ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS

Youth Democratic participation mechanisms in the Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission
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Background

The Intermediterranean Commission has undertaken various activities in order to foster youth democratic participation as a result of the reflections carried out in the framework of its working group on “Economic and Social Cohesion.”

With the support of the Lazio Region, the Intermediterranean Commission created a Youth Council launched in December 2019 during a dedicated event organised by the Lazio Region in Santa Severa (Italy). This Council will work as a facilitator for young people to express and propose new ideas, within the think tank approach of the IMC and its positions on Mediterranean issues. These dynamics would foster youth participation (18-30 years old) to the lobbying effort addressing policymakers to take action in key identified topics.

Active political participation of all citizens, and especially of all young people, is the basis for a well-functioning Mediterranean society. Political participation of young people, broadly understood, can take different forms: traditional tools of participatory democracy (voting in elections, membership in political parties), involvement in participatory or interest representation structures, such as youth organisations or NGOs, participation in debates and expressing opinions (youth written press or radio, online discussion, blogs) or by attending training or learning at school on youth democratic participation.

On that issue, Local, Regional or National Youth Councils can serve as intermediaries between young people and political representatives. In many countries and regions with established youth councils, the latter have become respected and efficient tools to advocate for, and represent, the need of young people.

Objectives of the survey

This survey jointly conducted by the Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) and the Lazio region aims to provide a set of data to map the mechanisms dedicated to youth democratic participation implemented at the regional level over the territories covered by the IMC.

The conclusions drawn from this study will provide food for thoughts concerning the continuation of relevant activities on this topic, and ultimately to enrich the work of the IMC Youth Council.

First observations from the survey

The following work is based on the data provided by the 38 respondents representing 21 structures from 17 Mediterranean regions that replied to the online questionnaire. The list of these structures and their detailed answers can be found in the (separate) annex of the document.

The responses are aggregated by regional territory in order to observe trends at this level. The province of Gandía (Valencia) is often mentioned individually as it provides a local perspective beyond the representation of the Community of Valencia itself.
As for the analysis of the constitution of youth delegations hosted or sent to external events to promote the democratic participation of young people, it was compiled per structure in charge of this issue when several structures represented a single region, i.e. the regional Councils that responded to the survey, as well as the Youth Council of Gandia (Valencia, ES), the Youth Forum of the Tuscan Archipelago (IT) and the Students’ Parliament of Tuscany. The aim was to get a better overview of the constitution of youth delegations.

As for question 7, which deals with the themes to be prioritised for the future, it mobilised the individual opinion of the respondents according to the political priorities of their regional Council in terms of youth. However, the analysis was carried out by counting the individual responses and not grouping them together (structure represented / region).

Involvement of young people

**Question 1 – Does the Region have a specific political priority to foster youth democratic participation in the socio-political life of the region/territory?**

*Aim of the question:* To outline and identify the general framework, in order to know what percentage of regions are dedicating a specific policy to youth participation in their political landscape or not. Respondents unanimously ticked “Yes” to this question. *The 17 respondent regions of the IMC prioritise democratic youth participation in their work programme.*

**Question 2 – How is the theme of youth democratic participation being handled in your regional territory? What kind of framework has your Regional Council created for that matter?**

*Aim of the question:* Map the different applications of the Regions’ political guidelines for the democratic participation of young people on their territory, for example through the setting up of structures/organisations responsible for these activities.

Results are illustrated in the graph below.

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1 Nevertheless, it should be noted that the limitation of the exercise is based on the responses given to this survey. The absence of responses from other regions does not mean that they do not have a dedicated policy in this regard, nor does it mean that they do not have any priority in this respect.

2 It should be noted that in the sub-question “What kind of organization ‘linked to the Region’ is it?”, which is linked to the answer “An external organisation linked to the Regions’ priorities and supported by it (budget, human resources...)”, several Regions mentioned their Youth Council or Assembly. However, this type of structure is considered in the following question. This is why the choice was made to deal with these answers directly in question 3.
Among the 17 respondent regions, 3 have based their activities **solely on a law or directive dedicated to this theme, i.e. around 17% of the regions**. 5 regions, in addition to one province (Gandia, Valencia) have based their activities following a law or directive but have also formed a **specific administrative service** for the democratic participation of young people.

5 other regions have created a **dedicated public administrative service**. The Oriental region (Morocco) currently counts with a consultation body on the Regions and on the integration of young people in the regional development plan; Rabat-Salé-Kénitra has integrated questions linked to the democratic participation of young people through a youth affairs body, but points out that a specific service may be created in the future though.

The Nicosia region (Cyprus), on the other hand, is based on a programme of the Cyprus Youth Council with the collaboration of the Union of Municipalities and the Union of Communities of Cyprus. The **specialised service** has been operating within this **programme**.

In other cases (in this case, two regions and one province), an/several **external organisation(s) linked to the regional Council’s priorities** and each time supported by it manage(s) the issues of democratic youth participation: for example, a high school, a university, a vocational training centre, a regional research centre and a youth observatory have sometimes been mentioned. For the Western Greece region in particular, a Europe Direct antenna has been assisting the regional governor on these issues.
Finally, another alternative can be found when one or more **external self-supporting organisation(s)** are in charge of democratic youth participation, mainly NGOs or independent youth observatories (in particular in two regions and one province).

**Question 3 – In these identified frameworks, what kind of activities have been implemented to foster youth participation in your territory?**

**Aim of the question:** To map the different types of activities implemented to promote the democratic participation of young people in the region.

13 regions⁴ among the 17 respondents, or nearly 3/4 of the panel, have indicated that they have organized **citizen dialogues with the youth**. 10 regions,⁵ i.e. around 58%, have organised **exchanges with political decision-makers**, and the same proportion⁶ has set up **online consultations** on one or more specific issues.

9 regions, i.e. slightly more than half of the panel, replied that they support **Youth Councils or regional Youth Assemblies** in a more or less direct way.⁷

6 of them, i.e. 1/3,⁸ offer one or more media (newsletter, radio, digital media) which content is developed by young people and 5⁹ have organised simulations of democratic processes.

As an example, the Province of Gandía (Valencia) has carried out all the types of activities proposed by the question. As for the Generalitat de Catalunya, it has dedicated several specific related programmes throughout the Catalan territory and in high schools. Finally, in the southern Mediterranean, one Moroccan region has proposed activities aimed at integrating young people in the process of developing new technologies, while another has organised meetings dedicated to youth affairs.

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⁴ Survey respondents could naturally select several choices from the following questions to describe the diversity of activities they had organized within their regional Council. Thus, some regions appear more than once. They are listed for each response in a footnote.

⁵ Tirana (AL), Nicosia (CY), Andalusia (ES), Catalonia (ES), Murcia (ES), Valencia (ES), Corsica (FR), Occitania (FR), Western Greece (EL), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT), Oriental (MAR).

⁶ Nicosia (CY), Andalusia (ES), Catalonia, Valencia, Corsica (FR), Occitania, Sud, Lazio (IT) Toscana, Oriental (MAR).

⁷ Nicosia (CY), Andalusia (ES), Balearic Islands (ES), Murcia (ES), Valencia (ES), Occitania (FR), Sud (ES), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT).

⁸ Catalonia (ES), Sud (FR), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT), Oriental (MAR).

⁹ Valencia (ES), Sud (FR), Western Greece (EL), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT).
Question 4 – What impacts do these contributions have on your territories? How does your Region integrate these contributions on its daily works?  

Aim of the question: To have an idea, based on the estimates of the regional Councils, of the impact and results of the activities aimed at fostering the democratic participation of young people. In addition to youth work, it is interesting to observe and learn about the extent to which lessons and recommendations drawn from these experiences have been capitalized upon and to analyse their impact in the modulation of regional policies to this effect.

In the vast majority of the participating regions (14 out of 17\(^{11}\)), the structures responsible for the democratic participation of young people have been involved in projects; for example, in the Occitania region, the regional Youth Council, which is attached to the Region, has even developed its own projects.  

58% of the responding regions indicated that their structure(s) responsible for the democratic participation of young people, as described in the answers to question 3, are involved in the elaboration of regional policies and of the budget.\(^{12}\) In about half of the cases,\(^{13}\) the structure(s) in question have organised autonomous initiatives for young people in the territory; also in half of the responding regions,\(^{14}\) the structure(s) have been acting as relays of information on political decisions taken at regional level.

Only two regions replied that their structure had merely an advisory role with no impact on decision-making.\(^{15}\)

Finally, the case of Tuscany deserves to be clarified because two different structures act as youth assemblies:

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\(^{10}\) It should be noted that the survey option “Consultative role without impact on decision-making” included a limiting dimension, in the sense that it was implied that the structure in charge of the democratic participation of young people could not influence decision-making processes at regional level. In view of sometimes-contradictory responses, for example from regions that selected both this response and the response “Participation in the development of regional policies and budget,” this dimension was probably not explicit enough. For this reason, the proposed results have been adjusted where necessary in order to provide a realistic picture of the responses to this question.

\(^{11}\) Tirana (AL), Nicosia (CY), Andalusia (ES), Catalonia (ES), Murcia (ES), Valencia (ES), Corsica (FR), Occitania (FR), Western Greece (EL), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Lazio (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT), Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).

\(^{12}\) Andalusia (ES), Catalonia, Balearic Islands, Valencia, Corsica (FR), Occitania, Sud, Western Greece (EL), Lazio (IT), Toscana (IT).

\(^{13}\) Nicosia (CY), Catalonia (ES), Valencia (ES), Occitania (FR), Sud (ES), Western Greece (EL), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Lazio (IT), Toscana (IT).

\(^{14}\) Nicosia (CY), Murcia (ES), Valencia (ES), Corsica (FR), Occitania (FR), Sud (FR), Lazio (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT).

It should be noted that ideally, the latter type of action could be carried out in an upward as well as a downward dynamic. The answers to the survey question do not, however, provide a clear indication of this.

\(^{15}\) Nicosia (CY), Oriental (MAR).
1. the **Youth Forum of the Tuscan Archipelago**, which acts as a relay of information on the decisions taken, participates in projects and organises autonomous initiatives, and has only an advisory role concerning the development of regional policies;\(^{16}\)

2. the **Regional Students’ Parliament of Tuscany** (PRST), which has the same role as the previous structure; however, it participates to the elaboration of regional policies and of the budget.\(^{17}\)

The activities of the PRST are the same as those of the provincial-level structure that responded to the survey, namely the Youth Council of Gandia.

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**Practical implementation**

*Question 5 – Depending on the previous identified frameworks in place, how does your Region contribute to practically implement actions for the Youth?*

**Aim of the question:** The answers to the previous questions provided a “picture” of the landscape, particularly administrative, via which activities for the democratic participation of young people have usually taken place. This question aims to map the concrete actions (funding, support, coordination assistance, participation in public events, etc.) undertaken by the regional councils to strengthen this participation.\(^{18}\)

“**Sponsorship for the youth to participate in relevant events**” is the most widespread activity that has contributed to the practical implementation of actions for the democratic participation of young people. 12 out of 17 regions have indicated this option, i.e. almost 3/4 of respondents plus one province.\(^{19}\) Regarding the geographic scale of these events, all 12 regions and the province have sponsored youth participation in regional events:

- including one (1) region at national events\(^ {20}\)

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\(^{16}\) The Forum is “the institutional tool through which young people actively participate in the life of the territory, promoting initiatives aimed at young people and the community and a consultative body for local administrations and authorities.” For more information, see: [https://www.facebook.com/forumgiovaniaArcipelago](https://www.facebook.com/forumgiovaniaArcipelago) (May 2020).

\(^{17}\) “The Regional Students’ Parliament is an institutional body representing the students of the Italian high school, created by the Region of Tuscany [...] It is a non-partisan and independent body. ». For more information see: [http://www.parlamentostudenti.it/sitewp/chi-siamo](http://www.parlamentostudenti.it/sitewp/chi-siamo) (May 2020)

\(^{18}\) Note that the response option “No funding but dedicated regional department coordination with an independent youth organisation” included a limiting dimension, in the sense that it was implied that the regional Council (or any other body responsible for coordinating the democratic participation of young people at regional level such as a youth foundation) did not fund or co-fund any youth organisation. The proposed results have been appropriately adapted to ensure a better reflection of the responses given.

\(^{19}\) Tirana (AL), Nicosia (CY), Andalusia (ES), Balearic Islands (ES), Murcia (ES), Valencia (ES), Corsica (FR), Lazio (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT), Oriental (MAR), Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).

\(^{20}\) Corsica (FR).
Participation in events is clearly most regionally based. In view of these observations, a deeper cross-border regional cooperation could increase the proportion of sponsorships to international events.

Sponsorship is closely followed in the ranking of responses, with the offer of mediatic support for youth activities, with almost 2/3 of the regions (11) plus the province of Gandia that have mentioned it. Besides, 10 regions and the province of Gandia have provided a dedicated department and budget for regional civil servants working on the democratic participation of young people.

According to the results of the survey and as deductible from the previous answers, 5 regions out of the 17 (plus the province of Gandia) have co-financed a youth organisation, and 4 regions as well as the province of Gandia, have fully financed such an organisation (with some regions both financing a structure and co-financing one or more others). This means about a quarter of the participating regions.

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21 Sardinia (IT).

22 Nicosia (CY), Andalusia (ES), Murcia (ES), Lazio (IT), Oriental (MAR).

23 Tirana (AL), Andalusia (ES), Valencia (ES), Corsica (FR), Occitania (FR), Sud (FR), Western Greece (EL), Lazio (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT), Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).

24 Andalusia (ES), Catalonia (ES), Balearic Islands (ES), Murcia (ES), Valencia (ES), Corsica (FR), Occitania (FR), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Lazio (IT) and Sardinia (IT).

25 Nicosia (CY), Catalonia (ES), Valencia (ES), Lazio (IT) and Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).

26 Occitania (FR), Sud (FR), Lazio (IT) and Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).
In addition, the Oriental region (Morocco) has funded initiatives in the framework of economic and social development.

Only Tuscany has not provided direct funding but rather supported regional youth department coordination with an independent youth organisation. Although it does not directly fund any youth organisation, the structures under its authority, i.e. the Giovanisi project it supports, the Regional Students’ Parliament of Tuscany (PRST) and the Forum of the Tuscan Archipelago, all provide a service and funding for civil servants working on the democratic participation of young people. These structures have also provided media support for youth activities, co-funding and/or funding of youth organisations and sponsorship of youth participation in events, particularly at regional level.

**Question 6 – Have you already sent a delegation of young delegates to youth events held by (an)other structure(s) or have you hosted youth delegations in similar events that you organised?**

Aim of the question: Map the experience of regional Councils with the setting-up of youth delegations, the types and scope of events organized or to which these delegations have participated, where appropriate. Furthermore, an analysis of the contexts used to make contact with other structures in the framework of public events promoting the democratic participation of young people is provided. This question was divided into four sub-sections, namely: the hosting or sending of youth delegations, the type and themes of the events in question, and finally the typology of youth delegations.

*Hosting/sending youth delegations*

Among the 17 regions, 9 have both hosted and sent youth delegation(s) to events organised in a framework external to the regional Council. 5 of them have only sent one or more delegations to external events, plus the province of Gandia (Valencia). 2 regions have already hosted one or more youth delegation(s) as event organisers. Finally, only the Balearic Islands stated that they had no such experience with youth delegations, without giving any particular reason.

As regards the regions which have already sent one or more delegations, i.e. 14 in all (the 9 + 5 mentioned above), 8 have done so in the context of events organised by structures from other regions. For 4 of them, contacts with other structures were made through the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission. The same applies to the regions contacted by the Tuscan Giovanisi project, i.e. Puglia and Emilia-Romagna, which organised events within the framework of an Erasmus+ project.

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27 For more information on the project, see Giovanisi project (May 2020). Links to other initiatives are high in the document.

28 Tirana (AL), Andalusia (ES), Valencia (ES), Sud (FR), Lazio (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT), Oriental (MAR) and Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).

29 Nicosia (CY), Murcia (ES), Corsica (FR), Occitania (FR) and Emilia-Romagna (IT).

30 Catalonia (ES) and Western Greece (EL).

31 Tirana (AL), Corsica (FR), Lazio (IT) and Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).
For instance, Tirana (Albania) took part in the **IMC-CPMR Youth Council Day** organised by the Lazio Region in Santa Severa in December 2019. It also hosted and co-organised the **first Forum of Youth Organisations in the Adriatic-Ionian region**, attended by representatives of youth organisations from Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Serbia and Croatia. This event was supported by the **Adriatic-Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities (AI-NURECC)**, which established contact between the participating structures. The AI-NURECC initiative is also coordinated by the CPMR.32

It should also be noted that the Oriental region in Morocco has sent **youth delegations to several African countries** (Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Mali, Burkina-Faso) and Occitania also sent a delegation to the **5th edition of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Leaders Forum** in November 2019 in Essaouira (Morocco).33

4 of the 14 regions that have already sent a youth delegation have done so for events taking place in the same territory as that administered by their regional Council, i.e. about 28% of the respondents.34

**Themes tackled by the events**35

15 regions out of the 16 that have already hosted and/or sent a youth delegation specified the themes addressed by these events.36 The most common theme cited has been **education and employment**, with 3/4 of the regions that have mentioned it.37 **Democratic participation of young people** has come in **second place**, with 9 regions and the province of Gandia38 mentioning it, and is followed by **cross-border regional cooperation** with 6 regions (40% of replies) in addition to Gandia (Valencia)39. 4 regions have mentioned subjects related to the **Mediterranean basin**40, while 3 regions have mentioned **sustainable development**41 or **sea-related issues**42, and finally two regions, plus the province of Gandia, have mentioned **blue growth** and the **blue economy**43.

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32 For further information on AI-NURECC, see: [https://cpmr.org/policy-work/cohesion/ai-nurecc](https://cpmr.org/policy-work/cohesion/ai-nurecc) (May 2020).


34 Murcia (ES), Corsica (FR), Sud (FR), Emilia-Romagna (IT).

35 This question proposed pre-established choices and therefore had a limiting dimension. However, an “other” option was available to allow respondents to provide clarification when necessary. Moreover, the exercise did not provide the opportunity to observe an overlap of themes, or simply their transversality, such as employment in the blue economy, for example.

36 That is to say all the respondents except Nicosia (CY).

37 Tirana (AL), Andalusia (ES), Valencia (ES), Corsica (FR), Sud (FR), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT), Oriental (MAR), Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).

38 Tirana (AL), Andalusia (ES), Murcia (ES), Valencia (ES) and the Gandia province (ES), Corsica (FR), Occitania (FR), Lazio (IT), Sardinia (IT), Tuscany (IT).

39 Tirana (AL), Valencia (ES) & Gandia province (ES), Lazio (IT), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT), Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (MAR).

40 Tirana (AL), Corsica (FR), Sud (FR), Sardinia (IT).

41 Tirana (AL), Gandia province (ES), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT).
To cite a few examples again, the youth delegations of the Oriental region took part in an international competition to promote gastronomic heritage, as well as in a training course for territorial coaches organised in partnership with the organisation United Cities and Local Governments - Africa (UCLGA). Catalonia organised events on youth policies, while those of the Valencian Community focused on gender policies and those of Western Greece on issues such as the environment, migration and xenophobia, and the European elections.

Constitution of youth delegations

All the structures (regional Councils, Youth Assemblies, organisations in charge of the democratic participation of young people) that have hosted or sent youth delegations have answered the questions concerning either the preparation of their youth delegation or the one(s) they hosted, i.e. 20 answers from all the 17 responding regions.44

The results show that delegations were mainly made up of volunteers, with 10 structures having chosen this answer. For 5 structures, random selection was used; for 4, delegates were chosen among class delegates, or elected by the rest of the class or the school or parliamentary structure.

The most represented age groups for the delegations were 18-21 and 21-25 years old (included in the delegations of 13 of the structures described), followed closely by the ‘over 25’ and ‘15-18’, mentioned by 12 structures. Only 2 structures have included young people under the age of 15.

Graph 3 – Representation of the age brackets of the youth delegations sent or received by the responding structures

42 Tirana (AL), Sardinia (IT), Toscana (IT).

43 For blue growth and blue economy, Tirana (AL) and Sardinia (IT), as well as Gandia province.

44 These are the regional Councils that responded to the survey, as well as the Youth Council of Gandia, the Youth Forum of the Tuscan Archipelago and the Student Parliament of Tuscany.
In view of these responses, it is clear that the delegations are composed of young people of legal majority who are able to refine and apply their critical sense in constructive debates and exchanges during the meetings. Working on these exchanges potentially from the middle school level could be an interesting avenue for future work, in line with the level of subsidiarity and relevant competences applied in the Mediterranean territories in question.

As for the origin of the young people making up the delegations, the answers show that it depended on the type of event organised or if external, as well as the place where it took place. This data is therefore not representative of the entire territory covered by the IMC, but of the panel, in addition to the frequency with which these events are held. Italian young people come therefore in majority as they are mentioned by 8 structures, while the French come next, mentioned by 5 structures.

To go into more details, one should note on the one hand that several regions have supported these exchanges to strengthen the democratic participation of young people at regional level (by sending and receiving delegations) as part of a strategy for the Mediterranean basin or more generally for the Mediterranean region. This is notably the case of Tirana (AL) and Lazio (IT), which have organised or participated in events in the framework of the IMC-CPMR, mainly the IMC Youth Council held in Santa Severa. Tirana also organised its event (Forum of Youth Organisations in the Adriatic-Ionian Region) as part of the work of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion. The origin of the young people making up the delegations at the latter event corresponded to the territory of this Euroregion: Greek, Italian, Montenegrin, Bosnian, Albanian, Serbian and Croatian.

One can observe a more global Mediterranean dynamic by studying the origin of the youth delegations present at the events in which the Sud region has participated or organised. The young delegates in this case came from both the northern shore of the Mediterranean (Italian, French and Spanish origin) and the southern one with young people from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine and Lebanon. One can also consider that Occitania has had a more global Mediterranean dynamic with the participation of its youth delegation to the Forum for Euro-Mediterranean Young Leaders in Essaouira in 2019.

On the other hand, some regions have tended to adopt a national or local approach to the democratic participation of young people. This is the case of Tuscany and its events including delegations from Puglia and Emilia-Romagna, as well as Corsica and Murcia, which took part in events organised by structures within their regional territory.

By comparison, one can observe the European dimension, in the sense of the territory covered by the European Union, with the meetings of youth delegations in the framework of Erasmus projects, such as that of Tuscany but also Western Greece that hosted Greek, Italian, Slovenian and Swedish delegations, the framework of the AI-NURECC initiative, or the Generalitat of Valencia that sent delegations or hosted delegations from Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, France and Poland.

Lastly, the responding Moroccan Regions have organised meetings with European youth delegations, for example from Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Brussels according to Rabat-Salé-Kénitra’s answer. The Oriental Region also participated in or organised events bringing together French delegations with Grand-Est, but also from the African continent (e.g. Nawa (Ivory Coast), Kaolack (Senegal), Kayes and Timbuktu (Mali), Boucle de Mouhoun (Burkina-Faso)), in the framework of decentralised cooperation programmes and United Cities and Local Governments - Africa (UCLG-A).

On the basis of this sample, one can therefore see that the Regions and different structures have focused their youth delegation exchanges on relatively different territorial dimensions. Ensuring that joint
exchanges are set up within the framework of the IMC-CPMR Youth Council could to this end strengthen the Mediterranean dimension of these exchanges, while potentially addressing some of the themes listed above (for the sake of capitalisation), but also the following ones (for the sake of complementarity and specificity) as indicated below.

**Question 7 – In your opinion, for the Youth or your region/territory and crossing the priorities of your Region, what subjects could be interesting for the youth to contribute to?**

**Aim of the question:** To identify common themes on which to focus the future action plan of the IMC-CPMR Youth Council. During the survey, respondents had the choice between several themes, including: Maritime Policies, Sustainable Development, Sustainable Tourism, Mediterranean Cooperation and Projects, Blue Growth and Blue Economy, or other proposals to be specified. One should note that most of the themes listed in the question are based on the IMC’s work themes and therefore had a limiting nature. The data have been compiled in the graph below:

*Themes to be prioritised*

![Themes to be prioritised](image)

**Graph 4 - Suggestions of themes to be prioritized in the future for the CPMR-IMC Youth Council**

The **priority themes for youth** according to the respondents to the survey are above all Sustainable Development and Mediterranean cooperation and projects. Sustainable Tourism comes next, then the Blue Economy, Blue Growth and finally maritime policies, which only appear in 7 responses, i.e. 18.4% of the panel.

Citizenship, youth mobility, the right to work and employment, education, agricultural entrepreneurship, culture and tourism were also mentioned in the “other” category.
Elements of conclusion

- All IMC regions responding to the questionnaire prioritise democratic participation of young people in their work programme.

- As for the frameworks implemented, they are quite disparate according to the regions, which may raise the legitimate question of the challenge of developing more exchanges and collaboration between Mediterranean young people at the initiative of the regions, and beyond that, of integrating the Mediterranean through this means. The two regions on the southern shores of the Mediterranean that replied rely more on government bodies – logically in relation to their history of decentralisation progresses as well, while those on the northern shore tend to favour a specific administrative service for the democratic participation of young people. Relatively few regions seem to have used an external organisation, whether financially independent or linked to the Regional Council in terms of human or budgetary resources.

- The types of activities put in place visibly promote direct democratic processes involving young people, through Citizen Dialogues, exchanges with political decision-makers, etc. The activities are also designed to encourage the participation of young people in the democratic processes. The proportion of regions supporting regional Youth Assemblies (half of the panel) is an encouraging sign and reflects a significant territorial dynamism.

- As for the impact of structures (such as Youth Assemblies, regional Councils or other external organisations) working for the democratic participation of young people, it seems to be most often embodied through participation in projects, several of which are supported by European funds (Erasmus+ in particular). The fact that these structures are also involved in the development of regional policies and that they implement autonomous initiatives on the territory is indicative of the consideration given to them by regional public administrations.

- The support of the regional Councils to these structures is mainly in the form of support for the participation of young people in events, which can encourage the exchange of good practices but also the construction and enrichment of the concept of “democracy” through exchanges with people from these territories. While the majority of these events take place at regional level, several regions have also cooperated at national and international levels. Furthermore, one should note that regional cross-border or ‘transregional’ cooperation (to emulate the transnational model) could increase the proportion of sponsorships at international events and strengthen the presence of the youth in Mediterranean democracy as a whole.

- Services and funding directed to regional civil servants working on youth democratic participation, and media support to youth organisations by regional Councils are relatively well-used tools.

- Regions often have experience with youth delegations, either in sending or hosting them at relevant events and mostly organised in other regions. This is a good sign of trans-regional cooperation.

- Contact between regions sending or hosting youth delegations has only been made relatively through the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission, which would be explained by the new
nature of the IMC Youth Council initiative. A deepening of the activities of the IMC’s “Economic and Social Cohesion” working group in this respect could increase the frequency with which youth delegations are sent or hosted from one region to another, especially in the framework of said Youth Council.

- With regard to the delegations, one should note that the favoured age group is 18 to 25 years of age. This can be explained by the already relatively advanced development of young people’s critical thinking, allowing interesting reflections and debates during exchanges or events to take place. This age group could therefore be particularly interesting for the IMC as well. Furthermore, including the youngest in a reinforced way (those under 18 or even under 15 years of age) could enable these young people to have an earlier experience of democratic participation and encourage more citizen vocations on a Mediterranean scale from an earlier age.

- The themes most frequently addressed during the organisation of events involving youth delegations suggest a focus on youth concerns, i.e. education and employment and the democratic participation of young people. In order to remain within the framework of the themes dealt with by the IMC, future work could see a practical application of these themes at the level, for example, of the blue economy, social entrepreneurship, etc.

- The themes that appear to be priorities for the future according to the respondents to the survey seem to be oriented in particular towards sustainable development and the development of more cooperation and projects in the Mediterranean, but also education and employment.

To sum up, this initial analysis of the survey results provides an encouraging picture of the democratic participation of young people in the Mediterranean in the Regions of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission. The IMC Youth Council would undoubtedly have the task of strengthening the efforts made in this direction, potentially coordinating the demands of the various structures and prioritising common issues in an integrated way and in relation to the sustainable blue economy to all territories of the basin.

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The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission gathers around 40 Member Regions from 9 different EU members states and other countries (Albania, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia). It is open to all the different sub-national levels in all Mediterranean countries.

The gathering of the Intermediterranean Commission Members Regions represents a bond of peace, stability and development between three continents, Europe, Africa and Asia.

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