2020 IS OVER

INTERMED HIGHLIGHTS

The whole CPMR Intermediterranean Commission team wishes you a beautiful end of the year season!

SEE YOU AGAIN IN 2021!
Dear CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Members,

As 2020 is getting to an end, the whole CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Team wishes to thank you for the commitment and resilience you showed during this year. We believe that beyond our screens, this challenging situation has shown how we are still united and motivated as ever to work for the cohesion and protection of our beautiful Mediterranean.

Having said that, we share with you some short highlights (non-exhaustive!) of the past months’ activities in order to keep them fresh in mind and kick off 2021 under favorable auspices.

Wishing you a great end-of-the-year season!

Territorial Cooperation and Macro-regional Strategies

Over the past months, the working group has been monitoring mainly the discussions about the definition of the next territorial cooperation programs of the Mediterranean (Interreg MED, ENI CBC MED among others). The main idea being to see a better integration of programs, initiatives and strategies in the basin, such as WestMED and EUSAIR, but also BLUEMUED, PANORAMED, among others, which the IMC has also been following closely.

Check the minutes of our last working group meeting HERE!

The Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance

Throughout 2020, the Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance has strengthened its messages towards a more cohesive Mediterranean basin. It has also reflected on the role it can play – as a network of local and regional authorities networks – within the governance of territorial cooperation programs, and for the better integration of projects results at territorial level.

Check out the latest information about the Alliance’s action in the framework of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process HERE!
Economic and Social Cohesion

Since the beginning of the pandemic, this working group has been very busy since one of its main topics – coastal and maritime tourism – represents a well-developed sector in the Mediterranean, but also very much impacted by the sanitary and economic crisis. The IMC monitored the evolution of the sector while maintaining a high profile on project activities. Furthermore, its productions on Youth have evolved as well, with the renewal of activities of the IMC Youth Council, reflecting on the future of the Mediterranean with regards to the economic crisis and climate change.

Cultural and Sustainable Tourism Task Force

Since Spring 2020, the IMC developed a Study on the impacts of measures to counter the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic on Mediterranean tourism. The Study was presented during its culminating event back in October for its 2020 General Assembly 2020. It is naturally that the IMC also dedicated its Final political Declaration to the topic.

Read about the Study HERE, Check our 2020 Final Declaration HERE!

DestiMED+

DestiMED+ pilot actions are taking steps to improve the quality and sustainability of 9 protected areas’ tourism offer across the Mediterranean. It has been implementing the MEET approach to ecotourism development after successful online trainings over 2020. The IMC will be developing the Mediterranean Ecotourism Consortium (MEC), representing the interests and the political agenda of both tourism and conservation departments from next year onwards.

Read more about the MEET approach and the training HERE!

WINTERMED

WINTERMED showcased in an important event related to tourism data and organized a series of webinars. The project is currently organizing its regional workshop to discuss its strategy to promote the transition from the 3S (Sea-Sun-Sand) tourism of insular destinations to an alternative, sustainable, all-year-round use of these territories. Next year the IMC and IC will extend the transnational strategy beyond the partner regions, feeding regional, national, EU-related policies for the tourism sector.

Read about the project HERE!

HERIT-DATA

HERIT-DATA is currently developing its Model for Mass tourism management. Its aim is to provide concrete guidance on how to use data and new technologies to manage and preserve Mediterranean cultural heritage. The coming months will be dedicated to shape capitalisation actions with territorial authorities which could use HERIT-DATA’s outputs in their future work toward sustainable tourism.

Read about the project HERE!
BESTMED & SMARTMED

BESTMED & SMARTMED have kept working and virtually meeting to implement their study activities to develop their respective sustainable tourism models (end 2020-beginning 2021). Preliminary discussions on the capitalization phase of both projects have also already started and will continue throughout 2021, with an important involvement of the IMC.

Read the latest updates on the progress of both projects HERE!

BESTMED (Lazio Region partner) organized its 1st online workshop on data management for Sustainable Tourism, last December 09-10, 2020. The IMC moderated the round table on “Building Networks: Towards a Network of Tourism Observatories in the Mediterranean area” involving, representatives from the Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism Community, the Union for the Mediterranean, NECSTouR and the UNWTO INSTO.

Our detailed article on the event is waiting for you HERE!

Youth democratic participation

The Intermediterranean developed a Study on Regional mechanisms for the democratic participation of Youth throughout its territories. The results of this study were useful to map the current practices on the matter and nourish the works of the Youth Council.

The impact of Youth actions was also discussed in several events, for example the Virtual Forum for Youth and Climate, in the framework of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process. The IMC Youth Council celebrated another event to outline the tools and opportunities available to the Youth in order to observe impacts on regional policies regarding climate issues.

Read again the Study HERE + Appendix HERE,
Learn about our latest activities with the Youth Council HERE!
The main activities of the working group have revolved around the implementation of the second phases of the key horizontal and strategic projects dealing with the blue economy and biodiversity protection. Sectoral links were also maintained with key stakeholders as the WestMED initiative, BLUEMED, or the Union for the Mediterranean, while complementary issues were addressed in key synergy with CPMR global activities (Transports, SEARICA, etc.).

BLUE BIO MED

BLUE BIO MED kicked off last October 2020 and intends to develop a governance model of policies to tackle innovation issues in the blue bioeconomy sector. From an inclusive co-design process, the project promotes an Innovation Alliance for blue bioeconomy to streamline multiple efforts and initiatives around the basin. Hence, boosting Mediterranean leadership in transformative innovation of the blue economy.

BLUE BIO MED is engaged in the analysis of Mediterranean Smart Specialization Strategies to map if and how they are linked to blue bioeconomy. This assessment of coherence with transnational Mediterranean R&I agendas will help understand how to mobilize policymakers currently elaborating the second generation of RIS3 for 2021-27. BLUE BIO MED will also draft a Manifesto on these bases, explaining how the blue economy innovation community can contribute to sustainable development in the basin in line with global agendas.

More details on the event and the Manifesto HERE!

Blue Growth Community

The Community celebrated its event on Marine Renewable Energies (MRE) last November 2020, addressing: the enabling framework (including legal & regulatory), the brakes and levers for the development of the sector in the Mediterranean, and how to reconcile Renewable Energy with biodiversity and eco-tourism. The EU Commission stressed its willingness to strengthen collaboration between Member States on the matter, through the EU Green Deal and the upcoming Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy.

Check out our detailed article on the event HERE!

The Community is currently setting up its transferring strategy, which consists in ensuring the update of preidentified tools and methodologies by other actors outside the projects’ scope so as to improve public policies. In parallel to this, the project started launching its thematic working groups, beginning with the Working Group on Marine Renewable Energies with a dedicated space on the Marina Platform.

Sign up to the Marina Platform HERE!

More details on the event and the Manifesto HERE!
Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community

The MBPC has pursued its mission to bring together nature conservation actors and public & private key players. It attended and organized various webinars, some linked to its working groups, notably the “Sustainable use of natural resources,” piloted by the IMC. Other events addressed mitigation and adaptation tools for MPAs in the Adriatic Ionian area, transformative changes for wetland recovery and conservation, or outlines towards the next Maritime Spatial Planning Summer school focused on how knowledge-based marine conservation and sciences can be streamlined into marine spaces planning and marine resources management.

Mediterranean and Black Sea FLAGs event on Effective local projects for a sustainable Mediterranean and Black Sea – HERE

Capacity building workshop on “Climate Change and Marine Protected Area on mitigation and adaptation tools for MPAs in the Adriatic Ionian area – HERE

Webinar on “Healthy wetlands” for a dialogue on the transformative changes needed for wetland recovery and conservation – HERE

“Science-Policy-Society interactions in ecosystem-based marine resources management and planning” session to prepare the next Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Summer school – HERE

Not in yet? Sign the Declaration (click on the picture!)
Over the past months, the working group has been mainly monitoring the opportunities for the further capitalization of the SHERPA project’s results and Joint Action Plan. Furthermore, as a full consequence of the SARS-CoV-2 situation, the working group has been exploring how Regions could ally themselves through the analysis of wastewaters in order to be able to anticipate pandemics in the future. Discussions are in process. Lastly, the SolaQua project (H2020) finally kicked off during the Fall season and will deal with photovoltaic irrigation in the basin.

Check the minutes of our last working group meeting [HERE]!
Deepened use of the Members’ area

The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission gathers around 40 Member Regions from 9 different EU member 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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The Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat is currently working with the Presidency and the Working Groups’ Co-Presidencies to propose their respective updated action plans. More will follow very soon for validation at our Political Bureau (Feb.-March 2021). Stay tuned!