

## **Bologna Charter Coordination Board**

(IMC CPMR Task force embedded in the IMC Working Group on “Transports and Integrated Maritime Policy”)

**July 2017**

### **Introduction and context**

The Bologna Charter is a **Policy Paper of Regions and local Administrations of the Mediterranean** for the promotion of a common framework for strategic actions aimed at the protection and sustainable development of the coastal areas ([www.bolognacharter.eu](http://www.bolognacharter.eu)).

It is a joint initiative, **started by EU Regions and open to other Southern & Eastern coastal Administrations of the Mediterranean**, performing concrete objectives even structural ones, able to attain diversified funding resources, aimed at strengthening the role of the Regions in the Med contest and to rise and maintain a high level of attention on coastal risks and coastal-maritime governance issues within the national, EU and international policies formation.

A **Joint Action Plan** is associated to the policy paper for translating in action and projects the objectives and the action lines defined in the Charter, by territorial cooperation projects and by infrastructural interventions in the territories of the regions (Major coastal projects), through obtaining funds from international, EU and national sources.

### **Brief history**

The **first Policy Paper “Bologna Charter”** was signed in Bologna in year 2007 by 9 Med Regions within the RFO BEACHMED-e. The promoter, Emilia-Romagna Region, relaunched it in year 2012 within the project MAREMED, updating the text and the objectives according with the new EU policies occurred in the first 5 years’ period. The **new Charter was signed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2013 in Brussels** by 14 Med Regions and in June 2013 was adopted by the IMC-CPMR, which endorsed it as a key initiative to promote in the years to come ([AG Final Declaration](#)).

Today, thanks to the joint efforts by Emilia-Romagna and IMC-CPMR, the members rise to 27 Med coastal-maritime Administrations, from 7 different Countries<sup>1</sup> and the support to the initiative is constantly growing from both the state level and in the frame of the Union for the Mediterranean.

The **Coordination Board** of the initiative was **started in year 2014** within the **IMC Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy**, following the proposal of Emilia-Romagna, with the aim to coordinate and enforce actions and inputs from the Charter towards EU policies in the sector and to facilitate the preparation of a **Joint Action Plan** with the BC members. Thanks to the COASTGAP (MED Capitalisation project on coastal governance and adaptation policies), through Board meetings (Bologna February 2014, Montpellier June 2014, Rome November 2014), consultation meetings with EU DGs representatives (Mare, R&I, Regio, Envi) May 2014, with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, September 2014, the Joint Action Plan was developed, finalised and **presented in March 2015 in Brussels**, within the Med Capitalisation Final Event.

---

<sup>1</sup> (Brussels 2013) Emilia-Romagna, PACA, Corsica, Creta, Andalusia, Valencia, Est Macedonia-Tracia, Departement of Herault, Dubrovnik-Neretva County, Lazio, Liguria, Marche, Toscana, Prov. Crotone; (2013 - 2016), CIM-CPMR, Puglia, Abruzzo, Calabria, Campania, Friuli VG, Isole Baleari, Catalunya, Ministero Ambiente Israele, Ministero Lavori Pubblici Cipro, Split-Dalmatia County, Sibenik-Knin County, Western Greece.

Activities of the Coordination Board, and of the BC Initiative, **continued in the period 2015-2016** with meetings within the renewed IMC Working group on Transports & Integrated Maritime Policy, fostering and preparing EU cooperation projects in line with BC-JAP, pushing Major Coastal Projects entailed in the JAP (some of which today realised, under realisation or funded and in development). Moreover, specific networking started with other relevant initiatives and strategies at the Med scale: UNEP/MAP (CAMP-Italy), MSP Platform, UfM WGs on Blue Economy and on Environment and Climate, BLUEMED Initiative, EUSAIR and WESTMED.

## Main areas of cooperation

The main areas of cooperation on the Bologna Charter initiative outlined charter itself are the following ones:

1. **Network of Coastal Observatories** for the monitoring, management of risks and erosion phenomena, defence interventions & sediment stocks management;
2. **Survey of the erosion status and trends** & flood hazard suitable for territorial planning and adaptation measures;
3. **Sustainable use of strategic resources** like the coastal territory (to face the “littoralization” process) and coastal & submarine stocks of sediments (to face erosion and Climate Change impacts, favouring new market potentials at Med level);
4. **Integrated territorial planning** & application of the principles of ICZM/MSP for the sustainable development of coasts, landscape, environment and ecosystem protection, coastal adaptation & risk adaptation;
5. **Structural works** along Med coasts consistent with integrated planning processes, for the implementation of an adaptation policy to the natural & anthropogenic risks
6. **Project-clustering** for further synergies and capitalization

The Joint Action Plan articulated the indications of the Bologna Charter Policy Paper into several Action Lines, defining in-nuce project initiatives to be applied in relevant EU Programs calls or to national and international funding sources, grouping them in **4 Strategic Themes (ST)**:

**ST1** - Developing Knowledge, network-based monitoring and Data Management systems;

**ST2** - Sustainable use of coastal strategic resources for the Blue Growth;

**ST3** - Supporting Research & Innovation, Clustering and Implementation;

**ST4** - Responding to the Challenge driven by Climate Change;

## Impact on policies, initiatives and programs

The rising attention on the BC themes - coastal protection, governance, sustainable development and adaptation - in the EU, national and international policies, was a general objective of the initiative from the year 2007. It is to be noticed, in general, that in the new ERDF programming period (2014-2020) these themes are widely taken into consideration, differently than in the previous periods. It can be said, without fear of contradiction, that a contribution in this sense was given also by the BC Initiative.

The **Interreg MED Operational Program 2014-2020** acknowledges the BC and JAP as a reference initiative for regional cooperation, identifying common challenges concerning coastal risks and common actions to face them in a coordinated and cooperative way.

The recent **WESTMED maritime initiative**, COM(2017) 183 final, quoted the BC among those initiatives for Goal 3 of its Framework for Actions with specific reference to knowledge and updating on erosion phenomena and coastal risks by harmonising and expanding the coastline monitoring systems for basin scale R&I activities (in synergy with BLUEMED) and for expected shared strategies and tools for assisting adaptation to climate change in the West Med region.

A specific contribution was given by the BC initiative to the **MSP Directive formulation**, about elements entailed in Art.8, focusing on the importance of sediments for coastal protection and sea bottom aggregates (off-shore sediment deposits) that was added in the final approved version among the prior elements to be considered for maritime spatial planning processes.

The BC members also contributed in the formulation of the **BLUEMED** Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), bringing specific indications according with the BC themes, today entailed in some of the 12 Goals and in several related actions of the SRIA.

The initiative gave also its contribution in the specific sector to the **EUSAIR Pillars 1 and 4** definitions of objectives and actions, the strategy to which today the EU programs Adrion and IT-HR are looking to in order to evaluate compliance of applied projects.

Moreover, within the national ambit, the BC contributed to the start and smooth running of the Italian **National Board on Coastal Erosion**, first initiative of this relevance in Italy, promoted by the It Ministry of Environment and Territory and Sea protection, that by the end of 2016 issued the National Guidelines on the specific theme (published in 2017 [www.erosionecostiera.isprambiente.it](http://www.erosionecostiera.isprambiente.it)).

## Motivation

The importance of the initiative, as acknowledged by several parts, its objectives at the Mediterranean scale, the results obtained in the first period 2014-2016 and the fruitful collaboration within the IMC-CPMR working groups, suggest to keeping the activity of the Coordination Board.

Moreover, it is the opportunity to exchange and to be “on board and in time” to **give tangible contributions to the emerging strategies** in the Mediterranean region in the next period, to the implementation and updating of defined strategies and **contributing to the development of dialogue with Regions of the South and East rims of the Mediterranean**, on the specific issues dealing with coastal protection, adaptation, integrated management and sustainable development.

## Positioning in the IMC WGs

Following the reorganization of the IMC Working Groups occurred in the last period, merging themes by affinity and policies interactions, the Coordination Board is proposed to be entailed in WG on “**Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy**” also during the 2017-2018 mandate, benefiting – on one side and on the other contributing to – the discussions on issues specifically dealt with in the field of ICZM-MSP, CC adaptation in coastal areas, coastal and maritime sustainable tourism, with a particular focus on Priority themes 4 and 5 and the Complementary theme 11, of the Working Group Action Plan. The BC’s CB is also connected with the themes of the Working Group on “Territorial Cooperation and Macroregional Strategies” particularly in the Work Area 2. The ongoing project CO-EVOLVE (2016-2019) can also provide support and optimization for the meetings of the Coordination Board and the Working Group on Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy.

## Objectives and time horizon

The Coordination Board for the period 2017-2018 (and possibly beyond), is intended to continue its action following the general objectives of the BC Initiative: **strengthening the role of the Med Regions** in the context of the European Union sectoral policies and extending and **consolidating the cooperation space** in the Mediterranean area, with special regard also to South and Eastern rims of the sea basin.

Specific objectives of the Coordination Board are identified as follows:

1. extend the adhesions to the Bologna Charter Initiative in the EU and non-EU Med areas, also through project initiatives and networking;
2. provide inputs to the discussions and contribute to emerging strategies in the Mediterranean (i.e. WESTMED), give contributions to the implementation of strategies as BLUMED SRIA and EUSAIR and to the UfM Working Groups on Blue Economy and on Environment and Climate;
3. update the Joint Action Plan with regard to Action lines and Major Coastal Projects and with regard to new policies and strategies in the Med area, as on the sustainable development of blue economy in the Western Mediterranean [COM(2017) 183 final] and on Coastal and Maritime Tourism [COM(2014) 86 final];
4. continue supporting the implementation JAP's Action lines and Major Coastal Projects through EU programs, national and international initiatives and funding.

Particular attention will be paid to the development of the CO-EVOLVE project (Interreg MED 2016-2019) and to the project initiative "MC4BG - Med Coasts for Blue Growth", being a geographical extension of the Co-Evolve project towards the South and East rims of the Mediterranean and Balkan areas, going to be advanced for the UfM Labelling process and to be developed in the period 2018-2020.

The calendar for the BC Coordination board will be defined according to meeting opportunities in the frame of the IMC and its WGs and Statutory meetings, as well as in the framework of the IMC or other running projects connected to the JAP.

The first meeting in the mandate 2017-2018 will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July in Naples back to back with the General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission.

All IMC interested regions are invited to join the BC Coordination board.