

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



I would like to express my gratitude to all who have taken part in our activities and who have made 2019 a useful year full of concrete achievements. This year has again been marked by events at sea, in the Mediterranean and elsewhere, which remind us of the relevance and importance of our common efforts to improve marine pollution preparedness and response, within the West MOPoCo project and every day in the field. Tackling environmental issues can no longer be considered as a mere option. The year 2020 is the year when we are able to share the results of the project and I hope that new initiatives will take them up, so that the progress we have made together will contribute in the long term to the protection of the marine environment.

Rear-Admiral Jean-François Quérat, Deputy Secretary General for the Sea

WORKSHOP ON A COMMON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

22-23 October 2019 – Brussels, Belgium

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), in collaboration with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), co-organised a regional Workshop to discuss and explore [the set-up of a common emergency communication system for the whole Mediterranean](#). The workshop was attended by 21 representatives of the competent authorities responsible for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution from 12 Mediterranean countries, namely Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Israel, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. REMPEC introduced the participants to the existing Emergency Communication Procedure in the Mediterranean and DG ECHO provided a training session on [CECIS Marine Pollution](#), followed by a [visit of its Emergency Response Coordination Centre \(ERCC\)](#).

Participants concluded the event by [recommending the use of CECIS Marine Pollution in principle](#) and by tasking experts within the West MOPoCo project and the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), in coordination with national competent authorities, to prepare a detailed analysis for its consideration by the 14th Focal Points Meeting of REMPEC in 2021.



Visit of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), DG ECHO, Brussels

COMING NEXT IN 2020

NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

The [common template for the Manuals on the national mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and experts in case of emergency](#) has been finalised by the West MOPoCo technical team (Cedre, ISPRA, ITOPF Ltd and REMPEC) and is ready to be completed by each Beneficiary country, with support from the project. These manuals will provide a picture of the availability and means of mobilisation of response equipment and experts from the available national capacities and stockpiles, as well as through bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements, allowing a faster response to marine pollution events.

FIRST NATIONAL SELF-ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS USING RETOS™

October 2019, Malta, France & Italy

The first national self-assessment workshops on oil spill response planning and preparedness took place throughout October 2019 in Malta, France and Italy, using the Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™). All three workshops gathered representatives from relevant national institutions involved in oil spill response, with technical assistance provided by the project. Transport Malta conducted the self-assessment of the [Maltese National Contingency Plan](#) with the support of ITOPF Ltd. In France, Cedre organized with SGMer an evaluation workshop of the marine pollution component of the ["dispositif ORSEC maritime Méditerranée"](#) and ISPRA led the assessment of the [two current Italian contingency plans](#). The Global Performance Analyses generated by the RETOS™ tool showed a high quality of the plans and allowed to identify several remaining gaps. These analyses will serve as a basis for further project activities to help define national improvement programmes.



RETOS self-assessment workshop in Brest, France

Remaining national self-assessments will take place in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Spain in the first semester of 2020, leading to the first harmonised assessment of the level of preparedness to oil spills in the Western Mediterranean and further recommendations for improvement at the subregional level.

SAVE THE DATE

**West MOPoCo Restitution Workshop
27-29 OCTOBER 2020 - MONACO**

WORK ON THE JOINT INTER-REGIONAL HNS MANUAL CONTINUES

The development of the Inter-regional HNS manual continues and the drafting team, CEDRE, ISPRA and ITOPF Ltd will present its [first draft to Baltic sea members of the HELCOM Response Working Group](#) during its meeting in Vejle, Denmark, on February 26th – 27th 2020. The document will also be circulated for contributions to OTSOPA Working Group in the Greater North Sea and its approaches (Bonn Agreement) and to REMPEC correspondents in the Mediterranean to ensure the Manual benefits from the experience of practitioners in all three regions.

Contact point:

Secrétariat général de la mer
Mathilde Kraft
Tel: +33 (0) 1 42 75 66 61
sgmer@pm.gouv.fr

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

www.westmopoco.rempec.org