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CPMR  
INTERMEDITERRANEAN  
COMMISSION

# Action Plan of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission

## Mandate 2019-2020

This document constitutes the global programming document for the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission for the period 2019-2020 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 General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission in Marseilles, on 20 June 2019.

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## **1. GLOBAL APPROACH OF THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2020**

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 Mediterranean is not a boundary, but a natural bridge joining the peoples on all sides of the Sea and 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, programmes and synergies in all sectors.

In this sense, the IMC Presidency – ensured for a second mandate by the Region Western Greece– proposes to keep **with the 4 transversal priority themes that are guiding IMC Action since 2017, adding specific focuses on a series of more pressing needs**. 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: focus on the promotion of Blue Growth and emerging strategies, while protecting the Med Sea**

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 Strategies, as well as other emerging initiatives 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 and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), which is based on an EU maritime strategy for the area and constitutes 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 WestMED 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.

In particular, the IMC will coordinate with other relevant Mediterranean networks and organizations representing local and regional authorities to launch a wide "Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance" capable of boosting the integration of the main strategies and initiatives, the role of the regions and the emergence of pilot projects. Considering the running strategies and the territorial needs, Blue Growth, climate emergency and the Biodiversity protection of the Mediterranean will surely be the focus in the short term for specific joint actions.

**b) Acknowledge and support, when appropriate, the needs and the involvement of Regions in the decision-making process regarding the management of Migration and Asylum as well as their actions on the ground: focus on the internal and external dimension of migration and the role of the regions**

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 4 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 CPMR global 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. A special focus should be given both to the improvement of the key role of the regions in the promotion of a better management of migration flows and the building of inclusive societies (reception and integration) as well as on their potential and innovative role in the external dimension of migration policies (related to diasporas/resettlement/decentralized cooperation).

**c) Develop a “Mediterranean of projects” and mobilize partners from the non-EU shores of the Mediterranean and especially the South: focus on consolidating the high involvement of the organization and promotion of concrete strategic, pilot projects and solid partnerships**

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, SHERPA, CO-EVOLVE, MITOMED+, HERIT-DATA, INNOBLUEGROWTH, PANACeA, 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/structural crisis (economic, migration, etc.). By using the available funds (ESIF, ENI, IPA, H2020 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 and the current reflections towards the post 2020 period (with the new unified Neighborhood Development International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)), the 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, valorizing as a priority focus Mediterranean Youth as an asset for the present and the future of the basin**

Younger Mediterraneans 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.

We are in a crucial moment for the future of the EU and the Mediterranean, at the crossroad of two programming periods, with the mandates of the EU Parliament and Commission entering their last phase, and EU debating for the post-2020 period with the forthcoming Multiannual Financial Framework, in a difficult global political context, highly influenced by Brexit, migration issues and other important challenges.

Thus, apart from the above-mentioned pillars, an horizontal priority for the new mandate will be taking stock of and considering the needs and expressing and promoting the interests of the IMC and its Regions, towards the post-2020 period. The Intermediterranean Commission will also have to conceive its specific activities in a coherent way with the CPMR action and actively contribute to the global CPMR Strategic Plan. This will enhance the power and the consistency of the enlarged CPMR family, as well as the impact of its work on the ground, granting that the needs and potential of the Mediterranean regions are well represented.

**e) Integrate, in a cross-cutting fashion, the issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation in Mediterranean Regions' strategies and policies**

The issue of climate change and its consequences have, in two decades, established themselves at the forefront of international, national and regional concerns. The Mediterranean basin is at the center of these changes and is a hot spot of the globe in respect of the impact of climate change on ecosystems and populations. Indeed, a third of the population of its bordering countries (approximately 150 million people) lives near the sea and 40% of the coastline is now built-on. Climate disruption transpires mainly through an increase of the yearly average temperature of the atmosphere and the sea, a decrease of rivers' inflows in the sea and of precipitations, saline breaches within groundwater, an acidification of the marine environment, a rise in the level of the Mediterranean Sea and increase of the intensity of natural risks with impacts on coastal erosion and submersion dynamics.

In the face of such situation, one could declare the state of Climate Emergency for the Mediterranean and the next GIEC report, expected in the fall of 2019, could well increase the anxiogenic character of the situation, given that the last projections contemplate a rise of the level of seas up to +190 cm on the horizon of 2100.

The framework of adaptation of Mediterranean coastlines to climate and environmental changes is rather poorly settled. Concrete examples of efficient collaboration between different types of stakeholders at various territorial scales are missing. A lot of actions are based on relatively short projects through which actors only interact within the project's duration and the cooperation frameworks are not bolstered. Policies of adaptation to climate change seeking territorial planning and infrastructures must take into account the results of scientific research and uncertainties. Nature-based solutions have to be emphasized in the adaptation plans in order to minimize related risks and to maximize the resilience capacity of territories and, eventually, to ease their accessibility for the whole of the stakeholders. Notably, the need to work on the structuration of a network of actors of climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean is salient. To do so, it is necessary to build upon the mobilization and articulation of existing networks or those to be reinforced in the bordering countries, starting with the member states of the European Union.

The IMC-CPMR wishes to play an active role in the backing of strategies and actions aiming at limiting the global warming in keeping with the Paris Accord and the adaptation to climate disruption effects in the Mediterranean. Thus it is about defining and implementing structuring actions increasing the actors' awareness, skills improvement and cooperation on this issue, as well as the consideration of Mediterranean specificities in European policies and strategies of cooperation with the Northern Shore. A Task Force could be created within the Working Group *Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy* of the Intermediterranean Commission in 2020 to define a dedicated action plan for the upcoming years, resting particularly on the Bologna Charter and the strategic theme n°4 of its last joint action plan "answers to the issues raised by climate change In the Mediterranean".

## **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 2021-2027 and beyond.

As mentioned in the last two work plans, 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 30 presented to several EU calls, 11 currently running in 2019 with the CPMR IMC as full or associated partner, and others under evaluation or conception), capitalising past experiences, developing new synergies (with CPMR intergroups, external interlocutors/institutions 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 2019-2020**. 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 and it is not compulsory or necessary to create TFs for all the sub topics addressed by each WG.

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.

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 for the mandate 2019-2020.



## I. TERRITORIAL COOPERATION & MACROREGIONAL STRATEGIES

**Co-Presidencies:** CATALONIA and SUD-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)<sup>1</sup>. Contribution to Med Interreg and Adrion axis 4, production of reflections, seminars, lobbying meetings and actions etc. Specific support and follow up of the "Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance", AI-NURECC-Initiative etc.
- ❖ Advocacy and monitoring actions towards the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy, its current ENI Instrument and future NDICI in the post 2020 (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 and Strategic projects, ENI CBC MED Strategic projects) and presentation to next calls.
- ❖ Promotion of actions in the field of Decentralized Cooperation, particularly the replication and conception of new capacity building initiatives on integrated territorial development, support to institutional twinning between Mediterranean local and regional authorities etc.
- ❖ Monitoring of and general support to decentralization processes in the MED.
- ❖ Contribution of big and open data to territorial policies and emerging strategies and initiatives (through workshops, projects, advocacy actions etc.)
- ❖ Foster the coordination with:
  - ARLEM - Constant participation to the works of the Plenary and the new Commission for sustainable territorial development;
  - UfM – Continue the implementation of the Memorandum of Understandings;
  - Other Mediterranean stakeholders networks, including by means of joint cooperation project: Arco Latino, Euro-Regions, MedCities, UCLG, COPPEM, ASCAME, CMI, FAL, UNDP, UNEP MAP, Mediterranean Institutes, UNIMED etc.
- ❖ Support the "Sommet des Deux Rives" (Summit of both rims of the Mediterranean), which will be meeting in Marseille in June 2019 - focusing on key issues including youth, mobility, academic exchange among others- that intends to tighten up the relationships between the Med communities.

## II. TRANSPORT AND INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY

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

**Internal Task Forces:** Bologna Charter (coordinated by Emilia Romagna), Follow-up of UfM Blue Economy Agenda at regional level (coordinated by Lazio), Marine Renewable Energy (Coordinated by Occitanie and Region Sud-PACA), Fisheries & Aquaculture (coordinated by Andalusia), other tbc.

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

- ❖ Monitoring of the TEN-T and Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and the implementation/governance of the transport corridors that concern specifically the Mediterranean, the Motorways of the sea (participation in the governance/fora, advocacy DG MOVE, priority projects of the regions...), the RTAP for the Mediterranean basin, support to CPMR works, surveys and policy positions on these issues, in particular in relation with the new Multiannual Financial Framework and regulations 2021-2027, workshops and events...

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- ❖ Sustainable maritime and multimodal transport integrating the impact on gas emissions effects and air quality in ports (LNG fuel for ships and electrical power supply at the quayside), logistics and goods transport and aviation, low emission zone in the Mediterranean (contribute to CPMR works, events and papers; in connection with the Working Group *Water and Energy*).
- ❖ Development of partnerships and projects in the framework of EU programmes that deal with sustainable transport and accessibility issues (e.g. keep supporting CIVITAS and GO-SUMP and its capitalization)
- ❖ Support an Integrated maritime approach for Blue Growth in the Mediterranean embedding a transversal and sound sustainability/environmental dimension:
  - Monitoring of Integrated Maritime Policy at Med level, maritime governance and Blue Growth topics.
  - 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: keep promoting the Bologna Charter and its Joint Action Plan at wide Mediterranean level.
  - Biodiversity protection, Clear Harbor and Positive biodiversity Harbor Guidelines, the Ecosystem Approach and use of the seas (Maritime Strategy Framework Directive) and production and management of marine and maritime knowledges and data, including big and open data (via policy monitoring/actions/data sharing platforms-PANACeA etc.)
  - Contribution to the UfM Blue Economy agenda and related initiatives as the Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform (Virtual Knowledge Center) or Bluemed initiative on research and innovation.
  - Monitoring and contribution to the maritime dimension of Macro-regional, sea basin, initiatives in the MED, with a special focus on EUSAIR and WestMED.
- ❖ Boost specific sub sectors/topics of the Blue Growth / Blue Economy which contribute to the limitation of climate change and its impacts (via specific actions e.g. workshops, studies, projects, advocacy activity):
  - Marine renewable energies, and particularly floating tidal stream generators
  - Marine litter, and particularly the fight against plastic litter in the Mediterranean. And the development of a maritime circular economy,
  - Protection of coastal and marine ecosystems through the development of an Ecosystem Approach of the land-sea interface within policies of coastal planning, the development and networking of marine protected areas as well as ecosystem services performed by nature and the socio-economic value of outstanding natural areas and coastal landscapes. Research, action and implementation of pilot projects of ecological rehabilitation of small coastal seabed of the Mediterranean,
  - Adaptation of coastlines to climate change, and development of solutions based on nature as a tool of resilience of territories. Climate emergency involves furthermore a necessary structuration of stakeholders networks at different territorial scales to develop strategies of sciences-society mediation most closely to the local decision-makers and favouring the participation of Mediterranean citizens. This involves a structural reflection in terms of governance and the implementation of pilot projects and research-action projects,
  - Fishing and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (advocacy, projects, surveys, workshops),
  - Employment and training in the sectors of the Blue Economy (via projects linked to Vasco da Gama Initiative),
  - Sustainable and Resilient Maritime and Coastal Tourism, limitation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and pressures on ecosystems (water, biodiversity), reflections on the carrying capacity of over-visited touristic sites, eco-friendly management of marinas (Clean Harbour Guidelines) and development of ecological mooring areas in synergy with the Working Group on Economic and Social Cohesion (EU projects),
- ❖ Monitoring on all European calls for proposals that include a possible maritime dimension: Horizon 2020 ; Life+ ; ENI-CBC Med Programme; Interreg MED Programme ; FEAMP and capitalization and development of specific projects on maritime topics.
- ❖ Participation in European Maritime Days and other maritime and marine Fora.

### 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 political positions 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 reflections on 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, treatment of ballast water in urban ports 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. Reflections or actions also in relation with Big Data. Spread the of COP and MED COP reflections and conclusions through 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 work within a specific Task Force (open to external key stakeholders) on the elaboration of a Joint Action Plan on Energy Renovation in Med Buildings. Develop the axis defined in the previous mandates within the capitalization of MARIE-ELIHMED-PROFORBIOMED and the Joint Action Plan for the Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings (building it mainly in synergy with the work of SHERPA project).
- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Energetic efficiency of maritime transports and low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions fuels: LNG, hydrogen (with the WG *Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy*)
- ❖ Monitoring of EU and Euromed programmes and calls related to water and energy in order to present projects proposals: Med, ENI 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 Social and Solidarity Economy/Economic related issues) and Lazio (leader on Social /Youth Issues)

**Internal Task Forces:** Sustainable Tourism and Culture (coordinated by Crete), Vasco da Gama (coordinated by Veneto Region tbc), other TFs tbc on specific themes.

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

- ❖ Social and Solidarity Economy (SEE)
  - Follow up of IMC prospection report on SEE in the Mediterranean
  - New workshops for exchanging experiences between regions capitalizing the existing tools and instruments
  - Joint Monitoring on ESS related policy activity and funding instruments at EU – Euromed level
  - Advocacy actions towards EU and Euromed-Institutions
  - Partnerships with key players of SSE at MED level and concrete projects.
- ❖ Youth and citizenship:
  - for youth inclusions and participatory democracy: boost Mediterranean networks of sub-national authorities and associations for young people aimed at mutual understanding and strengthening exchanges (as follow up of MED NET launched in 2014 by Tuscany and/or similar actions promoted by the regions and other stakeholders), synergy between initiatives and platforms for youth promoted by IMC Regions.

- Synergies with Euromed networks as Anna Lindh Foundation and with the Union for the Mediterranean on specific initiatives addressed to youngsters of the Med,
  - Promotion of high-level citizenship actions such as the international voluntary service at Med level and other specific actions to foster the emergence of a Mediterranean Citizenship.
  - Development of intervention schemes designed together with young people to cope with the emergence of youth employment.
  - Advocacy actions and coordination with other networks (e.g. UNIMED) to feed into the current reflection on how to bolster investments for young people when implementing EU funds, particularly the ESF+, Horizon Europe (in relation with R&I) and Erasmus+ post 2020.
  - Exchange of best practices and methodologies existing at European and Med level on: high standard internships and mobility, start-up – Enterprises for young people, work mobility etc.
- ❖ Training, Education, Mobility and Employability in the Blue Economy: actions and projects in connection with Vasco da Gama (CPMR Initiative) and emerging strategies and initiatives (e.g. Bluemed and WestMED) and calls (Blue Careers).
  - ❖ Sustainable Tourism and Culture:
    - Implementation of the IMC Political Agenda on Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean with specific actions on coastal and maritime sustainable and culture tourism in the Mediterranean associated to the macro regional and maritime basin strategies or initiatives.
    - concrete cooperation projects (Interreg MED, ENI CBC MED) with a focus on sustainable and off-season tourism, ICZM and MSP (e.g. in the frame of Co-Evolve and MEDCOAST4BG respectively under Interreg MED and UfM labelization frameworks, in order to enlarge the cooperation area in the south of the Med)
    - synergies with external stakeholders and the NECSTouR network with the aim to improve the current work on indicators (link with Mitomed +, CO-EVOLVE and HERIT DATA).
    - Possible new actions connected to the business/ecosystem services component of sustainable tourism and in particular to ecotourism in protected areas, professional yachting and posidonia protection, underwater heritage, culture heritage promotion.
  - ❖ Monitoring and contributing to the ARLEM works/reports on socio-economic development aspects.
  - ❖ Capitalization, monitoring and implementation of specific projects on social and economic cohesion with a specific focus on youth, training, social and solidarity economy, sustainable tourism and new actions concerning big and open data.
  - ❖ 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 emergence of macro-regional (MRS) sea-basin (SBS) strategies and other initiatives in the Mediterranean towards an integrated strategy: focus on the promotion of Blue Growth and emerging strategies, while protecting the Med Sea**

The Mediterranean Sea is a huge resource and a precious asset, binding all countries in this region together. So, there is a strong need for cooperation for socioeconomic sustainable development, resource analysis and assessment, observation, monitoring and control, as well as for the management of the goods and services and concrete joint flagship projects. Despite the very fragile and still indeterminate situation prevailing in the Mediterranean, the conditions are in place, at least for a significant part of the Sea basin, to move ahead.

The IMC gave a key contribution to the setting up (in 2017) of the maritime initiative for the Western Mediterranean that involves also non-EU countries of the Southern Neighborhood and is active in the implementation of the EUSAIR and other initiatives focused on Blue Growth, Research and Innovation such as BLUEMED. Moreover, it has developed strong relations with the UfM Secretariat, especially contributing to the works on Blue Economy (BE), becoming observer the UfM Working Group on BE, partner in a specific agreement to support the implementation of the UfM ministerial declaration on BE and consequently directly involved in the organization of the 1st UfM Stakeholder Conference. It has also got the important label of the 43 UfM States to a strategic project dealing with integrated coastal zone management and maritime and coastal tourism: “Med Coast for Blue Growth”.

In addition to this, the IMC is involved in many projects in different sectors linked to the Blue Growth, some of which are strategic for the future of Mediterranean governance and multilevel dialogue (e.g. PANORAMED) or for the support to decentralization and the capacity building of local and regional authorities in the frame of Integrated Territorial Development (ITD) (CPMR-PLATFORMA training on public services with an ITD approach, that focused on Morocco and Tunisia and also addressed several policies and capitalized many experiences dealing with Blue Growth).

Starting from the issues that are more connected to BG, a coherent and multilevel framework for cooperation across all the Mediterranean is now emerging and can further strengthen the ties between the two rims of the Mediterranean, promoting sustainable economic and social development throughout the region (going even beyond maritime issues).

In this sense, in the Mediterranean there are enough assets and promising opportunities that can be boosted, valorized and capitalized. The Blue economy is one of them, with at its core the tourism sector (especially maritime, coastal and cruise tourism), the blue energy sector. The natural beauty of the region and its rich cultural, historic and archaeological heritage, or the local food and products are also important assets. The potential for improved connectivity and intermodal transportation needs to be unleashed. The large Mediterranean biodiversity is an asset that must be protected, and the environmental challenges must be faced understanding and preventing specially the anthropogenic pressures, improving the integrated coastal zone management and the maritime spatial planning etc.

The IMC should thus continue its political and practical activities for the promotion and improvement at the same time of the Blue Growth and the multilevel governance at Mediterranean scale, through the emerging initiatives and strategies. It should keep working with an integrated vision of the Mediterranean in the horizon, without forgetting the social wellbeing of Mediterranean Citizens, the sustainable prosperity and the environmental status of the sea basin.

Based on the work carried out in the two 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:

- Promote a **“Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance”** with the major networks of local and regional authorities, Euro-Regions and other key stakeholders in order to 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 or co-ordination mechanism for the whole of the Mediterranean** resulting from the integration of **existing (e.g. EUSAIR for the Adriatic-Ionic area, WestMED for the Western Mediterranean) and future strategies and initiatives, complementary to and**

**coherent with each other.** 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 the **maritime initiative for the Western Mediterranean** that constitutes, with its "Frame for Action" and "Priority Road Map", a first step towards an integrated maritime initiative in the area (that could encompass in the future also the Eastern 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, integration and coordination mechanisms. For instance, they should implement – together with the partners of the Med Cooperation Alliance - concrete advocacy actions at **EU Member-State and EU Parliament level** (e.g. future Intergroups that will continue the work of SEARICA), in order to promote the technical and financial support to the strategies for the Mediterranean (study phase, governance model, thematic priorities, projects with a specific role for local and regional authorities etc.).
- Keep consolidating the relationship with the **Union for the Mediterranean** as well as with the **European Commission** (DEVCO, NEAR), the **External Action Service** and the **European Parliament** (Several MEPs, ITGs), 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 and the future Neighbourhood Development and Cooperation Instrument**.
- Keep articulating the reflection and the action 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: Interreg 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, giving visibility and contributing in particular to the works of the **PANORAMED (Interreg MED) project on governance** (with a focus on liaising, mainstreaming and innovation) and its future strategic projects.
- 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 or consolidation of the emergent strategies in the Med
- Making the most of the opportunity for interaction presented by the **presidencies of the EU Council** in 2019-2020 (Croatia will lead in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2020)
- **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 Med Cities, Arco Latino, COPPEM, Med Universities like UNIMED, CGLU among others, and also Mediterranean Think Tanks – **fostering a gradual and voluntary co-appropriation/ownership of the concept of macro-regional/sea basin 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.
- **Join efforts to support innovation and research in new emerging and transversal fields like Big Data** that should become solid **instruments at the services** of policy makers and citizens for territorial policies and thus for **emerging strategies in all sectors at Mediterranean level**.
- Considering the running strategies and the territorial needs, **Blue Growth and the Biodiversity protection of the Mediterranean** will be the focus in the short term for specific joint actions of IMC members.

**b) Increase the involvement of the Regions in the decision-making process regarding the management of migration and support their actions: focus on the internal and external dimension of migration and the role of the regions**

Migration is one of the top issues faced by the Med regions as by Europe as a whole, that poses a serious challenge, to the welfare both of the refugees and of our societies. During the very first phases of the crisis, the IMC has been very active on the issue and although some key administrative and political are far from the reach of the Local and Regional Authorities (border control, asylum process etc.), IMC has been consistently asking for an integrated global approach, with a long-term perspective in mind, not only addressing security matters on the coast lines, but also tackling reception and integration of migrants and refugees, the root causes of human movements, the cooperation with countries of origin, the fight against poverty and human trafficking, and the improvement of socio-economic development.

Unfortunately, so far, the situation has not improved enough despite the new mechanisms and the several initiatives launched by the EU from 2015 onwards (and the high number of allocated funds). It is under the eyes of everybody, migration it is now a structural matter of interest of everybody that needs the involvement of all layers of government and the civil society to be dealt properly. Thus, and in the mandate, IMC should continue working on the issue accordingly, mainly through its contribution to the work of the CPMR Migration Task Force and creating political pressure for the proper involvement of Mediterranean LRAs in EU dialogues and decision making on migration, with adequate assistance and resources, as a part of a wider strategy based on a multilevel governance approach and addressing common socio-economic and political challenges in the Mediterranean.

A special focus should be given to the improvement of the key role of the regions in the promotion of a better management of migration flows and the building of inclusive societies (reception and integration). In this sense, policies promoting effectively the management of diversity and the intercultural model, should be supported and capitalized. The IMC should continue boosting the dialogue in the Mediterranean, the dialogue between refugees and the host societies in our regions, as well as, the cooperation in the area, and, thus, building trust, sound bridges for mutual understanding and generating interaction and solidarity. This should be operationalized conveying the efforts of the IMC Regions through the actions, studies, exchanges of experiences, initiatives and projects that will be set up in the framework of the CPMR Task force on Migration which is promoted by the IMC.

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, issue papers, policy documents, lobbying actions and projects etc.) IMC will keep contributing to its activities accordingly, aiming for:

- More assistance and resources to the LRA’s, not only for help managing the internal dimension of migration policy (reception and integration), coping with the side effects of the issue but also for developing its role and added value in the external dimension (cooperation).
- The higher involvement of LRA’s in the EU 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.

**c) Develop a “Mediterranean of projects” and mobilize partners from the non-EU shores of the Mediterranean and especially the South: focus on consolidating the high involvement of the organization and promotion of concrete strategic, pilot projects and solid partnerships**

The aim of cooperation through projects, actions and initiatives is, to provide a catalyst that will enable people on both sides of the Mare Nostrum to work together for addressing common challenges, exploiting common opportunities, contributing also to the Mediterranean governance in the long run.

So far, the IMC with its thematic working groups led by its regions, has achieved great results by implementing and supporting projects, that build capacity in the Med area, reduce disparities and promote synergies.



The IMC participates as full or associated partner only in projects that are of strategic relevance with regard to its biannual global action plan and the action plans of its working groups, also in accordance with the CPMR global priorities (see report on projects on the IMC web site). These projects normally contribute also to the advocacy activity of the organization, having a positive impact on the membership as a whole. In addition to this, the IMC provides support to its members (i.e. info notes, partners search, etc.) to build partnerships in fields of interest.

Thus, the IMC and its four thematic working groups, should continue and develop more its actions pursuing and working on concrete projects that lead to the strengthening of economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Mediterranean region. At the same time the IMC needs to keep working to defend the role and the added value of Territorial Cooperation at EU and basin scale as well as the enlargement of the instruments and programs where the regions of all Mediterranean shores (and our organization) can be directly eligible for partnership and co-funding.

Another important aspect of Med cooperation is the community building and the strengthening of relations with other European, Mediterranean, national and territorial key players (e.g. organizations, universities, centres of research, institutes, NGOs, local authorities, thematic networks, national authorities, etc.). This is facilitated by project-based cooperation and by the establishment of Memorandum of Understandings or Partnership agreements.

So far, IMC has established structured relations with a great variety of key actors in the Med area (such as the UfMS, MedCities, ArcoLatino, UniMed, Euro-Regions etc.), and will continue to pursue the expansion of its network and the establishment of synergies and of political and practical cooperation, while special focus must receive the attraction and active involvement of more partners, stakeholders and potential new members from the non-EU shores of the Mediterranean, and especially from the South. In this sense the IMC project strategy should go hand in hand with the CPMR overall project and new membership strategy.

In the framework of the EU Cohesion and 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** and the **transnational and cross-border cooperation of the EU in the Med basin in the 2021-2027 programming period**.
- **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 **labelling 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; boost replication of the pilot IMC CPMR training for local and regional public servants and politicians on integrated territorial development that had a focus on Morocco and Tunisia.
- Possible advocacy actions on the **Europeaid programs** and possible participation in the **“Assises of decentralised Cooperation”** and or EU “development day” as well as in similar initiatives promoted by IMC members in IPA and Mediterranean Partner Countries.

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 2015 UfM ministerial declaration on Blue Economy (and the next one), promoting the involvement of the Regions and substantially contributing



to the MED Blue Economy forum. The IMC and the UfMS successfully developed an agreement on BE in the period 2017-2018, in this mandate will work on a new specific agreement for the period 2019-2020.

- **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 reports in the pipeline. Coordinate with other IMC members participating in the ARLEM.
- **MED CITIES:** to continue the collaboration 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.
- **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 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, Bluemed, Neighbourhood Policy.
- **EURO-REGIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA:** launch a collaboration based on joint and specific actions, in particular with the Euroregion Pyrénées Méditerranée (EPM) and the Adriatic-Ionian Euro-Region (AIE).
- **UNIMED:** to continue the project-based collaboration and the joint efforts concerning emerging strategies and youth/R&I policies (possible MoU during the mandate).
- **NECSTour:** to continue the project-based collaboration and the joint efforts for sustainable tourism (possible MoU during the mandate).
- **MED PAN:** keep collaborating 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 2019-2020.
- **UNEP-MAP:** possibly become formal observers in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) representing regional authorities and continue the good work (project based) with PAP/RAC and other RACs on ICZM matters and sustainable tourism/biodiversity protection.
- **ASCAME:** to keep the public-private sector collaboration, also in the framework of specific projects based on the quadruple helix as the ones already selected in the frame of MED Interreg (e.g. INNOBLUEGROWTH).
- **CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATION (CMI):** to refresh the collaboration, implementing the potential synergies identified in the MoU signed in 2015 with this multi-partner platform (World Bank, EU Investment Bank, AFD, GIZ, OCEDO among others) on concrete actions in the frame of sustainable growth, integrated economies and participatory governance concerning MENA countries.
- **ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION:** refresh the collaboration 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.
- **PLATFORMA-Strategic Partnership with the EC:** to monitor and interact, when needed, 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.
- **UNIVERSITY OF BARI:** keep the good running cooperation in the framework of the MoU with CPMR on training, education and mobility in the maritime sector linked to Vasco da Gama initiative (projects, summer schools, advocacy activity etc.)
- **MERCATOR OCEAN – COPERNICUS MARINE SERVICE:** develop synergies and possibly trainings for IMC members on how to exploit the marine services/data for regional policies and territorial stakeholders.
- **Other entities** (CGLU, AECTS, UNDP Art, Universities and Centre of Research, ORU Fogar, CNR ISMAR, CONISMA, Italian Agency for Territorial Cohesion etc.)

#### **d) The emergence of a Mediterranean Citizenship: focus Mediterranean Youth as an asset for the present and the future of the basin**

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 present and the future of our Med Region is the Mediterranean Youth. Therefore, it is of great importance to reestablish the hope to the young Mediterranean people, against the main challenges they are facing (e.g. unemployment and lack of opportunities, quality of education at all levels, participatory and democratic governance, conflicts, violence or radicalization etc.).

During the previous mandates, the IMC through some actions, initiatives (e.g. on youth policies, Social and Solidarity Economy, training and education in the maritime sector, exchanges with civil society organizations, networks of universities etc.) and political messages (e.g. in favor of a Med Erasmus Generation etc.) started to support and encourage the active participation of young Mediterraneans in the action of all levels of the society.

Especially, through its Working Group on Economic Social Cohesion started to focus, among other priorities, on the importance of Social and Solidarity Economy at EU and Mediterranean levels, as a system capable of valorising the youth, entrepreneurship, and the Mediterranean identity, and on the possibility to create laboratories for the promotion of the Euro-Mediterranean citizenship. 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.

For the mandate 2019-2020, building the skills and capacities of young people, boosting employability, mobilizing and raising awareness to them, promoting intercultural understanding, providing them opportunities and platforms to engage, promoting citizenship and the common values, will be crucial for supporting the creation of a generation of Mediterranean youth that will lead the way to build a Mediterranean area of peace, justice, solidarity, cohesion, sustainability and prosperity. The IMC should promote this process in partnership with the most active institutions, organizations and networks in this field at Euro-Mediterranean level (e.g. the UfM, Unimed, Anna Lindh Foundation among others), focusing on few but significant actions.

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) and the UfM, 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 or specific actions).
- Developing specific partnerships for projects in the frame of EU programmes open to the southern authorities (Interreg MED, ENI CBC MED, ERASMUS+, H2020, International Cooperation & Development, 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 projects platforms like COM&CAP MarInA-Med, and the new ones implemented on the Interreg MED web site - SHERPA, CO-EVOLVE, MITOMED+, HERIT-DATA, INNOBLUEGROWTH, PANACeA; the newsletters of the CPMR and projects managed by the organization, 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...).
- ❖ Interact with key partners for joint communication towards specific groups of stakeholders (e.g. with the Union for the Mediterranean on Blue Economy and in particular through the Med Blue Economy Platform – Virtual knowledge centre)

## **6. CALENDAR 2019-2020**

Detailed Calendar available on the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission website, in the new “team up” format showing events per month, year, category, overlappings with different views.

Main categories of events:

1. CPMR and IMC Statutory Meeting (GA, PB, Plenary, Codir-Vision Group)
2. IMC and CPMR Working Groups
3. Meetings IMC acts as formal observer (UfM, BluMed, WestMed)
4. Projects involving CPMR/IMC
5. ARLEM meetings
6. Med Interreg Programme
7. Other meetings/Events of the CPMR/IMC partners organizations