



MED

(2007 - 2013)

Priority-Objective 4-1

Axe 4: Promotion of a polycentric and integrated development of the Med space

Objective 4.1: Coordination of development policies and improvement of territorial governance

MedStrategy

(Ref : 2366 / 2G-MED09-282)

Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Rural Areas

Progress report #5

Submitted version

Period from 2011-09-01 to 2012-02-29

Intermunicipal Consortium “Tindari-Nebrodi”

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1. Project information

Name of the project	Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Rural Areas
Acronym	MedStrategy
Reference PRESAGE-CTE	2366
Internal number of management	2G-MED09-282
Name of the LP organization + country	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" ITALY
Project starting date	2010-02-01
Project ending date	2012-11-30
Administrative closure date	2013-01-30
Total eligible budget	1,091,055.00 €
Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	124,846.05 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	218,782.08 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	102,846.41 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	110,491.67 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	110,491.67 €

2. Reminder of project contents

Summary of the project's objectives

MedStrategy project aims to improve and address territorial governance of Med rural areas towards sustainability through an innovative integrated planning model (PM) comprising: integrated social, economic, environmental analysis; assessment of institutional framework and review of success governance modes; establishment of communities participation process; definition of 4 strategic pilot plan patterns and drawing up of 4 key interventions in the involved areas; transnational synergies in PMs' execution.

It experiments an innovative governance process through the setting up of a planning model that encourages the sustainable development of Med rural areas. The process focuses on 3 themes: the integration of economic, social, environmental dimensions of sustainability in planning; the development of integrated & shared strategies and actions through the cooperation of local authorities and the engagement of local communities (key actors, stakeholders) for the innovation of territorial governance; the setting up of common objectives & activities (preservation of cultural and natural heritage,

competitiveness of territorial system, social & gender equality, etc) for local and transnational synergies of rural areas.

The main lines of intervention are:

- Diagnosis of the involved territories: assessment of the 3 dimensions of sustainability (economic-social-environmental) through appropriate indicators, for identifying trends and conditions, root causes of problems.
- Diagnosis of the institutional framework: audit of local authorities governance systems for identifying weaknesses and strengths of the present institutional system; review of success governance modes and tools.
- Setting up of local forums that involve key actors and local stakeholders (citizens, local administrators and decision makers, opinion leaders, business sector operators, tourism providers, professional associations, environmental associations, civil society groups etc.) in order to elaborate and produce a common vision of future and shared “green economy” strategies.
- Setting up of planning model and drawing up of the Strategic Plans of the involved territories: SPs will be scheduled following strategic axes and objectives. For each strategic axis innovative and integrated actions will be pointed out. The technical and administrative tools, the financial sources/tools and the key actors requested for the implementation of each action will be defined as well as actions’ time schedule. For the monitoring and the evaluation of SPs, a model report will be defined. It consists in the performance indicators that should be monitored for verifying the implementation progress and the effectiveness of the used tools.
- Information and communication activities will aim to raise awareness on development planning and to encourage local cooperation and transnational networks to promote new governance models for Med area’s development.

Critical success factors

The project promotes an innovative territory management pattern which will be tested at a local level to which does not correspond a single institutional entity but which presents territorial and identity homogeneity. The model makes reference to a shared and integrated methodology facing problems which can have different solutions in the different territories connected to different needs and peculiarities.

The integrated approach contributes to the valorisation of local identity factors and to the endogenous and balanced development of rural areas, in order to provide new growth opportunities. In each partner country a Local Operative Plan (LOP) is tested.

Another critical factor of the project is the adoption of a “bottom up” approach, connected to the community active involvement in the planning process. The participation process encourages the establishment of synergies among the different local Governance levels, in order to warranty a simplification of the procedures to be adopted during the planning development, and to improve the efficiency and management abilities of the different administrative structures. The innovative approach, through the drawing up of an handbook, is a useful reference for other rural territorial contexts that have similar criticalities and potential.

How the project contributes to the objectives of the MED Programme

Consistently with the Objective 4.1, the project aims to draw up an innovative and shared planning tool (Strategic Plan) for supporting the sustainable development of Mediterranean rural areas. It consists in the construction of a model able to set up innovation procedures and tools, in terms of organization and management, the launching of strategies and objectives through the dialogue between local authorities and actors. The project encourages the cooperation between rural areas, since they face the same problems and they can find common solutions and create synergies at local and European level.

MedStrategy complies with the Priority Axis 4 as it supports the integrated development of Med space and it is clearly oriented towards the following topics:

- Sustainable development - the planning tool (Strategic Plan) is based on the integrated assessment of the three components of sustainability in order to ensure social and economic growth and environmental protection.
- Transnational cooperation - in order to ensure the achievement of common and shared objectives, to reduce marginalisation of rural areas, to strengthen their competitiveness and to support the cohesion of MED space.
- Innovation - in terms of innovative processes and tools for increasing knowledge as well as in terms of innovative modes of governance for strengthening capacity of local authorities.

3. General progress of the operation towards the set objectives

The first nine-months period of the project went from 1st June 2010 (official beginning of the project) to 28th February 2011 and, as described in the previous progress reports, was characterised at the beginning by the resolution of some of the bureaucratic problems concerning the project contractualisation processes which delayed the beginning of its activities. The first transnational meeting took place in July 2010 and its main aims were to define the structure of work to be implemented and to agree on operative details regarding financial aspects. Moreover, during the first three months (June-August 2010), partnership completed Component 0 (preparation of pre-application and application costs), realised Component 1 – Phase 1 (producing the Communication Plan), planned Component 1 - Phase 2 (Communication Campaigns), started Component 3 – Phase 1, i.e. the activities foreseen for the integrated territorial analysis. As regards C2 (Management component) LP provided the project partners with:

- an excel file model for facilitating the management and the reporting of the expenditures by the partners and for facilitating the expenditures' check and validation by the LP
- a word file model for the reporting of activities in order to evaluate the coherence of the expenditures with the activities carried out.

Before the validation of the expenditures the partners filled in the excel model and send it to LP in order to check it and provide them with its comments. Only when LP confirm to partners that expenditures are OK the partners transfer “new expenditures” to “expenditures in validation process” and then LP check them definitively and validate them.

This procedure permits partnership to avoid errors and to save time in reporting process.

During the second six-months period (September 2010 – February 2011) the MedStrategy partners mainly worked on Component 3 of the project. They also started to work on Component 4. Moreover activities of Communication (Component 1) and Management (Component 2) were obviously developed, as transversal parts of the project itself. The main activities developed during the 2nd six-months period were: the final definition of the executive boards of the project, i.e. Steering Committee and Expert Board; the second transnational meeting among the partners in Malta; the start of the integrated territorial analysis; the start of the analysis of institutional framework; the start of the participation process; the design and choice of the project logo and website; the implementation of some other communication activities foreseen within the Communication Plan; the set up of a monitoring system and the execution of the first monitoring activities concerning the project as foreseen by the working plan.

During the following period (March-August 2011) the main activities were: for Component 1 (Communication) project website homepage was defined, a third press conference realised, project leaflets in double language printed and other communication activities realised; for Component 2 (Management), further to the constant management of the project activities, a second progress report was produced, the third transnational meeting organised where the partners discussed about

matters concerning the management of the project, the communication tools, first results of analyses were presented and guidelines given for participation process; for Component 3 (Territories and institutions) a final draft on territorial context and institutional framework was presented by each region; for Component 4 (Participation and Strategic Common Vision) a first draft of the methodology to be applied was discussed by the partnership, a selection of case-studies was prepared and presented, the first lines for the construction of a transnational strategic common vision were discussed.

As regard the period included in this progress report (i.e. September 2011 – February 2012), the activities developed are detailed below.

COMPONENT 1 – During the last period, communication activities were mainly addressed to the involvement of local territories in the participation process and in disseminating the project to a wider public.

For participation process each regional coordinator involved local communities through mailing lists and/or preparatory meetings addressed to local actors, citizens and stakeholders. Posters were printed to advertise on project's activities, above all during the organisation of the forums of the participation process. Posters graphic design was made by Province of Teruel (in charge of the Phase) and is common to all the local versions. Leaflets of the project in double language (English and Spanish/Italian/Maltese/Greek) for local dissemination of the project were distributed in each region. This dissemination was done at a regional and local level: public authorities, policy developers, development agencies, research organizations, entrepreneurs and professional associations, private companies, etc.

A press conference was organised in Teruel during the fourth transnational meeting inviting local newspapers and television channels plus web media. Presentations were made in Italy and Spain during local non-project conferences related to local development through official participation of project's representatives.

With regards to the internet communication, partners increased their active participation to the project website, uploading their document on the project and disseminating their local activities also on the project's website.

Partnership finally agreed on the contents of the Component 1 – Phase 3. In particular:

- The objective of the Awareness Raising Seminars will be to introduce the target group to the project and collect adhesions for training courses and encouraging community involvement with special regard to institutional staff to participate to strategic planning process. The target will be different institutional level staff, leaders and actors. The contents will be: MedStrategy project objective and activities, Territorial Framework, Institutional framework, Success Case Studies, Participation Process Methodology.

- The objective of training courses will be to provide opportunities for learning and getting qualified experts and improving the involvement of local communities through training. The target will be local experts, decision makers and local authorities staff, also external to the project for teaching them how to manage Local Operative Plans. The contents will be: sustainable development planning, objectives, methods, best practices, quality of management, services and products

- The objective of the Observatories of Municipalities will be to involve other Municipalities than the ones included in the 'project' and highlighting the project results and expertise making these visible to the large public. The target will be local experts, decision makers and local authorities staff, also external to the project. The contents will be: information on MedStrategy development and its methodology , territorial diagnosis, institutional diagnosis, participation process results.

COMPONENT 2 - During the first two months of this reporting period, partnership prepared and submitted on time the progress report. Concerning the financial reporting, all partners, except PP6-Pembroke Council, filled in the expenditures reporting file created by the LP in order to facilitate the reporting process and included, if done, expenses on Presage system.

The fourth transnational meeting took place in Teruel (Spain) from 7th to 10th February 2012. During the meeting the partners discussed about matters concerning:

- the methodology to be applied for the Component 1 Phase 3, i.e. Conferences, workshops and training;
- the management of the project both from a financial and technical point of view (Component 2 Phase 1);
- the Financial Situation of the project and the problems raised with the reporting/certification of the expenditures;
- the request of budget change and of the extension of project duration and the proposals for the new application form;
- the extension of the monitoring system (C2-Ph3) through additional indicators and evaluation activities addressed to the participants to the participation process;
- the diagnostic report, final deliverable of the Component 3 Phase 3, comparing the territories' quality and the different governance systems;
- the implemented participation process (C4-Ph1): territorial involvement, level of participation, issues discussed, forums realised, case studies analysed, rules applied in the Forums, etc.;
- the report on success cases (C4-Ph2) including a synthesis of performances and goals achieved in the reference local realities, a comparative experiences analysis, the set of results evaluation indicators;
- the implemented European Awareness Scenario Workshops (EASW meetings): territorial involvement, level of participation, issues discussed, outputs (common vision and actions);
- the contents and use of the Thematic Areas proposed in the guidelines, i.e. Thematic area A - Innovation processes for local development, Thematic area B - Territorial cooperation and cohesion, Thematic area C - Integration of economic sectors, Thematic area D - Competitiveness and territorial marketing;
- the methodology to be applied for the Definition of the Local Pilot Operative Plans for the integrated development of rural areas (C5-Ph1) and the proposals on rules and procedures for an efficient implementation of the phase;
- the definition of the structure of the Local Action Plans;
- the lines to be applied and on how to develop the Component 5 phase 2, i.e. the Definition of the Transnational Local Development Methodology;
- the future working plan and components deadlines.

The meeting was also the occasion to meet the JTS representatives. The Lead Partner presented to the JTS representatives the main project activities and informed them that the activities are successfully implemented in all regions except Malta where due to administrative problems the activities are not developing. LP presented also the main problems met since the beginning of the project; these mainly regard problems in solving administrative obstacles for contracting experts, with particular regard to Malta which for this reason is in a strong delay with project activities, and the late certification procedure in particularly in Greece. LP also discussed with JTS representatives project budget changes and financial situation of the project. Moreover LP presented to JTS representatives the need of having a project's extension in order to realise some dissemination activities. JTS representatives also discussed with the partners about capitalization measures.

As regards Component 2 – Phase 3, an updated evaluation system was planned. The evaluation process regards the following points:

- a)□ effectiveness and efficiency of the project: technical consistency and coherence of the activities taking place within and between all phases;
- b)□ activities adherence to the project goals, budget and time frame;
- c)□ quality of management and partnership: efficiency of management system; consistence and quality of partners collaboration;
- d)□ achievement of project objectives: evaluation of the project on the basis of output and results indicators.

For point a some additional indicators and a questionnaire to be filled by the partners will be prepared and submitted to partners by the LP. For point b some additional indicators, a questionnaire to be filled by the participants to the participation process and a summary report to be realized by the LP partner will be prepared and submitted to partners. Finally, for point c and evaluation questionnaire to be filled by partners and a summary report to be produced by the LP will be prepared and submitted to partners. For point d the set of monitoring indicators, already included in previous monitoring report is the best tool.

COMPONENT 3 - During the reporting period, three of the regions (i.e. Spain, Sicily and Crete) completed and presented the final framework document on the criticalities of local territorial contexts. Also reports on the institutional frameworks were produced in the final version for the three regions. Only Maltese partner have to complete their work both regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Component.

A first comparison was made through the three SWOT matrix at disposal (Italy, Greece and Spain) by PP4, the partner in charge of the phase, using the common indicators and thematic areas previously agreed. A format was previously developed to facilitate the process of linkage between the Institutional and Territorial Analyses with the SWOT analysis. The format comprised thematic areas and specific indicators per thematic area.

The results about Territorial SWOT analysis mainly regard six thematic areas and 2-3 key indicators per thematic area:

- socio-demographic aspects
- settlement system
- system of environmental and historic-cultural resources
- economic and production aspects
- territorial services,
- environmental services

The results about Institutional SWOT analysis mainly regard four thematic areas on the capacity of Local Authorities to:

- cooperate with the different levels of government for the territorial management
- foster growth & innovation in a competent, efficient and effective way
- develop policies, programs and government actions for sustainable development
- promote a shared vision of sustainable development through participatory processes

The deliverable is therefore in progress but a final version can be produced only when also Maltese SWOT analysis will be produced.

COMPONENT 4 - Still suffered of some delay due to the late completion of the Component 3. The final draft lines to be followed for the establishment of the local participation processes were presented to the partnership by the partner in charge (P2) during the transnational meeting in Crete. Two regions started their participation process (Italy and Spain) and completed some of the forums foreseen. Greece also started the process through the involvement of local actors and citizens, while Pembroke Local Council has still to start the Participation Component.

In particular, as for Sicily, before the start up phase of the participation process the LP defined the selection criteria of the stakeholders to be involved in the participation activities, the rules and procedures for an efficient implementation of Forum activities.

Preliminary meetings were organised in order to better involve local territory. A meeting with local representatives was organised on 20th of April 2011. It was aimed at identifying the intervention area of the project. At the end of the meeting it was decided to work in the “tourist sector”. Three other preliminary meetings were held with local stakeholders on 21th, 27th

and 28th October 2011. These preliminary meetings with the local communities were aimed at promoting greater involvement of stakeholders in the participation activities. As for the official Forums, three of the foreseen six meetings were held. The meetings have been managed according to consolidated facilitation techniques (EASW methodology) and have been developed through “Plenary sessions” and “Group sessions”. Around 60 people attended all the meetings, including entrepreneurs who mainly operate in the tourist sector (owners of Hotels, B&B, residences, farms and restaurants), members of cultural and environmental associations, and employees of the offices for the tourism promotion, politicians, administrators, experts and technicians (engineers, agronomists, architects, economists, etc. ..) etc.

As for Spain, 67 people have participated in forum activities. The topic selected was: “Re-introduction of ranching activities - ovine and/or goats - in villages of Teruel where this activity has been important in the past but has now disappeared. Some preliminary meetings were organised for the identification of stakeholders related to the topic from a wide variety of points of view but also for organizational purposes in order to introduce to the methodology for the Forum, detailed definition of themes to be developed, materials to be used, detailed working plan and timetable, logistics. An agreement was also signed with Comarca Comunidad de Teruel as long as there were several municipalities interested in the experience of re-introduction of ranching activities oriented to create economic activity and ensure survival of severely depopulated villages.

The other meetings (five in total) followed the methodology foreseen in the guidelines both for working documents prepared and final output produced.

During the first meeting in Perales de Alfambra, participants were explained the MED frame for the participation process, knew materials previously elaborated in medstrategy, the objectives of the participation process and the rules for the forums. Second meeting was addressed to build a shared common vision. As the output was the vision of each role group, it was remarked that, surprisingly, the four groups provided quite similar visions however they were different typologies of groups according to professional profiles.

The aim of the third meeting was the identification of the strategic lines in each theme. Participants were divided into 4 thematic groups in such a way that each participant was allocated to the group where he/she could be more useful for. During the fourth meeting participants elaborated the Local Pilot Operative Plan. Finally on the fifth meeting, plenary session, key interventions were defined attributing a priority level.

The last meeting, for the approval of LPOP and key interventions will be celebrated in May/June.

In Greece the participation process started on 19th November 2011 and just the first meeting with stakeholders and actors was realised: the selected topic is agricultural development. Greek partners in charge finally selected the experts through a long and complicated public call procedure: these experts will take care and coordinate the meetings which will be held in the next weeks.

With regard to C4-Ph2, the report on success cases was produced. The report includes: a synthesis of performances and goals achieved in the reference local realities, comparative experiences analysis, a set of results evaluation indicators.

Case studies could be rules, procedures, methodologies or comprehensive experiences. They were supposed to be new governance experiences undergone by authorities/institutions networks or local communities dealing with social, economic and environmental issues in the sustainability perspective. Activities or plans by law ascribed to local authorities were not case studies, as long as these are considered the logical development of a law. Nor programmes or actions that simply are the enforcement of a law, though they could be interesting good practices. One key concept was the fact that it is governance aspects of cases selected what makes the difference between a good practice and a case study in this context.

According to previous key, Expert Board finally reported, in the first part of the report, five cases:

- “Rural multiservice network formula” (Aragon, Spain)
- “Val di Cornia: a new experience of cultural and touristic services” (Tuscany, Italy)

- “Reggio Nord: a governance experience of public services” (Emilia Romagna, Italy)
- “Increasing public participation and governance through access to information” (Malta)
- “Energy Savings and behavioural change of the citizens” (Amaroussion, Greece)

These final case studies were selected from the previous set of 12 as the rest of them was, in synthesis, the natural evolution of laws so coming from traditional governance ‘attitude’. The final choice was then made considering real cases of new governance models, not just success cases of governance rural territories.

The second part of the report regards the comparative analysis. Main points of this part are:

- Relevant results have been achieved through the cooperation of local authorities and the engagement of local communities.
- Presence of a high level of cooperation, involvement of the different political levels in the territory and coordinated use of resources.
- Increase of efficiency at determinate fields as direct consequence of the intervention.
- Participation is a core element in all cases reported.
- A notable effort of approximation on the part of all groups and institutions involved can be seen in cases selected.
- Social co-responsibility of all agents involved in the experiences.
- Integrated and sustainable development has been brought forward through the implementation of all cases shown.
- All cases reported show- in different fields- difficulties faced and solutions adopted.
- Cases reported show the remarkable role of “the local” as the space where the application of all policies transversal to a given topic meet.
- Importance of the appropriate choice of a suitable organisational model to carry out any intervention.
- Specific solutions tailored to specific problems at local level but with a potential for transfer to other contexts.
- Not only experiences reported are transferable, but also the methods of cooperation used independently of topic
- The implementation of actions reported caused changes in a diversity of target groups` ways of thinking and behaviour as well as changes in institutions attitudes.
- All case studies reported represent innovative experiences in the contexts where they were implemented.
- Governance issues- except for one case already explained- are the core element in all cases.
- All cases show efforts on the part of different groups in order to promote change oriented to improvement.

Last part of the report regards the evaluation indicators, divided between absolute indicators and relative indicators.

The chosen indicators were:

- new jobs created by the program
- new firms/businesses created by the program
- personnel shared (which gives a measure of how much the public administrations were ‘happy’ or ‘involved’ in the program)
- budget devoted to personnel shared

The relative indicators are the same as absolute values but they are made relative in order to be compared among the different territories. They are:

- new jobs created by the program/active population
- new firms/businesses created by the program/total number of firms
- personnel shared/total number of personnel
- budget devoted to personnel shared/total budget devoted to personnel

Case studies, as foreseen by the project, were presented and discussed in the local Forums (C4 – Participation process) and used for determining the monitoring indicators for the pilot projects (C5 – Local Pilot Operative Plans).

COMPONENT 5 – Guidelines for the development of the component were agreed. Local Pilot Operative Plans (LPOPs) will be structured as a circular process that consists mainly of six phases:

1. Through the Analysis we define the profile of our community that describes its economy, environment and people; we also describe trends affecting our community, the problems it faces, and the opportunities ahead.
2. Strategic planning looks at the big picture and helps community decide what is important
3. During Implementation, we do the things which will get us where we want to be
4. After completing our activities, we evaluate them to see how well they worked and we improve them (back to Planning) considering lessons learned
5. Participation process facilitates the contribution of the local community for finding common and jointly responsible solutions and its encourages an integrated and intersectorial approach to planning
6. Communication activities aimed to increase community's visibility as well as to ensure the information of citizens and to support transparency in governance process.

The structure of each LPOP should be the following:

- Introduction - LPOP should be introduced by a representative of the local government as is not a simply technical document but it's the commitment of the local government for a more efficient and sustainable territorial governance.
- Framework of LPOP - European, national and regional policies/programmes/rules on rural development with particular attention to the targeted sectors (tourism, energy etc).
- Analysis of the current situation - Synthesis of territorial and institutional analysis (C3-Ph1&Ph2)
- Barriers and opportunities - Synthesis of SWOT analysis (C3-Ph3)

Each region (Italia, Greece, Spain and Malta) will develop the LPOP of the sector that the region chose (tourism, energy etc). In order to use common and transnational parameters in the development of the 4 LPOPs, 4 common themes ("macro-objectives") were selected. These themes constitute the common axes around which the 4 LPOPs should be structured.

-□ Objectives and interventions are the core parts of LPOPs and they depend on the success of the participation process. The objectives identified in the local forums (C4) set the direction of the LPOPs. Objectives should relate directly to one of the themes (common axes). They should be described in details so that everyone will know where we want to go. At this step, we do not need to say how we will achieve the objectives.

-□ In strategies and interventions part, the LPOPs will present the strategies and the interventions (target and the key ones) identified in the local forums (C4). The strategies and interventions will be described relating each one directly to one of the objectives. The templates produced in the guidelines of C4-Ph1 could be used.

Lessons learned from the definition of the 4 LPOPs will be used for define the Transnational Local Development Methodology (TLDM).

The guidelines will single out:

- Environmental and governance audit methods
- Auto-evaluation methods
- Participated process models
- Guide for drawing-up of Local Operative Plans
- Efficiency and coherence monitoring indicators of Strategic Plans

Even if the main contents of the guidelines will be available after the completion of LPOPs, this phase could start up

immediately working on the outputs of the previous components (C3 and C4).

In the framework of participation process a first list of potential key interventions (C5-Ph1) was drafted.

4. Publishable information on project (for Programme Med website and general external communication activities)

4.1 Description of activities, outputs and results since the project start

Medstrategy almost completed its process to experiment an innovative governance process through the setting up of a model encouraging the sustainable development of Med rural areas.

The partners met four times, collected data concerning their territories and institutions and ended the research part of the project, i.e. territorial and institutional diagnoses. SWOT analysis for the comparison of the four regions was partly completed.

Partners also started to involve local communities for the “participation process” which will define the planning and development activities to be implemented in rural areas. Part of the participation process was realised. Case studies were selected and analysed for the evaluation of success/failure elements in terms of governance in rural areas and a report was realised.

Finally, the last component, i.e. the definition of local operative plans and of a transnational local development methodology was planned in details and started up in most regions.

4.2 Description of activities, outputs and results during the reporting period

The main activities during the reporting period were:

- the implementation of communication activities, as press conference, posters, interviews and articles, presentation of the project during seminars, etc.;
- the fulfilment of the 4th Progress report;
- the organisation of the fourth transnational meeting among the partners in Teruel (Spain);
- the fulfilment of the integrated territorial analysis for the definition of the criticalities of the local contexts (final version of three regional reports);
- the fulfilment of the analysis of institutional framework for the exam of the governance systems (data final version of three regional reports);
- a first draft of the SWOT analysis;
- the partial realisation of the participation process for involving local communities in the project;
- the report on a set of successful case studies to be presented during the participation process to local authorities and stakeholders;
- the continuous monitoring activities concerning the project results.

4.3 Next steps to be taken

Partners will publish the final of the diagnostic report including a SWOT matrix singling out the factors encouraging or impeding the implementation of integrated development strategies.

Community participation process will be completed in local realities and report produced on the achieved results. A transnational common vision will be created.

Local operative plans agreed in each region and a transnational local development methodology defined.

4.4 Publishable material and eventual copyright

With the submission of these data, the project agrees that the programme uses this material for its communication activities.

Project's brochure in double language describing project's contents, aims and activities.

5. Status of project's activities financed by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Our project does not include activities financed by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance.

6. Involvement of partners in the implementation of the project during the period covered by the report

During the executive planning of each phase of the project partners were constantly in contact with the Lead Partner in order to jointly examine and analyses the activities to be undertaken. Generally speaking, the working methodology foresees that the partner in charge proposes the lines to be followed for its realization to the others in order to start the discussion: the final version of the methodology is then jointly agreed.

The entire partnership participated to the fourth transnational meeting with more than one representative for the technical part of the project, including Steering Committee representatives and Expert board members.

As concerns the technical part of the project, the partnership network worked under the central role of the Lead Partner: it coordinated the bureaucratic steps, suggested the agenda for the fourth meeting, produced the monitoring report and gave to the partners the necessary guidelines for the foreseen project activities. LP moreover indicated responsibilities and deadlines to the due partners.

Concerning the singular phases, the Lead Partner was in charge of coordinating the integrated territorial analyses in all the regions and also suggested a set of indicators to be used for final reporting in each region. LP also suggested to the others the lines to be followed for the definition of the Local Pilot Operative Plans for the integrated development of rural areas.

P2 was instead in charge of preparing and presenting to partners the main guidelines to be followed for implementing the participation process at a local level. It was also active in the dissemination and communication part, as its role is mainly connected to the involvement of local communities.

P3 and P5 worked, as foreseen, as regional coordinators for local activities both on the diagnostic part of the project and realising the participation component. They also interacted with Lead Partners for the definition of the other phases.

Moreover, in direct connection with the local territory, they coordinated the activities and the communication at a local level. The third regional coordinator, P6, confirmed its responsibility in undertaking the same activities for Malta, but, due to administrative problems was unable to realize them. It however proposed to present a new working plan, specifically designed for the problematic situation of the project implementation in Malta, in order to recover the lost time.

P4 started to work on the SWOT analysis with the data and information coming by three of the four regions. They will produce a final report comparing the territories' quality and the different governance systems.

The more specific part of communication connected to the design and management website (C1-Ph2) and designing other communication tools was in charge of Province of Teruel (P5) which received the constant and active support of FDS (P7) both in designing the above mentioned communication tools and deciding on contents. FDS (P7) also coordinated the activities of the expert board and partners in selecting successful case studies to be used in the participation process and in reporting them.

7. Problems encountered and solutions found/proposed

The project still suffers of the endemic problem of Public Authorities in Malta in officially giving public offices (for technicians to be involved in the project, first level controllers, etc.) and in spending money with a certain flexibility and speed. These administrative problems had consequences also on the present financial reporting as most of the partners have still low levels of certified expenses compared to the time passed by.

In spite of the efforts made, a substantial delay, due to the above mentioned problems, which was already underlined in the previous progress reports, is for another time confirmed. The delay kept in postponing the end of the phases of about 5-6 months compared to deadlines indicated in the work plan. Consequently it was decided to complete component four and five at the same time. The particular attention to be paid to communication, brought however the partnership, to the decision of asking the Managing Authority to extend the project of six months. The request was submitted in the end of April.

During the meeting in Teruel the level of expenses was discussed. Major problems occurred with Pembroke Local Council which has not any certified expenditure up to the end of February 2012. This affects the total project as the percentage of certified expenditures is very low and this can compromise both the requests of budget changes and extension of time.

Moreover P3, P4 and P6 are late in the implementation of contracting procedures regarding mainly external expert recruitment. Other problems: delay on paid out expenditures for almost all the partners, slow certification process in Greece and rejection of validated expenditures for Greece.

8. Analysis of the project outcomes for the reporting period

8.1 Working Plan progress

8.1.1. Component 0 (preparation costs only) - Preparation of Pre-Application Form (pAF)

Component	Component 0 (preparation costs only)
Phase	Preparation of Pre-Application Form (pAF)
Starting date	2009-02-16
Closing date	2009-03-12
Description of activities, component, means	P1, P2, P3, P4 and P5 worked together previously. P1, acting as coordinator, searched for further motivated partners in other Med countries. So partnership was extended and enriched by the participation of partner P6. P1 developed the project idea, prepared and submitted to partners the project proposal. Several communications between partners occurred for ensuring that the proposal meets partners needs and competences. P1 verified the coherence of the proposal with the priority Axis and the specific objective that is related to. P1 communicated frequently with JTS for ensuring that Pre-Application form was filled up correctly. Letter of intents and the Pre-application form were prepared and submitted on time.
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Letter of intents other 7 - Pre-Application Form other 1

8.1.1.1 Progress on activities

8.1.1.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

The phase was completed and reported in the progress report 1.

8.1.1.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Letter of intents		other	7	0	7
Pre-Application Form		other	1	0	1

8.1.1.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogrammation)

No changes in work program neither in expected outputs.

8.1.1.2 Progress on finance

8.1.1.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Component 0 (preparation costs only) - Phase Preparation of Pre-Application Form (pAF)

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	380.37 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	2,208.19 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	1,827.82 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	1,827.82 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	1,827.82 €

8.1.1.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget because some partners were not able to report all expenditures occurred during to the preparation phase due to administrative problems.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.2. Component 0 (preparation costs only) - Preparation of the Application Form (AF)

Component	Component 0 (preparation costs only)
Phase	Preparation of the Application Form (AF)
Starting date	2009-11-01
Closing date	2010-01-31
Description of activities, component, means	P1, with the suggestions of the Selection Committee, submitted to Ps a first draft of AF and asked their contribution with particular regard to technical activities and human resources. Strong communication occurred between P1 and Ps for clarifications and advices. Ps worked in a motivated way providing contribution according to timetable fixed by P1. Ps fully agreed with repartition of activities and costs proposed by P1. They signed and sent Partnership Agreement and Commitment Letters to P1. P1 communicated frequently with JTS for ensuring that AF was filled up correctly. AF and annexed documents were fully completed and submitted. During this phase ASael was substituted by actual P7, which fully participated in the preparation.
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Partnership Agreement other 1 - Commitment Letters other 7 - Application Form other 1

8.1.2.1 Progress on activities

8.1.2.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

The phase was completed and reported in the progress report 1.

8.1.2.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Partnership Agreement		other	1	0	1
Commitment Letters		other	7	0	7
Application Form		other	1	0	1

8.1.2.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

No changes in work program neither in expected outputs.

8.1.2.2 Progress on finance

8.1.2.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Component 0 (preparation costs only) - Phase Preparation of the Application Form (AF)

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	647.85 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	7,903.57 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	4,437.80 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	5,244.77 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	5,244.77 €

8.1.2.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget because some partners were not able to report all expenditures occurred during to the preparation phase due to administrative problems.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.3. Communication component - Communication Plan (CP)

Component	Communication component
Phase	Communication Plan (CP)
Starting date	2010-06-01
Closing date	2010-06-30
Description of activities, component, means	The main aim of this phase is producing an agreed communication strategy that will contribute to inform potential and final beneficiaries as well as the general public and to facilitate local and European partnerships. With the project launch the Communication Plan will be drawn up and approved by the Steering Committee. CP will define the various communication activities, when and where each activity will take place and the target group which each activity is directed to.
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Communication plan Report 1

8.1.3.1 Progress on activities

8.1.3.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Communication Plan was drawn up by the Lead Partner and a final version was agreed in the previous period. During the entire duration of the project the foreseen activities will be implemented.

8.1.3.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Communication plan		Report	1	0	1

8.1.3.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

No changes in work program neither in expected outputs.

8.1.3.2 Progress on finance

8.1.3.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Communication component - Phase Communication Plan (CP)

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	2,223.08 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	9,185.30 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	6,131.38 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	6,705.34 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	6,705.34 €

8.1.3.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase mainly keep within the budget of this phase and the desired outputs were obtained.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.4. Communication component - Communication campaign

Component	Communication component
Phase	Communication campaign
Starting date	2010-07-01
Closing date	2012-11-30
Description of activities, component, means	<p>At the beginning of the project, project's logo and website will be performed. Website will contain project's documents and deliverables and links with EU institutions, MED Programme site as well as with sustainable development related sites.</p> <p>Promotion campaigns will be organized in all 4 areas for encouraging community involvement and presentation of results .</p> <p>Project's launch will be by local press conferences. Conferences will be held for announcing other public events of the project.</p> <p>Information on project activities and results will be spread via local press, radios and TV channels.</p> <p>Paper popular material (leaflets, brochures, posters) will be produced and disseminated in order to show clearly the project and its objectives.</p>
Responsible/contributing partners	Province of Teruel - Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Project's logo other 1 - Project's website Website 1 - Press conferences other 6 - Interviews and articles Information document (brochure, leaflet) 10 - Project presentation leaflets in double language (English/Maltese, English/Italian, English/Greek and English/Spanish) Information document (brochure, leaflet) 4 - 4 Brochures in double languages (English/Maltese, English/Italian, English/Greek and English/Spanish) Information document (brochure, leaflet) 4 - Project posters in 1 language (Italian, Greek, Spanish, Maltese) for publicizing project events Information document (brochure, leaflet) 15 - CD/DVD Information document (brochure, leaflet) 1

8.1.4.1 Progress on activities

8.1.4.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Further contents were uploaded on the project's website (www.medstrategyproject.eu).

Each regional coordinator involved local communities through mailing lists and/or preparatory meetings addressed to local actors, citizens and stakeholders. Posters were printed to advertise on project's activities, above all during the organisation of the forums of the participation process. Posters graphic design was made by Province of Teruel (in charge of the Phase) and is common to all the local versions. Leaflets of the project in double language (English and Spanish/Italian/Maltese/Greek) for local dissemination of the project were distributed in each region. This dissemination was done at a regional and local level: public authorities, policy developers, development agencies, research organizations, entrepreneurs and professional associations, private companies, etc.

A press conference was organised in Teruel during the fourth transnational meeting inviting local newspapers and television channels plus web media. Presentations were made in Italy and Spain during local non-project conferences related to local

development through official participation of project's representatives.

8.1.4.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Project's logo	It will allow an immediate recognition of project and its deliverables and it will be placed in the website and all documents and materials produced, together with EU and MED Programme logos.	other	1	0	1
Project's website	It will inform targeted groups & the general public and will facilitate feedback and exchange of experiences among partners and with other institutions & firms.	Website	1	0	1
Press conferences		other	6	1	4
Interviews and articles		Information document (brochure, leaflet)	10	4	5
Project presentation leaflets in double language (English/Maltese, English/Italian, English/Greek and English/Spanish)	□	Information document (brochure, leaflet)	4	0	4
□ 4 Brochures in double languages (English/Maltese, English/Italian, English/Greek and English/Spanish)	This will provide more detail information about the local project (objectives, methods, community involvement) and an abstract of the local projects in the other 4 partners countries.	Information document (brochure, leaflet)	4	0	0
Project posters in 1 language (Italian, Greek, Spanish, Maltese) for publicizing project events	□	Information document (brochure, leaflet)	15	3	3
CD/DVD	Project presentation and results in 5 languages (English, Italian, Greek, Spanish, Maltese)	Information document (brochure, leaflet)	1	0	0

8.1.4.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

No changes in work program neither in expected outputs.

8.1.4.2 Progress on finance

8.1.4.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Communication component - Phase Communication campaign

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	13,153.28 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	19,040.05 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	5,736.51 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	5,736.51 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	5,736.51 €

8.1.4.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget as this phase is still in progress.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.5. Communication component - Conferences & workshops & training

Component	Communication component
Phase	Conferences & workshops & training
Starting date	2010-07-01
Closing date	2012-11-30
Description of activities, component, means	All project's deliverables are public documents and will be used for disseminating information on specific project activities and results. Results will be disseminated to appropriate organisations and related material will be prepared for seminars and conferences and distributed to international forums. At the end of the project, a conference will be organized in each country. In each area 1 training course, which will become the Standing Observatory of Municipalities, will be organised aiming at providing opportunities for learning and getting qualified experts. It will see the participation of local experts, decision makers and local authorities staff, also external to the project. Courses will focus on sustainable development planning.
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development - Region Sicily-Tourism Depart.; Province Messina-Depart. of Territorial Policies, Infrastruct. Planning, Parks and Natural Reserves, Civil Protection; Local Council Ass. of Malta; Environment Depart. of the Regional Government of Aragón; Region Crete.
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Papers and presentations for non projects conferences other 8 - Training courses other 4 - International conference other 1 - National conferences other 4 - Awareness raising seminars other 4 - Observatories of Municipalities other 4

8.1.5.1 Progress on activities

8.1.5.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Partnership agreed on the contents of the Phase . In particular:

The objective of the Awareness Raising Seminars will be to introduce the target group to the project and collect adhesions for training courses and encouraging community involvement with special regard to institutional staff to participate to strategic planning process. The target will be different institutional level staff, leaders and actors. The contents will be: MedStrategy project objective and activities, Territorial Framework, Institutional framework, Success Case Studies, Participation Process Methodology.

The objective of training courses will be to provide opportunities for learning and getting qualified experts and improving the involvement of local communities through training. The target will be local experts, decision makers and local authorities staff, also external to the project for teaching them how to manage Local Operative Plans. The contents will be: sustainable development planning, objectives, methods, best practices, quality of management, services and products

The objective of the Observatories of Municipalities will be to involve other Municipalities than the ones included in the 'project' and highlighting the project results and expertise making these visible to the large public. The target will be local

experts, decision makers and local authorities staff, also external to the project. The contents will be: information on MedStrategy development and its methodology , territorial diagnosis, institutional diagnosis, participation process results. Activities to be carried out are foreseen in following steps of the project and in particular after the participation process will be implemented.

8.1.5.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Papers and presentations for non projects conferences		other	8	4	4
Training courses	In Italy, Greece, Spain and Malta a training courses for local authorities and local experts focused on development planning, objectives, methods, best practices, quality of management, services and products, will be organised.	other	4	0	0
International conference	This will be organised in Sicily. The target audience will be EU institutions, policy developers, public authorities, development agencies, research organizations, entrepreneurs & professional associations, investment experts.	other	1	0	0
National conferences	These will be organised in Italy, Greece, Spain and Malta. The target audience will be policy developers, public authorities, development agencies, research organizations, entrepreneurs & professional associations, investment experts.	other	4	0	0
Awareness raising seminars	They will be addressed to different institutional level staff, leaders and actors to present the project and collect adhesions for training courses.	other	4	0	0
Observatories of Municipalities	In each country a training course for local authorities and local experts focused on development planning, objectives, methods, best practices, quality of management, services and products, will be organised.	other	4	0	0

8.1.5.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogrammation)

Papers will be presented when the final results of the territorial analyses (C3-Ph1) and participation process will be ready. In fact training courses, awareness seminars, observatories of Municipalities are connected to strategic planning processes, and therefore will be carried out later on.

Conferences have to be organized at the end of the project.

8.1.5.2 Progress on finance

8.1.5.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Communication component - Phase Conferences & workshops & training

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	2,950.27 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	2,950.27 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	0.00 €

8.1.5.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget as this phase is still in progress.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.6. Management component - Administrative and financial management

Component	Management component
Phase	Administrative and financial management
Starting date	2010-02-01
Closing date	2012-11-30
Description of activities, component, means	<p>P1 coordinates administrative, financial and contractual issues and supervises the implementation of Med programme rules. P1 signs the Subsidy Contract and sends the start-up Report.</p> <p>P1 gathers and controls documents provided by PPs and collates the 6-months progress reports and the final report. P1 makes the payment to PPs.</p> <p>P1 mobilises PPs for achieving project outcomes, to timeline and within budget. P1 ensures interaction and exchange of information and knowledge.</p> <p>All PPs use ICT communication tools to exchange information and documents.</p> <p>Project secretariat is responsible for keeping all documents, files and correspondence with partners, JTS and MA. Documents are available in the project's website too.</p>
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Subsidy Contract other 1 - Start-up report Report 1 - Progress reports Report 3 - Final technical report Report 1

8.1.6.1 Progress on activities

8.1.6.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Lead Partner took care, together with the partners, of the necessary administrative and financial steps.

It supported and advised partners on the reporting activities and it gathered and controlled documents provided by partners. It also mobilised partners for achieving project outcomes, to timeline and within budget and ensured interaction and exchange of information and knowledge within the partnership.

The fourth progress report was sent to the Managing Authority in due time.

LP informed MA about all administrative changes made.

As it was agreed by project Steering Committee the request of a 6-months extension and project's budget reallocation was submitted.

8.1.6.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Subsidy Contract		other	1	0	1
Start-up report		Report	1	0	1
Progress reports		Report	3	1	3
Final technical report		Report	1	0	0

8.1.6.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

Delay in spending money and in reporting and certifying expenditures due to administrative problems and due to difficulties in justifying costs according to Presage requirements (extended disaggregation of costs by phase).

8.1.6.2 Progress on finance

8.1.6.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Management component - Phase Administrative and financial management

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	15,467.78 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	35,646.32 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	22,145.66 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	23,125.04 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	23,125.04 €

8.1.6.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase will be higher to the foreseen budget because the work time requested for the reporting and certification activities is higher than the foreseen one.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.7. Management component - Technical coordination

Component	Management component
Phase	Technical coordination
Starting date	2010-02-01
Closing date	2012-11-30
Description of activities, component, means	<p>P1 is responsible for the overall technical coordination of the project that will be carried out in strong collaboration with Steering Committee (SC), Experts Board (EB) and the Responsibles of the Phases (RoPs).</p> <p>During the kick-off meeting PPs will appoint the members of SC.</p> <p>EB members will be appointed by SC.</p> <p>P1 will produce the overall work plan of the project. In collaboration with EB and RoP, P1 produces the 6-months activity reports.</p> <p>In collaboration with RoPs, EB produces the guides and bibliography for helping PPs in the implementation of phases.</p> <p>5 project meetings (2 Italy, 1 Greece, 1 Spain, 1 Malta) will be held for monitoring and discussing project progress.</p>
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Overall Work plan Report 1 - Progress Reports (1 each six months) Report 3 - Minutes of project 's meetings other 5 - Final report Report 1

8.1.7.1 Progress on activities

8.1.7.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Further work plan was further revised, due to the initial delay underlined in previous progress reports, examined by the entire partnership and agreed during the fourth transnational meeting. Steering Committee and Expert Board worked as foreseen in the project.

Fourth transnational meeting was held in Teruel (Spain) for discussing about financial matters, presenting project activities already realised and discuss future implementation.

8.1.7.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project

Overall Work plan		Report	1	0	1
Progress Reports (1 each six months)		Report	3	1	3
Minutes of project 's meetings		other	5	1	4
Final report		Report	1	0	0

8.1.7.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

No changes in work program neither in expected outputs.

8.1.7.2 Progress on finance

8.1.7.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Management component - Phase Technical coordination

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	13,070.12 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	37,719.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	17,969.90 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	23,117.29 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	23,117.29 €

8.1.7.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget as this phase is still in progress. However work time in this phase during the reporting period is higher than the foreseen one due to the mayor efforts requested at the beginning of the project.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.8. Management component - Monitoring and evaluation

Component	Management component
Phase	Monitoring and evaluation
Starting date	2010-06-01
Closing date	2012-11-30
Description of activities, component, means	Following the establishment of SC the monitoring and evaluation system will be set up. In collaboration with P1, SC will implement the evaluation process that regards the following points: - effectiveness and efficiency of the project: technical consistency and coherence of the activities taking place within and between all phases; activities adherence to the project goals, budget and time frame - quality of management and partnership: efficiency of management system; consistence and quality of partners collaboration - achievement of project objectives: evaluation of the project on the basis of output and results indicators
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Monitoring and evaluation report (1 each 6 months) Report 4

8.1.8.1 Progress on activities

8.1.8.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Monitoring and evaluation system was improved and a further monitoring report produced by P1. The report structure includes a short analysis of the project outcomes, the quantification of the progress indicators on deliverables achieved, the progress on program indicators.

8.1.8.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Monitoring and evaluation report (1 each 6 months)		Report	4	1	2

8.1.8.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

No changes in expected monitoring outputs.

Improvements were made to the evaluation system through the proposal of some additional indicators and evaluation questionnaires to be filled both by the “internal” actors of the project (partners) and the “external” ones (participants to the participation processes in the regions).

8.1.8.2 Progress on finance

8.1.8.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Management component - Phase Monitoring and evaluation

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	5,518.24 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	7,564.32 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	3,339.06 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	3,339.06 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	3,339.06 €

8.1.8.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget; this phase is still in progress.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.9. Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation - Integrated territorial analysis in relation to the 3 sustainability dimensions

Component	Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation
Phase	Integrated territorial analysis in relation to the 3 sustainability dimensions
Starting date	2010-11-01
Closing date	2011-09-30
Description of activities, component, means	<p>Following the proposal of the RoP an Audit process will be activated for the definition of the criticalities of the local contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data gathering and diagnosis of the involved rural areas through the development of appropriate set of indicators for identifying trends and conditions. - GIS applications will be used and immediately available for the Local Administrations. <p>Framework Document will be an orientation tool and shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -show, synthetically and in an integrated way, the problems of environmental and socioeconomic sustainability of local systems; -show a set of key indicators according to the territorial specificities; -develop the subjects according to regional and global dimensions. - Identity characteristics
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development - Region Sicily-Tourism Depart.; Province Messina-Depart. of Territorial Policies, Infrastruct. Planning, Parks and Natural Reserves, Civil Protection;Local Council Ass. of Malta; Environment Depart. of the Regional Government of Aragón; Region Crete.
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Framework Documents of the criticalities of local territorial contexts Studies 4

8.1.9.1 Progress on activities

8.1.9.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

During the reporting period, three of the regions (i.e. Spain, Sicily and Crete) completed and presented the final framework document.

8.1.9.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project

Framework Documents of the criticalities of local territorial contexts	These will be easily understandable as they will be published to increase the citizen's knowledge of territorial contexts and the awareness of services quality and potentials of their own resources and identity values.	Studies	4	3	3
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8.1.9.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

Phase will be ended with further delay compared to the original work plan: territorial framework documents are ready for three regions but still missing from Malta.

However no changes are expected in the foreseen outputs.

8.1.9.2 Progress on finance

8.1.9.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation - Phase Integrated territorial analysis in relation to the 3 sustainability dimensions

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	23,228.66 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	42,695.98 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	22,581.56 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	22,719.12 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	22,719.12 €

8.1.9.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget; even if this phase is completed in three regions (Sicily, Greece and Spain) not all costs occurred for the implementation of the activities have been reported yet.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.10. Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation - Analysis of institutional framework

Component	Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation
Phase	Analysis of institutional framework
Starting date	2011-01-01
Closing date	2011-10-15
Description of activities, component, means	<p>The priority objective will be to analyse the governance systems of the Local Authorities (LA) pointing out the interdependences of different institutional levels and the criticalities (competences, efficacy and efficiency) of the LA and their capacity to support growth and innovation.</p> <p>The results will evaluate the LA ability to develop policies and programs, aimed at the sustainability of the Local Development, that have to be able to increase the territories competitiveness and attractivity coherently with the EU, national and regional programmes.</p> <p>The results will complete the Framework Document with an analysis of the local governance levels and will be spread in order to increase the citizen's and LA' awareness.</p>
Responsible/contributing partners	Pembroke Local Council - Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Foundation for the Social Development - Region Sicily-Tourism Depart.; Province Messina-Depart. of Territorial Policies, Infrastruct. Planning, Parks and Natural Reserves, Civil Protection;Local Council Ass. of Malta; Environment Depart. of the Regional Government of Aragón; Region Crete.
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Reports on the institutional framework Studies 4

8.1.10.1 Progress on activities**8.1.10.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period****Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)**

Reports on the institutional frameworks were produced in the final version by the three regions (Sicily, Spain and Greece) but not by Malta.

8.1.10.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project

Reports on the institutional framework	These reports consist of a Key Indicators Set of Local Authorities (LA) efficiency and efficacy, of an interdependences analysis and of a "LA Conceptual map". These reports will be put into the Framework Document.	Studies	4	3	3
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8.1.10.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

Phase will be ended with further delay compared to the original work plan: institutional framework documents are ready for three regions but still missing from Malta.

However no change is expected in the foreseen outputs.

8.1.10.2 Progress on finance

8.1.10.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation - Phase Analysis of institutional framework

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	17,472.31 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	21,405.49 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	10,566.81 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	10,566.81 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	10,566.81 €

8.1.10.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget; even if this phase is almost completed in three regions (Sicily, Greece and Spain) not all costs occurred for the implementation of the activities have been reported yet.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.11. Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation - SWOT Analysis

Component	Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation
Phase	SWOT Analysis
Starting date	2011-04-01
Closing date	2011-10-31
Description of activities, component, means	<p>The Ps, considering the results of the Framework Document, will develop an auto-evaluation activity of their contexts through a “SWOT” methodology, aimed at singling out the factors encouraging or impeding the implementation of integrated development strategies.</p> <p>This phase, which schedules occasions of comparison about the different institutional assets and specific issues, will allow each local reality to compare the results and the goals achieved in the 4 studied areas.</p> <p>The final report (Diagnostic Report, DR) will compare the territories’ quality and the different governance systems. It will be drawn up on the basis of common criteria indicated by the Experts Board. The DR will be the reference document for the participation process.</p>
Responsible/contributing partners	CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Intermunicipal Consortium “Tindari-Nebrodi” - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Diagnostic Report Studies 1

8.1.11.1 Progress on activities

8.1.11.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

A first comparison was made through the three SWOT matrix at disposal (Italy, Greece and Spain) by PP4, the partner in charge of the phase, using the common indicators and thematic areas previously agreed. A format was previously developed to facilitate the process of linkage between the Institutional and Territorial Analyses with the SWOT analysis. The format comprised thematic areas and specific indicators per thematic area.

The deliverable is in progress but a final version can be produced only when also Maltese SWOT analysis will be produced.

8.1.11.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project

Diagnostic Report	This Report concerns problems and barriers, opportunities and assets regarding quality and availability of local resources, territorial competitiveness and attractiveness, training and competences of human resources.	Studies	1	0	0
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8.1.11.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

Phase will end in delay compared to the original work plan. SWOT report will be ready after the completion of the work to be done in the two previous phases also by Maltese partner.

No changes in expected outputs.

8.1.11.2 Progress on finance

8.1.11.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Territories and institutions: diagnosis and ex ante evaluation - Phase SWOT Analysis

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	7,164.68 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	7,268.26 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	1,283.29 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	1,283.29 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	1,283.29 €

8.1.11.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget as this phase is still in progress.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.12. Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision - Establishment of community participation process

Component	Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision
Phase	Establishment of community participation process
Starting date	2011-06-01
Closing date	2012-11-30
Description of activities, component, means	In each local reality a participation process (Forum) will be started, structured according to methodologies indicated by the Experts Board. Forum will be aimed at informing and involving local communities in the project. During the start-up phase, the selection criteria of the stakeholders, the consultation and participation rules and procedures will be established. The meetings will be divided into Plenums and Thematic Focus Groups and managed according to consolidated facilitation techniques. Stakeholders of other local communities will be invited to participate as observers. The subjects discussed and agreed in the Forums will orient the choices, which will have to be shared by all the territory institutional actors.
Responsible/contributing partners	National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development - Region Sicily-Tourism Depart.; Province Messina-Depart. of Territorial Policies, Infrastruct. Planning, Parks and Natural Reserves, Civil Protection;Local Council Ass. of Malta; Environment Depart. of the Regional Government of Aragón; Region Crete.
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Review of participation methods Studies 1 - Forums regulation other 4 - Minutes of Forum meetings and workshops Report 24

8.1.12.1 Progress on activities**8.1.12.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period****Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)**

Some first contacts and preparatory meetings were realized in order to start to inform local communities about the project. Two regions started their participation process (Italy and Spain) and completed some of the forums foreseen. Greece also started the process through the involvement of local actors and citizens, while Pembroke Local Council has still to start the Participation Component.

8.1.12.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project

Review of participation methods	A synthetic description of most common participation methods and tools.	Studies	1	0	0
Forums regulation	Rule and procedures for an efficient implementation of Forum activities.	other	4	1	1
Minutes of Forum meetings and workshops	These will include list of participants, issues discussed, results agreed in each meeting of Local Forums.	Report	24	0	0

8.1.12.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

Some delay in starting the component, compared to the original application form were mainly due to delay in completion of the Component 3.

8.1.12.2 Progress on finance

8.1.12.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision - Phase Establishment of community participation process

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	6,245.37 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	7,871.29 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	2,302.51 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	2,302.51 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	2,302.51 €

8.1.12.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget as this phase is still in progress.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.13. Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision - Selection and analysis of the Success Cases: evaluation of success/failure elements

Component	Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision
Phase	Selection and analysis of the Success Cases: evaluation of success/failure elements
Starting date	2011-06-01
Closing date	2011-10-15
Description of activities, component, means	<p>In this phase, the Forums activities will be addressed towards the analysis of experiences in similar rural contexts in Mediterranean area, which have been able to bring forward integrated and sustainable local development. Success cases will be proposed by EB.</p> <p>The comparison of the paths and results got, will allow to pick out strategies, tools and actions which have determined the success of these experiences.</p> <p>The difficulties faced and the solutions adopted can represent concrete examples to refer to in order to orient the choices of the Forum.</p> <p>The Report of this phase will give the necessary reference values to develop an associated monitoring indicators system of the goals and improvements achieved by local communities.</p>
Responsible/contributing partners	Foundation for the Social Development - Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Report on Success Cases Studies 1 - Case Studies database databases 1

8.1.13.1 Progress on activities

8.1.13.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Expert Board, in close cooperation with partners, gathered and examined interesting case studies, all focusing on experiences of local authorities and institutions with special emphasis on governance experiences. The report on success cases was produced. The report includes: a synthesis of performances and goals achieved in the reference local realities, comparative experiences analysis, a set of results evaluation indicators.

8.1.13.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project

Report on Success Cases	Synthesis of performances and goals achieved in the reference local realities. Comparative experiences analysis. Set of results evaluation indicators.	Studies	1	1	1
Case Studies database		databases	1	1	1

8.1.13.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

No changes in expected outputs.

8.1.13.2 Progress on finance

8.1.13.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision - Phase Selection and analysis of the Success Cases: evaluation of success/failure elements

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	17,142.33 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	17,142.33 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	4,524.11 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	4,524.11 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	4,524.11 €

8.1.13.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget; even if this phase is almost completed not all costs occurred for the implementation of the activities have been reported yet.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.14. Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision - Construction of a Transnational Strategic Common Vision (TSCV)

Component	Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision
Phase	Construction of a Transnational Strategic Common Vision (TSCV)
Starting date	2011-09-01
Closing date	2012-05-30
Description of activities, component, means	The aim of this phase is to create an integrated Common Vision for sustainable development through sharing and increasing awareness in local actors. They will be stimulated in participating to identifying and planning concrete solutions to the existing problems. According to EASW®(European Awareness Scenario Workshop)methodology, Forums based on the deliverables worked out in C3 (Framework Document,Diagnostic Report) will define 2 alternative visions of the future: negative (nothing changes) and positive (things change improving). In each area 1 workshop is scheduled. Following taking into account the“Review of Success Cases”they will suggest ideas and projects which can support the above established common and convergent positive vision.
Responsible/contributing partners	Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - Intermunicipal Consortium “Tindari-Nebrodi” - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Reports on local EASWs Report 4

8.1.14.1 Progress on activities

8.1.14.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Partner in charge (P3) further discussed the main guidelines to be used during the EASW with P1 and Expert Board during the meeting in Teruel. It was confirmed that this phase should be developed at the same time of C4-Ph1.

8.1.14.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Reports on local EASWs	These will include list of participants, common negative and positive visions, shared ideas and projects defined in each Local EASW.	Report	4	3	3

8.1.14.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project

reprogramming)

Compared to the application form the phase was extended due to change in methodology and the delay by Maltese partner. It will be completed together with participation process and then end with the end of the project itself. However there will be no change in the expected outputs.

8.1.14.2 Progress on finance**8.1.14.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Participation Component: Strategic Common Vision - Phase Construction of a Transnational Strategic Common Vision (TSCV)**

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	181.71 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	181.71 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	0.00 €

8.1.14.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget as this phase is still in progress.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.15. Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas - Definition of the Local Pilot Operative Plans (LPOPs) for the integrated development of rural areas

Component	Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas
Phase	Definition of the Local Pilot Operative Plans (LPOPs) for the integrated development of rural areas
Starting date	2011-10-01
Closing date	2012-09-15
Description of activities, component, means	<p>Ps, coherently with the common vision identified in the local forums, will test the methodology defined in the previous phase (TLDM), through the drawing of Local Pilot Operative Plans (pilot projects) for the development oriented to sustainability. The LPOPs, structured as a circular process, shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -specify the key approaches to be adopted to develop an integrated planning -identify challenges and priorities to be enacted, to increase competitiveness and improve the attractiveness potential of local systems -define financial resources needed -single out specific competences -attribute responsibilities for LPOP management and processes carrying out -define Target and Key Interventions -identify monitoring and evaluation indicators
Responsible/contributing partners	Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Local Pilot Operative Plans (LPOPs) Studies 4

8.1.15.1 Progress on activities

8.1.15.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Guidelines for the development of the component were agreed. Local Pilot Operative Plans (LPOPs) will be structured as a circular process that consists mainly of six phases:

1. Through the Analysis we define the profile of our community that describes its economy, environment and people; we also describe trends affecting our community, the problems it faces, and the opportunities ahead.
2. Strategic planning looks at the big picture and helps community decide what is important
3. During Implementation, we do the things which will get us where we want to be
4. After completing our activities, we evaluate them to see how well they worked and we improve them (back to Planning) considering lessons learned
5. Participation process facilitates the contribution of the local community for finding common and jointly responsible solutions and its encourages an integrated and intersectorial approach to planning
6. Communication activities aimed to increase community's visibility as well as to ensure the information of citizens and to

support transparency in governance process.

Each region (Italia, Greece, Spain and Malta) will develop the LPOP of the sector that the region chose (tourism, energy etc).

8.1.15.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Local Pilot Operative Plans (LPOPs)	Report on LPOP will be structured as a Local Action Plan and will be organized for: -Sustainability Objectives -Intervention sectors/fields -Strategic Lines -Targets -Projects and actions -Timing & Costs -Actors -Monitoring indicators	Studies	4	0	0

8.1.15.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

Delay in starting the phase due to the delay in the previous components.

No changes in expected outputs.

8.1.15.2 Progress on finance

8.1.15.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas - Phase Definition of the Local Pilot Operative Plans (LPOPs) for the integrated development of rural areas

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	0.00 €

Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	0.00 €
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8.1.15.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget as this phase is still in progress.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.16. Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas - Definition of the Transnational Local Development Methodology (TLDM)

Component	Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas
Phase	Definition of the Transnational Local Development Methodology (TLDM)
Starting date	2012-06-01
Closing date	2012-09-20
Description of activities, component, means	The Experts Board, taking into account the TSCV and through a comparative evaluation of the results included in the LPOPs, will define the framework of the TLDM for the definition of an “Integrated Strategic Plan for the sustainable development in Mediterranean rural areas” The results of this phase will be included in the Guidelines that will be structured as an operative handbook. This will indicate an innovative Transnational Tool to define and manage local development integrated Plans based on sustainability criteria. TLDM will strengthen MED rural areas cohesion and improve local governance through the definition of a suitable territorial asset for development strategies (as foreseen by Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion).
Responsible/contributing partners	CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Intermunicipal Consortium “Tindari-Nebrodi” - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council - Foundation for the Social Development - Region Sicily-Tourism Depart.; Province Messina-Depart. of Territorial Policies, Infrastruct. Planning, Parks and Natural Reserves, Civil Protection;Local Council Ass. of Malta; Environment Depart. of the Regional Government of Aragón; Region Crete.
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Guidelines for the drawing up of an “Integrated Strategic Plan for the sustainable development in Mediterranean rural areas” guide 1

8.1.16.1 Progress on activities

8.1.16.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

Lessons learned from the definition of the 4 LPOPs will be used for define the Transnational Local Development Methodology (TLDM).

The guidelines will single out:

Environmental and governance audit methods

Auto-evaluation methods

Participated process models

Guide for drawing-up of Local Operative Plans

Efficiency and coherence monitoring indicators of Strategic Plans

Even if the main contents of the guidelines will be available after the completion of LPOPs, this phase could start up immediately working on the outputs of the previous components (C3 and C4).

8.1.16.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project
Guidelines for the drawing up of an "Integrated Strategic Plan for the sustainable development in Mediterranean rural areas"	The guidelines will single out: -Environmental and Governance Audit methods -Auto-evaluation methods -Participated Process Models -Guide for drawing-up of Local Operative Plans -Efficiency and Coherence Monitoring Indicators of Strategic Plans	guide	1	0	0

8.1.16.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

Delay in starting the phase due to the delay in the previous components.

No changes in expected outputs.

8.1.16.2 Progress on finance

8.1.16.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas - Phase Definition of the Transnational Local Development Methodology (TLDM)

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	0.00 €

8.1.16.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

No cost is actually reported in this phase.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.1.17. Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas - Identification of Key Interventions (KI)

Component	Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas
Phase	Identification of Key Interventions (KI)
Starting date	2012-05-15
Closing date	2012-09-30
Description of activities, component, means	In each territorial context the partners will develop a Key Intervention (KI), singled out by the Experts Board, among the ones considered of priority and common in the 4 LPOPs. KI will: -be intersectorial -aim at the social economic development of the rural areas -have to be shared and involve different levels of decisional power The KI will be a useful resource for all the partners and will become an example of "good practice" (e.g. Quality Trademark of Tourist Structures, Desk-office for the enterprises, Coordinative Office for territorial planning). Within each KI the partners will define technical solutions, procedure and administrative modalities, human resources and technical competences needed for realizing the intervention.
Responsible/contributing partners	Foundation for the Social Development - Intermunicipal Consortium "Tindari-Nebrodi" - National Association of Sicilian Municipalities - Archanon-Asterousion Municipality - CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving - Province of Teruel - Pembroke Local Council -
Location (when relevant)	Teruel - Zaragoza - Attiki - Irakleio - Palermo - Messina - Malta -
Expected outputs/deliverables	Final Report for each Key Intervention Studies 4

8.1.17.1 Progress on activities**8.1.17.1.1 Activities implemented during reporting period**

Description of activities (activities implemented during the period, mention any change in dates, partners, ...)

In the framework of participation process a first list of potential key interventions was drafted.

8.1.17.1.2 Outputs/deliverables produced during reporting period and related indicators

Output/Deliverable	Brief description	Unit Type	Quantity foreseen in the work plan	Quantity realised in the reporting period	Cumulative quantity since the beginning of the project

Final Report for each Key Intervention	It will describe the reasons of the choice of the Key Interventions according to the priorities singled out in the LPOPs and will define: -Priorities actions -Human resources -Technical abilities -Financial resources -Monitoring indicators	Studies	4	0	0
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8.1.17.1.3 Evolution in Work programme and expected outputs

Please mention and explain minor changes in work programme and expected outputs (which do not require a project reprogramming)

Delay in starting the phase due to the delay in the previous components.

No changes in expected outputs.

8.1.17.2 Progress on finance

8.1.17.2.1 Summary financial table of Component Strategic Planning in Med Rural Areas - Phase Identification of Key Interventions (KI)

Total eligible expenditure entered since the previous progress report	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure entered until the end of current reporting period	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims since the previous progress report	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims until the end of the current reporting period	0.00 €
Total eligible expenditure certified and included in the payment claims within the administrative closing date	0.00 €

8.1.17.2.2 Financial reporting

Has the project been able to keep within the budget of this Component - Phase and still achieve the desired outputs? (In case of negative answer, please explain the main problems incurred)

Costs of this phase are inferior to the foreseen budget as this phase is still in progress.

Other comments on administrative and financial management relating to this Phase - Action

8.2 How results achieved contribute to the MED Programme objectives ?

Medstrategy project, also in doing its diagnosis on the chosen territories, has the objective of increasing the attractiveness of these marginal territories and of encouraging the economic development and the growth of new job opportunities, assuring better life conditions both to present and future generations.

The process implemented in each region and the communication planned, since the start-up phase and therefore since the territorial diagnosis, is specifically designed to remain concentrated on this objective.

The project has developed just the part of the method to be implemented in the MED regions: the diagnosis component and, partly, the participation component. Partners agreed on common guidelines for analysing the rural areas (both from a territorial and institutional point of view) and gathered the necessary information and data.

The contents of the “Guidelines for carrying out the integrated territorial analysis” are not exhaustive of all the aspects concerning a territory but were chosen in close connection to the investigated themes and trends. The same considerations can be done taking into consideration the list of selected indicators which are mainly addressed to evaluate the valorisation and protection of the historical, cultural and environmental heritage that characterize the rural areas involved in the project.

The second part of the diagnosis, involving an exam of the institutional organisations and structures in the same territories, gives a framework also on the governance systems which actually are applied at a local level. This part of the project actively contribute to better understand and then improve territorial governance, as foreseen within objective 4.1 of the Programme.

Participation component will increase this impact, involving local communities in the process itself.

Finally, in this context, sustainability concept is always taken into account, matching the general MED objective “Support territorial cohesion and actively intervene in favour of environmental protection in a logic of sustainable development”.

8.3 Which is the added value of the project's transnational approach ?

The local diagnosis activities (both territorial and institutional) and the realization of the fourth transnational meeting of the project confirmed the strong transnational character of the MedStrategy project. Each aspect of the project (from the financial management to the communication plan up to the guidelines to undertake the different project's phases) were discussed and agreed with the contribution of the partners involved.

Some differences both in economic and social territorial aspects and from the governance point of view were already underlined and discussed by the partners.

This approach, addressed to a constant comparison of the regional different situations is particularly important as concerns territorial and institutional framework but also in examining the different diagnoses which were produced.

The work undertaken at a regional level is always analyzed and summarized with common approaches and then generalized to the model of a “Med rural area”. This work was part of the second step in the diagnosis component which compares and put together the analyses undertaken at a local level.

The same approach was followed for the preparation of the participation component: the methodology was thought taking into consideration the regional differences and sharing the ideas / proposals with the entire partnership.

The constant comparison of experience among the partners also improve the process at a local level.

Additional transnational value to this part of the project will be given with the construction of a transnational strategic common vision for sustainable development.

The transnational approach gave also a peculiar character to the case studies selected which will surely constitute a valid and interesting collection of interesting governance cases for any rural region in the Mediterranean area.

Finally, local operative plans (main deliverable of the Component 5) can be considered as a tool for the real objective, i.e. the definition of a transnational local development methodology for the definition of an “Integrated Strategic Plan for the sustainable development in Mediterranean rural areas”. The derived handbook will be an innovative tool to define and manage local development integrated plans based on sustainability criteria.

This transnational approach will strengthen MED rural areas cohesion and improve local governance through the definition of a suitable territorial asset for development strategies (as foreseen by Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion).

8.4 Progress on program indicators

Indicators not linked to a group

Indicator		Foreseen	Achieved (cumul)	Unit
Common indicators for all priorities				
Local and regional authorities involved in experimental activities (pilot activities)	Quantitative	25		Involved structures
Other public and semi-public bodies involved in experimental activities (pilot activities)	Quantitative	40		Involved structures
Private sector structures and networks involved in experimental activities (pilot activities)	Quantitative	40		Involved structures
Third sector organisms involved in experimental activities (pilot activities)	Quantitative	30		Involved structures
Number of communication tools developed from the following list: brochures, DVD, Cd Rom, video, guides, etc. (indicate the number)	Quantitative	4		Communication tools
European institutions towards which communication tools will be disseminated	Quantitative	4		Target structures for communication tool dissemination
State Administrations towards which communication tools will be disseminated	Quantitative	4		Target structures for communication tool dissemination
Local and Regional Authorities towards which communication tools will be disseminated	Quantitative	120		Target structures for communication tool dissemination
Other public and semi-public bodies towards which communication tools will be disseminated	Quantitative	100		Target structures for communication tool dissemination

Private sector towards which communication tools will be disseminated	Quantitative	100		Target structures for communication tool dissemination
Specific partners towards which communication tools will be disseminated	Quantitative	4		Target structures for communication tool dissemination
Number of websites developed	Quantitative	1		Website
Number of data bases developed	Quantitative	1		databases
Number of updated on-line data bases which will remain usable even after the closure of the project	Quantitative	1		databases
Number of targeted communication actions carried out by the partnership from the following list: events, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, information and awareness raising campaigns, etc	Quantitative	13		communication action
European institutions concerned by communication actions	Quantitative	2		Target structures for communication actions
State Administration concerned by communication actions	Quantitative	4		Target structures for communication actions
Local and Regional Authorities concerned by communication actions	Quantitative	60		Target structures for communication actions
Other public and semi-public bodies concerned by communication actions	Quantitative	50		Target structures for communication actions
Private sector concerned by communication actions	Quantitative	50		Target structures for communication actions
Specific partners concerned by communication actions	Quantitative	2		Target structures for communication actions
Specific indicators of the priority				
New networks of cities or local authorities for polycentrism	Quantitative	1		Permanent networks established
Common studies aimed at strategies or plans, methodologies or tools at transnational level	Quantitative	4		Joint implementation or working plans or strategies
Joint strategies and agreements	Quantitative	4		Joint implementation or working plans or strategies
Local authorities involved in transnational activities	Quantitative	20		New transnational activities set up by local authorities
Isolated areas authorities involved in transnational activities	Quantitative	18		New initiatives or structures for support promoted by local authorities of the isolated areas

9. A description of the information, publicity and capitalisation activities that took place during the reporting period

Main partners responsible for communication and dissemination activities are Intermunicipal Consortium “Tindari-Nebrodi” and the Province of Teruel: they are respectively in charge of planning out the general communication strategy (Intermunicipal Consortium “Tindari-Nebrodi”) and practically producing the communication campaign for the project and the

website (Province of Teruel). Moreover the Lead partner gives the general lines to be followed in each region with regard to the awareness raising seminars, observatories of municipalities and local conferences.

Nevertheless, as already done in previous progress reports, it must be considered that local communication has a fundamental role, not only for disseminating project activities and deliverables (as above mentioned) but also for the involvement of local communities in the strategic planning process.

Each partner is therefore in charge of the communication activities at a regional level and responsible for producing the communication tools to be locally used, to organize the relative events (seminars, observatories, national conferences, etc.) and to produce the necessary information for the general communication tools.

MedStrategy project, as underlined in the previous progress reports, already produced a Communication Plan, as foreseen by the project working plan, agreed by the entire partnership. The document describes the communication and dissemination strategy and its purpose is to offer the partners a 24-month plan for the communication and dissemination activities in its general lines. The document will be updated accordingly to the project flow in case of new project strategy and to meet new project needs. Moreover it will be enriched by a detailed description on what it will be realized by the partnership in terms of communication in order to become a sort of “report” about MedStrategy communication activities at the end of the project itself. The document is completed by a short powerpoint version of the communication plan contents which briefly describes the main tools for disseminating project results.

Following the indications included in the Communication Plan, also during the fourth transnational meeting in Teruel, the partner Province of Teruel organized a press conference for disseminating MedStrategy project where all partners participated. TV channels were present and articles on a local newspaper were also published.

Presentations were made in Italy and Spain during local non-project conferences related to local development through official participation of project's representatives.

For participation process each regional coordinator involved local communities through mailing lists and/or preparatory meetings addressed to local actors, citizens and stakeholders. Posters were printed to advertise on project's activities, above all during the organisation of the forums of the participation process. Posters graphic design was made by Province of Teruel (in charge of the Phase) and is common to all the local versions. Leaflets of the project in double language (English and Spanish/Italian/Maltese/Greek) for local dissemination of the project were distributed in each region. This dissemination was done at a regional and local level: public authorities, policy developers, development agencies, research organizations, entrepreneurs and professional associations, private companies, etc.

With regards to the internet communication, partners increased their active participation to the project website, uploading their document on the project and disseminating their local activities also on the project's website.

As regards capitalisation, the capitalization strategy of the MedStrategy project will be implemented mainly through four concrete and durable tools that will be established since the beginning of the project:

1. Involvement of associated partners, which will follow the development of the planning model and will provide indications on its replicability. They will contribute to spread project results both at local level as well as at European level through their well established partnerships and networks.
2. Forums, as virtual meeting points of local authorities, key actors and stakeholders, will strength the local community awareness of the resources potential and will increase social cohesion and help reducing conflicts. Thus forums will facilitate the exploitation of new shared and balanced development initiatives.
3. Permanent Observatories of Municipalities, will favour the setting-up of a common and shared identity vision of sustainability-oriented development for the implementation of “green economy” and “green new deal” strategies coherently with the NRSFs and the “Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion – COM (2008) 616 Final”.

4. Permanent communication and networking platform, that will provide updated information about LOPs (Local Operative Plans) implementation and new investment opportunities. It will also connect future interested parties (authorities and firms) for the creation of new local as well as transnational alliances.

The plan is however to think to a higher level where the interesting experience of the project can be put in common to projects realised in other MED regions.

10. Signature

Date :

Signature and official stamp :