Cedre, ISPRA and ITOPF was presented and discussed during the 13th Meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC. The Manual will provide state-of-the-art operational guidelines for prevention and preparedness to HNS pollutions, taking into account the characteristics of the Baltic, North and Mediterranean seas.

Coastal States from the three basins will be closely associated to its development through their respective regional technical working groups.

For more information about the project and upcoming activities visit
West MOPoCo Website

www.westmopoco.rempec.org



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection

