

MESO Programme Economic-Environmental Evaluations

Training and Field Application a 2-year Programme for Syria (07-08)

Organised by :

In collaboration with :

With the support of :



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



The MESO Programme

Environment-economic analyses help to reduce the environmental impact and to improve the well-being of the population and the economic efficiency.

The MESO programme has focused on connecting micro and macro evaluations on a middle – meso – level. Since 2001, meso-economic analyses of environmental costs and benefits were conducted for the cement industry in Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia providing a glimpse of the environment-economic profile of the cement sector in the Mediterranean region. Similar studies were also performed for the power generation sector in Algeria, Libya and Morocco. The MESO programme has also targeted urban communities in Algeria (city of Annaba), Morocco (city of Agadir) and Jordan (cities of Irbid and Aqaba). They have been looked at as an aggregation of multiple activities constituting a whole.

In order to disseminate the results of meso-economic analyses, a major Arab Symposium was held in Damascus in June 2005. During this event, Syrian partners have identified future needs in relation with training and know-how transfer. The proposed 2-year programme for Syria is a direct outcome of the Symposium.

An Innovative Methodology

The methodology focuses on six environmental domains (water, air, noise, soil and landscape, wastes, energy/materials, global environment) and three main economic categories (health/quality of life, natural capital, inefficiencies in the use of resources). The objective of the meso-economic analyses is to seize the importance of the flows, measure them together with their transformations and impacts on the environment. Then, the consequences of these actions are translated into economic monetary terms, first into environmental degradation costs (damage and inefficiency), second, into remediation costs.

Finally, these costs are related to the value added (VA) of the concerned entity in order to provide decision makers with the necessary tools for setting priorities of action and investment.

Objectives of the 2-year Programme for Syria

Based on the initial work already performed in Syria, the proposed programme has 2 main objectives:

- To establish a **multidisciplinary MESO team** in Syria
- To build-up the MESO team through **training** and a **field application** as a case study (see below detailed plan of operation)

The cement sector in Syria will be taken as pilot project for the field application. It is envisaged that the MESO analysis done by Ecosys and SBA in 2003 is actualised for 2006 in order to highlight the efforts achieved by the sector and to feature main future priorities for action.

The MESO Team

The 2-year programme is targeting motivated and competent individuals active in the local administration (Ministries and local authorities including municipalities), the public and private sector (industry, business associations and federations) as well as in NGOs and academia. A maximum of 40 people will be selected by the organisers.

It is expected that the MESO team members will be able to dedicate approximately 1 day per week for the field work (July 07 to June 08).





Detailed Plan of Operation

January to May 2007	• Selection of MESO team members
11-13 June 2007	• 3-day introductory Workshop on MESO methodology
July to December 2007	• Field work: data collection for the cement sector for 2006; participants will be distributed in thematic groups
December 2007	• 1-week Workshop for data collection validation (including proxy for missing data) and consolidation an introduction to Environmental Economic calculation
January to June 2008	• Field work: Environmental Economic calculations (cost of damages and inefficiencies, cost of remediation, Cost/Benefit ration); participants will be distributed in thematic groups
June 2008	• 3-day Workshop for validating Environmental Economic calculations
October 2008	• 2-day Workshop to disseminate the results and the methodology

Field work will be closely coached by Ecosys & **sba** experts.

Main Outcomes for the MESO Team Members

It is expected that the MESO team members in Syria will become local analysts in order to replicate MESO studies for other industrial sectors or urban communities. They will form a national pool of expertise that can serve Syria's main development objectives.

Registration

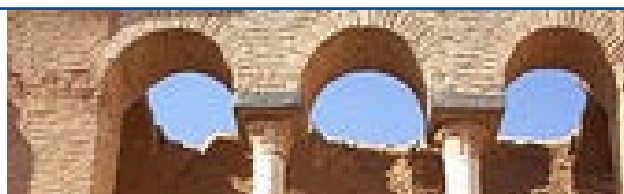
Participation is limited to 40 people. Interested participants are requested to send a motivation letter together with their Curriculum Vitae to env-min@net.sy (with the subject: application for the MESO Programme) **before 31 May 2007**.

Selected participants will be informed early June 2007 and will be invited to the 3-day introductory Workshop on MESO methodology to be held in Damascus between 11-13 June 2007.

For any further information you may contact:

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Partners

Ministry of Local Administration and Environment / General Commission for Environmental Affairs

The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment is the higher government body for legislating and promoting environment protection. The Ministry acts as the focal point for Syria for the MESO programme as it believes that environment economics can enhance a proactive approach among stakeholders.

Ecosys Inc. Geneva

Founded 1988, Ecosys applies Environmental Economics by appraising environmental damage, resource inefficiency, and remediation costs in monetary units; i.e., by assessing the severity and magnitude of environmental degradation, and deriving rationale for priority setting for environment-economic action. Ecosys Inc. is in charge of the MESO Programme since 2002.

Sustainable Business Associates (*sba*)

sba is an international NGO working to engage industrialists in eco-efficiency and cleaner production with the aim of minimising environmental impact and improving business productivity. **sba** has been active for 12 years in the Arab countries in the framework of Swiss and European Cooperation in the Mediterranean. **sba** is partner of the MESO Programme since 2002.

Arab Union for Cement and Building Material (AUCBM)

AUCBM is an Inter-Arab international organization, affiliated to the General Secretariat of the Arab League and the Council of Arab Economic Unity. AUCBM aims at developing and supporting technical, industrial and commercial relations; coordinating industrial activities amongst its members; and participating in suggesting general grounds for developing industries in order to achieve technical and economical integration among Arab countries.

General Organisation for Cement and Building Material (GOCBM)

GOCBM was established in 1975 in Damascus. GOCBM is the national organisation in charge of producing and selling cement in Syria. Its main task is to supervise and to control the productivity of the existing cement plants and executing new projects. GOCBM was the first Arab organisation in the Mashreq that finalised its MESO-economic profile. It served as a basis for deciding the main priorities for upgrading the cement sector in Syria.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

The SDC plays a key role in sustainable development and cooperation in the Mediterranean basin, prevention of environmental damages and transfer of environmental knowledge and good practices. SDC is the main support of the MESO programme.

