

PRIMARY RESULTS OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FP6 PROJECT ON MARINE POLLUTION AND SMES- (MAPO)

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Abstract

World and particularly Europe are concerned with marine pollution which result in instant and long term damages to coastal and marine ecosystems. Various disasters have prove that the current means of struggle were inefficient. Every year around 3000 cases of illegal hydrocarbon dumping are detected in European waters. The amount of hydrocarbons received by European seas has been estimated at 109.000 tons/year. In addition, alien species migration, NO_x and SO_x emissions, biocides and ship building/repairing/scraping activities, land based activities and run off from land are major sources of marine pollution. It is thus increasingly urgent to develop new solutions of fight by combining actors' skills from the maritime field. Struggling against marine pollution is deemed a priority in FP6 and in FP7. Enhancing Research and Development Projects to find Solutions to Struggle against various Marine Pollutions (MAPO) consortium gathers partners experienced in information and assistance to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) with in European Frame Work Programmes , environmental risk and marine pollutions (Researchers and technical consultants). MAPO partners come from 10 European countries (Lithuania, Spain, Germany, UK, France, Italy, Belgium, Turkey, Ukraine and Iceland); which enables to cover all European seas, thus improving dissemination throughout Europe, in order to reduce inequalities among maritime regions.

Keywords : *Pesticides, Petroleum, Pollution, Organic Matter, Sewage Pollution.*

Introduction

Worldwide seas and oceans are under treat. It is necessary to develop innovative and efficient means for early prevention, detection, warning and treatment of all types of marine pollution at a European scale. Regarding to the first calls of FP6, projects developed in "Global Change and Ecosystems" programme only 9.7% SMEs is counted. So as to reply this urgent need, the MAPO initiative will provide help and assistance to "Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)" in view of their participation in current technological partnerships and in future European RTD projects. The support action is proposed by the MAPO Consortium aims at assisting European SMEs; to become integrated in ongoing Integrated Projects/Networks of Excellence (IP/NoE) and/or to build new technological partnerships and to participate in European Research and Technical Development (RTD) projects focusing on detection, treatment, warning and prevention of all types of marine pollution.



Fig. 1. The Map of the MAPO Consortium

Methodology

The duration of the MAPO project is two years. The project began on 1 September 2005. The MAPO Consortium has defined an ambitious set of objectives and implements its strategy by using targeted measures and innovative tools. MAPO project is structured into 5 workpackages. First workpackage deals with the management of the project while others dedicated to the technical aspects of the project. Two committees will compose the project management. The MAPO project is dedicated to strengthening SME capacities for technology strategy development through their integration into current IP/NoE and the preparation of the last calls for proposals of FP6 and first calls of FP7. This goal is supported by identification of best practices and trans-national experts meetings, training measures dedicated to SMEs. The MAPO project helps SMEs to gather the right partners for successful RTD co-operation and technological collaboration. This goal is supported by the following measures; European map of SMEs, large audience events, use of internet and on-line resources.

The final aim is to find SMEs replying to requests of 20-30 Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence within the FP6 and to build about 30 new Consortia intending to submit a European research proposal on a topic related to marine pollutions. To foster network, while identifying and training the most skilled European SMEs and isolating needs from relevant IP/NoE, MAPO consortium will analyse and share latest information on scientific and technological developments in the field of marine pollutions, and then gather RTD needs in this field. Identified SMEs will be encouraged to reply to new developments by participating in ongoing IP/NoE and/or in emerging and future European RTD projects.

Primary Results

The rate of the leaflet translated in the language of MAPO consortium influence area is 82%. 13 documents have been created by partners. 33 articles related to MAPO have been published by partners. Each partner has to organise of training meetings for first match-making and awareness to FP6 and FP7 (Total 26 events). During the first year only two meetings have been organised. MAPO efforts within the initiative supporting recent FP6 calls should be considered as unsuccessful. MAPO initiative resulted in 20 contacted IP/NoE/STREP projects, among them; 10 project coordinators did not need any additional SMEs for project consortia, 3 projects were not quite relevant to marine pollution field, 5 project coordinators were aimed to apply to the new calls but they did not need MAPO help in search for SMEs and finally 2 projects were received MAPO assistance. At the first year of the project 980 SMEs have been contacted and 378 of them were identified. In additionally, 604 large companies and research centers which were related to marine pollution have been identified all along the European countries. 4 new project proposal for FP7 first calls were published on MAPO web site. The web site of the MAPO project is <http://www.marine-pollutions.org>

Conclusion

In general, people tend to focus on the direct consequences of marine pollution but the actual effect of marine pollution can go further this. It does not only jeopardize the environment but also have important effects on the country's economy and on the quality of life of its inhabitants. The MAPO project take into account all the various implications of marine pollution. Thus, it will enable the mobilization of European SMEs's skills and capacity to innovate and to play a key role in the protection of the marine environment.

Reference

Anonymous, 2005. Enhancing Research and Development Projects to find Solutions to Struggle Against Various Marine Pollutions (MAPO) FP6-SSA . Annex I-Description of Work. 101 p.