



Minutes of the meeting of the Economic and Social Cohesion Working Group of the Intermediterranean Commission of the CPMR

2nd July 2015 – Nafplio (Peloponnese)

Presentation of the Action Plan of the WG on Economic and Social Cohesion by the Languedoc-Roussillon Region, with a focus on “social and solidarity economy” regional actions:

A - Support and promote initiatives from a sustainable, inclusive and smart socio-economic development in the Med

Objectives:

- 1 - To foster the development of “Social and solidarity economy” i.e. highlight the Regional initiatives in the sector and develop cooperation between key actors from this area;

Definition: this terminology is diverse in various countries and falls under different appellations (“non-profit organizations” (US), “voluntary sector” (UK), “economia social” (ES), etc.). This principle has gained – and keeps gaining – increasing recognition by laws and states. It can encompass various actors as *coopératives*, *mutuelles*, associations, foundations, etc., as well as various sectors as social actions, instruments, arts, etc.

“**Social and solidarity economy**” is defined by:

- the presence of internal rules, including the democratic management of the sector,
- the non-profit or limited-profit objectives of the structures and the actors pertaining to it,
- and the social utility of these actors.

More specifically, “**economy**” refers to economic initiatives that have social objectives. Here, the economy is seen as the bound between local actors, with the idea of local development and social cohesion.

The “**social**” aspect of the expression refers to the answer to a demand that is not satisfied (person services, credits, etc.). It may also refer to the services directly linked to the needs of the population.

As for “**solidarity**,” it implies the mobilization of actors fulfilling democracy. In other words, all actions undertaken are mutualized. The organizations and the sectors involved can nonetheless be different.

Since 2011, “**social and solidarity economy**” has been fully part of the EU agenda, especially through the initiatives of DG REGIO.

Financial opportunities are hence available through cooperation programs such as the Interreg MED (Specific Objective 1, sub-thematic focus on social innovation). The WG could help enhance potential partnerships to submit projects in this field via networking.

Actions:

- Sharing of initiatives from other IMC Regions, the capitalization, dissemination, and labelling of initiatives in this sector,
 - The creation of political debates in this field,
 - The synergies between networks and organization active in this field,
 - And the preparation of pilot initiatives and projects in ETC programs.
- 2 - To promote entrepreneurship and the Mediterranean diaspora in order to reduce disparities between the north and the south of the Mediterranean;
 - 3 - To promote tourism in a sustainable, cultural- and economic-development objective in the Med (cf. Task-force about Cultural and Sustainable Tourism presented by the region of Crete);
 - 4 - To promote innovation, industrial and technological processes in the IMC regions as well as industrial renewal in the Med, to be further discussed and confirmed.

B - To promote specific actions in favor of democracy and citizenship, youth and intercultural dialogue

Objectives:

- 1 - To support training, mobility, integration and employment access for young people in the Med;
- 2 - To intensify the intercultural dialogue and the mutual understanding between the North and the South;
- 3 - To promote citizenship and democracy in the Mediterranean.

C - Fostering a Cohesion Policy that tackles the Mediterranean Regions' challenges

Objectives:

- 1 - Contribution to the analysis and monitoring of structural funds allocations and future indicators in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy;
- 2 - To support the macro-regional strategies in the Mediterranean.

(see Action plan for further details.)

- **Debates**

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

Social and solidarity economy is one of the main field of action of the Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, which is looking for more partners throughout the Mediterranean. Joining networks as MedESS could be useful in this sense.

Different projects are envisioned with the actors who previously participated in MedESS, with the objective to create "pôles entrepreneuriaux," with initiatives in Tunisia (CITESS), to identify active sectors and actors in the field of social and solidarity economy, as well as the need of the structures to have the support of social and solidarity economy, etc.

Another initiative is the creation of Campus MEDESS, the international university for social and solidarity economy that will be based in Morocco.

A second Mediterranean Forum will also be organized, this time in Tanger-Tétouan, Morocco, in the autumn 2015 with the aim to meet all the different key players from this country working on this specific sector.

- **Comments**

It is necessary to find and share a common definition of social and solidarity economy as to get to the global picture of the already implemented or running initiatives on EES developed by IMC regions. A questionnaire or dedicated survey could be developed in the frame of this WG (as a base for further projects and cooperation).

Task force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism: lobby actions and cooperation projects

What kind of activities are there to develop?

Interest in Coastal and Maritime tourism. Potentialities for funding through the MED and ENI Programs, based on capitalization drawn from the COM&CAP MarInA-Med project and the other Med Maritime projects dealing with tourism issues.

The main scheme could involve:

- Improving knowledge,
- Strengthening sustainability,
- Stimulation of performance and competitiveness,
- Mainstreaming of Tourism,

A special focus could be dedicated to the island dimension and a specific work could be foreseen with the EC and the Pan-European dialogue of Cruise operators at MED level.

Opportunities via the [Interreg MED Programme](#) (launched last June 22nd 2015). Two calls will be opened:

- from September to November for modular projects (axis 1-3),
- and from October to November for horizontal projects concerning all the Specific Objectives of the Programme.

NB: For the moment there will be no call concerning the axis 4 of the programme.

The main opportunities for the IMC and its regions/TF concern the **axis 3.1 about conservation of natural and cultural resources + promotion of Maritime&Coastal responsible tourism at the Med scale.**

Various debates/seminars are to be capitalized upon as well, in link with the EUSAIR, the outputs of the COM&CAP MarInA-Med project, and the links with the activities of DG MARE and DG GROW.

- **Crete**

Willingness of the Region to cooperate, thanks to its Task Force, for:

- Policy action for sustainable tourism,
- Sustainable and cultural tourism,
- Capitalization of results implemented so far from EU projects.

Issues to cover:

- Elongation of the touristic season through the development of cultural tourism. This is a high priority for the Region, which would like to submit project proposals to this end,
- Setting the outline by determining the tourism capacity,
- Raising the skills of local communities for coastal tourism, in particular for off-season tourism.

Other themes to be addressed by the TF and elements to be considered for the future reflections:

- The themes related with the conclusions/debates of the conference “Sustainable tourism as a pillar of the EUSAIR”, where the main points to be recalled are about the sustainability of tourism, which depends on the cost of tourism. The objective is to produce benefits that are significant enough to be higher than production costs (cf. Statement from Commissioner Vella),
- Each touristic Region is visited [sic] daily,
- Proposal for the creation of a coordinating body for tourism,
- Introduction of innovation and science in the tourism sector,
- Strategy for tourism requires funding from MS and the EU should focus on tourism as well in order to go beyond the debates,
- Priorities should be set for the development of tourism,
- The complexity of the landscape is also a key factor in the promotion of sustainable maritime and coastal tourism,
- Competition among touristic sites has brought new forms of tourism (photography, etc.),
- Diversification in the development of tourism is also required, especially to overcome seasonality,
- Synergies with institutional frameworks are key for planning processes,
- In the framework of the EUSAIR, seasonality has been discussed but in terms of space, the debate is quite missing,
- Airlines companies need to know the destinations of tourists (to/from), in order to better contribute to the development of sustainable tourism and adapt itineraries,
- Modern tourists are more demanding in terms of quality,
- Need for interconnections between existing destinations,
- Need for education and training in the sector,
- Need to establish a meaningful and effective collaboration between public and private sectors,
- A stable economic and social environment is necessary, as well as the participation of local communities in tourist markets,
- Extension of the tourist season in terms of weeks and not all over the year.

- **CPMR**

Its 4 main thematic objectives concerning tourism are totally in line with IMC objectives quoted before

- Improving knowledge, with a focus on islands
- Strengthening sustainability,
- Stimulation of performance and competitiveness,
- Work with the EC and the Pan-European dialogue of Cruise operators.

The TF with the pan-European dialogue with cruise operators and coastal tourism operators will organize 2 concrete events oriented on business (Baltic Sea region and one in Sardinia October 14, 2015 (tbc.)) in order to have contributions and undertake concrete actions for the development of sustainable tourism, implement the contents of the Sulphur Directive, etc.

Issues:

- Water Waste, scrubbers & Sulphur directive implementation,
- Sustainable destination management,
- Integration of ports with the port city (focus on services, infrastructures etc.).

Meeting in September within the CPMR and the other members of the TF.

Collaboration with NECSTouR

CPMR will continue to collaborate with other EU networks which have considerable experience on data collection and statistical analysis in the field of maritime coastal tourism (e.g. NECSTOUR). This collaboration could take the form of a project under the umbrella of the 2014-2020 MED programme. In this regard, it is important to remember that CPMR was already an associated partner of the project MITOMED, which aims to gather data on maritime and coastal tourism in order to update the existing regional and European database (using ETIS indicators) with the final goal of setting up ad-hoc regional and local policies in favour of the development of a sustainable maritime and coastal tourism sector.

Conference with MedPAN

On the socio-economic potential for growth from the exploitation of Marine Protected Areas and the enhancement of eco-tourism. Several elements were interesting and to consider in the next projects to submit about sustainable maritime and coastal tourism in the Mediterranean.

Concerning the call for horizontal projects, some Ideas from CPMR IMC about horizontal projects could be developed on: innovation and blue growth and environment or tourism. Nonetheless, in the new Interreg MED Program, there is the limit to present either modular OR horizontal projects, not both at the same time under the same Specific Objective. As concerns tourism, modular projects could be envisaged as a priority instead of a horizontal project, especially given the activities of the IMC regions in the sector (the IMC CPMR could in any case participate as external associated partner in a horizontal project on Tourism).

Potential project to be developed (some of them could count with the participation of both IMC CPMR and some of its regions):

- MED CO-EVOLVE Project on Maritime Spatial Planning and tourism, in line with the Bologna Charter probably led by Region Lazio with the participation of Region Emilia Romagna, ISMAR, and other key actors from Greece as Anatoliki Makedonia kai Thraki and other Med regions
- Extension of the tourism season, differentiation of tourist products, etc. through a benchmarking of good practices from the Regions : food, heritage sites, sales, etc. (this project could be set up with the leadership of Crete. As an alternative, the IMC and some of its regions could see other possibilities of cooperation in similar initiatives already being set up by other external partners, as this theme will be very popular and the concurrence very high in the call for proposal).
- Fishing tourism (a project might be developed in link with the outputs of NEMO project),
- Promotion of inland-tourism in coastal regions, spreading of tourist flows inland, diversification of the tourism offer in these areas (proposal which is coming from the Province of Girona that could involve some IMC Regions and the IMC CPMR as external associated partners).

- **Comments**

Peloponnese

Tourism and gastronomy should be connected, as well as with culture (ports, castles, etc.).

Creation of a network of ancient ports in the Mediterranean to share common heritage (ideas that could be developed within ENI CBC Med programme involving southern rim actors):

- Idea to represent a specific given reality of certain parts of history when these ancient ports were operating
- Exploitation of historical heritage of these ports.

Languedoc-Roussillon

Asks for a specification on what is implied by “maritime products” / “cultural routes and cultural heritage.” Is there only one project discussed here, or are there different projects dealing with the mentioned themes?

- ➔ It depends on the type of project (with the MED Program, different type of modular or horizontal projects). We have the possibility to submit more than one project: single module project (e.g. M1 Study, M2 Testing or M3 Capitalization), OR combining modules (M1+M2, M2+ M3), OR doing horizontal only. Under the SO 3.1 and for some IMC CPMR regions in particular, probably modular projects are more interesting and will allow to present more projects and involve more regions, though on the other objectives and for CPMR IMC as a whole, horizontal projects would be more relevant.

Several proposal will be studied by the Secretariat and the IMC Members. If the members have specific ideas the are invited to send their concept notes to the IMC Secretariat.

Presentation of the CPMR’s projections on the financial allocations of the Structural Funds in the Mediterranean Regions

- **CPMR – Evolution of the EU Cohesion Policy, the recent statistics and the mid-review**

Important dates to bear in mind:

Spring 2016 the EC will do two things:

- Review the allocations for structural funds for the years 2017-2020
- Review the whole European budget for 2014-2020

Middle 2017 Publication of the 7th Cohesion report

Analysis of the evolution of recent regional growth domestic products in particular in Mediterranean regions

First it is reminded that there are three categories of regions depending on their GDP:

GDP <75% - Less developed regions

GDP between 75% and 90% - Transition regions

GDP >90% - developed regions

Today, the allocations are based on very old statistics based on the average of 2007-2008-2009 data. CPMR carried out a few analyses on **what impacts there would be if the latest figures (2012-2013) were taken**

into account instead of 2007-2009 data. First, there is a comparison between the numbers of regions in the different categories. The results show that there would be:

- A lot more “less developed” regions
- More “transition” regions

Some countries will have a **negative evolution** which means the state of data is lower compared to the EU average of 2007-2009. Also, less cohesion is observed not only within Europe but within the countries themselves. In other words, there are **wider gaps between the regions** of a same Member State.

If we consider the latest data, there is therefore a big change related to the **eligibility of structural funds**. Many Mediterranean regions that were developed or in transition categories are going to become transition and less-developed regions (Andalusia, Greek regions). Therefore they would receive more allocations.

The crisis has had a big effect and there is now less economic and social cohesion than before. The recent statistics published in May show there are more poor regions (of 32 regions, **31 would move down** while only one would move up).

The mid-term review of structural funds allocations and impact on the post 2020 period

The EC will carry out a calculation exercise in Spring 2016 where they will use the latest state of statistics (2012-2013-2014 GDP) and create a **crisis contingency fund**, supported by CPMR for a long time. The objective is to redistribute money from the countries and regions that went well out of the crisis and transfer that funding to the poorest regions. The total amount should be 4 billion Euros. Within this amount, the countries that should receive the most are Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus and the UK. On the contrary, the countries that should participate to the funding are Poland, Hungary and Romania. However, it is important to bear in mind that the regions will not systematically receive it. Therefore, lobbying actions need to be carried out at national level.

The CPMR launched a task force on the future allocation for structural funds for the post 2020 period. The definition of the allocation methodology is a highly political exercise; the funding of all regions depends on the negotiations at Member State level, which then place figures and present allocations in a scientific manner.

So far, DG REGIO has been quite reluctant to change their way of calculating the allocations. In other words, GDP will still be the base of calculating allocations and the three categories will remain the same. The EC is mostly interested in the **fund absorption**.

In conclusion the results of this analysis show that, in theory, the **Mediterranean should receive more funds from the Cohesion Policy**.

Other works to be carried out

- CPMR launched a survey on the role of regions in the Cohesion Policy (the place, the link with competences at regional level). The results might be presented in the next CPMR General Assembly.
- Another main project will be to develop evidence on the good values of Cohesion Policy together with the EP, relying on the inputs of the regions.
- Together with the Dutch Presidency, organise a sort of Summit of Regions to show the role of regions on investments policies.

- **Debates and reactions**

Crete

Highlight on the failure of the Cohesion Policy to address gaps between poor and rich regions.

However, the gaps were already there before but the crisis made them wider. The main problem that is outlined is that these inequalities and gaps are not considered as priorities by any politician. They focus more on absorption of funding, contribution of Cohesion policy to the Euro Zone, conditionality etc. It is therefore important to lobby the EC. The CPMR has been invited by the Regional and Development Committee to present its assessments on cohesion so they can pass the message at that moment.

Can other relevant indicators be used to better calculate the allocations?

CPMR worked to compare eligibility of structural funds based on regional GDP with other indicators such as the regional competitiveness index which gives a total different map. The problem is that the EC and the Member States are reluctant to change and want to keep GDP as the main indicator. However, DG Regio is working with a number of organisations on alternative ways to measure the impact of Regional Policy. One alternative is the **social progress index** and the **human development index**.

It is **necessary to take social needs** into account, which could be suggested for the arguments to maintain Cohesion Policy.

Task Force on the launch of the Vasco da Gama initiative in the Mediterranean

- **Introduction**

CPMR launched an initiative about education and mobility linked to the profession of the economy of the sea in 2010. This initiative has been developed in the frame of a European Project, led by CPMR: Vasco da Gama, education and training for the maritime sector in the field of green transport. A spin-off of this project at Mediterranean level is currently under study. To this end, discussions were launched with the Union for the Mediterranean, and opportunities to develop projects within the framework of cooperation programmes in order to present this project in the next calls were found.

- **CPMR**

The first **Vasco da Gama** action of the CPMR is a two-year project funded by DG MOVE. At European level, there was indeed the need of an *ad hoc* initiative in favour of interregional mobility for young people in the maritime transport sector. Therefore in order to address this political demand, CPMR developed this project. The main objectives are to:

- Improve the quality of education and training in the maritime transport sector,
 - o Match the skills of seafarers with the concrete demand of the maritime transport sector and industry,
- Develop a mobility scheme in line with a concept of *Maritime Erasmus*,
 - o With a focus on maritime transport,
- Increase the cooperation between industry and European education and training sector,
 - o Improve seafarers' skills with requirements of shipping industry.

Internal structural of the project

CPMR is the leader of the project and work together with three other organisations in charge of the technical implementation of the work packages of the project. There is

- *L'Ecole Supérieure Nationale de la Marine*, in charge of the work package on maritime simulators,
- *Kalmar Maritime Academy*, in charge of the work package on maritime safety,

- *Clean shipping index*, in charge of the work package on greening maritime transport.

The main results of the project

Maritime safety:

- Creation of a Master's programme in sustainable shipping. It began in January 2015, is addressed to post-graduate students and is based on four modules: greening maritime transport, maritime safety and security, human element in sustainable shipping, and leadership in a cross-cultural context,
- It promotes mobility of students who achieve a master degree recognised at European level,
- Main lessons learnt:
 - o Great opportunity for students to travel,
 - o Classes in English are very relevant for students' futures,
 - o The cross-cultural aspect of the programme is interesting for students who may have to deal with people from all around the world in their respective careers.

Maritime simulator:

- The aim is to improve the training and education systems in this sector and develop new skills,
- A new scenario combining and connecting two types of simulators was created (March 2015). There was a concrete demand from European academies in order to develop new software and hardware in term of simulators,
- A meeting was organised with simulators manufacturers and other organisations in charge of certification in order to discuss how to develop new combined scenarios at the European level and make simulation less expensive for maritime academies (April 2015).

Greening maritime transport:

- It develops the specific module of the master programme and aims to increase environmental awareness among naval cadets and seafarers in Europe.

Maritime Erasmus:

- A pilot action will be developed with Summer School in Sweden (August 2015),
- Further discussions on how to implement a concrete Maritime Erasmus at European level in the field of maritime transport will then be held.

The idea of developing a spin-off project at Mediterranean level has been discussed with the EP and more particularly about the amendment in the European budget by adding a new line to fund specific pilot initiatives for mobility of students and young fishermen. The PECH Committee approved this amendment which means that it will be transferred to the European Commission. By the end of this year, there will be a final decision and if it is approved, there will be a new call for tenders by January 2016 related to a mobility scheme for young fishermen at European level.

Every member region is invited to join the Final Conference of this project next November, and the partnership around the **Memorandum of Understanding**, which in the long run aims at creating a platform for developing the mobility scheme for students in the field of maritime transport.

- **Vasco da Gama Med**

The idea of this project would be to develop a broad partnership between maritime institutes, universities, research centres and training centres of Mediterranean regions but also Education Ministries and National Institutions from the southern rim as well as network of universities such as Unimed.

The project is developed in several modules/actions:

Analysis and recommendation

- Completing the map about all the possibilities of education and mobility in the maritime economy sector at the Mediterranean level – DG MARE is already working on this, therefore it could be interesting to work in coordination,
- Another study analysis action to be developed concerns the positive match between the skills developed and promoted in maritime institutes and centres and the needs of the private sector. The UfM is very interested in this aspect. This would involve private actors as well as key institutes to see what can be improved in education,
- Produce recommendations and include the outputs in the institutes.

Developing specific pilot actions within modules representing several sectors of maritime economy.

- Sustainable maritime transport – logistics in ports and chemicals management: will include the participation of several institutes such as *La Escola Universitaria del Maresme* in Catalonia,
- Other modules are on fisheries and aquaculture, marine research and professional yachting.

In each module actions will be carried out such as specific workshops, stakeholders groups, summer school, webinars or mutualisation of research programmes.

- Specific results: guide of recommendations of good practices, roadmap for exchange programmes, memorandum of understanding between the partners,

The selection of the sectors was made because they represent a great potential but it is up to the Regions and institutes that wish to participate to give their opinions on the priority sector they would prefer developing.

The region of Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër is interested in the project as they developed micro-project related to young employment in order to improve their professional inclusion.

Presentation of the Veneto Region

The Region, as the leader of the **special task force** on the project, had the opportunity to discuss the initiatives with institutes. For example, the High Institute of Architecture of Venice would have the right expertise to participate as they hold Master's degrees in logistics and transport and sustainable European development. The Hellenic Institute of Transport is also very much interested.

The project could apply for different calls of several **European Territorial Cooperation programmes**:

- ADRION Programme, with an axis on innovation and blue growth,
- the ENI CBC MED Programme, which tackles mobility and employability of young people,
- In addition there is potential with the Erasmus + Programme and other mobility programmes.

• Comments

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region highlighted the possibility of developing the pilot action at the cross-border level in particular throughout the Maritime Italy-France Programme. Indeed, there is an axe dedicated to training, employment and mobility in the sector of blue economy and maritime industry sector.

For further information about the project, a concept note is available with all the details. If you did not attend the meeting and wish to receive it, do not hesitate to contact the IMC Secretariat.

Synergies between platforms for Mediterranean Youth inclusion

The Tuscany Region organised an event last September 2014 with the idea to develop a network of Mediterranean regions and organisations of civil society aiming at mutual understanding and the strengthening of exchanges related to youth inclusion. The idea of youth inclusion means more political participation, employment, and intercultural dialogue.

The idea would be to create a network and platform between civil society organisations made of young leaders at Mediterranean level. The Tuscany Region is working on this initiative (all the documents are available in the dropbox of the WG) and wish to rely on more participation from IMC Regions that could involve the civil society of their territories. It would be an opportunity for the development of cooperation, projects, and political recommendations. This will also be suggested to the Union for the Mediterranean and the Anna Lindh Foundation.

The action plan foresees monitoring, communication and synergies between similar initiatives promoted by other regions. For instance, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region implemented a platform for mobility. The idea was to give visibility on the different programmes supporting mobility for youth. They have a partnership with the Erasmus + agency in France. As for the dialogue platform, they developed different initiatives such as an assembly of Mediterranean young high school pupils from different Mediterranean countries. The idea was to develop a structured dialogue between the young and key players and pass common messages regarding important common matters such as employment or democracy. The region of Languedoc-Roussillon also developed mobility initiatives at the university level called Averroes (with other Med Regions) that includes several partners in the southern rim of the Mediterranean. All MED regions interested and with experience to collaborate are invited to share them.