



**PREMIER  
MINISTRE**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



# West MOPoCo Layperson's Report



**Mediterranean  
Marine Oil & HNS  
Pollution  
Cooperation**



Funded by  
European Union  
Civil Protection

**Secrétariat général  
de la mer**

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# PARTNERS

**West MOPoCo** is a European Civil Protection funded project gathering response centers, experts, and officials from coastal States from the Western Mediterranean cooperating to enhance and strengthen their response and preparedness to marine pollution from oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS).

## Italy



**ISPRA**

Istituto Superiore per la Protezione  
e la Ricerca Ambientale

## Malta



## Morocco

المملكة المغربية  
+ⴰⵎⴳⴷⴰⵢⵜ ⵜⴰⵎⴳⴷⴰⵢⵜ  
Royaume du Maroc



وزارة الطاقة والمعادن والبيئة - قطاع البيئة  
+ⴰⵎⴳⴷⴰⵢⵜ ⵜⴰⵎⴳⴷⴰⵢⵜ ⵜⴰⵎⴳⴷⴰⵢⵜ ⵜⴰⵎⴳⴷⴰⵢⵜ  
MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉNERGIE, DES MINES ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
DÉPARTEMENT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

## France - Project coordinator

SECRETARIAT  
GÉNÉRAL  
DE LA **mer**

## Algeria



المحافظة الوطنية للساحل  
COMMISSARIAT NATIONAL DU LITTORAL



Bonn Agreement  
Accord de Bonn

**IMO** INTERNATIONAL  
MARITIME  
ORGANIZATION



## Spain



## Tunisia



**Cedre**

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## A WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR LE MOT DU COORDONNATEUR

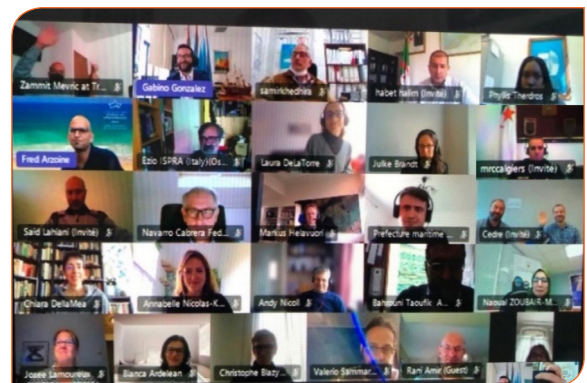
The Secretary General for the Sea would like to thank all the members of the West MOPoCo team for these two years of close partnership and mutual learning, experienced through the quality of the expertise and experience that each and every one has brought to our activities, as well as in the day-to-day implementation of this project. The difficult context for international collaboration in 2020 and 2021 has been overcome. Thanks to the financial support of the European Union Civil Protection, the West MOPoCo project has concretely strengthened cooperation between the States of the Western Mediterranean, but also, within our national maritime administrations, between the many services that contribute to the preparedness and response to marine pollution. West MOPoCo has fostered new working relationships between the three basins of the European Union, namely the Mediterranean, the North Sea and its approaches and the Baltic Sea. We are proud to share its results in this report, and hope that they will benefit our entire marine pollution response community, across and beyond the Mediterranean. We will endeavour to sustain and develop them through new projects such as West MOPoCo. The protection of our marine environment is urgent, and our collective work has contributed to it.

*Le Secrétaire général de la mer tient à remercier tous les membres de l'équipe West MOPoCo pour l'esprit de coopération et l'enrichissement mutuel qu'ont représentés ces deux années de travail commun, au travers de la qualité de l'expertise et de l'expérience que chacun et chacune a apportés à nos activités, ainsi que dans l'animation au quotidien de ce projet. Le contexte difficile des années 2020 et 2021 en matière de collaborations internationales a été surmonté. Grâce au financement de la Protection civile de l'Union européenne, le programme West MOPoCo aura permis de renforcer concrètement la coopération entre les Etats de la Méditerranée occidentale, mais aussi, au sein même de nos administrations maritimes nationales, entre les nombreux services qui contribuent à la lutte contre les pollutions marines. Se sont ainsi créées de nouvelles relations de travail entre les trois bassins de l'Union européenne que sont la Méditerranée, la grande mer du Nord et ses approches et la mer Baltique. Nous sommes fiers d'en partager les résultats dans ce rapport, et nous espérons qu'ils bénéficieront à l'ensemble de notre communauté de lutte contre les pollutions marines, à travers et en dehors de la Méditerranée, que nous saurons pérenniser et développer grâce à de nouveaux projets comme West MOPoCo. La protection de notre environnement marin est une urgence, notre travail collectif aura contribué à y répondre.*

Le Secrétaire général de la mer,  
**Denis ROBIN**



West MOPoCo Kick-off meeting, Paris, France March 2019.



MEDEXPOL 2020, October 27-28 2020.

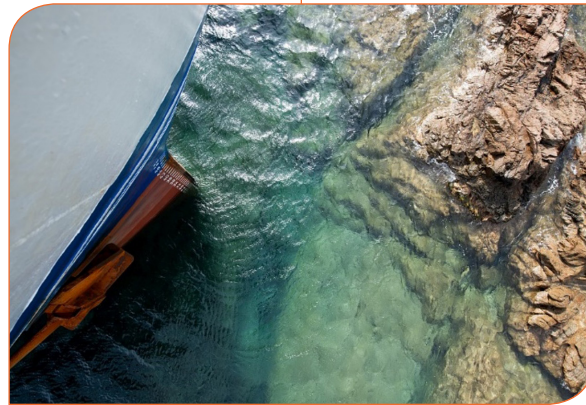


In the Western Mediterranean context, a semi-closed sea with particularly dense maritime traffic, fragile marine and coastal ecosystems and important human activities, oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) marine pollution can have severe effects on the environment. They also lead to behemoth costs in terms of clean-up activities or economic losses for such sectors as tourism and fisheries, to name a few.

Although major improvements to maritime safety have decreased the risk of major events, incidents such as an explosion or fire, a cargo loss (dangerous substances, oil), a spill of bunker (oil, diesel) and navigation errors continue to happen. Timely and efficient response often involves heavy and complex operations at sea and on the shoreline, which require high levels of preparedness and constant ready-to-deploy capabilities, experts, and equipment. Cooperation in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution is one of the ways to reduce these impacts and limit the harm of Oil/HNS spills.

The Mediterranean benefits from a rich regional cooperation on marine pollution that includes coastal States administrations, European institutions such as the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), European sea-basin strategy, Regional Sea programmes and sub-regional response cooperation agreements and arrangements.

*En Méditerranée occidentale, mer semi-fermée avec un trafic maritime particulièrement dense, des écosystèmes marins et côtiers fragiles et des activités humaines importantes, des déversements de pétrole ou de Substances Nocives et Potentiellement Dangereuses peuvent avoir des effets importants sur l'environnement. Ils entraînent également des coûts importants liés aux activités de nettoyage ou à des pertes économiques pour des secteurs tels que le tourisme et la pêche.*



*Grounding of the Rhodanus in Corsica, October 2019.  
© Marine Nationale.*

*Malgré des avancées significatives en matière de sécurité maritime, le trafic maritime comporte toujours des risques d'incidents tels qu'une explosion ou un incendie, une perte de cargaison (substances dangereuses, hydrocarbures), une fuite de bunker (fioul, diesel) ou des erreurs de navigation. Une intervention rapide et efficace implique souvent des opérations lourdes et complexes en mer et à terre, qui exigent un haut niveau de préparation et la mobilisation de capacités, d'experts et de matériel. La coopération dans le domaine de la préparation et de la réponse à la pollution marine est l'un des moyens de réduire ces coûts, partager les ressources et ainsi limiter les dommages.*

*L'écosystème de coopération régionale en matière de pollution marine est déjà très développé en Méditerranée, et rassemble des administrations des États côtiers, des institutions européennes telles que la DG ECHO et l'Agence européenne pour la sécurité maritime (AESM), une stratégie européenne de bassin maritime, les programmes maritimes régionaux et les accords de coopération sous-régionaux de réponse d'urgence.*

**Bright  
spot**

**Mediterranean = among the busiest sea lanes in the world, but records a decrease in oil spill accidents at sea despite increased traffic**

*Plan Bleu, Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2020.*

The Project **Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo)** supported Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain, and Tunisia in collaboration with Monaco in strengthening their cooperation in the field of preparedness for and response to oil and HNS marine pollution and in improving the quality and interoperability of their response capacities.

The Project has been implemented through an inter-regional effort, including the participation of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Bonn Agreement for the Greater North Sea and its approaches and the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) for the Baltic Sea. West MOPoCo benefitted from the technical support of expert partner institutions CEDRE, ITOPF and ISPRA.

Le projet « **Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo)** » a soutenu l'Algérie, l'Espagne, la France, l'Italie, Malte, le Maroc et la Tunisie en collaboration avec Monaco dans le renforcement de leur coopération en matière de préparation et de lutte contre la pollution marine par les hydrocarbures et les Substances Nocives et Potentiellement dangereuses (Hazardous and Noxious Substances, HNS).

Ce projet est fondé sur un effort inter-régional au travers de la participation du Centre régional Méditerranéen pour l'intervention d'urgence contre la pollution marine accidentelle (REMPEC) pour la Méditerranée, du Secrétariat de l'Accord de Bonn pour la grande mer du Nord et ses approches et de la Commission d'Helsinki (HELCOM) pour la Baltique. Le projet bénéficie du soutien technique d'institutions expertes partenaires que sont le CEDRE, ITOPF Ltd. et l'ISPRA.

## The **Western Mediterranean Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation Project (West MOPoCo)**

**Duration:** January 2019 – April 2021

**Budget:** EUR 868,416.39

**Funding:** Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM 2018) – DG ECHO

**Beneficiaries:** 12



More information on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism on [the European Commission website](#)

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

**Enhancing emergency decision-making capabilities**

**Assessing national contingency planning**

**Strengthening emergency procedures**

### **OBJECTIFS SPÉCIFIQUES**

**L'amélioration des capacités de prise de décision**

**L'évaluation des plans d'urgence nationaux**

**Le renforcement des procédures d'urgence**



# UPDATE OF DECISION-SUPPORT TOOLS

# L'AMÉLIORATION DES OUTILS DE PRISE DE DECISION

The tools developed within the West MOPoCo project represent important steps in the global strategy to improve knowledge on marine HNS pollution preparedness and response.

Ces outils représentent une étape importante dans la stratégie internationale d'amélioration de la préparation à la lutte en cas de déversement en mer de SNPD.

## The Marine HNS Response Manual Multi regional, Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC

## Le Manuel d'intervention en cas de déversements de HNS Multirégional Accord de Bonn, HELCOM, REMPEC

The Manual has been developed by CEDRE, ISPRA and ITOFF in the framework of the West MOPoCo project at the request of the Secretariat of the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and REMPEC, to provide state of the art guidelines on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) pollution preparedness and response and to replace their HNS Manuals edited on 2002, 2001 and 2000 respectively.

The competent national authorities of Member States of the three regional conventions, the Barcelona Convention, the Bonn Agreement and the Helsinki Convention were consulted at each step of the drafting process, to ensure the Manual meets their operational needs and to enrich it with their national experience in responding to chemical spills at sea: in

Le CEDRE, l'ISPRA et l'ITOPF, à la demande du Secrétariat de l'Accord de Bonn, HELCOM et du REMPEC, ont développé ce Manuel présentant l'état de l'art en matière de préparation et de lutte contre les pollutions par Substances Nocives et Potentiellement dangereuses (Hazardous and Noxious Substances, HNS), et remplaçant leurs précédents guides HNS publiés respectivement en 2002, 2001 et 2000.

Les autorités compétentes des États membres de ces trois conventions de mer régionale, la Convention de Barcelone, de Helsinki et l'accord de Bonn ont été consultées à chaque étape du développement du Manuel, afin d'assurer qu'il réponde à leurs besoins opérationnels, et puisse bénéficier de leur expérience nationale : en



[Consult and download the manual](#)

## A word from CEDRE



Cedre is very pleased to have contributed to the HNS response manual and the revision of MIDSIS-TROCS. These tools allow sharing the knowledge and experience gained in recent years through the chemical pollution study programmes and response techniques that have been carried out in particular with the support of DG-ECHO. Collaborating with ITOPF and ISPRA as well as exchanging with the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC and the member countries has enabled us to continue to develop our skills and strengthen our expertise for the benefit of the French authorities and the beneficiary countries of the European Mar-ice network.

June 2019, during REMPEC Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points held in Malta, in February 2020 during the HELCOM Response Working Group meeting, in May 2020 at the Working Group on Operational, Technical and Scientific Questions Concerning Counter Pollution Activities (OTSOPA) of the Bonn Agreement and finally, during MEDEXPOL 2020 webinar, held in October 2020.

The result is a comprehensive operational guidance for first responders and decision makers on marine incidents involving HNS, for both preparedness and response phases. The manual includes exclusive information on new, empirically tested chemicals with specific annexes for the Mediterranean, Baltic and Greater North Sea and its approaches.

*juin 2019, lors de la treizième réunion des points focaux du REMPEC qui s'est tenue à Malte ; en février 2020, lors de la réunion du groupe de travail sur la lutte contre la pollution de l'HELCOM ; en mai 2020, lors de la réunion du groupe de travail sur les questions opérationnelles, techniques et scientifiques concernant les activités de lutte contre la pollution (OTSOPA) de l'Accord de Bonn et enfin, lors du webinaire MEDEXPOL 2020, qui s'est tenu en octobre 2020.*

*Le Manuel rassemble des recommandations opérationnelles à destination des opérateurs et des décideurs sur les phases de préparation et d'intervention en cas d'accident de pollution en mer impliquant des HNS. Il comprend des informations exclusives issues de travaux d'expérimentations sur de nouveaux produits chimiques, ainsi que des annexes régionales spécifiques sur la Méditerranée, la Baltique et la grande mer du Nord et ses approches.*

## A word from the Secretariat of the Bonn Agreement



Bonn Agreement  
Accord de Bonn

West MOPoCo has provided a collaboration platform at regional level to address response to hazardous and noxious substances incidents at sea. The Bonn Agreement has actively contributed to the preparation of the manual covering this complex issue. The comprehensive text developed provides a solid basis to first responders and decisions makers for putting into operation the guidelines in the Mediterranean Sea, the Baltic Sea and the North Sea and its wider approaches.



## A word from HELCOM – The Helsinki Commission

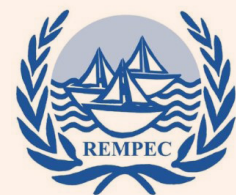


The HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2 (Response to accidents at sea involving spills of noxious and hazardous substances) was originally adopted in 2002 and had not been updated since. The Multi Regional Marine HNS Response Manual in the framework of the West MOPoCo Project was seen within the HELCOM community as a good opportunity to ensure that state of the art information on HNS pollution preparedness and response is available to support the operational and cooperation needs of authorities in the Baltic Sea region.

The HELCOM Response Working Group, which consists of the competent pollution response authorities of all the Baltic Sea countries, supported the development of the HNS Response Manual. The Manual was eventually adopted by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 42-2021) in March 2021, replacing the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2.

The commitment of HELCOM Contracting Parties to make use of the Multi Regional Marine HNS Response Manual is strengthened by the fact that proposals are currently being considered for the inclusion of actions in the updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, to implement this Manual in operational response to spills involving hazardous or noxious substances as well as exercises. The updated Baltic Sea Action Plan is to be adopted by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in October 2021.

## A word from REMPEC



West MOPoCo gave the opportunity to capitalize REMPEC's achievements developed within its mandate for the benefit of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at the Multi-regional and international levels.

The project provided the resources to update REMPEC's tools and databases, namely the Marine HNS Manual, MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0 and MEDGIS MAR and Country Profiles. Concrete steps were initiated towards the setup of a common emergency communication system for the Mediterranean.

The findings of the seven OSR preparedness and planning assessments, the innovative approach through the establishment of national manual on mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and personnel in case of emergency, as well as the recommendations of the Study on Synergy between the three sub regional Agreements will provide useful references and guidance in the perspective of the post 2021 strategy 2022-2031.

## Update and Upgrade of MIDSIS TROCS 4.0

REMPEC's **Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System Transport of Chemical Substances MIDSIS TROCS** is a free and

publicly available tool that aims to facilitate decision making in case of Chemical spill. It provides a tool to first responders primarily for their safety and to take well informed decision, through access to decisions trees features with concise information and action sheets, as well as updated information on chemical characteristics and reactivity, GESAMP Profiles, shoreline and at sea response guides, and more.

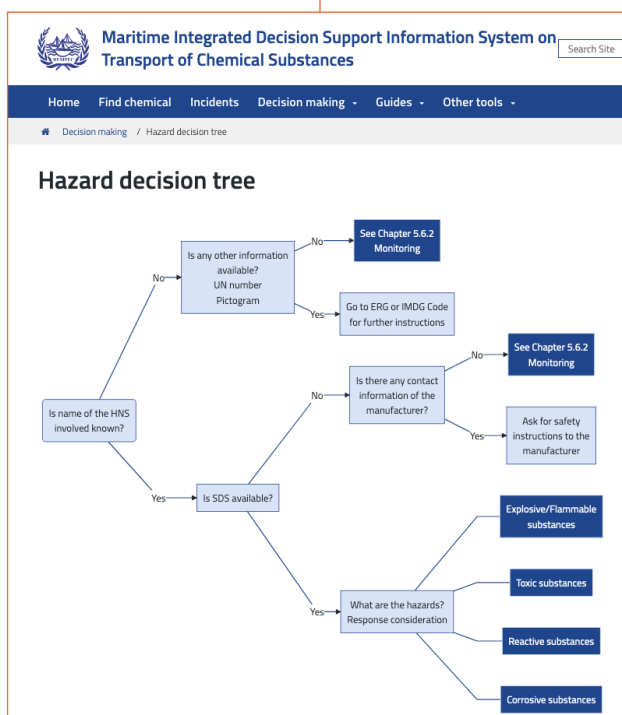
Under the West MOPoCo project, MIDSIS TROCS 3.0 was upgraded to 4.0, involving:

- The update of existing chemical substances databases and integration of those from other projects, for instance the HNS-MS project in cooperation with IMO, Cedre and the Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences.
- The update of the relevant emergency guides and accident database in cooperation with IMO, REMPEC and Transport Canada.
- The integration of the "Multi regional HNS Response Manual" in the upgraded decision support trees feature.
- The development of a stand-alone application of MIDSIS TROCS 4.0 both on workstations (laptop, computer) and mobile phones, tablet (App).

## Mise à jour et amélioration de MIDSIS TROCS 4.0

Le **système régional intégré d'aide à la décision sur le transport de substances chimiques MIDSIS TROCS** du REMPEC est un outil libre d'accès qui

vise à faciliter la prise de décision en cas de déversement de substances chimiques. Il aborde en premier lieu la sécurité des premiers intervenants et leur permet de prendre des décisions informées, grâce à des arbres décisionnels contenant des informations concises et des fiches d'action, ainsi que des informations actualisées sur les caractéristiques et la réactivité des produits chimiques, les profils GESAMP, les guides d'intervention à terre et en mer, etc.



Dans le cadre du projet West MOPoCo, le développement de l'outil a été poursuivi vers la version MIDSIS TROCS 4.0, au travers de :

- La mise à jour des bases de données sur les produits chimiques et l'intégration de celles provenant d'autres projets, comme le projet HNS-MS en collaboration avec l'OMI, le Cedre, l'Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique.
- La mise à jour des guides d'intervention et base de données accidentologiques en coopération avec l'OMI, le REMPEC et Transport Canada.
- L'intégration du « Manuel Multi régional d'intervention HNS » dans la fonctionnalité améliorée des arbres de décision.
- Le développement d'une application MIDSIS TROCS 4.0 sous forme d'application accessible tant sur les postes de travail (ordinateurs) que sur les téléphones mobiles et tablettes.

You may access MIDSIS TROCS 4.0 and download the stand-alone application on [REMPEC's website](#)

## THE ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS TO OIL SPILLS

The seven Beneficiary countries of the West MOPoCo project, Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, carried out a self-assessment of their National Oil Spill Response (OSR) preparedness programmes during a series of national workshops using the RETOS™ tool and its accompanying Manual.

The outcome of the assessment process is a Global Performance Analysis (GPA) including an Overall Global Assessment Score. **These seven assessments revealed heterogeneous levels of preparation and planning across the sub-region.** Participants identified very different gaps, highlighting the national specificities of spill response programmes across the Western Mediterranean.

Based on the gap analysis, relevant administrations developed in detail, either during the assessment workshop or through follow-up activities, their respective Global improvement Programme, tailored to the country's needs and system.

## L'ÉVALUATION DES PLANS D'URGENCE NATIONAUX ET DÉVELOPPEMENT DES PLANS D'URGENCE NATIONAUX

*Les sept pays partenaires du projet West MOPoCo : l'Algérie, l'Espagne, la France, l'Italie, Malte, le Maroc et la Tunisie ont procédé à l'auto-évaluation de leur programme national de préparation et de lutte contre les déversements d'hydrocarbures au cours d'une série d'ateliers nationaux à l'aide de l'outil d'évaluation RETOS™ et de son manuel.*



*French workshop on the ORSEC Maritime plan for the Mediterranean, CEDRE, Brest, October 2019.*



*National evaluation workshop in Morocco, organised by the Department of Environment and facilitated by ITOPF, Rabat, January 2020.*

*Le processus d'évaluation aboutit à une analyse de performance globale et un score total. **Les sept ateliers d'évaluation ont révélé des scores et des niveaux de préparation hétérogènes dans la sous-région.** Les participants ont identifié des lacunes très différentes dans leur système, mettant en lumière les*

*spécificités nationales des programmes de lutte antipollution en Méditerranée occidentale.*

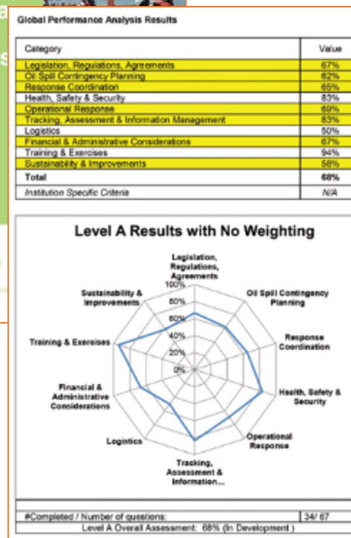
*Sur la base de cette première analyse, les services concernés ont pu développer en détail leur programme d'amélioration globale répondant aux besoins et caractéristiques propres de chaque pays, au cours de l'atelier ou lors d'activités complémentaires.*

1 regional and 1 national trainings,  
10 national, multi-administration workshops,  
Over 200 participants

## Technical Assistance provided by the project

Before organizing their national workshops, West MOPoCo participants were trained on the use of the RETOST™ tool and its accompanying Manual during a Sub-regional Workshop organized by REMPEC in Malta, 24-26 April 2019. **Its use within the West MOPoCo project has shown that the tool could be adjusted to better take into consideration national specificities, but overall generates useful insights for national OSR planning and preparedness.**

National authorities were supported in the process by West MOPoCo expert institutions: CEDRE facilitated the meeting in France, ISPRA in Italy, and ITOPF provided technical assistance to Algeria, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia to organise the workshop, conduct the assessment and detail their improvement programme.

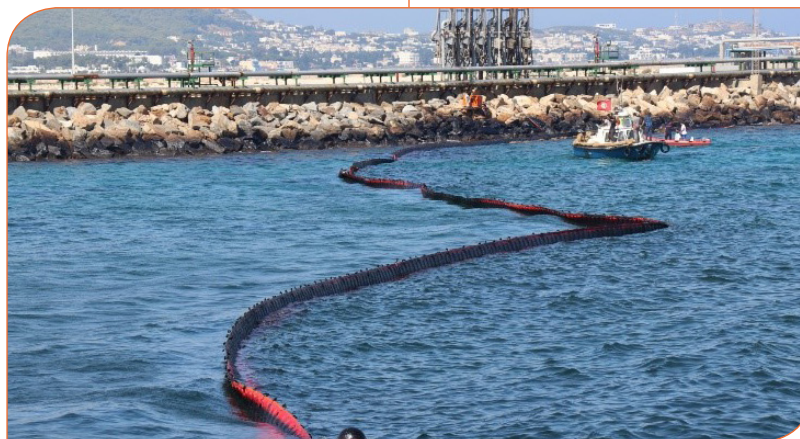


The different scopes of the RETOST™ and Manual V2.1, including facilities, industry-corporate and country local/national programmes, are available in several languages on [ARPEL's website](#)

## Assistance technique fournie par le projet

Les membres de West MOPoCo ont été formés à l'utilisation de l'outil RETOST™ et de son Manuel au cours d'un premier atelier sous-régional organisé par le REMPEC à Malte, les 24-26 avril 2019. **Si des ajustements peuvent y être apporté pour une meilleure adéquation avec les contextes nationaux, son utilisation dans le cadre de West MOPoCo a montré que l'outil RETOST™ apporte des éléments utiles pour la planification et la préparation à la lutte au niveau national.**

Les autorités nationales ont bénéficié du soutien technique des experts West MOPoCo : le CEDRE a facilité l'atelier en France, l'ISPRA en Italie, et l'ITOPF a fourni de l'assistance technique à l'Algérie, à Malte, au Maroc et à la Tunisie pour l'organisation de l'atelier, l'évaluation et le développement de leur programme d'amélioration.



Fighting marine pollution in the harbour of Bizerte. © NEPA.



## A word from ITOPF

ITOPF joined the West MOPoCo Project in the context of our general support to REMPEC and the wider Mediterranean region. We particularly appreciated the opportunity it gave us to exchange with and assist countries from the western Mediterranean basin. The series of RETOS™ workshops and the exchange with governmental agencies it led to was both rewarding and fruitful. We also pride ourselves for having been part of the global effort to update and collate the inter-regional HNS Manual in collaboration and for the benefit of REMPEC, HELCOM and the Bonn Agreement.



## A word from the Commissariat National du Littoral – Algeria

The CNL is associated to the Tel Bahr mechanism, created in 1994 and responsible for preparedness and monitoring of marine pollution response in Algeria. The RETOS™ workshop, with the support of ITOPF, brought together the four sub-committees of the mechanism and highlighted the strong points of the Tel Bahr National Plan. Detailing the improvement programme generated a work dynamic for the sub-committees with a better knowledge of the plan and its gaps.



المحافظة الوطنية للساحل  
COMMISSARIAT NATIONAL DU LITTORAL

## A word from the Dirección General de la Marina Mercante – Spain

Spain supported the West MOPoCo project during its almost two years of duration and was able to contribute to all the planned activities, and to promote the project in a number of meetings with different main maritime agents and sector representatives. Following the training on the use of the RETOS™ tool, DGMM conducted an initial evaluation of the Spanish National Contingency Plan “Plan Marítimo Nacional”, in December 2019, in order to assess the capabilities of our national contingency plans to cope with maritime pollution incidents caused by either Oil or HNS. The results of this first assessment were reviewed and refined in a national workshop, on October 6-8, 2020, which gathered a high number of participants from the different maritime and civil protection authorities, as well as most of the different stakeholders involved in marine pollution incidents. A programme of actions was developed and specific working groups established, to ensure improvements on all matters in which gaps were detected.

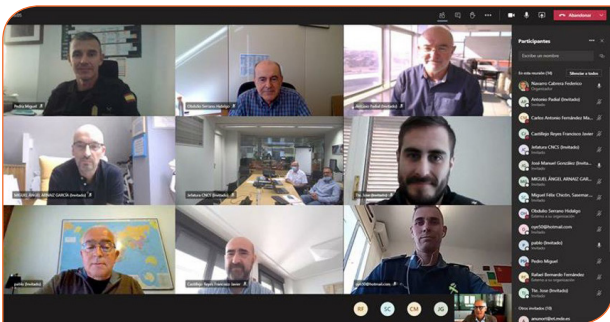




Self-assessment workshop organised by NEPA with the technical assistance from ITOPF, Tunis, February 2020.



National evaluation workshop in Algeria, organised by CNL and facilitated by ITOPF, Algiers, March 2020.



Spain National Workshop on the National Contingency Plan organised by DGMM, October 2020.



National Workshop on the National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan Improvement Programme, organised by Transport Malta, St. Julian's Malta, December 2020.

## A word from Transport Malta



As part of the Project deliverables, Malta organised a structured workshop to assess the National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan. In line with the recommendations that came out from this workshop, Malta had to kick-start and complete a process to issue new regulations to adopt the National Contingency Plan and develop the necessary legal framework to implement such plan, Furthermore, the new regulations transposed an important International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation. This is another important step as part of our ongoing commitment to enhance Malta's capabilities to respond to an Oil/HNS pollution incident.

## A word from the National Environment Protection Agency - Tunisia



The ANPE has actively participated in the development and implementation of the tools, which complement each other. The RETOSTM tool and its Manual helped Tunisia self-assess its level of OSR preparedness, and to pursue the analysis to the sectoral plans of offshore platforms, ports and other infrastructures. Participating in the West MOPoCo project allowed us to build new inter-personal and institutional relations, opening the way to new projects and long-lasting cooperation to protect the Western Mediterranean and its shore from all sources of pollution.



## STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

## LE RENFORCEMENT DES PROCEDURES D'URGENCE



Multilateral Agreements on Sub-regional Contingency Plans in the West Mediterranean.

Building synergies between the three sub-regional contingency agreements and plans

Three Sub-regional agreements and contingency plans exist in the Western Mediterranean, the RAMOGE agreement between France, Italy and Monaco (1976) and its relevant response plan RAMOGEPOL (1993), the Lion Plan between France and Spain (2002) and the Agreement on a Sub-regional emergency plan between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia (AMT) (2005).

Construire des synergies entre les trois accords et plans sous-régionaux

Trois accords sous-régionaux et plans d'urgence sont en place en Méditerranée occidentale, l'Accord RAMOGE entre la France, l'Italie et Monaco (1976) et son plan d'intervention RAMOGEPOL (1993), le Lion Plan entre la France et l'Espagne (2002) et le plan d'urgence sous-régional entre l'Algérie, le Maroc et la Tunisie pour la préparation à la lutte et la lutte



Accord RAMOGE. © Marine Nationale.

These three arrangements are currently implemented in relative isolation from each other. Under the West MOPoCo project, a feasibility study was conducted to identify potential synergies between them, covering the legal requirements, institutional arrangements and operational procedures that could strengthen cooperation and interaction among the Western Mediterranean countries.

The 18 recommendations of this Feasibility Study on Synergies between the Three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans in the West Mediterranean were presented and discussed during MEDEXPOL 2020, and may apply to other parts of the Mediterranean. Some of its recommendations are taken up by the RAMOGE Agreement where observers from the Lion Plan and AMT were invited to the RAMOGEPOL exercise 2021 organised by the French *Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée*.

## National Manuals for the mobilisation of equipment and expertise in case of emergency

The West MOPoCo partners developed a common template to support the project Beneficiary countries in the completion of manuals on national mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and experts in case of emergency, and facilitate the update of related databases or inventories.

These living documents allowed to coordinate and gather detailed information from different national sources and supported Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in complying with their reporting requirements and update REMPEC's Country Profile and the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical In-

*contre la pollution marine accidentelle dans la zone de la Méditerranée du sud-ouest (2005).*

*Ces trois conventions sont actuellement mises en œuvre de façon relativement isolée les unes par rapport aux autres. Une étude de faisabilité a été réalisée dans le cadre de West MOPoCo sur la mise en place de synergies entre ces trois accords, identifiant les exigences juridiques, les arrangements institutionnels et les procédures opérationnelles susceptibles de renforcer la coopération et l'interaction entre les pays de la Méditerranée occidentale.*

*Les 18 recommandations de cette étude de faisabilité sur la mise en place de synergies entre les trois accords et plans sous-régionaux en Méditerranée occidentale ont été présentées lors de MEDEXPOL 2020, et peuvent s'étendre à d'autres régions de la Méditerranée. Certaines ont déjà été mises en œuvre dans le cadre de l'Accord RAMOGE, au travers de l'invitation d'observateurs du Lion Plan et de l'Accord AMT à l'exercice RAMOGEPOL 2021 organisé par la Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée.*

## Manuels nationaux pour la mobilisation d'équipement et d'expertise en cas d'urgence

*L'équipe du projet West MOPoCo a développé un modèle commun qui a servi de base à l'élaboration, par les pays bénéficiaires du projet, de manuels décrivant les mécanismes nationaux de mobilisation d'équipements d'intervention et d'experts en cas d'urgence, et facilité la mise à jour des bases de données et inventaires correspondants.*

*Cette activité a appuyé un important effort de coordination et de compilation d'informations détaillées provenant de différentes sources nationales dans chaque pays, et a permis aux pays West MOPoCo, en tant que membres de la Convention de Barcelone, de se*



*Grounding of the Rhodanus in Corsica, October 2019.  
© Marine Nationale.*



formation System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR).

The result of this activity are 7 national Manuals, providing an overview of the availability of response equipment and experts at the national and sub-regional level, either within their own capabilities or through multilateral cooperation agreements and contracts with private entities. It also identified a number of gaps and areas of improvement at the national and sub-regional levels.

*conformer à leurs obligations de déclaration et de mettre à jour le profil des pays REMPEC et le système d'information géographique intégré méditerranéen pour l'évaluation du risque et la lutte contre la pollution marine (MEDGIS-MAR).*

*Ces travaux ont abouti à 7 Manuels nationaux, donnant un état des lieux précis de la disponibilité des équipements d'intervention et des experts aux niveaux national et sous-régional, soit en capacité propre des états, soit via des accords multilatéraux ou contrats avec des sociétés privées. Développer ces manuels a également permis d'identifier un certain nombre de lacunes et de pistes d'amélioration aux niveaux des pays et de la sous-région.*

### A word from Morocco – Department of Environment

Participation in the West MOPoCo project was an opportunity for Morocco to prepare an effective response to accidental spills, particularly to evaluate the National Contingency Programme (NCP) and identify areas for improvement in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. Following the organisation of a training course in Morocco on the use of the RETOS tool and the training of a dozen qualified people, this tool was used to evaluate the NCP and adopted to ensure its regular monitoring and evaluation. Morocco also had the opportunity to carry out a preliminary activity for the development of the manual on the national mechanisms for the mobilization of equipment and expertise in case of emergency. This activity concerned the establishment and formalisation of these mechanisms, which will help strengthen emergency procedures and sub-regional cooperation.

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MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉNERGIE, DES MINES ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
DÉPARTEMENT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

# TOWARDS A COMMON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

# VERS UN SYSTÈME COMMUN DE COMMUNICATION D'URGENCE EN MÉDITERRANÉE

Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention can encounter difficulties during real incidents and exercises, arising from the absence of connection between the two communication systems operating in the region. These are the SafeSeaNet (SSN)/CECIS Marine Pollution (MP) applications provided by the European Union, and the emergency communication procedure, set-up in the framework of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea.

To address this critical issue and ensure a well-coordinated and prompt response to marine pollution REMPEC and DG ECHO have taken steps within the West MOPoCo project towards the setting up of a Common Emergency Communication system in the Mediterranean region.

REMPEC and DG ECHO co-organised a regional Workshop in October 2019 at DG ECHO's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in Brussels to discuss and explore the set-up of a common emergency communication system for the whole Mediterranean and provide a training session on CECIS Marine Pollution, followed by a visit of the ERCC. This



Visit of the ERCC, DG ECHO, Brussels, October 2019

*Les Parties à la Convention de Barcelone peuvent faire face à des difficultés de communication au cours d'incidents et d'exercices réels, découlant en particulier de la non coordination entre les deux systèmes de communication utilisés en Méditerranée : les ap-*

*plications SafeSeaNet (SSN) et CECIS Marine Pollution (MP) fournies par l'Union européenne, d'une part, et la procédure de communication d'urgence instaurée dans le cadre du Protocole de 2002 «prévention et situations critiques» en Méditerranée d'autre part.*

*Pour résoudre ce problème et assurer une réponse rapide et coordonnée aux incidents de pollution en milieu marin, le REMPEC et la DG ECHO ont travaillé dans le cadre du projet West MOPoCo en vue d'établir un système unique de communication d'urgence en Méditerranée.*

*Le REMPEC et la DG ECHO ont organisé en octobre 2019, au Centre de coordination de la réaction d'urgence (ERCC) à Bruxelles, un atelier régional sur les modalités de mise en place d'un système commun de communication d'urgence pour l'ensemble de la Méditerranée, suivi d'une formation au CECIS Marine Pollution pour les pays méditerranéens et d'une visite de l'ERCC.*



workshop was completed by a Survey among the Mediterranean coastal States in June 2020.

REMPEC presented a detailed analysis of the Survey to the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention during MEDEXPOL 2020 (October 2020, online), and the meeting agreed on the need to move on concrete steps to set up a Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean. REMPEC and DG ECHO prepared jointly a concept note to provide an operational solution at the level of the Request or Offer of Assistance.

*Cet atelier a été complété par une enquête auprès des pays riverains de la Méditerranée en juin 2020.*

*Le REMPEC a présenté une analyse détaillée des résultats de cette enquête aux parties à la convention de Barcelone durant l'atelier régional MEDEXPOL en octobre 2020, et la réunion a convenu de la nécessité de prendre des mesures concrètes pour mettre en place un système commun de communication d'urgence pour la Méditerranée. Le REMPEC et la DG ECHO ont préparé conjointement une note de concept pour fournir une solution opérationnelle pour les demandes ou offres d'assistance.*

### A word from ISPRA – Italy

Cooperating with partners on the different actions of the West MOPoCo Project, ISPRA's researchers and technicians have worked on the study and improvement of the Italian Oil Spill Response system with competent national authorities, and contributed to the development of tools such as the HNS interregional Manual, the national manual on mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and personnel in case of emergency and the "Country Profile". For ISPRA's team, attending the project meetings and participating in the various action of the Project has been a valuable opportunity to exchange views and experiences in a very collaborative and professional environment and to highlight the needs for improving the national response systems towards a better harmonization throughout the coastal states of the three Regions.



**ISPRA**

all the project results are available on the project website:  
[www.westmopoco.rempec.org](http://www.westmopoco.rempec.org)





# Mediterranean Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation



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For more information, visit the project website:  
<https://www.westmopoco.rempec.org>

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