

Themis Secretariat Report



1 October to 31 December 2014

Cluster 1. Management of the Themis Secretariat and Organization of Executive Committee meetings

Activity 1.1 Management of the Themis Secretariat

The REC, serving as the Secretariat for the Themis cooperation platform, executed a number of tasks to ensure the smooth and efficient launch of the project..

The activities performed were the following:

- Providing secretariat support;
- Preparation of the **kick-off meeting**, held on the 6th of December 2014 in Vienna.
- Communication with the donor,
- Communication with partners, in particular with INTERPOL with a view to map cooperation possibilities under Cluster 3, networking.
- Launch the activities in **Moldova**, as a newcomer to the network
 - Contacts were made with REC associated organization, REC Moldova, with a view to contracting them for various activities falling under the competences of the REC CO network. A ToR was prepared and negotiated with REC Moldova on the tasks envisaged for the inception phase for early 2015.
 - Contacts were made with the Ministry of Environment to ensure the appointment of 2 focal points and engage the Ministry in the activities planned.
- Preparation of the **training needs assessment**
 - A training needs assessment questionnaire was developed by the Secretariat and was circulated to the beneficiaries. The results are being gathered in January 2015 to provide a detailed assessment in order to facilitate the training module development.
- Elaboration of the **ToR for the Standard Operating Procedures SOPs** for environmental crimes (cluster 3)
 - A draft ToR was prepared for the elaboration of the Standard Operating Procedures for the 7 beneficiary countries.
 - The draft was sent to the REC CO Network for assessment and comments, so as to map their capacities for the exercise.
 - The ToR was also shared with the beneficiary countries for review and comments
- Preparation of a project fiche for information purposes summing up the project activities and desired outcomes
- Information activities:

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- The Themis webpage homepage <http://themis.rec.org> needs to be updated and renovated. Background discussions and planning were started in the reporting period to develop a renovated website. This is very important, as the website acts as the project repository of information. It includes information on events, materials, news and links to partners. The first public look to the new website is scheduled for March 2015.
- Desk research and data collection for the preparation of a Themis communication plan to ensure the Network's visibility is high. The plan will take into consideration all projected related communication tools.
- Network visibility and promotion: on the occasion of the launch of the new project phase, the Secretariat promoted the Network and its coming activities to partners and other stakeholders. In this sense, an Information letter was sent out to the beneficiary countries relevant authorities on a high level, also with a request to re-confirm focal points, if needed. Information was also provided to key partner organizations (e.g. IMPEL, INECE, INTERPOL)
- The Secretariat coordinated with the Network Focal points and the REC Country Office Network in order to ensure the successful implementation of the planned activities in particular for 2015.
- Representation of the Themis platform on various events and development of joint work (e.g. IMPEL, Europol, ILECU).
- Talks were held with IMPEL to organize a peer review of Moldova's law implementation system by EU Member States civil servants. The initiative is now pending approval by the Ministry of Environment in Moldova
- Research on key players in the SEE region and Moldova was initiated. A draft version will be made available in the Executive Committee meeting for comments.
- Research on previous project outputs that might be useful for stage 2 of Themis was initiated.
- Outreach to NGOs will be included in the communication plan. NGO involvement will also be considered in cluster 2 activities.

Activity 1.2. Organization of the network's Executive Committee meetings

No activity was implemented in the reporting period.

Activity 1.3. Organization of a launch meeting with high level representation

The Themis Secretariat has organized a high level kick-off meeting on 6 December 2014 in Vienna, on the occasion of the launch of the second phase of the Themis network activities. The meeting aimed at presenting to the project beneficiary countries, represented on a high level in partnership with the REC Country Office representation, the planned activities under the MAP 2014-2017 and to raise the overall level of commitment to the planned work.

Main outputs and outcomes

- Statement of Commitment of the participants of the Themis Network phase 2 kick off meeting
- Integration of Moldova in the Themis Network;
- Reaffirmation of the Themis Network terms of reference;

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- Country Statements on the developments that took place in 2014 on policy, legal and institutional issues

Activity 1.4. Cooperation actions with partner organizations

1. **IMPEL:**

- a. The Themis Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Green Expert Team of IMPEL on the 28th of November 2014 in Utrecht to illustrate the Themis 2014-2017 MAP Activities and map possible cooperation points.
- b. The Themis Secretariat participated in the meeting of the General Assembly of IMPEL on 11-12 December 2014 in Rome and promoted the launch of the second phase of Themis network activities on a high level. Talks were held to organize a joint IMPEL/Themis peer review of Moldova's Ministry of Environment law enforcement apparatus.

2. **EUROPOL:** the Themis Secretariat participated in the meeting of the EnviCrimeNet on 19 November 2014 in the Hague, and discussed possible cooperation points under the Themis MAP in particular in the field of combatting environmental crimes. The Themis Secretariat provided assistance for a questionnaire-based research in some of the Themis beneficiary countries for a project run by Europol on mapping environmental crimes. Themis was added to EUROPOL's internal information exchange system between experts and peers.

3. **INTERPOL:** bilateral talks have been launched with INTERPOL to investigate possible cooperation channels for the coming years under the MAP 2014-2017.

4. **ILECU:** the Secretariat took part in the ILECU yearly meeting on the 4th of December 2014 in Vienna, to promote the Themis network and its activities to the member of the ILECU's Network as well as to establish contact for the future cooperation. In addition, the Themis Secretariat has initiated a bilateral working meeting with ILECU to clarify cooperation points and a plan to work together. Results are expected in the first semester of 2015.

Activity 1.5 Expansion of the Themis Network

Contacts were made with REC Moldova, a REC associated organisation, in order to conform to the activities planned for Moldova under the MAP 2014-2017. Talks were focusing also on contracting the REC Moldova. In this sense, a ToR was prepared and agreed upon with REC Moldova on the tasks envisaged for the inception phase for early 2015. Steps were taken to inform the national authorities on the Themis cooperation mechanism as well as on the planned activities, and request was made to nominate Focal Points necessary for the smooth daily operation of the project.

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Cluster 2. Capacity building (Natural resources, nature protection, forestry, environmental crime)

Activity 2.1. Strengthening and building capacities in the competent national authorities (regional level)

No activity was implemented in the reporting period.

Activity 2.2. Strengthening and building capacities in the competent national authorities (subregional level)

No activity was implemented in the reporting period.

Activity 2.3. On the job training

No activity was implemented in the reporting period.

Activity 2.4. Regional Forum – Conference

No activity was implemented in the reporting period.

Cluster 3. Publications, practical tools and support to national and international institutional networking

Activity 3.1. Assisting institution development and networking in the beneficiary countries

As part of cluster 3, the Themis Secretariat, in coordination with the beneficiary countries, wants to develop in-country multi-agency cooperation in the beneficiary countries throughout the project implementation. In this sense, under the second phase of Themis, the Secretariat has developed terms of reference for the development of **Standard Operating Procedures** for environmental crimes in each beneficiary country. Talks with INTERPOL are also underway to identify cooperation possibilities to foster said in-country multi-agency cooperation.

The main purpose of the SOPs is to enhance cooperation and coordination among enforcement authorities responsible for environmental protection and other stakeholders in detection and investigation of non-compliance with environmental legislation. Implementation of the complex environmental legislation, as aligned with the EU environmental Acquis, requires a coordinated. The activity builds upon the mutual understanding between Inspection Services and the other most relevant competent authorities and will provide a basis for joint inspections and regular exchange of information.