



## TEX-MED ALLIANCES.

### The Strategic CBC initiative for Health Emergencies

#### 1. Background.

The Strategic CBC Initiative for Emergencies stems from the combination of three Framework Initiatives concerning Health that were identified during the preparation of the Strategic Workshop (Output 3.4, Act. 3.4.1 and Act. 3.2.2).

The three proposed Framework Initiatives are:

1. *“New Textile Preventive Materials for sanitary emergencies”*.  
Proposed by Texfor (Lead Beneficiary)
2. *“Structuring a framework for the production, testing and labelling of community cloth face coverings”*. Proposed by Sepee (Project Partner)
3. *“MediTex Emergency: Creating a Mediterranean Clusters of qualified SMEs of the T/C sector for Quick Response to Health Emergencies”* proposed by the Project Technical Assistance Manager.

The three proposals are complementary.

The first Initiative has the purposes to provide technical and innovation information to SMEs to develop textile materials and final products for health use complying with the standards. Health items need different certifications according to their use. At the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic many masks were rejected by the Health Authorities because not complying with minimal standards. The first objective of this Initiative is to disseminate information to SMEs in order to foster proper manufacturing of such items.

Additionally, the Initiative focuses on the end-of-life of masks and similar products. Currently, items available in the market, were only of the “disposable” type. Consequently: they generated a waste problem. The second objective of the Initiative has the goal of promoting the production of washable, durable and recyclable items (not woven and woven items of different materials and structure).

The second Initiative has the objective of providing SMEs of testing capacities of a qualified laboratory. This Initiative complete the first one by actually giving SMEs of a real possibility to check and certificate their products. Additionally, the lab provide the scientific support for the dissemination actions as well as the accompanying scientific and technical literature (guidelines). In other words, the second Initiative makes “real” the first one.

The third Initiatives target a re-shoring in the Mediterranean basin of the production of such items that are “simple” but “essential” for fighting any pandemic at its very beginning (the key phase for controlling the epidemic curve). The Covid 19 experience teaches that it is very risky to depend for



such products from far away suppliers. Time and quick mobilisation of the “right” (certified) productions are a critical factors that governments and health authorities must rely on. The three combined Initiatives can cover the entire process from knowledge upgrading of SMEs and dissemination to testing and certification of samples, to the organization of a system for quick and qualified supply.

## 2. Objectives.

The initiative has the ultimate goal of setting up and establishing a Textile Mediterranean Cluster for Emergencies (TMCE).

The cluster will be composed of selected and certified companies (SME) of the health textile value chain. The backbone of the TMCE is represented by SMEs suppliers of final products such as masks, aprons, gloves, etc. However, it is also important that producers of raw materials and fabrics, finishers, test and certification labs, machinery and equipment producers and research and innovation centres are part of the TMCE.

Only with diversified actors of the value chain, the TMCE can be based on a strong, self-sustainable CBC Alliance.

TMCE has the mission of ensuring quick, certified, reliable response to the needs of the Mediterranean countries during a pandemic.

To achieve its final result, the Strategic Initiative has to go through a development path (process) that enable the EuroMediterranean SMEs to deliver the needed performances.

This means that the Strategic Initiative has also the purpose to support SMEs with information, education, testing and prototyping capabilities in addition to the organization of productions.

The Strategic CBC initiative for Health Emergencies has a scope that encompasses all above objectives and purposes.

## 3. Design of the Strategic Initiative.

TMCE is composed of three phases:

1. General appraisal “state of the art” and mapping of production capacities (Definition of Base Line)
2. Delivery of Preparatory Services to SMEs: knowledge upgrading and Tests.
3. Establishment of the Mediterranean T/C Health Cluster.

### 1. General Appraisal (Definition of Base Line)

1. Product requirements and Technical Sheets (segmented for level of protection)
2. Tests to accomplish (segmented for level of protection)
3. Mapping SMEs potentially involved and assessment of their production capacities



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4. Mapping of “Purchasing Bodies” (Ministries, Regions, Hospitals, etc...) in the countries of the Project Area and analysis of their procurement procedures.

### **2. Preparatory Services to SMEs (Set up of Value chain of T/C Health Emergency)**

1. Upgrading knowledge for SMEs that intends to access the health protection market
2. Definition of a testing protocol
3. Samples development (Innovation process)
4. Testing and evaluation of prototypes (samples)
5. Development of technical specifications
6. Guidelines for SMEs to develop new material creation.
7. Guidebook and information material for the consumer

### **3. Establishment of the Mediterranean T/C Cluster for health Emergencies.**

1. Definition of objectives and main features of the Cluster
2. Outline of the basic rules of the cluster: main services provided and commitments required by participating SMEs along the value chain. Among the Initial Services are: information, testing, certification/labels, training (marketing support and other operational services to be further detailed)
3. Promote the Cluster in order to get applications from SMEs and their selection
4. Cooperation Agreements between Cluster and SMEs
5. Accreditation of the Cluster by the Purchasing Bodies
6. Mobilization of Companies

### **4. Timing and Duration.**

The Initiative will develop from June 2020 to September 2022 for a duration of 26 months.



## 5. Plan of Activities.

Activities	Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1.1	Product requirements & Technical Sheets																										
1.2	Tests to accomplish																										
1.3	Mapping SMEs																										
1.4	Mapping Purchasing Bodies																										
2.1	Upgrading knowledge for SMEs																										
2.2	Definition of a testing protocol																										
2.3	Sample development (innovation process)																										
2.4	Testing evaluation of prototypes																										
2.5	Development of technical specifications																										
2.6	Guidelines for SMEs																										
2.7	Guidebook for the consumer																										
3.1	Objectives features of the Cluster																										
3.2	Management of Cluster																										
3.3	Outline of the basic rules for SMEs																										
3.4	Applications of SMEs and selection																										
3.5	Cluster and SMEs Agreements																										
3.6	Promotion of the Health Cluster																										
3.7	Mobilization of SMEs																										

## 6. Changes in the structure of the Tex-Med Alliances Project.

Given the uniqueness of the situation imposed by Covid-19 and for a clear management of the Strategic Initiative, we propose to add a new WP “Emergencies” (WP7).

WP7 will get resources from other Project WPs; tentatively without changing total budget and its distribution among PPs.



## 7. Budget

The following budget has been estimated in compliance with the current budget limits.

WP7 will be funded by other project WPs.

BUDGET WP7 - EMERGENCIES - BUDGET WITHIN THE CURRENT BUDGET LIMITS									
	PROJECT PARTNERS								TOT
	TEXFOR	CTN	SEPEE	CETTEX	MFCPOLE	GACIC	ACI	PFI	
<b>Human Resources</b>	180.000	40.000	30.000	10.000	40.000	20.000	30.000	5.000	<b>355.000</b>
<b>Travels &amp; subsistances</b>	16.452	9.366	9.723	11.808	11.808	8.928	9.849	11.151	<b>89.085</b>
<b>External expert TAM</b>	9.646	27.560	2.756	6.890	8.268	33.072	10.335	689	<b>99.216</b>
<b>External experts FIM</b>	0	0	0	5.680	1.136	2.272	11.360	2.272	<b>22.720</b>
<b>Costs of other services</b>									<b>49.938</b>
<b>Other Costs (sub-grants)</b>		70.000			70.000		70.000		<b>210.000</b>
<b>TOTAL I</b>									<b>825.959</b>
Administrative costs									55.400
<b>TOTAL I+II</b>									<b>881.359</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>									<b>2.822.735</b>

Subgrants will be used to fund tests and certifications for products, materials and enterprise. A minimal test costs about 1.000 €, more complex tests may reach 8.000€, company certification may easily be more expensive.

We foresee a financial support between 5.000 to 10.000 per SME, assuming an average of 7.000€.

The total WP7 is estimated in 210.000 €, which is 54% of the total allocated for subgrants. It is not advisable to go beyond this threshold for not depriving other WPs of a minimum of resources.

This means that the Project can finance about 30/32 SMEs ... not many.

We therefore ask to enlarge the capacity of the project by adding additional resources up to the limit of three million.

The additional amount of 175.000 € could finance either subgrants for additional 140.000 € as well as an external Health expert that may be necessary (35.000€).

This would bring the capacity of the project to support approximately 50 SMEs.

The reinforced Budget is reported in the following table.



<b>BUDGET WP7 - EMERGENCIES - BUDGET WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES UO TO 3.000.000 € LIMIT</b>									
	PROJECT PARTNERS								TOT
	TEXFOR	CTN	SEPEE	CETTEX	MFCPOLE	GACIC	ACI	PFI	
<b>Human Resources</b>	180.000	40.000	30.000	10.000	40.000	20.000	30.000	5.000	<b>355.000</b>
<b>Travels &amp; subsistances</b>	16.452	9.366	9.723	11.808	11.808	8.928	9.849	11.151	<b>89.085</b>
<b>External experts FPZ</b>	9.646	27.560	2.756	6.890	8.268	33.072	10.335	689	<b>99.216</b>
<b>External experts HM</b>	0	0	0	5.680	1.136	2.272	11.360	2.272	<b>22.720</b>
<b>External HEALTH Experts</b>	<b>35.000</b>								<b>35.000</b>
<b>Costs of other services</b>									<b>49.938</b>
<b>Other Costs (sub-grants)</b>	<b>140.000</b>	70.000			70.000		70.000		<b>350.000</b>
<b>TOTAL I</b>									<b>1.000.959</b>
<b>Administrative costs</b>									55.400
<b>TOTAL I+II</b>									<b>1.056.359</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>									<b>2.997.735</b>

## 8. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION OF WP7.

Time is the key critical factor for WP7. Or the project is able to intervene very quickly and to start operating in the sector within weeks or it will lose momentum and attention by the final beneficiaries.

We believe that for WP7 compliance with the current rules for procurement of services and for the disbursement of sub-grants would be totally dysfunctional to the purpose and the objectives.

Therefore we ask for a robust simplification of procedures; in particular for the disbursement of subgrants, that should be given after a simplified check and, possibly, in collaboration with the laboratory involved.

We point out that:

1. the unit average amount per SMEs is very limited (7.000 €) and in a situation where huge amounts of liquidity are provided to large companies it would be unacceptable to consider it as a "State Aid".
2. The financial situation of SMEs do not allow any extra costs. Without such support they would not do tests and may be excluded by the market.

At a lesser extend is the need of a simplified procedure for procuring the External expert in Health textile even if a streamlined process would contribute to effectiveness.

## 9. Impact of WP7 on the

The urgency and the magnitude of WP7 will have a significant impact on the development of the project. Not because some of the originally foreseen output and core activities will be cancelled but because WP7 will absorb a great deal of energy in the next month make necessary a postponement of other activities.



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In particular, output and activities related to the “call for proposals” for Third Parties Initiative(3PIs) will suffer because of their lengthy and cumbersome process before implementation.

To keep the other WPs of the Project on track we ask to transform such 3PIs into “Specific Initiative” that keep the original nature of having a focused scope and being rooted in the SMEs.

In this time SMEs as other problems of thinking of proposals for a project. Also if we launch the call we reckon that none is going to answer properly, the call is likely to be deserted.

Since our Project Partner are BROs with string links to their member companies, we ask to transform the original 3PIs into “Specific Initiatives” that can be identified by the Project partners and implemented with selected SMEs that they know being interested.