

## **WORKING GROUP**

### **«TERRITORIAL COOPERATION AND MACROREGIONAL STRATEGIES»**

#### **WORK PLAN 2019-2020**

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

The “Territorial Cooperation and Macroregional Strategies in the Mediterranean” working group is of transversal nature. It deals with issues that, without being strictly sectorial, are of general interest for the Mediterranean regions and raise issues related to future Mediterranean governance, underlining the role that territorial organisations, authorities and stakeholders should play in this governance.

Through this WG, the intention has been and still is to keep evaluating the feasibility of – and advocating for – an integrated strategy in the Mediterranean in a long-term perspective, as well as the interactions with all forms of cooperation in the area. In this regard, the IMC has worked over the past years on several policy documents on the matter (e.g. Declarations, MarinA-Med Policy paper) and on a specific roadmap for macro-regional and maritime strategies in the Mediterranean. This roadmap has been conceived as a rolling document, presenting a possible path to follow with key concepts and principles. The roadmap has helped refocusing the reflections on governance and putting them again in the actuality of Euro-Mediterranean debates and agenda, proposing to apply a gradual and “variable geometry” approach. In this sense, the IMC has in the past also promoted several debates (e.g. seminars, sessions linked to its statutory events and projects, Mediterranean Cooperation days etc.) and built alliances with key Mediterranean stakeholders.

The road map is now being partially implemented through the emerging strategies and initiatives in the Mediterranean (EUSAIR, WESTMED...). Nevertheless, the IMC needs to keep promoting its approach towards an integrated strategy – which is still not a reality – towards European Institutions and national organisations, highlighting the need for coordination among the existing and emerging initiatives, programs etc. and promoting the added-value that it could bring, which would then justify its future possible adoption.

Besides, at EU level, the years 2019-2020 are crucial for the negotiation of the cooperation programs of the period 2021-2027. The European Commission proposed to withdraw the maritime component of trans-border programs and questions itself on the future perimeters of the Interreg and neighborhood programs in the Mediterranean. The amount to be allocated for trans-border cooperation is based on the contentious rule which sets the population located at less than 25 km of the frontier as a criteria. Uncertainties and negotiations may well continue until the beginning of 2020, whereas the work on the content of future programs starts in 2019. This context triggers the necessity of a sharing of points of view of Mediterranean regions and the identification of positions shared amongst them which will in turn be brought to the knowledge of lobbying networks in the Brussels (Committee of the Regions, European Parliament...).

There are other essential concepts that need to be developed and pushed within the Mediterranean governance framework such as the possible adaptation of Cohesion Policy methodologies and concepts to the Neighbourhood policy. This work was initiated some years ago with the [ARLEM report](#) led by the IMC on a “Cohesion Policy for the Mediterranean.” This also includes reflecting about the future of territorial cooperation in the whole Mediterranean basin in the frame of the reviewed EU Neighbourhood Policy and the prospects of the post-2020 programming period.

Finally, a reinforced decentralised and territorial cooperation between our regions, south-south cooperation and the Mediterranean Southern countries’ decentralisation processes, have been also among the priority

work areas developed during the previous mandates. The WG should keep giving an impetus to some specific actions connected to these priorities.

In this framework, the two co-presidencies of the WG, Catalonia and Région Sud, will keep ensuring the management of the working group's strategic activities, with the support of the IMC Secretariat, so that every action can be implemented in the most effective and participatory way as possible. Besides, the members' active participation will represent a major asset for the achievement and success of meaningful results.

The present plan is conceived as a framework document that could be further adjusted during the mandate, based on new needs.

## II- General objective

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Studying, analysing and putting into practice the suggestions and concrete actions that can contribute to improve governance and territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean while enhancing the roles of regions and territorial organisations.

## III- Specific work areas, expected results and priority actions

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In line with the 2017-2018 working plan and to ensure an effective follow-up, the "Territorial Cooperation and Macroregional Strategies in the Mediterranean" group's working plan for 2019-2020 will be based on the following main work areas in the framework of its general objective:

### **WORK AREA 1: Promoting Mediterranean governance through the conceptualisation and development of a macroregional and sea basin strategic approach in the Mediterranean**

Main expected results:

- A. Greater interest of Euro-Med territorial stakeholders (public and private), Mediterranean member States' impulse and commitment towards emerging strategies and governance improvement in the Mediterranean
- B. Implementation and monitoring of structured supportive actions for Mediterranean governance within European projects/programmes framework.
- C. Political and technical reflexions or initiatives regarding migrations and the regions role in the Mediterranean that can contribute to CPMR global works on Migration and EU cooperation programs' works

Actions that could contribute to achieve these results in the current mandate:

- ❖ Keep feeding the political declarations of the IMC and CPMR with reflections on the emerging strategies (before every IMC political meeting)
- ❖ Support to the development of works on Big Data
- ❖ Operational and strategic collaboration with DG MARE and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat on the implementation and possible extension to all the basin of the WEST MED Maritime Initiative (as a first step or pilot experience towards a macro-region in this space, complementary with the EUSAIR and future emerging strategies).
- ❖ Monitoring and capitalisation of governance aspects of the EUSAIR (examples of activities that could be developed together with the Adriatic Ionian Task force of the CPMR: joint monitoring of the 4 pillars and *fora*, coordination with participating regions and EC's DG REGIO/MARE, when necessary. Synergies on specific coordination initiatives with key players as Adriatic-Ionian Initiative Secretariat or Adriatic Ionian Euro Region, associations of universities, cities and chambers of commerce).
- ❖ Contribution to the reflections on governance of the platform Project – PANORAMED – linked to the axis 4 of Interreg MED, exploiting the potential of IMC political reflections as well as the results of the

EU projects where it is involved, meaning horizontal and modular projects of the program, projects from other programs, previous projects etc. (examples of activities: organization of joint sessions, contribution to PANORAMED works as associate partner, and in view of the works on strategic projects, etc.)

- ❖ Synergies concerning the future of macro regional and sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean with the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions (examples of activities: coordination and agreement on common messages to deliver).
- ❖ Contribution to the European Parliament's and European Commission potential future reports concerning macro-regions and sea basin strategies affecting the Mediterranean. This would include a participation to the to the reflexions of the "sea, islands, rivers and coastal areas" EP's intergroup (SEARICA) – should it be reconducted – from the angle of MR and SB strategies in the Mediterranean (examples of activities: contribution to consultations, possible participation in or co-organization of events).
- ❖ Collaboration with the CPMR Macro-region Task Force (bringing Mediterranean expertise for the preparation of political and technical documents, recommendations for the MR and Sea Basin strategies' implementation based on regions' practices, participation to meetings/workshops organised in collaboration with the DG REGIO and/or Interact)
- ❖ Specific meetings with National authorities of Med Countries, in order to raise awareness on emerging strategies and added-value, towards an integrated one.
- ❖ Support to reflections for the IMC and the CPMR connected with the future of Territorial Cooperation in the post2020 period and the relation with governance, macro-regional and sea basin strategies (exchange of ideas during meetings and seminars, exploiting the asset of counting on several IMC regions that are Managing Authorities for these kinds of programmes)
- ❖ Promote and convey the reflections of the Mediterranean region concerning the management of migratory flows to the CPMR Task Force on migration (with an accent on integration, reception and cooperation with origin countries) and make them fit in the global debates about governance and strategies (e.g. promote the exchanges of Med regions on this topics in between the meetings of the CPMR TF Migration and support joint positions for policy messages, organize some debates in the WG or IMC GA/PB, promote the answer to questionnaires and projects launched by the CPMR, the IMC or other organizations, capitalize the reflections on migration in relation with the emerging strategies, promote projects like MIPEX R etc.).

**WORK AREA 2: Increase and improve coordination with Mediterranean organisations assemblies and networks, to promote synergies between different strategic approaches on governance (including macro-regions and sea basin strategies or the cohesion policy for the Mediterranean), and to develop joint projects and reflections on the future of territorial cooperation.**

Main expected results:

- A. ARLEM – Constant participation to the works of the Plenary and the Commission for sustainable territorial development
- B. UfM – Improvement of coordination with SG and the UfM Secretariat.
- C. Launch and support to the implementation of the Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance, notably through its dedicated new IMC Task Force
- D. Improved coordination with other Mediterranean stakeholders networks, including by means of joint cooperation projects: Arco Latino, Med Cities, Unimed, Euro-regions (e.g. Pyrenees-Mediterranean and Adriatic-Ionian Euro-region), AI-NURECC, COPPEM, ASCAME, IEMed, Institut de la Méditerranée, Centre for Mediterranean Integration – CMI, FAL, UNDP, UNEP MAP, Plan Bleu, MEDPAN etc.

E. United Cities and Local Government – active participation to the Political Council and *fora* on relevant Mediterranean issues

Actions that could contribute to achieve these results in the current mandate:

- ❖ Regular contacts and coordination with the UfM General Secretariat and with sectoral vice-secretaries and divisions for the follow-up and potential renewal of the existing Memorandum of Understanding CPMR IMC and UfMS.
- ❖ Participation of IMC and UfMS in respective relevant meetings and *fora*, possible synergies concerning specific initiatives and projects etc. (in coordination with the rest of IMC WG)
- ❖ Participate to relevant UCLG activities and contribution to political declarations and publications
- ❖ Keep following up the synergies with Med Cities in relation with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2016
- ❖ Keep following up the synergies with the Center for Mediterranean Integration in relation with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2015
- ❖ Coordination, exchange of views, experiences and meeting with other networks (Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region, Adriatic-Ionian Euro-Region, AI-NURECC, Arco Latino, ASCAME, Unimed, MED PAN etc.) and possible action plans/projects/ joint initiatives etc.

**WORK AREA 3: Develop a monitoring and supportive activity to the Neighbourhood Policy and territorial cooperation tools available in the basin, while supporting the emergence of a “Mediterranean of projects”, decentralised and south-south cooperation, and Mediterranean Southern countries’ decentralisation**

Main expected results:

- A. Monitoring and advocacy actions towards the European Neighbourhood Policy in favour of a better inclusion of and role for the regional and local authorities from both rims
- B. Efficient coordination with Secretariats and management authorities of the main Mediterranean cooperation programmes concern the preparation of the next programming period and projects presentation to next calls
- C. Decentralised cooperation actions promotion, particularly capacity building initiatives and institutional twinning between Mediterranean local and regional authorities

Actions:

- ❖ Global monitoring of the Neighbourhood Policy Instrument and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) implementation in the Southern borders of the EU and the opportunities for Regional and Local authorities. Lobbying to the DG Regio to maintain the specificities of the NPI program in the next 2021-2027 period in order to enable the effective participation of Southern partners.
- ❖ Follow up of the future of Interreg and NPI programs in the Mediterranean, identification of common positions of IMC Regions and lobbying to carry these positions aux Régions de la CIM et lobbying afin de porter ces positions
- ❖ Follow up and capitalization of the ARLEM’s report on a Cohesion Policy for the Mediterranean (implementation/adaptation of the EU Mediterranean Cohesion Policy’s methodology, concepts and tools, in the ENP and Euromed relations, aspects regarding the “decentralisation” approach in the ENP)
- ❖ Specific monitoring of the implementation, and capitalization of the ENI CBC MED and transnational programmes like MED, ADRION, BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020, but also other territorial cooperation programmes in the Med area (including cross-borders programmes, interregional cooperation programme and IPA, ENI CBC), and programmes related to regional cooperation with the

new ENI. Development of reflections towards the future of these programmes (in connection with the point on this matter underlined in work area I)

- ❖ Presentation of key projects for the CPMR-IMC to calls for proposals of main Mediterranean cooperation programmes and support to IMC members' proposals, trying to boost the involvement of southern partners (in programmes and projects)
- ❖ Strengthening relationships with EC's DGs DEVCO, NEAR, REGIO and MARE
- ❖ Contact development with Southern Neighbourhood Policy's Member States and strengthening of the relations with EEAS and EC delegation in the Mediterranean Southern countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria as priority countries)
- ❖ Continue the capitalisation effort (undertaken with some past inventories) of cooperation experiences with Southern local and regional authorities related to significant policies for maritime coastal regions of the Med, the integrated territorial development and public administration of excellence
- ❖ Follow-up of the capacity building pilot action for integrated territorial development of the Southern Med area and within the framework of PLATFORMA network with the EC (analysis of needs, manual, training), and promotion for replication thereof
- ❖ Keep monitoring the possible development of an ARLEM project on integrated urban/territorial development for quality services provisions to citizens (training for elected representatives and civil servant from regional and local public administrations of Southern Mediterranean shore countries). The project could be tabled for UfM labelling during the mandate
- ❖ Develop reflections towards the possible setting up of a ENP south "territorial hub" branch for increasing the support to the implementation of: the European Neighbourhood Policy and linked UfM objectives, EU and LRAs policies having an impact on the ground (in coherence with IMC recommendations on the "territorialisation" of the ENP
- ❖ Support other initiatives concerning capacity building and decentralisation and monitor the decentralisation processes in the Mediterranean (e.g. promote the intervention in debates on this matter by IMC southern regions in seminars, develop a report on the IMC Enlargement including information on the decentralisation processes and current relations with EU and IMC)
- ❖ Mediterranean regions' contribution to CPMR External Cooperation group's actions and reflections, regarding decentralised and development cooperation and the debates linked to the development agenda, SDGs etc.

#### **IV – Organisation and calendar**

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The group will organize itself in the following manner, through:

- ❖ Face meetings (trying to optimise IMC Agenda and back to back solutions), online exchanges, coordination by e-mails
- ❖ Coordination with the CPMR and IMC Secretariats, including inter-geographical commissions works (especially for CPMR Task Force on Macro-Regions and Adriatic-Ionian strategy, CPMR Intergroup External Cooperation, Balkans and Black Sea Commission, Neighbourhood dimensions).
- ❖ Coordination with other sectoral IMC working group on topics and initiatives regarding cooperation with Southern shore and relations with Euromed networks (for example Vasco Da Gama in the Mediterranean)
- ❖ Working languages (French and English preferably)
- ❖ Regional experts typology appreciated (heads for Territorial Cooperation or International Relations, Mediterranean or European affairs)

Each member of the group is in charge of its costs for participating to face meetings previously planned. However, as an exception, it is possible that in some specific cases these costs could be covered by European projects budgets (e.g. in case of back to back meetings).

The group can assign to its members some tasks related to the actions to be implemented, in accordance with their expertise and their interest to contribute to the results achievement, and to focus in the most efficient manner. Once the specific actions are defined, members concerned can coordinate, particularly by the way of the Internet, videoconferences or telephone conference. Each member should try developing useful contacts with external experts and significant institutions representations for the results achievements.

**Calendar** for the WG (the meetings will be included in the global calendar available on [www.cpmr-intermed.org](http://www.cpmr-intermed.org))

2018	February	14-15 <sup>th</sup> – Working Group Territorial Cooperation and Macro Regional Strategies meeting, back to back with the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission, Murcia (ES) 20-21 <sup>st</sup> – 9th Arlem Plenary meeting, Cairo (EG)
	April	11-12 <sup>th</sup> – CPMR IMC - Platforma Training Module on territorial integrated development, Casablanca (Morocco) 18-19 <sup>th</sup> – Interreg MED Programme Mid-term Event “Made in Med”, Rome (IT)
	May	16-17 <sup>th</sup> – PANACeA Capitalization/Community building event, Montenegro (ME)
	June	20-21 <sup>st</sup> – InnoBlueGrowth Capitalization/Community building Seminar - Maritime Surveillance, Athens (EL) 28-29 <sup>th</sup> – CPMR Intermediterranean Commission General Assembly, Patras (EL)
	September	6-7 <sup>th</sup> – “New Initiatives in Southern Europe and Mediterranean basin” event, INTERACT, Palermo (IT)
	October	17-19 <sup>th</sup> – CPMR General Assembly and Geographical Commissions plenaries, Funchal (PT)
	November	22-23 <sup>rd</sup> – “The Blue way of Life” InnoBlueGrowth mid-term event, Barcelona (ES)
	December	3 <sup>rd</sup> – West Med Stakeholders’ Conference, Algiers (DZ) 4-5 <sup>th</sup> – PANACeA mid-term event, Brussels (BE)
2019	February	MedCat Days 2019 4 <sup>th</sup> - “The future of the Mediterranean region: integrating strategies for sustainable development and cohesion after 2020” international seminar, Barcelona (ES) – Launch of the Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance and Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission 5 – MedCat Partners Forum 26-27 <sup>th</sup> – 10th Arlem Plenary meeting, Sevilla (ES)
	March	7-8 <sup>th</sup> – CPMR Political Bureau, Brest (FR) 25 <sup>th</sup> – Blue Economy Event Union for the Mediterranean
	April	9-10 <sup>th</sup> – UfM Task Force on the Environment 16-17 <sup>th</sup> – InnoBlueGrowth Capitalization/Community building Seminar – Interface Science-Policy-Practice, Marseille (FR)
	May	7 <sup>th</sup> – Launch of Horizontal Projects call – Interreg MED, Marseille (FR) 13 <sup>th</sup> – INTERACT MED Lab Group on Sustainable Coastal Tourism, Palermo (IT) 14-15 <sup>th</sup> – WestMed Initiative Stakeholders Conference and Hackathons, Palermo (IT)
	June	5-6-7 <sup>th</sup> – Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Convention (BleuTourMED Horizontal project), Barcelona (ES)

		13-14 <sup>th</sup> - CPMR Political Bureau, Donegal (IE) 20-21 <sup>st</sup> - Meeting of the WG on Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy, and CPMR Intermediterranean Commission General Assembly, Marseille (FR) 24-25 <sup>th</sup> - Summit of the Two Shores, Marseille (FR)
	September	19-20 <sup>th</sup> - InnoBlueGrowth Final event, Brussels (BE)
	October	7-10 - EWRC + side events on projects - Brussels 8 – Event on MedCoopAlliance - Brussels 14-16 <sup>th</sup> – PANACeA Final event, Malaga (ES) 16-18 <sup>th</sup> – CPMR General Assembly and Geographical Commissions Plenaries, Palermo (IT) 17-18 – PANORAMED Innovation Camp – Barcelona (ES) 18 – ARLEM Committee on sustainable development - Brussels (BE) 23 – 8 <sup>th</sup> session of the WestMed Steering Committee– Rabat (MA) 24 –Interreg MED Event
	November	5-8 – Ecomundo in Rimini with PANORAMED workshop and Interreg Med Community

Other possible meetings:

- Possible IMC mission in the Balkans or southern Med Countries,
- Possible missions in the Med EU capitals regarding the Macro regional strategies
- Possible seminar with SEARICA Intergroup

#### IV-Annexes & documents of interest

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1. ARLEM Report on a Cohesion Policy for the Mediterranean
2. Roadmap for Macro-regional and Sea Basin strategies in the Mediterranean
3. Documents concerning West Med initiative and EUSAIR
4. Political and technical documents on migration of the IMC and CPMR
5. IMC and CPMR Declarations and positions including reflections on ENP review and macro regional and sea basin strategies
6. Draft proposals for a future ENP “Territorial Hub Branch”
7. Concept note for a joint seminar with SEARICA
8. Concept note of PANORAMED
9. Information on PLATFORMA Training
10. Information on projects

All these documents are available on the IMC CPMR web site or upon request