



CPMR
CRPM



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Provision of public services in the Mediterranean with an integrated territorial approach

- *Reference manual for training* -

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Synthetized Methodological note

This document was drafted on the basis of two working methodologies:

1. Analytical research of relevant sources and examples drawn from both academic and public administrations;
2. In response to the results of a questionnaire sent to Members of the Intermediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions in March-May 2017, aimed at understanding the main priorities in terms of knowledge and application of the principles of Integrated Territorial Development.

The Manual was therefore developed to combine the results of the questionnaire with the more recent academic and administrative debates on territorial development, delegated/decentralized/south-south cooperation, decentralization and regionalization, etc.

All sources used are quoted in the text, in the bibliography, and webography annexed to the document.

Introduction – Context and objectives

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) is partner of a network that coordinates the voice of European local and regional authorities for development with the European institutions. This network, hereafter “PLATFORMA,” has signed a strategic partnership with the European Commission with the objective of “Working together towards the empowerment of local and regional governments for better governance and more effective development results in EU partner countries.”

This document is developed as part of Result R.3.2. of this strategic partnership: “Enhanced capacities of LRAs and associations of neighboring European areas to achieve their own development objectives” and in particular activity A.3.2.2. Dialogue with the Southern Neighborhood of Europe. The CPMR is the organization responsible for implementing these activities.

The objective of the Manual is to establish a reference and training framework on integrated territorial development addressed to decision-makers and civil servants in the Mediterranean region, with particular attention to the regional and local territorial contexts of Morocco and Tunisia.

The Manual aims to be a practical tool to strengthen the capacity of public actors of regional and local authorities (LRAs) in the Mediterranean to implement participatory and sustainable development policies based on the principles of integrated territorial development.

The main objective of the Manual is to encourage regional and local authorities to ask themselves the **key questions about the reasons, the methodology and the tools of Integrated Territorial Development (ITD)**, so as to **define their public policies according to a holistic vision of growth and sustainability**. The Manual is a flexible tool and, recognizing the impossibility of being fully exhaustive, offers guidelines that can be adapted to different administrative, economic, environmental and social contexts.

The need to address the topic of integrated development is increasingly relevant in the region, particularly in a disrupted political, economic and social context in which LRAs are subject to many challenges that they face with limited and unstable means, especially in budgetary terms. However, as recognized on the occasion of the 4th Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean, organized by the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments), “local and regional governments are indispensable and recognized actors of the sustainable development, be it in terms of economy, society, ecology or culture.”¹ The European Commission (EC) also recognizes that LRAs can play an “important role in building resilient societies, as well as [representing] privileged interlocutors to foster cooperation between central governments and the European Union.”² In addition, in its Communication on Strengthening Local Authorities in Partner Countries,³ the EC notes that as local actors to citizens, Local (and Regional) Authorities “have a responsibility to mobilize companies and catalyzers of change” (p.3).

In addition, during a seminar organized in 2016 in Sousse again by the UCLG Mediterranean Commission and in collaboration with the IMC-CPMR and Mediterranean networks of local and regional authorities, the focus was

1 Source: United Cities and Local Governments - Mediterranean Commission, “4th Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean - From Sousse to Tangier, Territorial Diplomacy in Action,” 2016

2 Source: COM(2013) 280 Final

³ *Ibid.*

repeatedly put on promoting capacity building for regional and local authorities (in terms of cooperation and integrated development), and on promoting the exchange of best practices oriented towards the definition of partnership initiatives and concrete projects.

In this context, the emphasis was placed on the need to “locate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” i.e. the need, also expressed by the United Nations, “to ensure sustainable development scenarios, by exchanging experiences and ideas, supporting and ensuring more decentralized cooperation and making real changes at local and regional level.”⁴ This need led to the development of [UCLG’s learning and sharing tool on the location of the SDGs](#).

Due to the scope of the SDGs and their implementation, the necessity to address the needs of local and regional actors is expressed with force in order to fill, as far as possible, existing gaps in integrated and participatory territorial development and trying to respond to the need to define the LRAs’ technical, financial and human resources for the good of the territory.

⁴ Cf. <https://www.uclg.org/es/media/news/un-mouvement-dapprentissage-sur-tous-les-continentes-la-localisation-des-odd>, accessed January 30, 2018