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CPMR
INTERMEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION

Action Plan of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission

Mandate 2017-2018

This document constitutes the global programming document for the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission for the period 2017-2018 and the main reference for the Intermediterranean Commission Working Groups planning activities.

After a participatory process of update based on the previous action plans of the organization and the contribution from the members, this document has been approved by the Political Bureau in Barcelona on 01/02/2017 and it has been approved by General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission in Nápoles, on 6/7 July 2017.

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1. GLOBAL APPROACH OF THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2017-2018

The Mediterranean basin is a large and complex area, with unique features and a past that makes it the cradle of the Western civilization. Geographically, the Mediterranean is a world in miniature. The Mediterranean is an inland sea whose shores encompass every type of terrain and climate - from wild deserts to fertile plains and from islands and minor seas to high mountains. Historically, it has been the meeting place of some of the greatest cultures, the battleground of races and nations, and the focus of three great religions.

Beyond doubt the countries around Mediterranean are bound by water, geography, history and culture, and since ages, these countries see the Mediterranean not only as a common sea with valuable resources, but also as a way of communication, interconnection, trade and cooperation. Whether viewed historically, geographically, politically, economically, environmentally or socially, the interactions between countries have always been one of the key features of the Mediterranean Basin and the Mediterranean area is of vital strategic importance.

The "Mediterranean issue" requires thus a real sense of responsibility from both, Europe and Mediterranean countries. This geographical area, despite the crises and conflicts, is increasingly interdependent. Europeans are indeed not only neighbors with Maghreb or the eastern Mediterranean, they live together sharing the same complex space. In this perspective, we have the duty to remove the specter of rejection of others, xenophobia, racism, fundamentalism as well as ethnocentrism.

The Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) plays an active, substantial and leading role in the wider region, promoting focus and convergence to the Med area, through active political dialogue, concrete actions, programs and synergies in all sectors. In this sense, the IMC Presidency – ensured by the Region Western Greece – proposes 4 transversal priority themes that should guide IMC Action. The priority themes will support the definition and implementation of the IMC action plan accordingly with the previous experience and towards the future, giving a global framework to the more specific sectoral action of IMC Working Groups.

a) Encourage the emergence of sea-basin and macro-regional strategies in the Mediterranean towards an integrated strategy.

The Mediterranean Sea shares a set of common issues and challenges and is at the same time a huge resource and a precious asset for all its citizens, bordering countries and for the EU. In order to improve the governance of this complex area, its funding schemes and mainstreaming, find real common priority areas of cooperation among different kind of public and private interlocutors, joint flagship projects etc., it is necessary to find and develop the consistent instruments. In this sense, Macro-regional and Sea Basin Strategy can help to find a better and more efficient approach to common challenges and opportunities.

Concerning the development of Macro-Regional Strategies in the Med, an important first step has already been taken with the launch of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), which is based on an EU maritime strategy for the area and could also constitute a pilot for the rest of the Mediterranean. The IMC, in coherence with the works, reflections and road maps that have been already elaborated during the previous presidencies, will closely monitor this strategy, together with the emergent West Mediterranean Maritime initiative and the results of the common projects developed in the respective regions. The IMC will keep being involved in these strategies and initiatives, the cooperation programs, and will contribute to the reflections on the possible application or extension of this kind of approaches and instruments to the whole Mediterranean.

b) Increase the involvement of the Regions in the decision-making process regarding the management of migration and support their actions

Regarding the difficulty of European Bureaucracy and EU and Mediterranean Countries to efficiently respond to the challenges of migration and more specifically refugees, the LRA's contributions have to be nowadays valued more than ever to stop the tragedies that are happening in the Mediterranean and promote integration processes. Therefore, the Regions need to be supported in their efforts to make their voice heard at national, EU and multilateral level as in the implementation of their actions on the ground.

The Intermediterranean Commission together with the CPMR TF on migration has put a lot of efforts during the past 2 years on lobbying activities, exchange of experiences and projects, in order to help the regions specially to cope with the challenges of the migrant reception and integration. IMC members should keep contributing to these works during the current mandate and aiming at reaching, among other things, more assistance and resources to the LRA's, not only for managing the migration crisis but also for coping with the side effects of the issue.

c) Develop a “Mediterranean of projects” and mobilize partners from the non-EU shores of the Mediterranean and especially the South

There are enough promising opportunities in the Mediterranean that can be capitalized on, such as: the Blue economy, the tourism sector (especially maritime, coastal and cruise tourism), the energy sector, the natural beauty of the region, the local food and products, the potential for improved connectivity and intermodal transportation, the rich cultural, historic and archaeological heritage, the large biodiversity, the environmental challenges faced, etc. Therefore, promoting cooperation between actors (especially LRA's) from all the shores of the Mediterranean region is a key factor for addressing common challenges and exploiting common opportunities. Moreover, such cooperation cultivates the necessary conditions for the faster emergence of a Mediterranean integrated strategy.

So far, IMC with its thematic working groups led by its regions, has achieved great results by implementing and supporting projects (e.g. Maremed, Coastgap, MarInA-Med COM&CAP, Elihmed, PLATFORMA, among many others) that build capacity in the Med area, reduce disparities and promote synergies.

Regions in all shores of the Mediterranean are certainly among those that, generally speaking, face particular challenges and are most affected by the different contemporary crisis (economic, refugees, etc.). By using the available funds (ESIF, ENPI, IPA, etc.) efficiently, we contribute to the competitiveness not only of the Mediterranean but of the EU as a whole. The aim of cooperation through projects, actions and initiatives is, to provide a catalyst that will enable people on both sides of the region to work together to make it attractive, both for job creation and to live in. The IMC, with its thematic working groups, should continue and develop more its actions pursuing and working on projects that lead to the strengthening of economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Mediterranean region.

In this context, special focus must receive the attraction and involvement of more partners from the non-EU shores of the Mediterranean, and especially from the South. During the previous presidencies, our network expanded significantly and several Regions from the south of the Mediterranean joined the Intermediterranean Commission. In the light of the revised European Neighborhood Policy, IMC should continue its efforts to expand to the other shores of Mediterranean and, thus, strengthen the political and practical (projects) cooperation with Regions and other relevant territorial stakeholders there.

d) Foster the emergence of Mediterranean citizenship

Younger Mediterranean's are increasingly interested on the situation of their neighbors, allowed in one way by the spread of the social media access, and in other way by the increase of the interconnection between shores regarding the mundialization era. The Intermediterranean Commission must continue to support this process and encourage the active participation of young Mediterranean in the action of civil society and also in politics.

The affirmation of a Mediterranean citizenship will promote the Mediterranean identity, which is crucial to building a sustainable area of peace, cohesive development and prosperity.

2. ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING GROUPS: SECTORIAL ASPECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

In coherence with this global approach, the IMC will continue positioning itself in **key sectoral aspects and policies for the development of the Mediterranean regions** with a view to the EU programming period 2014-2020 and beyond.

As mentioned in the last work plan, in order to increase the impact of IMC, 4 Working Groups have been set up from the merging of previous and new ones, being supported by the IMC Secretariat. This gradual process, started in the mandate 2014-2016, has produced good results like specific initiatives and projects (more than 20 presented to several EU calls, 7 currently running in 2017 and others under evaluation), capitalising past

experiences, developing new synergies (with CPMR intergroups, external interlocutors etc.) and increasing both the participation of the members and the impact and efficiency of the IMC action at all levels.

The **4 Working groups**, each one co-led by a tandem of Regions, are the followings:

- Territorial cooperation & macro-regional strategies (TC & MRs)
- Water & Energy (W&E)
- Transport & Integrated Maritime Policy (TRAN & IMP)
- Economic & Social cohesion (Eco. & Soc. Cohesion)

Like in the previous mandates, each Working Group has to draw up a **specific Action Plan for 2017-2018**. Besides, all the working group should comply with the guidelines approved in 2013 and in particular:

- **Focus on specific and concrete results (e.g. 2/6) to be reached before the end of the mandate:**
 - **Advocacy Actions** at the EU level (PE, CE, COUNCIL, CDR, CESE, BEI etc.), Euromed (UfM-ARLEM), Multilateral (NNUU etc.) level which should contribute to the global strategies of the IMC CPMR
 - **Projects and other initiatives:** pilot projects of cooperation funded with partner resources, seminar, workshops, for a, exchange of best practices, capitalization initiatives, studies, reports, other, Interreg or Euromed projects co-funded by EU programmes or other sources.
- Commit to **results monitoring and evaluation *in itinere* and at the end of the mandate** in the frame of the General Assembly and Political Bureau and in relation with their specific Action plans.

The WGs can also embed **specific Task Forces (TFs)**, when it is deemed necessary by the members and in order to reach complex results at political or technical level, on specific topics where a more structured coordination among a reduced number of regions is required. These TFs are coordinated by a region in particular.

If **TFs** are constituted within a WG, they have to define Terms of Reference or a similar short document describing the perimeter of their action and the organization and calendar of activities. As an example, during the last GA in Venice in July 2016 a new Task Force on Fisheries and Aquaculture was proposed in the frame of the WG Transports & Integrated Maritime Policy. Afterward the Secretariat and the Coordinating region, Andalusia, prepared the ToRs and a calendar of priority actions in order to organize the future activities.

The **table below** presents the current situation of the IMC Working Groups and Task Forces that will be evolving during the mandate with the valuable contribution of the members. The main issues, themes and topics mentioned per Working Group are merely indicative and as way of summary. A more complete description is available in the IMC activity reports, previous Working Groups' action plans. The updated and detailed one will be included in the new Working Groups' action Plans and Task Forces' ToRs.

I. TERRITORIAL COOPERATION & MACROREGIONAL STRATEGIES

Co-Presidencies: CATALONIA and PROVENCE ALPES COTE D'AZUR

MAIN ISSUES, THEMES AND TOPICS THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE WG

- ❖ Promotion of emerging strategies (Sea Basin / Macro-Regional) and initiatives that could boost the multilevel governance in the Mediterranean towards an integrated strategy (e.g. EUSAIR, WEST MED)¹. Contribution to Med Interreg and Adrion axis 4, production of reflections, seminars, lobbying meetings and actions etc.
- ❖ Advocacy and monitoring actions towards the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy and its ENI Instrument (contribution to reports, consultations, lobbying meetings etc.).
- ❖ Efficient coordination with Secretariats and management authorities of the main Mediterranean cooperation programmes and projects implementation (special attention to MED Interreg Horizontal projects) and presentation to next calls.
- ❖ Decentralised cooperation actions promotion, particularly capacity building initiatives on integrated territorial development, institutional twinning between Mediterranean local and regional authorities.
- ❖ Monitoring and general support to decentralization processes in the MED.
- ❖ Support to political and technical reflexions and initiatives regarding migrants' management in the Mediterranean, in synergy with the CPMR Task Force on Migration, set up in 2015 upon IMC Request.
- ❖ Foster the coordination with:
 - ARLEM - Constant participation to the works of the Plenary and the new Commission for sustainable territorial development;
 - UfM - Implement Memorandum of Understandings;
 - Other Mediterranean stakeholders networks, including by means of joint cooperation project: Arco Latino, Euro-Regions, MedCities, COM MED UCLG, COPPEM, ASCAME, IEMed, Institut de la Méditerranée, Centre for Mediterranean Integration - CMI, FAL, UNDP, etc.

II. TRANSPORT AND INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY

Co-Presidencies: MURCIA (leader on transport) and PROVENCE ALPES COTES D'AZUR (leader on IMP)

Internal Task Forces: Bologna Charter (coordinated by Emilia Romagna), Fisheries & Aquaculture (Coordinated by Andalusia), Follow-up of UfM Blue Economy Agenda at regional level (possibly coordinated by Lazio tbc, including thematic monitoring of West Med on maritime issues) or others (e.g. Maritime industries & marine energy).

MAIN ISSUES, THEMES AND TOPICS THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE WG AND INTERNAL TFs

- ❖ Monitoring of the TEN-T and CEF and the implementation/governance of the transport corridors affecting the Mediterranean, the Motorways of the sea (Participation in the governance/for a, advocacy DG MOVE, priority projects of the regions...), the RTAP for the Mediterranean, support to CPMR works, surveys and policy positions on these issues.
- ❖ Sustainable maritime and multimodal transport, logistics and goods transport.
- ❖ Development of partnerships and projects in the framework of EU programmes that deal with transport and accessibility issues.
- ❖ Development of an integrated maritime approach for Blue Growth in the Mediterranean. Monitoring of Integrated Maritime Policy at Med level, maritime governance and Blue Growth topics. Monitoring and contribution to the UfM Blue Economy agenda and related initiatives as the Virtual Knowledge Center or BlueMed on research and innovation.

¹ This activity will be developed in coherence with the principles stated in the IMC Road Map on Macroregional and Sea Basin Strategies as in other IMC, ARLEM, EU and UfM political documents and in synergy with other networks and programs of territorial cooperation.

- ❖ Monitoring at Med level of Integrated coastal zone management and maritime spatial planning, adaptation to the climate change in coastal areas and sustainable development of Med coasts (link with Bologna Charter/JAP).
- ❖ Specific actions at technical and political level dealing with Fishing and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (lobby, projects, coordination, surveys).
- ❖ Monitoring and contribution to the maritime dimension of Macro-regional, sea basin, initiatives in the MED, with a special focus on EUSAIR and WEST MED.
- ❖ Monitoring on calls for proposals that include a possible maritime dimension: Horizon 2020 ; Life+ ;ENPI-CBC Med Programme; MED Programme ; FEAMP and capitalization and development of specific projects on maritime topics.
- ❖ Participation in EMDs and other maritime and marine Fora.
- ❖ Possible specific actions or projects on maritime industries and marine energies.
- ❖ Ecosystem Approach and Use of the seas (Maritime Strategy Framework Directive).
- ❖ Employment and training policies in the sectors of the Blue Economy.
- ❖ Production and management of marine and maritime knowledges and data.
- ❖ Maritime and Coastal Tourism in synergy with the Working Group on Economic and Social Cohesion.

III. WATER & ENERGY

Co-Presidencies: Generalitat Valenciana (leader on Water) and Rabat Salé Kénitra (leader on Energy & Climate)

Internal Task Forces: Task force on Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings (coordinated by Catalonia)

MAIN ISSUES, THEMES AND TOPICS THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE WG AND INTERNAL TFs

- ❖ Monitoring of Water Framework directive - Blue print implementation in the Mediterranean.
- ❖ Dissemination and follow-up of a political position on water and energy and exchange of best practices.
- ❖ Promotion of innovative and effective water management systems, focusing in particular on the use of renewable energies (e.g. photovoltaic) for reclaimed waters and desalination.
- ❖ Development of other topics connected to alteration of coastal aquatic ecosystems as a consequence of Eutrophication following the use of reclaimed waters or fertilizers, reclaimed water quality control, etc.
- ❖ Participation in forum of discussion on water resources: work with the PE Intergroup on Water, Action Groups EIP, collaboration with other networks.
- ❖ Climate adaptation and mitigation issues. Spread the of COP and MED COP reflections and conclusions though the Intermediterranean Commission Regions and projects in connection with the agenda 2030 for sustainable development. Synergies with CPMR WG on Climate.
- ❖ Global positioning on the Intermediterranean Commission regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy issues also in connection with the debate on emerging strategies.
- ❖ Follow up of the Ljubljana Declaration and set-up of a TF board open to external key stakeholders for the elaboration of a Joint action plan on Energy Renovation in Med Buildings. Develop the 5 axis defined in 2014 within the capitalization of MARIE-ELIHMED-PROFORBIOMED and the Joint Action Plan for the Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings (synergies with Sherpa).
- ❖ Development of synergies with the others IMC Working group and the Islands and the Atlantic Arc Commissions of the CPMR.
- ❖ Synergies with Covenant of Mayors against Climate Change (The regions' role and multi-level governance, ER and EE).
- ❖ Synergies with the MED-SPRING project: Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research and Innovation Gateway.
- ❖ Monitoring of EU and Euromed programmes and calls related to water and energy in order to present projects proposals: Med, ENPI CBC MED, H2020.
- ❖ Other themes dealing with sustainable development (waste treatment, sustainable agriculture, rural development, etc., Nexus: water-energy-food).

IV. ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COHESION

Co-Presidencies: Occitanie (leader on Economic related issues) and Tuscany (leader on Social /Youth Issues)

Internal Task Forces: Vasco da Gama (coordinated by Veneto), Sustainable Tourism and Culture (coordinated by Crete), other tbc (e.g. on specific themes linked to “Youth inclusion in the Med or “Social & Solidarity Economy”)

MAIN ISSUES, THEMES AND TOPICS THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE WG AND INTERNAL TFs

- ❖ Social and Solidarity Economy: prospection reports, advocacy actions and projects.
- ❖ Actions for youth inclusions and participatory democracy: Possible Mediterranean network of sub-national authorities and associations for young people (as follow up of MED NET launched in 2014 by Tuscany), aimed at mutual understanding and strengthening exchanges, or boosting of similar action promoted by the regions. Synergy between initiatives and platforms for youth promoted through IMC Regions.
- ❖ Lobbying to feed into the current reflection on how to bolster investments for young people when implementing EU funds, particularly the ESF, during the 2014-2020 period and beyond.
- ❖ Exchange of best practices and methodologies existing at European and Med level on: Youth Guarantee, high standard internships and mobility, start-up – Enterprises for young people, work mobility etc.
- ❖ Promotion of high-level citizenship actions such as the international voluntary service at Med level.
- ❖ Development of intervention schemes designed together with young people to cope with the emergence of youth employment.
- ❖ Synergies with Euromed networks as Anna Lindh Foundation and with the Union for the Mediterranean on specific initiatives addressed to youngsters of the Med.
- ❖ Other specific actions to foster the emergence of a Mediterranean Citizenship.
- ❖ Development of Training and Mobility Initiatives regarding the seafaring occupations in the Med, in connection with Vasco da Gama.
- ❖ Monitoring of the ARLEM contributions on socio-economic development aspects.
- ❖ Implementation of MED Interreg projects on Sustainable Tourism, Synergies with external stakeholders and the NECSTouR network on Sustainable and Competitive Tourism with the aim to develop work on indicators (link with Mitomed +).
- ❖ Works on Sustainable tourism and ICZM and MSP in the frame of Co-Evolve and MEDCOAST4BG respectively under Interreg Med and UfM labelization frame (in order to enlarge the cooperation area in the south of the Med).
- ❖ Reflection on a new agenda and specific actions on coastal and maritime sustainable and culture tourism in the Mediterranean associated to the macro regional and maritime basin strategies or initiatives.
- ❖ Capitalization, monitoring and implementation of specific projects on social and economic cohesion with a specific focus on youth, training, social and solidarity economy or sustainable tourism.
- ❖ Synergies with CPMR Core Group concerning Cohesion Policy and its impacts and perspectives in the Med.

As regards the logistics and operability of the working group meetings, the IMC should find the most efficient and effective way of organising the meetings, by minimising the movement of members. Furthermore, more videoconferences will be organised and mainly using CITs and the Intermediterranean Commission’s website to encourage more fluid communication.

Finally, with a view to the lobbying activity of the working groups, as well as the Intermediterranean Commission and the CPMR in general, it will be useful to keep carrying out studies/inventories of the projects (ENI CBC MED projects, MED programme, EIE, etc.) developed by members of the Intermediterranean Commission; and/or brief organic studies for the gathering/systematisation of good practices on responsibilities and functions of the Regions. The studies’ outputs could be very useful in order to locate the members’ expertise in a quicker and simpler way, feeding back the contents of the lobby actions of the coming years.

3. FOCUS ON THE FOUR STRATEGIC TRANSVERSAL THEMES FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION

a) Encourage the emerging Strategies in the Mediterranean: promoting an Integrated Approach in the basin through Macro-Regional (MRS) and Maritime Sea Basin-Strategies (SBS) or other initiatives

Based on the work carried out in the previous terms of office in the Intermediterranean Commission (ARLEM Report on a Cohesion Strategy for the MED, Road Map on SBs and MRs etc.) as in the frame of the CPMR Task Force on Macro Regions, and in coherence with the considerations included in the reports of the European Parliament, the EU's Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, the IMC will:

- Keep advocating for the implementation of the Road map on emerging strategies in the Mediterranean and the definition (in the mid-long term) of a possible **Macro-Regional Strategy (MRS) integrated for the whole of the Mediterranean** resulting from the integration of **3 sub-strategies complementary to and coherent with each other**: one for the **Western Mediterranean**, one for the **Eastern Mediterranean** and one for the **Adriatic-Ionic area**. These strategies must be designed and developed based on a bottom-up, multi-level governance, multi-actor (public-private) approach, as well as based on the coordination and optimisation of the instruments-policies available and the institutions that operate in the area.
- In this sense, it will be necessary to **keep linking the work of the Intermediterranean Commission to the EUSAIR Strategy**, monitoring it, participating in its governance and developing concrete projects and synergies particularly with the Balkans and Black Sea Commission and the CPMR's Adriatic Ionian Task Force.
- In this frame it will be also paramount to support and participate in the possible instruments proposed by the European Commission (DG MARE) and the Union for the Mediterranean towards a **maritime initiative for the Western Mediterranean** that could constitute, with its future action plan, a first step towards an integrated maritime initiative in the area and contribute to the global **UfM Blue Economy Agenda**.
- To this extent the IMC and its Regions should better organize in order to get the Mediterranean States "on board" concerning the proposal for the emerging Mediterranean strategies. For instance, they should implement concrete advocacy actions at **EU Member-State and EU Parliament** level (e.g. SEARICA Intergroup), in order to promote the technical and financial support to the strategies for the Mediterranean (study phase, governance model, thematic priorities, etc.).
- Improve the relationship with the **Union for the Mediterranean** as well as with the **European Commission** (Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood, Johannes Hahn), the **External Action Service** and the **European Parliament** (Several MEPs, ITG SEARICA, ITG EUSAIR), to follow in detail and influence the evolution of the debate on the emerging strategies at the heart of these Institutions and in connection with the review and implementation of the **Neighbourhood Policy**.
- Keep articulating the reflection around: **specific thematic priorities for the emerging strategies with a major impact for the region, coherence and mainstreaming** of the existing instruments, policies and strategies (particularly the Territorial Cooperation Programmes: MED, ENI MED CBC, ADRION, IPA, Cross-border, ENI Programs, the EU's sectoral policies and the EU2020 Strategy, Cohesion Policy, Migration Policy), **political consensus and planning** by objectives, results, instruments and **calendar**.
- Develop **concrete projects/actions or give advice from the regional perspective concerning MRS, SBS and governance** to Interreg MED and ADRION axis 4, ENI CBC MED....
- Contribute to **Reports on Macro – Regional Strategies to be developed in the future by the EC** and to **preparatory or support actions of the European Parliament** for the start-up of the emergent strategies in the Med
- Making the most of the boost/opportunity of the **Maltese presidency of the EU Council** in 2017 in view of the launch of the West Med Initiative
- **Continue to coordinate with the main Mediterranean institutions** - Union for the Mediterranean, Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), UfM Parliamentary Assembly (APUPM), Dialogue 5+5; with regional and local networks such as the CGLU Med Commission, Arco Latino, Med Cities, COPPEM, among others, and also Mediterranean Think Tanks – **fostering a gradual and voluntary**

appropriation of the concept of macro-regional strategy and agreement of priorities also by the regions and other stakeholders (including the economic actors and those of civil society) from the Southern Mediterranean.

b) Increase the involvement of the Regions in the decision-making process regarding the management of migration and support their actions

The IMC in 2014 promoted the creation of the inter-commission Task Force on Migration of CPMR, that was kicked off in 2015 and coordinated by Region of Sicily (with the political reporting to CPMR Bureau by Region Skåne). Based on the good work carried out so far by the CPMR Migration TF (letters to/meeting with Governments, EP, EC, “We are All Mediterranean” campaign, articles, exchanges of best practices, seminars, conferences etc.) IMC will keep contributing to its works accordingly, aiming for:

- More assistance and resources to the LRA’s, not only for managing the migration crisis (reception and integration), but also for coping with the side effects of the issue.
- The higher involvement of LRA’s in the EU dialogue on the crisis and in the future decisions taken by the EU.
- LRA’s to be included in a European integrated multi-level governance solution and, according to their competences, having distinct responsibilities and playing a complementary role to National Governments.
- A sustainable and efficient management of the flows as part of a wider strategy for the Mediterranean that address challenges of the common destiny that unites the peoples of the area.
- Feed CPMR works on migration from the MED point of view.

c) Develop a “Mediterranean of projects” and Mobilize partners from the non-EU shores of the Mediterranean and especially the South

- In the framework of the EU Neighbourhood Policy and of a strategic and integrated approach at sea basin and macro-regional level, the Intermediterranean Commission proposes to develop, in particular, the following activities (also and mostly via its Working Groups).
- **Advocacy actions at the EU level to keep the balance of the EU budget towards the Mediterranean and the Southern Neighbourhood**, with a view to the monitoring of the new **EU Neighbourhood Policy** (in coordination with the CPMR’s working group on “External Cooperation”) and the **transnational and cross-border cooperation of the EU in the Med basin**.
- **Keep contributing to future reports on the Neighbourhood Policy and its instrument ENI**, possibly produced by the European Parliament and Committee of the Regions etc.
- Specific **coordination with the MED and ADRION Interreg Programs for Transnational Cooperation** as with the **ENI CBC MED Programme**, and **IPA programmes**, participation in call for projects and **implementation/capitalization of all the projects already selected** with the IMC and its regions as partners or associates.
- Fostering participation of IMC together with southern members in projects to be promoted and proposed for **labellisation in the frame of the Union of the Mediterranean**.
- **Support to the decentralisation and democratic processes in Southern Mediterranean countries**: monitoring of the situation and coordination with other actors who are working on the issue in the area; pilot training for local and regional public servants and politicians on integrated territorial development with a focus on Morocco and Tunisia (to be developed in the frame of Platforma Strategic Partnership).
- Possible advocacy actions on the **Europeaid programs** and possible participation in the **“Assises of decentralised Cooperation”** and or EU **“development day”** in connection with the CPMR External Cooperation Group.

The IMC will also strengthen **the multilevel and multi actor collaboration with external partners from academia, public, private, multilateral authorities**:

- **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**: to keep and widen the general collaboration with the UfM initiated in 2013 with an MoU. The cooperation on the Blue Economy Agenda for the Mediterranean will be a theme of special interest, exploiting the opportunity of being observer in the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy and sharing a dedicated agreement with the UfM on this theme. The aim will be to feed the collaboration towards the implementation of the UfM ministerial declaration on Blue Economy,

promoting the involvement of the Regions and substantially contributing to the MED Blue Economy forum.

- **Com Med CGLU:** to participate in the Mediterranean Political Council with a key function of representation of Regional Government level and in the next Forum of Local and Regional Authorities and related activities.
- **ARLEM:** through the Presidency of the Intermediterranean Commission, to actively participate in all relevant debates and specific initiatives, especially in the framework of the sustainable territorial development commission, ARLEM seminars and projects in the pipeline.
- **ARCO LATINO:** to keep the collaboration on the base of the protocol already in place, to combine efforts in the promotion of joint projects as MarInA-Med in 2015 or BleTourMed and the MRS/SBS for the Mediterranean and to coordinate in the lobby action, particularly in the frame of Interreg programs, West Med, Neighbourhood Policy and in networks like Platforma.
- **PLATFORMA-Strategic Partnership with the EC:** to actively participate in lobbying activities, research and trainings in matters of decentralised cooperation, development, Sustainable Development Goals, support for decentralisation processes in the Mediterranean and promotion of territorial integrated development.
- **CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATION (CMI):** to implement the potential synergies identified in the MoU signed in 2015 with this multi-partner platform (World Bank, EU Investment Bank, AFD, GIZ, OCEMO among others) on concrete actions in the frame of sustainable growth, integrated economies and participatory governance concerning MENA countries.
- **MED CITIES:** to work together on several aspects of the sustainable territorial integrated development, multilevel governance etc., producing joint lobbying actions and projects in the frame of the MoU signed in 2016.
- **ASCAME:** to keep the public-private sector collaboration, also in the framework of specific projects based on the triple helix as the ones already selected in the frame of MED Interreg.
- **MED PAN:** to increase the involvement of the regions in the management of marine protected areas by the setting up of concrete synergies with MED PAN and IMC members and possibly agree on a MoU in 2017.
- **ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION:** to develop joint initiatives for the emergence of a Mediterranean Citizenship as the main mission of the FAL is bringing together civil society and citizens across the Mediterranean to build trust and improve mutual understanding.
- **Euro-Regions of the Mediterranean area:** launch a collaboration based on joint and specific actions.
- **Other entities** (Euro Regions, AECTS, UNEP-MAP and PAP/RAC, UNDP Art, Universities and Centre of Research, ISMAR etc.)

d) The emergence of a Mediterranean Citizenship

Citizens around our shared sea, especially the younger Mediterraneans, are increasingly interested in the politics, economics and cultures of their neighbors, and expressing their willingness for more democracy and freedom of expression in the area. Therefore, it is of great importance to raise the awareness of the civil society on what a Mediterranean cooperation represents for citizens, on what is its added value, enforcing the identity and reputation of the Mediterranean region as a common ownership to be protected and to be developed for a better quality of life of the Mediterranean citizens themselves.

The Intermediterranean Commission must continue to support this process and encourage the active participation of young Mediterraneans in the action of civil society and also in politics. Also, the successful setting-up of the Mediterranean Macroregion depends greatly on the mobilization of civil society of the citizens for the Mediterranean and the emergence of a Mediterranean identity built around our shared space and values. The affirmation of a Mediterranean citizenship will promote the Mediterranean identity, which is crucial to building a sustainable area of peace, cohesive development and prosperity.

The Intermediterranean Commission could work on a transversal strategy with key actions - also through its Working Group on Economic & Social Cohesion - for fostering the emergence of a Mediterranean Citizenship.

As an example, the Social & Solidarity Economy could especially contribute to involve the younger Mediterraneans as to gender equality and social innovation, while promoting an alternative mode

of production, consuming and financing towards a more sustainable, solidary and inclusive model of development based on a Mediterranean Citizenship.

To this extent specific initiatives should be conceived together possibly with the Anna Lindh foundation and/or other key platforms of civil society in the Mediterranean as the Mediterranean Citizens Assembly (MCA), giving also a support to citizen media that enable free and supportive expression. In this perspective, cooperation between the regions, the citizens and their organizations and these Medias could be concretely developed.

4. INTERNAL ORGANISATION AND MEMBERSHIP ASPECTS: MOBILISE AS A PRIORITY THE PARTNERS FROM THE SOUTH MED

In order to improve its impact, organization, and membership, the IMC will:

- ❖ **Strengthen the coordination** at the level of the Presidency and Vice-Presidencies, WGs, and also between the Intermediterranean Commission and the CPMR secretariat/Intergroups and Task Forces (e.g. the Presidency, the VPs and the Secretariat will work on a shared repartition of roles concerning the representativeness of the network and the political follow up of topics of special relevance as well as on a monitoring tool for the member involvement in the IMC).
- ❖ Develop **synergies with other geographical Commissions** of the CPMR and, in particular, with the Islands and Balkans/Black Sea Commissions on tourism matters and on the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region.
- ❖ Be consistent with the **CPMR's "Membership Marketing" strategy**, working to consolidate the membership and achieve **new members, particularly from the Neighbourhood South** (Morocco & Tunisia as a top priority, getting closer also to other countries like Algeria etc.), as well as from Croatia and from some regions of the Balkans area as Albania, Montenegro and Turkey. Getting closer to the Mashreq territories (eventually starting with Lebanon). Aiming to recover ex-members and attract new ones in countries that are already members.

To this last extent, the IMC will work during the mandate on an **overall CPMR IMC enlargement strategy in the Mediterranean**.

Through this strategy and its daily action, the IMC will work to consolidate as **a priority the cooperation with southern authorities**, in particular:

- Strengthening their involvement within IMC 4 Thematic Working Groups and the governing bodies of the IMC (e.g. keeping a IMC Vice-Presidency for southern countries, giving them responsibilities in Working Groups and Task Forces).
- Developing specific partnerships for projects in the frame of EU programmes open to the southern authorities (MED, ENI CBC MED, ERASMUS, COSME, H2020, among others).
- Influence the EU legislation concerning the participation of southern authorities in EU programs, as necessary.

5. COMMUNICATION

The IMC will keep improving the definition of the messages according to the targets of internal and external communication of the Intermediterranean Commission (tailored communication), in order to make better use of the instruments and tools made available by the CPMR, whilst contributing to their renewal.

The IMC will in particular:

- ❖ exploit the new tools at disposal of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (e.g. fully exploit twitter accounts of the Intermediterranean Commission and projects; the COM&CAP MarInA-Med Platform, newsletters of CPMR and projects, youtube channels and videos) and reflect on the use of social network.
- ❖ Improve communication flows through the new CPMR - Geographical Commissions integrated website (Articles, news, links...).

6. CALENDAR 2017-2018

Detailed Calendar in annex and available on the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission website.