



WORKING GROUP «TERRITORIAL COOPERATION AND MACROREGIONAL STRATEGIES»

WORK PLAN 2015-2016

I- Introduction and context

The “Territorial Cooperation and Macroregional Strategies in the Mediterranean” working group has a real transversal nature. Indeed, it deals with issues that, without being strictly sectorial, are of general interest for the Mediterranean regions and raise issues related to future Mediterranean governance and to the role that the territorial organisations have to play in this governance.

Considering the line drawn up during the previous mandate, the intention is to further develop the prospective analysis and to shape up an integrated macroregional strategy in the Mediterranean in a long-term perspective, to move towards a specified definition, to promote its feasibility to the European Institutions and national organisations, to highlight its necessary coordination with other initiatives and thus to assert the true added-value that it could bring, which would then justify its adoption. However, there are other essential concepts that need to be developed within the Mediterranean governance framework such as the study of a possible definition of a Mediterranean Cohesion Policy. This also includes the monitoring and revision of the EU Neighbourhood Policy and reflecting about the future territorial cooperation in both the Mediterranean rims.

During the Sicilian Presidency, within the context of preliminary debates before the 2014-2020 programming period, the work focused on a first analysis and discussions on the Mediterranean macroregion issue. The result was a “Mediterranean Integrated Strategy” report, adopted in 2012. This report gives a first idea of what could be a Mediterranean Macroregion Strategy, highlighting potential priorities such as the promotion of the Mediterranean basin’s environmental durability, the promotion of accessibility and competitiveness conditions in the Mediterranean basin or the promotion of the socioeconomic development in the different territories of the Mediterranean euro zone.

During the Catalan Presidency, the IMC worked hard to dress concrete conclusions and a clear roadmap that helped refocusing the debate in the Euro-Mediterranean agenda and clarifying the possible path – gradual and based on a “variable geometry” – towards improving this governance. A reinforced decentralised and territorial cooperation between our regions, the south-south cooperation and the Mediterranean Southern countries’ decentralisation were selected as well as priority work areas. They are primary issues that will be later on developed and further pursued during the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region’s mandate. For this to happen, the working group’s main effort will focus to insist on cooperation and coordination measures and actions with regions, organisations, and institutions from the Euro-Mediterranean area and in particular with Southern regions.

From this perspective, the 2014-2016 IMC Presidency of the PACA region and the first vice-presidency of the Catalan Government, will ensure a constant and common management of the working group’s strategic activities so that every action can be led in the most concerted and effective possible manner. With regards to the political incidence strategies about the development of emerging strategies in the Mediterranean, the WG will rely on a specific support from the Languedoc-Roussillon region appointed by the Political Bureau for the support of the macroregional and maritime basin strategies. The major part of the members’ collegial participation will represent a major asset for the achievement and success of meaningful results.

II- General objective

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

III- Specific work areas, expected results and priority actions

The “Territorial Cohesion and Macroregional Strategies in the Mediterranean” group’s working plan for 2015-2016 will be based on the three following main work areas in the framework of its general objective:

WORK AREA 1: Promoting the conceptualisation and development of a macroregional and sea basin strategic approach in the Mediterranean (taking as a departure point the documents drafted during the last two years such as the ARLEM “Cohesion Policy for the Mediterranean” report, by the Vice-President Joana Ortega and the IMC’s 2014 Roadmap for Macroregional and Sea Basin Strategy).

Main expected results:

- A. Greater interest of Euro-Med territorial stakeholders (public and private), Mediterranean member States’ impulse and commitment towards emerging strategies and governance improvement in the Mediterranean
- B. Setting up the first stages of the Roadmap for Macroregional and Sea Basin Strategy (update if necessary)
- C. Implementation of structured supportive actions for the Mediterranean governance within European projects/programmes framework.
- D. Development of political and technical reflexions and initiatives regarding migratory flow in the Mediterranean

Actions that could contribute to achieve these results:

- ❖ Monitoring and capitalisation of governance aspects of the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy (possible participation to the 4 pillars monitoring committees, coordination with participating regions, coordination with the EC’s DG REGIO/MARE) and appointment of a “rapporteur” region for the strategy monitoring at the IMC level.
- ❖ Collaboration with the CPMR Adriatic-Ionian Task Force and also with its Balkan and Black Sea Commission and the Macro-region Task Force (bringing Mediterranean expertise for the preparation of political and technical documents, recommendations guide for the MR and Sea Basin strategies’ implementation based on regions’ practices, possible participation to meetings/workshops organised in collaboration with the DG REGIO and/or Interact)
- ❖ Synergies on specific initiatives with the Adriatic-Ionian and with the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative Secretariat.
- ❖ Contribution to the EP’s EUSAIR report (rapporteur Jacovic and shadow Giuffrida)
- ❖ Contribution to reflexions on “sea, islands, rivers and coastal areas” EP’s intergroup on MR and SB strategies in the Mediterranean.
- ❖ Collaboration with EP to a preliminary action presentation for the Macro-region Med launch (2015)
- ❖ Macro-regional and Sea Basin perspective promotion in the final political document of the MarInA-Med COM&CAP project gathering the results of the “Mediterranean Cooperation Days” of Roma (Nov 2014), and political declaration of the IMC assemblies (from the 2015 GA in Napflio) and dissemination to the institutions and key 2015-16 stakeholders
- ❖ Organisation of meeting rounds of a IMC politico-technical delegation with Member States capitals which could truly boost the emerging strategies in the Mediterranean: Italy (Roma), France (Paris), Spain (Madrid), Greece (Athens), Malta (Valetta – with a view to the EU Council presidency in 2017) and other actions to raise awareness of States among the regions (for example: introduction of the topic during the Conference of Regional Presidents in Italy etc.)
- ❖ Promotion and organisation of a meeting between the 9 permanent Mediterranean Member States representatives in Brussels in 2015-16
- ❖ Conduct a brief study that could cross the Mediterranean territorial cooperation programmes’ main priorities in order to help defining the new strategies’ priorities
- ❖ Synergies with DG MARE regarding the possibility of developing a Maritime strategy in the Western Mediterranean as a first step towards a macro region in this space, complementary with EUSAIR and future strategies, in order to manage getting to an integrated strategy in the long-term. Dialogue with the

Commissioner Karmenu Vella and synergies with a view to the meeting of Blue growth Ministers from the Union for the Mediterranean

- ❖ Synergies within the context of the Roadmap implementation with the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, ARLEM and territorial authorities networks: Arco Latino, Medcities, other...
- ❖ Possible project to be presented within the 4th Axis of the new transitional MED programme on governance and possible horizontal action of Communication and Capitalisation to be presented within the 3rd Axis on “protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources ” (tourism and biodiversity/environment)
- ❖ Organisation of a second edition of the Mediterranean Cooperation Days in 2016 and strengthening a Mediterranean stakeholders Forum that includes the Mediterranean Macro-Region’s future
- ❖ Collaborating and contributing to the Mediterranean regions’ points of view on political and technical actions and reflexions regarding management of migratory flows in the Mediterranean (monitoring the political position of the IMC PB in Marseille and contribution to the Task Force on the theme created by the CPMR). In particular, regarding the answers to the emergency situations involved by the exodus caused by conflicts in the Mediterranean, illegal immigrants flows etc. Actions of socioeconomic integration in the context of an increasing and regulated legal mobility will be also addressed.

WORK AREA 2: Increase and improve the coordination with Mediterranean organisations networks so as to organise different strategic approaches (such as the macro-regional approach, the Mediterranean Cohesion Policy) and for the development of joint projects.

Main expected results:

- A. ARLEM – Constant participation to the works of the Plenary and the new Commission for sustainable territorial development
- B. UfM – Improvement of coordination with SG and the UfM Secretary General’s services
- C. United Cities and Local Government’s Mediterranean Commission – active participation to the Mediterranean Political Council and to the 2016 Forum of the local and regional authorities of the Mediterranean
- D. Best coordination with other Mediterranean stakeholders networks, including by means of joint cooperation project: Arco Latino, Euro-regions (initiated contact with the Secretary General of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region), MedCities, COPPEM, ASCAME, IEMed, Institut de la Méditerranée, Centre for Mediterranean Integration – CMI, FAL, UNDP etc.

Actions:

- ❖ Regular contacts establishment with the UfM Secretary General with sectoral vice-secretaries for the implementation of a framework agreement between CPMR IMC – UfM
- ❖ Annual meeting celebration between IMC and the UfM Secretary and plan the IMC participation in UfM projects and vice versa (examples: Capacity Building – ARLEM, Vasco Da Gama in the Mediterranean, actions linked to the Joint Action plan of the Bologna Charter etc.)
- ❖ Participate to COM MED and UCLG activities (IMC presidency and first VP are already part of the new UCLG Mediterranean Commission’s Political Council created in 2013), such as workshops organisation for the 2016 FLRA, participation to political declarations and publications etc.
- ❖ Coordination meeting with other networks (Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region, Arco Latino, ASCAME, etc.) and possible action plans/projects/ joint initiatives etc.
- ❖ Cooperation framework agreement with IMC and synergies for several activities (e.g. projects, conferences, dialogue 5+5 etc.)

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

Main expected results:

- A. Advocacy action towards the new European Neighbourhood Policy and Development Cooperation Instrument framework, the regional and local authorities from both rims have an adapted and logical role to handle (given the fact that their, expertise, added-value in the field of cooperation is an essential aspect)
- B. Efficient coordination with Secretariats and management authorities of the main Mediterranean cooperation programmes and projects presentation to next calls
- C. Decentralised cooperation actions promotion, particularly capacity building initiatives and institutional twinning between Mediterranean local and regional authorities

Actions:

- ❖ Implementation of the ARLEM's report on Mediterranean Political Cohesion (implementation/adaptation of the EU Mediterranean Cohesion Policy's sense, concepts and tools, in the ENP and Euromed relations, aspects regarding the "decentralisation" approach in the ENP)
- ❖ Global monitoring of the Neighbourhood Policy Instrument implementation in the Southern borders of the EU
- ❖ Specific monitoring of the implementation of the ENPI CBC MED programmes, MID-ATLANTIC and transnational programmes like MED, ADRION, BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020, but also other territorial cooperation programmes in the Med area (including cross-borders programmes, interregional cooperation programme and IPA, ENPI CBC MED), and programmes related to regional cooperation with the new ENI.
- ❖ Presentation of key projects for CPMR IMC to calls of proposals of Mediterranean cooperation main programmes
- ❖ Contribution to the EP's report on the new Neighbourhood Policy (rapporteur Eduard Kukan)
- ❖ Contribution to the EC consultation on the new Neighbourhood Policy (March-June 2015) that will represent the base for the next EC's Communication on the ENP's update.
- ❖ Strengthening relationships with EC's DGs DEVCO, NEAR, REGIO and MARE
- ❖ Contact development with Southern Neighbourhood Policy's Member States
- ❖ Strengthening relations with EEAS and EC delegation in the Mediterranean Southern countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria as priority countries)
- ❖ Supporting capitalisation effort – undertaken with the study/inventory drawn up for the Med Spring project – of the cooperation experiences with Southern regional and local authorities related to significant policies for maritime coastal regions of the Med, the integrated territorial development and public administration of excellence
- ❖ Participation to the ARLEM project writing and development (if selected and funded by the UfM). It is a capacity building project within the context of integrated urban/territorial development for quality services provisions to citizens (training for elected representatives and civil servant from regional and local public administrations of Southern Mediterranean shore countries). The project will be developed by ARLEM regions with its support and will be presented to the UfM – 2015 development and possible launch.
- ❖ Organisation of a capacity building pilot action for integrated territorial development of the Southern Med area and within the framework of PLATFORMA network with the EC (possible opportunity to work so that the Southern authorities become more and more able to directly manage mini south-south / south-north cooperation programmes)
- ❖ Mediterranean regions' contribution to CPMR External Cooperation group's actions (whose project leader is Basque Countries region) regarding decentralised cooperation (possible for civil society and local authorities stakeholders to take part in programme's calls), debates linked to post 2015 development agenda etc.

IV – Organisation and calendar

Group's organisation

- ❖ Face meetings for IMC meetings, paper exchange online, coordination by e-mails

- ❖ Coordination with the CPMR and IMC Secretariat: CPMR Task Force on Macro-Regions and Adriatic-Ionian strategy, CPMR Intergroup External Cooperation, Balkans and Black Sea Commission
- ❖ Coordination with other sectoral IMC working group on topics and initiatives regarding cooperation with Southern shore and relations with Euromed networks (for example Vasco Da Gama in the Mediterranean)
- ❖ Working languages (French and English preferably)
- ❖ Regional experts typology appreciated (heads for Territorial Cooperation or International Relations, Mediterranean or European affairs)

Generally, each member of the group is in charge of its costs for participating to face meetings previously planned. However, it is possible that in the future those costs would be included in potential European projects budget.

The group should assign to its members some tasks related to their actions, in accordance with their expertise and their interest to contribute to the results achievement and to focus in the most efficient manner. Once the actions are defined, members concerned could coordinate, particularly by the way of the Internet, videoconferences or telephone conference.

Each member should try developing useful contacts with external experts and significant institutions representations for the results achievements.

Meetings calendar:

- ❖ **Kick-off of the TC & MRs WG** on the 20/03/2015 in Barcelona
- ❖ Participation to the final capitalisation event of the MED programme in Brussels on the 24th-25th of March
- ❖ **Final conference of MarInA-Med COM&CAP** in Barcelona on the 25th-26th/05/2015
- ❖ Participation to the **EC's seminar on ETC and Macro-regions** in Marseille and to the **launching event of the 2014-2020 MED Programme** on the 22nd-23rd/06/2015
- ❖ **ARLEM Sustainable territorial development Commission**, April/May 2015 (tbc)
- ❖ **Meeting between IMC president, Michel Vauzelle and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**, Federica Mogherini, (date tbc)
- ❖ Possible **meeting between the Macro-regional and Sea Basin strategies representative, Jean-Claude Gayssot and the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Johannes Hahn**, 10th/04 (tbc)
- ❖ Participation to the **first CPMR Task Force on migratory themes in the framework of the Islands Commission's GA** 25th/06
- ❖ Debate – updating on **the emerging strategies in the Mediterranean during the IMC GA** in Nafplio on the 3rd/07/2015
- ❖ **Joint Seminar with the 4 driving forces in Barcelona on Macro-regional and Sea Basin strategies**, October 2015 tbc
- ❖ Participation to the **CPMR MRs Task Force**, 4th of November 2015 tbc
- ❖ **International Seminar in the IMC Political Bureau framework**, November 2015, Rabat, to be confirmed
- ❖ Participation to **the ARLEM Plenary** in December 2015

Other possible meetings:

- ❖ **Seminars in the framework of the “Barcelona + 20 process”** last 2015 trimester, tbc
- ❖ Possible participation to several **steering committees meetings or other meetings regarding EUSAIR**, to be defined March-December 2015

- ❖ **Meetings round between States regarding emerging Mediterranean strategies.** Tbc: Madrid, Paris, Roma, others, 2015-2015 (tbc)
- ❖ **COM MED and UCLG meetings/ Forum of the Local and Regional Authorities** of the Med in 2016
- ❖ Possible conferences **in collaboration with Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region and/or Latin Arch, Centre for Mediterranean integration-IMC** 2015-2016
- ❖ Meeting of permanent Member States representatives of the Med in Brussels, 2015-2016
- ❖ Possible IMC mission in Albania, Croatia, Turkey, Tunisia / tbc
- ❖ **Launching meeting for the ADRION** programme tbc 2015
- ❖ “Sea, Islands, Rivers and Coastal Areas” **intergroup** meetings tbc 2015-2016
- ❖ **Events and workshop in the framework of Platform Strategic partnership with the EC and ARLEM project**, tbc 2015-2016

IV- Annexes

I –ARLEM Report (Ecoter Commission. Rapporteur: Joana Ortega, VP of the Catalan Government, IMC CPMR) approved in February 2014: A Cohesion Policy for the Mediterranean

II – Roadmap for Macro-regional and Sea Basin strategies in the Mediterranean (updated on the 10th/12/2014)

III- Political document on the migratory policy (approved with the IMC Political Bureau on the 10th/12/2014)

IV – Technical Specifications of the CPMR Migrations Task Force