

EUROPE & SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN REGION
Different Aspects of Cooperation, Trends and Perspectives for Future Joint Initiatives

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GEM PhD SCHOOL
ERASMUS Mundus
Joint Doctorate
Globalisation, the EU
& Multilateralism



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EUROMED: A MULTILATERAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Lisbon Council (1992): New EU framework for its relations with Med. Countries

Barcelona Conference (1995):

- ⇒ Political and security partnership: Standby
- ⇒ Economic and financial partnership: Standby
- ⇒ Social, cultural and human partnership: Monitoring Committee (MoCo)

Establishment of the European Neighbourhood Policy – ENP (2004)

- ⇒ Frames Euro-Med. bilateral policy dialogue
- ⇒ Main funding instrument

Cairo Declaration (2007) = Major change in the Euromed context : includes policy objectives and means of assessment

- ⇒ Seeks to create a Euromed Higher Education Area
- ⇒ Seeks to create a Euromed Research Area

May 2011: Joint EU HRVP and European Commission Communication (COM (2011) 303)

- ⇒ Suggest to work towards the establishment of a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space (CKIS) in terms of Research and Innovation

ENPI

⇒ 12€ billion over 2007-2013

FP7 research Framework Programme

⇒ 430€ million in 168 projects in the MENA Region (includes co-funding)

Regional Indicative Programme for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership complemented with the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme for the Mediterranean Sea Bassin

⇒ 583€ million over 2007-2010 (of which 275€ million from the ENPI and 308€ million from the European Regional Development Fund)

IMPLICATIONS OF MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORKS

AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN EU AND MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES (MPC) SERVE AS A MULTILATERAL REFERENCE FRAMEWORK

STRENGTHS OF MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORKS

RECIPROCITY AND EFFICIENCY

- Win-win
- Economies of Scale

DIVERSITY AS DRIVER OF INNOVATION

- Inclusiveness
- Increased Visibility

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Benchmarking
- “Best” practice exchange

SUSTAINABILITY

- Spill-over
- Durability
- Institutional scope

CHALLENGES OF MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORKS

COMPLEXITY

- Diverging Institutional Aims
- Rigidities of Multilateral Frameworks
- Reconciling Different Universities’ Practices

ABSENCE OF CLEAR PRECEDENT

- (Nearly) Absence of multilateral legal frameworks
- Weight of Necessary Expertise
- Launch Costs / Initial Investment

RECONCILING SPECIFIC AND GENERAL INTEREST

- Conflicting Research Agendas
- Diluted Impact on Rankings
- Importance of Mutual Trust

**A STATE OF AFFAIRS
FROM THE NATIONAL TO THE EUROMED
RESEARCH AREAS**

OVERALL IMPRESSION:

- ⇒ In MENA: fragmented / isolated research over a great number of institutions
- ⇒ In EU: varied national traditions converging in a European Research Area (ERA) built on complex schemes of more centralized partnerships

HISTORICAL NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES :

- ⇒ IN EU MS: Outcome of a coordination effort of the State => Public agencies geared towards enhanced productivity of research projects
- ⇒ IN MENA: National coordination bodies are an outcome of a strengthening of the State => Symbolic institutions mostly tied to national projects
 - More centralized countries prefer single state bodies : *Ministries or Secretaries of State when echoing the French Model (ex. Tunisia, Algeria) or Academies of State similar to the "Eastern European" Model (ex: Egypt)*
 - More decentralized countries (ex. Jordan, Lebanon): Science Councils usually preferred

RECENT CHANGES OF NATIONAL COORDINATION BODIES IN MENA

- Lebanon: Lebanese Association for Science's main activity = publishing the Lebanese Science Journal with the support of the National Research Council (Productivity)
- Morocco: Recent promotion of the creation of a Science Academy modelled after the French Académie des Sciences. Quasi public institution with public funding and independent status (Independence)
- Egypt: Former strong political relations with USSR (50s & 60s) => model of governance based on the State Academy. System revamped since 2007 => creation of a funding agency and enhancement of the Ministry of research (Efficiency)

BOTH IN THE EU AND MENA NATIONAL COORDINATION AS WELL AS COOPERATION EFFORTS HAVE COME TO FOCUS ON ENHANCING

- ⇒ Productivity of scientific cooperation
- ⇒ Autonomy of scientific cooperation
- ⇒ Efficiency of scientific cooperation

BUT CAPACITIES REMAIN DIFFERENT

COLLABORATIONS ESSENTIALLY RELY ON THE PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS IN THEIR HOST INSTITUTIONS

WHICH AUTHORITY CAN SIGN AND FRAME COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS

- ⇒ In EU: Higher Education Institutions, Research Institutes, Laboratories
- ⇒ In MENA: National Government Authorities seem to take precedence

(ASBIMED PROJECT) COOPERATION PROGRAMMES IN THE MED. REGION ESSENTIALLY:

- ⇒ Relies on spontaneous proposals by the stakeholders, which in their large majority come from academia...
- ⇒ ...but oft in response to political imperatives considering the lack of correlation between the number of cooperation programmes and co-publications...
- ⇒ ..., and appears as a means to support research in view of a lack of national funding

OVERALL IMPRESSION

- ⇒ So far efforts appear scattered and spread too thin:
- Collaborations rarely develop into sustained cooperation platforms
 - Cooperation frameworks rarely foster substantive collaborations

TABLE 11

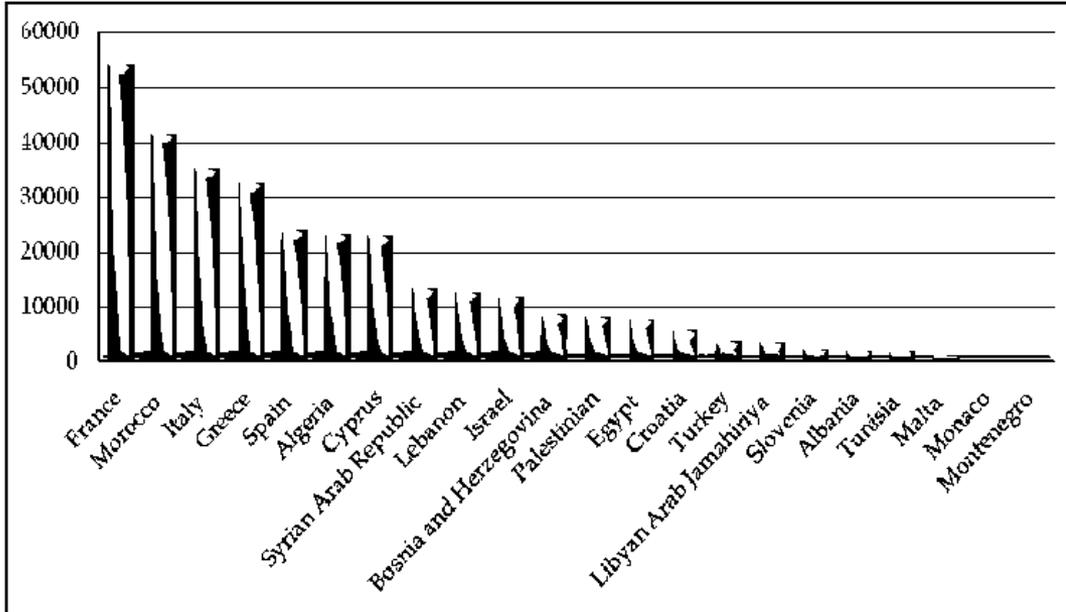
Framework of Collaboration of Scientists from SEMs

Framework of Collaboration	N	%
Without Official Framework	1,104	58.5%
Bilateral Cooperation	920	48.8%
International Project	461	24.4%
EU Project	402	21.3%
Foreign Public Project	234	12.4%
Foreign Private Project	51	2.7%
Arab Funded Project	90	4.8%
Total Responses to the Question	1,887	

Source: MIRA survey on collaborations - Multiple answers possible.

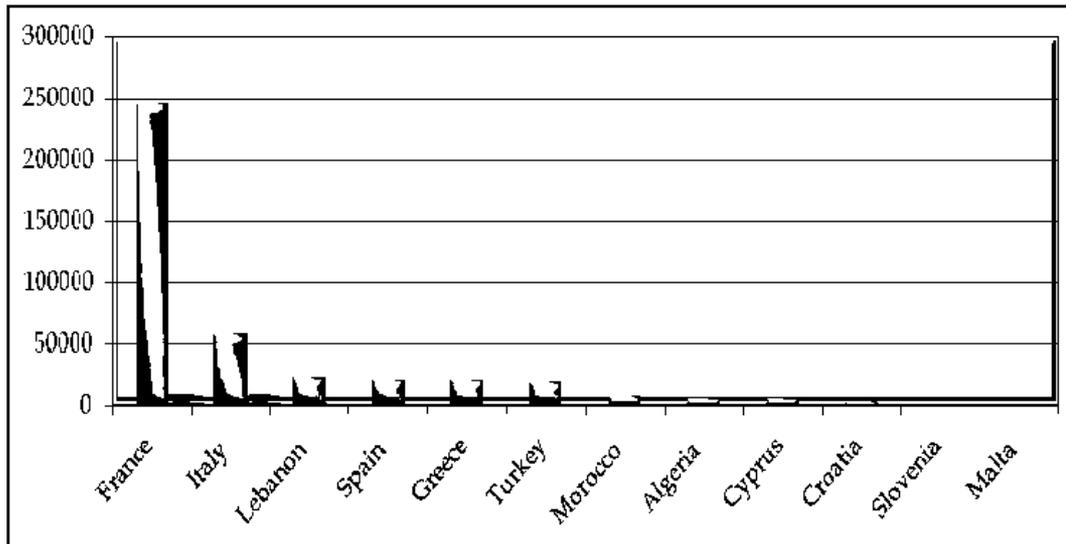
MODES OF COOPERATION MOBILITY & JOINT PROGRAMMES

STUDENT MOBILITY



Number of students from Med. Countries studying abroad.

2007, GED 2009, 143-145



Number of abroad students studying in Med. Countries.

2007, GED 2009, 143-145

ERASMUS MUNDUS PROGR: AN EXCELLENT CATALYST TO ENCOURAGE GLOBAL STUDENT, RESEARCHERS AND ACADEMIC MOBILITY TO EUROPE

MAID THE ERA AND THE EU MAJOR PLAYERS IN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY

Since 2004: 13.957 students selected for one of the 907 EMMCs

Since 2010: 1005 students selected for one of the 113 EMJDs

2004-2010: 2449 scholars benefitted from an EM Action 2 mobility

2012: 1966 EMMC and 364 EMJD fellowships

BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE A RELATIVELY LESS IMPACT ON EUROMED LINKAGES



European Commission
**ERASMUS
MUNDUS**

54/1005 EMJD Fellowships to MENA nationals (1,4%)
(1 Algeria, 6 Egypt, 1 Israel, 4 Jordan, 2 Tunisia, 44 Iran)
Comparison: Ethiopia (3 times less population than
MENA)

28
754/13.957 EMMC Fellowships to MENA nationals (5,4%)
Of which 450 come from Egypt (219) and Iran (239)



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2/134 applicants in 2009 (1 Egypt and 1 Marocco)
2/146 in 2010 (1 Jordan and 1 Yemen)
3/216 In 2011 (2 Jordan and 1 Yemen)
4/278 in 2012 (1 Egypt, 1 Jordan, 1 Marocco and 1 Yemen)
1 MENA fellow on 39 enrolled GEM PhD Fellows

CHALLENGES FACING EUROMED MOBILITY

TOO SMALL IN SCALE TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Related to a series of practical factors: Visas, Economic support, EM penetration and brand reputation

IMBALANCE IN FLOWS WHICH MAKES WIN-WIN DIFFICULT

Differences in perceived usefulness of the mobility born from vague objectives associated with the mobility actions

Incentive structure is not clearly spelled out for students and academics

WEAK LINKS BETWEEN MOBILITY COOPERATION AND SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION

Misaligned research agendas, Just in time vs. Just in case, inequality in terms of research capacities and tradition

BUREAUCRATIC CONSTRAINTS PREVENTING RAPID REACTION TO CHANGING EXPECTATIONS

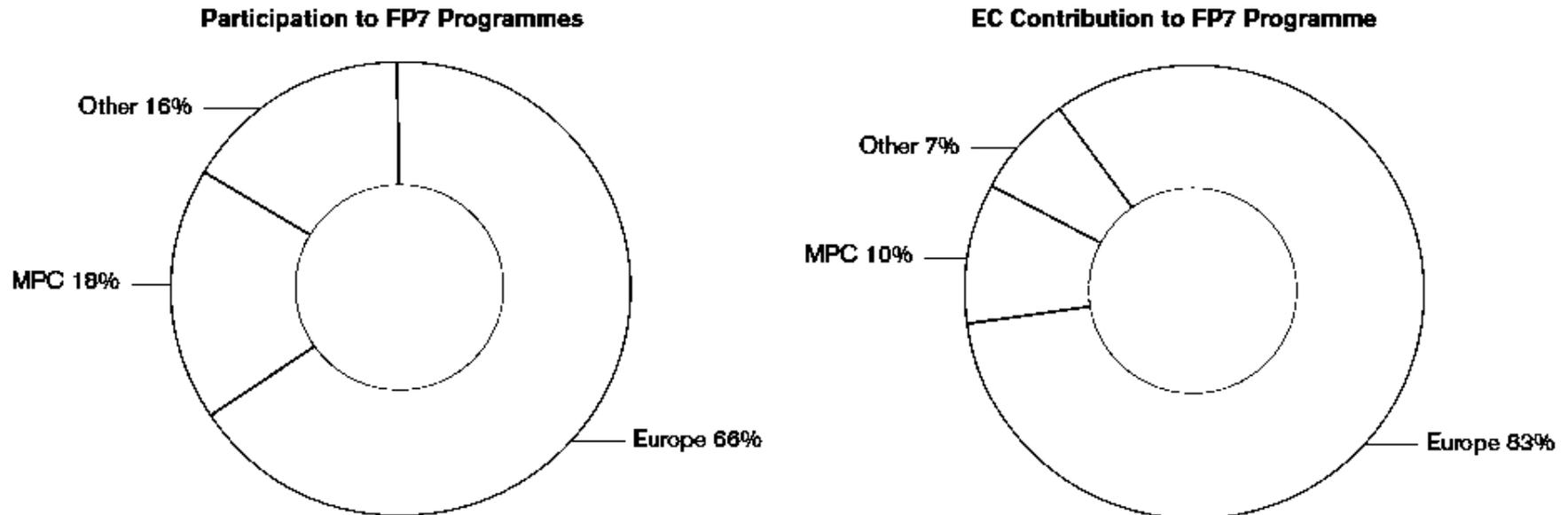
Bureaucratic standardization, slow reaction to the changes in the Arab World, Multiannual programming

MAIN INSTRUMENT = FP7

- ⇒ 430€ million in 168 projects
- ⇒ Amount covers expenditures of EU and Med. Units
- ⇒ Med. Countries receive 43€ million (10%)
- ⇒ Smaller if “institutional” or capacity building is put aside
- ⇒ FP7 mainly aimed at funding EU teams working with MPCs.

CHART 38

EU-Funded Projects under the FP7 Programme: Participation and European Commission Contribution

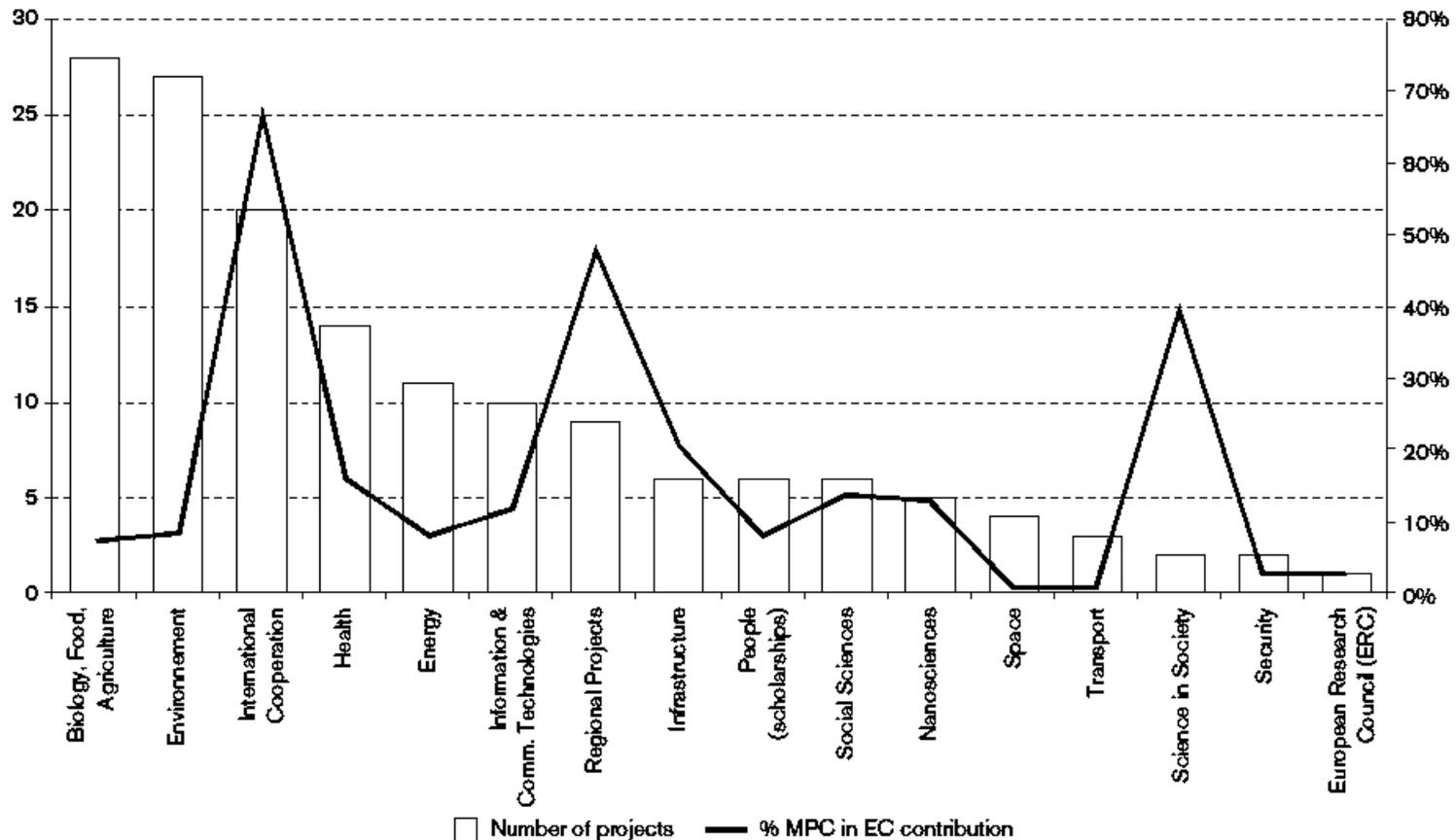


RESEARCH FIELDS

- ⇒ MENA and EU research agendas intersect+ in collective projects on societal challenges (food, environment, international cooperation and health)
- ⇒ Direct investment in MENA research capacity does not correlate with priorities but focuses on 3 main areas: International Cooperation, Regional Projects and Science in Society

CHART 39

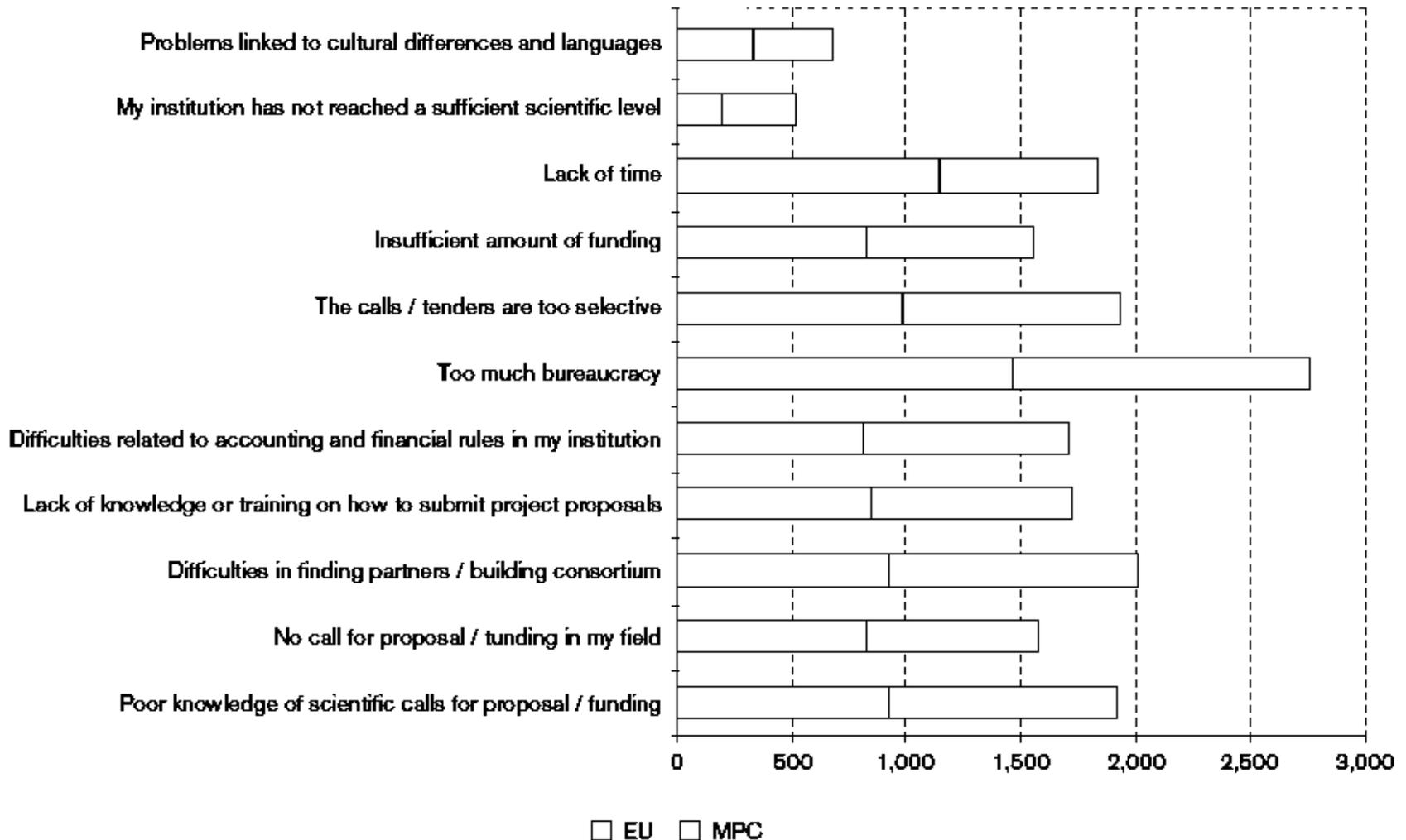
EU-Funded Projects under the FP7 Programme: Participations and EC Contribution by Theme



FACTORS LIMITING PARTICIPATION OF MPCs' SCIENTISTS IN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CALLS

CHART 40

Main Factors Limiting Participation to International Projects



CHALLENGES FACING JOINT PROGRAMMES

LACK OF OPENESS IN RESEARCH AGENDA DEFINITION CALLING MARGINALIZATION OF MENA IN CONSORTIA

Lack of institutionalized collaborations; Late involvement of MENA in research design; Funding restrictions; Unequal capacities

INEFFICIENT MATCH MAKING LEADING TO UNSATISFYING COLLABORATIONS

Difficulties in finding partners; unequal funding allocation; pigeon holing of MENA contributions

OVER-RELIANCE ON SPECIFIC MENA COUNTRIES & UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF COUNTRIES WITH POTENTIAL CO-FUNDING PARTNERS

INEFFICIENCIES

Bureaucratic burden; Practical complications in MENA countries; Differences in managerial practices and capabilities

A VIRTUOUS CIRCLE BETWEEN COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION

ACTIONS

Scientific cooperation = support programmes actively promoting scientific collaborations at the international level

It is not to be confused with...

Scientific collaboration = specific research driven joint initiatives seeking to produce specific scientific outputs

ACTORS

Scientific cooperation is promoted by both international and national institutions, which design, fund and sustain such actions

Scientific collaboration is initiated and carried out by individuals, research units and laboratories

ENHANCE LINKAGES BETWEEN RESEARCH

Goal: address the weak links between international cooperation and scientific Collaboration

Measures:

- ⇒ Open up ERA research agenda to MENA concerns
- ⇒ Singularly prioritize cooperation that is clearly activity bound (Seminars; Summer Schools, Conferences, Policy Seminars, Virtual Mobility)
- ⇒ Any cooperative action should be geared towards enhancing the productivity, autonomy and efficiency of pre-existing research activities
- ⇒ Multiply the type of mobilities to better fit underlying research agendas
- ⇒ Clearly include scientific co-production as one of the deliverables

ENHANCED LINKAGES BETWEEN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROJECTS

Goal: to leverage historical linkages in favor of a Euromed research area and no longer be locked into them

Measures:

- ⇒ Integration different bilateral relations within networks of excellence
- ⇒ Encourage a clarification of the MENA research agenda and its specific priorities
- ⇒ Encourage national bodies to serve as intermediaries for the broader Euromed projects and not solely for conservation of historical linkages
- ⇒ Earmark resources for the exploration and build up of new networks, notably include potential co-funding partners
- ⇒ Enhance the brand both through national bodies but also and necessarily through EU delegations

ENHANCED PARTICIPATION AND OWNERSHIP OF MENA ACTORS

Goal: to heighten impact and interest of MENA in Euromed Research Area

Measures:

- ⇒ Allow for more network based projects (instead of integrated) which foster Collaborations
- ⇒ Longer periods of applications for calls for proposals to allow for MENA input to be integrated
- ⇒ Address risks associated with shorter consortium composition after project selection (Horizon 2020: 3 months to set up everything after a project is selected)
- ⇒ Facilitate MENA access to funding
- ⇒ Encourage co-funding when realistic

ENHANCED CAPABILITIES

Goal: to allow for more streamlined and efficient management

Measures:

- ⇒ Deliverable based and not process based reporting
- ⇒ Expansion of the principle of “Lump Sum” allocation
- ⇒ Flexibility in fellowships’ rules
- ⇒ Recognition of MENA national financial and auditing practices and rules
- ⇒ Allocate resources for managerial capacity building in MENA and EU institutions

THANK YOU

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