



CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION



CPMR
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Intermediterranean Commission Working Group
“Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy”

TASK FORCE

**“Monitoring in the Regions of the Union for the Mediterranean
(UfM) Agenda on Blue Economy (BE)”**

Leading region : LAZIO

Main activities in 2017

Lazio propositions – Leading region of the Task Force

I - CONTEXT

The Task Force (TF) "Monitoring in the Regions of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Agenda on Blue Economy (BE)" (or TF "Blue Economy Agenda UfM") is part of the action plan of the working group on "Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy".

The CPMR and its Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) have the permanent observer status in the UfM's "Blue Economy" group since 2016 and an agreement was signed in 2017 with the UfM secretariat with the objective to assist in the implementation of the "UfM Ministerial Declaration on the Blue Economy" signed by the UfM States in November 2015.

Within the framework of this agreement, the Lazio Region has an active participation through the provision of human resources that integrate themselves within the CPMR's Intermediterranean Commission team.

The implementation timetable of the UfM Declaration is particularly important for all the Mediterranean regions of the Intermediterranean Commission, as are the emerging strategies such as EUSAIR, the initiatives as Western Med, Bluemed or the blue growth strategy of the European Union.

The CPMR's Intermediterranean Commission has already positioned itself on these subjects, but it seems necessary to continue to do so in a more structured way, both on the elements of governance and on the content, involving mainly and periodically the members on sectorial activities.

Several projects have already been finalized or are being implemented/ prepared. They can contribute to this work and generate useful information in the decision-making process at different institutional levels. This can help to create networks of actors that can positively impact on blue growth in the Mediterranean basin.

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II - OBJECTIVES OF THE TASK FORCE

Within the scope of action of the Working Group on “Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy”, the Task Force "Blue Economy Agenda UfM" sets out the following main objectives:

- Monitor and involve the Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission in actions to implement the UfM's Blue Economy (EB) Ministerial Declaration and the activities in the agenda of the UfM working group on Blue economy (with a focus on the "Stakeholder Forum" and the "Virtual Knowledge Center").
- Evaluate the possible impact of the political principles listed in the UfM Declaration on BE in the IMC regions together with the potential for intervention of the regions, sharing expertise and best practices that can be useful to better position the IMC
- Develop and capitalize the results of EU-funded projects in the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programmes that are relevant to the Task Force,
- Promote new actions and project proposals related to blue growth in the Mediterranean, with the UfM agenda on blue economy, with emerging strategies (EUSAIR, the Western Mediterranean, etc.) for a sustainable exploitation of the potentials of the blue economy in the Basin Regions.

III – MAIN ACTIONS 2017-2018

In this context and within the framework of the Working group on “Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy”, the Task Force "Blue Economy Agenda UfM" sets out the following main priorities:

1. MONITORING OF UfM WORK ON BLUE ECONOMY AND REDACTION OF JOINT SPECIFIC POSITIONS

This priority includes specific actions:

- **Monitoring of the implementation of the 2015 UfM Ministerial Declaration** on Blue Economy, analysis of the documents presented at the Working Group meetings on Blue Economy in which the CPMR's Intermediterranean Commission participates and sharing of particularly relevant information with the Task Force members;
- **Monitoring of the main documents on blue economy/blue growth** produced by the European institutions, also and especially those related to the macro-regional and basin **strategies**, and with the emerging maritime initiative for the Western Mediterranean
- Implementation and dissemination to members (in coordination with the CPMR) of a **questionnaire** (study) **on maritime investments and Regions** in order to identify the specific projects/actions financed/with the ROP/in the framework of the ERDF on the maritime economy in the Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission, their cooperation programmes (in the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programmations), the links with emerging strategies and initiatives or actions in favour of emerging start-ups, access to financing by companies and the Juncker plan;
- This questionnaire will be useful both for the work of the Task Force to identify the measures intended to contribute to the implementation of the UfM Declaration on Blue Economy and for the CPMR's overall analysis on maritime investments and the role of the Regions, in particular for the work already carried out on smart specialization strategies;
- Development /systematization of research results and discussion with members (when necessary);
- Contribution to the preparation of the political positions of the Intermediterranean Commission which will deal with blue economy and the priorities related to emerging strategies (e.g. in view of the 2017 General Assembly, future meetings of the Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau or the UfM Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy);
- **Contribution to the general considerations of the CPMR on the future Juncker plan, on financial engineering in the maritime field** and in general on the reflections of the group "Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy" on the future of maritime policy;
- Organization of specific **workshops** within the framework of the **Blue Economy stakeholders'**

conference;

- Monitoring and specific contribution to the reflections of the Intermediterranean Commission on the maritime initiative of the **Western Mediterranean**.

2. FACILITATING NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING WITH REGIONAL ACTORS THROUGH THE VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE CENTER (VKC) ON MARITIME ECONOMY

This priority includes the following activities:

- Support to the UfM secretariat for the renewal of the **Virtual Knowledge Center (VKC)** for blue economy of the Mediterranean;
- **Dissemination** of the VKC to the member Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission and partner organizations;
- **Identification** and integration into the VKC events, projects/results, platforms and initiatives developed in the Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission and online registration of regional actors.

3. MONITORING AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES USEFUL FOR THE PROMOTION OF BLUE ECONOMY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

This priority includes various activities within the framework of the following projects:

- **SIMWEST MED:** project funded by the EMFF to support the implementation of the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Western Mediterranean and the cross-border dynamics involving the CPMR and the Intermediterranean Commission.
 - **Monitoring of the project's undertakings** and involvement of the Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission in the main activities (eg analysis/workshops);
 - Adaptation and realization of a **questionnaire for the development of an analysis on the role of the Regions and the land-sea link** in the implementation of the four directives: the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSP), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Habitats Directive (Natura 2000) and the Birds Directive;
 - Support for the **systematization of the data** obtained through the questionnaires and use of the results to feed the positions of the Intermediterranean Commission and the reflections of other projects of interest.
- **INNOBLUEGROWTH** : a horizontal project on innovation and blue growth at the Mediterranean level, financed by Interreg Med and in which the Intermediterranean Commission participates:
 - Participation and promotion of the community created within the framework of the project;
 - Participation and contribution to thematic funding seminars;
 - Monitoring of the results of modular projects capitalized by INNOBLUEGROWTH on marine energies, boating and maritime surveillance ;
 - Contribution to considerations that may have an impact on policy;
 - Support to the development of synergies with the CPMR CLIPPER project on marine energies.
- **PANACeA:** a horizontal project financed by Interreg Med on biodiversity protection at a Mediterranean level in which the Intermediterranean Commission participates:
 - Participation and promotion of the community created within the framework of the project;
 - Participation and contribution to thematic funding seminars;
 - Monitoring of the results of modular projects capitalized by PANACeA on Marine Protected Areas and MSP, Marine Waste Management, Artisanal Fisheries Governance under MPAs, Wetland Governance;
 - Contribution to considerations that may have an impact on policy;

- **BLUEMED** : Initiative for the promotion of research and innovation in the Mediterranean :
 - **Monitoring** of the results of the initiative and follow-up of the strategic agenda (SRIA) in the Regions and in particular of the opening of the CSA Bluemed in the south of the Mediterranean;
 - **Development of concrete synergies** (workshops, exchanges of information, technical or political messages, and participation in related events ... - To be determined).

Support and interactions with projects pending approval, such as SHAREMED (H2020) on marine geological hazards in the Mediterranean and MEDCOAST4BG on sustainable tourism and integrated coastal zone management.

4. IDENTIFY, PROMOTE AND/OR DEVELOP NEW COOPERATION PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES BY CAPITALIZING THE RESULTS OF COOPERATION PROGRAMS 2007-2013 AND 2014-2020 AND BY CREATING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

This priority includes the following activities:

- **Capitalization** of the results of projects from previous blue economy programmes;
- **Identification** of projects or ideas of interest for the Mediterranean on the initiative of Regions or key actors of the territories, for the attention of the UfM and other interested institutions/bodies;
- **Analysis of European funding opportunities** and possible responses to new calls;
- **Proposals for projects for a UfM labeling** or for strategies such as EUSAIR, the Western Mediterranean;
- Development of new **partnerships**.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER TASK FORCES, INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS OF THE CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION :

- On topics related to coastal protection, Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The Task Force will organize a coordination with the actions planned in the framework of the Bologna Charter Coordinating Committee.
- On issues related to sustainable tourism, the Task Force will organize a coordination with the Task Force on “Sustainable Tourism and Culture” of the Intermediterranean Commission.
- On issues related to fisheries and aquaculture topics, the Task Force will organize coordination with the Task Force on “Fisheries and Aquaculture” of the Intermediterranean Commission.

IV - ORGANIZATION AND CALENDAR

The Lazio Region will coordinate the work of the Task Force, with the support of the secretariat of the Intermediterranean Commission. The members of the Intermediterranean Commission, and in particular its Working Group on “Transport and IMP”, who are interested on the work of the Task Force can join at any time. They should identify regional experts (at least one) and communicate their contact details to the secretariat of the Intermediterranean Commission.

The Task Force will be able to meet either at events of interest related to the themes of work, or in a virtual way (eg via Gotomeeting). Coordination from one meeting to another will be via email and phone/skype.

The information and all the documentation useful for the work of the Task Force will be sent by e-mail and will also be searchable in a dropbox under the folder of the group "Transport and IMP". The link will be private for external users, but accessible to all member Regions.

The first meetings of the Task Force planned for 2017 are:

- Launch meeting and presentation of the Task Force at the General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission in Naples on 6/7 July 2017;
- Second meeting of the Task Force in the margins or at the Regional Conference of Stakeholders on Blue

Economy launched by the UfM, scheduled to take place at the end of November 2017 in Italy;

- Other possible meetings, if necessary, within the framework of the “Transport and IMP” Working Group meeting (s), European projects or emerging processes/strategies.

For the calendar, please refer to the communications sent regularly by the secretariat of the Intermediterranean Commission, also available on the website. The 2018 calendar will be updated in the last trimester of 2017.

Main contacts of the Task Force :

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