



New Initiatives in Southern Europe and Mediterranean. EU Cooperation Programmes meeting.

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Palermo, Italy.

Report

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Participants.

Interreg V-A Italy - France (Maritime), Interreg TN Adriatic – Ionian, ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin, Interact (Italian MC), Interreg MED, Interreg ADRION, Interreg TN Balkan – Mediterranean, Interreg V-A Italy – Malta, European Commission, ENI CBC Italy – Tunisia, CRPM-CIM.

Context.

This meeting is part of the activities envisaged in Interact's Work Programme in order to support Interreg and EU Neighbourhood programmes on the new initiatives and governance models developed in the Mediterranean and Southern Europe such as the *Initiative¹, for the development of the Blue Economy in the West Mediterranean* (West Med) and a pilot governance platform acting in the whole Mediterranean *PanoramaMed²*. To understand the full context, we did not forget the role of the EUSAIR³ the macrorregional strategy working in the area since 2014.

This meeting is held once every year.

The meeting had 3 main objectives:

1. To share information on their programming state of play and thematic complementarities, where programmes explained the calls they have already launched and those coming next.
2. To foster awareness about the new EU Initiatives in the Mediterranean Region, where programmes discussed about their synergies with the West Med and PanoramaMed goals. As well as finding ways to improve the coordination and cooperation between the programmes and the initiative.

¹ Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy is based on the Union for the Mediterranean process and its Ministerial declaration, adopted on 17 November 2015 and endorsed on the Conference on Blue Economy, on the 29-30 November 2017.

² PanoramaMed is the Interreg MED Governance platform for the Mediterranean

³ EUSAIR_ The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2014.

⁴ ADRION; Balkan MED; ENI CBC MED; IT-FR Maritime; INTERREG MED-PanoramaMed; Italy-Malta; Italy-Tunisia; South West Europe), DG MARE and CPMR.



3. To update on the EU financial perspectives, where DG Mare explained the EU Commission's proposal for ETC post 2020

The meeting gathered 21 participants and 8 programmes⁴ and started with welcoming words by Vincezo Petrusso representing the Regional Government of Sicily. He expressed the role of Sicily in the Mediterranean and the EU.

The opening session was followed by Interact's presentation about the objectives of the meeting and the agenda for the next two days, in order to establish the context of the meeting.

On the first day was devoted to the **New initiatives in Southern Europe and Mediterranean**. During this first session, Marco Nobile from DG Mare explained the last updates of the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy, in the Western Mediterranean and highlighted how important is the role of Interreg and ENI to support it.

« Identification of the maritime clusters in the Mediterranean are key for a realistic development of the initiative. Interreg and ENI.

Marco Nobile.



Eleni Hatziyanni of Region of Crete and Panoramed Liaising Coordinator shared with the participants what Panoramed is about, its structure and the next steps to come. The cross cutting liaising activities are focusing on Coastal Tourism and Maritime Surveillance.

“The overall goal of Panoramed is to establish an innovative permanent dialogue and decision making process among national and regional public authorities and stakeholders to contribute to the policy and decision making processes at national and transnational level in the Mediterranean Region.”

Eleni Hatziyanni.



The last session of the day dealt about the New financial perspectives for post 2020, introduced by Marco Nobile. This presentation was followed by a discussion on how to deal with the maritime dimension of Interreg programmes. The ITI (Integrated Territorial Investments) was a tool mentioned by the Commission to be useful for the new possible maritime structure in post 2020.

The programmes appreciated very much Mr Nobile's presentation, however they were disappointed that DG Regio wasn't present. Programmes considered that it was a good opportunity to exchange visions with DG Regio and understand better the logic behind the new regulations proposal.



During the second day the Programmes were the focus. They informed about their Priorities, budget engagement and project examples as well as possible future calls to be developed. In addition they identified the alignment with the West Med, Panoramed. All this information is gathered in the annexes 1 and 2:



- Annex 1 [“Synergies and thematic complementarities in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean”](#)
- [Annex 2 “Mapping cooperation across the WestMed](#)

To end, Michele Colavito from the Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale concluded the meeting with some key words:

1. Sharing: underlying the importance of this meeting as starting point to share information on the Programmes;
2. Knowledge: meaning that only a real comprehension of the ongoing processes affecting the Mediterranean;
3. Awareness: underlying the importance to inform the MC members of the process started in Palermo to develop complementarities and synergies between Programmes;
4. Results: importance to stress, for next calls, on the expected results and more on impacts;
5. Concreteness: underlying the importance to share concrete actions to develop the process started in Palermo.

Conclusions and next steps.

What to do to improve complementarities and cooperation among the programs?

Next steps from the programmes side:

ENI CBC MED.

- For its next strategic call, ENI CBC ME would like to know more about Flagships projects from other programmes in order to capitalise some of the already results
- Inter programme consultation with WestMed, UfM, Relevant programmes before the approval of ENI CBC MED projects.

ADRION.

- Inter programme consultation with the other Mediterranean Programmes for the second step of a targeted analysis.

PANORAMED.

- ToR for Panoramed on the topics of Maritime Surveillance and Coastal Tourism to be shared with the rest of the programs. A meeting will be organized end of 2018, beginning 2019.

ITALY FRANCE MARITIME.

- Considering its last capitalization call in 2019 on Maritime Surveillance, Blue Growth, Coastal Tourism. The programme will check for complementarities with other programmes, as well as with the West Med and Panoramed.



INTERREG BALKAN MED.

- It will not launch any other call but they have confirmed their availability to support the definition of PANORAMED TOR and to share their projects results

INTERACT

- Regarding the needs and interest for cooperation between the programmes, Interact provides the following document where it gives examples of ways that programmes are currently working together.
http://www.interact-eu.net/library?title=cooperation&field_fields_of_expertise_tid=All#1653-publication-coordination-and-cooperation-how-can-we-achieve-these-interreg.
- Next Interact analysis to be based on expected results and not only TO. Maybe this could be done for those themes they all have in common.
- As a main output, the meeting will come up with a synthesis of the alignment and complementarities among the EU Cooperation Programmes and within the West Med Initiative. This chart will illustrate the economic allocation, indicators and project examples for the relevant thematic objectives EU Cooperation Programmes overview.

Other ideas:

- Based on their needs Interact or programmes individually could check on the complementarity of calls. This will depend on some programs; some Thematic communities could work together but each program will work in different speeds.
- While synergies between programmes and the WESTMED is a reality, the complementarity and synergies between WestMed and EUSAIR still necessary to have a structured dialogue in the Mediterranean area.

Reference documents for the meeting:

- Annex 1 "[Synergies and thematic complementarities in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean](#)"
- [Annex 2 "Mapping cooperation across the WestMed](#)
- [Coordination and cooperation, How can we achieve these in Interreg?](#)