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CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

(Patras, Friday 29 June 2018)

Political Seminar

*“The added value of EU Cohesion policy and cooperation in the
Mediterranean”*

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE 3 MAIN SESSIONS

(Version for participants, based on the draft agenda at 14/6/2018)

This event counts with the financial support of the European Union in the framework of the EU project:
“Spotlight on Cohesion policy: Europe’s regions at the forefront”

A. OVERALL CONCEPT OF THE SEMINAR, SUPPORTING FRAMEWORK AND SYNERGIES

I. The concept of the Seminar

The political seminar is a part of the General Assembly of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission and open to external invited participants. It focuses on the added value of Cohesion policy and cooperation in the Mediterranean basin. The idea is to have an open dialogue between regional and local authorities (CPMR IMC members in the first place), EU institutions, policies beneficiaries, including different types of stakeholders, and citizens.

The seminar is divided into three sessions:

- **Session 1** focuses on the added value of Cohesion policy in the Mediterranean. In particular, this session addresses how Cohesion policy promotes youth employment, social inclusion, entrepreneurship, citizenship and intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean, while ensuring sustainable development.
- **Session 2** is dedicated to the future of territorial cooperation within Cohesion policy and the Neighbourhood policy, and their links with emerging strategies and initiatives in the Mediterranean, from a political perspective.
- **Session 3** focuses on improving multilevel governance, synergies between territorial cooperation programmes and the capitalisation of projects’ results in the Mediterranean basin, with a focus on maritime issues.

The idea is to hold an open dialogue between CPMR members – regional and local authorities – stakeholders, projects beneficiaries and EU institutions on these topics. Moreover, the IMC CPMR will also approve its policy messages and present its first reflections towards its 2018-2020 new mandate.



II. The supporting framework: a CPMR cohesion policy project

The CPMR is implementing a project financed by the European Regional Development Fund together with Euractiv, a European media platform specialising in the online publication of articles focusing on European policymaking.

This one-year project, called “Spotlight on Cohesion policy”, aims at raising the visibility of Cohesion policy and of its benefits. The CPMR is in charge of a bimonthly newsletter called “State of the Regions” and of organising a number of events.

The CPMR Secretariat is organising the first event – a political seminar – of the *Spotlight on Cohesion policy* project within the framework of the General Assembly of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission.

III. Synergies: collaboration with PANORAMED, EU cooperation programmes and Mediterranean initiatives

This seminar is also the result of the good synergies that the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission is maintaining with the Interreg MED Governance Platform project – PANORAMED – as well as with the main EU programmes for territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean (Interreg ADRION, MED, ENI CBC MED, etc.) and specific initiatives. The association is notably involved as active observer in the latter, like the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy, the West MED maritime Initiative, or Bluemed on research and Innovation in the Blue Economy.

B. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE 3 MAIN SESSIONS

SESSION I: How does EU Cohesion policy promote youth employment, social inclusion, entrepreneurship, citizenship and intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean while ensuring sustainable development?

Duration of the session: 1h15 minutes (9.45 – 11.00)

General issues and main questions to be addressed by panelists and the public:

- What is Cohesion policy for you and which are its main benefits?
- How does Cohesion policy bring added value to your Region/to the EU/to your work?
- Which are the main benefits of Cohesion policy in your region/the Med/your work?
- How has Cohesion policy had an impact on youth employment, social inclusion, entrepreneurship, citizenship and intercultural dialogue in your region/the Mediterranean?
- Could you provide a practical example?
- How should Cohesion policy look like in the future?

The panellist will try to provide answers from their own perspective as Region, Commission representative, beneficiary or stakeholder:

Development of the session

Apostolos Katsifaras, **President of the Region Dytiki Ellada**, will introduce the project *Spotlight on Cohesion Policy*, and the content of the session together with the main questions, insisting on the added value of EU Cohesion Policy in Dytiki Ellada (giving some examples) and in the Mediterranean area. He will also be in charge for moderating the session.

Firstly, a **representative from the EC DG REGIO’s** unit dealing with transnational, interregional and macroregional strategies will speak about the impact of Cohesion Policy from the perspective of the EC and on the rationale for having Mediterranean transnational programmes, their added value and their achievements so far, in particular in the areas of youth employment, social inclusion, entrepreneurship, citizenship and intercultural dialogue.

Representatives from the regions of **Occitania, Murcia, Valencia and possibly another IMC Member** will then speak about the added value of Cohesion policy with a focus on the actions funded by Regional and National Operational Programmes, including mentions to the cooperation programmes that have an impact on their territories. Some of them will present concrete projects.

As an example, the Region of Murcia will show in practical terms how Cohesion policy benefits our regions and our citizens by presenting a project on Women Empowerment and active participation called “Coordination to improve gender-based violence survivors labour market integration and social inclusion” which has been awarded. The Valencian Institute for Youth will present another project (Jove Oportunitat - JOOP) which is funded by the European Social Fund.

Lastly, one **beneficiary of Cohesion Policy in Western Greece** (representative from a local Mental health club) will intervene showing the impact and added value of Cohesion policy on the ground.

After all interventions and according to the time at disposal, the president will open the floor for the **debate** between panelists, Intermediterranean Commission members, and all invited stakeholders (interventions will be short 1-3 minutes maximum each).

The President of the Intermediterranean Commission will conclude the session stressing the added value of Cohesion policy for the Regions and citizens, and opening up on future perspectives.

SESSION II: What future for territorial cooperation within Cohesion policy and the Neighbourhood policy? Which would be their links with emerging strategies and initiatives in the Med? A political perspective

Duration of the session: 2 hours (11.30 – 13.30)

Development of the session

The **President of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission** will introduce the session based on the policy position on the future of territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean that the IMC will present in Patras and the recent analysis of the CPMR on the future of ETC at global level. The **Executive Secretary of the IMC** will take charge of the moderation and final wrap-up.

In the first part of the session, the **focus will be on the state of play and perspectives for the post-2020 period**. A member of the **European Parliament (EP)** will present the recent reflections on the subject in the EP. A representative of the Unit “Competence Centre Macro-regions and Territorial Co-operation” of **DG REGIO, European Commission**, will intervene on the EC’s recent proposal on ETC and put it in relation with the possibilities for the future programmes in the Mediterranean, also explaining the links with the EUSAIR and the West MED maritime initiative, commenting on the last updates.

Finally, a representative of the **Euro-Mediterranean Assembly of Regional and Local Authorities (ARLEM)** will intervene to present the work of the Assembly and comment on the future of territorial cooperation within the Neighbourhood policy at Mediterranean level.

In the second part of the session, some Regions, members of the IMC – **Provence-Alpes-Cotes d’Azur, Crete, Rabat-Salé-Kénitra, Corse, Ionian Islands, Catalonia** – will intervene presenting the needs, vision and position of CPMR IMC Regions. The moderator will open the debate to participants.

General issues and main questions for the Regions and the public:

- Which are the main needs and visions from your point of view concerning the future of territorial cooperation at Mediterranean level?
- Does the proposal made by the European Commission (at regulation and budget level) respond well to the needs of the territory?
- Could you tell us about your specific vision, linking it with the main political messages of the IMC Policy position and your experience? How do you see the future?
- Why is it so important to link territorial cooperation programmes with emerging strategies and initiatives?

SESSION III: Improving multilevel governance, synergies between territorial cooperation programmes and the capitalisation of projects results in the Mediterranean basin – A focus on maritime issues

Duration of the session: 2 hours (15.30 – 17.30)

Development of the session

This session will follow up on the political debates of session II on the future of territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean and synergies with strategies at basin scale, focusing in particular on maritime issues for a better cooperation and multilevel dialogue, an optimal capitalisation of projects results and improved governance and synergies between cooperation programmes.

Under the umbrella of the Interreg MED Programme, and in order to complement its three thematic priorities (Innovation, Energy and Environment), the strategic project PANORAMED has been defined as the action that implements the programme's cross-sector axis. Its aim is to enhance Mediterranean governance on common challenges, through the promotion of an innovative and permanent dialogue and decision-making process, involving national and regional public authorities and stakeholders.

PANORAMED's scheme includes 19 ministerial and regional partners from the INTERREG MED eligible countries, and a broad scheme of Associate Partners: other territorial cooperation Programmes active in the Mediterranean (Interreg VB–BALKAN MED, VB–ADRION, Interreg EUROPE, Interact, ENI CBC MED), several initiatives, strategies, organizations and frameworks of cooperation like the BLUEMED INITIATIVE, UNEP-MAP, EUSAIR, the West MED maritime initiative, the CPRM, the UfM Secretariat. Moreover, four EU Commission DGs accompany the process: DG REGIO, DG MARE, DG NEAR and DG RTD.

To achieve its goal, the Interreg MED Programme has identified two main thematic areas to start working on: Coastal and Maritime Tourism, and Maritime Surveillance. In the medium term, the launch of a call for Strategic Projects in the two thematic areas is foreseen. In this sense, PANORAMED is working to identify gaps and growth opportunities, as well as common needs to be solved.

The session III of the IMC General Assembly will build on previous dialogues (e.g. Interreg MED Midterm event in Rome and PANORAMED meeting with Associated partners, Political Bureau and General Assembly of the IMC CPMR in Cartagena and Naples) and focus on Improving multilevel governance and dialogue, synergies between territorial cooperation programmes, and the capitalisation of projects results in the Mediterranean basin with a specific focus on maritime issues (which are of specific interest for the CPMR IMC regions).

In this framework, potential synergies between the efforts of PANORAMED and the ones of cooperation programmes active in the basin will be addressed together with the needs coming from the regions and the programmes themselves. During the session, discussions will also focus on potential connections among relevant frameworks of cooperation linked to the activities of both PANORAMED and the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission.

An interactive debate among representatives will be encouraged, in order to address the potential links and synergies in the thematic areas of coastal/maritime tourism and maritime surveillance, as well as on other maritime issues (e.g. renewable energies). This will concern the future of territorial cooperation and the synergies among regions with a “bottom up” and “top-down” approach (highlighting the local/regional/national peculiarities, needs, gaps, also in terms of clusterisation of projects, liaising on high level events and synergies among territorial cooperation programmes, etc.).

The session will be introduced by **George Alexakis**, Vice-President of the CPMR for maritime affairs and Vice-Governor of the Region Kriti in charge of EU and international affairs, who will contextualise the session and mention the action of the CPMR and IMC on maritime issues, as well as the role of Crete in PANORAMED and BLUEMED.

In the first part of the session the **Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat** will intervene on the work perspectives of the UfM on Blue Economy, Environment and Climate. A representative of **BLUEMED** will then present the process of consolidation of its SRIA and the advancements of the BLUEMED initiative.

Afterwards, a representative of the **UN Environment/MAP Coordinating Unit, Barcelona Convention Secretariat** will intervene on the role of Local & Regional Authorities in implementing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

All three speakers will insist on synergies with projects, programmes, the regions as well as on the contribution to PANORAMED works, based on capitalisation for a better multilevel dialogue and governance.

After the presentations, an interactive round table will begin, being moderated by the **IMC Secretariat** and concluded by a representative of the **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region**. During the round table, representatives of the **Interreg MED, ADRION, MARITTIMO, ENI CBC MED and INTERACT Programmes**, as well as of the **PANORAMED project** will intervene.

After these exchanges, the floor will be opened for the **debate and interventions of participants**.

General questions for the public

- How do you feel about these kinds of synergies among programmes and strategies/initiatives? In your opinion, will they succeed to improve Mediterranean multilevel governance and dialogue?
- Which maritime priorities (e.g. marine renewable energies) are emerging as a priority for your region and how could they be better taken into account in existing/future frameworks of cooperation and cooperation programmes?