

# Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

## Scientific Report

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Preliminary research to support the preparation and writing of a research proposal related to regional ocean governance assessment to be submitted for the Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowship (MSCIF)

By Zacharoula Kyriazi

**Action number:** CA 15217  
**STSM title:** Preliminary research to support the preparation and writing of a research proposal related to regional ocean governance assessment to be submitted for the Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowship (MSCIF)  
**STSM start and end date:** 03/08/2018 to 26/08/2018  
**Grantee name:** Zacharoula Kyriazi  
**Institution:** Hellenic Centre for Marine Research  
**Host:** Michelle E.Portman  
**Host Institution:** Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

## **Purpose of the STSM**

By applying for the STSM in the framework of the Cost Action CA 15217 Ocean Governance for Sustainability, my intention was to visit the MarCoast Lab of the Technion Institute of Technology-Israel during August 2018, in order to do preliminary research and seek guidance by Prof. Michelle Portman (head of the MarCoast Lab), for the preparation and writing of a research proposal related to regional ocean governance assessment. Such proposal would be part of a Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowship (MSCIF) application that was planned to be submitted by the 12 of September 2018.

The objective of the MSCIF research proposal was to answer how to assess the Effectiveness of subregional agreements to enhance Blue Growth, while ensuring maximisation of the three Sustainable Development components i.e. economic growth, healthy marine ecosystems and human well-being, as win-win solutions achieved through cooperation. Research objectives (RO) and related methodologies included: RO1. Selection and overview of the subregional blue growth agreement to be used as case study using desk research and interviews; RO2. Identification and engagement of stakeholders (SHs) affecting and being affected by the agreement, using desk research, interviews and workshops. The purpose is to enrich collected data from (RO1), to identify SHs strategic interactions and to seek their opinion about the proposed assessment framework (RO3) and their participation in testing it; RO3. Development and application of a blue growth subregional agreement assessment framework (AFW). This would happen by reviewing existing AFWs and adapting them to incorporate the need to maximise all three Blue Growth components described above. Such maximisation would be modelled (with GIS and/or R) using as input the quantitative and qualitative and spatial implications of SHs strategic interactions on the three Blue Growth components. Techniques such as scenario development and analysis, trade off analysis, linear programming and game theoretic allocation rules will be used in order to identify an optimal solution closest to the ideal point. Such solution would be the desired outcome or reference point of comparison with the real outcome of the agreement. RO3 would be supported by related training objectives and secondments; Finally, RO4 was about proposing guidelines on how to integrate the AFW and its application in the broader process of subregional blue growth agreement planning and implementation while proposing processes towards and elements of successful subregional agreements for Blue Growth.

## **Description of the work carried out during the STSM**

During the STSM the following activities took place: A meeting with Mr. Mark Davison who is in charge for EU funded programs of the Technion Research and Development Foundation LTD, in order to receive guidance for the requirements of the MSCIF application. Further communication took place via e-mails. Regular meetings with my supervisor prof. Michelle Portman with the purpose:

- to familiarise me with the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning and the MarCoast lab, their facilities and affiliated researchers that are working in similar fields to mine;
- to plan together my research during my STSM i.e. to set objectives, a timeline;

- to decide which sources of information I will use. The sources she proposed were bibliography that I could find in the library and online and key persons (i.e. from the ministries of Environment, Planning and Energy), that I could interview in order to draw the current role that Israel plays in regional (Mediterranean) sustainable development through subregional agreements;
- to follow up my progress.

Furthermore, during my STSM, I managed to collect useful information and material for the writing of the research proposal through literature review and through the interviews that I conducted with above mentioned people in Haifa, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv (in person and via skype/e-mail). Interaction with MarCoast members also was also another source of brainstorming regarding the formulation of my research questions and the potential methodologies to be used in order to address them.

## **Description of the main results obtained**

During my work at the MarCoast Lab I compiled a major part of the MSCIF application. This included the writing of the research proposal (as part of the application) that required to describe the state of the art in relation to the research topic, the objectives and the methodology to be used. It also included description of the impact of the planned research to the Faculty, the research community and the public and a timeline using a Gantt chart for its implementation. Other parts of the MSCIF application that include information about my and the supervisor's background were compiled upon my return and a few days later I submitted the application online.

RO1 and RO2 of the MSCIF application were partially fulfilled during my stay in Israel since I managed to identify which case study I would use (part of RO1) and which stakeholders I should involve in my research (part of RO2). So the case study that I found as more relevant to my overall research objective is one that would focus not only to the marine environmental protection aspect of sustainable development but also to the economic and social ones and that would entail a number of characteristics such as: to belong geographically in the Mediterranean sea basin, to combine both EU and non EU member states (e.g. Israel), to deal with the involvement of other non EU members and non state actors and to touch upon issues such as, land-sea connectivity, energy connectivity and environmental protection. Under these requirements a suitable case study would be the Eastern Mediterranean (EastMed) pipeline agreement between Israel, Cyprus and Greece and the transport of initially 10 Bcm/y (billion cubic meters of gas per year) from the off-shore gas reserves in the Levantine Basin (Cyprus and Israel) into Greece and, in conjunction with the Poseidon and IGB pipelines, into Italy and other South East European countries. Based on that, the stakeholders that must be approached and engaged must come from Israel, Cyprus and Greece, as well as EU and Mediterranean organisations and other state and non state actors from neighboring countries and will be identified through the reviewing process followed for RO1 and by directly asking already engaged SH to introduce new ones. Future Collaborations My research in the Black Sea and Danube Delta was presented to MSP staff within Queen's University – the feedback provided me new ideas and approaches for future studies and papers. Moreover, we established a draft structure for another collaborative paper, written as a systematic review with focus on stakeholder participation in MSP process.

## **Future Collaborations**

Because of the big range of information that I was able to collect about Israel's role in the framework of the specific case study, but also regarding Israel's contribution to regional and subregional cooperation and development and due to the fact that there is still more to explore, a future collaboration with prof Michelle Portman and her lab could involve a deeper research regarding topic and a potential related publication.

Of course future collaboration is already planned in case the MSCIF application is succesful, since MarCoast Lab (and hence Technion) will be my host institute.