



CPMR  
**INTERMEDITERRANEAN  
COMMISSION**



## **Intermediterranean Commission Working Group**

### **« Economic and social cohesion »**

#### **ACTION PLAN 2017-2018**

(approved by the General Assembly Campania 2017)

#### **I- Introduction and context**

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As a major axis of the European construction and an essential challenge for the future of the Mediterranean, economic and social cohesion aims at achieving a harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the territories, by reducing the economic disparities between countries and regions and fostering an intercultural dialogue and equal opportunities for every citizen. As it is based on the solidarity between States and regional and local authorities, it can significantly help strengthen the sense of belonging both to the European Union and to the Mediterranean.

With the EU enlargement, regional disparities are increasing, compounded by the financial and economic crisis and in recent years, migratory challenges or more recently the spectrum of Brexit, cohesion in Europe which is materialising through regional policy and its financial intervention, notably the structural and investment funds, has to adapt and maintain equalisation in Europe while pursuing its regional policy for 2014-2020 focused on the EU2020 strategy objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

In addition, the Cohesion challenge shows a greater complexity in the entire Mediterranean region. Mediterranean territories on all shores have to face the socio-economic challenges together and fully take advantage of their potentials. The EU countries have to implement political measures to restore growth, employment and competitiveness. This also concerns the action of the EU as a global stakeholder and the Neighbourhood and Enlargement policies at the Southern borders of the EU. At the same time, several countries from the South and the East of the basin are facing challenges related to the democratic transition and decentralisation, and this represents a great opportunity to intensify and better structure the cooperation between regional and local stakeholders (also and mostly within the framework of the decentralised cooperation actions carried out by these types of authorities).

In light of this, the Mediterranean – deeply interconnected – is experiencing a unique *momentum* in the development of a new socio-economic cohesion paradigm both at the local and regional level, which – despite the conflicts in the area – will help to reveal the potential and resources to implement initiatives for a sustainable and smart economic development, a more inclusive and united society and a real ‘cohabitation’. In this framework, youth represents one of the potentials that can positively be tapped into from all perspectives (dialogue, inclusion, training, mobility, entrepreneurship etc.).

Accompanying, supporting and stimulating these key political and strategic initiatives for economic and social cohesion in the Mediterranean region is an essential work area that corresponds to the objectives of the Intermediterranean Commission 2017-2018 action plan.

It was agreed to set up the Intermediterranean Commission “Economic and Social Cohesion” working group (WG) at the Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau that took place in Marseille on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2014, in line with the desire to coherently and effectively reorganise how work is taken forward and the position to be taken on key sectoral aspects regarding the development of the Mediterranean regions during the 2014-2020 programming period. Within the scope defined in 2015-2016 and approved by the Intermediterranean Commission General Assembly, several activities and exchanges took place among the Mediterranean regions and external partners. The Working Group has also promoted the elaboration of concrete cooperation projects in line with its main axes.

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In the period 2017-2018 the Intermediterranean Commission wishes to renew its objectives for this Working Group and implement a series of priority actions. The Working Group will be **co-chaired** by **Occitania** and **Campania** regions and will rely - in the view of an effective and shared cooperation - on sub-groups (Task forces) led by other Mediterranean regions, on specific topics or actions linked to the group's work areas.

## **II- Main objective**

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**Confronting challenges that the Mediterranean area is facing in the development of effective and sustainable economic and social cohesion through the promotion and realisation of concrete actions** is the general objective of the work led by the working group.

The aim will be to contribute to economic and social development in the Mediterranean, to strengthen links between the two shores in order to reduce socio-economic disparities and to foster a harmonious cohabitation in a stabilised space of mutual understanding, peace and security; a *Mare Nostrum* bearer of opportunities and trust in the future for youth, access to employment and openness to intercultural dialogue.

The Regions' role is significant in providing responses to the "Mediterranean challenge". Therefore, the objective will be to highlight the effectiveness of their initiatives, through the exchange of good practice and capitalisation. Monitoring and lobbying actions of policies at a European level will aim at improving the EU's response with regards to strategies and policies that have an impact on the Mediterranean territory in the development of a true social and economic cohesion designed to support citizens and that promotes both the sense of belonging to the EU, and the emergence of a Mediterranean citizenship and identity. Finally, concrete projects will be developed through partnerships, which will help strengthen the territorial and decentralised cooperation actions.

## **III-Work areas and actions**

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### **1. Support and promotion of initiatives for a sustainable, inclusive and smart socio-economic development in the Mediterranean**

#### **A. Fostering the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy and highlighting the regions' initiatives in partnership with key stakeholders of the basin.**

With around 15 million European workers, the Social and Solidarity Economy plays a significant and increasing role within the economic landscape of the EU and is one of the most interesting potentials for the Mediterranean with more than 400 000 companies and organisations in the western basin alone, which represents more than 6 million jobs. This economic development model that places the human dimension before profits, gathers companies and organisations that reconcile economic development and social utility. Through its progress in terms of organisation, financial approach and production objectives, the Social and Solidarity Economy provides significant support in building a social Europe. The values conveyed by the SSE are in line with the EU2020 strategy objectives and come into harmony with the initiatives for a sustainable, inclusive and smart economy. The diversity of sectors, the organisational innovation in the development of cooperatives or companies from the industrial, agricultural or services sector, the financial innovation, the environmental commitment, the measured use of resources and the social utility, represent different aspects that this emerging sector can bring to help resolve social issues, and stabilise and develop a more sustainable economic growth not only in Europe, but also in the whole Mediterranean.

#### **Typology of actions that could be developed in relation to the previous mandate:**

- Capitalisation, dissemination and labelling of the initiatives for the SSE of the Mediterranean regions;
- Creation of political debates about SSE under the umbrella of the Intermediterranean Commission;
- Synergy with networks and organisations active in the field of SSE and its initiatives and events;
- Preparation of future pilot initiatives/applications for cooperation programmes in the Mediterranean.

The Intermediterranean Commission "Economic and Social Cohesion" working group, during the 2015-2016 period, started to develop capitalisation and an analysis on the SSE at a basin level (prospecting report), in order to establish the state of the play and define the features and the influence of the sector for an economy designed to support a more inclusive and fair social dimension. This work will include an identification of

norms, initiatives, projects and cooperation actions in the Intermediterranean Commission Regions and paths for a future cooperation. The Intermediterranean Commission also participated in exchanges of good practices with other networks such as the Latin Arc.

Secondly, capitalisation and exchange of good practices, exchange of experiences, particularly through major political events, will allow to disseminate the positive impact of the previously identified actions and results of the analysis. This will offer the opportunity to develop tools that will strengthen the initiatives for sustainable, inclusive and smart economic development in the Mediterranean and beyond. The development of partnerships with the main SSE stakeholders in the Mediterranean, will strengthen the exchanges and be a gateway to the development of a real structured network for promoting the SSE. The participation in events or SSE forums, will also strengthen the Mediterranean links and opportunities for exchanges between key stakeholders regarding this topic. The Working Group will be able to promote the participation of the Intermediterranean Commission regions and convey the Commission's reflections on the SSE.

Finally, the Working Group will be able to work on pilot initiatives/projects and/or on applications to be submitted to calls under the cooperation programmes in the Mediterranean.

#### Priority actions for the 2017-2018 mandate:

1. Finalize the SSE prospecting report initiated in the previous mandate and present it at a Working Group/Seminar meeting by developing the perspectives for the next steps of collaboration as well as an exchange of experiences.
2. Determine an Intermediterranean Commission policy positioning on SSE and strategic alliances with external partners
3. Participate in at least one cooperation project on the ESS theme or promote this type of action under the lead of one or more Intermediterranean Commission members
4. Sharing information on ESS with members of the Intermediterranean Commission (events, reports, legislation, etc.)

#### B. Promoting Entrepreneurship and the Mediterranean diaspora

In order to reduce the disparities between the North and the South, to help overcome the economic crisis and to foster a more supportive and strategic approach to development that supports a balanced and uniform socio-economic fabric, closer links should be established among the migratory Mediterranean diaspora and foster the creation of the businesses of tomorrow, by bringing together key stakeholders, local and regional authorities, business leaders, investors and business networks from both sides of the Mediterranean. Finally, the assets and the Mediterranean potential as a whole should be highlighted. The globalisation of companies, the access to northern and southern markets, receiving companies in the territories, help for business start-ups or the self-employed, are part of the numerous forms of actions that will facilitate the development of new innovative economic activities that can be considered to strengthen the cooperation with the countries from the Euromed partnership.

Typology of actions that could be developed in relation to the previous mandate:

- Inventory of the European and decentralised cooperation initiatives and actions of the regions that support entrepreneurship and the promotion of SMEs.
- Promotion/participation in the development of a network of Northern/Southern stakeholders to promote Mediterranean entrepreneurship and the diaspora through entities such as ACIM (entrepreneurship agency in the Mediterranean), ANIMA Investment network, and other networks of clusters, regional competitiveness clusters etc.
- Promotion of events such as the "Mediterranean economic week" in Marseille or the "Mediterranean Economic Leaders Week" in Barcelona.
- Organisation/participation in events enhancing regional actions and policies to support entrepreneurship and strengthening links with Southern Mediterranean partner countries
- Monitoring and contribution to ARLEM activities/reports and its new Commission for sustainable territorial development promoting employment and regional development.

### Priority actions for the 2017-2018 mandate:

1. Support and promotion of initiatives and conferences on entrepreneurship carried out by Intermediterranean Commission regions (i.e CoR conference "Entrepreneurship region" to be organized by the Western Greece Region in December 2017, Med Economy Week, etc.)

If one or more member regions take the lead, the Working Group may define other specific activities during the mandate (or under the next one). For example, a survey/questionnaire to identify regional entrepreneurship initiatives, exchanges of experience, etc.

### C. Sustainable tourism promotion as a trigger for sustainable, cultural and economic development in the Mediterranean

Tourism is an essential sector of economic growth of the Mediterranean as it provides a major contribution to economic recovery by offering employment and development opportunities that are much needed especially in the most weakened regions. The WTO figures on this sector in the Mediterranean confirm that tourism is a fundamental pillar of the economy: with more than 300 million international arrivals and representing more than 200 billion Euros of export revenues, that is to say 12% of the total exportations, this sector is constantly increasing with 10 million new arrivals expected between now and 2030. This mass of activities and travels involves the need for infrastructures, the development of services and innovation, and remains the origin of new economic, social, cultural and environmental challenges to be overcome. Becoming increasingly aware of the adverse repercussions of mass tourism, it is essential to develop a sustainable form of tourism that represents a path towards socially and economically sustainable and fair development. Tourist facilities and activities respect the environment and preserve natural and cultural resources in the long term.

A specific '**Culture and Sustainable Tourism**' Task Force was set up as part of this group in 2015 and led by **Crete**. It was devoted to defining the framework and the political initiatives and projects on tourism of the Intermediterranean Commission, several of which have been presented to the cooperation programmes and a series have been approved and are being implemented (eg Co-Evolve on the coevolution of tourism activities in the coastal environment and Integrated coastal zone management, or Mitomed + on maritime and coastal sustainable development tourism and indicators). The Task Force's work is also used to monitor the pan-European dialogue with cruise tourism operators and ports in the Mediterranean or to contribute from the perspective of tourism to emerging strategies such as West Med. Similarly, these reflections fueled the exchanges and policy documents of projects such as COM & CAP MarInA-Med.

The area of reflection and action of the Task Force includes coastal and maritime tourism (including cultural sub-marine itineraries, coastal and wetlands areas, cruise tourism, pescaturism, shell fishing routes etc.), but also urban tourism linked to culture, heritage, gastronomy, economic activities discovery (business tourism, industrial heritage tourism and scientific tourism). In order to develop more effective territorial strategies on tourism, one of the objectives is to complement the lack of comparable data on sustainable tourism. This involves work on indicators and capitalising on the Intermediterranean Commission regions' experience. Finally, work suggesting concrete initiative such as project development and monitoring in the tourism field will also involve analysing available European funding and programmes to carry out interregional actions.

### Typology of actions in relation to the previous mandate:

- Monitoring of the implementation of the EC's Communication regarding "EU strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism". (Analysis conducted in synergy with the Intermediterranean Commission "Transport and IMP" working group and the CPMR tourism group.).
- Advocacy actions will be carried out towards DG Mare on coastal and maritime tourism with the Blue Growth and emerging basin strategies, and towards the DG Enterprise regarding the programme for Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME programme).
- Development of a real European platform of the Mediterranean tourism's key stakeholders, through partnerships with organisations like NECSTOUR to develop the work on indicators
- Reflection on a future agenda on coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean and in connection with the reflections on macro-regional and maritime basin strategies (particularly EUSAIR and West Med).

- Capitalisation, development and monitoring of specific projects (cultural itineraries linked to sea products, potential of cross-selling for cultural tourism and territorial marketing, pescaturism in the Adriatic-Ionian area, mobility for students and academics , universities offering training in tourism, Mediterranean nutrition, tourism and open data, etc.).
- Participation in project events linked to OS 3.1 of the Interreg MED program (HP BleuTourMed), capitalization of results on coastal and maritime tourism and synergy with projects targeting the topic, brainstorming sessions for the elaboration of cooperation projects.
- Specific synergies with the Islands Commission on the specific challenges of the islands in the development of sustainable tourism (energy and environmental pressure, use of resources, accessibility etc. e.g Link to CIVITAS Destinations)
- Partnership development with external public and private stakeholders (observatories...).

#### Priority actions for the 2017-2018 mandate:

1. Renew the Task Force's specifications and organize a meeting at the Intermediterranean Commission's 2017 GA to share the main developments related to sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean and current projects
2. Follow up with the development of approved key projects where the Intermediterranean Commission is involved: Mitomed +, Co-Evolve, BLEUTOURMED, CIVITAS DESTINATIONS
3. Implement / support the development of new projects currently being selected: MD.Net, HERIT-DATA
4. Contribute to the conceptualization of new ENI CBC MED projects or other programmes
5. Support the conceptualization of the extension of Co-Evolve in the Southern Med by means of a project to be proposed by labeling of the UfM: MEDCOAST4BG
6. Contribute to the tourism reflections of the PANORAMED project - axis 4 governance MED INTERREG
7. Contribute to reflections on tourism in the context of emerging strategies: EUSAIR, WEST MED and other key initiatives: BLUEMED, Agenda Blue Economy UfM

#### D. Other possible priorities to develop under Axis 1 of the Working Group:

If several regions wish to do so, and there is a one leading region in particular, the Group - in the future could evaluate the possibility to address its efforts also on other subjects such as "Promoting innovation in industrial and technological processes in the Intermediterranean Commission Regions and the industrial revival in the Mediterranean, in connection with the "OPEN DATA" issue".

## **2- Promotion of specific actions in favour of democracy and citizenship, youth and intercultural dialogue.**

### A. Support training, mobility, integration and employment access for young people in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean regions are strongly affected by the extent of the endemic youth unemployment and by the social integration problem that result from it. The fight against youth unemployment is an essential priority for the construction of a viable socioeconomic context in every European territory and beyond. Developing a real multi-level policy for Youth Employment is a true challenge, that includes all the political stakeholders and that should imply an effective coherence between the EU actions and the ones put in place and necessary at a regional and local level.

An effective coordination of the actions and initiatives for the development of training pathways and a sustainable efficient professional integration is a primary objective. Territorial differences in the models of integration will also have to be taken into account and be included.

The actions must target all youth categories (school dropouts, not in Education, Employment nor Training – NEETS, overqualified talents who do not find any access to employment) as each of them have their own issues and need adapted measures in terms of prevention, orientation, advice and the development of job opportunities. Regions have direct experience as they implement measures to further education for the development of skills adapted to the professional world, encourage insertion and socio-cultural development

opportunities, independence, bring support in terms of income and tax advantages, develop youth entrepreneurship and promote their mobility in Europe and in the Mediterranean etc.

The Intermediterranean Commission "Social and Economic Cohesion" working group aims to promote effective actions in the Mediterranean regions and to influence in a more effective way the European policies in order to improve the instruments (including financial support) and intensify initiatives to fight youth unemployment.

#### Typology of actions in relation to the previous mandate:

- Development of a Mediterranean regional and local authorities and key associations network for a better integration of young people in the Mediterranean, aiming for a mutual understanding and the strengthening of exchanges towards their inclusion in the institutions, training and work.
- Implementation of concrete projects or initiatives to improve the mobility and training of young people in different fields.
- Monitoring and contribution to ARLEM activities/report and its new Commission for sustainable regional development on the topic of promotion of employment and regional development.
- Synergy with other Med networks (COM MED UCLG, ARCO LATINO, MED CITIES)
- Monitoring of European policies and programmes on employment, social inclusions that will lead to a reflection work on reinforced investments in favour of youth in the structural funds' implementation, in particular the ESF for the 2014-2020 programming period. Work in synergy with the CPMR Cohesion working group and advocacy actions in the EC.
- Exchange and capitalisation of best practices at the European and regional level, promotion of the actions implemented by the regions (guarantee for young people, development of quality internship opportunities, apprenticeship, work-linked training, policies and financial tools supporting entrepreneurship by young people, work mobility).

In the 2015-2016 period, the Group worked on these components by producing synergies, disseminating key information to members and promoting an exchange of experience, for example in the framework of the territorial seminars organized with UCLG's COM MED and network partners in Sousse and subsequently within the framework of the FALR in Tangier during the year 2016.

Concerning "**Vasco da Gama MED**" the declination of this CPMR political initiative at a Mediterranean level is the subject of a dedicated **Task Force** - led by the **Veneto** region since 2015-2016. The Task Force studied the development possibilities of the initiative for quality training and mobility of the CPMR concerning Sea professions in the context of the Med Basin and promoted the elaboration of projects which were submitted to calls from European programs (eg ADRION, Blue Careers), as well as other pilots and an idea for a framework project which could be subject to labeling by the UfM (among others by Erasmus +). The Task Force also participated in the final phase of sharing the VdG TGSMT project and the project events or organizations related to its priorities. It also delivered messages for emerging strategies (EUSAIR, West MED, Agenda Economy Blue UpM).

The intention for the future is to continue to work on this aspect by producing concrete actions and projects, in connection with the recently submitted projects (BLUEPRINT) and BLUEMED (which has planned actions on "blue careers" in Med).

#### Priority actions for the 2017-2018 mandate:

1. Develop the Vasco da Gama CPMR initiative at the Mediterranean level by designing "spin off" projects;
2. Seek synergies with other linkable initiatives promoted by the Union for the Mediterranean in the context of training, research and mobility and by other networks (e.g EUROMED +, supported by the Erasmus Agency + France in connection with Med4Jobs of the Union for the Mediterranean<sup>1</sup>, other actions of the UfM);
3. Contribute to the promotion in the Mediterranean of the new CPMR action "Traineeship - vocational program of exchange for youth people";

4. Identification and sharing of transversal exchange and dialogue initiatives / platforms that empower young people<sup>21</sup> and promote coordination between regions (and other actors) for the networking of experiences, optimization of participation of young people and key actors and for maximizing results (as well as improving the intervention schemes designed with young people to promote access to the labor market);
5. Conceptualization, launch and development of the initiative "Regions for Young People and the Mediterranean Identity" on social networks for the sharing of opportunities (work / inclusion) for youth and all the initiatives of regions oriented to promote a common identity in the Mediterranean;
6. Development of specific alliances or partnerships with NGOs / Foundations that work on the topic of Med citizenship.

## **B. Intensify the intercultural dialogue and the mutual understanding between the North and the South**

The intensification of the intercultural/ interreligious dialogue and the mutual understanding between the North and the South is a true challenge to be taken into account in the view of a socioeconomic development adapted to cultural realities, more balanced and sustainable. The strong existing disparities within the Mediterranean societies are worsened by the economic and financial crisis. A support to the cultural institutions and the civil society's role at a regional and local level is decisive, not only to strengthen the intra-Mediterranean cultural links but also to foster a mutual understanding between North/South. This involves the respect of the cultural diversities, beliefs and religions and a total rejection of ethnocentrism. The objective of creating an intercultural dialogue is to move forward a dynamic for mutual recognition, a more inclusive society and a true "cohabitation".

### Typology of actions in relation to the previous mandate:

- Exchange of experiences about the initiatives, measures/laws for the religious and socio-cultural integration in the Intermediterranean Commission Regions;
- Partnerships and synergies with euro-Mediterranean networks (Anna Lindh foundation, IEMed - the European Institute for the Mediterranean, Maison de la Méditerranée - on current works in favour of an intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding between countries of the Mediterranean basin (possible pilot projects to be presented for the FAL calls, Participation to conferences);
- Political debate to be organised within the framework of the Intermediterranean Commission General Assembly or other events;
- Coordination between all platforms for inclusion and dialogue for youth in the Mediterranean (transversal ref. to point 2A).

An important part of this type of action has been developed in connection with the "We are all Mediterranean" campaign in 2014-2015, a few seminars, participation in studies and surveys and above all the CPMR's Task Force on migrations and the statutory activities of the Intermediterranean Commission. The idea for the future is to progress by contributing to the work of the Task Force migrations and the specific deliverables that will be proposed / elaborated.

### Priority actions in the 2018-2019 mandate:

1. Contribute to the work in this field, which will be proposed by the CPMR's Task Force on Migration and to link the topic of intercultural dialogue with actions and reflections on entrepreneurship, diaspora, the Med and youth identity;
2. Develop a few debate sessions during Intermediterranean Commission events and new partnerships with Mediterranean civil society associations to include the perspective of dialogue in the reflections.

## **C.**

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<sup>1</sup> Initiative linked exclusively to mobility aspects of people seeking training, internship, mobility within the company, training center, education/vocational educators in the areas prioritized by the dialogue 5+5

<sup>2</sup> ex. MED NET launched in 2014 by Tuscany, Euromediterranean Youth Meeting 2015 "Social Entrepreneurship and the Collaborative Economy" by Catalonia, "Atelier des jeunes citoyens de la Méditerranée" by PACA, others by Occitania etc.

#### D. Promote citizenship and democracy in the Mediterranean towards a common identity

The promotion of citizenship and a common identity for the Mediterranean is a priority in the relaunch of a successful euro-Mediterranean cooperation that takes Mediterranean populations' real needs into account. Reunite societies, broken by a financial and economic global crisis, conflicts, and who are facing the democratic instability, social inequalities, unemployment, insecurity, migrations and environmental degradation, will only be possible with an effective mobilisation of both rims and reinforced euro-Mediterranean relations that integrate civil society and citizens. In coherence with the numerous mobilisations started during the Arab Spring, which is proof that citizens do not accept to be put aside from governance, and develop an increasing interest in politics, economics and their neighbours' culture. The political decisions and the countries' governance must truly be placed in the hands of the citizens through governmental structures whose primary preoccupations are the interest and the will of its populations.

The support to actions that foster the emergence of a Mediterranean citizenship and identity, the development of democracy in the Southern countries, will be promoted within the working group.

##### Typology of actions in relation to the previous mandate:

- Participation of the chair regions in events that promote citizenship in the Mediterranean, in collaboration with euro-Mediterranean networks (Anna Lindh Foundation, Mediterranean Citizens Assembly Foundation...);
- Promotion and capitalisation of "media" initiatives for the emergence of a Mediterranean citizenship (reports, conferences, photo competition, exhibitions, videos, debates, radio, workshops, demonstrations, actions to raise awareness that include citizens, media and 2.0 social networks);
- Promotion of the intensification, development and experimentation of high-level actions for citizenship, like the international civilian service (labelling initiative promoted by the regions);
- Promotion of the regional initiatives and decentralised cooperation actions with a view to strengthen local and regional authorities' skills, in order to accompany the decentralisation process (in coordination with the Working Group on Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies).

##### Priority actions of the 2017-2018 mandate:

1. Conceptualization, launching and development of a "Regions for Youth and Mediterranean Identity" initiative on social networks for the sharing of opportunities (work / inclusion) for youth and all initiatives of regions oriented to promote an identity in the Mediterranean (joint action under point 2A).

### **3- Fostering a Cohesion Policy that tackles the Mediterranean regions' challenges.**

#### A. Contribution to the CPMR analysis on the future of the Cohesion Policy of the EU and promotion of the application of these principles in the Neighbourhood Policy.

The working group will be able to associate itself with the ongoing work of the CPMR carried out by the working group on cohesion policy of the CPMR "Core Group". This work aims to improve the effectiveness of cohesion policy, aimed at the next programming period.

##### Typology of actions in relation to the previous mandate:

- Monitoring of the Cohesion Policy and working in synergy with the CPMR working group on cohesion (reactions and participation in the group works with a view to presenting a common position or results in debates organized at the General Assembly of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission or Working Group meetings);
- Support the CPMR's policy advocacy work - with the EU institutions and in particular with the EC-DG Regio in particular (inclusion of specific Mediterranean messages in the Intermediterranean Commission 's political declarations);
- Promote the concepts included in the Intermediterranean Commission 's ARLEM 2014 report on "a cohesion strategy for the Mediterranean" and the following Intermediterranean Commission policy

messages (declarations) that promote the application of the principles and methodology of cohesion policy in the context of the EU's neighborhood policy.

The Working Group continued this type of activity during its GAs (i.e GA 2015) and several other occasions.

#### Priority actions for the 2017-2018 term:

1. Organization of a debate on the future of Cohesion Policy, EFSI, ESIF, EIP in the framework of the 2017 Intermediterranean Commission Assembly
2. Inclusion of specific recommendations in the Final Declaration of the Intermediterranean Commission 2017 General Assembly and contribution to the future positioning of the CPMR

#### B. Support to the Macro-regional strategy approach in the Mediterranean

The macro-regional approach is a vector for the implementation of a more effective socioeconomic cohesion, asking the private and public stakeholders to better coordinate their actions, to adopt a coherence that is necessary to implement policies and to reinforce the effectiveness of financial tools, multi-level governance and partnerships. The work carried out by the Intermediterranean Commission working group on the “TC and macro-regional strategies” falls into synergy with the objective of fostering a balanced socioeconomic development in the Mediterranean basin.

#### Typology of actions in relation to the previous mandate:

- Monitoring the reflections carried out within the Intermediterranean Commission “TC and macro-regional strategies” working group and the CPMR Task force. Reactions to their work and initiatives that will have begun (i.e. identification of pillars and key initiatives to be capitalised/developed in the framework of social and economic cohesion).

**NB:** Actions linked to 3 identified work areas will be further prioritised during the mandate in consideration with the Euro-Med Agenda, the **Intermediterranean Commission** and its co-presidencies.

### **IV-Organisation**

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During the 2017-2018 mandate, the “Economic and Social Cohesion” working group is co-chaired by the regions of **Occitanie** and **Campania**. Both regions will bring their support in the development and validation of works carried out and will coordinate together the group’s activities.

**Specific Task forces** will be created depending on expressed needs and the specific initiatives to be realised that will need a particular work structure in order to guarantee the effectiveness and fluidity in the works’ progress.

Other regions will be able to lead these Task forces coordinated by the working group’s co-presidencies. In the same way, the coordination of certain actions, if necessary, could be put in other specific regions’ hands in order to promote a real effective work division and to have fully shared objectives.

The working group will have to promote the participation of a high number of Intermediterranean Commission members. On each axis and concerned action, the core of the “contributory” regions will have to be identified.

The planned **Task forces** are the following:

#### Axis 1

- Culture and tourism Task force – led by the region of **Crete**

#### Axis 2

- Vasco da Gama Med Task force - led by the region of **Veneto**

Possibly new Task Forces may be studied during the mandate (or afterwards), if necessary, on the themes of Social and Solidarity Economy (within the framework of Axis 1) or on youth and Mediterranean identity (Axis 2).

The working group and Task force **meetings** will be organised by taking into account other meetings of the CPMR's and Intermediterranean Commission's agendas. It will thus support gathering. The travels and personnel costs will be supported by the participating regions members. Complementary meetings or events could be organised in collaboration with other partner organisations, or within the framework of European project activities.

Finally, in order to support an effective coordination and to follow the works processes, e-mail exchange, online sharing documents, the organisation of short follow-up meetings by phone or **visio-conference** (e.g. gotomeeting) will be prioritized between the responsible members of the tasks. The priority working languages are **French** and **English**.

The **task sharing** will be done in an effective and transparent manner in conjunction with all members of the group and will take specificities, expertise and each ones' preferences into account. The group members and the co-presidencies will keep continuous contact with the Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat who will bring its support to the logistic organisation, communication and works' processes. The Presidency will also support this groups' works development.

**Synergies** between groups or its Task forces can be considered with other Intermediterranean Commission groups (i.e. "Transport and IMP" on the coastal and maritime topics / Vasco da Gama or "TC and Macro-regional strategies" with the cooperation projects or the reflexions about macro-regions or migrant integration in the framework of the socio-economic development) or CPMR groups (i.e. "CORE group" about the Cohesion policy, the migrations Task force etc.), and with other geographical commissions (i.e. Islands, Balkan Black Sea about the sustainable tourism).

The group's work will be monitored periodically and reviewed in 2018 by the Political Bureau or the General Assembly who will evaluate – from the perspective of continuity – how to follow-up on the actions carried out during the 2017-2018 period and the possibility to include new fields or lines of work.

## V- Schedule

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### Dates to remember for 2017-2018

Note: this schedule will be updated during the mandate directly as part of the Intermediterranean Commission's global calendar, available on the website

- May-June 2017 - preparatory meetings of the co-chairs with the Secretariat to update the **group work plan** and guidelines
- May-June 2017 - informative virtual meetings of the Secretariat for members
- 6th July 2017 - **Working Group meeting with a focus on the Sustainable Tourism and Culture Task Force** in Naples and approval by the GA of the Action Plan
- 6-7th July, final event of the **Med Spring** project, Brussels (BE)
- Summer 2017 – **Summer school VdG Bari**
- Mid-September 2017, **meeting of the Working Group with a focus on ESS and Youth** in Montpellier
- 14-15th December 2018: **CdR entrepreneurship conference, Western Greece, Patras (GR)** and possible back to back event with the Intermediterranean Commission (to be confirmed)
- End of 2017 - beginning of 2018 - Meeting of the **Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission**: follow-up of the work plans of the working groups

To be added during the mandate:

- SSE regions Seminars/External partners
- Tourism projects events Intermediterranean Commission
- Events linked to Vasco da Gama
- Conference of Regions or Union for the Mediterranean/ other actors on youth
- "Economic" Weeks of the Mediterranean, Marseille and Barcelona (FR)

Schedule to be integrated with the activities (linked to the axis of the plan) organized by the Intermediterranean Commission Regions. The list and information on these activities may be disseminated using the Commission's website.

## **VI- Appendices**

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- ToRs Task force "Sustainable Tourism and Culture": project of lobby actions and projects (in the process of being updated with Crete)
- ToRs/Fiche Task force Vasco da Gama : Document to be updated on Vasco da Gama's perspectives in the Mediterranean (project to be presented to the UfM) and specific actions such as summer school 2017 VdG Bari (in development), blue print, Odyssee and other actions.
- Concept note initiative "Regions for youth and Med Identity"