



Interlink

International Cooperation in Environment

MAPO - Enhancing Research and Development Projects to find Solutions to Struggle against various Marine Pollutions

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| Geographic area: | Europe, Eastern Europe |
| Period: | 2005 – 24 months |
| Environmental issues addressed: | Marine pollution |
| FP7 R&D Axis: | Programmes that correspond to the thematic field under FP7 are: FP7 > COOPERATION > Environment (including climate change) > Environmental research ; FP7 > COOPERATION > Environment (including climate change) > International cooperation |
| Website: | http://www.marine-pollutions.org/ : http://www.marine-pollutions.org/ |
| Cooperating countries: | France, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Belgium, Italy, Iceland, Germany, Lithuania, Spain, Turkey |

Partners:

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| Technopôle Brest-Iroise (Coordinator) | Research organization | France |
| HLP Développement | SME | France |
| France Europe Innovation | SME | France |
| CLIFF FUNNELL ASSOCIATES | SME | United Kingdom |
| Ecotechnika | SME | Ukraine |
| The Alliance of Maritime Regional Interests in Europe | Institution | Belgium |
| INNOVA SpA | SME | Italy |
| The Icelandic Centre for Research | Research organization | Iceland |
| Büro für Umweltfragen | SME | Germany |
| SAFINAH Ltd | SME | United Kingdom |
| Vilnius Gediminas Technical University | Research organization | Lithuania |
| Oviedo University | Research organization | Spain |
| Ege University | Research organization | Turkey |



Abstract

MAPO (2005 – 2007) aimed at integrating SMEs into current and future RTD FP projects (FP6 and FP7) so as to set up technological partnerships. Most important activities carried out were:

- ✓ identification of best practices on integration of SMEs in research projects dealing with marine pollutions,
- ✓ European cartography of skills in the field of concern.

The main outcome of the project was the generation of R&D partnerships that led to the presentation of several R&D proposal in the marine sector.

Context and objectives

The idea to set up the MAPO project resulted from the fact that today, the world and particularly Europe are concerned with pollutions of marine environment, considering that these pollutions cause instant and long-term damages to coastal and marine habitats and ecosystems. Unfortunately, various recent disasters (e.g. in Alaska), without forgetting all other current sources of pollutions, have proved that the current means of struggle were inefficient. It is thus increasingly urgent to develop new solutions of fight by combining actors' skills from the maritime field. SMEs are the most numerous actors in this area but paradoxically the less solicited in EC research projects focused on environmental topics. That is why SMEs as project partners as well as further SMEs were approached during the project period in order to involve them in research projects and initiate technological partnerships. Additionally, also large companies, laboratories and universities were involved in the project activities.

We needed to extend the focus of our targets in order to get enough Marine technology R&D companies involved

The most difficult aspect encountered in the project was intrinsic to the structure of the industrial sector addressed. Companies related to marine technology are numerous in Europe but few of them address problems related to marine pollution. Furthermore, those performing R&D are existing only in a small number and it was difficult to attract their interest in getting involved in FP7 project. In this regard, the number of companies performing R&D and located in INCO countries was even smaller. The consortium attempted to overcome these difficulties through the enlargement of the companies' base, trying to address also sectors indirectly related to marine pollution.

Creation of the first database of SMEs skilled in Marine Pollution

In total, the MAPO partners identified 980 SMEs all over Europe, sent them information on the MAPO project and asked them to fill in the profile form. Out of the identified companies, 780 have been contacted. Additionally, 646 large companies, laboratories and universities were identified (not foreseen in the technical annex). Individual audit meetings were performed with those SMEs that seem to be especially well qualified for EU research projects focusing on marine pollution issues.