



CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE

6, rue Saint-Martin - 35700 Rennes (FR)
Tel.: + 33 (0) 2 99 35 40 50 | Fax: + 33 (0) 2 99 35 09 19
secretariat@crpm.org | www.crpm.org

External Cooperation Working Group – Action Plan (update October 2017)

Chair: Paul Ortega, Director of the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, Basque Country | Marta Marín, Basque Government Delegate to the EU | Camila de Epalza Azqueta, Officer in charge and external cooperation expert

Support from the CPMR Secretariat: Maruxa Cardama, Adviser to the Working Group | Claire Street, Policy Assistant

Objectives of the Action Plan

- 1. Policy and Advocacy** - To profile, advocate for and secure the added value of decentralised cooperation in the EU and international agendas, by means of a specific voice for regional authorities and a structured message.
- 2. Innovative processes towards empowering regional and local governments** - To encourage and strengthen new decentralised cooperation processes and partnerships of particular added value, innovation and effectiveness for more effective development outcomes; with a view to facilitate exchange of concrete actions between local and regional authorities and their partners, as well as participation in calls for proposals, funding opportunities and initiatives by the EU and other relevant actors.
- 3. Complementarity and Synergy** - To promote and complement the impact of CPMR External Cooperation Working Group and the individual work of its members, as well as the mainstream of a cooperation axis into other CPMR working groups and geographical commissions as appropriate.
- 4. Accountability and effectiveness:** Monitor and assess the effectiveness and impact of decentralised cooperation vis-à-vis the EU and international agendas, as well as of the actions and deliverables of the Working Group.

Objective 1

Policy and Advocacy - To profile, advocate for and secure the added value of decentralised cooperation in the EU and international agendas, by means of a specific voice for regional authorities and a structured message.

Targets:

- **Position and profile the CPMR External Cooperation Working Group as the channel for the specific voice of European regional authorities, including in the context of a new European Commission and European Parliament and vis-à-vis other stakeholders.**
- **Identify and engage in European and international policy and advocacy milestones.**
- **Refresh, maintain and enlarge liaison with external relations and development cooperation actors.**

Actions and deliverables:

- Action Plan for the External Cooperation Working Group and map of relevant European and international milestones, with interim reviews every semester.*
 - 15th July 2014: Draft Action Plan prepared by Lead Region with the support of the CPMR Secretariat shared with members for consultation
 - Mid-September 2014: Validation by CPMR General Assembly 24-26 September,
 - External Cooperation Group not at CPMR General Assambles,
 - Monitoring the execution of the Action Plan since 2014- currently 2017,
 - EU Agenda update and info dissemination between WG partners.
- Engagement and participation in relevant European and international initiatives (public consultations, position papers, reports), etc.), including on European Development Policy and the international processes towards the UNFCCC COP 21 Paris and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.*
 - 16th June 2014: Signature of open letter to EU member states ‘No decent life for all in the Post 2015 Development Agenda without European local and regional governments’ within the banner of PLATFORMA.
 - 31st July 2014: Response to the UNDP and CoR consultation ‘Localisation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda’,
 - December 2014: Conclusions conference organized in by the Basque Government/Euskal Fundoa/ALDA/CPMR/PLATFORMA/ORU-FOGAR concerning “International & European Development Agendas: Subsidiarity, Efficiency, Accountability and Citizenship- *Time for an active role of regional and local authorities*”.

- European Commission Communication on the Post-2015 Development Agenda consultation,
 - October 2015/CPMR GA: CPMR position paper *“Responsibility, Accountability and the regional dimension: local and regional authorities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*,
 - June 2016: Position paper with the main conclusions/conference organized by the Basque Government with the support of CPMR, PLATFORMA, UNDP and the European Commission. Conference *“Integrated Territorial Partnerships and the SDGs: how to leave no one behind”*. *EU regions platform for Agenda 2030- SDG*
 - Main conclusions concerning *“regional dimension/territorial dimension”* under the 2017 Assises for Decentralised cooperation,
 - 2016- 2017: CPMR PLATFORMA EU Strategic Partnership 2 studies (decentralized cooperation and innovation + private sector: lead partner implication too, and under CPMR Secretary coordination) and MED tool kit. EC validate 1 of the study,
 - 2017: European Parliament publish a report link to CPMR study conclusions and Assises 2017: decentralized cooperation and innovative alliance,
 - Basque Country/CPMR invite to join the SDG EU Platform. No answer from the CPMR
- c.** *Engagement and participation in relevant European and international gatherings and events, including European Cooperation Forum, European Year for Development, Assises for Decentralised Cooperation.*
- October 2014: European Cooperation Forum,
 - 2015 Assises for Decentralised Cooperation: round-table leader. Territorial cooperation and cooperation/more innovation/territorial actors: key messages,
 - 2017 Assises for Decentralised Cooperation: coordination round-table and workshop about territorial dimension/. Others EU stakeholders implication,
 - Basque Country/CPMR invite to join the SDG EU Platform. No answer from the CPMR
- d.** *Liaison with new EU Institutions 2014-2019 (Commission, Parliament, CoR, EU Presidencies).*
- September 2014: First introductory meeting with new relevant MEPs and Commission Officials,
 - Since 2014 until now: several meetings with the EC to reinforce the message concerning the territorial dimension, decentralized cooperation and new alliance/territorial actors articulation,
- e.** *Ongoing liaison with key development actors and structuring of new alliances (PLATFORMA, CONCORD, UN, Country Permanent Representations to the EU, etc.).*
- PLATFORMA *“EU Strategic Partnership”*/CPMR
 - October 2014: Exchange of views with PLATFORMA, CONCORDE and the UN on the basis of the adopted Action Plan for the Working Group,
 - Joint activities since 2014 with UNDP, ALDA, PLATFORMA. And contacts with CONCORD,
 - (2017) OCDE: contribution to the study/report concerning decentralized cooperation
- f.** *Press releases and wider communications action as appropriate: Press releases*

Objective 2

Innovative processes towards empowering regional and local governments - To encourage and strengthen new decentralised cooperation processes and partnerships of particular added value, innovation and effectiveness for more effective development outcomes; with a view to facilitating exchange of concrete actions between local and regional authorities and their partners, as well as participation in calls for proposals, funding opportunities and initiatives by the EU and other relevant actors.

Targets:

- Identify and cross-fertilise members' priorities, decentralised cooperation strategies, ongoing process and presence outside their respective territories.
- Map funding opportunities, processes and potential projects for the members of the Working Group at European and international level.
- Identify and engage in selected European and international projects and funding opportunities.
- Encourage direct cooperation initiatives among CPMR member regions, among their partners (regions' NGOs, chambers of commerce, business sector, etc.) as well as between CPMR regions & their partners and other key development cooperation actors.

Actions and deliverables:

- Matrix of the priorities of Working Group member regions by theme, action/project, agreements/Memoranda of Understanding, partners and external representations, with annual review.*
 - 2014: Template and informations from different partners (starting point for the Agusti 2017 study).
- Map of current and future funding opportunities, projects and processes at European and international level. Always updating and info point during the WG meetings*
- Briefings on project and funding opportunities under EU Development Policy via flash-news linking to CPMR website, webinars.*

- d. *Joint meetings and actions of the Working Group with other key development actors (PLATFORMA, CONCORDE, ORU-FOGAR, UN, etc.).*
 - November 2014: PLATFORMA meeting hosted at the event of the CPMR Inter- Mediterranean Commission in Rome, Lazio,
 - December 2014: conference organized by the Basque Government/Euskal Fundoa/ALDA/CPMR/PLATFORMA/ORU-FOGAR concerning “International & European Development Agendas: Subsidiarity, Efficiency, Accountability and Citizenship- *Time for an active role of regional and local authorities*”.
 - June 2016: conference organized by the Basque Government with the support of CPMR, PLATFORMA, UNDP and the European Commission. Conference “*Integrated Territorial Partnerships and the SDGs: how to leave no one behind*”,
- e. *Monitoring and participation in the elaboration and implementation of the European Commission’s Thematic Programme Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities 2014-2020, as appropriate:*
 - I. *Focus on Country Level (EU Delegations): calls for proposals and pilot actions, including liaison with EU and UN national delegations on the activities and priorities of the Working Group and its members.* Direct contacts with the EC about it and contributions to EC reflection
 - II. *Strategic Partnership between the European Commission and International/Regional Associations of Local Authorities (via PLATFORMA):* CPMR taking partners and with the 3 delivers
- f. Concrete actions and projects in the field among CPMR member regions, among their partners (regions’ NGOs, chambers of commerce, business sector, international partners, etc.) as well as between CPMR regions & their partners and other key development cooperation actors.

Objective 3

Complementarity and Synergy - To promote and complement the impact of the CPMR External Cooperation Working Group and the individual work of its members, as well as the mainstream of a cooperation axis into other CPMR working groups and geographical commissions as appropriate.

Targets:

- Catalyse and maintain a substantive, dynamic and flexible programme of concrete activities for the Working Group, also allowing for enlargement to new regions within the CPMR membership.
- Deepen the awareness and exchange among CPMR regions of each other’s external cooperation activities.
- Promote interlinkages of the Working Group with other CPMR working groups and geographical commissions and vice-versa, as appropriate.

Actions and deliverables:

- a. *Two meetings of the Working Group per semester (providing facilities for remote participation), plus regular activities: since 2014, 2-3 meetings per year*
- b. *Virtual drive for the Working Group for ease of access to materials and exchange among members, chair and CPMR Secretariat.*
- c. Regular exchange among Working Group members (not only at working group meetings) on progress of ongoing initiatives and projects, as well as on individual participation in EU and international initiatives and events.
 - Distribution list of working group members including officers and contact details,
 - Several messages with some EU agenda and international cooperation informations
- d. Joint meetings of the CPMR External Cooperation Working Group and other CPMR working groups and geographical commissions as relevant
- e. Engagement and participation in other relevant CPMR initiatives and events, including the Annual General Assembly, as appropriate; as well as profile and communications initiatives internally within the CPMR, as appropriate.

Objective 4

Accountability and effectiveness - Monitor and assess the effectiveness and impact of decentralised cooperation vis-à-vis the EU and international agendas, as well as of the actions and deliverables of the Working Group.

Targets

- **Assessment of the effectiveness and impact of decentralised cooperation, including via engagement and participation, as appropriate, in discussions towards a new Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (post Busan) and joint think-tank meetings with EU Institutions and other key development partners.**
- **Monitoring the Action Plan results and implementation, including discussion with European and international partners to improve and open new processes and initiatives.**

Actions and deliverables:

- a. *Refreshed Terms of References for the Working Group*
 - 15th July 2014: Draft refreshed Terms of Reference prepared by the CPMR Secretariat with the support of the Lead Region shared with members for consultation until 3rd September 2014.
 - Mid-September 2014: Finalisation for validation by CPMR General Assembly 24-26 September.

- b.** *Studies under PLATFORMA (Partner-Lead Activities).* 2 EU dimension studies under the EU PLATFORMA Partnership MoU
- c.** Identification of indicators for evaluation and monitoring (number of projects, created synergies, etc.).
- d.** 2 meetings per year of the Working Group with the aim of monitoring and evaluating the Action Plan's results and implementation. Done. 2 or 3 per year
- e.** Exchange of views with European and international partners to share good practices and lessons learnt and improve and open new processes and initiatives. EC, CoR, OCDE, PLATFORMA, UNDP, ALDA, ORU-FOGAR, etc