

La Verticale

FOR A GREATER AFRICA – MEDITERRANEAN – EUROPE REGION



Who are we ? IPEMED, a recognized public interest association (French 1901 Act), heading the foundation, “La Verticale Africa – Mediterranean – Europe”.

AFRICA – MEDITERRANEAN – EUROPE: A GLOBAL-SCALE REGION

Apart from the United States and China, individual nations cannot hold sway alone in a world subject to global development. The world is now organized into major regional blocs in Asia (ASEAN+3/APEC) and America (NAFTA and Mercosur) that bring together developed, ageing countries in the North and young emerging countries in the South.

These North-South regions, defined by their potential to organize work in the same time zones and based on shared collective preferences, take the form of “orange segments”.

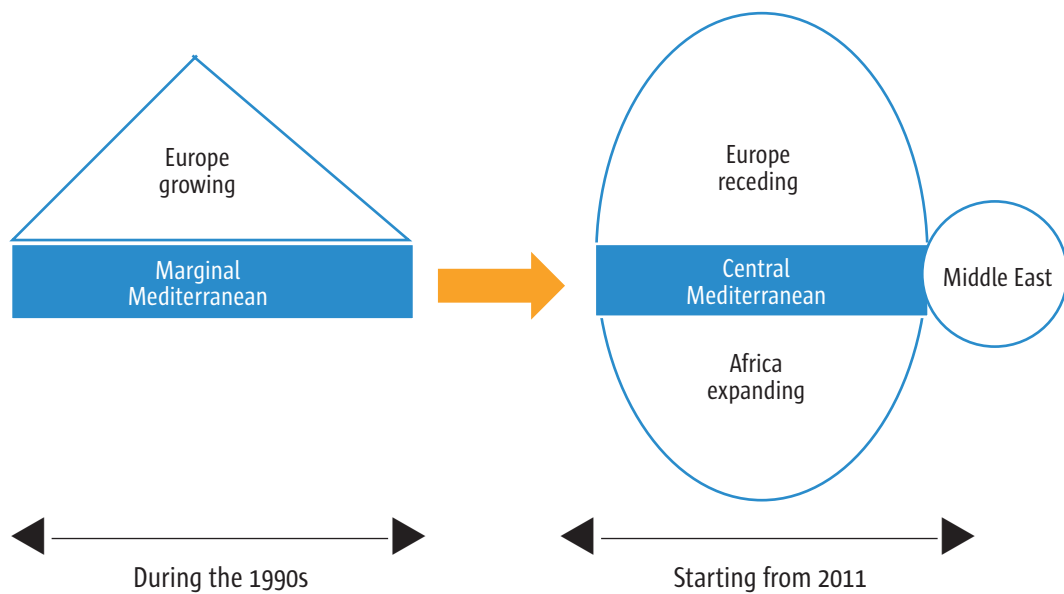
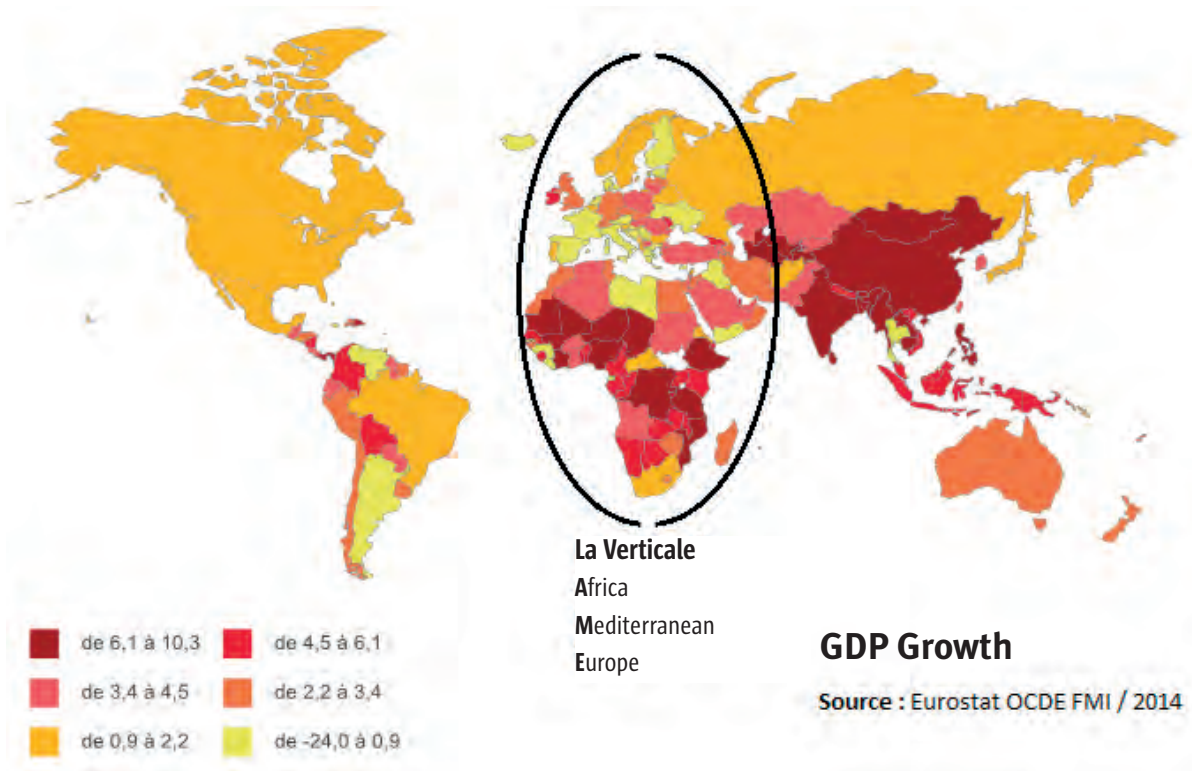
In our region dominated by chaos on the borders of Europe (Syria, Libya, etc) and in Africa (Mali, Central African Republic, etc.), and with the Arab spring still struggling to make its political and economic transition, “La Verticale Africa-Mediterranean-Europe” is a tool for peace and development. Despite the current turbulence, positive forces are at work and moving towards regional convergence, and these form the foundations of La Verticale. It is time to assert peace, work to rebuild countries in the South, boost European economies and affirm a collective will to integrate our economies. Yes, this project is ambitious, but the region needs ambition.

A great “Africa – Mediterranean – Europe” area needs to be built:

- It is in Africa’s interest to move closer to its neighbours in the North to foster sustainable, inclusive, shared growth;
- It is in Europe’s interest to set its sights to the South to tackle the challenges of the 21st century;
- It is in the interest of South and East Mediterranean Countries, currently in transition, to integrate a stable, regulated zone;
- It is in the interest of countries in the Middle East and Gulf to diversify their partnerships by joining this major group;
- In this context, the Mediterranean region plays a central interface role between Europe, the Middle East and Africa. From its “marginal” position in the 1990s, the Mediterranean is fast becoming “central”.

The era of “centre-periphery” relationships is over.

In these times of a knowledge economy, resources are increasingly coproduced by partners and no longer extracted from the “peripheries”. In these times of energy transition, resources in Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East can form the foundations of a new productive development project that is long lasting and socially responsible, and could be part of the COP 21 frame’s future orientations. In these times of digital revolution, regional integration must be based on trust and managing common goods together.



This “Verticale” home to 3 billion people in 2040, or about a third of the planet, is on a scale comparable to adding together the Americas (1.5 billion in 2040), and in Asia to adding China, Japan and the ASEAN countries (3.5 billion in 2040).

This vision of the greater “Africa – Mediterranean – Europe” region has received the political support of the European Commission and the presidents of the Arab League and the African Union.



LA VERTICALE FOUNDATION: A DURABLE TOOL FOR SUSTAINING THIS NEW VISION

A necessary tool to think out and define the greater “Africa – Mediterranean – Europe” region (AME):

Although Europe, South and East Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs) and countries in the Middle East and Africa share a common future, no pertinent framework is in place to represent it. Only capital has grasped its significance.

Just like the America’s internationally recognized think tank, ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), and Asia’s ERIA (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia), the major region (to be created), “Africa – Mediterranean – Europe” needs its own powerful think tank: La Verticale. Similar to ECLAC in America, ERIA in Asia, and the European Union:

- Economics will be central to promoting regional integration;
- Regional regulation policies will be proposed to Member States;
- The emphasis will be on a foresight, sector-based approach relating to key sectors (energy, water, agriculture, transport, etc.).

IPEMED’s role will be totally renewed:

To feed into these reflections and build these proposals for action, the foundation will initially be based on an intellectual output tool, IPEMED, whose role will be totally renewed. When IPEMED was established in 2006, the historic transformations underway in the Mediterranean were only in their early stages. The size of the transition that began with the Arab Spring, the new economic and political interactions between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, and the confirmation that North-South relations will never be the same again, all make these adjustments necessary.

With La Verticale, IPEMED must pursue its development by:

- Taking the Mediterranean from a peripheral position to a central one;
- Ensuring long-term finances in addition to annual contributions.

What remains the same:

- The principles: general interest, North-South parity;
- The objectives: regional integration through productive, sustainable, socially responsible economics, coproduction and decentralized cooperation;
- The working method: forecasting, decompartmentalizing professional spheres, taking a bottom-up approach, transforming ideas into projects and presenting them to political decision-makers.

In the run-up to La Verticale’s creation and financial set-up, IPEMED will remain the pivotal think tank of the great “Africa – Mediterranean – Europe” area. During this transition phase, IPEMED will involve an increasing number of Sub-Saharan components:

- Africans will become members of governing bodies;
- Studies will extend the Mediterranean to include Sub-Saharan African countries;
- More partnerships will be opened with African institutions, the African Development Bank, which, like the EIB, has significant programmes on electricity, transport corridors, etc.

La Verticale will draw from other think tanks specializing on sub-Saharan Africa, like FERDI, Paris-Dauphine University, the German institute EMA, and all of the Euro-African networks, like for example GID, an international association created in 2007 by ten academies in southern Europe and Africa.



LA VERTICALE FOUNDATION HAS TWO OBJECTIVES THAT FOSTER PROXIMITY, INTERDEPENDENCE AND SOLIDARITY:

- Accelerate economic transition in SEMCs and Sub-Saharan African countries;
- Promote regional integration in “Europe – Mediterranean (including the Gulf) – Africa”.

In doing so, like ECLAC, La Verticale foundation will be an intellectual melting pot of economic and political thinking for countries in the South.

The foundation will have 5 functions:

- Act as a think tank: to fill knowledge gaps on this region and produce new ideas looking to the future;
- Coordinate a business leaders’ initiative to centre this regional integration on development projects around an Energy Verticale, Agribusiness Verticale, Digital Verticale, etc.;
- Lobby and influence international institutions and governments;
- Mix with decision-makers from North and South, public and private sectors and associations at high-level seminars to boost exchanges of experience;
- Integrate and pool strategic information with the objective of collecting, consolidating and putting into perspective the economic changes in the greater AME region (including setting up a single web portal).

La Verticale will have three levels of income:

- Public and private donations;
- Membership fees from companies, including IPEMED founder members, matched with agreements on targets;
- Regular institutional contributions.

Shared, networked and ethical governance:

La Verticale foundation will be a “melting pot” of common North/South and South/North thinking in a spirit of sharing, participation and partnership.

Which is why, progressively (like ECLAC in America and ERIA in Asia), La Verticale will need to set up branches in North Africa, the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, and act in a network.

La Verticale ethical principles engage IPEMED founder companies as well as its entire staff and networks. Those principles include the respect of parity and differences in decision making; defense of general interest; share of a prospective vision based on a long term approach; affirmation of a common future.