

## **WORKING GROUP**

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

#### **WORK PLAN 2017-2018**

(approved by the General Assembly Campania 2017)

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

The “Territorial Cooperation and Macroregional Strategies in the Mediterranean” working group has a transversal nature. Indeed, 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 and to the role that the territorial organisations, authorities and stakeholders should play in this governance.

Considering the line drawn up during the previous mandates, the intention 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.

The IMC, through this WG, has worked in the last years on several policy documents (e.g. Declarations, Policy paper MarinA-Med), concerning this and on a specific road map for macro-regional and maritime strategies in the Mediterranean, that was conceived as a rolling document. As a possible path to follow with key concepts and principles. The roadmap 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 in the past, has 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. Nevertheless, the IMC needs to keep promoting its approach towards an integrated strategy – which is still not a reality - to the 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, 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.

Finally, a reinforced decentralised and territorial cooperation between our regions, the 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 impulse to some specific actions connected to these priorities.

In this framework, the two co-presidencies of the WG, Catalonia and PACA, 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. Of course, 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 the 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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The "Territorial Cooperation and Macroregional Strategies in the Mediterranean" group's working plan for 2017-2018 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 the 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)
- ❖ Operational and strategic collaboration with DG MARE and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat on the launch, 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 EUSAIR and future emerging strategies).
- ❖ Monitoring and capitalisation of governance aspects of the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Regional Strategy 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, also in view of the launch of 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 eventual future reports concerning macro-regions and sea basin strategies affecting the Mediterranean and to the to the reflexions of the "sea, islands, rivers and coastal areas" EP's intergroup (SEARICA) 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 the emerging strategies, towards an integrated one.
- ❖ Development of 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 kind of programmes)
- ❖ Promote and convey the reflections of the Mediterranean region concerning 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 (Examples of activities: 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 the 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. United Cities and Local Government's Mediterranean Commission – active participation to the Mediterranean Political Council and Fora
- D. Improved coordination with other Mediterranean stakeholders networks, including by means of joint cooperation project: Arco Latino, Med Cities, Unimed, Euro-regions (e.g. Pyrenees-Mediterranean and Adriatic-Ionian Euro-region), COPPEM, ASCAME, IEMed, Institut de la Méditerranée, Centre for Mediterranean Integration – CMI, FAL, UNDP, UNEP MAP, MEDPAN etc.

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

- ❖ Regular contacts and coordination with the UfM Secretary General and with sectoral vice-secretaries and divisions for the implementation 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 COM MED and UCLG activities (In particular UCLG Mediterranean Commission's Political Council and other workshops /Fora), and contribute to political declarations and publications etc.
- ❖ 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, 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 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 implementation in the Southern borders of the EU and the opportunities for Regional and Local authorities
- ❖ 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 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 CPMR IMC to calls for proposals of Mediterranean cooperation main 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 the cooperation experiences with Southern regional and local authorities related to significant policies for maritime coastal regions of the Med, the integrated territorial development and public administration of excellence
- ❖ Organisation of a 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).
- ❖ 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 (especially for CPMR Task Force on Macro-Regions and Adriatic-Ionian strategy, CPMR Intergroup External Cooperation, Balkans and Black Sea Commission).
- ❖ 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 those 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) ). The most strategic meetings are underlined.

June 2017

- ENI CBC Med Programme - First Call for Proposals and info events (participate and monitor the launch of the call)

July 2017

- 4, Workshop West Med, Brussels (BE)
- 6/7, Organisation of a session on Emerging strategies, programs and synergies with the territories for a better Mediterranean governance in the frame of the General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission, Campania (IT) and specific synergies with PANORAMED and IMC partners.

September 2017

- 6, CPMR TF Migration back to back with Brainstorming on the future of the EU
- 21, Territorial cooperation and cohesion policy: between results and perspective, Seminar linked to PANORAMED and the EU cooperation day, Rome (IT)
- 27, Interreg Med PANORAMED - Project kick Off + ad hoc coordination meeting with horizontal projects, Sevilla (ES)
- (tbc) EU Macroregional Strategies Conference on Media and Communication - Know the neighbour, Venue tbc (SI)

October 2017

- 9-12, InnoBlueGrowth Interreg MED - Capitalization EventMarseille (FR)
- Tbc, PANACeA Capitalization/Community building event, Barcelona (ES)
- 18, CPMR Task Force Macro Regions back to back with the CPMR GA and IMC Plenary, Azorres (PT)
- 18, CPMR Task Force Migration back to back with the CPMR GA and IMC Plenary, Azorres (PT)
- 24, ARLEM-Political Bureau & 3rd meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development Brussels (BE)

November 2017

- 29/30, UfM Stakeholders Forum on Blue Economy in the Mediterranean Venue tbc (IT)
- (tbc) Capitalization Seminar InnoBlueGrowth (tbc)
- (tbc) Political council and workshop on SDGs of The UCLG Med commission, Marseilles (FR)
- (tbc), CPMR IMC - Platforma Training Module on territorial integrated development (tbc)

February 2018

- (tbc), 9th Arlem Plenary meeting, Cairo (EG)
- (tbc), End January/Beginning February 2018 – Working Group Territorial Cooperation and Macro Regional Strategies meeting, back to back with the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission, Murcia (ES)

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 & document of interest**

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**I –ARLEM Report on a Cohesion Policy for the Mediterranean**

**II – Roadmap for Macro-regional and Sea Basin strategies in the Mediterranean**

**III- Documents concerning West Med initiative and EUSAIR**

**IV- Political and technical documents on migration of the IMC and CPMR**

**V-IMC and CPMR Declarations and positions including reflections on ENP review and macro regional and sea basin strategies**

**VI-Draft proposals for a future ENP “Territorial Hub Branch”**

**VII-Concept note for a joint seminar with SEARICA**

**VIII-Concept note of PANORAMED**

**IX-Information on PLATFORMA Training**

**X-Information on projects**

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