



CPMR
CRPM



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

2nd Part – International Seminar (open to invited stakeholders)

***Mediterranean views towards the debates on the future
of the EU, cohesion and multilevel cooperation at basin level***

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE POLITICAL SESSIONS

Friday 7th July 2017 (9.00-18.00)

Draft 08-05-2017

In the first part of the seminar the highest representatives of the CPMR and the Intermediterranean Commission (IMC), together with the hosting region will set the objectives of the meeting, which is intended to provide Mediterranean views towards the debates on the future of the EU, cohesion and multilevel cooperation at basin level.

The Mediterranean regions will be the main participants in the event, which will be open to the partners of PANORAMED (Interreg Med axis 4 project on governance) and to invited stakeholders from universities, local governments and civil society.

Before entering in the bulk of the debates foreseen in the framework of three specific sessions, a keynote speech on the latest political statements regarding the role of the regions in the different scenarios concerning the future of the EU will be addressed by the President of the CPMR to the Mediterranean audience.

1st SESSION - Focus on EU Cohesion Policy, European Structural & Investment Funds, Juncker Plan and External Investment Plan

The 1st session will be introduced and moderated by the President of the Intermediterranean Commission. This political introduction will be completed by a state of play on scenarios for Mediterranean regions concerning the future of EU Cohesion Policy, the Juncker Plan and External Investment Plan (EIP) and possibly with the point of view of the EU Parliament.

Afterwards, the Intermediterranean Commission members will highlight their needs and visions from the ground and all the participants will be able to contribute to the reflections as part of the debate.

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The **key questions for the session** will be the following:

- Which are the perspectives for EU Cohesion Policy and Financial instruments considering the current scenario, the trends and the needs in terms of territorial cohesion and socio-economic development concerning the Mediterranean Regions?
- What could be improved and how?
- Which messages could we deliver for the CPMR's general advocacy activity, directed at the EU and national institutions?

2nd SESSION - Focus on Neighborhood Policy South, links with migration issues and the challenges/prospects for young generations

The President of the Intermediterranean Commission will introduce and moderate the 2nd session that will be kick started with interventions that will contextualize the links between migration, development, cooperation and youth policies at Mediterranean level, as well as the prospects for EU Neighborhood policy south. The members of the IMC and the external stakeholders (e.g. the Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation, the Network of Mediterranean Universities UNIMED or the Association MED CITIES) will then underline the needs and visions from the ground in a multilevel governance perspective.

The **key questions for the session** will be the following:

- Considering the current debates at EU level and the geo-political and socio-economic situation in the basin, what are the prospects for the ENP/ENI and the EU external action in the Med?
- Which role and involvement for Regional & Local Authorities (RLAs) considering the importance of territorial integrated development?
- Which are the needs from the ground concerning youth, Mediterranean citizenship and a better socio-economic cohesion?
- How to deal in a more efficient way with migration, cooperation and development in countries of transit, origin and destination of migrants, fully exploiting the added value that can be brought by RLAs, Universities and Civil Society Organizations?

3rd SESSION – Emerging strategies/initiatives and main cooperation programmes in the Mediterranean: synergies, territorial needs and prospects for a better governance

The 3rd session of the event will be divided in two parts.

The first part of the session will be introduced and moderated by the Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission. The participants will be provided with an update on the EUSAIR and West Med maritime initiative by the European Commission and with an update and perspectives on the UfM work on Blue Economy and the BLUEMED Initiative on research and innovation and its potential for synergies with the Mediterranean regions.

Afterwards, the main territorial cooperation programmes of the area will intervene, commenting on the situation concerning their implementation, the synergies between them and with the emerging strategies, as well as on the actions promoting mainstreaming of policies and funds towards a better governance in the Mediterranean.

The second part of the session will be moderated and concluded by the President of the Intermediterranean Commission. At the beginning of the second part, a special attention will be paid to the project "PANORAMED" linked to axis 4 on governance of INTERREG MED.

The project coordinator together with other country coordinators will be presenting the strategic context and the specific aims, activities and perspectives of PANORAMED, sharing their views with the Mediterranean regions to build up synergies for the future steps.

Then, the Intermediterranean Commission members will convey the needs and vision from the ground regarding themes and aspects such as: territorial cooperation, governance, capitalization, liaising and mainstreaming, blue growth, island dimension, environment, climate & energy etc. The members of the IMC and the invited stakeholders, like PANORAMED partners, will be the protagonists of this session.

The **key questions for the discussions** will be the following:

- Where are the main gaps and which are the prospects for improving governance in the Mediterranean and integrated macro-regional & maritime strategies/initiatives?
- How to boost initiatives like BLUEMED on the ground and build synergies with the regions?
- Which support and synergies with/among the territorial cooperation programmes of the area (including CBCs and IPA)?
- Which specific role for the Axis 4 Interreg Med project PANORAMED?
- Which future for Territorial Cooperation in EU future scenarios?
- What can be learnt and which synergies could be built at multilevel governance level with other existing strategies?
- Which are the needs, the assets and the vision from the ground?
- How to trigger a real mainstreaming and matchmaking of funds at basin level?