



# COASTAL OIL POLLUTION PARTNER REGIONS' ORGANISATION

*SYNTHESIS OF MAREMED QUESTIONNAIRE  
INTENDED FOR PARTNER REGIONS*



## QUESTION 1

### Role and responsibilities of regions and municipalities in the event of accidental coastal pollution

The response at sea is the responsibility of the State in Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy and Spain. Local authorities (regions, provinces or municipalities) act only if the pollution reaches the coastline. They can be responsible of the response (tier 1 = small scale pollution), involved in the response managed by national authorities (tier 2 or tier 3 = medium or large scale pollution). Some local authorities manage shoreline cleanup through contingency plans or procedures developed at regional level (Italy, Spain), municipal level (France, Greece, Italy).

In each country, the overall organization of the response is defined by Law or national contingency planning:

**Cyprus:** There is no law that specifies any responsibilities in the municipalities in the case of an event of accidental coastal pollution but the National Contingency Plan 2011 give responsibilities to local authorities if the pollution reaches the coastline. The local authorities do not prepare contingency plans for the management of an accidental spill.

**France:** The marine pollution organisation (POLMAR) is defined by specific POLMAR regulation of 2002 and 2006 and by the 2004 Law concerning Civil Protection (Loi de modernisation de la Sécurité Civile 2004). The first responsibility of shoreline cleanup is given to the mayors. The State will be involved only if local authorities cannot face to the spill. There is no obligation for the municipalities prepare a local contingency plan for the management of an accidental shoreline marine pollution.

**Greece:** The National Contingency Plan for the management of oil spill and other hazardous materials “Εθνικό σχέδιο έκτακτης ανάγκης για την αντιμετώπιση περιστατικών ρύπανσης από πετρέλαιο και άλλες επιβλαβείς ουσίες” was approved in 2002 (Presidential decree Π.Δ. 11/2002, ΦΕΚ 6/Α/21-1-2002). The cleaning of the coastline is the responsibility of the municipalities.

**Italy:** National Law on sea pollution n°979 of 31/12/1982 “Legge n. 979 del 31 dicembre 1982 Disposizioni per la difesa del mare” and National Emergency Intervention Plan for the protection from oil pollution and other harmful substances caused by sea accident approved by Decree of President of the Council of Ministers on the 04/11/2010. The regions have direct competences for shoreline cleanup and can make laws and contingency plans. For example, the Marche Region with Regional Committee Resolution n°832 on the 11/06/2012 approved the “Regional Guidelines for provincial planning of emergencies caused by oil pollution or other harmful substances caused by sea accident” and the study and the proposition of a regional law on sea safety and protection in under construction.

**Spain:** Order of the Ministry of Development in 2001/FEB/23 for the organisation of maritime accidental spill response and Royal Decree 253/2004 for the organisation of the response in harbours precise that the State is responsible for the response at sea and the regions are responsible for the response on the coastline. The regions have their own contingency plan (ex : PRAMCOVA plan for the Valencia region).

## QUESTION 2

**Is the coastal spill response organisation consistent on a national scale or are there differences between the various regions of your country?**

**In some countries, the local authorities develop municipal or regional contingency plans which are prepared following a general framework (national guidelines). The organisation is homogenous but the organisation of the response can be different in each region because these plans integrate local specificities (means available, shoreline topography, etc.). All the different response level (tiers) must be coordinated and must be integrated in the national framework defined by the national authority.**

In each country, there is a general national framework for the organisation of the coastal spill response:

**Cyprus:** the Naval Service of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural resources and Environment is responsible for oil spill control and response at the national level and for setting up Emergency response Centres (ERCs). For those occasions which require national or sub-regional contingency arrangements the ERC would be established at the Fisheries Department Headquarters, Nicosia. For minor incidents within the capability of local resources, the ERC would be established at one of the Fisheries Department four district offices. The response is then managed by the same organisation in the whole country.

**France:** There is no national contingency plan for shoreline clean-up but a general framework and guidelines for the preparation of local contingency plans (“Polmar terre”) prepared by each Prefecture. The plans prepared by municipalities must be coordinated with the “Polmar terre” implemented by the Prefecture and the plan must be delivered to the Prefecture. So, the general organisation is the same but local/regional specificities are integrated in the response management.

**Greece:** The National Contingency Plan for the management of oil spill results in 24 regional plans managed by 24 Regional Marine Pollution Combating Centres. They are based in important ports. Every Port Authority has also its own Local Contingency Plan. One Port Authority can be responsible for more than one port. Usually the Port Authority of an important port is also responsible for the smaller ports of the area, fishermen’s ports, marinas etc. All Local Contingency Plans were approved in 1/1/2001.

**Italy:** Coastal spill response organisation is managed at a national scale, by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, through its Civil Protection Department, and by the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea. Local Contingency Plans are developed by each Port Authority (48) and coordinated with Contingency Plans prepared by single coastal Provinces. The 48 Harbourmaster offices would control and coordinate the operation in the field. The organisation is homogenous with local specificities. There are 3 levels of response/management of Italian Country in case of oil spill:

First level: local intervention, set up of specific plans of first intervention, based on regional strategic indication (Regional Civil Protection Directorate)

Second level: national intervention, competence of the Ministry of the Environment and Land & Sea Protection which set up an Emergency Plan for the protection of the sea and coastal zones from the pollution caused by marine accidents

Third level: national intervention, competence of the Department of Civil Protection of the Council of Ministers Presidency which set up the National Emergency Plan for the pollution.

**Spain:** In annex of the Order of the Ministry of Development in 2001/FEB/23), there are criteria for the elaboration of the territorial (regional) and inner plans. The organisation is homogenous with regional specificities.

### QUESTION 3

Which organisation is in charge of on-site response in the event of coastal pollution in your region?

When the pollution responsible can be identified, he is responsible for paying the cost for pollution management and can mobilize specialised response companies. If there is no responsible identified, the response is managed following Civil Protection Organisation. In these organisations, local authorities (municipalities or regions) are responsible of the coastline cleanup. They can mobilise different means: municipalities, port authorities, fire brigade, regions, government departments, private companies, NGOs...

**Cyprus:** the response is managed by Department of Fisheries which possesses a significant stockpile of equipment for response at sea. Department of Fisheries can requisition the assistance of other government departments, non-governmental organisations or industry. Locally available resources can also be used.

**France:** When there is no responsible of pollution identified, the organisation defined by the Civil Protection is implemented: the first level of responsibility for coastline response is the mayor who can mobilise the municipal teams, fire brigade or private companies. If the pollution is too much important or if several municipalities are polluted, the response is managed by the “Prefet” who is the representative of the state in each administrative area called department. The Prefet can mobilise municipalities teams, fire brigade, government departments or private companies. Most of the time, the fire brigade commands the response on the field.

**Greece:** When the pollution responsible can be identified, he is responsible for paying the cost for pollution management. In most cases, a specialized private company is hired. The private company works under the supervision of the Hellenic Coast Guard and it is paid by the responsible for the oil spill. If the pollution responsible cannot be identified, the Coast Guard assumes the cost of all operations. The Port Authorities can decide to use private companies and volunteer groups if the Coast Guard material and manpower are not enough. The cleaning of the coastline is the responsibility of the municipalities.

**Italy:** In the Regional System of Intervention, in the event of coastal pollution, the organisation in charge of on site response is the Civil Protection at different level:

Municipal

Provincial

Regional (Sea Protection Unit – is specialized at regional level in this theme)

**Spain:** If it affects only the water, the response organisation is the state level “Sociedad Estatal de Salvamento Marítimo”. If the pollution reaches the coast, it is the regional Civil Protection service the body in charge of the response. For the Valencia region, the document explaining the procedure is called “Intervention procedures before accidental marine pollution in the Valencia Region” (PRAMCOVA). It is the General Department of Internal Affairs of the Regional Government who manages the regional policy in Civil Protection and Emergency Management issues through the Law 9/2002 of Civil Protection and Emergency Management in the Valencia Region. Response teams at different levels in the region are composed by staff from the Emergency Brigades, staff from the Regional Department of Environment, other staff from the regional government, Firemen Provincial Unions and other bodies like municipalities, Red Cross, etc.

## QUESTIONS 4 and 5

**Is action taken in your region, provinces, counties or municipalities to prepare for accidental coastal pollution? To which budget are the following allocated?**

**In all the countries, the state establish contingency plans, organise training and exercises which involved local authorities and manage a dedicated budget for these activities. In France, Italy and Spain, some local authorities (municipalities, provinces, regions) establish their own contingency plan, training and exercises but can have difficulties to find funds for these activities.**

**Cyprus:** The Naval Service of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research and the Department of Merchant Shipping is in charge of contingency plans, response stockpiles, organisation of exercises and training. There is a budget dedicated to these activities.

**France:** Each “Prefet of department” has to update a contingency plan and to organise one exercise every three years on shoreline response. For 5-6 years, these exercises include half a day of information of municipalities on their responsibilities in case of shoreline pollution, one day of training on shoreline clean-up and then the exercise which involve municipalities trained, fire brigade, government departments. These training and exercises are funded by Ministry of Environment. Some municipalities, mainly along Mediterranean coastline, establish their own response plan, organise training and exercises and buy some equipment whenever budget is available.

**Greece:** All the necessary material and manpower for oil spill and marine pollution prevention are included in the budget of the Ministry of Marine Affaires and the Aegean Sea. This budget, equipment and manpower are then distributed regionally and locally according to the local needs. No fixed regional quotas exist. The Coast Guard is responsible for the maintenance of the necessary material and equipment, for the specialized training of the personnel but also for the training of volunteers and the organization of common exercises with other services (municipal services etc.).

**Italy:** Civil protection volunteers are trained for different kinds of emergency. Personnel training also take place during exercises organised at national, regional and local level. National exercises can be organized by Civil Protection Department, by the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea or by the General Command of Port Authority. At a local level, exercises are organised by the Head of Port Authority, such local exercises take place once or twice a year. Budget for spill response and for purchase and maintenance of response equipment is managed at national level (Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea). In Regions, Civil Protection own some equipment.

**MARCHE:** According to the new Regional Committee Resolution n. 832 on the 11/06/2012 Local Authorities are obliged to adopt a contingency plan. This resolution also foresees training activities and exercises for the Local Authorities staff. Each Local Authority has the possibility to buy equipment, organize training course and exercise but they are not obliged by law. Resolution foresees that the Regional Authority organize training and informative events for the drafting of the operative plans. Municipalities and Provinces should mainly (but not exclusively) inform/train citizens and local volunteers. Region should mainly (but not exclusively) inform and train the staff of Local Authorities and support them in the drafting of the Operative Plan. In MARCHE Region and Local Authorities are obliged to take action in case of oil pollution in the coastal area but they have

problems to foresees dedicated budget for this. Local Authorities own minimum response equipment useful for Civil Protection actions, some of them could be used also in case of oil pollution in the coastal area having inter-sector use.

**Spain:** Contingency Plans are established by certain municipalities that present high pollution risk levels, ports (inner plans), shore industries (refineries, gas terminals, oil storage facilities, etc,) and by the regional action plan, that must incorporate all these local plans. All these plans use to consider the response equipment needed and available. At regional level there is a training programme established. The Generalitat Valenciana set a training programme in motion in coordination with the State between 2009 and 2011 covering all the responsibilities levels and specially focusing on training middle managers and response teams. At local level, inner plans consider training on emergency management, response and equipment utilisation. At national level, members of the “Salvamento Marítimo” receive specific advanced training on this issue. The National Plan also establishes a shared training programme (with the regions) for the regional response teams. Exercises are usually developed inside port areas or near coastal facilities. Major spill exercises are carried out at national level with the collaboration of the region. Regional contingency plan is prepared by a Technical Commission in the regional Government (Department of Internal Affairs, firemen, harbour masters, emergency brigades, etc). There are equipment stockpiles in the regional headquarters of Civil Protection, Red Cross, Salvamento Marítimo (national strategic base in Castellon), Port Authorities, etc. All this equipment is coordinated under the PRAMCOVA. There is a regional training programme on these issues given by staff from TRAGSA (State company giving service on environmental issues to the State, Regions and Municipalities) and the General Direction for Prevention, Fire Fighting and Emergencies. Advanced training is given in the “Jovellanos Integral Maritime Safety Centre”, in Gijón (Asturias). At local level exercises are organized by a Port Authority or a private company. At regional/state level the State General Direction of Merchant Marine together with the Regional Governance Department are the bodies in charge of the development of such exercises. These exercises are also developed under the collaboration of Port Authorities, Harbor Masters and Salvamento Marítimo.

## QUESTION 6:

**Do you share equipment, expertise...with other regions, between municipalities/communities or within the same bay?**

**Basically, each local authority manages its own resources but there is a mutual solidarity system. Some neighbour municipalities organise common training and exercises or develop alert chain. Some regions cooperate for the development of common training tools, of homogeneous response procedures or cooperate in the framework of coastal zone management projects which include accidental spill management. This develop common approaches for the management of an oil spill.**

**Cyprus:** yes, there is sharing between municipalities in the same bay.

**France:** at local level, some municipalities develop synergies. There is also some experience, training tools and guidelines sharing in the framework of European projects (EROCIPS, ARCOPOL, ALCOTRA...) or through regional coastline management projects which can include one task concerning management of an accidental oil spill. In some areas, local authorities organised an alert chain.

**Greece:** no information collected

**Italy:** There is not a Regulation or Law which foresees the share of equipment, there is instead a strong mutual solidarity system at all administrative level: municipal, provincial and regional. For example, Emilia-Romagna Region approved in 2011, February the 21<sup>st</sup> the scheme of agreement protocol with Marche Region about sea protection from oil spilling or other harmful substances. The protocol aims to develop synergies for emergencies' forecast, prevention, monitoring and management. Another example is the EU ALCOTRA project which included common training and exercises between French and Italian municipalities.

**Spain:** there is no specific equipment shared. Each municipality manages its own resources. Resources are very limited and often they are dedicated to beaches cleaning and maintenance. If a same bay is shared by different municipalities they would apply their municipal plans in coordination with the regional plan in order to establish an share the necessary equipment or expertise.

### QUESTION 7:

**Do you collaborate with your country's Government or another authority in terms of response to accidental coastal pollution? If so, please specify (training, exercises, documentation, sharing of experience, etc.)**

In all the countries, the cooperation between local authorities, the state and the governments departments is well developed for response preparation (contingency planning, training and exercises, sharing of experience). This cooperation is also organised for emergency response in the response plans. Moreover, as explained in answer to question 3, in most of the countries, when the pollution is so important that it cannot be managed by local authorities, the national authorities and response means can be mobilised.

**Cyprus:** yes, for training, exercises, sharing of experience.

**France:** yes, the entire French organisation is based on a strong cooperation between municipalities and government departments (se answers 1-5). But the regions do not have operational role in this organisation.

**Greece:** no information collected

**Italy:** Yes, the regions collaborate in the emergency management with the Government. With other Local Authorities there is not obligation but a solidarity system. There is an Agreement between Region and State which establish cooperation methods and promote a permanent Technical Table among the different actors involved in the activities management (data Exchange, training activities, know-how Exchange, etc...).

**Spain:** Yes, the framework is the "National Plan against marine pollution" in which general criteria is established for the elaboration of regional (territorial) plans. In this plan, a training programme is established in coordination with each region in order to make easier to the regional responsible bodies the preparedness for facing a pollution event. This training programme is elaborated jointly by the Ministry of Development and the Ministry of Public Administrations in which they establish also the conditions to accede. The Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs also released through the General Direction for Coastal and Marine Sustainability a set of Manuals and Guides for fighting marine pollution. For the response, the technical committee is established with staff of the State and the Regions according to each regional plan.

## QUESTION 8:

**In the event of pollution, do you have access to technical assistance from the Government, a specialised centre, an NGO, or some other body? If so, is this assistance available 24/7?**

**The cooperation between government and local authorities mentioned in answer n°7 runs also in emergency situation. The local authorities can alert and have technical assistance 24/7 from some specialised government departments or operational centre.**

**Cyprus:** In the event of pollution, local authorities have access 24/7 to the technical assistance of the Naval Service as well as the help of the oceanographic centre of Cyprus and the Department of Merchant Shipping.

**France:** yes, the local authorities have access 24/7 to the technical assistance of the main government departments and to CEDRE.

**Greece:** no information collected

**Italy:** Yes, when a local emergency is declared and validated by the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, Civil Protection and COEMM (Operative Centre for Maritime Emergency) are alerted, this last one assure a 24-hours service. The Government is always available (24/7) with National Department of Civil protection, Maritime Local Direction, National Fire Department, National and Regional Agency for Environmental Protection (ARPA/ARPAM).

**Spain:** yes: “Salvamento Marítimo” provides the technical assistance to the Government together with a “Technical Advising Committee” composed by experts of different fields (public and private companies, emergency managers, brigades, port authorities, harbour masters, etc). One of them is the public company TRAGSA that gives technical assistance to different government levels on environmental issues. In case of a pollution event the Technical Advising Committee is met immediately. “Salvamento Marítimo” provides response service 24/7/365.

## QUESTION 9:

**What are your main requirements in order to be better prepared to manage a medium-sized (tier 2) spill yourselves or to take part in a response effort organised by your Government in the event of a major (tier 3) spill?**

- Crisis management/field response training
- Contingency planning/Procedures/Emergency response sheets specifying your responsibilities in case of emergency
- Operational guides/manuals to help you organise operations
- Participation in crisis simulation exercises or field exercises, alert chain tests
- Establishment of response equipment stockpiles
- Consultation with neighbouring regions of your own country or transboundary action.

**Local contingency planning, knowledge of the national pollution management system and training are priorities for the regions involved in MAREMED project.**

**Cyprus:** everything for tier 2 and tier 3 event

**France:** Corse region needs (from the more to the less important need):

1. Contingency planning/Procedures/Emergency response sheets specifying your responsibilities in case of emergency
2. Crisis management/field response training
3. Participation in crisis simulation exercises or field exercises, alert chain tests
4. Establishment of response equipment stockpiles
5. Consultation with neighbouring regions of your own country or transboundary action
6. Operational guides/manuals to help you organise operations

**Greece:** no information collected

**Italy:** For the MARCHE region, the direct knowledge of the management systems of the different structures at National, Regional and Local Level and the related competences planning are fundamental. They also need to build up an efficient prevention system and an efficient alert chain.

For EMILIA-ROMAGNA, contingency plans/procedures/emergency response sheets as well as crisis management/field response training are fundamental to be prepared to manage a medium size spill or to take part in a response to a major spill.

For LIGURIA, training, exercises and transboundary cooperation with French municipalities are the priority. No needs expressed by LAZIO and TOSCANA

**Spain:** Establishment of response equipment stockpiles is an important matter. A study made by FEPORTS some years ago revealed the lack of equipment stockpiles at municipal level. FEPORTS believes that certain pollution events could be minimized if the response time was earlier. This often is a function of the availability of equipment located in strategic places. In the same line, a study made by the State in 2010 on the necessities of the Valencia Region regarding fighting against marine pollution revealed that it was necessary that each involved administration carries out an inventory of means and own resources available in case of necessity before a marine pollution event. Concerning the consultation with neighbouring regions, there is no explicit inter-regional collaboration in the Spanish Mediterranean Coast. Each region

manages its own resources. It would be useful to know what our neighbour regions have in order to face a pollution event.

## ***Political MAREMED Messages on Oil Spill pollution***

### **Strengthen the terrestrial component of the fight against oil-pollution**

The Mediterranean receives each day a silent major pollution, with the danger to see the oil cause a lot of damages to the coastal zones.

In this context, Regions stress that:

- The important efforts done by the EU to survey, prevent, fight, against these pollutions and the pooling of means and alert chain, put in place, at the EU level are welcome.
- A lot of European projects are dedicated to the fight against this risk in the sea, with the competent states offices.
- However the attention of the EU Commission must be kept on the fact that when the oil arrive close to, and on, the beach, the local governments are responsible of the safety and integrity for goods and people. At the small and medium scale of pollution, the means of the States are not deployed automatically and we need to prepare local actors, including political responsible, with trainings and exercises.
- It will be a necessity to take into consideration in the framework of the next EU 2014-2020 financial programming period these needs of the terrestrial component of the fight against a pollution in terms of preparation ; the importance of allowing mutual assistance between Mediterranean territories by organizing simulation exercises on logical areas for the distribution of pollution in the Mediterranean zones like Adriatic, north-western Mediterranean, Aegean sea, Gibraltar Detroit, the zone of “Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey” ..

The Regions also point out the importance of having a common terminology, interoperable materials, among local authorities around the Mediterranean to be in capacity to give assistance in case of major pollution.

*Nota bene:* This brochure has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the partners of MAREMED project and this document does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.