**ANNEX 1**

**Info document for NCP training session (DAY III)**

**MedSpring - Task 7.6: A way forward to support NCPs to strengthen thematic contact points**

One task of MedSpring aims at strengthening thematic contact points in those Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) where the information system needs to be improved, particularly in relation to the following selected societal challenges: resource efficiency with focus on water, high quality affordable food and energy. The way to setup a partnership between existing thematic NCPs and NCP networks active in the above societal challenges should also be addressed by the work plan. A work plan including needed action and overall time frame must be prepared by MedSpring (Task 7.6). The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST Jordan) is responsible of this task. The action plan should not only include actions that MedSpring could support in the coming three years (like meeting with NCP Coordinators, BILAT projects, training) but also actions to be carried out by NCPs in order to ensure institutional engagement and sustainability of the thematic contact points MPCs. In this view, the 3rd day training session on “NCP Networking and Road Map” could be an occasion of providing inputs to prepare the work plan. In general the Task 7.6-work plan mission is the “*strengthening and supporting the networking capabilities for NCPs by focusing on their capacity building and helping setup of a partnership among existing thematic NCPs-NCP networks active in the selected societal challenges*”.

The following main strategy needs were identified by HCST for the preparation of the work plan:

* Identifying the NCPs in the Mediterranean countries, and to figure out the main problems & needs of NCPs and their networks, particularly in relation to MEDSPRING societal challenges (resource efficiency-water, high quality affordable food and energy) and/or enlarge thematic contact points / info points, in those Mediterranean countries where the information system is still lacking.
* Investigating the work done previously by other projects such as MIRA and BILATs.
* Assessing the current situation both in quantitative and qualitative terms.
* Indicating the future needed actions to draw the plan which will improve the role of NCPs in the Mediterranean countries and the expected progress.
* Strengthening and supporting the networking capabilities for NCPs by focusing on their capacity building.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss and provide ideas for the design of the work plan and suggest innovative actions in relation to the following issues:

* Building a spectrum of knowledge, capabilities and skills.
* Competence regarding contents (societal challenges).
* Local network capacities and motivated partners / focal points
* Ensure institutional engagement in strengthening NCP system
* Partnerships
* Communication skills (communicating research and research programming).
* Support researchers becoming accepted and respected partner at national, European and international level.
* Being effective regarding national success in the EU RTD activities (increasing impact on the research system as well as societal challenges).
* Be suitable to become part of an international system / stimulating participation in H2020.
* Answering the need for people.
* Link with industry and enhance innovation in practice.