Participation of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission in EU Cooperation Projects

This document gathers information about all the EU cooperation projects in which the IMC-CPMR was involved/is involved/plans to be involved/has an interest in as of November 2023. For clarity reasons, this document is divided into four sections: ongoing projects; projects under evaluation; other upcoming opportunities; relevant past projects. Each section is divided into subcategories (cooperation programmes, status i.e., full partner/associate/subcontractor).

Updated in November 2023
# Table of Contents

## I. Ongoing Projects

A. Projects in which the IMC participates as Full Partner
   - Interreg Euro-MED
     - Governance projects (Interreg Euro-MED 2021-2027)
       - Institutional Dialogue Project – Mission 1 (Innovation)
       - Thematic Community Project – Mission 4 (Sustainable Tourism)
   - Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe
     - PREP4BLUE
     - BlueMissionMed
     - TOURAL
     - CreteValley
   - EMFAS
     - REBOOT MED
   - DG REGIO
     - AI-NURECC PLUS
B. Projects in which the IMC participates as Associated Partner
   - Interreg Euro-MED
     - Dialogue4tourism
     - Community4Nature
     - Community4LivingAreas
   - LIFE
     - JALON
   - OTHERS
     - SLEC

## II. Projects Under Evaluation

A. Interreg Euro-MED (2021-2027)
   - REGENER-A-MED
   - NETTOUR TOOLS
   - NaTour4CChange
   - BLUE ECOSYSTEM
B. Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) Partnership
   - MEDSEAPLAN

## III. Other Upcoming Opportunities

## IV. Relevant Past Projects

A. Interreg MED/Interreg Euro-MED
   - Blue Growth Community
   - Biodiversity Protection Community
   - Sustainable Tourism Community
   - Renewable Energy Community
   - HERIT-Data
   - DestiMED PLUS
   - WINTERMED
   - MPA-ENGAGE
   - POSBEMED2
   - INCIRCLE
   - IMPULSE PLUS
   - BESTMED
   - SMARTMED
   - BLUE BIO MED
   - PANORAMED
   - InnoBlueGrowth
   - PANA CeA
   - SHERPA
   - CO-EVOLVE
   - MITOMED+
   - BleuTourMed_C3
   - GO-SUMP
   - PHAROS4MPAs
   - MISTRAL
   - MD.net

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- 3 -
I. COM6CAP Marina Med.............................................................. - 65 -
27. ELIHE-MED ................................................................. - 66 -
28. MAREMED ................................................................... - 68 -
29. COASTGAP .................................................................. - 69 -
30. MEDGOVERNANCE ..................................................... - 70 -
31. OTREMED ..................................................................... - 72 -
32. MARIE ........................................................................... - 73 -
33. MITOMED ................................................................. - 74 -
B. AMIF - REGIONS FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES INTEGRATION (REGIN) .............................................................. - 75 -
C. HORIZON 2020/HORIZON EUROPE ..................................................... - 77 -
a. SOLAQUA ....................................................................... - 77 -
Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Jordi Juarez ........................................ - 79 -
b. CIVITAS DESTINATIONS .................................................. - 79 -
D. PLATFORMA: FOCUS ON THE "TRAINING MODULE ON INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT".............................................. - 81 -
E. EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND (EMFF)/EUROPEAN MARITIME, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FUND (EMFAF) .............................................................. - 82 -
   1. SIMWESTMED .................................................................. - 82 -
F. 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF THE EC (FP7) .............................................................. - 84 -
   1. MED-SPRING .................................................................. - 84 -
G. CIUDAD ........................................................................... - 85 -
   1. SURE ................................................................................ - 85 -
H. DG MOVE ......................................................................... - 87 -
   1. Vasco da Gama TGSMT ...................................................... - 87 -
I. ENI CBC MED/NEXT MED ..................................................... - 88 -
   1. Co-Evolve4BG .................................................................. - 88 -
Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy ................................ - 89 -
   2. MED PEARLS ..................................................................... - 89 -
   3. MEDUSA ........................................................................... - 91 -
J. OTHERS ............................................................................ - 92 -
   1. Cooperation Agreement between the UfM Secretariat and the IMC-CPMR ....................... - 92 -
   2. Union for the Mediterranean labelling ........................................................................... - 93 -
   3. Union for the Mediterranean’s TA on sustainable tourism in a post COVID-19 context .... - 93 -
This report is a working document prepared in view of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) Plenary meeting to be held in November 2023. It compiles updated information about past, present and future EU cooperation projects involving the IMC or of interest to the IMC and its members.

For clarity, this document was divided into four sections, responding to chronological criteria:

- The first section is dedicated to ongoing projects;
- The second one is about projects under evaluation;
- The third one is devoted to relevant calls or programmes under which the IMC plans to submit/support its members in submitting proposals;
- The last section presents relevant past projects in which the IMC was involved.

The first section is split into two subcategories to clearly distinguish between projects in which the IMC participates as full partner from those in which it is involved as associated partner. Each section is also organised by cooperation programme.

All the ongoing projects in which the IMC participates as full or associated partner directly involve around 20 IMC member Regions together with dozens of other European, Mediterranean, national and territorial key players (e.g. universities, centres of research, institutes, NGOs, local authorities, thematic networks, national authorities etc.). All the member regions can benefit from these projects through the participation of the IMC.

At budget level, the combination of all the projects in which the IMC participates as full partner reaches around 2€ million to be managed directly by the organisation.

The IMC participates as full or associated partner only in projects that are of strategic relevance with regard to its biannual global action plan and the action plans of its working groups, also in accordance with the CPMR global management and financial capacity. In addition to this, the IMC provides support to its members to build partnerships in other fields of interest. For instance, more than hundred “partners searches” were circulated among its members and external partners since 2015 in relation to different calls/programmes and opportunities.
A. PROJECTS IN WHICH THE IMC PARTICIPATES AS FULL PARTNER

1. Interreg Euro-MED

a. Governance projects (Interreg Euro-MED 2021-2027)

The Interreg Euro-MED Governance projects are certainly among the most interesting opportunities for the IMC at the moment. The IMC decided to join two projects that were approved: the Institutional Dialogue Project on Mission 1 (Innovation), as well as the Thematic Community Project on Mission 4 (Sustainable Tourism).

- Institutional Dialogue Project – Mission 1 (Innovation)

**Acronym:** D4I

**Full title:** Dialogue4Innovation

**Corresponding call:** Interreg Euro-MED call for Governance projects

**Mission:** Strengthening an innovative sustainable economy

**Type of project:** Governance project

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation & Macro-Regional Strategies (including the TF Bologna Charter Coordination Board), Transports and Integrated Maritime Policy, Economic and Social Cohesion

**Partners:**

1. Regione Emilia-Romagna - IT
2. Generalitat de Catalunya - ES
3. CRPM - FR
4. Adriatico-Ionian Euro-region - HR
5. Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of Croatia - HR
6. MedWaves - ES
7. OSC
8. Directorate for European Integration – Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. ADEME - FR

**Associated partners:** ENEA (Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l’energia e lo sviluppo sostenibile) – B-LUE, LP, Conisma (Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare) – Blue Growth HP LP, Government of Portugal hosting the MS of the Sustainable and Efficient Use of Resources Operational Programme, Italian Ministry for Ecological transition, BusinessMed, Secretariat for European Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST), Ingenio CSIC-UPV, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Eurorégion Pyrénées Méditerranée GECT, Association of Rural Initiatives of Catalonia (ARCA), MedCities/MedCités, Arco Latino, Barleti research

**Start date:** January 2023

**End date:** September 2029

**Overall budget:** €4 million

**ERDF Co-financing:** 80%

**CPMR budget:** €489,000

**Description:**

The project aims to contribute to a stronger and more sustainable economy in the Mediterranean by 1) amplifying innovation projects’ outcomes; 2) increasing institutional capacity for transformative innovation policies and transnational cooperation; and 3) aligning the efforts of multiple stakeholders to address Mediterranean sustainability challenges with systemic approaches (better multilevel governance).

**Expected outputs:**

Open monitoring platform of collaboration networks across Mediterranean; Transformative innovation policy lab approach; Interreg Euro-Med Academy; Mediterranean Innovative Sustainable Economy Hub Innovation camps; Challenge-driven Alliances; Common Key Policy Papers.
Key words: transformative innovation, sustainable economy, systemic approach, alliance, challenge-driven

Added value for the IMC members: The IMC and its allied regions will provide its members with more relevant and concrete solutions and tools for transformative innovative policymaking: more aligned with the members' needs and priorities when it comes to implementing the SDGs in their territories.

It will also connect its members with the whole Mediterranean innovation ecosystem, act as the voice of Mediterranean regional authorities in the dialogue on transformative innovation: give visibility to the IMC member's needs, concerns and priorities and ensure they are considered when building this “common Mediterranean vision” the project seeks to represent.

The IMC will also provide its members with an integrated systemic approach to deliver on SDGs on their territories and a whole set of tools developed by the project to support them in better understanding and manage transformative innovation policy.

A part of this three main points, one other key added value is that the IMC, through its participation in D4I, will contribute to the ambition of the MedCoopAlliance (ensure that local and territorial challenges are duly considered by global and Mediterranean policy-making actors while collaborating for global Agendas to land in a sound way on territories). Three founding partners of the Alliance, CPMR-IMC, AIE and GenCat, are partners of D4I and therefore the collaboration will be privileged.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Maria Garcies

- Thematic Community Project – Mission 4 (Sustainable Tourism)

  Acronym: C4T

  Full title: Community4Tourism

  Corresponding call: Interreg Euro-MED call for Governance projects

  Mission: Enhancing sustainable tourism

  Type of project: Governance project

  Related IMC working groups/task forces: Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Sustainable and Cultural Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy; Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

  Partners:
  (1) Barcelona Provincial Council - ES
  (2) University of Thessaly-Special Account for Research Grants – EL
  (3) Adriatic Ionian Euroregion – HR
  (4) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions – FR
  (5) Network of European Regions for Competitive and Sustainable Tourism – BE
  (6) Mediterranean Universities Union – IT
  (7) Plan Bleu for Mediterranean environment and development – FR
  (8) UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA - AL

  Start date: January 2023
  End date: September 2029
  Overall budget: €5 million
  ERDF Co-financing: 80%
  CPMR budget: €555,000

  Description:

  The Euro-MED Sustainable Tourism Community (STC) project aims to contribute to the EU territorial cooperation and its transnational dimension through the specific objectives included in the Interreg Euro-MED Programme and, concretely, the main goals of the Mission 4, related to the Enhancement of the Sustainable Tourism in the MED Area and the transition towards a climate-neutral and resilient society.

  This project is based upon the main objective of improving a better governance of cooperation, both policy governance and multi-sectoral, multi-level and transnational territorial governance, with a strong focus on environment and climate, promoting a smarter and greener Mediterranean, which is in line with the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the Territorial Agenda 2030. The project is built upon the outputs of the Interreg MED 14/20 Sustainable Tourism and BleuTourMed Projects but
reinforces its objectives to current new challenges.

STC integrates the 4 Programme’s specific objectives (SO), as tourism has shown to be a transversal issue in the MED area, involving all kinds of stakeholders, agents and territories. STC will address its activities to pursue the consolidation of a competitive innovation ecosystem, to support a circular economy, to promote climate change adaptation, and to enhance nature and biodiversity. As a result of its activities, STC will come up with jointly developed solutions and promote cooperation across borders.

Both the project and the partnership are set up taking into consideration the necessary transnational dimension for the success of the programme’s mission and project’s objectives. This approach will be maintained and ensured along the lifecycle of the project, as the partners will act as territorial antennas to ensure coverage of all the MED area and to maintain a smooth dialogue with all the territories, main actors and stakeholders, and keep an eye on its main needs and challenges.

**Key words:** Sustainable Tourism, Community, cooperation, a climate-neutral, resilient society, governance

**Added value for the IMC members:** IMC members will have privileged access to the results of the Thematic Community’s projects and may also be consulted in the development of certain deliverables that will benefit them directly, such as: the blueprint for the development of a climate action plan for tourism, the roadmap of initiatives and opportunities in the sustainable tourism sector, the manual on integrating the ICZM protocol into sustainable tourism planning, etc.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy

### 2. HORIZON 2020/HORIZON EUROPE

a. **PREP4BLUE**

**Acronym:** PREP4BLUE

**Full title:** Preparing the Research & Innovation Core for Mission Ocean, Seas & Waters

**Corresponding call:** HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-01

**Priority:** Ocean Mission

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation & Macro-Regional Strategies (including the TF Bologna Charter Coordination Board), Transports and Integrated Maritime Policy, Economic and Social Cohesion

**Partners:**

1. INSTITUT FRANCAIS DE RECHERCHE POUR L'EXPLOITATION DE LA MER FR
2. ERINN INNOVATION LIMITED IE
3. JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE ON HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE SEAS AND OCEANS BE
4. KONSORTIUM DEUTSCHE MEERESFORSCHUNG EV DE
5. VLAAMS INSTITUUT VOOR DE ZEE BE
6. DE BLAUWE CLUSTER Belgium
7. FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V. DE
8. CONFERENCE DES REGIONS PERIPHERIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE FR
9. SYDDANSK UNIVERSITET Denmark
10. CENTRO TECNOLOGICO DEL MAR - FUNDACION CETMAR ES
11. NORDLANDSFORSKNING AS NO
12. AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS ES
13. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK IE
14. EuroMarine Association France
15. CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE IT
16. S.PRO - SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS GMBH DE
17. Galway Atlantiaquaria Ltd IE

**Duration:** 36 months

**Expected start date:** 01/06/2022

**Expected end date:** 31/05/2025

**Overall budget:** €4,997,690

**EU Co-financing:** €4,997,690

**CPMR budget:** €247,058
Background and context:
Inspired by the Apollo 11 mission, the Horizon Europe (HE)Missions seek to enable large-scale transformations as solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world (fighting cancer, climate change, protecting our oceans, living in greener cities and ensuring soil health and food). The Missions’ approach intends to link initiatives across different disciplines, mobilise policymakers, stakeholders and citizens, and leverage public and private investments towards their goals. Mission Ocean, seas and waters (Mission thereafter) needs to address, in addition, the emotional disconnect between society and aquatic ecosystems, as stated in the Mission Board Report.

The objective of this Mission is to restore the health of our ocean, seas and waters by 2030, with three measurable specific goals: 1) to protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, 2) to prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters and 3) to make the Blue Economy sustainable, carbon neutral and circular. As one of the four Missions contributing to the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals, this Mission will require support from society as a whole and strong socio-economic adaptations that take into consideration sustainable growth prospects of the Blue Economy. To engage research and innovation as a key catalyst for achieving such a challenge, a new direction must be taken, towards participatory governance of this Mission, bold investment plans and the co-design and complementation of solutions with citizens and stakeholders at its heart.

Description:
Mission Ocean, seas and water aims at restoring the health of our ocean and waters by 2030, as a major contributor to the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals. Research and innovation will be a key component of the Mission, which will link initiatives across disciplines, mobilise policymakers, stakeholders and citizens, and leverage public and private investments.

PREP4BLUE overarching objective is to facilitate a successful first phase (2022-2025) of the Mission, by developing the co-creation and co-implementation R&I modalities required to achieve the Mission objectives and preparing the ground for inspiring and engaging citizens and stakeholders.

The project is designed to deliver a series of tools, guidelines, methodologies and recommendations tested through pilots, which will interlink, leverage and optimise activities among the projects funded under the Mission. Our systemic approach will foster cohesion and connectivity between knowledge and technology, funding, regulation, education and skills, social structures and co-creation with R&I actors, citizens and stakeholders.

PREP4BLUE multidisciplinary and multi-actor consortium is actively engaged in basin-based strategies and related R&I activities, with strong experience in co-developing business models and recommendations for policy-makers, expertise in social sciences related to participative democracy and citizen engagement and excellent track-record in methodologies for knowledge management and transfer, as well as in stakeholder engagement.

PREP4BLUE will also carry out strategic actions to assure the alignment of our CSA with the evolution of the Mission components, including the Mission Core Network, other contributors to the Mission and other Missions. Our project will contribute to preparedness and engagement of all relevant stakeholders to empower them to play an active role in the Mission.

Expected outputs:
- A network of European initiatives and organisations contributing to the Mission
- Strategy to roll out Europe-wide citizen assemblies
- Knowledge Transfer Methodology including AI tools and analysis criteria
- Business model blueprints and de-risking
- Roadmap to success for future LH projects: Solutions to better address regulatory
- Stakeholder engagement guidelines (including toolkit) and recommendations, and mapping

Key words: health of our ocean, marine freshwater, ecosystems and biodiversity, eliminate pollution, Blue Economy sustainable, governance, European Green Deal, innovation, R&I modalities

Added value for the IMC members: The IMC members will benefit from the project’s results that include a series of tools, guidelines, methodologies and recommendations tested through pilots, which will interlink, leverage and optimise activities among the projects funded under the Mission.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Elodie Nunes
b. BlueMissionMed

**Acronym:** BlueMissionMed

**Full title:** Lighthouse coordinating and supporting the innovation ecosystem for a Healthy Pollution free Mediterranean Sea

**Corresponding call:** HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-03 (Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters)

**Specific objective:** HORIZON-CSA

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation & Macro-Regional Strategies (including the TF Bologna Charter Coordination Board), Transports and Integrated Maritime Policy, Economic and Social Cohesion

**Partners:**

1. CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE IT Coordinator
2. FVA SAS DI LOUIS FERRINI & C IT Partner
3. INSTITUT FRANCAIS DE RECHERCHE POUR EXPLOITATION DE LA MER FR Partner
4. HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH EL Partner
5. AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS ES Partner
6. MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY TR Partner
7. SDG4MED - Sustainable Development Goal for the Mediterranean IT Partner
8. MEDCITIES - MDCITES ES Partner
9. UNION MEDITERRANEENNE DES CONFEDERATIONS D'ENTREPRISES TN Partner
10. ECORYS ESPANA SL ES Partner
11. CONFERENCE DES REGIONS PERIPHERIQUES MARITIMES D’EUROPE FR Partner
12. Association La Saison Bleue TN Partner
13. AGENCIA DE RESIDUS DE CATALUNYA ES Partner
14. MedCruise ES Partner
15. FONDAZIONE WWF MEDITERRANEAN IT Partner
16. MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MT Partner

**Duration:** 36 months

**Start date:** January 2025

**End date:** December 2025

**Overall budget:** €3 million

**Co-financing:** 100%

**CPMR budget:** €160,000

**Description:**

The Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030 provides a holistic and coherent framework for developing a systemic approach to the depollution and regeneration of the basin hydrosphere, which is a striking need in the Mediterranean Sea (MED). In the BlueMissionMed proposal, a multi-actor, trans-sectorial and multidisciplinary consortium, consisting of 6 R&I public institutions, 5 NGOs, 3 industrial associations and 2 SMEs from 5 MS and 2 AC of the MED, proposes to set up, structure and empower a MED Lighthouse supporting the development and deployment of transformative innovative technological, social, business and governance solutions for ensuring a 30-50% reduction of pollution of the basin hydrosphere by 2030. It will be an interactive multiactors digital platform able to offer to all MED Countries/Regions and stakeholders to access the necessary knowledge and tools. It will build on, connect and structure existing initiatives and activities, including the 9 Pilot BLUEMED on plastics free healthy MED and will exploit the R&I and policy knowledge generated by the funded projects/initiatives on the MED decontamination and restoration, ultimately promoting basin-wide cooperation, commitment and deployment of solutions addressing the Mission objectives. The Lighthouse will also ensure i) coherence, alignment and monitoring of EU, national and local policies, initiatives and actions ongoing the MED basin; ii) an effective provision of technical services, governance and business models to support and guarantee a sustainable socio-economic development of the basin; iii) a well-functioning basin scale innovation ecosystem attractive towards investors and businesses, iv) the required engagement of the society at large, thanks to a robust awareness raising and citizen science approach in its implementation in the sea basin and beyond, and, thus, v) the effective deployment of Mission Implementation Charter and piloting of the Mission objectives for the MED by 2025.
Key words: systemic approach, depollution, regeneration, basin, innovative, governance

Added value for the IMC members: IMC’s participation in the Mediterranean lighthouse project will enable the regions to be involved in the Mission implementation process. This means:

- Regions to be among the first beneficiaries of the Mission services and results (e.g., benefit from knowledge, science to policy advice, financial advice and technical assistance offered by the Mission Implementation Platform that is being developed now, access to capacity building opportunities, etc).
- Regions to be at the forefront of the definition of the future priorities at the basin level: opportunity to be influential by sharing their needs and good practices and make the most of potential collaboration opportunities with a wide range of stakeholders from the different projects in which the CPMR and its GCs are involved.

On another note, as part of the lighthouse catalogue of services the IMC will work to support the alignment of different policy instruments in the basin, among which S3 and next generation EU, to the objective of preventing and eliminating pollution from our sea and waters – which we are aware is a field of interest to the IMC members. Specific recommendations, guidelines and technical support will be developed to this end, and this effort will serve to IMC Member Regions to maximise the impacts of R&I regional investments.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Maria García

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Maria García

In the framework of the HORIZON EUROPE call for proposal entitled “Fostering socio-economic development and job creation in rural and remote areas through cultural tourism” and with a deadline of 14 March one proposal involving the IMC alongside the BBSC as partners has been approved. The IMC is also involved as partner in a project in the framework of the “HORIZON CL5-2023-D3-01-01 proposal (IA) on Renewable Energy Valleys” together with other CPMR Geographical Commissions (IMC, BBSC, IC, NSC) and the secretariat of the CPMR Energy WG.

c. TOURAL

Lead partner: Ethniko Kentro Erevnas Kai Technologikis Anapty (EL)

Confirmed partners: Nesebar Municipality (Bg), Fondatsiya Balkansko Nasledstvo (Bg), Bourgas Regional Tourism Association (Bg), Asociatia Gal Delta Dunarii (Ro), Civil Organization “Kinburn” Ua, National Ecological Centre Of Ukraine (Ua), Organization Of The Black Sea Economic Coopera (Tr), International Center For Black Sea Studies (Greece), Dimos Alonnisou (El), Dimos Skopelou (El), Agencija Za Razvoj Zadarske Zupanije Zadra Nova (Hr), Itaca, Il Territorio Al Centro Dellattenzione - Ass (It), Province Of Teramo (It), Regione Abruzzo (It), Atlantis Symvoulefiki Anonymoi Etaireia Atlantis (El), Universite D’aix Marseille (Fr), Conference Des Regions Peripheriques Maritimes (Fr), Ruraltour - Federation Europeene De Tourisme R (Fr), Diethnes Panepistimio Ellados (El)

Overall objective: is aimed at fostering socio-economic development & job creation in rural and remote areas through cultural tourism, with a focus on the Adriatic-Ionian and Black Seas. Its objective is to support touristic development of rural regions balancing the growth of their urban clusters (more popular & touristic) with the growth potential of their remote & rural grid cells. The modelling approach will be multidimensional, addressing complementary tourism verticals and niche sectors; with the aim to empower the offering to the market multi-destination and multidimensional tourism offerings. The TOURAL target is multiple tourism niche sectors, namely underwater, cultural & nature heritage tourism, cultural & creative tourism, cultural science tourism, and silver tourism.

IMC role: The CPMR will be mainly involved on the WP2 on “CCT Analysis & Policy Pathways” and the WP6 on “Dissemination, Communication, Sustainability & Replicability”.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Stavros Kalognomos, Elodie Nunes

d. CreteValley

Lead partner: Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (EL)

Confirmed partners: Centre for Research and Technology-Hellas (EL), Fundación CARTIF (CARTIF Technology Center) (ES), INESC TEC - Institute for Systems and Computer Engineering, Technology and Science (PT), University of Jaén (ES), European Dynamics Luxembourg SA (LU), COMSENSUS D.O.O. (SI), RWTH Aachen University (DE), Électricité de France (FR), Electric Power Research Institute Europe DAC (IR), ONE TEAM SRL (IT), HOLISTIC IKE (EL), PARITY PLATFORM IKE (EL), ENDEF Engineering SL (ES), Hellenic Mediterranean

**Overall objective:** CreteValley project is aiming at creating a Renewable Energy Valley ‘Living Lab’ (REV-Lab) in Crete, combining leading-edge ICTs technologies [Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), DLT/blockchain, big data, Augmented Reality (AR)], with social / behavioural dimension, and easy-to-adopt efficient business models.

**IMC role:** The CPMR will mainly be involved in the development of Policy Recommendations, the organisation to one to two policy events back-to-back with CPMR meeting(s) and the development/preparation of the Capacity Building activities which will be open to the CPMR members.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy

3. **EMFAF**

- **REBOOT MED**

**Acronym:** REBOOT MED

**Full title:** Recovering, Experiencing and Boosting eco-tourism in the WestMed area

**Corresponding call:** Flagship projects promoting a sustainable blue economy through regional maritime cooperation in the Atlantic, the Black Sea and the Western Mediterranean (EMFAF-2021-PIA-FLAGSHIP)

**Priority:** EMFAF-PJG

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy; Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

**Partners:**

1. Petra Patrimonia Corsica (FR) – lead partner
2. PRISM (IT)
3. Agency for Tourism of the Balearic Islands (ES)
4. FAR Maremma, (IT)
5. WWF Mediterranean North Africa (TN)
6. Chamber of Commerce of Tangiers-Tétouan-Al Hoceima (MA)
7. Diawling National Park (MU)
8. Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe-CPMR (FR)
9. Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry-ASCAME (ES)

**Associated partners:** Regione Sicilia IT; UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET DES SES RESSOURCES CH; Conseil Provincial du Tourisme de Tétouan MA; Agence du Tourisme de la Corse FR; MALTA TOURISM AUTHORITY Malta

**Duration:** 24 months

**Expected start date:** September 2022

**Expected end date:** August 2024

**Overall budget:** €1.25 million

**EU Co-financing:** (80%)

**CPMR budget:** €148 730

**Description:**
REBOOT MED is a 24-months flagship project aiming to encourage public-private partnership co-defining Blue Economy Action Plans for the Recovery of the tourism sector, and to incubate, accelerate and test new eco/blue economy tourism packages in 10 pilot areas in 6 WestMed countries: MA, TN, MU, ES, IT and FR.

REBOOT MED is implemented through 3 result-oriented pillars: 1) capacity building and awareness-raising on the competitiveness and sustainability of the coastal and maritime tourism ecosystem are implemented through local clusters and a series of exchanges organised in collaboration with the WestMed Initiative; 2) promoting asset-based development approach and leveraging on local assets to create sustainable growth and a healthier environment are implemented to support and stimulate tourism SMEs, coastal communities and potential pioneers (women, NEETs, start-uppers) to play as actors of change in re-imagining and re-building coastal and maritime tourism. Their disruptive role will be supported by REBOOT MED through targeted go-to-market services and testing activities; 3) to close the loop, lessons learnt will be shared and capitalised at the local and WestMed level.

The cross-cutting objective of REBOOT MED is to support the implementation of the WestMed common roadmap for the development of a sustainable blue economy in the sub-basin to generate growth, create jobs and provide a better living environment for Med populations and tourism ecosystems.

**Key words:** ecotourism; starting-up services; go-to-market services; testing; capitalisation.

**Added value for the IMC members:** IMC members will benefit from the results of the project, which will feed into the work of the Mediterranean Ecotourism Consortium, which is hosted by the IMC Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism. In addition, the IMC members will be able to benefit from the lessons learned exercises, which will facilitate the capitalisation of results in other Mediterranean territories and be involved in the development of policy recommendations.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy

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### 4. DG REGIO

- **AI-NURECC PLUS**
  - **Acronym:** AI-NURECC PLUS
  - **Full title:** ADRIATIC IONIAN NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES, REGIONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND CITIES INITIATIVE PLUS
  - **Corresponding call:** DG REGIO direct grant

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Integrated Maritime Policy and Transport

**Partners:**

1. Coordinator: Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)
2. Applicant n°2: Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE)
3. Applicant n°3: Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC)
4. Applicant n°4: Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce (FORUM AIC)
5. Applicant n°5: Association of Universities of the Adriatic Ionian area (UniAdrion)

**Duration:** 30 months

**Expected start date:** April 2021

**Expected end date:** December 2023

**Overall budget:** €1,17 million

**EU Co-financing:** (97%)

**CPMR budget:** €350,000

**Background and context:**

AI-NURECC PLUS, as a preparatory action and spin-off of the AI-NURECC Initiative, will capitalise on the results of the latter and aim to enhance Regional and Local Authorities’ appropriation of the EUSAIR main objectives and opportunities, by promoting an efficient participatory and bottom-up approach.

**Description:**
AI-NURECC PLUS is expected to support the implementation of the EUSAIR cross-pillar topics: “Research and Innovation” and “SMEs Development” and “Skills Development” and, therefore, to support entrepreneurship, transnational clusters, and digital innovation hubs activities for the EUSAIR. Special attention will be paid to Youth as a strategic target group for the sustainable development of the EUSAIR area, also through initiatives addressed to sport, integration and social inclusion, tools that are expected to further encourage community cohesion and solidarity in the area.

These actions could support the post-pandemic recovery by offering new solutions and platforms for cooperation in the EUSAIR area. To this end, AI-NURECC PLUS will support digital and green transition, a key component for the recovery in the Adriatic-Ionian region, mainly through digitisation actions aimed at young people.

AI-NURECC PLUS also aims at encouraging multi-actor networking and collaboration among representatives of the private and public sector and civil society to foster coordination among EU, national, regional, and local policies to develop Circular Economy. Through their participation in the AI-NURECC PLUS activities (e.g. conferences) all potential beneficiaries will learn, among other things, how to improve the setting up of projects in cooperation with their partners from other countries, not only for the programmes focusing on the EUSAIR area but a wider range of EU programmes. It will, therefore, serve as an incubator for further synergies and collaborations.

In this context, AI-NURECC PLUS will operate in the following fields: Sustainable Tourism, Cultural and Creative Industries, and Circular Economy.

Expected outputs:

Regarding the aforementioned topics, the tentative (to be approved by the European Commission’s DG REGIO) includes the following:

- **ORGANISATION OF NINE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCES**: One high-level conference involving MEPs, European Commission’s high representatives and EUSAIR National or Pillar Coordinators will be organised in each country participating in the EUSAIR. These high-level conferences will contribute to a concrete mapping of relevant actors and stakeholders across the EUSAIR region and will equally focus on the topics covered by AI-NURECC PLUS.

- **TERRITORIAL CHALLENGES and DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC STUDY**: AI-NURECC PLUS will address the territorial challenges in specific Adriatic-Ionian territories (mountains, islands and sparsely populated areas). In this respect, it will develop a specific study on to what extent the EUSAIR and its Action Plan contribute to tackle these territorial challenges by promoting sustainable development and growth. This study will be coordinated by the partnership (all partners will contribute under the leadership of the CPMR) with the support of an external expert and will provide input and concrete proposals so that the EUSAIR and its Action Plan could better tackle the territorial challenges in the region.

- **CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEMS CULTURAL AND CREATIVE REGIONAL ECOSYSTEMS (CCRE-S3) THEMATIC AREA’S OBJECTIVES in the EUSAIR area**: The thematic area aims to bring together stakeholders from this sector, acting as a catalyst for change in other sectors – and will stimulate invention and progress across area’s diverse cultural landscape. CCRE-S3 aims to overcome the challenges and obstacles the CCI is facing when investing in new products, services and premises by involving local and regional communities and in particular four groups of professions (i.e., creative entrepreneurs, cultural heritage professionals, CCI intermediaries and managers, publisher professionals and professionals of the audio-visual sector) that use, apply and implement new technologies within the CCI sector. The thematic area will also aim at professionals of the blue economy fields (e.g. MSP, underwater cultural sites, …) Therefore, the overall objective of this thematic area is to improve lives, transform communities and local/regional economies, and generate growth and skilled jobs based on the CCI sector. *(Emilia-Romagna Region participates in CCRE-S3)*

Under the Cultural and Creative Industries Action of AI-NURECC PLUS, there is a specific Internship Fund for supporting youth in CCI entrepreneurship. Three calls will be open to nationals of all 9 countries and the selection of candidates will be geographically balanced. Moreover, focus will be given to activities/training path for supporting youth in creating CCI Start-ups in order to enhance the Adriatic-Ionian Region cultural heritage based on young entrepreneurship and public private partnerships.
**AI-NURECC PLUS schedule:**

 Clemson University | AI-NURECC PLUS Final Conference

**Key words:** post-pandemic recovery, digital and green transition, digitisation, young people, private and public sector, civil society, Circular Economy, Sustainable Tourism, Cultural and Creative Industries

**Added value for the IMC members:** AI-NURECC PLUS aims at encouraging multi-actor networking and collaboration between the CPMR and Members in the Adriatic-Ionian region and relevant EU, national, regional and local public and private sectors’ stakeholders, in its operation fields, such as Sustainable Tourism, CCI and Circular Economy.

**Main CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Stavros Kalognomos, Elodie Nunes

**B. PROJECTS IN WHICH THE IMC PARTICIPATES AS ASSOCIATED PARTNER**

1. **Interreg Euro-MED**

The IMC is currently involved as associated partner in 3 Interreg Euro-MED projects, all approved in the framework of the Interreg Euro-MED Governance call for projects.

- **Dialogue4tourism**
  
  **Acronym:** D4T
  
  **Full title:** Dialogue4Tourism
  
  **Corresponding call:** Interreg Euro-MED call for Governance projects
  
  **Mission:** Enhancing Sustainable Tourism
  
  **Type of project:** Governance project
  
  **Start date:** January 2023
  
  **End date:** September 2029
  
  **Description:**
  
  Tourism is a key sector in our territories, both in terms of protection and valorisation of the natural and cultural resources and support of its recovery. Dialogue4Tourism will address the development of sustainable tourism as a transversal issue: fostering tourism integrated in circular economy, considering the sustainability of ecosystem services using innovation technologies, or promoting the preservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Its main objective would be to capitalise on the results of the Community, which will be made available by the Community4Tourism project in which CPMR-IMC participates as full partner, within public policies, EU initiatives and strategies etc.

  **Added value for the IMC members:**
  
  The participation to Dialogue4Tourism project will allow the IMC regions to participate in the discussion on the governance of tourism in the Mediterranean, making the link with other initiatives supported in the framework of the IMC Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism, such as the EU transition pathway for tourism, the Glasgow Declaration and the capitalisation of past projects in which a number of member regions have participated. The project is particularly interesting for Mediterranean Regions and could be complementary to the rest of IMC actions in this field.

  **Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy

- **Community4Nature**
  
  **Acronym:** C4N
  
  **Full title:** Community4Nature
  
  **Corresponding call:** Interreg Euro-MED call for Governance projects
  
  **Mission:** Protecting, restoring and valorising the natural environment and heritage
  
  **Type of project:** Governance project
  
  **Start date:** January 2023
  
  **End date:** September 2029
Description:
Nature contributes to a healthier and more resilient society. The preservation of ecosystems allows to mitigate natural disaster, diseases, boost resilience and regulate climate, thus reducing risks to human societies. Community4Nature will promote climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and encourage the sustainable management of natural resources and restoration of degraded ecosystems.

Added value for the IMC members:
IMC members will be able to directly benefit from the project’s outputs. They will have direct access to the tools implemented by the Community and will be able to continue to draw on methodologies to preserve ecosystems, mitigate climate change, implement adaptation measures among others - as was the case with the Interreg MED Biodiversity Protection Community.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Jordi Juarez

- **Community4LivingAreas**
  - Acronym: C4LA
  - Full title: Community4LivingAreas
  - Corresponding call: Interreg Euro-MED call for Governance projects
  - Mission: Promoting green living areas
  - Type of project: Governance project
  - Start date: January 2023
  - End date: September 2029

Description:
Sustainable development, management of living areas and an integrated vision of the territory energy transition are crucial to the quality of life of Mediterranean citizens. The Community4LivingAreas will tackle this challenge through the development of greener living areas and will work to minimise their impact on the Mediterranean and the global climate system focusing on air pollution, energy and mobility.

Added value for the IMC members:
The proposal addresses topics that are of great interest for the IMC members i.e. energy transition, green mobility etc. The role of the IMC consists in providing support to capitalisation & dissemination activities. Synergies will also be foreseen with many other projects in which the IMC is involved such as CIVITAS DESTINATIONS, SolaQua but also the Interreg Euro-MED projects in which the CPMR-IMC is involved as full partner.

Main CPMR contact(s) for this project: Stavros Kalognomos, Elodie Nunes

2. Life
In the framework of the LIFE call for the transition to clean energy (LIFE-2021-CET-ENERCOM theme) of the LIFE work programme involving CIM as an associated partner, the JALON project has been accepted.

- **JALON**
  - Acronym: JALON
  - Full title: Joining Actors for Local Development of New large-scale rural energy communities
  - Corresponding call: LIFE Call on Clean Energy Transition (LIFE-2021-CET-ENERCOM theme)
  - Starting date: 1 November 2022
  - Ending date: 30 April 2026

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy (TF: Energy Renovation in Buildings in the Mediterranean).

Partners:
1. UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE MADRID (UPM),
2. ASOCIACION LA DEVANADERA (DEV-CKM0)
3. COMARCA DE LA COMUNIDAD DE CALATAYUD (CALAT)
Description:

JALON brings a new approach to facilitate the emergence and growth of citizen-led community energy projects across Europe. The methodology relies on the close collaboration of local actors to make these projects operational as an instrument of social innovation, especially for rural areas where the lack of specific legislation adapted to their particular reality and needs could leave them behind in the energy transition. In fact, there are so many obstacles that prevent energy communities all over Europe from developing their full potential and supposed remit in rural areas. Instead, JALON proposes to run a large-scale regional energy community involving 5,000 citizens, 40 local authorities and 75 companies in order to truly empower EU citizens in rural areas and local actors towards the realisation of a solution to their expectations and needs. This challenges the classical approach, and we move from an energy community as something to be socially accepted and promoted to an energy community as an instrument to meet local social needs demanded by people. Thus, JALON will bring together 87 rural villages in Spain in a large energy community that will lead to legal and regulatory changes, in a learning-by-doing approach, so that energy communities are really a useful instrument for the local development of depopulated areas. Aiming to mobilise €13 million to invest in photovoltaic energy installations with a total production of 23 GWh/year that will avoid the emission of 3,452 tons of CO2e/year and with the support of many stakeholders, JALON will be the demonstrator that will be followed by 6 other EU regions, which commit to develop an implementation plan during the project with the JALON partners, so that they can start to act faster. In addition, dissemination and communication actions aim to reach 82 NUTS3 regions and promote the 10 key results of JALON in order to foster replication across the EU.

Key words: energy transition, photovoltaics, energy communities

Added value for the IMC members:

By integrating the Advisory Council, the IMC aims to receive updated information from its members and to give the point of view of the regions when necessary. This project could, among other things, feed into the work of the IMC’s Energy TF.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy

C. OTHERS

- SLEC

Acronym: SLEC

Full title: SERVICE LOCAL ENERGIE CLIMAT

Corresponding call: European Union 167744 EuropeAid "Local Authorities - partnerships for sustainable cities 2020"

Starting date: January 2022
Ending date: November 2025

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy (TF: Energy Renovation in Buildings in the Mediterranean).

Partners:

Région TTAH
Région Sud

Description:

Main objectives:
- Reducing fuel poverty
- Strengthen the resilience of residents and professionals in the TTAH region.
- Make people understand that, at city level, there is concerted ecological planning and ecological governance...
- Mobilise and raise the awareness of regional players (citizens, local authorities, professionals, associations) to the challenges of energy and climate in order to achieve sustainable territories.

**Key words:** energy transition, climate, eco-efficient and bioclimatic building

**Added value for the IMC members:**

By integrating the Technical Committee, the IMC aims to receive updated information from its members and to give the point of view of the regions when necessary. This project could, among other things, feed into the work of the IMC's Energy TF.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy**
II. PROJECTS UNDER EVALUATION

A. Interreg Euro-MED (2021-2027)

The Interreg Euro-MED second call (for thematic projects) offers many possibilities for the IMC and its members. This call is open to the 4 missions of the Programme i.e. 1/Strengthening an innovative sustainable economy; 2/Protecting and restoring the natural environment and heritage; 3/Promoting green living areas; 4/ Enhancing sustainable tourism. The IMC is involved in several relevant partnerships that are aligned with its priorities and/or strategic for some of its members. Many of these build on past projects in which the IMC was involved. The Deadline for the submission of these projects was 27 October 2022. The evaluation results should be available by the end of 2023.

• REGENERA-MED

Specific objective: S.O- 1.1 – Consolidating a competitive innovation system

Typology: Testing

Lead partner: Catalan Tourist Board

Duration: 33 months

Confirmed partners: Catalan Tourist Board (ES); B.Link – Barcelona Strategic Projects (ES, SME); Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions – CPMR (FR, Regional network); Corsican Tourism Agency (FR, Regional body); Crete Region (EL, Regional body); Regione Liguria (IT, Regional body); University of Ljubljana / Centre for Business Excellence (SI, academia); Public Institution RERA S.D. for Coordination and Development of Split Dalmatia County (HR); Abruzzo Region (IT, Regional body); University of Peloponnese (EL, Academia).

Overall objective: the project aims to revert the negative impact trends caused by mass tourism in the Euro-Mediterranean region by implementing a holistic approach in different destinations based on the concept of ‘Regenerative Tourism’. By adapting and transforming regional tourism policies to this new approach, the partnership seeks to support a permanent change in tourism practices through innovation and the uptake of new technologies by the SME-s working in the tourism sector.

IMC role: coordination of WP4 on dissemination/capitalisation.

• NETTOUR TOOLS

Specific objective: S.O- 1.1 – Consolidating a competitive innovation system

Typology: Testing

Lead partner: Lazio Region

Confirmed partners: Lazio Region; Grupo DEX; Corsican Tourism Agency; Aegean Sustainable Tourism Observatory; University of Maribor; Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions; Regione Calabria Regional Development; Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije; Cyprus; Area Metropolitana de Barcelona.

Overall objective: the project aims to consolidate the foundations and legitimise the Mediterranean Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (MED NSTO) as a key initiative to support Mediterranean destinations in their decision making mainly by providing the operational tools needed to entrust and enhance the development of its activities. The MED NSTO will also provide a key support for the achievement of global and EU key initiatives such as the Glasgow Declaration and the EU Transition Pathway for the Tourism Ecosystem, which the transition towards greener, more innovative and more intelligent tourism, in synergy with the UNWTO INSTO and other organisations, such as EUROSTAT with which links have already been established and need to be consolidated.

IMC role: coordination of WP3 on dissemination/capitalisation.

• NaTour4CChange

Specific objective: S.O- 2.4 – 2.4 Climate Change

Typology: Testing

Lead partner: Croatia Institute of Tourism
**Confirmed partners:** Croatia Institute of Tourism; Sardegna; Creta; Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature; Plan Bleu; IUCN MED; CPMR; Zadar County/Natura Jadera; Herzegovina Neretva County; Andalucia Region.

**Overall objective:** Governing sustainable tourism in territories with high environmental value: reconnecting tourism and nature for addressing the climate crisis with an ecosystem-based approach/NBS. The project will define common methods to enable participating regions to assess their priorities for climate adaptation and mitigation of the effects of tourism, and to take climate action through plans and strategies, supported by a cooperative governance. In coastal destinations, cross-sectoral teams will develop specific tourism action plans, with a focus on climate adaptation, where nature-based solutions will be tested to ensure their feasibility.

**IMC role:** coordination or co-coordination of WP2 on regional governance and advocacy.

- **BLUE ECOSYSTEM**

  **Specific objective:** S.O- 1.1 – Consolidating a competitive innovation system

  **Typology:** Testing

  **Lead partner:** Emilia-Romagna Region

  **Confirmed partners:** Attrattività Ricerca Territorio è la Società Consortile dell’Emilia-Romagna (ART-ER); POLE MER MEDITERRANEE; Hellenic Center for Marine research (HCMR) (TBC); Agência de Desenvolvimento Regional do Alentejo (ADRAL); Chrysalis Leap (CleanTech Accelerator based in Cyprus); Croatian Chamber of Economy - Zadar County Chamber (CCE-ZCC); Balearic Islands Maritime Cluster (CMIB); DURRES municipality; CPMR.

  **Overall objective:** the project approach is to design Territorial Co-creation Innovation Labs for the development of integrated strategies for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient Blue Growth in pilot regions. This will allow project partners to integrate such a kind of policy-innovation approach in the implementation of their regional RIS3 strategies through a new way of designing calls and tenders, monitoring impacts and evaluating projects.

  **IMC role:** support to transnational communication, engagement activities and contribution to the Programme’s Results Amplification Strategy/co-ordination with Governance projects.

- **B. Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) partnership**

In the framework of the 1st call for proposal of the Sustainable Blue Economy partnership, a European partnership under the European Commission’s Research & Innovation Framework Programme Horizon Europe, with a deadline of 14 April, the IMC has positioned itself as a subcontractor on a project proposal related to the topic "Planning and Managing Sea Uses". The evaluation results should be available by the end of 2023.

- **MEDSEAPLAN**

  **Topic:** "Planning and Managing Sea Uses"

  **Lead partner:** World Ocean Council (WOC)

  **Confirmed partners:** WOC, CEREMA, Cohabys, BANU, BTU, ELKON, KTU, CTN, CSIC, MCAST, ISSNOVA, CMMI, UniTwente, WeRover, Ocean Ecostructures

  **Overall objective:** The project will focus on innovative solutions to create data for MSP and transform it into information that can be used by MSP planners, managing data needs relevant to MSP competent authorities and have a specific focus on:

  1. The role that maritime industry stakeholders could and should play in the development and implementation of climate-proof MSP;
  2. The need for improved data;
  3. Thus, integrating the role of data collectors, data users as well as MSP planners.

  The project will focus on several sub-sea basins in the Mediterranean. The consortium partners represent several key Mediterranean countries: Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Spain and Turkey.

  **IMC role:** The IMC will involve the regional authorities in the monitoring of the project results and prepare a set of recommendations for use by MSP national competent authorities in the project’s (sub) sea basin focus as well as in other (sub) sea basins taking into account the experience and needs of regional authorities. A capitalisation event will be organized by the IMC to present the recommendations and results of the project.
III. OTHER UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Several calls from Programmes in which the IMC can participate as full partner, associated partner or potential service provider will be launched in the coming months i.e. Interreg Euro-MED, Interreg NEXT MED, Horizon Europe, Interreg Europe, EMFAF, Erasmus+, LIFE+, among others.

Concerning the Interreg Euro-MED Programme, a call focused on territorial projects is expected to be launched in 2024. The IMC will monitor this call and seek opportunities.

The Interreg NEXT MED, even though it does not allow the direct participation of the IMC as partner, also represent a great opportunity for its members.

The IMC will obviously seek opportunities to feed its working groups and task forces through the participation in additional cooperation projects which topic is of interest for its members. Nonetheless the organisation will have to carefully consider its management and financial situation in relation to the already running projects. The IMC is also willing to provide support to its members to build partnerships.
IV. RELEVANT PAST PROJECTS

This section gathers information on past projects relevant for capitalisation in which the IMC participated as partner, associated partner or invited experts. All these projects brought a real added value to the activities of the IMC and their results are still being capitalised on.

A. Interreg MED/Interreg Euro-MED

1. Blue Growth Community

**Acronym:** Blue Growth Community (BGC)

**Full title:** Blue Growth Community - Capitalization & Communication project for Blue Economy Innovation in the Mediterranean

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – 2nd call for horizontal projects

**Specific objective:** 1.1: “To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area”

**Type of project:** Horizontal project

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation & Macro-Regional Strategies (including the TF Bologna Charter Coordination Board), Transports and Integrated Maritime Policy, Economic and Social Cohesion

**Partners:**

1. National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences - CoNISMa [IT] (Lead Partner)
2. ASCAME (Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry) [ES]
5. National Technical University of Athens - School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering [GR]
6. University of Montenegro - Institute for marine biology [ME]
7. IrRADIARE, Science for evolution®, Lda. [PT]

**Associated partners:** Cotec Foundation (IT); Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (GR); Région Occitanie (FR); Network of the Insular Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the EU - INSULEUR (GR); Région Sud (FR); University of Cyprus (CY); Associació Barcelona Clúster Nàutic (ES); Associazione Cluster Tecnologico Nazionale Blue Italian Growth (IT); Piraeus Chamber of Tradesmen (GR); Sicilian Region – Department of Tourism, Sport and Entertainment (IT); Liguria Region (IT); Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche-IRPPS (IT); Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion (HR); ANIMA Investment Network (FR); Puglia Region (IT); Calabria Region (IT); Region of Crete (GR); Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region – Central Directorate for Agri-food, Forestry and Fish Resources - Production quality improvement Service (IT).

**Start date:** 01.11.2019
**End date:** 31.10.2022
**Overall budget:** €1,470,588.24
**ERDF Co-financing:** €1,411,764.71 (85%)
**CPMR budget:** €218,625

**Background and context:**

The BGC partnership was strategically set up to diffuse at the local, regional, national and EU levels all results created by modular projects with strong links to maritime clusters and networks.

- Synergies with previous projects on blue economy, such as InnoBlueGrowth, COM&CAP MarinA-Med, MAREMED, MEDGOVERNANCE, the Bologna Charter, OPTIMED, EuroMED Invest, BAMMBO, BLUEGENICS, SEABIOTECH, TASCMAR, etc.

- Networks and initiatives: links with EUSAIR and WestMed

- Synergies with EC’s initiatives (Blue Growth Strategy, Blue Careers/Blueprint calls...) and the UfM Declaration on the Blue Economy.

**Description:**

BGC seek to strengthen its Community of BG projects and actors beyond the project consortia for improved transferring and capitalization processes. BGC provided adapted communication, community building,
transferring and capitalization tools and methods for the cross-fertilization and exchange of good practices, results, and outputs of the BG and other Interreg Med communities, as with external multi-level and cross-sectoral stakeholders. These interactions allowed the consideration of modular projects results by policymakers to be included at multi-level governance policy levels, and facilitating the development of a favourable environment for blue enterprises in the Med.

BGC also aimed to assist and coordinate the modular projects selected under the S.O. 1.1. dealing with Blue Growth in their COM&CAP activities, creating and ensuring internal and external synergies, knowledge sharing, transfer and capitalization for policy-making project recommendations.

Based on the skills of its consortium in marine research & innovation, the maritime private sector, multi-level governance, and networking, its activities responded to the previous phase (InnoBlueGrowth) and built upon the existing stakeholders’ community and projects results, with a specific focus on transferring and capitalizing for an efficient mainstreaming and strategic liaising with identified targets. Innovation actions that fell within the BG project were for instance (trainings, enhanced links with other Interreg Med Communities, the follow-up and focus on Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) mapping etc. It included target-oriented activities addressing various audiences through specific tools (events including community activities, trainings, associates peer reviews, policy recommendations), channels (media, social networks, videos, online publications), and messages.

These actions also kept contributing to the sustainable socio-economic development of the Med area through innovative investments in the blue economy.

**Expected outputs:**
- To reach an effective capitalization of existing projects’ results
- To conceive appropriate transferring methodologies for Mainstreaming
- To increase the visibility of BG Community
- To put in place an efficient communication campaign for promoting challenges, trends and opportunities of BG in the Med.

**Main expected deliverables:**
- Communication
  - Materials and tools for external dissemination (social media, contribution and promotion of the Blue Growth thematic section of the Med Programme website, brochure, newsletter, video, press release, etc.)
- Testing
  - Setting up activities of BG Community’s working groups (Governance, Information Systems, Training and Financing) and general management (Assemblies)
  - Self-assessment and evaluation report of the activities from the community building action plan
- Capitalisation
  - Stakeholder target group and Blue Growth mapping by means of digital communication
  - Mapping and database of BG Community members

**Key words:** capitalization, modular projects, Mediterranean community, blue growth, transfer, innovation, clusters, communication, mainstreaming

**Added value for the IMC members:**
IMC members were able to benefit from the project’s outputs and its related events and were part of the MED Blue Growth Community. They had the possibility to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of all the MPs of the community, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to blue growth.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Elodie Nunes, Emmanuel Maniscalco, Claudia Guzzon

**Twitter:** @BlueGrowthCom

**Website:** [https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/](https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/)

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1 “Added value for the IMC member” section of InnoBG project
2. Biodiversity Protection Community

**Acronym:** Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC)

**Full title:** Mainstreaming biodiversity management efforts for environmental sustainability

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Second call for Horizontal projects

**Specific objective: 3.2:** To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas

**Type of project:** Horizontal project

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation & Macro-Regional Strategies (including the TF Bologna Charter Coordination Board), Transports and Integrated Maritime Policy

**Partners:**
1. University of Malaga - European Topic Center [ES] (Lead Partner)
2. Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]
4. MEDCITIES [ES]
5. Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism [ME]
6. LATTE CREATIVE S.R.L. [IT]
7. Marine institute [HR]

**Associated partners:** Municipality of Herceg Novi (ME); Arab Network for Environment and Development (EG); Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (FR); Région Sud (FR); WWF Mediterranean (IT); Government of Catalonia, Directorate General of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (ES); Ville de Marseille (FR); Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (HR); Regione Lazio (IT); University of Balamand/ Université de Balamand (LIB); Fondation Tour du Valat (FR); Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (TUN); IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (CH); Centro de cooperación del Mediterráneo de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ES); Legambiente (IT); Region of Crete (GR); Public agency for promotion of entrepreneurship and developing projects of Municipality of Izola (SI); Small Islands Organisation – SMILO (FR); Latin Arco – Arc Latin (ES); Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale - ISPRA (IT); Service de protection de la nature et politiques des forêts de la Région Autonome de Sardaigne (IT); The Resource Environmental Center - REC Albania (AL); American University of Beirut- FAFS (LB).

**Start date:** 31.11.2019

**End date:** 31.12.2022

**Overall budget:** €1,796,545

**ERDF Co-financing:** €1,646,545 (85%)

**CPMR budget:** €216,700

**Background and context:**

The protection of the environment and the management of resources are vital for the long-term development of the region. Challenges like climate change and human-driven pressures on the environment require improved protection measures and cooperation among stakeholders to ensure the resilience of coastal areas, biodiversity and natural & cultural heritage in addition to the sustainability of ecosystem services.

The MBPC as described under C1.3. represented the structure by which the project coordinated and implemented its activities for the transfer and capitalisation on synthesized outcomes of the S.O.3.2. modular projects (MPs) to ensure mainstreaming them in European, national and regional territorial policies.

The project partnership made use of its networks and associated partners to excel its results to extensive dissemination schemes to the region and relevant parties such as the Barcelona Convention, regional networks, and to feed into relevant wider strategies and policies such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Maritime Spatial Planning and the Habitat Directive.

The project used initiatives facilitating synergies & reuse of tools, methods, best practices, and data. Stakeholders identified in previous projects i.e. FP7 PEGASO, FP7 PERSEUS or Interreg Med MarInA-Med, HR2020 SWOS, PANACeA and Interreg Med MarInA-Med were engaged.

**Description:**

The Med Biodiversity Protection Community/BPC ("PANACeA2") was a horizontal project which was based on achievements to increase the impact of 3.2 modular projects towards common identified targets and links.
through:

1) Synthesizing and transferring outcomes on ecosystem protection efforts
2) Engaging a stakeholders’ community & transferring knowledge beyond the community and the project’s lifetime
3) Enhancing the communication & dissemination strategy
4) Developing the long-term capitalization tool ensuring evidence-based policy enforcement.

The activities ensured an active community of Mediterranean actors meant to overcome sectoral borders by integrating knowledge, allowing a better-informed multilevel decision-making and management of biodiversity.

The MBPC facilitated multisectoral dialogue with the scientific community to ensure an effective policy-management-science interface in the Mediterranean related to biodiversity protection and sustainable development. It pursued the long-term strategic goal of the Interreg MED programme by reaching beyond EU Member States into the whole Mediterranean basin. It aimed to feed EU, UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and CBD policies linked to the protection of natural resources for sustainable development in Mediterranean protected areas and key ecological function units and ecosystems.

**Expected outputs:**

- Support the network of Protected areas in the Mediterranean: the MBPC continued supporting an enforced and well managed PAs as powerful tools for effective biodiversity conservation and protection. It ensured access and trainings to effective tools for proper protected area management that enabled ensuring ecological connectivity through network design and best practice management. The BPC also ensured an uptake of these main findings by regional policies to support them reaching their targets to 2020 and to prioritise their policy aspirations beyond 2020.

- Using an Ecosystem-Based Approach for ecosystem management: the MBPC continued working beyond protected areas with an ecosystem approach to help addressing transboundary impacts such as pollution including plastic and oil as well as to support better adaptation and mitigation to climate change effects. It prioritised actions in sensitive areas for the declaration of new Protected Areas using factors of ecological sensitivity and function as key criteria for the selection.

**Main expected deliverables:**

- Communication
  - Materials and tools for external dissemination (social media, website, brochure, poster, newsletter, video, factsheets, articles, infographics, cartographic communication, etc.)
  - Gamification and animation actions for selected events materials for communication (organisation of quizzes, animated campaigns)

- Testing
  - Setting up activities of BPC’s working groups (Governance, Information Systems, Training and Financing)
  - A Method document for Stakeholder’s community analysis; it will show the results of the mapping of the actors of MPs, their typologies as a basis for the identification of synergies and expected results

- Capitalisation
  - Internal training on the Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform (BPKP) among the partnership
  - (webinars and meetings) External communication of the database of the Modular projects outcomes uploaded to the MBKP
  - Community building events and capacity building workshops
  - Elaboration of documents and recommendations: Policy paper on transformative change, Regional guidelines on cruise and recreational boating, Mainstreaming the efforts of the Adriatic-Ionian region in improving the status of biodiversity, Guidelines for the mainstreaming and liaising of the Biodiversity Protection Community activities, etc.

**Key words:** Biodiversity, biodiversity protection, protected areas, PANACEA, Mediterranean biodiversity, capitalisation, modular projects, ecosystem-based approach, mainstreaming.
**Added value for the IMC members:**

IMC members were able to directly benefit from the project’s outputs and its related events and were part of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community. They had the possibility to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of all the MPs of the community, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to biodiversity protection.²

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Lise Guennal, Jordi Juarez

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### 3. Sustainable Tourism Community

**Acronym:** Sustainable Tourism Community

**Full title:** Sustainable Tourism Community

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Second call for Horizontal projects

**Specific objective:** 3.1 “Sustainable Tourism”

**Type of project:** Horizontal project

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy; Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

**Partners:**

1. DIBA - Barcelona Provincial Council (Barcelona) [ES] (Lead partner)
2. UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union (Rome) [IT]
3. University of Thessaly (Thessaly) [EL]
4. NECSTour - Network of European Regions or Sustainable and Competitive Tourism (Brussels) [BE]
5. Arco Latino, a network of local public authorities (Tarragona) [ES]
6. Plan Bleu [FR]
7. UNEP MAP - Regional Activity Centre of Mediterranean Action Plan (Marseille) [FR]
8. Adriatic and Ionian Euroregion (Pula) [HR]
9. RDA Green Karst Regional Development Agency (Pivka) [SI]

**Associated partners:** Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME); DEFISMED; Tarragona Provincial Council; Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]; Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce; Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med); City of Nice-Euromed Cities Network; CAT-MED Platform for sustainable urban models; Metropolitan Area of Barcelona - Medcities; University of Catania; University of Bari “Aldo Moro”; University of Girona; Greek Tourism Confederation; Regional Agency for tourism promotion “in Liguria”; Metropolitan City of Florence; Valencia Provincial Council; Provincial Government of Malaga; Province of Livorno; Region of Thessaly; Hellenic Development City Network(D.E.P.AN. –City Network); South Aegean Region; The Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves -Europarc Italy; Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre -PAP/RAC; Genoa Municipality; University of the Aegean – Research Unit; University Mediterranean Podgorica, Faculty of Tourism; Metropolitan City of Turin

**Start date:** 01.11.19

**End date:** 30.10.22

**Background and context:**

For the past years, the Sustainable Tourism shared the experiences and results of its modular projects on the Community website. Numerous news on what the Community has been doing since its beginnings and interesting news about reports and events on sustainable tourism have been published. They were accompanied by several scientific publications based on the results of the Community published in international academic journals. It published a manifesto on tourism as a driver for inclusive and sustainable

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² “Added value for the IMC member” section of PANACEA project
development entitled the Athens Declaration for sustainable tourism. Besides, the Community was working through thematic areas and issued thematic papers analysing the main features of the Community, thematic reviews collecting news and events on the topics of the Community’s working groups and thematic factsheets introducing how the Community is tackling sustainable tourism strategic issues. Finally, policy factsheets were produced by the Community’s working groups and policy recommendations summarising how policies should change to support sustainable tourism development have been issued.

Description:
Aimed at capitalising innovative instruments and actions towards the enhancement of tourism sustainability in the Mediterranean, the Sustainable Tourism Community was active for more than three years. Since November 2016, 17 territorial cooperation projects, with more than 200 partner organisations active in 12 Euro-Mediterranean countries have joined the Community. Five new territorial cooperation projects and two strategic projects focusing on governance of tourism enriched the Community with new results, knowledge and experiences to make tourism a real driver for inclusive and sustainable development.

Key words: Sustainable Tourism, M&C tourism, ICZM, attractiveness, tourism pressures, capitalisation, dissemination

Added value for the IMC members:
IMC members were able to directly benefit from the project’s outputs and its related events and were part of the MED Sustainable Tourism Community. They had the opportunity to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of all the MPs of the community, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to sustainable tourism.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy, Maria Garcies
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4. Renewable Energy Community

Acronym: Renewable Energy Community

Full title: Renewable Energy Community

Corresponding call: Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Second call for Horizontal projects

Specific objective: 2.2 “Renewable Energy”

Type of project: Horizontal project

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy (TF: Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings)

Partners:
1. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CENTRE BISTRA PTUJ [SI] (lead partner)
2. BCNECOLOGIA [ES]
3. ENVIRONMENT PARK [IT]
4. REGEA [HR]
5. ARCO LATINO [ES]
6. AEGEAN [EL]

Associated partners: CPMR

Start date: 01.11.19
End date: 30.06.22

Background and context:
Region is one of the most vulnerable areas to Climate Change and requires of coordinated actions that respond effectively to the current climate emergency and plan the adaptation of its territories. The Interreg Med Programme is a European Transnational Cooperation Programme that gathers 13 European countries from the northern shore of the Mediterranean region. In the current Programme, Interreg MED organizes its architecture differently with respect to the previous periods and set up horizontal projects, which animate thematic communities of projects and help ensure the capitalisation of their results. The Interreg MED Renewable Energy Community from 2016 to 2019 was formed by six modular projects focused on the promotion of renewable energies in the Mediterranean Area, making a special attention to rural and islands areas. The main outcome
from this stage was the creation of the “Ecosystemic Transition Unit” (ETU) as a governance model to integrate energy transition strategies into territorial planning and management, in the basis of the tools and methodologies developed by the Interreg MED Renewable Energy Community.

Description:
Since November of 2019, the project began its second generation, with a new partnership and a Capitalisation strategy based on the ETU initiative. The project foresaw three macroareas for transferring and promotes the mainstreaming of the ETU model: 1) Western Mediterranean Area; Adriatic MED and Ionic Area and Eastern MED Area.

Key words: Climate Change, climate emergency, adaptation, Mediterranean, renewable energies, rural and islands areas, transition strategies, territorial planning and management

Added value for the IMC members:
IMC members were able to directly benefit from the project’s outputs and its related events and be part of the Community. They will have the opportunity to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of all the MPs of the community, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to Renewable Energy. IMC members have been able to follow the activities and results of the project through the Working Group on Water and Energy.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy
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5. HERIT-DATA

Acronym: HERIT-DATA

Full title: Sustainable Heritage Management towards Mass Tourism Impact thanks to a holistic use of Big and Open Data

Corresponding call: Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Second call

Specific objective: 3.1: “To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area”

Type of project: Integrated project (studying + testing + capitalising)

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Social and Economic Cohesion (TF: Vasco da Gama)

Partners:
(1) REGIONE TOSCANA - Department of organization and information systems [IT] (Lead Partner)
(2) Foundation for research and innovation – FRI [IT]
(3) Santa María Real Foundation of Historical Heritage – FSMLRPH [ES]
(4) Development company of the region of Western Greece S.A. OTA - Olympiaki [EL]
(5) City of Dubrovnik development agency – DURA [HR]
(6) Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories – AviTeM [FR]
(7) Faculty of Science and Technology - New University of Lisbon – FCTUNL [PT]
(8) Valletta Local Council – VLC [MT]
(9) Valenciaport Foundation for Research, Promotion and Commercial Studies of the Valencian region [ES]
(10) Occitania / Pyrenees-Mediterranean Region [FR]
(11) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]
(12) Agència Valenciana del Turisme – Generalitat Valenciana [ES]

Associated partners: Municipality of Ibiza (ES); Generalitat Valenciana, Consellería de Hacienda y Modelo Económico, D.G. de Financiación y Fondos Europeos (ES); Ayuntamiento de Valencia (ES)

Start date: 01.02.2018
End date: 30.04.2022
Overall budget: €4,195,515.20 (including €245,000 of IPA funding)
ERDF Co-financing: €3,950,515.20 (85%)
CPMR budget: €237,770

Background and context:
Mass tourism in the Mediterranean coastal areas does not only have an impact on “beach resorts”, but is also promoted for destinations of great cultural, historical and heritage importance, from old historical centres to archaeological sites, many of them recognised as UNESCO World Heritage.

The project idea turned around finding solutions to a problem that affects the economy, demography and conservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the territories. It is in line with the Interreg MED O.P., which highlights a series of common challenges, needs and opportunities, such as:

- For a Sustainable Growth: one of the key challenge is the pressure of economic activities on cultural resources, and among the key needs we may recall the need for a more sustainable management of Mediterranean cities, and the need to improve the resilience, in particular of coastal areas natural and cultural heritage in front of human pressures;

- For Inclusive Growth: the need to better take into account socioeconomic issues and needs of end users in the conception and implementation of sustainable development policies In particular, the O.P. refers to the strong economic and urban pressures from a range of socio-economic activities, including mass tourism, and also remains that “… sustainable development applied to tourism not only means to make optimal use of environmental resources (…), but also to respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, and to provide socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders in the destination”.

**Description:**

Although tourism is a major engine of economic growth, it also creates a burden hard to manage, and has a great impact on the conservation of the heritage.

The overall objective of the project was to reduce the impact of human activities (tourism-related ones) on cultural heritage, with a special focus on 2 kinds of cultural destinations that can benefit from and be affected by mass tourism: Old towns & Sites of particular cultural heritage or archaeological interest for visitors, with a special interest on UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

In that framework, HERIT-DATA developed a sustainable and responsible tourism management towards cultural heritage in MED regions, in particular by taking advantage of technology and innovation in management tools (Smart Cities), as well as other policy and social measures.

A series of knowledge and solutions (Models, Strategy, Artificial Intelligence tool and App, etc.) in line with the current sectoral changes and characteristics of smart destinations was developed, tested and transferred. The results also contributed to decision-making processes from a holistic perspective and for all stakeholders: Planners (Public Administration & Tourist or Heritage Managing bodies); Visitors (coastal and cruise tourists visiting heritage sites), local stakeholders and host citizens.

**Expected outputs:**

- Better planning for the development of a sustainable and responsible tourism management towards cultural heritage in MED regions: all project results aim to contribute to the programme result indicator, which is to increase the level of sustainability of tourism in MED coastal regions. Through monitoring the activities, the partners will be able to generate the necessary statistics and comparative analysis, especially based on social and economic data related to tourism.

- New instruments, knowledge and tools available to enhance a sustainable and responsible tourism: in order to meet the Programme’s and the project objectives, the project will also create new technological solutions able to support decision-making processes.

- Transnational experience and knowledge gained on Smart Destinations technologies: smart destinations need an adequate use and capacity of taking advantage of new technologies, in particular the analysis of data. The partners will learn from each other experiences and capacities on issues that will improve their management and planning capacity, especially the management of real time information, big data analysis, the Internet of Things or open data strategies, which are fundamental elements for transitioning to more intelligent tourist destinations.

**Main expected deliverables:**

- Transnational Benchmark of Mass Tourism impacts around cultural heritage ecosystems
- Mapping and Protocol towards the selection of data and sources
- Med Strategy for Sustainable Cruise destination towards cultural heritage
- Artificial Intelligence Tool & App to support decision-making
- Mass Tourism Management model for the M cultural heritage based on new technologies
- On site pilot demonstrative projects
Models and Success Stories
- Capacity Building & Empowering (Training and Transferring Method)

Key words: Mass tourism; cultural heritage; human activities; cultural destinations; behaviour changes; ICZM recommendations; sustainable and responsible tourism management; MED coastal regions

Added value for the IMC members:
IMC members were able follow the activities and results of the project through its dissemination activities, in connection with the IMC TF on Culture and Sustainable Tourism, and benefit from the results and recommendations concerning cooperation, joint & integrated planning and conflicting interests’ management.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy, Jordi Juarez
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6. DestiMED PLUS

Acronym: DestiMED PLUS

Full title: Ecotourism in Mediterranean Destinations: From Monitoring and Planning to Promotion and Policy Support

Corresponding call: Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Third call for Modular Projects

Specific objective: 3.1 “Sustainable Tourism”

Type of project: M2+M3 (testing + capitalising)

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy; Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

Partners:
1. Regione Lazio (Lead partner) [IT]
2. Catalonía Region [ES]
3. Croatian Institute of Tourism [HR]
4. Fundació Universitària Balme - University of Vic [ES]
5. South Aegan Development Agency – READ S.A. [EL]
6. WWF MED [IT]
7. Corsican Tourist Agency [FR]
8. Sardinia Region - RAS [IT]
9. IUCN [ES]
10. Region of Crete [EL]
11. NAPA Albania [AL]
12. Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe – CPMR [FR]
13. Regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia – CSJA [ES]
14. The Travel Foundation [UK]

Associated partners: SMILE, MedPan, University of Bologna, Region of South Aegean, Ministry of Tourism Croatia, Greening the Islands, Asociación de Ecoturismo en España (AEE), Global Ecotourism Network (GEN), Universitat de Girona, Shouf Biosphere Reserve, Catalan Tourism Board, George Washington University, Empresa publica para la gestión del turismo y del deporte de Andalucía, INSTM Tunisia, Agence Nationale pour la Conservation de la Nature – Algerie, L’Oriental Region Morocco, NECSTouR

Expected start date: November 2019
Expected end date: June 2022
Overall budget: around €3,37 million
ERDF Co-financing: around €2.86 million
CPMR budget: 351.375€

Background and context:
With an expected increase in tourism arrivals up to 500 million by 2030 - equivalent to the current regional population - the Mediterranean region is in urgent need of concrete and joint actions to address the ongoing
and foreseen impacts. The Mediterranean is also home to a rich biodiversity, difficulty conserved in the protected areas of the region. As of today, almost 6000 species have been assessed for their conservation status in the Mediterranean region, and 25% were classified as Endangered. Pressures from increasing human population and development have been continuously increasing in the last 5 decades and are leading to biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, and elimination. Mass tourism is one of the leading causes of it in particular in coastal areas, being the driver behind uncontrolled urbanization, pollution and bad waste management, overuse of resources, over visitation and disturbance. Despite this, the majority of Protected areas in the Med still lack the knowledge, capacities and funding to address this situation and there is no proactive planning around that in the Protected Area nor in the regions from which PAs are administratively depended.

On the contrary, territories that are situated away from the coast and in sparsely populated territories, suffer from structural unemployment and lack of opportunities. This is also the situation of Protected areas which, as the surrounding communities, look at sustainable tourism as an alternative to the situation but, once again, lack skills and capacities to ensure their offer is marketable.

**Description:**

After 6 years of pioneer work to address the challenges described above, including the recent Interreg Med DestiMED project which defined a common approach for ecotourism development and monitoring in Mediterranean protected areas, several issues still need to be improved, up scaled, and capitalized upon. DestiMED Plus looked in particular at:

- The lack of a relevant body in the Med area that brings together decision/policy makers across multiple-sectors and advocates for the conservation and sustainable tourism agenda at higher level, under ICZM principles;
- A sound but user-friendly and upgraded system to measure the net impact of ecotourism actions in a given territory, considering environmental but also socio-economic aspects;
- The need of moving from motivation to effectiveness in the several Public Private Partnerships (LEC - protected area + tourism providers) that were established in previous initiatives;
- The low competitiveness and seasonality of the existing ecotourism offer in Med Protected areas;
- The mismatch of skills and qualifications of the local SMEs offering ecotourism products and services;
- The lack of common branding of the Mediterranean as a single ecotourism destination.

DestiMED PLUS, therefore, operated on three levels: the first will concerned an upgraded measurement of net impacts of ecotourism products, in particular looking at the socio-economic component and including a full-speed implementation of the Ecological Footprint of tourism products tested in DestiMED1, the second on strengthening the capacities of SMEs and existing PPP functioning and the third on establishing a relevant regional platform that advocates for tourism and conservation at Mediterranean level and enables better collaboration among policy makers at regional scale working toward a common vision that balances the economic incentive of ecotourism with conservation and environmental impact. The ambition of DestiMED Plus was helping Mediterranean regions to create the knowledge/expertise and enabling conditions for planning, monitoring and measuring ecotourism in parks and beyond. The core of the actions was still protected areas but, this time, work was implemented directly with regional rather than local authorities who were expected to apply and later on work together to scale up the planning and monitoring approach at least in their protected areas networks and beyond.

**Expected outputs:**

- **M2 (Testing):** the testing phase of the project focused on the overall objective of improving DestiMED protocol and transfer it to new territories, in particular concerning:
  - Private Public Partnership model (PPP)
  - Ecotourism product standard
    - Test an innovative method for measuring and monitoring the Socio-Economic impact of Ecotourism Products that can complement the information from the Ecological Footprint, assessed through the calculator. Result were an overall Tourism Index of Net Impact (TINI) for ecotourism products.
  - Ecotourism destination standard
- Strengthen MEET standard around destination management
  - Capacity building
    - Improve the usability and uptake of the monitoring platform and related reporting and training tools so it becomes a capacity building and resource platform (Monitoring Tool 2.0).
    - Build capacity of park managers and SMEs related to their skills needed to deliver on quality, sustainability and impact of ecotourism offer.
    - Build capacity of SMEs related to their skills on communication, marketing and technology use.
    - Build capacity of park managers in understanding tourism sector and expectations.

This was all tested through pilot actions in new PAs. Pilot action territories were determined prior to project start and were managed by the regions involved. The rest of the partnership were mostly coordinating the technical and capacity building actions.

- **M3 (Capitalization): the capitalization phase of DestiMED+ focused on upscaling and transferring the upgraded DestiMED methodology to regions in order to build capacity and influence policy environment, through:**
  - Private sector
    - Develop a formal training programme or similar for local and international tour operators on the use of the Ecological Footprint and TINI in their business
    - Hold Med Ecotourism Fair with target audience of industry and tour operators in order to further raise awareness and feasibility of commercialization
  - MEET Network (as the capitalization platform)
    - Develop several webinars and/or live training workshops based on the capacity building platform above and offer them as MEET branded training offerings during which non-members could also be welcome
  - Regional policy makers
    - Develop a formal training programme or similar for regions or other networks, and target the implementation of several of these trainings across the region
    - Develop a working group on involved regions jointly working towards the definition of ecotourism strategies in their territory (together with tourism depts)
    - Set a target for # of ecotourism policies adopted within our PA network and integrated into their management plans

**Key words:** Mediterranean, Sustainable coastal and maritime tourism, ICZM, MSP, ecosystem approach, protected areas, ecotourism products

**Added value for the IMC members:**

DestiMED PLUS built on several previous Interreg MED and ENI CBC MED projects, also allowing to capitalise on projects in which the IMC-CPMR is involved (MITOMED+, CO-EVOLVE, MedCoast4BG, etc.). It foresaw a specific role for regions and the promotion of conditions for the improvement of ecotourism products, upscaling and transferring the upgraded DestiMED existing methodology to regions in order to build capacity and influence policy environment through the Private Sector, MEET network and regional policy makers. Besides, the project was in line with actions carried out by the IMC, focused on the planning aspects of tourism and Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Finally, IMC members were able to follow the activities and results of the project through its dissemination activities, in connection with the IMC Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism, and benefit from its results/recommendations.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy

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**7. WINTERMED**

**Acronym:** WINTER MED

**Full title:** Winter Islands Network for all year-round Tourism ExpeRience in the MEDiterranean

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Third call for Modular Projects

**Specific objective:** 3.1 “Sustainable Tourism”
Type of project: M2+M3 (testing + capitalising)

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Sustainable and Cultural Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy; Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

Partners:
(1) ANCI Toscana (Association of Tuscan Municipalities) [IT]
(2) Exfini EGTC [EL]
(3) Development Agency of South Aegean Region [EL]
(4) Institute of Agriculture and Tourism – IPTPO [HR]
(5) Larnaca-Famagusta District Development Agency – ANETEL [CY]
(6) Dubrovnik Neretva Regional Development Agency – DUNEA [HR]
(7) Confesercenti Toscana [IT]
(8) Corsican Tourist Agency [FR]
(9) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe – CPMR [FR]
(10) Chamber of commerce, industry, services and navigation Mallorca [ES]
(11) Tourism Strategy Agency of the Balearic Islands (AETIB) [ES]

Associated partners: Tuscany Region, Croatian Tourist Board, South Aegean Region, Thessaly Region

Expected start date: November 2019
Expected end date: June 2022

Overall budget: around €2.65 million
ERDF Co-financing: around €2.25 million
CPMR budget: 240.000€

Background and context:
The Mediterranean is one of the world’s most popular M&C tourist destinations, its islands attracting millions of tourists during the summer months. The tourism sector is the major economic driver that brings prosperity and economic and social development of the Mediterranean island destinations that otherwise struggle to find steady sources of income, mainly due to geographical constraints and lack of alternative economic activities. At the same time, it brings also a huge pressure on cultural and natural heritage of the territories. Loss of biodiversity, coastal erosion, pressure on local resources such as energy, food, land and water, commercialisation of the local culture and traditions, are some of the factors that hamper the sustainable development of the sector. These negative impacts are exacerbated in particular during the summer season when the local communities have to cope with the overtourism, whilst remaining in a socio-economic impasse during the rest of the year. The seasonality of the tourism demand represents a huge challenge particularly in small and medium islands, that suffer because of their remoteness and struggle to develop alone integrated strategies with sufficiently diversified and specialised tourism offer. The diversification and the development of high-quality thematic tourism to attract visitors all year round has already been identified as one of the ways forward by many island destinations, but very few of them succeed to secure all year-round tourism. Lack of cooperation and joint and integrated planning prevent policymakers, economic operators and local communities to deal with adaptation and mitigation of the seasonality of demand and to benefit from the common cultural and natural assets of the destinations. Innovative and attractive integrated strategies at wider transnational level are thus necessary to prevent negative effects of overtourism during summer and capture the potential of tourists who can travel in low season.

Description:
WINTER MED promoted the transition from the current overexploitation of insular tourist destinations during the summer to an alternative, sustainable, all-year round use of these territories, by delivering a transnational strategy and the tools for changing and upgrading one of the key sectors of the Mediterranean area. The project built on the potential of capitalisation: analysing, assembling, adapting and testing available tools and methodologies to deliver a transnational strategy for the development of all-year round sustainable and responsible tourism in Mediterranean island destinations. The partners co-constructed integrated solutions to common challenges, focusing in the common interests, beyond and besides the dimensions usually associated to the competition between destinations in a global market. From this objective and approach stemmed the holistic intervention aligned and contributing to ICZM and MSP in the area. The final transnational strategy provided the tools for and the demonstration of the benefits of policy learning and evidence-based decision-making. The partnership gathered a group of institutions with recognised experience in EU projects and tourism
in insular areas. Furthermore, their complementary capacities allowed the deployment of the sequential work plan: from the analysis of previous results to its implementation and improvement towards mainstreaming the project conclusions and widening their integration into the different policy and economic levels.

**Expected outputs:**
- Adapting and integrating results, activities and outputs of ongoing projects into a joint model for the all year-round tourism experience in the Mediterranean island destinations
- Development of regional action plans for sustainable development of tourism in partners regions using a participatory approach and social dialogue.
- Establishing of the Winter Islands Network for all year-round Tourism ExpeRience in the Mediterranean
- Developing and adopting of a transnational WINTER MED strategy through policy integration of regional action plans
- Transferring of integrated pilot initiatives of ongoing projects to test and implement the transnational strategy for WINTER MED islands and mainstreaming in regional / national programming instruments (ERDF and other relevant regional/local plans)

**Key words:** Sustainable Tourism, ecotourism, seasonality, islands, network

**Added value for the IMC members:**
The CPMR was involved in several past and ongoing projects (COASTGAP, CO-EVOLVE, MITOMED/MITOMED+, HERIT-DATA, INNOBLUEGROWTH, PANACEA), and promoting/following several initiatives related to sustainable tourism, biodiversity protection & ICZM/MSP (e.g. Bologna Charter/UfM works). By taking part in the WINTER MED project, the IMC extended and gave more impact on the actions developed to tackle the seasonality of tourism in Mediterranean island destinations. Besides, the IMC members were able benefit from the efforts towards the implementation of integrated strategies for the development of sustainable and responsible tourism in Mediterranean island destinations.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy  
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Website: [https://winter-med.interreg-med.eu/](https://winter-med.interreg-med.eu/)  

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**8. MPA-ENGAGE**

**Acronym:** MPA-ENGAGE  
**Full title:** Engaging Mediterranean key actors in Ecosystem Approach to manage Marine Protected Areas facing Climate change  
**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Third call for Modular Projects  
**Specific objective:** 3.2 “Biodiversity Protection”  
**Type of project:** M2+M3 (testing + capitalising)  

**Related IMC working groups/task forces of the IMC:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy  

**Partners:**

(1) Stazione Zoologica Napoli “Anton Dohrn” (SZN) [IT]  
(2) Marine Protected Area of Portofino (MPA) [IT]  
(3) National Park of Calanques (MPA) [FR]  
(4) Polytechnic University of Marche / CoNIsMA [IT]  
(5) National Park of Brijuni (MPA) [HR]  
(6) National Marine Park of Zakynthos (NMPZ) (MPA) [EL]  
(7) Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) EMEA  
(8) Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) [BE]  
(9) Karaburuni Sazan(MPA) / Association for Protection of Aquatic wildlife of Albania [AL]  
(10) Regional Government de Catalunya (Region) / National Park of Medes (MPA) [ES]  
(11) Marine Protected Area of Tavolara Punta Coda Cavallo (MPA) [IT]  
(12) Mediterranean info office for Environment Culture & Sustainable Development [EL]
(13) National Park of Port Cros (MPA) [FR]
(14) Regione Liguria (Region) [IT]

Associated partners:


**Expected start date:** November 2019
**Expected end date:** June 2022

**Description:**

To support and promote the role of MED MPAs as central tools for the implementation of ecosystem approach (EcAp) for the adaptation and mitigation to climate change. 1. To improve knowledge of marine ecosystems and their inter-linkages with human activities face to the impact of climate change. 2. To foster the implementation and development of standardized tools for monitoring schemes, to elaborate vulnerability assessment and define adaptation plans to Climate Change in Mediterranean MPAs and small-scale and recreational fishery sectors. 3. To promote stakeholder engagement through participatory approaches (including Marine Citizen Science) to enhance the effectiveness of MPAs as nature-based solutions to adapt and mitigate Climate Change effects. 4. To mainstream developed/upgraded policies for Climate Change adaptation in the MED Sea.

**Expected outputs:**

1 Joint/ Transnational Vulnerability Assessment; 1 Joint/ Transnational Monitoring Plan; 1 Joint Transnational Adaptation Plan; 8 MPA adaptation Plans; 8 MPAs as partners; 2+ MPAs engaged

**Key words:** Sustainable Tourism, ecotourism, marine and coastal ecosystems, cultural and natural resources, Marine Protected Areas, ecosystem approach, monitoring, vulnerability assessment, climate change

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Lise Guennal, Jordi Juarez

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9. POSBEMED2

**Acronym:** POSBEMED2

**Full title:** Governance and management of Posidonia beach- dune systems across the Mediterranean

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Third call for Modular Projects

**Specific objective:** 3.2 “Biodiversity Protection”

**Type of project:** M2+M3 (testing + capitalising)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

**Partners:**

(1) International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN (Lead partner) [ES]
(2) OEC (Office de l’environnement Corse) [FR]
(3) Autonomous Region of Sardinia-Directorate-General for the Defense of the Environment [IT]
(4) CNR Research Institute (Sardinia) [IT]
(5) Regional Environment Ministry of Balearic islands (Dirección General de Espacios Naturales y Biodiversidad) [ES]
(6) Natura Jadera, Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas in Zadar County [HR]
(7) Research Institute (HCMR) [HR]
(8) Enalia Physis (Environmental Research Center) [CY]
(9) Associates (Advisory Board): National/Regional Agency for Protected Areas [AL]
**Expected start date:** November 2019  
**Expected end date:** June 2022

**Background and context:**
In many Mediterranean countries the management of beaches with banquettes is entrusted to regional and local governments. Often, the beaches are an integral part of the tourist offer and from our previous analysing on the views of stakeholders, it became clear that the level of support for more naturally-orientated practices (e.g. partial removal of banquettes) from beach users or local authorities could be further increased with more knowledge on the available management options.

This project was based through the findings and scope of the project POSBEMED “(Sustainable management of the systems of Posidonia-beaches in the Mediterranean region), developed within the previous call of the Interreg Med program with the aim of defining a joint strategy for the sustainable management of the beaches with seagrass banquettes. The overall objective of this proposal was “to manage the Mediterranean coastline by developing planning strategies that recognize the value of the Posidonia beach-dune environment and integrate them into the overall coastal strategy, while also addressing concerns and educating stakeholders”.

**Description:**
The specific objectives to reach through this project was to implement the Mediterranean Governance Strategy for the Posidonia littoral zones through:

- Enhancing capacity building and knowledge for effective best management practices
- Implementing a local framework of reference for decision making, particularly for large Posidonia banquettes, considering beach functions (protection and recreation) and the integration of the ecosystem (from the Posidonia meadows to coastal dunes) where protected areas are placed. It aims to build a coastal planning framework that balances the need for sustainable management of beaches with banquettes, seagrass ecosystems and coastal dunes (the “Posidonia littoral zone”) with the need for development of sustainable local tourism offer.
- Building awareness of stakeholders, including visitors, and supporting their participation through programmes and engagement activities to enhance their understanding of the value of the Mediterranean coastal/ marine landscapes where key habitats like Posidonia meadows and coastal dunes are present. This includes as important part increase awareness on the banquettes’ role in the beaches and in the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem.
- Ensuring high level conservation of priority sites (those related to Protected areas including Natura 2000 sites) and restoration of damaged and fragile ecosystem to enhance the resilience of the MED coast
- Valuing natural beaches for a sustainable tourism offer and local development

**Key words:** Sustainable Tourism, ecotourism, marine and coastal ecosystems, cultural and natural resources, POSIDONIA, governance

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Lise Guennal, Jordi Juarez

**10. INCIRCE**

**Acronym:** INCIRCE

**Full title:** Support INsular and low-density areas in the transition towards a more CIRCuLar tourism Economy

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Third call

**Specific objective:** 3.1: “To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area”

**Type of project:** M2+M3 (testing + capitalising)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Economic and Social Cohesion (TF Culture and Sustainable Tourism)

**Partners:**
1. AREA Science Park [IT] (Lead Partner)
2. MEDCITIES [ES]
3. CIVINET CY-EL Secretariat Civil Non-Profit Company [GR]
4. ALBANIAN INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT [AL]
Background and context:
The Mediterranean represents the world’s leading destination in terms of international and domestic tourism, accounting for one third of total arrivals worldwide. Coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean is a growing business and a predominant source of income. It can be a major source of growth and jobs, especially for young people. At the same time, the Mediterranean is subject to severe anthropic impacts and environmental risks: tourism pressure on territories and citizens, extensive building along the coastline, coastal erosion, worsening conditions of sea water, over exploitation of natural and cultural heritage. There is a need for a more sustainable tourism.

Considerable knowledge, guidelines and tools regarding sustainable tourism have been already produced by the scientific community as well as former EU funded projects. Nevertheless, practitioners are faced with some difficulties in accessing this mass of documentation, elaborate and adapt methodologies and tools to their specific needs.

The project built new knowledge upon the following Interreg MED projects:

- Participation of the IMC:
  - MITOMED+ (in which participated the IMC) set up CAP&COM on the MITOMED+ project which promoted the integrated management of tourism by enhancing the access to data, products and services thanks to a set of indicators. MITOMED+ continues these results in order to enhance coordination of maritime and coastal tourism strategies between territories with cooperation and coordination between regions.
  - GO SUMP (in which participated the IMC as associated) on improving sustainable mobility
- CONSUME-LESS on the development of integrated sustainable energy, water and waste management strategies and the promotion of sustainable tourism models
- BLUE-ISLAND on the identification and mitigation of the effect of the seasonal variation of waste generated on Mediterranean islands as an effect of tourism
- EMBLEMATIC on the creation of a new form and offer of sustainable tourism in the hinterland coastal area
- CASTWATER as Coastal Areas Sustainable Tourism WATER management in the Mediterranean.

Description:
INCIRCLE’s main goal was to promote the definition of regional and local strategies for sustainable tourism, by adapting and applying the principles of circular economy to tourism in islands and low-density populated areas. It focused on energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, and waste and water management.

In the different pilot territories, regional strategies were outlined each one including a pilot local action plan. They were based on already available knowledge produced by the scientific community and EU funded projects, and on common set of circularity indicators to assess the tourism sector, based on a revised version

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3 “Background and context” section of MITOMED.
of the European Tourism Indicator System. Therefore, the project developed a knowledge map in the shape of an online interactive platform integrated as well as a selection of tools on the subject. A group of pilot regions developed their own regional strategy for a sustainable tourism in their area by means of an active involvement of key stakeholders and dialogue with local and national institutions.

A group of replicators from the whole MED areas were then selected. They attended a summer school to get familiar with the approach and have a first opportunity of sharing expertise with project partners. Later, they performed peer to peer visits, having in this way the opportunity of visiting one or two IN-CIRCLE pilot territories and hosting a delegation of project partners.

**Expected outputs:**

- An enhanced access to data and knowledge for sustainable tourism local and regional stakeholders
- Development of circularity indicators on sustainable tourism
- Elaboration of local and regional strategic plans on sustainable tourism, thus considering territorial specificities and cooperative
- Capitalisation of the project via the organisation of a summer school for public institutions interested by INCIRCLE methodology and deliverables
- Continuation of peer-to-peer and cooperative approach after the implementation of the project by means of visits and the writing of a final report with suggestions from replicating institutions.

**Main expected deliverables:**

- Capitalisation:
  - A Web platform providing a knowledge map of available reports, guidelines and tools
  - An inventory of indicators for assessing tourism destinations in line with the principle of the circular economy
  - Regional plans
  - Local plans
  - A summer school for replicators on sustainable development
- Communication:
  - Organisation of meeting with tourism sector stakeholders to gather information to assess the level of sustainability of local tourism sector
  - Peer to peer visits between the partners of the project
- Testing
  - Setting up activities of INCIRCLE’s working groups (Governance, Information Systems, Training and Financing)

**Key words:** Sustainable tourism, maritime and coastal tourism, knowledge sharing, indicators, circular economy, circular tourism, information, regional strategies, local strategies, water management, action plan.

**Added value for the IMC members:**

IMC members were able to follow the activities and results of the project.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy

**Website:** [https://www.incircle-kp.eu/](https://www.incircle-kp.eu/)

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/incircle.med/](https://www.facebook.com/incircle.med/)

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**11. IMPULSE PLUS**

**Acronym:** IMPULSE PLUS

**Full title:** Reaching new territories in the use of Integrated Management Support tools for Energy efficiency in Mediterranean Public Buildings

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – 4th call for Modular Projects.

**Specific objective:** 2.1: To raise capacity for better management of energy in public buildings at transnational level.

**Type of project:** M3 (capitalising)
**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy (TF: Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings)

**Partners:**

1. Valencia Institute of Building [ES] (Leader Partner)
2. ART-ER - S. CONS P.A [IT]
3. REGION OF WESTERN GREECE [GR]
4. Valencia Climate and Energy Foundation [ES]
5. Regional development centre Koper [SI]
6. Elche City Council [ES]

**Associated partners:** Valencia City Council (ES); Energy Cities (FR); Comunidad Valenciana Region (ES); CLUSTER BUILD [IT]; Emilia-Romagna Region (IT); University of Patras (GR); Municipality of Patras (GR); Municipality of Koper [SI]; Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (FR);

**Start date:** 01.03.2021  
**End date:** 30.06.2022  
**Overall budget:** 499,971.25 €  
**ERDF Co-financing:** 424,975.57 € (85%)

**Background and context:**

One key objective towards the 2050 long-term decarbonisation strategy, present in the Climate Target Plan 2030, is energy renovation of public buildings (ERB). In this line, several instruments have been set by the directives under the Clean Energy for All Europeans Package e.g.: long-term renovation strategies (LTRS) with dedicated financing schemes and mobilisation of investment for cost-effective deep renovation; minimum energy performance requirements for renovated buildings; targets in national plans for stimulating buildings' refurbishment towards Nearly Zero Energy Buildings; annual 3% renovation rate for central government buildings (likely extended to lower administrative levels in the 2021 Commission revision of the EED and EPBD). Also, the Covenant of Mayors sets common guidelines for local authorities to develop their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) including specific energy/cost indicators for Municipal buildings. However, the weighted annual energy renovation rate is low at some 1%. The main common territorial challenge tackled by IMPULSE is insufficient capacities of local public administrations to manage integrated, reliable, and cost-effective ERB action plans for their buildings' stock, responding to the EU Directives and ensuring reliable completion of SEAPs. IMPULSE’s financial scheme evaluation tool for gradual building energy renovation and planning, including the decision-making support tool PLUG-IN KPIs-processor for automated hierarchy of public buildings, aims to address such challenges. Transferring IMPULSE’s selected outputs shall contribute to kick-start EU renovation wave, in both the climate neutrality and the postCOVID19 economic recovery dimension, while ensuring that current legislation and policies relevant to the European Green Deal are enforced and effectively implemented.

**Description:**

IMPULSE PLUS effectively transferred to new regions and cities the main outputs developed during the previous MED project IMPULSE. This included the provision of support tools for the development of gradual renovation plans and financial planning for cost-optimal solutions for public building stocks. The Financial Scheme Evaluation tool, including the decision-making support tool PLUG-IN KPIs-processor for automated hierarchy of public buildings, was revised and adapted under a transnational and cooperative way to help territories to meet the new targets set by the EU in the Green Deal and Renovation Wave Strategy, which aim to double annual energy renovation rates in the next ten years and report on the need to renovate buildings deeply on a massive scale. The transferring process allowed, on the one hand, to scale the scope of application in some of the countries previously involved in IMPULSE project (Spain, Greece and Italy) from small/medium municipalities to bigger cities (such as Valencia in Spain), but also, from the local to the regional scale (Emilia Romagna Region in Italy and Western Greece). On the other hand, results were transferred to a country that was not involved previously in IMPULSE (Slovenia). It enabled other municipalities/regions in Slovenia to make use of the tools taking the Municipality of Koper as a reference. Finally, IMPULSE PLUS permitted to improve and adapt the tools to the requirements established in the new EU program period.

**Expected outputs:**

The project aimed to introduce new territories to the use of an integrated management support system for planning energy renovation projects for public buildings at local and regional level.
- Engaging receivers’ territories (through a MoU) on the adoption of the protocol followed for public buildings’ energy renovation planning and financing assessment: Four MoUs among the project and the public entities responsible for the energy management and planning of public buildings of the targeted regions/municipalities will be signed. The MoUs will include the energy renovation plan for the stock of public buildings obtained automatically through the planning tool (PLUG-IN KPIs processor tool) adapted to each of the receivers’ territories, as well as the most appropriate financing scheme for that specific plan among the various solutions evaluated with the Financial schemes tool. In addition, a detailed protocol to follow will also be included, based on the lessons learned during the process of improvement, implementation and use of the tools, which will ensure effective take-up by the new territories.

- Involvement of the CRPM-IMC, as umbrella organization of regions, to help to maximize the impact of the outputs disseminating them among its members.

**Key words:** Energy efficiency, public buildings, building rehabilitation, building renovation.

**Added value for the IMC members:**

IMC members were able to follow the activities and results of the project. They were able to replicate IMPULSE PLUS’s methodology by participating in the webinar of introduction to the methodology and tools IMPULSE and other relevant workshops and trainings. The IMC also ensured that it capitalises on the work started under the SHERPA project, and more specifically on the Joint Action Plan by integrating the results of the IMPULSE PLUS project into its more global strategy for planning the energy renovation of public buildings in MED.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy

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**12. BESTMED**

**Acronym:** BEST MED

**Full title:** Beyond European Sustainable Tourism Med Path

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Call for strategic project proposals: Enhancing Mediterranean Governance

**Specific objective:** 4.1 “To support the process of strengthening and developing multilateral coordination frameworks in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges”

**Type of project:** Strategic project (focus on Coastal and Maritime Tourism)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

**Partners:**

1. El Legado Andalúsí (Andalusian Public Foundation) – FPA El legado andalusí [ES]
2. Lazio Region [IT]
3. University of Algarve - School of Management, Hospitality and Tourism – UAlg [PT]
4. Croatian Chamber of Economy - Rijeka County Chamber – CCE [HR]
5. Ministry of Economy, Development & Tourism – MinTourEL [EL]
6. Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe – CPMR [FR]
7. National Tourism Organisation of Montenegro – NTO [ME]
10. Calabria Region [IT]

**Associated partners:** European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), Europarc Italy, Ministry of works and public transport of Lebanon, Algarve Tourism Board, ASCAME, INSTM Tunisia, Malta Tourism Authority, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology - Republic of Slovenia, Chambre de Commerce Egyptienne D'Alexandrie, South Aegean Tourism Observatory, Ministry of Tourism - Republic of Croatia.

**Expected start date:** September 2019

**Expected end date:** September 2022

**Overall budget:** around €2.70 million

**ERDF/IPA Co-financing:** around €2.3 million
**CPMR budget:** 289.625€

**Background and context:**

The number of new innovative touristic offers capable of decreasing seasonality in the Mediterranean is relatively low and depopulation has become a more and more common gap in many inland areas. BEST MED will work on the development of a concrete off-peak season offer with integrated products and services. The integrated and innovative approach of BEST MED will expand visits in:

- time (beyond the summer months);
- space (beyond the popular coastal regions, both to the inland and coastal areas currently not frequently visited): through a route/path concept;
- type of visitors (increasing the share of domestic tourism and new market segments in less-pressured territories): involving local population and diversifying the inland tourist offer through cultural diversity, traditions, folk-lore, health and healthy offer.

Building on best practices on integrated approaches/strategies from other projects, BEST MED contributed to a dialogue on macro regional and sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean to generate cooperation and consensus raising among Mediterranean regions and participating countries on tourism-related issues, currently lacking common agreements and operational plans.

**Description:**

BEST MED aimed to develop a new integrated and sustainable touristic planning in the MED area. It contributed to the objective of enhancing the Mediterranean Governance, being the main challenges identified seasonality and lack of effective cooperation among main tourism actors, including citizens’ active participation on policies design. A partnership of ten regions and eleven partners - together with twelve associated partners - was involved in this project that contributes to supporting evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation of interventions in the MED programme, by proposing a joint approach on “green” planning, based on (and improving) the outputs produced by other projects such as Tourism Data indicators toolkit and Green Beach Model (MITOMED+) and Tourism sustainability toolkit in Mediterranean (CO-EVOLVE) towards a wide model for routes linking coastal, maritime and inland destinations. The project contributed to monitor tourism sustainability in the Med, through an Observation Network of national and regional tourism observatories. The studying and testing phases allowed to identify and assess tourism impacts in its different dimensions and lead to the development of a joint model and integrated approach for promoting sustainable tourism as a strategic driver for responsible economic growth and prosperity.

**Expected outputs:**

- **Data knowledge improvement:** access and collection of comparable and usable data; provision of necessary tools to better adapt to the fast-structural changes fostered by the fast process of digitalization in the whole economy especially affecting the tourism sector; enhancement of appropriate ICT allowing potential visitors to get a visual impression of MED area.
- **Enhanced participatory and integrated multilevel planning:** active involvement of MED territories through cross-sectorial linkages; empowerment of local communities to be involved in policy decisions through a public-private partnership approach.
- **Improved policy environment and processes in tourism:** simplification of the policy framework to improve the business ecosystem; monitoring and measuring plan for a better strategy that can help in the development of a plan according to the in-formation collected and studied, in order to take better and more acknowledged decisions, by means of Data indicators.
- **Demonstrated contribution to development of more sustainable transnational tourism offer in MED area and its diversification:** integrated and diversified offer for redistribution of tourists; new policies that can strongly promote redistribution of tourists from coastlines to inlands though cultural routes.

**Key words:** Mediterranean, Sustainable coastal and maritime Tourism, data, products, indicators, territorial strategies, cooperation, joint planning, seasonality, network, capitalisation

**Added value for the IMC members:**

The project aimed to conceive a new integrated model of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in MED capitalising on the relevant experiences, output and results of past/ongoing projects in which the IMC-CPMR is involved - such as MITOMED+ (Tourism Data indicators toolkit and Green Beach Model), CO-EVOLVE (Planning-ICZM), HERIT-DATA (Use of big and open data in tourism) - activating synergies and cooperation to share
specific solutions towards an integrated, sustainable and responsible management of tourism ecosystems. This was the opportunity for the IMC to bring its contribution in a strategic governance project - gathering partners from both regional and national levels: it extended further and give more impact on the actions developed in other projects, towards integrated multilevel planning and innovative offer into wider development strategies fighting against seasonality and forressing an effective cooperation. Besides, IMC-CPMR members were able to follow the activities and results of the project through its implementation and dissemination activities, in connection with the IMC Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Maria Garci
Twitter: @BestMedProject
Website: https://best-med.interreg-med.eu/

13. SMARTMED

Acronym: SMARTMED

Full title: Empower Mediterranean for SMART Tourism

Corresponding call: Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Call for strategic project proposals: Enhancing Mediterranean Governance

Specific objective: 4.1 “To support the process of strengthening and developing multilateral coordination frameworks in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges”

Type of project: Strategic project (focus on Coastal and Maritime Tourism)

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

Partners:

(1) Ministry of Tourism - Republic of Croatia [HR]
(2) TZ HNK [BA]
(3) Croatian Chamber of Economy - Rijeka County Chamber – CCE [HR]
(4) Occitanie/Pyrenees-Mediterranean Region [FR]
(5) Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona- AMB [ES]
(6) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe – CPMR [FR]
(7) Turismo de Portugal [PT]
(8) Directorate for Competitiveness Development and Investments in Tourism of Montenegro – MSDT [ME]
(9) University of Primorska – UP [SI]
(10) Puglia Region – Apulia Region [IT]
(11) ATOUT FRANCE [FR]
(12) Autonomous Region of Aosta Valley – RAVA [IT]
(13) Ministry of Tourism – MinTourEL [EL]

Associated partners: Associação da Hotelaria, Restauração e Similares de Portugal (AHRESP), L´Oriental Region, Sousse Region, Malta Tourism Authority, El Legado Andalusí (Andalusian Public Foundation), Soca Valley Development Center, Europarc Italy, Labour Market Diagnosis System

Expected start date: September 2019
Expected end date: September 2022
Overall budget: €3 million
ERDF/IPA Co-financing: €2.55 million
CPMR budget: 140.000€

Background and context:
The main problems SMARTMED addressed were high seasonality of tourism and lack of cooperation among key sector stakeholders across the MED region. These overarching problems have a negative impact on the overall competitiveness of the region, deteriorate the destination image and put pressure on natural resources, local infrastructure and public services. Tourism is the main economic activity of the region generating most of the income but a lack of a long-term vision of the destination future and well-integrated planning as well as weak cooperation between tourism actors decreases its attractiveness. The MED destination, although a global leader, is facing increasingly strong competition from emerging markets. Seasonality and a lack of cross-sectoral as well as vertical cooperation have not been adequately addressed within MED countries or at cross-
country level; a structured, comprehensive approach to these problems is still missing. At the country and cross-country level there is a disconnection between tourism and wider territorial and socio-economic development, embracing local infrastructure development, labour market policies, spatial planning and social cohesion policies. New initiatives are required for the valorisation of employment in tourism and to increase capacities of regional/local stakeholders to implement new business models and cross-sectorial cooperation. Despite country differences, the region is experiencing similar problems, a fairly homogenous destination image and almost identical social patterns. SMARTMED aims to contribute to the development of an attractive, smart and inclusive MED destination, maintaining its worldwide leading position, through ensuring capable public and private sector stakeholders, achieved through actions directed at empowering the public and private actors of the tourism sector and building cooperation between them, to prepare them for new demands of future trends and to target the global market proactively.

Description:
SMARTMED addressed key MED region challenges in the development of smart, inclusive and sustainable tourism, primarily due to high seasonality and lack of cooperation among key sector stakeholders. The lack of a long-term vision for the destination future and disconnection between tourism and wider territorial development, embracing local infrastructure development, labour market policies, business support environment, spatial planning and social cohesion policies decreases the attractiveness of the region for innovative business in tourism and has led to a heavily seasonal labour market, unable to attract talented individuals as well as putting great pressure on natural resources, local infrastructure and public services.

Common territorial features, a homogenous destination image and similar socio-economic patterns require joint action and a single approach to the challenges posed by current tourism development in the region. SMARTMED contributed to the development of an attractive, smart and inclusive MED destination, maintaining its leading position through coordinated policies and capable public and private sector stakeholders. This was achieved by enhanced, more structured cooperation empowering multi-level stakeholders to develop and deliver integrated tourism policies and innovative solutions for smart MED destinations through a new business model, supported by a permanent collaborative stakeholders’ platform for cross-sectorial cooperation.

Expected outputs:
- **Establishment of Mediterranean tourism cooperation as a common platform for joint action**: the capacities of regional/local public and private stakeholders in MED countries were strengthened to implement new business models and foster cross-sectorial cooperation such as public private partnerships. This directly fostered cooperation along local tourism value chain to prepare MED tourism stakeholders for new demands of future tendencies and to target the global market proactively.

- **Strengthening of capacities of all involved stakeholders in tourism business and policy making**: the project created the fundamentals for the development of human resources and skills in tourism of the MED area, with particular attention to the needs of local inhabitants, and provide targeted education and training measures to enhance a high quality and innovative tourism offer, which in turn will ensure the retention of qualified human resources. The targeted trainings were developed to empower tourism entrepreneurs in digital skills and develop new skills in destination management and sustainable tourism, in line with the SMART Tourism Business Model. The trainings were strictly linked to the initiatives to be tested in the pilot actions, as they are intended to stimulate entrepreneurs and start-ups in delivering an innovative tourist offer, while reinforcing business capacities in the sector.

- **Reinforcement of competitiveness of Med Destinations through the development and testing of a transferable and sustainable SMART Tourism Business Model**, that contributed directly to ensuring capacity building for the empowerment of relevant actors in the tourism sector.

**Key words:** Mediterranean, Sustainable coastal and maritime Tourism, territorial strategies, cooperation, joint planning, seasonality, network, empowerment, capacity building, capitalisation

**Added value for the IMC members:**
The project developed a more structured cooperation empowering multi-level stakeholders to develop and deliver integrated tourism policies and innovative solutions for smart MED destinations through a new business model, supported by a permanent collaborative stakeholders’ platform for cross-sectorial cooperation. By taking part in SMARTMED, the CPMR extended and gave more impact on the actions developed to share knowledge and experiences to reinforce the competitiveness and the attractiveness of the Med Destination, while exploiting the potential of capacity building with southern Mediterranean actors. Territorial and National actors from these countries were already addressed by specific projects where the IMC-CPMR was involved.
Besides, IMC-CPMR members were able to follow the activities and results of the project through its implementation and dissemination activities, in connection with the IMC Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Maria Garcies  
**Twitter:** @SmartMedProject  
**Website:** https://smartmed.interreg-med.eu/

### 14. BLUE BIO MED

**Acronym:** BLUE BIO MED  
**Full title:** Mediterranean Innovation Alliance for sustainable blue economy  
**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Call for strategic project proposals: Enhancing Mediterranean Governance  
**Specific objective:** 4.1 “To support the process of strengthening and developing multilateral coordination frameworks in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges”  
**Type of project:** Strategic project (focus on Innovation – Blue Bioeconomy)  
**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation & Macro-Regional Strategies (including the TF Bologna Charter Coordination Board), Transports and Integrated Maritime Policy, Economic and Social Cohesion

**Partners:**

1. ART-ER S. cons. p. a. – Attrattività Ricerca Territorio Emilia-Romagna (ART-ER) [IT] *(lead partner)*  
2. Area Science Park Trieste (AREA) [IT]  
3. Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI) [HR]  
4. National Centre for Scientific Research Demokritos (NCSR) [EL]  
5. Technology Park Ljubljana Ltd. (TPLJ) [SI]  
6. Center for Agro-Food Economics and Development (CREDA) [ES]  
7. Junta de Andalucía - Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishing and Sustainable Development (CSJA) [ES]  
8. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis (IPC Tehnopolis) [ME]  
9. Conference of peripheral maritime regions of Europe (CPMR) [FR]  
10. Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) [MT]  
11. Directorate General for Maritime Policy of the Ministry of the Sea of Portugal (DGPM) [PT]  

**Associated partners:** Regione Emilia-Romagna, Regione Puglia, Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia – Central Directorate for Agri-food, Foresty and Fish Resources - Production quality improvement Service, Regione Sicilia, General Secretariat for Research and Technology -Greece, Directorate General of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, undació Bosch i Gimpera (FBG) - Catalan Maritime Network (BlueNetCat), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Insituton Ministry of Science of Montenegro, CMMI - Syprus Marine and Maritime Institute, Parco Agroalimentare FVG - Cluster agroalimentare FVG, AAC - Agencia Andaluza del Conocimiento, AGAPA – Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía, Fundació Balear d’innovació i Tecnologia, IBYDA – Instituto de Biotecnología y Desarrollo Azul, IDEA – Agencia de Innovación y Desarrollo de Andalucía, IFAPA – Instituto de Investigación y Formación Agraria y Pesquera, IUCN – Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, IVACE - The Institute for Entrepreneurial Competitiveness of the Valencian Regional Government, Instituto de Fomento de la Región Murcia, Generalitat Valenciana Conselleria de Innovación, Universidades, Ciencia y Sociedad Digital DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE INNOVACIÓN, Municipality of Ravenna, Veneto Innovazione, Lazio Region – Directorate for Economic Development and Productive Activities, Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO), Regione Marche, National Research Council - Earth system science and environmental technologies, Croatian Chamber of Economy, Forum Oceano, Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia - Direzione centrale lavoro, formazione, istruzione e famiglia, Regione Campania, Malta Enterprise Corporation

**Expected start date:** September 2020  
**Expected end date:** September 2022  
**Overall budget:** €1,51 million  
**ERDF/IPA Co-financing:** €1.28 million  
**CPMR budget:** 104,000€
Background and context:

Blue bioeconomy has an anticipated high growth rate linked to the existence of important societal needs for products/services that are created by using blue biotechnologies (food, medicines, cosmetics, tourism/leisure, biofuels, environment etc.). Beside this, investments in R&I may support the revitalisation of traditional sectors (i.e. fishery) and the development of emerging ones (i.e. marine aquaculture). There is a growing consensus at different levels of government - Agenda 2030, European Green Deal, national and regional strategies - recognising the urgency of a sustainable transition transformation. This is true also in the blue economy field that faces growing challenges primarily due to marine environment contamination and climate change that alter marine biosystems.

Environmental sustainability is a condition for the enhancement of blue bioeconomy to be dealt jointly with economic and social challenges linked to global competition, dignitous work and territorial disparities. R&I is a key asset to lead the transition toward sustainable development, but the innovation performance in MED area is below EU average, with internal diversity that can be exploited for win-win interregional cooperation. Existing assets would benefit from upscaling initiatives, joint investments to reach critical mass and cooperation across borders to exploit smart complementarities.

A new innovation policy paradigm is emerging. New narratives and governance models to address complex challenges are necessary, also to overcome the fragmentation of existing multiple policy frameworks and not interoperable funding sources (H2020, EMFF, ERDF, ESF, EU investment plans, etc.) usually known only within the specialised communities. At the same time, at MED level there is a long history and practice of cooperation and a number of governance frameworks already in place that contribute to compose interests and priorities (EoM, UNEP/MAP, macroregional and sea basin strategies, Bluemed).

Description:

The BLUEBIOMED strategic project promoted the transformation of Mediterranean blue bioeconomy field toward sustainable development goals through innovation. The project supported better governance of innovation policies bridging the transnational governance frameworks active in the Mediterranean area (i.e. UfM, UNEP-MAP, EUSAIR, WestMed, Bluemed Initiative, etc.) with the territorial - regional/national – policy making, assuming the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the common reference grid. R&I strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) are the key entry point to understand and orient the innovation trends and priorities across MED regions and connect transnational cooperation with investments for growth and jobs of the Cohesion Policy.

BLUEBIOMED developed a governance model of innovation policies to tackle complex challenges and tested the innovative approach through policy experiments triggering the cooperation of the quadruple helix stakeholders for interregional innovation investments.

The project was an open platform for an inclusive co-design process with the wider innovation community promoting a bottom-up MED Innovation Alliance for blue bioeconomy to streamline multiple efforts and initiatives around the Mediterranean. BLUEBIOMED supported the start-up of the Alliance to boost the Mediterranean leadership in transformative innovation of the blue economy.

Expected outputs:

1. Better coherence of innovation policies for blue bioeconomy at different levels of government: Multiple institutions and actors at different levels of governance and with variable geography play a role in the blue bioeconomy innovation policy making process. Strategies and plans are not always interoperable and mutually connected and there is room to improve vertical, horizontal and temporal coherence. As a result of the project transnational and territorial levels of policies will be bridged in a coherent framework inspired by the Agenda 2030 SDGs, building a consensus on the most relevant MED challenges to be addressed and the priorities for joint transnational action. This result is the first step toward an evidence-based articulation of a MED innovation alliance for blue bioeconomy, bridging different policy frameworks, identifying common priorities along with gaps to be filled.

2. Improved capacity to orient innovation to address complex societal challenges: Besides improving the multilevel linkages among policy frameworks it is necessary to improve the capacity to orient innovation policy to address complex societal challenges. This implies making a step further from shared objectives and targets to the design of the whole roadmap to translate the objectives in concrete policy mechanisms and investments (projects). Improved capacity means better understanding of the contribution of innovation (technological, organisational, social) to tackle the challenges, including the time dimension of the impact. It also means a more open and inclusive way
to design and implement policies and governance mechanisms, in the wake of RRI (responsible research and innovation) approaches. This result is therefore linked to the development of forefront policy means to articulate the MED innovation alliance for blue bioeconomy.

3. Reinforced transnational MED Blue Bioeconomy Innovation Community: This result is twofold. It means a higher propensity of innovation actors from the quadruple helix (government, research/university, business, civil society) ecosystem to engage in transnational cooperation to mobilise the innovation potential toward the sustainable development goals. At a broader level, it means a flexible but more stable framework to foster this cooperation in the long run. The reinforcement of the innovation community comes streamlining - rather than duplicating - the efforts of already existing transnational and national strategies and initiatives, with a generative business model in the context of the next programming period.

**Key words:** capitalization, modular projects, Mediterranean community, Blue growth, transfer, innovation, clusters, communication, mainstreaming

**Added value for the IMC members:**

IMC members were able to directly benefit from the project’s outputs and its related events and be part of the MED Blue Bioeconomy alliance. They had the possibility to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of the project, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to blue bioeconomy.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Emmanuel Maniscalco

**Twitter:** @BlueBioMed

**Website:** https://blue-bio-med.interreg-med.eu/

**15. PANORAMED**

The overall objective of Axis 4 was to “support institutional capacity of concerned public authorities and stakeholders in the definition of a joint transnational governance framework for the identification and implementation of shared approaches, policies and strategic projects on identified themes.”

To do so, a “Platform” of national and regional authorities, involving relevant stakeholders, programmes, organisations and networks acting in the Mediterranean was set up. This platform was the main output of the Axis 4 project financed by the Programme, namely PANORAMED.

**Acronym:** PANORAMED

**Full title:** PANORAMED

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020

**Specific objective: 4.1:** “To support the process of developing multilateral coordination frameworks and strengthening the existing ones in the Mediterranean for joint responses to common challenges”

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy (TF: Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings); Social and Economic Cohesion (TF: Vasco da Gama)

**Partners:**

- Spanish Ministry of Finance and Public Administration - General Directorate for EU Funds (Lead partner)
- Albania, Ministry of European Integration
- Bosnia Herzegovina, Directorate for EU Integration of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds
- Cyprus, Directorate general for European Programmes, coordination and development
- France, Under the French Prime Minister: Commissariat General for Equality of Territories and General Secretariat for the Sea. Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur
- Greece, Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism - General Secretariat for Public Investments & NSRF, Region of Crete
- Italy, Region Emilia Romagna, Region Marche, Region Molise and Region Tuscany
- Malta, Ministry for European Affairs and the Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto
- Montenegro, Ministry of foreign affairs and European integration - General directorate for coordination of EU assistance Programmes
- Portugal, Ministry of Planning and Infrastructures - Agency for Development and Cohesion
• Slovenia, Government Office for development and EU Cohesion Policy

**Associated partners scheme** (including main actors), institutions, ETC and ENI Programmes (UNEP/MAP, UFM, EUSAIR, BLUEMED, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR], INTERACT, ADRIAN, BALKAN MED, SOUTH WEST, INTERREG EUROPE, ENI CBC MED) and support role of DG REGIO, DG MARE and DG NEAR

**Start date:** June/July 2017  
**End date:** December 2022

**Background and context:**
During the period 2007-2013 the MED projects delivered a lot of significant evidence and data on the set thematic priorities. In fact, the projects produced an enormous number of databases, analysis, studies, pilot projects, etc. that represent a massive source of thematic data and information.

Notwithstanding this important production and related public financial effort, the lack of a permanent and structured methodology - at Programme level - enabling thematic and systemic cross sector synergies has led to the development of a fragmented population of projects with very limited or no impact beyond their closure, except for some of them.

The above mentioned considerations accompanied the work of the Member States in the process of defining the 2014-2020 INTERREG Mediterranean Programme.

The new Programme approach foresees 3 levels of impact, integrating bottom-up and top-down approach. PANORAMED acts as 3rd level: the Axis 4 platform project is an evidence-based multi-level dialogue forum of national and regional authorities that involves relevant stakeholders, Programmes and initiatives active in the Mediterranean and that will exploit MED projects results.

The exercise contributes to the definition and implementation of shared policies and strategic projects at Mediterranean level.

**Description:**
The PANORAMED Axis 4 project was a top-down initiative that adopted an evidence-based approach to contribute to informed policy and decision-making processes at national and transnational level on identified sectors and cross cutting issues.

This was achieved through a specific platform project of national and regional authorities that is analysing the results produced by MED projects and by other Mediterranean Programmes/initiatives/organisations, to provide a scientific base to a sounder contribution to strategic policies and initiatives in the Mediterranean area.

This strategic and result oriented approach, that enhances also coordination and complementarity between ETC objectives and Investment for Growth and Jobs goals, is in line with EU Regulations and it is backed by the European Commission. The platform project planned a flexible scheme of 2 main phases: the initial one of start-up & test of approximately 1 year and a half and a second one of stabilisation.

**Expected outputs:**
- Methodologies on how to exploit and benchmark MED project results and other initiatives/Programmes/organizations in the area
- Reports on thematic and cross-sector gaps and growth opportunities
- Key documents: policy papers, action plans, feasibility studies, multilateral agreements, new cooperation schemes
- Transnational cross sector/thematic high-level events
- Terms of reference for top down strategic projects

**Main expected deliverables:**
- Benchmarking analysis on gaps and growth opportunities based on the collected projects’ deliverables
- Key documents to support policy making processes
- High level events to contribute to policy frameworks and shared action plans at Mediterranean level
- Terms of reference for top down strategic projects
**Key words:** Capitalisation, platform, governance, M&C tourism, maritime surveillance

**Added value for the IMC members:**

This project aimed to link the results of all MED projects -including those developed by other Programmes/organisations/networks active in the Mediterranean- to policy making in a comprehensive way - with a special focus on M&C tourism and maritime surveillance in the first stage- in order to pinpoint gaps and opportunities partially or not yet addressed.

IMC members were able to directly benefit from the work carried out in the frame of the project in terms of policy recommendations and opportunities to participate in relevant strategic projects. The first steering committee (SC) of the PANORAMED was organised back-to-back with the IMC 2017 General Assembly on 6-7 July 2017 in Naples and the official kick off on the 27 September 2017 in Sevilla. Other meetings of the SC were set up back-to-back with other IMC Statutory events (e.g. with the Political Bureau on 14-15 February 2018 in Cartagena).

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Elodie Nunes  
**Website:** [https://governance.interreg-med.eu/](https://governance.interreg-med.eu/)

### 16. InnoBlueGrowth

**Acronym:** InnoBlueGrowth

**Full title:** Horizontal Communication & Capitalisation project for Innovation in Blue Growth at Mediterranean level

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – First call

**Specific objective:** 1.1: “To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area”

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

**Partners:**
- (1) National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences – CoNISMa [IT] (Lead Partner)
- (2) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]
- (3) Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry – ASCAME [ES]
- (4) University of Montenegro – Institute for marine biology [ME]
- (5) National Technical University of Athens – School of Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering – NTUA [EL]
- (6) Plan Bleu [FR]

**Associated partners:** Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion -AIE (HR); Mediterranean centre for studying use and conservation of coastal zones -EUCC (ES); Cotec Foundation (IT); Network of the Insular CCIOF the European Union (EL); Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (FR); Region of Crete (EL)

**Start date:** 01.11.2016  
**End date:** 31.10.2019  
**Overall budget:** €1,470,588.24  
**ERDF Co-financing:** € 1,200,000.00 (85%)  
**CPMR budget:** €280,223

**Background and context:**

Interreg MED promotes horizontal projects, which main objective is to ensure the communication/capitalisation activities of the modular projects (MPs) in order to increase their impact towards common identified targets. In the case of InnoBlueGrowth, these activities are focused on the S.O.1.1. “to increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area.”

**Description:**

InnoBlueGrowth proposed concrete activities to build a real community of modular projects, dealing with Blue Growth. This innovative community aims to allow the reinforcement of the cross-cutting and integrated approach between modular projects and transnational key stakeholders, which is a *sine qua non* condition to support Mediterranean clusters in their transnational activities processes. Moreover, its role was to enhance the dissemination and transferability of the modular projects’ results in order to ensure a wider and deeper impact towards external multilevel stakeholders, contributing to the sustainable socio-economic development.
of the Mediterranean area through innovative investments in the Blue economy. InnoBlueGrowth also aims at ensuring a close communication and coordination with the Axis 4 “platform project” of the Programme, in parallel of which it was developed. The project intends to have an impact not only at projects and programme scales, but also beyond, at Member States level.

**Expected outputs:**

- Setting up a **communication strategy** through the creation of several tools (newsletters, social networks, videos, brochures and leaflets, etc.) so as to promote activities and results of modular projects among themselves and towards external targets (namely policy makers at local, regional, national and EU levels, but also blue growth experts and stakeholders in themes which are relevant to the project and the corresponding modular projects);

- Setting up a strategy aiming at the creation of a **community** of blue growth modular projects and stakeholders in the Mediterranean through the organisation of thematic events that help strengthening exchanges between participants, and though the management of online platforms in collaboration with social networks;

- Setting up a **capitalisation strategy** through the elaboration of technical documents gathering modular projects’ conclusions and results, which contents will be translated into political messages. These messages will target blue growth stakeholders identified by the project and the modular projects in order to have a relevant impact on the development of policies and activities related to this field in the Mediterranean.

**Main expected deliverables:**

- Communication
  - Stakeholder/target group mapping and database
  - Mapping of modular projects needs for communication
  - Communication materials and tools (videos, newsletter, brochures, social media, factsheets, etc.)

- Community building
  - Mapping and database of the Blue Growth Community members including MPs
  - Community building events

- Capitalisation
  - Capitalisation events
  - Capitalisation reports for recommendations
  - Final Policy Paper based on MPs’ technical and policy results
  - Memoranda of Understanding between key stakeholders ready to keep up with the Community

**Key words:** Communication, Capitalisation, Blue Growth, Clusters, Transnational, Innovation, Marine renewable Energies, Maritime surveillance, yachting

**Added value for the IMC members:**

IMC members were able to directly benefit from the project’s outputs and its related events and be part of the MED Blue Growth Community. They had the possibility to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of all the MPs of the community, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to blue growth.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Elodie Nunes

**Twitter:** @InnoBlueGrowth / LinkedIn: InnoBlueGrowth Horizontal Project

**Website:** [https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/](https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/)

17. PANACeA

**Acronym:** PANACeA

**Full title:** Streamlining Networking and Management efforts in Mediterranean Protected Areas for Enhanced Natural Conservation and Protection

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – First call

**Specific objective:** 3.2: “To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas”
Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

Partners:
(1) University of Málaga – ETC-UMA [ES] (Lead partner)
(2) Plan Bleu [FR]
(3) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]
(4) Mediterranean Universities Union – UNIMED [IT]
(5) Barcelona Metropolitan Area, acting as MEDCITIES General Secretariat [ES]
(6) Regional Environmental Centre – REC [ME]

Associated partners: Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas - RAC/SPA (TN); NGO OZON (ME); UCN World Commission on Protected Areas (CH); Adriatic Ionian Euroregion - AIE (HR); Region of Crete (EL); Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (FR); Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (FR); General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (IT); Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature - IUCN-Med (ES); WWF Mediterranean (IT); MPA Island of Ustica (IT); Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums (ES); Holy Spirit University of Kaslik - USEK (LB); Tour du Valat Foundation (FR)

Start date: 01.11.2016
End date: 31.10.2019
Overall budget: €1,461,073.48
ERDF Co-financing: €1,191,912.50 (85%)
CPMR budget: €288,000

Background and context:
Interreg MED promotes horizontal projects, which main objective is to ensure the communication/capitalisation activities of the MPs in order to increase their impact towards common identified targets. In the case of PANACeA, these activities are fit in the Interreg Med Priority Axis 3: “Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources”; specifically contributing to the Specific Objective (S.O.) 3.2 of the programme: “To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected Areas”. PANACeA is coordinated by the European Topic Centre for Spatial Information and Analysis at the University of Málaga.

Description:
The project aims at assisting relevant Mediterranean stakeholders, ensuring synergies among this community, and increasing the visibility and impacts of their projects' results towards common identified strategic targets. PANACeA acts as a Science-Policy-Interface (SPI) to foster the exchange of experiences and knowledge sharing and thus, influence a behavioural and policy change in the Mediterranean region.

Expected outputs:
- **Engaging its stakeholders** in the tailoring of their outcomes as synthesised evidence based tools that support multilevel management and policy;
- **Providing a series of recommendations** based on the results of the Interreg Med Modular projects focusing on S.O. 3.2 emphasizing the importance of increasing the Protected Areas implementing management strategies in the MED region and beyond;
- **Providing means to reinforce regulations & enhance the effectiveness of protection** awarded by legal means in the Mediterranean, supporting the efforts done so far to prevent deterioration & enhance the conservation of both natural and cultural resources;
- **Guiding the legal management measures of natural resources in the Mediterranean Sea** that actually protect biodiversity but whose main purpose is not strictly biodiversity conservation;
- **Addressing transboundary cooperation and integration of PAs in territorial development strategies** to achieve interconnected protection measures to tackle current and future pressures on coastal and maritime ecosystems in the Mediterranean.

Main expected deliverables:
- Communication
- Target group mapping and stakeholders’ contact database
- Communication materials and tools (videos, newsletter, brochures, social media, factsheets, etc.)
- Database of MPs’ outcomes
- Online Spatial data platform included into the MED programme portal

- Community building
  - Community building events
  - Creation and animation of thematic working groups

- Capitalisation
  - Capitalisation events
  - PANACEA’s Technical paper based on MPs’ outcomes
  - Policy paper based on major MPs’ results
  - Memorandum of Understanding drafted with the help of MPs

**Key words:** Protected area management, biodiversity, conservation, protection, community, knowledge platform, data, science policy interface, natural resources, environment, ecosystems, networking

**Added value for the IMC members:**
IMC members can directly benefit from the project’s outputs and its related events and be part of the MED Biodiversity Protection Community. They have the possibility to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of all the MPs of the community, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to biodiversity protection.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Lise Guennal
**Twitter:** @MEDCommunity3_2 / LinkedIn: Biodiversity Protection Community
**Website:** https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/

### 18. SHERPA

**Acronym:** SHERPA

**Full title:** Shared Knowledge for Energy Renovation in buildings by Publics Administration

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – First call

**Specific objective:** 2.1: “To raise capacity for better management of energy in public buildings at transnational level”

**Type of project:** M2+M3 (testing + capitalising)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy (TF: Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings)

**Partners:**
1. Department of Governance, Public Administrations and Housing, Government of Catalonia [ES] (Lead Partner)
3. Valencia Institute of Building – IVE [ES]
5. National association of local authorities, associations and companies for waste management, energy management and district heating – AMORCE [FR]
6. Emilia Romagna Region – RER [IT]
7. Lazio region [IT]
8. Abruzzo Regio [IT]
9. Ministry for Gozo – MGOZO [MT]
10. Dubrovnik Neretva Regional Development Agency – DUNEA [HR]
11. Centre for renewable energy sources and saving – CRES [EL]
12. Region of Crete [EL]

**Associated partners:** Catalan Institute for Energy (ES); Area Metropolitana de Barcelona (ES); Diputació de Barcelona (ES); Regione Umbria (IT); Calabria Region (IT); Latin Arc (ES); Abruzzo Region (IT); Heraklion (EL); Municipality of Hersonissos (EL); Comunidad Valenciana Region (ES); ENEA - Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (IT); Gozo Development Agency - Gozo Regional Committee
Start date: 01.11.2016
End date: 31.10.2019
Overall budget: €3,591,689.35
ERDF Co-financing: €3,052,935.97 (85%)
CPMR budget: €273,833.75

Background and context:
SHERPA mainly originates from the MARIE Project (Programme MED 2007-2013) that aimed to promote energy retrofit in buildings of the Mediterranean and is connected to the capitalisation process that involved other two Med Interreg projects - ELIH-MED ad PROFORBIOMED and gave birth to the Ljubljana declaration, being fully supported by the IMC-CPMR. The main territorial challenge is to accelerate the implementation of EU Directives 2010/31/EU and 2012/27/EU regarding the existing stock of Mediterranean public buildings, given the specific conditions and difficulties related to EEB projects in the MED area and the associated potential of energy saving. The project’s overall objective is to reinforce the capacities of Public Administrations at regional and sub-regional level to improve Energy Efficiency in their public buildings’ stock and reduce CO2 emissions.

Description:
The SHERPA project aims to implement two hundred energy retrofit projects in public buildings. All these projects will be implemented in accordance with the specific outcomes, guidelines, tools and strategies produced by SHERPA. At the end of the project, a common action plan on energy renovation in buildings at Mediterranean scale will be adopted. The possibility of replicating interventions at transnational, regional/local scales will be examined and aspects related to governance, information sharing, training and awareness, and innovative financing solutions will be taken into account. All projects developed under the SHERPA project will be integrated into the Joint Action Plan -including SHERPA’s 200 ERB projects- which aims at facilitating the execution of future EEB projects and actions using different types of funding instruments.

Expected outputs:
One of the key objectives of the project is to set up 200 project proposals for Energy Renovation in Public Buildings. 100 energy renovation proposals, to be identified according to specific selection criteria, will be carried out on public buildings in the Mediterranean regions involved in the project. Another 100 proposals will be selected in the municipalities of these regions. All these projects will be implemented according to specific findings, guidelines, tools and strategies. They will be associated with public-private investments worth around 300 million euros and producing thousands of new jobs.

Main expected deliverables:
- Communication
  o Materials and tools for external dissemination (social media, website, brochure, poster, newsletter, video, factsheets, articles, etc.)
  o Interactions with MED Thematic Community 2.1 on Efficient Buildings
  o Creation and animation of the Associated Partners Forum
- Testing
  o Setting up activities of SHERPA’s working groups (Governance, Information Systems, Training and Financing)
- Transferring
  o Joint Transferring Seminars
  o National Transferring Seminars
- Capitalisation
  o Creation and animation of an Online Capitalisation Forum
  o Capitalisation Regional Workshops
  o SHERPA set of toolkits
  o SHERPA MEDCOP EEB Policy Recommendations
  o SHERPA Declaration of Commitment
  o SHERPA Final Agreement and Joint Action Plan

Key words: Energy efficiency, public buildings, Mediterranean, regional and local authorities, Directive 2010/31/EU, Directive 2012/27/EU, governance, information, awareness raising, training, financing, action plan

Added value for the IMC members:
IMC members can follow the activities and results of the project through the Associated Partners Forum, the dissemination actions and the IMC Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Mediterranean buildings. They can replicate SHERPA’s methodology by mainstreaming policy recommendations coming out of the project into their EEB related policies and specific regional EEB strategy (new ones could be created ahead of this process). At the end of the project lifetime, IMC members will be invited to sign SHERPA’s Final Agreement made of EEB policy recommendations, a Joint Action Plan and a Declaration of Commitment.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Davide Strangis, Emmanuel Maniscalco, Flora Leroy

**Twitter:** @SherpaMED

**Website:** https://sherpa.interreg-med.eu/

19. **CO-EVOLVE**

**Acronym:** CO-EVOLVE

**Full title:** Promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems for the development of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – First call

**Specific objective:** 3.1: “To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area”

**Type of project:** M1+M2 (studying + testing)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy; Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

**Partners:**

1. Region of East Macedonia and Thrace Regional Development Fund – REMTH [EL] (Lead partner)
2. Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]
3. University of Thessaly Research Unit of Environment & Spatial Planning – UTH [EL]
4. Emilia-Romagna Region, General Directorate Territory and Environment Care – RER [IT]
5. Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre – PAP/RAC [HR]
6. Valenciaport Foundation for Research, Promotion and Commercial Studies of the Valencian region [ES]
7. Po Delta Park Veneto Region Authority [IT]
8. Dubrovnik Neretva Regional Development Agency – DUNEA [HR]
9. Department of Herault [FR]
10. Public Institution for Coordination and Development of Split Dalmatia Count – RERA S.D. [HR]
11. Iuav University of Venice Department of Design and Planning in Complex Environments – IUAV [IT]
12. National Research Council Institute of Marine Sciences – CNR-ISMAR [IT]

**Associated partners:** Foundation for Research and Technology -PRAXI (EL); Managing body for Parks and Biodiversity, Po Delta Emilia Romagna (IT); Veneto Region, Territorial Planning, strategic and cartography Regional Section (IT); Region of Crete (EL); Latin Arc (ES); Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works (CY)

**Start date:** 2016.11.01

**End date:** 2019.10.31

**Overall budget:** €3,000,000.00

**ERDF Co-financing:** €2,550,000.00 (85%)

**CPMR budget:** €204,000

**Background and context:**

CO-EVOLVE encourages the emergence of policies and initiatives to promote the development of sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism by applying the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) that take into account all the main challenges related to the sustainability of tourism (e.g. seasonality of demand, transport, sustainable use of resources, community prosperity and quality of life, preservation of natural and cultural). This approach contributes to the practical implementation of policy instruments and relevant initiatives at different scales (International, EU, National and Regional) such as ICZM Protocol of Barcelona Convention, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), EU Communication on Coastal and Maritime Tourism COM(2014)86 final, EU Directives

**Description:**

CO-EVOLVE aims at analysing and promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic coastal areas, allowing sustainable development of touristic activities based on the principles of ICZM/MSP. It couples a presently unavailable analysis at MED scale of threats and enabling factors for sustainable tourism with local studies on representative Pilot Areas, to demonstrate through pilot actions the feasibility and effectiveness of an ICZM/MSP-based planning process. This project recognises as a key challenge for sustainable coastal and maritime tourism development the strengthening of cooperation among regions and the joint development and transferring of approaches, tools, guidelines and best practices.

It should also be noted that the project contributes to the Strategic Theme (Joint Action 2.1) of the Bologna Charter Action Plan.

**Expected outputs:**

- The project aims first and foremost to produce a **comprehensive and integrated analysis** -at Mediterranean scale and in the pilot areas- of the **main threats and opportunities** concerning the development of **sustainable coastal tourism**, allowing harmonious co-evolution of human activities and natural systems.
- An **analysis** will be carried out to **determine the degree of sustainability of tourism** -quantitatively and qualitatively- in the pilot areas. This analysis will be based on what has already been done in order to create a conceptual model to assess the level of sustainability of tourism in the Mediterranean and to develop an operational toolkit that can be used on a Mediterranean scale.
- CO-EVOLVE intends to develop a **strategic action plan** -linked to tourism- based on existing results and to develop a **strategic planning proposal** for each pilot area including strategic guidelines. A **plan for transferability** at Mediterranean scale will also be produced.

**Main expected deliverables:**

- **Communication**
  - Materials and tools for external dissemination (social media, website, brochure, poster, newsletter, video, factsheets, articles, etc.)
  - Interactions with MED Thematic Community 3.1 on Sustainable Tourism
  - Dissemination events
  - Local/National “information days” to raise awareness among key stakeholders
  - Coordination Boards to foster dialogue among key actors and set up support groups at local level
- **Studying**
  - Synthesis on enabling factors for sustainable co-evolution in touristic areas at MED scale
  - Assessment of co-evolution threats at pilot areas
  - Tourism Sustainability Toolkit
  - Tourism-driven strategic planning on Pilot Areas
- **Testing**
  - Training material and courses for activities in pilot areas
  - Implement regional ICZM guidelines principles for sustainable tourism & coastal management at local/Pilot Area scale
- **Transferring**
  - Transferability plan at pilot area/regional/Mediterranean scale

**Key words:** Mediterranean, Sustainable coastal and maritime tourism, ICZM, MSP, ecosystem approach, toolkit, action plan, transferability plan, co-evolution, human activities, natural systems, pilot zones

**Added value for the IMC members:**
IMC members can follow the activities and results of the project through the dissemination actions and the connected work of the IMC Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism. In particular, they will be able to learn from and possibly adapt/replicate the methodology tested in the project's pilot areas (including the tourism sustainability toolkit) thanks to the transferability plan at Mediterranean scale. An extension of CO-EVOLVE actions through an umbrella project (MedCoast4BG) that is labelled by the UfM (Union for the Mediterranean), will widen its global analysis and boost the transferability to other pilot areas of the non-EU countries (southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean), adapting to their specific needs. It is to note that a project proposal (Co-Evolve4BG) in line with this initiative was submitted under the first call of the ENI CBC MED Programme (2014-2020) and is currently under evaluation (see the section dedicated to Co-Evolve4BG in this document).

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Davide Strangis, Emmanuel Maniscalco, Flora Leray
**Twitter:** @CoEVOVLEmed
**Website:** https://co-evolve.interreg-med.eu/

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### 20. MITOMED+

**Acronym:** MITOMED+

**Full title:** Models of Integrated Tourism in the MEDiterranean Plus

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – First call

**Specific objective:** 3.1: “To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area”

**Type of project:** M2+M3 (testing + capitalising)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy; Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies.

**Partners:**
(1) Regione Toscana, DG Productive Activities Sector Infrastructures [IT] (Lead partner)
(2) Association of Tuscan Municipalities National – ANCI [IT]
(3) National Research Council - Institute of Biometeorology [IT]
(4) Institute of Agriculture and Tourism [IT]
(5) Larnaca-Famagusta District Development Agency – ANETEL [CY]
(6) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]
(7) Public Enterprise for the management of Tourism and sport of Andalusia [ES]
(8) Girona University – UdG [ES]
(9) Network of European Regions for Sustainable and Competitive Tourism – NECSTouR [BE]

**Start date:** 01.02.2017

**End date:** 31.01.2020

**Overall budget:** €2,650,000.00

**ERDF Co-financing:** €2,252,500.00 (85%)

**CPMR budget:** €200,000

**Background and context:**

The Mediterranean is the world’s leading tourism destination. Maritime and coastal (M&C) tourism in the Mediterranean basin is a growing business and a predominant source of revenue, growth and jobs, especially for young people and women. This remarkable growth risks to be jeopardized by several factors, such as severe anthropic impacts and environmental risks, tourism pressure on territories, coastal erosion, worsening conditions of sea water, over exploitation of natural and cultural heritage, etc. Although many Mediterranean tourist destinations have adopted local and regional integrated strategies for tourism development, there is no real governance for tourism activities at a wider transnational level and environmental governance is in practice still very fragmented. Integrated management of sustainable is key to protect natural and cultural assets while using them as an economic driver.

M&C tourism integrated planning is hampered by the lack and poor comparability of data, at destination, regional or transnational level. Data are in some cases not available, or, if available, fragmented, not comparable, referred to different territorial levels. Despite some progress in recent years there is a need to
identify and address the data gaps to improve planning and destination management. Specific indicators are needed to improve coherence and comparability of coastal and maritime tourism statistics across Europe and beyond.

Description:

MITOMED+ is multi-module project combining Testing and Capitalisation (M2+M3). It is a follow up of the previous MITOMED project (MED Maritime), which has been working to promote the integrated management of M&C tourism by improving the knowledge of data, products, services through a set of indicators based on the NECSTouR model. MITOMED+ takes farther these results aiming to improve the coordination of strategies between territories at transnational level regarding the development of the M&C tourism through cooperation and joint planning between regions. The main objective of the project deals with the enhancement of sustainability and responsibility in M&C tourism, by improving local and regional strategies and policy actions and coordinating them at a wider MED transnational level.

Expected outputs:

- To increase knowledge and social dialogue regarding the development of a sustainable and responsible M&C tourism in each partner region for better decision-making
- Improve M&C tourism planning at destination level and its coordination for a transnational governance
- Mainstream its results into local, regional and national policies
- Set up a MED M&C tourism management model

Main expected deliverables:

- Communication
  - Materials and tools for external dissemination (social media, website, brochure, poster, newsletter, video, factsheets, articles, etc.)
  - Interactions with MED Thematic Community 3.1 on Sustainable Tourism
- Testing
  - Meetings at destination level
  - Open Platform for data indicators
  - Implementation of the ‘Green Beaches’ Model in 12 beaches
- Transferring
  - Plan of Transferability of Results
  - Regional capacity building events
- Capitalisation
  - Mediterranean M&C Tourism Management Model
  - Policy Paper
  - Capitalisation workshop (Brussels)
  - Capitalisation conference (Brussels)
  - Regional Seminars to refine the Management Model
  - MoU to be signed by Tuscany with other Mediterranean regions

Key words: Sustainable Maritime and Coastal Tourism, tourism management model, data, products, indicators, territorial strategies, cooperation, joint planning, transnational MED network, cultural resources.

Added value for the IMC members:

IMC members can follow the activities and results of the project through the dissemination activities and the IMC Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism. They will have access to the Open Platform for data indicators. Additionally, they will have the possibility to participate in the building up of (through gathering of experiences/information) and replicate the methodology developed in the frame of the project (i.e. ‘Green Beaches’ model) and mainstream the policy recommendations (i.e. Mediterranean M&C Tourism Management Model) into their regional policies.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Emmanuel Maniscalco, Flora Leroy
Twitter: @MITOMEDplus_
Website: https://mitomed-plus.interreg-med.eu/

**Acronym:** BleuTourMed_C3

**Full title:** Maritime and Coastal Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean – Community building, Communication and Capitalisation

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – First call

**Specific objective:** 3.1: “To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area”

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

**Partners:**

1. **Latin Arc [ES]** (Lead partner)
2. **Barcelona Provincial Council [ES]**
3. **Plan Bleu for the environment and development in the Mediterranean [FR]**
4. **Mediterranean Universities Union – UNIMED [IT]**
5. **Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences Research Committee [EL]**
6. **Adriatic Ionian Euroregion [HR]**

**Associated partners:** Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME); DEFISMED; Tarragona Provincial Council; Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]; Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce; Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med); City of Nice-Euromed Cities Network; CAT-MED Platform for sustainable urban models; Metropolitan Area of Barcelona - Medcities; University of Catania; University of Bari “Aldo Moro”; University of Girona; Greek Tourism Confederation; Regional Agency for tourism promotion “in Liguria”; Metropolitan City of Florence; Valencia Provincial Council; Provincial Government of Malaga; Province of Livorno; Region of Thessaly; Hellenic Development City Network (D.E.P.AN. – City Network); South Aegean Region; The Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves -Europarc Italy; Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre -PAP/RAC; Genoa Municipality; University of the Aegean – Research Unit; University Mediterranean Podgorica, Faculty of Tourism; Metropolitan City of Turin

**Start date:** 01.11.16

**End date:** 31.10.19

**Overall budget:** €1,411,697.35

**Co-financing:** €1,199,942.75 (85%)

**Background and context:**

In the Mediterranean, the tourism sector offers great opportunities for economic growth and employment. Exploiting this potential requires sustainable development strategies for the sector. For this reason, projects on sustainable tourism must ensure that the impact of these activities on natural and cultural heritage are taken into account in the development of coastal and maritime tourism.

**Description:**

Built on a transnational partnership with strong knowledge and experience on integrated coastal management and sustainable tourism policies, BleuTourMed aims at supporting and ensuring synergies between the modular projects selected under the Specific Objective 3.1(Sustainable Tourism) of the Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020. BleuTourMed partners are willing to share knowledge and best practices, to enhance existing experiences among key stakeholders, and to create new partnerships for promoting and strengthening new policies towards a more sustainable Mediterranean tourism.

As a Horizontal Project, its main aim is to build the community of projects supporting and helping them to synthesis and integrate data, methods and outputs in order to better communicate as well as to capitalise their results at Mediterranean level. Community building activities focus on stimulating the sharing and co-ownership of data and results among the 14 projects. Those Modular projects are working on:

1. Enhancing attractiveness and tourism offer;
2. Addressing tourism pressures;
3. Strengthening planning and management practices towards sustainable tourism in the MED.
Capitalisation processes and disseminates these results for the implementation of the policy framework regarding Coastal and Maritime sustainable tourism: e.g. MSP, ICZM, UNEP/MAP MSSD, Blue Growth Strategy, Blue Med initiative and Integrated Regional Development policies on sustainable tourism.

**Expected outputs:**

- **Communication strategy**
  - Disseminating the HP and MPs results and maximising their impact
  - Reaching the right targets & the wider audience possible

- **Community Building**
  - Allowing the Thematic linkages & Key deliverables though a Database
  - Capitalising Results & methodological approach through Map and online tools
  - Identifying target groups & common indicators
  - Helping MPs to find synergies between them and to reach their objectives
  - Contributing to the Creation of a community in order to increase knowledge and social dialogue with regard to sustainable/responsible M&C tourism

- **Capitalisation strategy**
  - Sharing calendar matching with external Sustainable tourism events
  - Disseminating Declarations & Policy papers (notably through Axis 4 – Governance)
  - Mapping of the INTERREG Sustainable Tourism Community (PP&AP)
  - Gathering MPs results and sharing them with the Med Community on Sustainable Tourism
  - Integrating the MPs results into a Systemic transnational thematic framework

**Key words:** Sustainable Tourism, M&C tourism, ICZM, attractiveness, tourism pressures, CAP, dissemination

**Added value for the IMC members:**

IMC members can directly benefit from the project’s outputs and its related events, and be part of the MED Sustainable Tourism Community. They will have the opportunity to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of all the MPs of the community, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to sustainable tourism.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Emmanuel Maniscalco
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**22. GO-SUMP**

**Acronym:** GO-SUMP

**Full title:** GO-SUMP – Improving Sustainable Urban Mobility

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – First call

**Specific objective:** 2.3: “To increase capacity to use existing low carbon transport systems and multimodal connections among them”

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TF: Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda)

**Partners:**

1. Ayuntamiento de Málaga – Malaga City Council [ES] (Lead partner)
2. EUROCITIES ASBL [BE]
3. Barcelona Metropolitan Area -Medcities General Secretariat – AMB [ES]
5. Mediterranean Universities Union – UNIMED [IT]
6. Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, Country office Ljubljana – REC [SI]

**Associated partners:** Platform for Sustainable Urban Models - CAT MED (ES); Promotion of Operational Links with Integrated Services aisbl – POLIS (BE); Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR (FR); Albanian Institute of Transport -Ministry of Transport and infrastructure (AL); Government of Catalonia, Department of Territory and Sustainability (ES); AVITEM (FR); International Sava River Basin (HR)
Start date: 01.11.16
End date: 31.10.19
Overall budget: €1,165,000.00
ERDF Co-financing: €990,250.00 (85%)

Background and context:
The capitalisation and mainstreaming of results at transnational level has shown difficulties during the last programming period. When talking about sustainable mobility as a part of urban planning, the gap is even bigger in the MED, even if the classical city configuration of proximity could easily inspire a low carbon transport strategy.

Description:
Using a specialised partnership as backbone of the working structure, GO SUMP is working to solve the gap of sustainable mobility part of urban planning, by guiding and supporting modular projects as a community to improve the visibility, capitalisation and mainstreaming of their results through joint strategies based on synergies and networking. GO SUMP aims to act as a bridge among the MED Programme and projects, and the stakeholders for their COM&CAP through key thematic groups such as CIVITAS, Eltis, the SUMP Platform or the Covenant of Mayors.

Expected outputs:
Contributing to a unique identity on SUMPs in the Med cities enhancing its peculiarities as a key to implement low carbon transport and mobility measures.

Key words: Low carbon transport; sustainable mobility; urban planning;

Added value for the IMC members:
IMC members can follow the project’s activities and results through the IMC working group on Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy. They can also be part of the MED Urban Transports Community - and related events - through which they have the possibility to interact, consolidate networks, follow the activities of all the MPs of the community, and exploit all connections for feeding their political and technical reflections on specific themes related to urban transports. Synergies are being explored with the CIVITAS DESTINATIONS project.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy
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23. PHAROS4MPAs

Acronym: PHAROS4MPAs

Full title: Blue Economy and Marine Conservation: Safeguarding Mediterranean MPAs in order to achieve Good Environmental Status

Corresponding call: Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Second call

Specific objective: 3.2: “To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas”

Type of project: M3 (capitalising)

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

Partners:
(2) Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre – PAP/RAC [HR]
(3) Regional Development Funds for North Aegean Region – RDF NA [EL]
(4) Regional Agency of the Administration of Protected Areas in Albania – AKZM [AL]
(5) Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation – ZRSVN [SI]
(6) National Research Council – CNR [IT]
(7) WWF Mediterranean – WWF MED [IT]
(8) Girona University – UdG [ES]
**Associated partners:** Mediterranean Protected Areas Network - MedPAN (FR); WWF Spain (ES); France Energie Eolienne - FEE (FR); Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for Mediterranean Sea - REMPEC (MT); Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas - RAC/SPA (TN); European Boating Industry (BE); World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF Greece (EL); Agence Française pour la Biodiversité - Antenne de façade maritime – Méditerranée (FR); Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]

**Start date:** 01.02.18  
**End date:** 31.07.19  
**Overall budget:** €1,179,496.57  
**ERDF Co-financing:** €934,544.45 (85%)

**Background and context:**
The development of Blue Economy and MSP represent a transnational challenge for marine protected areas (MPAs). Maritime sectors have started to operate more and more frequently inside and in the vicinity of MPAs with expected growing environmental impacts, while at the same time, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires to reach Good Environmental Status of the European Seas by 2020.

Many EU projects and other initiatives have published results and recommendations concerning MPAs and their interactions with economic sectors but a Mediterranean integrated approach is lacking. By capitalising on these results, the PHAROS4MPAs project will deliver an integrated framework for recommendations on the necessary practical collaboration between Mediterranean MPAs and the maritime sectors adapted to appropriation by the project’s targets.

The expected change originating from the project is an enhanced management effectiveness and networking for Mediterranean MPAs, which will ultimately contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

**Approach and outputs include delivering common capitalisation baselines, recommendations and policy tools adapted to appropriation by the MedPAN network, MSP Authorities, the European Commission, the Barcelona Convention and the various maritime sectors.**

**Description:**
Capitalising on existing EU projects and other initiatives results, the PHAROS4MPAs project will conceive and deliver an integrated framework of recommendations on the necessary practical collaboration between MPAs and the maritime sectors. In particular, the following sectors and their relationships with MPAs will be addressed: offshore oil and gas, maritime transport, cruise, offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, leisure activities, artisanal fisheries.

In that way, the project aims at enhancing MPA management effectiveness and networking through awareness-raising and capacity building under the MedPAN network and MPA authorities. Management effectiveness will also be strengthened by an adequate inclusion of MPA networks issues in the national maritime spatial plans that EU Mediterranean States are developing by 2021/ICZM strategies/Ecosystem Approach of the Mediterranean Action Plan and in related maritime sectors strategies. Ultimately, the project will contribute to maintaining marine biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

**Expected outputs:**
1. MPA management effectiveness and networking is enhanced through capacity building and engagement under the MedPAN network and MPA authorities. Pressures and impacts from the operations of maritime sectors are known, evaluated, managed, monitored and eventually mitigated by Mediterranean MPAs.
   As a consequence, an increased share of marine protected areas are meeting their conservation goals and objectives, thanks to their improved management.

2. MPA management effectiveness is strengthened by an adequate inclusion of MPA networks issues in the national maritime spatial plans/ICZM strategies: Pressures and impacts from the operations of maritime sectors are known, evaluated, managed, monitored and eventually mitigated by Mediterranean MSP/ICZM authorities and addressed in the Ecosystem Approach of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
   As a consequence, an increased share of marine protected areas are meeting their conservation goals and objectives.
3. MPA management effectiveness is strengthened by an adequate inclusion of MPA networks issues in maritime sectors strategies. Pressures and impacts from the operations of maritime sectors are known, evaluated, managed, monitored and eventually mitigated by the maritime sectors themselves.

As a consequence, an increased share of MPAs is meeting their conservation goals and objectives.

**Main expected deliverables:**
- Communication materials for external dissemination (brochure, website, video, social media)
- Interaction with MED Biodiversity Protection Community
- Capitalisation baseline and reports
- Cartography (locate the priority locations of pressures, impacts or risks exerted by economic sectors on Mediterranean MPAs)
- Stakeholder engagement plan
- Workshops with MedPAN and MAP managers
- Workshops with MSP/ICZM authorities
- Meetings with EU/national representatives of maritime sectors and with the EU Commission
- Workshops with UNEP MAP
- Recommendations for the durability of the project’s results

**Key words:** Protected area management, biodiversity, natural resources, environment, ecosystem approach, ICZM, offshore oil and gas, maritime transport, cruise, offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, leisure activities, artisanal fisheries

**Added value for the IMC members:**
The IMC will be supporting the dissemination activities and transferability of outputs among its members and external stakeholders and the cross-fertilisation of the project’s results with other relevant projects or initiatives in which the CPMR and its IMC are participating, in particular in relation with the capitalisation work package.

Besides, there is a clear potential for synergy between the project and the IMC work with the Union for the Mediterranean on Blue Economy. There are also potential for synergy with projects in which the IMC is involved, such as InnoBlueGrowth, PANACEA, SIMWESTMED. The project falls under the priorities of the IMC Action Plan and Working Groups.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** *Lise Guennal*

**24. MISTRAL**

**Acronym:** MISTRAL

**Full title:** Mediterranean Innovation STRAtegy for transnational activity of clusters and networks of the Blue Growth

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Second call

**Specific objective:** 1.1 “To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area”

**Type of project:** integrated project (studying + testing + capitalising)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

**Partners:**
1. Emilia-Romagna Region - Research, innovation, Energy and sustainable economy Department [IT] (Lead partner)
2. ASTER S.Cons.p.A. – ASTER [IT]
3. Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia - Central Directorate for Job, Training, Education, Equal Opportunities, Youth Policies, Research and University – RAFVG [IT]
4. Hellenic Centre for Marine Research – HCMR [EL]
5. Maritime Cluster of Balearic Islands – CMIB [ES]
Associated partners:
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]; Apulia Region - Dep. Of Agruculture, Rural and env. dev. (IT); Molise Region - Dep. Of the Presidency (IT); Lazio Region - Directorate Economic Development (IT); Marine Technology Centre -CTN (ES); Associazione Cluster Marche Manufacturing (IT)

Start date: 01.02.18
End date: 31.01.22
Overall budget: €5,230,000.00
Co-financing: €4,445,500.00 (85%)

Background and context:
The current MED area innovation performance in the blue growth sector is behind the EU average and there is a lack of transnational and transversal cooperation between the different quadruple helix actors in Blue Growth.

Description:
The aim of MISTRAL is to create a symbiotic and transnational community of the Mediterranean Clusters active in the BG domains (blue energy, aquaculture, maritime, coastal and cruise tourism, blue biotechnology, marine mineral resources) made up of 7 countries (7 regions, 6 clusters and 3 RTOs) in order to:

i) Make marine knowledge and sustainable innovation the key drivers for BG;
ii) Support MED clusters to become an excellent intermediary of knowledge for increasing blue economy;
iii) Design and implement sustainable development trajectories harmonised with the MED regions Smart Specialization Strategies.

MISTRAL seeks to empower and increase the effectiveness of the quadruple helix actors’ innovation activities such as know-how and technology transfer, business creation, networking, interactions with policy makers, promotion of new models for the governance, involvement of SMEs/corporates in open innovation programs (i.e. joint labs between RTOs and companies, living labs, etc.). The blue economy, which represents one of the key pillars of the Mediterranean and EU growth employing approximately 5.4 million people, needs to be constantly fed and enhanced by the exploitation of knowledge, research and talents. The aim of MISTRAL is to promote and make effective a transnational BG ecosystem of innovation where enterprises (SMEs and corporates), RTOs, higher education institutions, public sector, cooperate to:

- develop sustainable innovation actions;
- increase their innovation performance;
- sustain the development of the entrepreneurial spirit;
- increase the access and sharing of the marine knowledge.

During its various phases, MISTRAL intends to design, test, develop, implement, manage and ensure the sustainability on the long run of a transnational network gathering the excellent BG clusters in the MED area, and to act as catalyster and multiplier for innovation actions.

Expected outputs:

1. Improve knowledge of MED clusters competencies and capacities (understand key players, performances, opportunities for further development, main challenges)
2. Increase the effectiveness of clusters’ services (overall improvement of tailor made services, designed, tested and validated by the MISTRAL network, to allow MED clusters and ecosystems benefitting from new methodologies and tools)
3. Develop of new value chains models (new value models will be designed under a business analysis perspective that describes, besides the traditional drivers, also social and technical resources as they are the main intangible assets that needs to be foster)

4. Global Med Governance control room (aims at steering a share and common vision on the blue growth future perspective)

**Main expected deliverables:**
- Integrated analysis on the Blue Growth subsectors in MED regions, including key drivers
- Regional maps for matching Blue Growth and Smart Specialisation Strategies
- Capacity building for Blue Growth Clusters operators
- Service packs for SMEs through Cluster collaboration
- Implementation of Innovative service packs for SMEs through Cluster collaboration
- Mobility programme for maritime cluster
- Blue growth strategic alliance tool

**Key words:** blue growth, sustainable innovation, blue economy, Smart Specialization Strategies, coastal and marine ecosystem, Mediterranean Clusters, blue energy, aquaculture, maritime, coastal, cruise tourism, blue biotechnology, marine mineral resources

**Added value for the IMC members:**
The IMC will support the dissemination activities and transferability of outputs among its members and external stakeholders and the cross-fertilisation of the project’s results with other relevant projects or initiatives in which the CPMR and its IMC are participating, in particular in relation with the testing and capitalisation work packages.

Besides, there is a clear potential for synergy between the project and the IMC work with the Union for the Mediterranean on Blue Economy, and working group on Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy. There are also potential for synergy with the InnoBlueGrowth project.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Elodie Nunes

**25. MD.net**

**Acronym:** MD.net

**Full title:** Mediterranean Diet - When Brand Meets Peoples

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2014-2020 – Second call

**Specific objective:** 1.1: “To increase transnational activity of innovative clusters and networks of key sectors of the MED area”

**Type of project:** Integrated project (studying + testing + capitalising)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda)

**Partners:**
1. Regione Campania [IT] (Lead partner)
2. University of Algarve – UAlg [PT]
3. Public institution for coordination and development of Split-Dalmatia County – RERA SD [HR]
4. Region of Crete [EL]
5. Association for Economic Development – REDAH [BA]
6. Mediterranean Diet Foundation – FDM [ES]
8. Regione Emilia Romagna [IT]
10. Standing Committee for the Euro-Med Partnership of Local & Regional Authorities – COPPEM [IT]
11. Department of Agriculture/ Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment – DA [EL]
12. Association of Albanian Municipalities – ShBS [AL]
13. GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food – DARP [ES]
Associated partners:
National Park of Cilento, Vallo di Diano and Alburni (IT); Med Campus – Leader city of Ceraso (IT); EGTC – Mediterranean Diet - Pollica – Italy (IT); International Tourism Institute (SI); Municipality of Ajdovscina/Obcina (SI); Rotunda Centre/Sredisce Rotunda (SI); University of Primorska (SI); Scientific Research Centre Koper/Znanstveno Raziskovalno središče Koper (SI); Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations (EG); Fondazione Mediterraneo (IT); Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR (FR); PRODETUR, S.A.U. (ES); Fondazione Idis – Città della Scienza (IT); Agros Community Council (CY); University Suor Orsola Benincasa of Naples (IT); Center for rural development and agriculture (BA); Three Cultures of the Mediterranean Foundation (ES); Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry policies (IT);

Start date: 01.02.18
End date: 31.01.22
Overall budget: €4,890,000.00
ERDF Co-financing: €3,544,500.00 (85%)

Background and context:
Over the last twenty years, the EU Rural Strategy has been using innovative drivers -multi-functionality, traceability, consumer’s alliances, direct sales and products quality- to lead farms toward new levels of social responsibility and broaden their horizons to new and creative opportunities. An increasing number of young people are demonstrating to know how to pick them up.

Nonetheless, rural Med regions still suffer severe natural and demographic handicaps, caused by little awareness of cultural identity economic potential, low income in traditional rural activities, competition of mass production on small producers, intensive exploitation of natural resources with negative impact on landscapes, rural areas desertification, low employment rate and little attractive quality of life of rural regions.

The Mediterranean Diet is a strong asset to turn over this trend. It deals with place-based productive characteristics, answers to youth employment need, takes on cultural landscape and heritage patterns.

Description:
M.D.net project challenges the problems of currently neglected and undeveloped opportunities of Mediterranean Diet (MD). MD is integral part of the Mediterranean identity inscribed in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The MD involves a set of skills, knowledge, rituals, symbols and traditions concerning crops, harvesting, picking, fishing, animal husbandry, conservation, processing, cooking, sharing and consumption of food products characterising a healthy lifestyle.

The project main objective is to strengthen exploration of the MD according the UNESCO Med Diet Convention, blending comprehensive MD concepts with innovative tools. The project intends to use both cultural and creative measures and start cooperation of international quadruple helix stakeholders in order to lift Mediterranean diet on new quality levels.

Expected outputs:
1. MD.data: sharing scientific knowledge and research on the Mediterranean Diet through the transnational network platform
3. MD.InC: innovation and creativity of products and services through the permanent platform
4. MD.Brain: shared methodology of courses and workshops for information and co-creation of MD professionals
5. MD.GOV: strengthening of partnerships among Quadruple-helix sectors
6. MD.ESI: incorporating the network “MED Diet Brand” on the public agenda of the concerned Med regions
7. MD.TNnet: enlarged MD.net transnational capitalisation
8. MD.net Cycle: virtuous circle leading from education to healthy life-styles to a traditional and safe food through innovation in MD process and complementary services (preservation, production, delivery, branding, promotion etc...) to be more attractive for young generations and mass markets in a way to produce new interest in agriculture fields for job opportunities
Main expected deliverables:
- MD.data Innovation tools’ Monitoring to help MD enterprises in the international market
- MD.GOV - Communities-Led Local Development (one per territory concerned)
- MD.TNnet – Transnational network to transfer technology and creative initiatives to MD.net SMEs
- MD.Brain - Training cycles to transfer new skills in traditional knowledge and vice-versa
- MD.Brand - Innovation of marketing
- MD.InC - Innovation of product, process, organization
- MD.ESI
- MD.Blend - MD transferable features adaptable to other settings in international context

Key words: Mediterranean Diet, MED identity, Cultural Heritage, traditions, harvesting, fishing, food products

Added value for the IMC members:
The IMC will support the dissemination activities and transferability of outputs among its members and external stakeholders and the cross-fertilisation of the project’s results with other relevant projects or initiatives in which the CPMR and its IMC are participating, in particular in relation with the testing and capitalisation work packages.

The project falls under the priorities of the IMC Action Plan and Working Groups. IMC members will be able to follow the activities of this project/benefit from its results through the IMC Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism. Besides, there is a clear link between the project and the IMC Working Group on Economic and Social cohesion, and the CPMR Task Force on Tourism. Many links could be foreseen also with the Horizontal Project on Sustainable Tourism (BleuTourMed), in which the IMC is involved as associated partner.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Davide Strangis

26. COM6&CAP MarInA Med

Acronym: COM&CAP MarInA-Med

Full title: COMmunication & CAPitalisation of Maritime Integrated Approach in the Mediterranean Area


Specific objective: 4.2: “Strengthening of identity and enhancement of cultural resources for a better integration of the Med space”

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

Partners:
1. Government of Catalonia Presidential Department [ES] (Lead partner)
2. Agency for sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories AViTeM [FR]
3. Molise Region [IT]
4. Arco Latino [ES]
5. Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]

Associated partners:
Adriatic-Ionian Euro Region (GR); Global network for competitiveness, innovation and clusters – TCI; FEPORTS (ES); University of Siena (coordinator of Med Solutions SDSN Network) (IT); Plan Bleu (FR); NECSTOUR (BE); Med Cities (FR); CETMO; ASCAME (ES); Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona (ES); Tuscany (IT); Abruzzo (IT)

Start date: 01.06.14
End date: 01.06.15
Overall budget: €666,000.00
ERDF Co-financing: €499,500.00 (75%)

Background and context:
The objective of the Integrated Maritime approach call was to establish a new relevant partnership that would contribute to implement the Med Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 and thus to build a valuable bridge between the two programming periods. In the frame of this last call, and of its short duration, the Med
Programme wanted to experience a new approach in terms of communication and capitalisation in order to optimise the delivery of transversal political guidelines for its 2014-2020 renewal. Financed under priority 4, a single integrated communication and capitalisation strategy was carried out by one centralising and horizontal project: COM&CAP MarInA-Med.

Description:
Built on an operational partnership with a high level of expertise in the maritime field and in direct relationship with a network of Mediterranean policy-makers, COM&CAP MarInA-Med aimed to coordinate communication and capitalisation activities for projects selected under the “maritime integrated approach” call for proposals of the MED Programme (priorities 1-3). COM&CAP MarInA-Med was responsible for collecting, processing and disseminating the key results of the selected projects. It also included inter-project information exchange and the organisation of events to present and capitalise on project results.

The project developed a methodology and joint strategy for communication and capitalisation in coordination with the JTS of the MED Programme. A multi-directional system of synergies was established with and between the selected projects, with Med projects in progress and projects led under other ETC programmes in the Mediterranean. The project relied on and enhanced the former communication platform used by the MED Programme to ensure its functional optimisation, with an approach based on anticipating needs related to the implementation of the MED Programme 2014-2020. COM&CAP MarInA-Med identified the main public/private-sector beneficiaries of the dissemination and capitalisation actions in order to use adapted to the different themes, prerogatives and political levels.

Main deliverables:
- Communication methodology and strategy (Com&Cap plan) for all the selected projects
- Database of the main MED and EU target groups and potential beneficiaries (both public and private)
- Joint kick-off, mid-term and final conference for all the selected projects
- System of transfer of information among the selected projects, MarInA-MED and the JTC
- Bimestrial newsletter on the state of implementation of the selected projects
- Supporting the capitalisation of the results of the selected projects during 5 statutory events
- Final brochure and report (policy paper) covering the main technical and political guidelines
- Disseminating final project results and recommendations among Euromed Institutions and MED key actors and institutions (Council, Parliament, Commission and Committee of the Region, Region, Cities, maritime clusters and SMEs, universities, UFM, ARLEM, UNEP)
- Common logo and simple and attractive visual identity for all the selected projects
- Enhancing the MED programme’s communication platform through a complementary web site
- Joint presentation video of all the selected projects

Key words: Capitalisation, communication, integrated, maritime projects

Added value for the IMC members:
This project served as a basis to contribute to emerging strategies advocating for an integrated maritime focus. The IMC interacted on and benefitted from the technical and political reflections of the project, integrating them in its own messages, fostering the dissemination in the regions and its own lobbying activities. The IMC also benefitted from a solid contacts database for projects and gained visibility at EU and Med level. MarInA-Med constituted a strong base for the currently running projects and actions in the maritime and governance spheres.

27. ELIH-MED
Acronym: ELIH-MED
Full title: Energy Efficiency in Low-income Housing in the Mediterranean
Corresponding call: Interreg MED 2007-2013 – 3rd call - Strategic projects - 2010
Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy (TF: Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings)
Partners:
(2) Mediterranean Institute [FR]
(3) Malaga City Council [ES]
(4) Institute for the Promotion of Technological innovation [IT]
(5) Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving – CRES [EL]
(6) Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency [MT]
(7) Cyprus Energy Agency [CY]
(8) Jozef Stefan Institute [SI]
(9) LAORE SARDEGNA [IT]
(10) Valencia Institute of Building Foundation – IVE
(11) Municipality of Genoa [IT]
(12) CSTB - Building scientific and technical centre [FR]
(13) Languedoc Roussillon Regional Council [FR]
(14) GERES- renewable energies, Environment and Solidarity Group [FR]
(15) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]
(16) Region of East Macedonia and Thrace – REMTH [EL]
(17) Municipality of Frattamaggiore [IT]
(18) 13 Habitat [FR]
(19) Democritus University of Thrace – DUTH [EL]

Start date: 01.05.11
End date: 30.04.14
Overall budget: €9147196.00
ERDF Co-financing: €6992797.00 (75%)

Description:
The ELIH-Med project focused on identifying and experimenting on a large scale a set of practical and innovative technical options and financial mechanisms targeted to develop energy efficiency in low income housing. A first step was to assess the trend in energy consumption and performance of low income households in the Med area, describe the public and private policies implemented for energy retrofitting and their potential impact on energy consumption at the horizon of 2020. A trend setting scenario evaluated the gap between energy consumption as anticipated with existing policies versus EU2020 objectives. In a second step the project tried to identify innovative technical solutions and financial mechanisms to be implemented to increase energy efficiency.

Measures to change energy behaviours were extensively explored and tested through a large-scale experimentation of multi-energy smart meters. Innovative financing mechanisms required the matching of different types of financial resources associating public and private partners to fit specific needs: third party financing, shared and guaranteed savings, performance contracting, pay as you save, revolving funds for energy efficiency, microcredits, carbon funds, credit guaranteed funds, microgeneration or asset based investments, all backed with ERDF.

In a third step these innovative approaches were implemented in a large scale experimentation on a sample of 405 households spread into partner territories: 110 in Spain and Greece, 95 in Italy, 35 in Malta, 30 in France, 25 in Cyprus and selected as representatives of the diversity of low income households in the Med area. An action plan agreed at transnational level defined the criteria for the selection of households included in the experiment, the type of work to be implemented, the administrative and financial approach of public tenders, the selection of suppliers, the follow up of work, the setting up of performance indicators.

In a last step, the results of this large-scale experimentation were collected, analysed and discussed in capitalisation workshops in order to reach a final set of conclusions and recommendation to be extended to the whole Med area. An Operational Plan was prepared and given visibility at political level as a component of a macroregional strategy for a coordinated use of Structural Funds for the 2014-2020 programming period.

It must finally be noted that ELIH-Med also worked together with the MARIE project to provide the European Commission with common recommendations on energy efficiency in buildings.
Key words: Innovative technical options; financial mechanisms; energy consumption; low income households; MED buildings; EU2020 objectives; financial mechanisms; energy efficiency; technical solutions; renovation; energy behaviours

Added value for the IMC members:
Through this project, the IMC members benefitted from new methods to develop energy efficiency in low income housing. The results of the project are still available and used by local and regional policy makers.

28. MAREMED

Acronym: MAREMED

Full title: Maritime Regions cooperation for MEDiterranean


Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism); Water and Energy

Partners:
(1) Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur – PACA Region [FR] (Lead partner)
(2) Larnaca District Agency - ANETEL [CY]
(3) Crete Region [EL]
(4) Port Institute for Studies and Cooperation of the Valencia Region - FEPORTS [ES]
(5) Emilia-Romagna Region [IT]
(6) Corsica Environment Office [FR]
(7) Lazio Region [IT]
(8) Liguria Region, Territorial planning Department [IT]
(9) Marche Region, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery [IT]
(10) Tuscany Region [IT]
(11) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]

Associated partners:
Aquitaine Region (FR); Catalonia Region (ES)

Start date: 01.07.10
End date: 30.06.13

Overall budget: €1,978,666.00
ERDF Co-financing: €1,498,600.00 (75%)

Background and context:
In December 2006, the regions of the Mediterranean set up a Working Group on Maritime Policy under the aegis of the IMC-CPMR, in order to contribute to the design and delivery of a Mediterranean maritime policy. This contribution was part of an integrated and sustainable approach. It concerned the thematic areas of marine pollution, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), and adaptation to the consequences of climate change, fisheries, marine research, transport, maritime safety and maritime policy governance.

The dialogue developed by the Mediterranean regions during this work enables to:
- Identify some issues and priorities which were shared by the member regions and to propose common areas of action;
- Observe the lack of consultation and absence of partnerships between Mediterranean regions;
- Observe the lack of consultation between regions and other institutional levels on MED maritime issues.

Description:
The main aim of MAREMED was to strengthen the coordination and integration of Regional maritime policies in the Mediterranean area, and to align them with those in force at National, European and Mediterranean levels. The project focused on those constituents of maritime policies with a strong transnational dimension, namely ICZM, pollution (including small and medium scale accidental coastal pollution), adaptation to climate change in coastal areas, fisheries and coastal and maritime data management. The project brought together fourteen Regional partners from France, Italy, Spain, Greece and Cyprus, coordinated by Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region, as well as the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR).
Outputs:
- Development of pilot schemes and operational instruments to support territorial maritime policy decision-making;
- Identification of specific Mediterranean problems encountered in the implementation of the European policies concerned;
- Ensuring that maritime policies developed by regional territories are better exploited by European and Mediterranean authorities;
- Development of more effective transnational projects and better use of the results of past projects;
- Development of dialogue on maritime policy in the framework of the Barcelona Process (UfM).

Main deliverables:
- Policy recommendations adopted by the IMC-CPMR
- 2 Technical reports
- 3 strategic seminars with the European Authority
- 2 Steering Committees

Key words: Maritime policy governance; integrated management of coastal and maritime areas; fisheries; adaptation to climate change in coastal areas; efforts to reduce pollution and data management.

Added value for the IMC members:
MAREMED contributed to the structuration of long-term collaboration between Regions. It also contributed to the development of the Bologna Charter, signed at the occasion of the MAREMED seminar in March 2013. This project was also closely linked to the action of the CPMR in the maritime field.

29. COASTGAP

Acronym: COASTGAP

Full title: Coastal Governance and Adaptation Policies in the Mediterranean


Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism); Water and Energy

Partners:
(1) Lazio Region - Directorate of Environment Latium [IT]
(2) Emilia-Romagna Region Dept. Environment, soil and coast defence Emilie-Romagne [IT]
(3) Department of Hérault Languedoc-Roussillon [FR]
(4) Region of East Macedonia and Thrace (REMTH) [EL]
(5) Decentralized Administration of Crete Kriti (Crète) [EL]
(6) Region of Tuscany Toscan [IT]
(7) Region Liguria Ligurie [IT]
(8) Ministry of Communications and Works of Cyprus - Department of Public Works [CY]
(9) CETMEF - Centre for Technical Maritime and Waterways Studies Picardie [FR]
(10) UPO - Universidad Pablo Olavide de Sevilla Andalousie [ES]
(11) FEPORTS Port institute of studies and cooperation of the Valencian community [ES]
(12) Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel Extra Region [DE]
(13) Regional Development Agency of Split Dalmatia County – RERASD [HR]
(14) Dubrovnik Neretva County Regional Development Agency DUNEA [HR]
(15) Croatia: the entire country [HR]
(16) University Autonoma of Barcelona Catalogne [ES]

Start date: 01.07.2013
End date: 30.04.2015
Overall budget: €1,220,000.00
Co-financing: €923,000.00 (75%)

Background and context:
Coasts worldwide face a great variety of environmental impacts as well as increased anthropogenic pressures of coastal zone urbanisation and rapid population growth. Over the last decade coastal erosion has emerged as a widespread problem that causes shoreline retreat and irreversible land losses. These phenomena rather always come from structural and unavoidable choices like need of renewable energy (dikes), flooding control (dikes, barrages, banks, etc.), slope stability control (soil conservation), etc. The attempts of managers and other stakeholders to cope with erosion using different types of hard engineering methods, being unable to act with the causes, may often aggravate this problem, damaging natural landscape and coastal ecosystems in unexpected and unpredicted ways.

**Description:**

COASTGAP coped with the theme of coastal Risk in the Mediterranean basin. The Mediterranean coastal zone is identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as a "hot spot" and is most at Risk from flooding, coastal erosion and further land degradation, which exacerbates the need for tools that can facilitate adaptation to Climate Change. It came up after more than 10 years of shared experiences among many Mediterranean coastal Administrations and Institutions in the field of coastal adaptation to climate change effects and other natural/anthropogenic threats. In 2011 these actors established the cluster FACECOAST and submitted COASTGAP in order to capitalise 12 Best Practices from 9 projects of the cluster (from MED and other programmes). These best practices concerned several aspects of ICZM, Flood Directive, Maritime Spatial Planning and other relevant legal provisions. Some of them were dealing with the general matter of governance i.e. fostering the political initiative (Bologna Charter 2012) or the rational use of the coastal resources (SICELL); widening the suitable application of provisions, regulations and laws like ICZM Protocol (art.8) or Flood Directive (COFLERMAP); specifying environmental procedures for the coastal safeguard (EIA & SEA) and other topics having a great impact on coastal zones management.

**Outputs:**

The COASTGAP toolbox of Best Practices for the coastal survey & management COASTGAP project capitalized 12 Best Practices coming from 9 projects, producing a tailor-made toolbox of Best Practices for the coastal governance & adaptation policies aimed to reduce risk along MED coastal zones and foster their sustainable development. The 9 capitalised Best Practices with a technical purpose were concentrated on a practical toolbox now available online to all MED Public Administrations dealing with coastal planning and management, and to each MED stakeholder living on the MED coastal territories.

COASTGAP main aim was to feed future actions and strategies for 2014-2020 in relation to the pressing problem of MED coastal zone adaptation to climate change effects. This main aim was achieved through the set-up of a Joint Action Plan on coastal zone risk management at MED basin scale based on the capitalisation and streamlining of several outputs and results achieved by past MED -or not- projects on this issue.

**Key words:** Sustainable Growth; Tourism; managing natural and man-made threats; risk management; Climate change and biodiversity.

**Added value for the IMC members:**

COASTGAP contributed to the structuration of long-term collaboration between Regions. It also contributed to the development of the Bologna Charter. This project was also closely linked to the action of the CPMR in the maritime field.

**30. MEDGOVERNANCE**

**Acronym:** MEDGOVERNANCE

**Full title:** Mediterranean Governance

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2007-2013 – 1st call - Classical projects - 2008

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Economic and Social Cohesion; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy; Water and Energy; Social and Economic Cohesion; CPMR Migration Task Force

**Partners:**

1. Regional government of Tuscany Toscane [IT]
2. Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region [FR]
3. Lazio Region Latium [IT]
4. Piemonte Region Piémont [IT]
Start date: 14.05.09
End date: 14.11.11
Overall budget: €1,610,865.00
Co-financing: €1,208,148.00 (75%)

Description:
The MEDGOVERNANCE project brought together 6 Regions alongside research institutes for the elaboration of policy recommendations to build the Med space by involving regional actors. In this perspective, the project began with a diagnostic phase on the governance framework of the definition and implementation of major policies impacting the Mediterranean in 5 different areas: transport, competitiveness and innovation, environment, culture and migration. For each of these topics, the issue of "multi-level governance" was investigated through the analysis of case studies. The second phase of the project was to prepare a Mediterranean macro-regional strategy, following the approach adopted in the Baltic area or region of the Danube.

The MEDGOVERNANCE project was developed in the frame of the MED interregional cooperation programme. It set out political recommendations on how to better integrate regional authorities into the development and the implementation of Mediterranean policies.

Outputs:
• The first phase of the project focused on the coordination of the regional and national partners in the study activities concerning the governance in the MED Area, with a particular attention to five sectors of action of the MED policies i.e. Competitiveness, Innovation, Environment, Transport & Energy, Migration & Mobility, and Culture. This phase develops the necessary models and methods to implement a progressive action of multi-level governance concerning the MED development.

• The transformation of this process into a progressive and common model concerning the policies and their coordination are facilitated by the definition of a common vision of the challenges, of the coordination methods and of the regional multi-level governance in the MED Area. An effective multi-level governance of development challenges is possible only through a common cultural, political, administrative vision. This shared vision was developed by working groups and through exchanges between policy makers and researchers taking into consideration the best experiences worldwide.

• The Project was made up of three main components: (a) Organisation of activities of study through work grouping instrument for key actors of the MED Area; (b) Development of awareness, information and publicity addressed to policy makers and third sector, including a-Davos-event for MED area; (c) Elaboration of regional strategic plans in order to integrate the existent programming tools addressed to face the challenges of the MED Area.

• The entire process came with effective communication, promotion and animation actions. These actions were developed using an innovating method which capitalised on the experiences made during the implementation of the Interact Programme. In addition, these actions took into consideration the experiences of the interactive communication of WEB 2.0, -animation- and information actions of the most effective No Profit Organizations (e.g. -Reporters sans frontiers-), and, at a global level, actions promoted by the consortium ELDIS.

Key words: Multi-level governance; polycentric and sustainable development

Added value for the IMC members:
The reflections from this project are considered, together with the ones of MarInA-Med COM & CAP and other relevant projects, as a common ground for the IMC-CPMR roadmap for macro-regional and sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean.

31. OTREMED

Acronym: OTREMED

Full title: Observatorio Territorial En Red Del MEDiterraneo


Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Social and Economic Cohesion; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy

Partners:

(1) Murcia Region - Murcie [ES]
(2) Algarve Region - Algarve [PT]
(3) ANDALUSIA REGION - SECRETARY GENERAL OF SPATIAL PLANNING AND URBANISM [ES]
(4) Valencia Region – Valence [ES]
(5) Mediterranean Institute - Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur [FR]
(6) Piedmont Region - Piémont [IT]
(7) Emilia-Romagna Region - Emilie-Romagne [IT]
(8) Lazio Region - Latium [IT]
(9) Abruzzo Region - Abruzzes [IT]
(10) LAORE Sardegna Agency - Sardaigne [IT]
(11) Sicilia Region - Sicilie [IT]
(12) ZRC-SAŽU Slovenia: the entire country [SI]
(13) University of Patras - Dytiki Ellada (Grèce occidentale) [EL]

Start date: 31.08.10
End date: 27.02.12
Overall budget: €1,552,465.00
Co-financing: €1,176,258.00 (75%)

Description:

OTREMED arose from the need to provide public bodies with competence in spatial planning consistent with the structure and the dynamics associated with uniqueness of the Mediterranean. 13 actions consistent with the sustainable and balanced development of the territory were carried out.

OTREMED's objective was to develop a spatial planning tool aimed at improving Mediterranean region's competitiveness. With OTREMED Project, the Mediterranean regions built together a Regional spatial observatory focused on specific spatial themes typical of the Mediterranean space, such as:

- the coordination of land use,
- the management of population concentration on coastlines,
- the protection and the enhancement of the landscape,
- the adaptation to climate change effects,
- the migratory flows coming from Southern Mediterranean areas,
- the development and structuring of tourism.

Outputs:

- Protocol regarding cartographic homogenisation to make cartographic data transfer easier in the MED;
- Setup of a territorial analysis tool;
- Experimentation of this tool on 3 pilot territories, to check its applicability and implementation in geographic information systems by land use planning operators.

Key words: Regional planning and development; Governance; partnership

Added value for the IMC members:
The OTREMED project gave support to the action of public bodies asking for competence in spatial planning. The decision-making assistant tool developed in the frame of the project helped facilitating land use management while considering the structure of the territories and their evolution, as well as the continuity and quality of the Mediterranean area. The IMC-CPMR was involved as expert in some of the final activities of the projects.

32. MARIE

Acronym: MARIE

Full title: Mediterranean building rethinking for energy efficiency improvement

Corresponding call: Interreg MED 2007-2013 – 3rd call - Strategic projects - 2010

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy (TF: Energy renovation in Mediterranean Buildings)

Partners:
1. Government of Catalonia. Department of Territory and Sustainability [ES]
2. ACC1Ó. Agency to Support Catalan Companies [ES]
3. Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur [FR]
4. ANKO (Regional Development Agency of Western Macedonia S.A.) [EL]
5. Piedmont Region [IT]
6. LIMA (Low Impact Mediterranean Architecture Association)
7. IREC (Catalan Institute for Energy Research) [ES]
8. EPSA (Public Land Agency of Andalusia) [ES]
9. CRMA (Chambre Régionale de Métiers et de l'Artisanat), [FR]
10. Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC) [ES]
11. EFFINERGIE [FR]
12. IASA (Institute of Accelerating Systems and Applications) [EL]
13. Region Umbria [IT]
14. Consortium AREA for scientific and technologic research of Trieste [IT]
15. University of Evora [PT]
16. Regione Basilicata [IT]
17. ARE Liguria (Regional Energy Agency of Liguria) [IT]
18. UMAR (Union of Mediterranean Architects) [MT]
19. LCA (Local Council Association of Malta) [MT]
20. University of Ljubljana [SI]
21. GOLEA (Goriska Local Energy Agency) [SI]
22. Bar Municipality, [Montenegro]
23. Larnaca Municipality [CY]

Start date: 01.04.12
End date: 30.11.14
Overall budget: €5,913,880.00
Co-financing: €4,511,098.00 (75%)

Background and context:
The Mediterranean regions as well as the most advanced states and regions of Europe needed respond to the ambitious national and European commitments that were made with strategies that were adapted to their specific climatic and socioeconomic needs. The situation on the ground implied a significant effort from the Mediterranean region that not only has to contend with specific summer conditions and a particular socio-economic context, but also with energy efficiency standards for buildings that are less stringent compared to the rest of the EU.

Description:
MARIE aimed to improve Mediterranean building Energy Efficiency (EE) and exploit the opportunities presented by EU policy and directives on EE in Buildings, taking into consideration the distinct characteristics of the MED space and creating more suitable socio-economic conditions in order to address the following challenges:

- Need for new regulations and institutional tools in response to the new EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive recast;
- Lack of financial mechanisms able to stimulate energy efficient refurbishment of buildings;
- SME dominated buildings sector requiring external support in order to stimulate innovation in the provision of adequate services and products for energy refurbishment of buildings.

MARIE led to the signature of the **Ljubljana Declaration** by a number of local and regional authorities and other public and private entities (energy agencies, institutes, associations, universities, etc.).

**Outputs:**
- Design tools for the renewal of energy installations in buildings (sharing of knowledge regarding the energy consumption of households - Protocols for renovation);
- Activation of the market for the energy rehabilitation of buildings (Communication - Education - Inter-firm cooperation and interclusters);
- Competitiveness and Innovation (Support for local industries and renewable materials, promotion of environmentally sustainable equipment, R & D initiatives);
- Public governance (correspondence of regulations and regional policies with the EU objectives, development of regional governance structures, sharing experiences and policies);
- Economic resources for the energy renovation of buildings (allocation of resources via regional investment programmes, establishing innovative financial and fiscal mechanisms to mobilise resources);
- **Policy Paper**;
- Signature of the **Ljubljana Declaration**.

**Key words:** Energy efficiency; innovation; Buildings; Energy Performance of Buildings Directive; energy installations; rehabilitation; environmentally sustainable equipment

**Added value for the IMC members:**

IMC members were able to follow the activities and results of the project through the IMC Energy and Water Working Group and its related Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Mediterranean buildings. The project initiated the preparation of a global response to Energy Efficiency in Mediterranean buildings. Marie led to the signature of the Ljubljana Declaration as part of a capitalisation process with Elih-Med and Proforbiomed, by a consistent number of MED Regions and other public and private stakeholders. This project together with Elih-Med constitutes the base of Sherpa and IMC CPMR lobbying activities on Energy Efficiency.

**33. MITOMED**

**Acronym:** MITOMED

**Full title:** Models of Integrated Tourism in the Mediterranean

**Corresponding call:** Interreg MED 2007-2013 – Integrated Maritime approach call - 2013

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Working Group on Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TF Sustainable Tourism and Culture)

**Partners:**

(1) Tuscany Region – Tourism sector [IT] – Lead Partner
(2) CNR-IBIMET [IT]
(3) Girona University [ES]
(4) Institute of Agriculture and Tourism - Poreč [HR]
(5) ANETEL - Larnaca [CY]
(6) NECSTour – Bruxelles [BE]

**Start date:** 01.01.14
**End date:** 31.12.15
**Overall budget:** €570,000
**ERDF Co-financing:** €443,500 (75%)

**Background and context:**

The Mediterranean represents the world’s leading destination in terms of international and domestic tourism, accounting for one third of total arrivals worldwide. Coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean is a growing business and a predominant source of income. It can be a major source of growth and jobs, especially for young people. At the same time, the Mediterranean is subject to severe anthropic impacts and
environmental risks: tourism pressure on territories and citizens, extensive building along the coastline, coastal erosion, worsening conditions of sea water, over exploitation of natural and cultural heritage.

**Description:**
MITOMED aimed to promote the integrated management of maritime and coastal tourism by improving the knowledge of data, products, services but also policies and thus pertaining to the sector through an assessed set of indicators based on the NECSTouR model. MITOMED provided a common working framework for tourism actors and stakeholders, thereby helping policy makers to make more informed and integrated decisions for the governance and management of tourism in the Mediterranean.

The results of the project are now being taken farther with the MITOMED+ project (2017-2020).

**Main deliverables:**
- Gap analysis methodology: a shortlist of 34 relevant and feasible indicators was selected from an initial list of 119 indicators, coming from existing systems i.e. NECSTouR, TSG, ETIS, etc.;
- Gap analysis of maritime & coastal tourism data in the Med: the indicators were used to measure the economic, social, cultural and environmental implications of tourism activities in the territories. A critical assessment of the various indicators was carried out. The GAP analysis revealed which data were available and which were not, and defines “ideal thresholds” to be reached under each indicator;
- Sea-basin swot analysis: focused on the tourist destination as a whole. It represented the starting point to reflect on the state of the art and the desired future of M&C destinations of each region, to investigate common issues;
- Action plan for maritime and coastal tourism in the Mediterranean: the plan investigated the development potential of M&C tourism in the MED areas through the implementation of a management model, identified actions for the realisation of that potential and launched proposals for future transnational actions and projects to improve the governance of Maritime and Coastal tourism.

**Key words:** Coastal and maritime tourism, Sustainable tourism, Integrated management model, Indicators, Mediterranean governance, blue growth

**Added value for the IMC members:**
IMC members could follow the activities and results of the project through the IMC Task Force on Sustainable Tourism and Culture. The reflections from this project are considered, together with MarInA-Med COM&CAP and other relevant projects, as a common ground for the IMC reflection and work on sustainable tourism.

**B. AMIF - Regions for Migrants and Refugees Integration (REGIN)**

**Acronym:** REGIN

**Full title:** Regions for Migrants and Refugees Integration

**Corresponding call:** AMIF-2018-AG-INTEGRIntegration of Third-Country Nationals

**Priority:** action 1 (Local and regional integration networks)

**Related CPMR working groups/task forces:** CPMR Migration Task Force

**Partners:**
(6) CRPM - CONFERENCE DES REGIONS PERIPHERIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE (Lead partner) [FR]
(7) INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES SL
(8) MIGRATION POLICY GROUP
(9) CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION IN BARCELONA
(10) DIREÇAO REGIONAL DAS COMUNIDADES PORTUGAL
(11) Direzione Generale Politiche Sociali e Socio-Sanitarie- Regione Campania
(12) Secretariat for Equality, Migrations and Citizenship CATALONIA
(13) REGION DE MURCIA
(14) REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA
(15) LANSSTYRELSEN SKANE

**Duration:** 28 months

**Expected start date:** January 2020

**Expected end date:** April 2022
**Overall budget:** around €1,63 million  
**EU Co-financing:** (90%)  
**CPMR budget:** €521,518.00

**Background and context:**
Since 1999, integration of third-nationals has been part of EU migration and asylum policies. The Stockholm Programme for the period 2010-14 embraced the development of core indicators for a limited number of relevant policy areas for monitoring the results of integration policies. For the EU, successful migrant integration into European societies is crucial to increasing the opportunities of regular migration and making the most of the contributions that immigration can bring to EU development. Building on the European Agenda on Migration (2015), the Commission adopted an Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals in 2016. As stressed by the Action Plan, the role of local and regional authorities in the integration process is crucial, as most integration measures are implemented at local level and are key to fostering integration and mutual trust. Nonetheless, they have to deal with several challenges, such as lack of experience or knowledge in the field, lack of human and financial resources, and a political and societal environment not favourable to migrant integration. It seems crucial to develop tools to help regions to collaborate across levels of government and civil society to apply more coherent integration policies. To do that, REGIN builds upon existing sets of integration indicators.

**Description:**
The main objective of regin is to help strengthen regional authorities’ capabilities to foster migrants’ integration by providing a set of tools to contribute to that aim. To achieve impact in the long term, the project will develop a set of indicators to evaluate policy implementation and will implement the Zaragoza indicators to progressively measure the impact of governance instruments on migrant outcomes (labour, education, housing, etc.) at regional level. Similarly, the project will design different tools to align objectives, measurement and information across levels of government and civil society to apply better integration policies. Finally, the project aims to map the integration practices and actions at the regional level, providing an evaluation framework to facilitate knowledge-transfer with successful initiatives. The project will target not only the partner regions, but also other EU regions through an associate partners network and backing the project’s outcomes and deliverables with CPMR members. The project will ensure complementarity with EU institutions such as the Committee of Regions and the ARLEM network (among others) to disseminate and capitalise its results, as well as with national and regional stakeholders and policy-makers with the same objective. The expected contribution is to advance innovation, robustness, accuracy and reliability of the regional authorities’ capabilities to promote migrants’ integration, as well as improving cooperation and knowledge-sharing among them.

**Expected outputs:**
- To establish a network with regional authorities to interchange, dialogue and cooperate on migrants’ integration policies and practices. That will ensure the success of the project, but also the implementation of its tools beyond the project’s partners. Indicator: % of regions involved in the project, aware and informed (baseline value: 0; target value: 50).
- To identify integration indicators to analyse regional policies and outcomes on migrants’ integration. This specific objective will contribute to the general objective providing the data-based research to help regional authorities and stakeholders to define policies and actions on integration. Furthermore, it will provide a comparative framework at regional level about integration policies and actions. It will develop MIPEX-R to visualize the regional policies and outcomes on migrants’ integration and to link it with www.mipex.eu. Indicator: % of questions answered to create the policy indicators (baseline value: 0; target value: 80%). % of questions answered to fulfil the Zaragoza indicators at regional level (baseline value: 0; target value: 80%).
- To develop a set of tools to facilitate regional performance on promoting and strengthening migrants’ and refugees’ integration. It will also create a forum to discuss, learn and share on migrants’ integration practices and discussions in each region with different stakeholders. Indicator: Nº of regional staff in trainings (baseline value: 0; target value:80). Nº of stakeholders mapped and involved (baseline value: 0; target value: 100).
- To create a mapping tool to visualize different practices and initiatives at regional level on migrants and refugees’ integration. Indicator: Nº practices included in the mapping tool (baseline value: 0; target value: 60).
To give voice to regions to emphasises their role in migrants and refugees’ integration policies at national and EU level. Indicator: nº of dissemination meetings and presentations of the project (baseline value: 0, target value: 75%)

**Key words:** integration, third-nationals, migration, asylum, societies, indicators, governance instruments

**Added value for the IMC members:**
The REGIN project aims to set up an improved network on integration, foster exchange of best practices and capitalise on new tools. It is also open to non-EU Mediterranean territories. CPMR members will benefit from the results of this project, which include an improved system of indicators and advocacy activities improving the role of the regions in Integration policies.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Davide Strangis

**C. Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe**

- **a. SOLAQUA**

**Acronym:** SolaQua

**Full title:** Accessible, reliable and affordable solar irrigation for Europe and beyond


**Specific objective:** Secure clean and efficient energy

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy, Economic and Social Cohesion

**Partners:**
1. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid [ES] (Lead Partner)
2. Euromediterranean Irrigators Community [ES]
4. Consiglio dell’Ordine Nazionale dei Dottori Agronomi e dei Dottori Forestali [IT]
5. Universidade de Evora [PT]
6. Universita degli Studi di Sassari [IT]
7. Institut agronomique et vétérinaire Hassan II [MA]
8. Departamento de Agricultura Ganadería y Medio Ambiente, Gobierno de Aragón [ES]
9. Conselleria de Agricultura, Medio Ambiente, Cambio Climático y Desarrollo Rural, Generalitat Valenciana [ES]
10. Abarca Companhia de Seguros S.A. [PT]
11. Calarasi County Council Romania [RO]

**Start date:** October 2020
**End date:** September 2023
**Overall budget:** €1,757,215.00
**EU Co-financing:** 100%
**CPMR budget:** €208,802

**Background and context:**
SolaQua aimed to contribute to tackling several challenges:

- Contribute to the EU´s Renewable Energy 2030 target (at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels), 32% share for renewable energy and 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency⁴);

- The growing consumption of fresh water for agricultural uses in Europe, most notably in southern regions (up to 80% of fresh water⁵);

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⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2030_en
- The inefficiency of current irrigation systems in terms of water management and energy saving, as they are usually supplied via on-grid or diesel pumps (high operating costs for the farmers, water scarcity and environmental damage through CO2 emissions);
- The lack of enthusiasm of the farmers to use solar irrigation (lack of information and of access to financing).

The project was based on the results of two previous Horizon 2020 projects, Maslowaten and ResFarm, both established to promote on-farm renewable energy technologies in Europe. Led by SolaQua's coordinator UPM, Maslowaten developed technical solutions for large-power solar irrigation in modern agriculture. About Resfarm, it aimed to facilitate on-farm renewable energy sources access to finance by producing financial instruments suitable for capital markets, such as green bonds.

**Description:**

SolaQua’s main objective was to increase the share of renewable energy consumption in Europe by facilitating the market uptake of solar irrigation (a combination of photovoltaic technology, hydraulic engineering and high-efficiency water management techniques) in the farming sector. Different goals are going to be explored: the reduction of the cost of solar irrigation, standards for consumers and environmental protection, more efficient policies and the development of a well-functioning market for solar irrigation.

This was be done by producing and exploiting a set of 7 Key Enabling Materials and Tools (KEMT) on various matters, such as the technical installation of solar irrigation, environmental and economic assessment methodology, a standard Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) contract (which consists in establishing long-term relationships between renewable energy installers and consumers), specific financial instruments for institutional investors (notably concerning the Common Agricultural Policy’s Rural Development Plans), as well as on the best practices for regulation and supporting policies.

The second stage of SolaQua focused on communication, dissemination and exploitation actions that will impact different stakeholders (irrigators, SMEs, investors and public authorities) and allowed for the promotion of 100 megawatts of new solar irrigation systems.

**Expected outputs:**

The general output of the project was to provide more than 20% of the new photovoltaic installed capacity required at EU level to achieve the 32% share of renewable energy target for 2030.

1. Produce and disseminate a set of 7 KEMT, designed to solve technical, economic and legal issues which are acting as barriers for the market uptake of SI.
2. Produce awareness and skills of SI among the stakeholders in six countries with a combined SI potential of more than 14 GW. More than 300,000 farmers will be reached with relevant information and action opportunities, 70 SMEs equipped with SI technical skills and 38 Public Authorities given the capacity to produce more informed policies and supporting schemes.
3. Trigger the European SI market by facilitating a joint promotion of at least 100 MW of SI, exploiting SolaQua’s KEMT and led by ISINPA engaged in SI as a result of the project’s dissemination and communication actions. This promotion will act as a flagship of SI.
4. Increase the effectiveness of public supporting schemes for on-farm investments for the promotion of SI by producing a new EAFRD financial instrument to be implemented in 3 European regions in order to support more than 40 MW of new solar irrigation capacity.
5. Facilitate market uptake of reliable and affordable SI in markets outside the EU with Morocco.

**Main expected deliverables:**

- **Communication**
  - Materials and tools for external dissemination (social media, website, leaflet, video, factsheets, articles, etc.)
  - Leaflets for irrigators and SMEs on solar irrigation and the project, with a special focus made on women
  - Participation in conferences, fairs and exhibitions
  - Visits to solar irrigation facilities
- **Testing**
  - Setting up activities of SolaQua’s working groups (Governance, Information Systems, Training and Financing)
- Capitalisation
  - SolaQua set of Key Enabling Materials and Tools, including an economic and an environmental assessment methodology, standard Power Purchase Agreement contracts, a report containing the EAFRD financial instrument and a market analysis of solar irrigation in Morocco and North Africa
  - Manual for irrigators and installers on solar irrigation and the best practices to implement it
  - Self-assessment tool for irrigators
  - Web App that will allow stakeholders to obtain a preliminary planning of a solar irrigation based on the characteristics of the projects
  - Organisation of training workshops

**Key words:** Energy efficiency, solar irrigation, Mediterranean agriculture, training, dissemination, tools, financial instrument, SMEs, EAFRD, Morocco, EU Renewable Energy 2030 target

**Added value for the IMC members:** IMC members were able to follow the activities and results of the project through the works of the IMC working group on Water and Energy, as the co-presidency of the WG is also partner to the project. The outputs of the project, directly targeting Managing authorities and regional actors, provided the Members with innovative technological results to work with on the design and implementation of their operation programs, tackling at the same time the objectives of solar irrigation and participating to the fulfilment the EU’s Green Deal and Climate objectives.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Jordi Juarez

**b. CIVITAS DESTINATIONS**

**Acronym:** DESTINATIONS

**Full title:** CIVITAS DESTINATIONS

**Corresponding call:** MOBILITY FOR GROWTH 2014-2015/MG-5.5a-2015 (Demonstrating and testing innovative solutions for cleaner and better urban transport and mobility)

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

**Partners:**

1. Horários do Funchal, Transportes Públicos, S.A. [PT] (Lead Partner)
2. Agência Regional da Energia e Ambiente da Região Autónoma da Madeira [PT]
3. Camara Municipal Do Funchal [PT]
4. Secretaria Regional da Economia Turismo e Cultura [PT]
5. Agencia Regional Para O Desenvolvimento Da Investigacao, Tecnologia e Inovacao [PT]
6. Etairia Touristikis Anaptixis Kai Provolis Periferias Lemesou Limited [CY]
7. Municipality of Limassol [CY]
8. Stratagem Energy Ltd [CY]
9. Dimos Rethimnis [EL]
10. The Research Committee of the Technical University of Crete [EL]
11. Comune Di Rio Marina [IT]
12. Comune Di Portoferraio [IT]
14. Authority for Transport in Malta (TM) [MT]
15. Valletta Kunsilli Lokali [MT]
16. Universita ta Malta [MT]
17. Ministry of Tourism [MT]
18. Guaguas Municipales sociedad anonimaa sa [ES]
19. CINESI sl consultoria de transport [ES]
20. Ayuntamiento de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria [ES]
21. Ingeniería Electrónica Canaria S.L [ES]
22. Sociedad Municipal de Aparcamientos de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, SA [ES]
23. Euro Project Consult SARL [FR]
24. Istituto di Studi per l’Integrazione dei Sistemi SC [IT]
25. European Integrated Project SRL [RO]
26. Sustainable Services SL [ES]
Start date: 01.09.2016  
End date: 31.08.2020  
Overall budget: €19,975,902.00  
EU Co-financing: (70% to 100%)  
CPMR budget: €413,498.75 (100% co-financing rate for the CPMR)

Background and context:
Within the EU—and particularly following the economic crisis—tourism will be the ‘engine for economic growth’, particularly in the underperforming Mediterranean economies; where tourism has traditionally been a dominant economic sector. The world market of tourists continues to grow and Europe has unique selling points for further tourist growth from within and outside the EU (including China). The competitive market for tourism means that cities must provide the high quality, sustainable environments desired by tourists, while providing local sustainable employment opportunities that overcome the seasonal and sometimes informal nature of tourist economies. Achieving sustainable mobility is a vital part of the growth equation for Europe’s tourist cities.

Description:
DESTINATIONS aims to develop an innovative holistic approach to building sustainable urban mobility systems for both residents and tourists. The project impacts will make a positive contribution to demonstrating how this can achieve growth and therefore provide a benchmark for other EU tourist cities.

Expected outputs:
DESTINATIONS seeks to demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of innovative sustainable mobility solutions in 6 tourist cities with different characteristics but sharing common challenges. The solutions will address:
- Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning for residents and visitors  
- Safe, attractive and accessible public spaces for all generations  
- Shared mobility and e-infrastructures towards zero emissions transport  
- Smart & clean urban freight logistics at tourist destinations  
- Mobility management & awareness for sustainable mobility  
- Attractive, clean, accessible and efficient public transport

Achieving the objectives should help increasing the attractiveness of the city, both for tourists and for businesses in the sector and multiplier impacts in the economy for goods and services. This will all contribute to better social cohesion (which attracts further investment).

Main expected deliverables:
- Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP)  
- Implementation and demonstration reports on measures for safety and accessible publics places  
- Sustainable Urban Logistic Plan (SULP) for each pilot city  
- Implementation and demonstration reports for measures targeted to mobility demand management and increased awareness for sustainable mobility  
- Implementation and demonstration reports for Public Transport enhancement  
- Stakeholders’ maps and initiatives/tools for boosting the role of public and private stakeholders  
- DESTINATIONS Business Model catalogue  
- Policy Recommendations guidance  
- Communication materials for external dissemination (website, leaflet, newsletter, social media)

Key words: Tourism mobility, shared economy, business models, ITS, data gathering, sustainable growth, quality of life, safety, public private partnerships, participation

Added value for the IMC members:
IMC members have the possibility to follow the activities and results of the project through its dissemination activities, its online platform and the IMC working group on Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy. They will also benefit from the project’s policy recommendations and possibly be directly involved in the testing of some specific measures on their respective territories, as foreseen under the project’s budget.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Panos Coroyannakis, Davide Strangis

**Twitter:** @CIVITAS_DSTNTNS

**Website:** http://civitas.eu/destinations/

**D. PLATFORMA: Focus on the “Training module on Integrated Territorial Development”**

**Full title:** Strategic Partnership with the EU “Working together towards empowering local and regional governments for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes in EU partner countries”

**Grant agreement:** DCI-NSA/2015/362-870

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** all working groups and task forces

**Partners:**
1. PLATFORMA members
2. CPMR regions
3. EU institutions
4. CONCORDE
5. UN-Habitat
6. UNDP
7. Regional and local universities and research institutes

**Start date:** August 2016

**End date:** MoU terminated in July 2017 but some activities are foreseen in 2018

**CPMR budget for the Southern Neighbourhood activity:** €60,660.48

**Background and context:**

PLATFORMA has signed a Strategic Partnership with the European Commission with the objective of “working together towards empowering local and regional governments for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes in EU partner countries”. The CPMR was a partner in this Network, which coordinates the voice of European local and regional authorities for development with the European institutions, for several years, until July 2017.

The main aim of the Strategic Partnership is to ‘cooperate towards consolidating local and regional governments in partner countries as accountable, autonomous and responsive sphere of government, instrumental to state building and rule of law, deepening local democratic governance, cooperating with their peers, learning from each other’s experience and transfer of knowledge, building trust between citizens and public authorities, as well as responding to citizen demands for improved access to basic services and better living conditions, through the mobilisation of natural, local, social, economic and cultural resources for sustainable local development.’

**Description:**

A memorandum of understanding between CEMR and the CPMR was signed in order to specify the scope of activities, financial arrangements and details of each Tasks to be undertaken by the CPMR in this frame. The Tasks to be achieved by the CPMR in the Strategic Partnership objectives with EC are the following:

- Research Study: shaping a new generation of decentralised cooperation for enhanced effectiveness and accountability
- Research Study: Towards a new generation of public-private partnerships for decentralised cooperation
- Training module on the delivery of public services with a territorial integrated approach in the Mediterranean.

The implementation of this last activity is led by the Intermediterranean Commission in the frame of its WG on Territorial Cooperation and Macro regional strategies.

**Expected outputs of the training module:**

- Enhanced understanding on how to adapt decentralised cooperation models to meet strengthened standards of effectiveness and accountability, while fostering innovative approaches and partnerships.
- Addressing the question of public-private partnerships separately and not only as a part of wider topic of the Research Study above “Shaping a new generation of decentralised cooperation”, allows for a deeper analysis, as well as for seeking specific collaborations with private sector representatives and EC directorates beyond DEVCO, as appropriate.

- Enhanced understanding and capacity on the key elements required for public service provision with an integrated territorial approach. Exchange of experiences and peer-to-peer learning, also towards future cooperation among sub-national authorities.

Main expected deliverables of the training module:

- Questionnaire, inception report and preliminary analysis of the needs through a consultation (online consultation, phone or virtual interviews, face-to-face meetings);
- Manual on integrated territorial development in the Med with a Focus on Morocco and Tunisia, including guidelines for Mediterranean local and regional authorities;
- Training session to present and disseminate the final version of the Manual to be organised at the end of 2018.

Key words: Decentralised cooperation; cooperation programme; territorial integrated development; sustainable development; network

Added value for the IMC members:

IMC members can benefit from decentralised cooperation models developed in the frame of the project and improved dialogue and exchange with European Neighbourhood Policy Countries LRGs. The training module developed in the frame of the project will be the opportunity to develop and reinforce peer-to-peer learning, capacity building and direct collaboration between North and South local and regional authorities from EU Southern Neighbourhood in specific fields i.e. environment, energy and climate, sustainable development of coastal areas and Integrated Maritime Policy, integrated multimodal transport at city-region scale and social and economic cohesion. Deliverables coming out of the training module produced in the frame of the partnership -i.e. manual with guidelines addressing the abovementioned topics, training, key implementation principles to ensure a participatory and democratic approach- will be made available directly to IMC members.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Davide Strangis

E. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)/European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

1. SIMWESTMED

Acronym: SIMWESTMED

Full title: Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Western Mediterranean region

Corresponding call: EASME/EMFF/2015/1.2.1.3/02

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

Partners:

(1) Service Hydrographique et océanographique de la Marine – SHOM [FR] (Lead partner)
(2) Agence des Aires Marines protégées – AMPP / Agence française pour la Biodiversité – AFB [FR]
(3) Instituto español de oceanografía – IEO [ES]
(4) Centro de Estudios y Experimentación de Obras Públicas – CEDEX [ES]
(5) Centre d'études et d’expertise sur les risques, environnement, mobilité et aménagement – CEREMA [FR]
(6) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]
(7) Consorziop per il coordinamento delle ricerche inerenti al sistema lagunare di Venezia – CORILA [IT]
(8) Ministry of infrastructure and transport, directorate general for port authorities’ supervision, port facilities and maritime and waterways transport – MIT [IT]
(9) Ministry of the environment, land & sea, Directorate-general for nature and sea protection – MATTM [IT]
(10) Malta Environment and Planning authority – MEPA [MT]
**Associated partners:** CNR-ISMAR National - Research Council, Institute of Marine Science (IT); University IUAV of Venice (IT); Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication -INFO/RAC (IT); Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre -PAP/RAC (HR)

**Start date:** 01.01.2017  
**End date:** 31.12.2018  
**Overall budget:** €2,822,928.74  
**EU contribution:** €2,258,343,00 (80%)  
**CPMR budget:** €71,060

**Background and context:**

The use of Europe’s sea-areas is increasing and gives rise to potential conflicts and competition for maritime space, both between different users, and between maritime uses and the preservation of the marine environment. This development increases the demand for Maritime Spatial Planning, an instrument that is essential for resource efficiency in maritime activities. MSP provides a framework for the management of human sea uses in a context of intensifying economic activities in sea basins around Europe. As such, it has a vital role to play in terms of maximising the development potential for crucial activities, such as offshore renewable energy production, and of arbitrating between human activities to ensure that the cumulative impact of ongoing activities is sustainable. By providing long-term stability, predictability and transparency, MSP encourages investments for sustainable growth and jobs and secures ongoing activities.

**Description:**

The objective of the projects was to support Member States to develop MSP in their marine waters and implement cooperation on cross-border planning in their sea basin. The action sought to stimulate the development of a cross-border, ecosystem-based approach towards MSP on the basis of the requirements of the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning. More specifically, the objectives of the project were the following:

1. To support the implementation of the Directive on MSP in Member States marine waters.
2. To launch and carry out concrete, cross-border MSP cooperation initiatives between Member States in the Northern European Atlantic, Western Mediterranean and Eastern Mediterranean, with each involving the relevant authorities responsible for MSP of at least two Member States in the selected area.

**Expected outputs:**

- **Raising awareness and understanding** of the range of factors potentially impacting on the marine area within the **Western European Mediterranean** and projective future trends;
- **Building on existing mechanisms** to identify opportunities on the best practices for **joint use of data** (development of common indicators) and **data sharing**, within the specific context of **transboundary areas** and issues within the **Western European Mediterranean**;
- **Identifying and addressing** important **data gaps** and supporting the **coherence of data** analysis across marine area boundaries;
- **Examining the potential spatial demand, impact and interaction** of maritime sectorial activities based on information from competent authorities and stakeholders, specifically where they span marine area borders;
- **Exploring the potential spatial requirements** for **marine conservation**, specifically the challenges around transboundary working;
- **Examining the challenges** to, and opportunities for, **transboundary cooperation on MSP** and possible approaches to addressing these.

**Main expected deliverables:**

- Supporting the implementation of MSP
  - Regional MSP Platform (mechanism for a permanent and operational networking among Member States in the area)
  - Basin-scale analysis-initial assessment MSP-oriented
  - Analysis of MSP Planning Process
  - Conceptual methodology for transboundary MSP in Western Mediterranean
  - Analysis of spatial demands and future trends for maritime sectors and the marine economy
  - Tools and methods supporting the MSP process
- Improving stakeholders' engagement (desk analysis, practical handbook and workshop)
- Case studies in 5 pilot areas

- Communication
  - Website, leaflet and newsletter
  - Participation in external events

**Key words:** Monitoring, maritime spatial planning, West-Mediterranean strategy, Bologna Charter

**Added value for the IMC members:**

This project directly contributed to the development of the West Med Maritime initiative and the implementation of the Bologna Charter. IMC members benefitted from the results of the project and the support it provided as regards the implementation of the MSP Directive. Some IMC members were invited to participate in the mid-term workshop and the final conference organised by the CPMR, gathering the project’s partners, regions and EU institutions.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Lise Guennal

**F. 7th Framework Programme of the EC (FP7)**

1. **MED-SPRING**

**Acronym:** MED-SPRING

**Full title:** Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

**Corresponding call:** FP7-INCO-2012-1

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy; Water and Energy

**Partners:**

(1) Centro internazionale di alti studi agronomici mediterranei - istituto agronomico mediterraneo di bari – CIHEAM-IAMB [IT] (Lead Partner)
(2) Ministry of higher education and scientific research – MHESR [Egypt]
(3) Agencia estatal consejo superior de investigaciones cientificas – CSIC [ES]
(4) Institut de Recherche pour le Développement – IRD [FR]
(5) Deutsches zentrum fuer luft - und raumfahrt ev – DLR [DE]
(6) Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – CNR [IT]
(7) Ethniko idryma erevnon – NHRF [EL]
(8) Office of the Prime Minister – MCST [MT]
(9) Fundacao para a Ciencia e a Tecnologia – FCT [PT]
(10) The Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation – CREF [CY]
(11) Turkiye bilimsel ve teknologik arastirma kurumu tubitak [TR]
(13) Ministère de l’enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique – DG-RSDT [Algeria]
(14) Ministry of higher education and scientific research – TESR [Tunisia]
(15) The higher council for science and technology – HCST [Jordan]
(16) Matimop, israeli industry center for research & development – ISERD [Israel]
(17) Ministry of higher education Mohe [Palestinian administered areas]
(18) Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique – CNRS [Lebanon]
(19) Sustainable Communication AISBL S-COM [BE]
(20) Unione delle Universita del Mediterraneo – UNIMED [IT]
(21) Associazione internazionale volontari laici LVIA [IT]
(22) Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II – IAV [Morocco]
(23) Alexandria university AUREC [Egypt]
(24) Centre de recherches et des technologies des eaux – CERTE [Tunisia]
(25) ANIMA Investment Network – ANIMA [FR]
(26) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe Intermediterranean Commission – IMC-CPMR [FR]
(27) AL-QUDS University [Palestinian administered areas]
(28) Sekem Development Foundation – SDF [Egypt]
**Start date:** 01.02.2013  
**End date:** 31.01.2017  
**Overall budget:** €4,480,222.00  
**ERDF Co-financing:** €3,999,944.85 (90%)  
**CPMR budget:** €65,928

**Background and context:**
The Monitoring Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in RTD (Hungary, June 2011) strongly underlined the need of adapting the Euro-Mediterranean research and innovation policies and cooperation to the changing Mediterranean society. The MED Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway -MED-SPRING-, built on the previous experience of the INCO.NET MIRA, but adapted to the new reality of the Euro-Mediterranean policy and the general orientations defined in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Barcelona (2-3 April 2012), focused on three societal challenges (Energy, High Quality Affordable Food, and Scarcity of resources).

**Description:**
MED-SPRING aimed at tackling policy objectives by creating a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions, research organisations, associations and civil society, and also address capacity building and analysis of societal challenges to increase respectively research capacity and shared knowledge and cooperation on common areas of interest. It supported synergies and networking to strengthen joint activities and cooperation in EU programmes, and monitoring regional RTD cooperation and policies.

The main objectives of the project were:
- To develop and support the dialogue between EU - MPCs by bringing together policymakers and stakeholders from each MPC and EU Member State to create a dialogue and action platform to identify common interest in research areas;
- To set up S&T priorities;
- To support capacity building activities and enhance the interaction between different cooperation instruments of the EC to promote actions in order to monitor, develop and contribute to creating synergies among the various S&T cooperation programmes between MPCs/EU and foster the participation of the MPCs in the Framework Programme.

**Expected outputs:**
- Enhancing EU-MPCs co-ownership in research cooperation;
- Creating synergies in order to reduce fragmentation of research actions;
- Involving the civil society in the institutional dialogue on research and innovation;
- Developing cooperation instruments to tackle societal challenges with a view to sustainability;
- Supporting research and innovation capacity building through comprehensive training;
- Contributing build an Euro-Mediterranean shared knowledge space in order to develop common EU-MPCs planning capacity and a sustainable regional RTD policy and cooperation;
- Adopting a White Paper for Euro-Med Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation STI

**Key words:** Euro-Mediterranean research and innovation; MED Science; research capacity; shared knowledge; cooperation

**Added value for the IMC members:**
MED-SPRING helped foster cooperation among Mediterranean stakeholders in RTD. Some of the IMC members could benefit from the works and results of the project. Recommendations were concentrated in the White Paper For Euro-Med Cooperation in STI produced in the frame of the project, which is still of use.

**G. CIUDAD**

1. **SURE**

**Acronym:** SURE

**Full title:** Sustainable Urban Energy in the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Region – Towards the Covenant of Mayors
**Corresponding call:** CIUDAD Programme (European Neighbourhood Policy) – 2010

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Water and Energy

**Partners:**
1. City of Friedrichshafen [DE] (lead partner)
2. City of Murcia [ES]
3. City of Salé [Morocco]
4. City of Polotsk (Polotsk City Executive Committee) [Belarus]
5. Conference on Peripheral Maritime Regions Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]

**Start date:** January 2010  
**End date:** December 2012  
**Overall budget:** € 791 725  
**Co-financing:** € 616 725 (78%)  

**Background and context:**

The CIUDAD Programme aims to help local governments in the ENPI region to enhance their capacity to plan for sustainable, integrated and long-term urban development using good governance principles. It does this through capacity building and by promoting mutual understanding, exchange of experience and cooperation between local actors in the EU and in the Partner Countries of the ENPI region in the implementation of common projects. By creating new partnerships and strengthening existing ones among local and regional authorities in the ENPI region, it also hopes to achieve long-term benefits extending beyond the life of the programme.

**Description:**

The key result of the project was that, for the first time, Belarus received a strategy for sustainable energy development, which was prepared in full accordance with the EU standards for the city of Polotsk in Northern Belarus. Since 2012, Polotsk had been following these strategic guidelines by aiming to harness renewable energy sources. Following this example, 10 other Belarusian cities have now implemented their own strategies.

Belarus’s own energy resources did not meet the country’s needs: Belarus’s own sources of fossil fuels can sustain only 15% of the current energy consumption. Therefore, imported gas (from Russia) is the primary source of energy in Belarus whose share in the entire energy system reaches 93%. Obviously, the country will only benefit from adopting alternative ways of energy production and consumption.

Furthermore, before SURE project, no EU-sponsored initiatives or programs on energy and environmental protection had been implemented in Belarus. In other words, Polotsk pioneered the EU’s environmental standards for Belarus; it also became the first Belarusian signatory of the Covenant of Mayors (2011).

As a result, the city started implementing the EU’s 20-20-20 strategy that aims to:

- Cut carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 20%,
- Increase the share of renewable sources of energy by 20%,
- Boost energy efficiency by 20% in 2020.

**Outputs:**

- Reducing CO2 emissions and increasing energy efficiency and the amount of renewable energy usage in Polotsk and Salé by fostering their adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors and improving capacities of all target groups in use of sustainable energy, as well as to create best practices for other cities of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) region;

  - **Specific objectives:**
    - Strengthening the capacities of Polotsk and Salé governments in the field of sustainable energy development and to bring their energy policies closer to the EU standards;
    - Fostering the cooperation between the EU and ENPI region, as well as between the southern and eastern countries of the ENPI region;
    - Sharing cutting-edge approaches to and practices of efficient energy use with other cities of the ENPRI region.

**Key words:** sustainable energy development; local governments; ENPI region; urban development
**Added value for the IMC members:**

SURE can now be used as an incentive for other ENPI Regions and territories to replicate what was done Polotsk and Salé in order to improve their strategy for sustainable energy development.

**H. DG MOVE**

1. **Vasco da Gama TGSMT**

**Acronym:** Vasco da Gama  
**Full title:** Training for Greener and Safer Maritime Transport  
**Corresponding call:** DG MOVE/SUB/2012-548  
**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy; Social and Economic Cohesion (TF: Vasco da Gama)

**Partners:**
- (1) Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe Intermediterranean Commission IMC-CPMR [FR]  
- (2) International Transport Workers’ Federation – ITF [UK]  
- (3) ECSA [BE]  
- (4) European Network of Maritime Clusters [LU]  
- (5) Varna Naval Academy [BE]  
- (6) Regions (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) [DE]  
- (7) Bretagne [FR]  
- (8) Veneto [IT]

**Start date:** February 2014  
**End date:** January 2016

**Description:**

In line with Integrated Maritime Policy and within the main objectives of the European Maritime Transport Policy - fostering competitiveness and promote a safe and green system - the project intended to contribute to achieving the development of high professional skills and the development of education and training conditions within the EU to ensure efficient, safe, secure and environmentally shipping operations and the overall efficiency of the transport chain, through:

- The promotion of the quality of education and training in the maritime transport sector to address three specific challenges: maritime safety, reducing environmental impact and increasing competitiveness of the sector in the new context of global competitive pressures;
- The launch of the bases for European mobility for students, trainees, instructors/trainers/teachers, involving educational and training institutions that wish to contribute to overcoming these challenges, in line with the “Maritime Erasmus” concept;
- Cooperation between European educational and training organisations with industry, in the field of education and training in the maritime transport sector for upgrading seafarers’ competences and adapting to the requirements of the shipping industry.

To do so, four working groups were set up:

1. **Training for Maritime Safety:** to secure the future skills of seafarers through the design and testing of a cross-national sustainable shipping Master Programme within a network of European Maritime Academies.
2. **Maritime Simulators:** to address the development of training with simulators, based on the experience of relevant European institutes. Elaboration of recommendations in this field. For an improved uniformity in training at EU level.
3. **Greening Maritime Transport:** to increase environmental awareness among seafarers in Europe and contribute to a sustainable use of the seas and oceans and compliance with environmental regulations for maritime transport.
4. **Maritime Erasmus:** to design and implement an exchange pilot action within maritime training and education institutions and shape a common pilot training program “Maritime Erasmus” at EU level for students in the maritime transport sector.

**Objectives:**
upgrade the skills of people working in the European shipping industry. Aiming to enhance the competitiveness of EU seafarers and engineers, the project covers specific challenges affecting EU shipping such as: how to improve safety on board (barriers related to human factors; links between the hierarchy and the management of risk, etc...) and how to reduce maritime pollution related to shipping activities (need to improve recycling water systems, etc.);

- Improve mobility of students across Europe. Youth mobility is unanimously recognised as a mean to tackle the lack of attractiveness of maritime careers. Although today, at European level, programme initiatives for student mobility already exist, efforts must be still made in order to achieve a “critical mass” in the area of maritime economy. Therefore, the project encourages communication and collaboration among the maritime education and training institutions;

- Produce recommendations to the EU: how to fill the gap between the offers and demands of a skilled maritime workforce; how to ease traineeships on board, to facilitate transnational exchanges of students and teachers; what kind of facilitations that current or new EU schemes and tools could bring regarding these issues and others. The cross-cutting and diversified nature of the partners committed in the project will enable to produce wise and realistic recommendations.

Main deliverables:

- Throughout 2014: series a workshop gathering participants to the 4 work packages
- August 2015: summer school dedicated to training and adaptation to the Sulphur Directive
- January 2015 Kalmar (SE): kick-off of the Vasco da Gama Master Programme; innovative cursus based on syllabi jointly prepared by experts from the 4 work packages. 25 Students will be selected to follow this course.
- Autumn 2015: A map of European simulators will be drawn up on the basis of a large-scale survey launched into education institutions
- October 2015: International Final conference in the presence of the partners and key actors: Regions, Professionals, Education partners, maritime clusters, European networks and Institutions, national authorities.
- 2016 onwards: further developments are foreseen, deepening specific thematic issues, and via interregional projects in each of EU sea basins

Key words: Maritime Transport, professional skills, training, Maritime Erasmus, Maritime Safety, Maritime Simulators, seafarers

Added value for the IMC members:
The Vasco da Gama project have paved the way for the development of new initiatives in education and training related to the maritime sector. It notably led to the creation of the IMC ‘Vasco da Gama’ Task Force. Reflections and results from this project have considerably influenced policy makers and led to initiatives, such as the Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills launched by the European Commission. The IMC is now trying to replicate the VdG initiative and build upon the VdG TGSMT project at Mediterranean scale and in other maritime sectors (through new EU projects and possible actions to be labelled by the UfM).

I. ENI CBC MED/Next MED

1. Co-Evolve4BG

Acronym: Co-Evolve4BG

Full title: Co-evolution of coastal human activities & Med natural systems for sustainable tourism & Blue Growth in Mediterranean

Corresponding call: ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 - 1st call for standard projects

Thematic objective: B.4: “Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation”

Priority: B.4.4: “Incorporate the Ecosystem-Based management approach to ICZM into local development planning”

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board;
Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda; Water and Energy; Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies

**Partners:**

1. INSTM – National Institutes of Science and Technologies of the Sea of Tunisia (TN) (Lead partner)
2. Region of Lazio (IT)
3. REMTH – Region of Eastern and Macedonia Thrace (GR)
4. University of Murcia (Department of Ecology, SP)
5. Region of Crete (GR)
6. Foundation Valencia Port (SP)
7. ANPE (TN)
8. Lebanese Ministry of Works and Public Transportation (MWPT) (LB)
9. NGO Al-Midan (Lebanon)
10. NGO Amwaj (Lebanon)

**Associated partners:** CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (FR); Regione Emilia-Romagna (IT) – Adjoining region; Department of Herault (FR); PAP/RAC: Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre/UNEP-MAP; ISMAR-CNR (IT); Region of Murcia (Tourism Institute and General Directorate for EU cooperation, TIGD-EUC) (ES)

**Expected start date:** September 2019
**Expected end date:** August 2023
**Overall budget:** €2,964,131,88 (90% EU co-financing)

**Background and context:**

This ENI CBC MED proposal was presented in the frame of the Programme’s priority on environment-ICZM and as a part of the wider “Med Coast for Blue Growth” (MedCoast4BG) project and in connection to the already running Co-Evolve project funded by the Interreg MED Programme, of which Co-Evolve4BG is an extension to the southern and eastern part of the Mediterranean.

**Description:**

Co-Evolve4BG project aimed at analysing and promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic coastal areas, allowing sustainable development of touristic activities based on the principles of ICZM/MSP and promoting Blue Growth in the Mediterranean.

The project focused on the conditions for - and promotes - the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems for the development of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism, as already addressed by the Co-Evolve project (Interreg MED program) but extending its action towards the South & East Mediterranean coastal areas.

**Expected outputs:**

- Co-Evolve4BG communication strategy and tools; Interaction with horizontal projects
- Transferability plan at Pilot Areas and regional scale and at the Mediterranean scale
- Integrated analysis of threats and enabling factors for sustainable tourism at MED scale
- Tourism sustainability analysis toolkit; Training material and courses

**Key words:** Costal management and maritime issues, Sustainable management of natural resources, Tourism

**Added value for the IMC members:**

This project was a priority for the IMC as it could become the extension of the Co-Evolve project in the South and East Mediterranean, under the MedCoast4BG umbrella project, and could benefit to all the members. The role of the IMC was mainly to support its capitalisation and dissemination activities.

**Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project:** Flora Leroy

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2. **MED PEARLS**
Acronym: MED PEARLS

Full title: Med Pearls - The Mediterranean as an innovative, integral and unique destination for Slow Tourism initiatives

Corresponding call: ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 - 1st call for standard projects

Thematic objective: A.1: “Business and SME development”

Priority: A. 1.3: “Encourage sustainable tourism”

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

Partners:
(1) Catalan Tourist Board (Spain)
(2) Tel Aviv Global (Israel)
(3) Municipality of Thessaloniki (Greece)
(4) Ministry of Tourism (Jordan)
(5) Mediterranean Pearls (Italian Destination Management Organization)
(6) PICTI (Palestine, Business Incubator)

Associated partners: CPMR - Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

Expected start date: September 2019

Expected end date: May 2023

Total budget: 3 million

Background and context:
Slow tourism invites travellers to tourism at a reduced pace; one that is sustainable and responsible, and to discover new destinations while respecting them and while having direct contact with local communities. It invites tourists to get to know places, to live and “taste” them while at the same time promoting their protection as patrimonioms of inestimable worth, as a richness to be safeguarded for our common wellbeing. It promotes the growth of less known areas and makes them valuable tourism destinations. It cooperates with DMCs (Destination Management Companies) active in the promotion of territories to better facilitate encounters with local cultures and improve the quality of the hospitality offered. One of the key aims is to valorise the local history, culture, and typical products of the participating places. Because it arose organically, there is no single agreed-upon definition of what constitutes slow travel and tourism, but the phenomenon contains some of these principles: experiencing and learning about local natural and/or cultural heritage, slowing down and taking time to sense the places, and keeping the negative impact of travel on local communities and the environment to a minimum.

Description:
The main objective of the project was to develop new sustainable tourism products (Pearls) based on the Slow tourism concept and the use of innovation to overcome joint challenges in the Mediterranean. Med Pearls followed a comprehensive approach promoting the Mediterranean region as a single and integral destination and targeting mid-, and long-range outbound markets (Central and Northern Europe, USA and Canada, Asia countries, etc.).

Expected outputs:
This project was based on SIX main pillars:
- Deseasonalization (all year long offer)
- Diversification (working against mass tourism)
- Local Economies (promote local MSMEs and products)
- Decentralization (focus on less known touristic areas, attract tourists out of the city centers)
- Sustainability
- Innovation (process + products)

Key words: Slow Tourism; responsible and sustainable tourism; innovation

Added value for the IMC members:
MED PEARLS proposal addressed many elements in the frame of sustainable tourism that are in line with the IMC Action Plan (Deseasonalization, Diversification, promotion of local economies/products, Decentralization, Sustainability, Innovation) and was dealing with a dimension and a typology of actions that are very much linked with the development of local economies and culture. This is particularly interesting for Mediterranean Regions and complementary to the rest of IMC actions in this field.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy

3. **MEDUSA**

**Acronym:** MEDUSA

**Full title:** Development and promotion of Mediterranean Sustainable Adventure Tourism

**Corresponding call:** ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 - 1st call for standard projects

**Thematic objective:** A.1: “Business and SME development”

**Priority:** A. 1.3: “Encourage sustainable tourism”

**Related IMC working groups/task forces:** Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Bologna Charter Coordination Board; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Water and Energy

**Partners:**
- (1) BARCELONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -BCC, Spain (LP)
- (2) ASCAME (Association of Mediterranean Chambers, Spain)
- (3) JITOA (Jordan Inbound Tourism Operators Association, Jordan)
- (4) RMF (René Moawad Foundation, Lebanon)
- (5) PUGLIA Region (Italy)
- (6) WWF North Africa (Tunisia)

**Associated partners:** CPMR - Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

**Duration:** 36 months

**Expected start date:** September 2019

**Expected end date:** April 2023

**Overall budget:** 3,3 million €

**Background and context:**

The Mediterranean region is one of the world’s leading tourist destinations. Facing growing competition and deterioration of the political and security situation, the destination has demonstrated symptoms of a slowdown, which makes the recovery of the sector an economic priority. This downturn may also present an opportunity to transform the tourism model into a sustainable and competitive one, addressing current sectorial challenges as the predominance of mass seaside tourism, dependent on the European market and territorial imbalances. MEDUSA tackled these joint challenges via targeted and inter-related capacity building and cross-border interventions to develop and promote adventure tourism in the region, a niche which grew by 195% between 2010 and 2014. By designing and testing routes and itineraries that offer improved adventure tourism products, MEDUSA contributed to job creation and income for local communities in the medium and long term. Moreover, the project had the potential to reveal lesser-known destinations and attract tourists throughout the year.

**Description:**

The project addressed the issue of tourism diversification and de-seasonalisation in the Mediterranean, developing new strategies and strengthening the promotion and commercialisation of active tourism products in regions willing to commit with a more low-impact, sustainable, responsible and high-quality alternative approach. Active Tourism segments addressed in this project were Adventure, Sports and Action Tourism. Given that these segments are not always sustainable from social and ecological dimensions, the project aimed to promote and commercialise new and improved existing products, that can guarantee the protection of the environment, training local professionals and monitoring impact thoroughly.

**Expected outputs:**
- To identify, valorise and internationally position local assets for developing Active Tourism activities among the participating MED regions, having a low impact and being ecologically and socially sustainable;
To define strategies for the development, promotion and commercialisation of improved and new Active tourism products that are in accordance with international and European sustainability standards and requirements and that limit the impact of the seasonal effect;

- To implement pilot actions rolling out improved and new Active tourism products developed, including promotion and marketing actions in view of supporting the internationalisation of those;

- To adopt measures of environmental awareness for local communities in targeted tourist areas and improve the knowledge and skills of professionals and SMEs to guarantee the sustainable development of Adventure, Sports and Action tourism activities in the region.

Main expected deliverables:

- Tourism outbound market research elaborated (North-western and Central Europe markets segmented and analysed, and existing tourist packages competition studied); Guidelines for designing sustainable products published for the Adventure, Sports and Active Tourism segment; Portfolio of tourism product ideas elaborated for Adventure, Sports and Active Tourism in the Mediterranean, including 25 ideas; 8 innovative and cross-border tourist products running, with viable business plans; 1 cross-border promotion and commercialisation strategy towards Outbound tourism markets developed; 500 tourism industry professionals and MSMEs trained; More than 20 environmental awareness workshops/trainings organised in the participating regions involving local communities

Key words: Deseasonalization, Diversification, promotion of local economies/products, Decentralization, Sustainability, Innovation in process and products; Adventure, Sports and Action Tourism

Added value for the IMC members:

The project addressed topics that are of great interest for the IMC members i.e. Deseasonalization, Diversification, promotion of local economies/products, Decentralization, Sustainability, Innovation in process and products, etc. The role of the IMC consisted in providing support to capitalisation & dissemination activities. Synergies were also established with many other projects in which the IMC was involved e.g. CO-EVOLVE, MITOMED+, BleuTourMed, PANORAMED, etc. IMC members followed the activities and results of the project.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy

J. OTHERS

1. Cooperation Agreement between the UfM Secretariat and the IMC-CPMR

Acronym: UfM – Promoting the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

Full title: Union for the Mediterranean - Promoting the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

Corresponding call: EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.1 – Promoting the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies; Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (TFs: Fisheries and Aquaculture; Culture and Sustainable Tourism; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda)

Project cooperation agreement between the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)

Start date: January 2017

End date: June 2019

Since 2019, regular cooperation with the UfM on the blue economy agenda, notably building on this agreement.

CPMR – LAZIO budget (valorisation of human resources): €62.710,00

Background and context:


The UfM Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy, getting together all 43 Union for the Mediterranean partners, has brought the political mandate to improve maritime governance and provided guidance to create an
environment conducive to job creation, innovation and knowledge-based business opportunities through the
development of key marine and maritime sectors.

The Declaration provides overall guidance on the main lines of action for the years to come and defines the
assignments of the UfM Secretariat in facilitating and supporting Mediterranean countries in further developing
the recommendations emerging from mentioned Ministerial Declaration. In particular, the Ministerial
Declaration on Blue Economy of the 17th November 2015 has entrusted the Secretariat of the Union for the
Mediterranean to play a major role in facilitating the policy dialogue on Blue Economy as well as in helping
countries in shaping the regional agenda of priorities and the related portfolio of actions such as initiatives,
programmes and projects.

Description:
The specific objectives of the Action relate to supporting and reinforcing the technical capacities of the UfM
Secretariat on maritime policy and the blue economy in order to carry out the first set of assignments tasked
by the above-mentioned UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy, namely:

- Objective 1. Reinforcing the regional dialogue on Blue economy/integrated maritime policy and
  facilitating the elaboration of a Blue Economy regional agenda and portfolio
- Objective 2. Assisting with the identification and promotion of initiatives and projects in line with the
  Mediterranean BE agenda
- Objective 3. Facilitating networking and information sharing among relevant Blue Economy
  stakeholders

Expected outputs:
The Action contributed to the five Work packages of the EASME grant managed by the UfMS, illustrating the
activities needed to serve mentioned objectives. The Work packages are:

- Work Package 1. - Assisting the regional dialogue and Agenda on Blue Economy;
- Work Package 2. - Support the UfM involvement in Blue Economy and promotion of a regional portfolio
  of projects and initiatives according to the blue economy agenda;
- Work Package 3 - Facilitate networking and information sharing among relevant Blue Economy
  stakeholders through the “Virtual Knowledge Centre”;
- Work Package 4 - Management of the action;
- Work Package 5 - Dissemination.

Key words: Blue economy; Blue Growth, Union for the Mediterranean; emerging strategies & initiatives;

networking;

Added value for the IMC members:
IMC members have been able to follow and directly contribute to this cooperation and synergies through the
‘Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda’ Task Force. They had the possibility to share ideas and
experience in view to the elaboration of the UfM Blue Economy regional agenda and portfolio, take part in the
activities and events organised by the UfM in relation with Blue Economy (e.g. the annual Stakeholder
conference on Blue Economy organized in November 2017) and promote project ideas in line with the
Mediterranean BE agenda.

Main IMC-CPMR contact(s) for this project: Flora Leroy

2. Union for the Mediterranean labelling

Further information will be available soon

3. Union for the Mediterranean’s TA on sustainable tourism in a post COVID-19 context

Full title: Union for the Mediterranean’s Technical Assistance on Cross-sectorial planning and Integrated
Territorial Development with a specific focus on sustainable tourism in a post COVID-19 context

Related IMC working groups/task forces: Economic and Social Cohesion (Task Force on Culture and
Sustainable Tourism), Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy (Bologna Charter Coordination Board;
Fisheries and Aquaculture; Follow-up in the Regions of UfM Blue Economy Agenda); Territorial Cooperation and
Macro-Regional Strategies
**Contracting authority:** Union for the Mediterranean

**Start date:** 2020

**End date:** 2022

Since 2021, regular cooperation with the UfM on the promotion of the manual through the organisation of capacity building workshops delivering the manual which was published in 2022.

**Background and context:**

In agreement with the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission and following up on the ongoing collaboration between both entities on cross-sectorial spatial planning based on ICZM/MSP principles (mainly through the UfM-labelled MedCoast4BG project), the Union for the Mediterranean launched a Technical Assistance on Cross-sectorial planning and Integrated Territorial Development with a specific focus on sustainable tourism in a post COVID-19 context, in July 2020. The selection process took place between July and August. The contract was awarded to Michele Colavito (independent expert/consultant). The action officially started in October 2020 and was completed in March 2022 with the publication of the: [Handbook on Social & Economic Regeneration in the Mediterranean after the crisis – CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (cpmr-intermed.org)](https://cpmr-intermed.org/download/manual-for-the-training-on-integrated-territorial-development-2/)

**Description:**

The purpose of this contract is to support UfM promoters in (1) adapting and updating training material on Cross-sectorial planning and Integrated Territorial Development with a specific focus on sustainable tourism and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and (2) supporting them in the content organisation of targeted training sessions.

This activity capitalises and builds on the Manual for the Training on Integrated Territorial Development developed by the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission ([https://cpmr-intermed.org/download/manual-for-the-training-on-integrated-territorial-development-2/](https://cpmr-intermed.org/download/manual-for-the-training-on-integrated-territorial-development-2/)), which would serve as a basis to develop a more applied approach through sustainable tourism, capitalizing on existing project results on the topic and nourishing prospective project results (as would be the case for MedCoast4BG and all related “child” projects).

**Expected outputs:**

- Revision and update of the “Manual on Provision of public services in the Mediterranean with an integrated territorial approach”, to be of use to all MED Countries
- Identification of governance and technical tools for the recovery of the tourism sector
- Support for the identification of sustainable tourism initiatives relevant for the UfM agenda

**Main expected deliverables:**

The Contractor was in charge of the production of:

1. Inception report (short work plan on the desk research work to be carried out including the reading through of existing project results), already including a proposal (or more proposals/options) to develop the training manual, its possible design, and the format to perform the training, in English and in French

2. Updated version of the Manual for the Training on Integrated Territorial Development with a focus on sustainable tourism and ICZM, in agreement with the Management authority and in close collaboration with the UfM promoters. The Contractor should take care of the layout of the Manual (through a professional designer) and submit a version in English and in French ready for download/printing, in line with the UfM requirements. Preliminary training material should be made available in order to apply theoretical inputs of the Manual to actual training sessions

3. Mid-term report/s, with the status of the advancement in supporting the promoters in line with the agreed work plan, plus annexes of ongoing work including the training material in EN and FR developed to date (in the agreed design, if already applicable), together with a proposal of a format to perform the training, in English and in French

4. A survey referring to the contents of the training, ready to be used once the training will be performed

5. Final report with the description of the support provided, plus annexes including all the material in EN and FR in the ready to upload (on UfM website/Med Blue economy Platform and other relevant websites) + ready to print format as indicated; of the specific work carried out

**Key words:** sustainable tourism; post COVID-19 context; cross-sectorial spatial planning; ICZM/MSP principles; Technical Assistance; training material; Integrated Territorial Development; governance
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