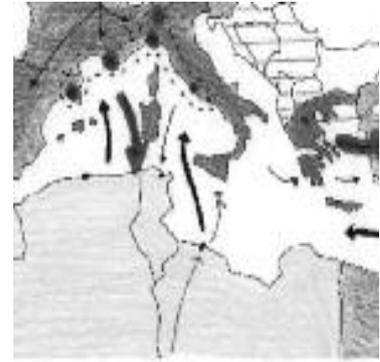


Trans-Mediterranean professional economic networks



Support and coordinate socio-professional network initiatives in the region

SUMMARY

SINCE THE BARCELONA process was launched in 1995, and often because of it, a large number of initiatives have been set up in civil society, weaving a trans-Mediterranean network of cooperation and solidarity in the economic sector (e.g. audiovisual companies, post offices, electricity transporters, cancer specialists, investment capital professionals, local communities, etc.).

Yet because they are not sufficiently coordinated, these initiatives remain scattered. They do not succeed in creating a dense mesh covering the territory. In comparison, countries bordering the Baltic Sea, encouraged by the governments of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, link up their ports, transporters, towns and universities.

UFM'S PROPOSITIONS FOR ACTION

The UFM:

- Recognizes the importance of the work done by these professional networks in bringing the two sides of the Mediterranean closer;
- Appreciates the diversity of their approaches and welcomes their strategic autonomy;
- Recognizes their four aims: to share experiences, standardize norms and procedures, set up

joint vocational training courses, and form an alliance if possible;

- Suggests grouping them together during an annual meeting to be held, if circumstances allow, at the same time and place, during a large emblematic joint event, with the aim of facilitating alliances and giving them greater visibility;
- Is establishing and approving a list of the trans-Mediterranean professional economic networks whose development it will fund;

- Allots a budget totalling one million Euro per year for coordinating and supporting the running of these networks – irrespective of any specific funding that such networks might manage to mobilize autonomously for their projects;
- Facilitates professional mobility for agents and partners of UfM-approved networks.

1. Situation: professional networks are numerous, regional interconnection is rare

Since the Barcelona process was launched in 1995, and often because of it, a large number of initiatives have been set up in civil society, weaving a trans-Mediterranean network of cooperation and solidarity. Although the lack of coordination between them, which must respect their strategic autonomy, the result is that these initiatives remain scattered. They do not succeed in creating a dense mesh covering the territory. In comparison, countries bordering the Baltic Sea, encouraged by the governments of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, link ports, towns and universities.

For several years, sectorial professional groups (like audiovisual businesses, post offices, electricity transporters, cancer specialists, investment capital professionals, etc.), as well as territorial communities (e.g. CRPM, United Cities of the Mediterranean, Arc Latin, etc.) have been increasing exchanges between the two sides of the Mediterranean. Others are starting to emerge, in areas like railways and town planning, and involving water professionals, water basin agencies, veterinary surgeons, etc. These trans-Mediterranean networks remain largely unknown, even though they create durable exchanges and build confidence. More important still, the members of these networks are well placed to pinpoint existing standstills and deadlocks (e.g. incompatible technical and commercial standards, lack of exchanges of experience, circulating difficulties in the region, etc.), which, if authorities would take note of them, could help civil society bridge the gap between North and South more swiftly.

2. The four objectives of better coordination

- Recognize the relevance of the work that these professional networks do in bringing the two sides of the Mediterranean closer;
- Propose that the networks group together, to become more visible and cooperate, by holding an annual meeting, if circumstances allow and without upsetting their natural rhythms and specific meetings, at the same time and place, during a large emblematic joint event. This would make it possible to (1) identify existing networks and support them; (2) coordinate their operations and encourage alliances; (3) give these civil society stakeholders the chance to put forward a united message and so better present themselves to decision-makers;

- Fund networks which are inexpensive and can have an enormous impact on the region (e.g. strong capacity for simplifying professional environments in each country), but that often lack minimum resources to sustain their common work;
- Support in particular the actions of professional networks that could enter into the frame of a Mediterranean policy for regional territory networking (e.g. ports, town planning agencies, railways, competitiveness clusters, etc.), with the aim of creating interconnections between both sides of the Mediterranean and exchanging good practices.

3. Active professional networks

(non-exhaustive list)

- **BUSINESSMED** (Union Méditerranéenne des Confédérations d'Entreprises, www.umce-med.org) is made up of employers' federations from Mediterranean countries: CGEA (Algeria), OEB (Cyprus), FEI (Egypt), MAI (Israel), JCI (Jordan), ALI (Lebanon), MFOI (Malta), CGE (Morocco), PFI (Palestinian Territories), FSCC & CCI (Syria), Utica (Tunisia), Tusiad and Tisk (Turkey). Observers are: CNPM (Mauritania), Confindustria (Italy), FIG-SEV (Greece) and the MEDEF (France). The UMCE promotes transition towards a market economy and the opening up of exchanges between member countries.
- **ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISATIONS OF MEDITERRANEAN BUSINESSWOMEN** (www.afaemme.org) is composed of associations of businesswomen from Spain, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, France, Italy, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. It promotes equal work opportunities and the development of relations between Mediterranean businesswomen.
- **YOUNG MEDITERRANEAN LEADERS** (YML, www.ymlforum.org) works to bridge the gap between the two sides of the Mediterranean through concrete projects developed by young Mediterranean business decision-makers. The YML network meets once a year to debate on how it can act to give substance to the Mediterranean. The two-day Forum alternates between North and South and gathers 250 young leaders to listen to some prestigious speakers.
- The region also includes several associations of former university students that work on both sides of the Mediterranean: the Association des Marocains des Grandes Ecoles (AMGE, www.amge-caravane.com), the Association des Tunisiens des Grandes Ecoles (ATUGE, www.atuge.org), the Réseau des Algériens diplômés des Grandes Ecoles françaises (REAGE, www.reage.org), and the Union des Jeunes Euro Maghrébins (UJEM, www.ujem.org), etc.



● THE FÉDÉRATION MÉDITERRANÉENNE DES RESSOURCES HUMAINES (France, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Spain, Portugal, www.fmrh.org) promotes policies for managing human resources in public and private companies through the exchange of experiences between association members.

EUROMED CAPITAL FORUM (www.euromed-capital.com) groups private equity funds and risk capital at work in the Mediterranean, and circulates sound methods for creating and funding SMEs. Each year, it brings together five hundred fund managers.

● Launched in 2008 by the Club des Partenariats Public-Privé (www.club-ppp.org), THE CLUB PPP MED AFRIQUE develops alliances between public and private stakeholders in Mediterranean countries, debates on PPP opportunities in different sectors and circulates feedback on experiences.

● EUROMED POSTAL held its constitutive symposium in July 2007, in which it brought together all post offices in countries bordering the Mediterranean. The association's aim is to facilitate postal transactions, align technical and commercial standards, develop services requested by inhabitants and SMEs in the Mediterranean, and increase exchanges of experience. In September 2010, the EPC (Euro-med Post Community) was set up in Alexandria.

● THE MÉDÉLEC NETWORK (www.medelec.org) was set up four years ago and groups electricity producers and distributors from around the Mediterranean. It receives strong support from the UCTE (Union de Coordination de Transport de l'Electricité), the AUPTE (association des électriciens des pays Arabes), Comelec (l'Union des électriciens du Maghreb), and the OME (Mediterranean Energy Observatory).

● MEDENER (www.cres.gr/medener) is the Mediterranean association of national agencies for conserving energy: Ademe (France), Almee (Lebanon), Aner (Tunisia), Aprue (Algeria), Ageen (Portugal), CDER (Morocco), Cres (Greece), Enea (Italy), Idae (Spain), Nerc (Jordan), OEP (Egypt) and PÉC (Palestinian Territories). It works towards regional partnership in efficient use of energy and protecting the environment.

● Established in Rome on 28 October 1999, THE FÉDÉRATION DES EXPERTS COMPTABLES MÉDITERRANÉENS (www.fcmweb.org) encourages cooperation between both sides of the Mediterranean, monitors regulations and international developments in the profession, and gives technical assistance to members. Federations and orders of chartered accountants represented come from: Albania, Bulgaria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Turkey and Tunisia.

● THE ASSOCIATION DE RADIOTHÉRAPIE ET D'ONCOLOGIE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE ([Arome](http://www.aromecancer.org), www.aromecancer.org) gathers cancer specialists

and other professionals caring for cancer around the Mediterranean. The objective is to encourage the exchange of information, disseminate good practices, and collaborate on care, research and teaching projects.

● THE CONFÉRENCE PERMANENTE DE L'AUDIOVISUEL MÉDITERRANÉEN (COPEAM, www.copeam.org) is a permanent cooperation forum for those working in the Euro-Mediterranean audiovisual field. One of its strategic projects is to create a multilingual, multicultural satellite channel for the Mediterranean.

● THE UNION MÉDITERRANÉENNE DES ARCHITECTES (UMAR, www.umar.org), gathers national organisations of architects from Mediterranean countries, founded in 1994 in Rabat. It works to promote the fact that architecture is of public benefit and plays a key role in spatial planning.

● Established in 2006 by twenty state organisations, the association ANIMA INVESTMENT NETWORK (www.animaweb.org) is concerned with economic monitoring and detecting investment projects that will benefit Mediterranean countries and their development agencies. It also analyzes and observes FDI projects, microprojects and investment funds.

● THE COMMISSION INTERMÉDITERRANÉENNE DE LA CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES (CRPM, www.medregions.com) is an instrument for decentralized cooperation between Mediterranean regions on both sides. It is also a forum for promoting the rise of the regional dimension of the Mediterranean world.

● MENBO (Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations) brings together in the Lebanon all organizations regulating water usage in hydrological basins.

● UMEV (Union méditerranéenne des écoles de vétérinaires) was constituted on 7 and 8 October 2010 at the veterinary school in Maisons-Alfort, France.



4. Networks being developed or to promote

MED-FER: the Mediterranean extension of a trans-European network policy, which involves promoting the development of rail transport in the South to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and encouraging dense, well-connected zones for reasons of economic efficiency. As part of the UIC, and with strong support from the SNCF, Med-Fer could: standardize transnational interconnections; play an advisory role in the separation between infrastructure and operations; facilitate North-South indus-



trial partnerships; promote the train as a means of urban and inter-urban transport; coordinate training activities in this domain.

“NETWORK OF FINANCIAL MARKET REGULATORS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN”, which works to set up a framework for common supervision and standardizing work methods, with the aim of encouraging converging regulations and developing agreements for mutually recognizing regional stock exchanges on both sides of the Mediterranean.

MED-URBA: this network would gather town-planning agencies (or their equivalents) in towns in countries bordering the Mediterranean. It would help in facing up to the huge urban issues facing the Mediterranean: environmental challenges (coastline concentration, urban displacement plans, etc.), social challenges (access to essential services and housing); economic challenges (transport system, development of competitiveness clusters, etc.).

MED-DROIT: the coordination of networks of Mediterranean legal professions (notaries, lawyers, etc.) is currently being organized and will need support.

META (www.meta-tourism.com): this association is being created, and proposes to organize bringing together private and public professionals working in tourism and travel.

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN TRADE UNION FORUM (www.euromed-trade-union-forum.org).

Other networks that could be developed include: Med-Ports, Euromed regional and national natural reserves, Euromed national agencies for food safety and security, etc.

5. The resources needed

SOME OF THESE NETWORKS need to be set up, which will call for financial support for their inaugural seminar plus accompaniment during their initial years: €100 K to €50 K per network for the first year.

Most of the existing networks need support for assuring their development, which remains recent and fragile: €25 K per network.

Some of the networks are sufficiently established and dynamic to finance themselves. Yet joint resources will be necessary to ensure that they synergize with each other, their development via a common web portal (€15 K per year), and promotion of their activities. This will involve a the equivalent of a full-time position (€50 K per year) whose tasks will include identifying other existing networks not mentioned in this note, as well as those set up in the future.

Lastly, the organization of the annual framework convention involving all of the networks will call for specific logistics: €100 K per year.

The overall budget is one million Euro per year (€K inc. tax):

YEAR	1	2	3	4
Emerging networks				
year 1: €50 K				
-> year 4: €20 K	400	350	300	250
Existing networks				
year 1: €25 K				
-> year 4: €20 K	600	550	500	500
Annual framework convention for the networks				
	100	100	100	100
Coordination (project manager, web, & overheads)				
	75	75	75	75
TOTAL	1175	1075	975	925

This budget for coordinating and supporting the operations of trans-Mediterranean professional networks is understood to be independent from any funding that a network might secure on its own (including, if necessary, from the UFM) to finance its projects.

