

External Cooperation Working Group

Chaired by



- MEETING MINUTES - 15 OCTOBER 2014

BASQUE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION, BRUSSELS

Attendees:

ANDALUCIA :

María GODOY, Policy Officer, Junta de Andalucía, Brussels Delegation

AQUITAINE:

Nolwenn LE TALLEC, Officer, Bureau Aquitaine Europe

BRETAGNE / PAYS DE LA LOIRE / POITOU-CHARENTES - Espace Interrégionale Européen:

Stephane PEYHORGUE, Policy Officer, Bretagne-Pays de la Loire-Poitou-Charentes

Yannick PONT (by teleconference)

CANARIAS:

Gemma MARTINEZ SOLIÑO, Canarias Government Delegation in Brussels

CATALUNYA:

Mireia SOLÉ LLORT, Policy Officer, Catalan Region in Brussels

EMILIA-ROMAGNA:

Graziana GALATI, Policy Officer, Emilia-Romagna Region EU Office

EUSKADI - BASQUE COUNTRY (WG Lead Region)

Paul ORTEGA, Director, Basque Country Development Cooperation Agency (by videoconference)

Marta MARÍN, Delegate, Basque Government Delegation to the European Union

Camila DE EPALZA, European Union Policy Officer (Development Cooperation and Multilateral focal point), Basque Government Delegation to the European Union

Jugatx ORTIZ, Policy Officer Basque Government Delegation to the European Union

PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE D'AZUR:

Bénédicte FABRE, Région Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur Brussels Office

TUSCANY:

Giulia CARBONARI, Policy Officer, Regione Toscana

Mariachiara ESPOSITO, Policy Officer, Regione Toscana

CPMR GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Maruxa CARDAMA, Adviser to the External Cooperation Working Group (by teleconference)

Claire STREET, Policy Assistant (by skype)

Apologies:

WELSH GOVERNMENT

LANGUEDOC-ROUSILLON

Link to [Power Point Presentation / Meeting agenda](#)

1. WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ON 3 JULY (BRUSSELS) AND 24 SEPTEMBER (UMEA-CPMR Annual General Assembly):

Paul Ortega, Director of the Basque Development Agency, welcomed the participants and briefly outlined the aim of the meeting.

Marta Marin, Basque Government Delegate to the European Union, introduced all participants and thanked them for their participation. The minutes of the meetings on 3 July and 24 September were adopted and remain available from the [Dropbox](#) of the working group (WG).

2. INFORMATION POINTS BY THE LEAD REGION:

a) *External Cooperation Working Group's proposal for participation in the 2015 Assises of Decentralised Cooperation (15 September 2014, Committee of the Regions):*

In line with the WG's Action Plan, on 15 September 2014, in its capacity as Lead Region of the WG the Basque Government presented to the Committee of the Regions the WG's proposal for participation in the 2015 Assises of Decentralised Cooperation. The proposed topic is: "Advancing new forms of multi-stakeholder alliances aimed at boosting innovation and effectiveness in development cooperation".

The current political and economic momentum offers an opportunity to encourage and craft new decentralised cooperation processes and partnerships of particular added value, innovation and effectiveness in the interest of more effective development outcomes. With the aim of consolidating the role and relevance of policies and actions taken by local and regional authorities, the working group would like to foster the dialogue between national, regional and local authorities, NGOs, civil society and the private sector for the exchange of relevant knowledge, expertise and innovation. This coordination and integration of different skills and roles will allow to capitalise on best practices, to share action-oriented initiatives and to build new alliances.

b) *"Forum on municipal cooperation from the European Union":*

In its capacity as WG's Lead Region, the Basque Government considers that **maintaining and enlarging collaboration with others development cooperation actors is crucial**. Camila de Epalza (EU Policy Officer/Development Cooperation and Multilateral focal point in the Basque Government Delegation to the EU) detailed that different local, regional and global cooperation platforms are interested in collaborating with the CPMR Cooperation Group members: including **Fons Mallorqui, UCLG, ORU-FOGAR, ALDA, PLATFORMA**, etc.

Camila de Epalza explained that the "**Forum on municipal cooperation from the European Union**" which took place in Palma, Mallorca last 25 and 26 September, was dedicated to decentralised cooperation and more specifically to the municipal perspective in a European context. It counted with the participation of European Union institutions and European local and regional organisations/associations/networks (e.g.: **ALDA, UCLG, ORU-FOGAR, PLATFORMA, local and regional authorities**). The Majorcan Fund wants to expand the range of agents with whom it works, incorporating European local and regional authorities and organisations of the European civil society that can bring innovative elements to its work and mission.

The Basque Government intervention as Lead Region of the WG at the Forum focused particularly on: (i) the importance of **networks** for the realisation of functional decentralised cooperation; (ii) the **future** of development cooperation in the European Union; and (iii) the crucial lessons drawn from the **experiences** gathered through multilevel cooperation and new alliances for local and regional

development.

c) Policy Forum on Development 2015:

As regards the participation of the Basque Country in the Policy Forum on Development 2015, Jugatz Ortiz briefed the workshop with the private sector that took place on 3 October in Brussels. The Policy Forum consists of structured dialogues and policy debates organised by the European Commission with the aim of boosting an efficient partnership in development. Accordingly, 136 countries are invited, as well as more than 60 networks, umbrella organisations and platforms representing civil society, and regional and local actors.

Discussions during the 1-day workshop on the involvement of the private sector in development cooperation focused on the communication by European Commission published in May: "A stronger role of the private sector in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries". From the dialogue at local and regional levels, participants agreed on the importance of including the private sector when designing public policies.

As WG Lead Region, the Basque Country highlighted the link between Corporate Social Responsibility and social innovation by using indicators as a tool to measure good governance and as a way to be more transparent and effective. In this regard, participants from national agencies, platforms and the European Commission, showed their interest in knowing more about our region's good practices and concrete examples.

d) Open Days Conference: "Instruments and mechanisms for decentralised cooperation for development 2014-2020":

Furthermore, the Basque Country also participated in the Open Days Conference: "Instruments and mechanisms for decentralised cooperation for development 2014-2020", organised by the Committee of the Regions.

Camila de Epalza explained that in an intervention as Lead Region of the WG, the Basque Government highlighted that regional authorities have shown capacity, maturity and motivation. Thus, regions have experiences and good practices as regards triangular cooperation, cross-border cooperation, the establishment of partnerships between different actors and the development of indicators, among others. The panellist from the European Commission referred to the calls for proposals to be launched from end 2014 by the EU Delegations. However, the list of the delegations is not still public.

e) WG's response to the Committee of the Regions and UNDP Public Consultation on Localizing the Post 2015 Development Agenda

Besides, Marta Marin and Camila de Epalza explained the advocacy carried out on the issue of Localising the Post 2015 Development Agenda. This advocacy builds on the response of the WG to the public consultation of the Committee of the Regions and the UN Development Programme (UNDP; response which was elaborated last July by the CPMR Secretariat in close collaboration with the Basque Government and in consultation with WG members.

European local and regional authorities have become an integral part of global development policies. Regions act with consistency, in a complementary manner, working with their counterparts and with other organisations in a given territory, included civil society organisations and NGOs. This provides ownership and added value in terms of involvement of local actors, as well as it increases the efficacy and the legacy of aid. The contribution of regional authorities to the implementation of territorial issues includes providing public services and establishing sound

regulatory frameworks, prioritising government investment and spending, employing taxes and market-based instruments to promote equality, green investment and innovation, investing in capacity building, training and education, etc.

The draft report on the localisation consultations was presented in Turin on 14 and 15 October 2014, at the “Global Dialogue on the Localisation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda”.

Thanks to the dealings of the WG Lead Region, the CPMR External Cooperation WG’s contribution was included and expressly mentioned: *“Regional activities also took place in Europe. The Committee of the Regions of the European Union, in collaboration with UNDP launched a debate among its members, counting with the additional views of mayors from El Salvador and Cameroon and of European networks as the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, gathering more than 160 regions in Europe, and represented by the Government of the Basque Country”*. (Page 13 of the Draft Report DIALOGUE ON “LOCALIZING THE POST-- 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA” VERSION of 10TH OCTOBER 2014)

3- INFORMATION POINTS BY THE CPMR SECRETARIAT:

Next steps in the negotiation and implementation of the Agenda Post-2015 - Maruxa Cardama explained the processes feeding into the Post-2015 Development Agenda and informed about other possibilities of including the WG’s message. In line with the CPMR response to the public consultation, Maruxa recalled that, within the exercise of localisation it will be important to address other parallel critical aspects around the so-called **Means for Implementation and the revitalisation of the Global Partnership(s) for Sustainable Development**. A crucial aspect will be the **articulation between the localisation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the proposal for a stand-alone SDG** to ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’. Localising the agenda will unquestionably contribute to the territorial dimension of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. However, given the top-down approach implicit in a localisation approach, the litmus test of a territorial dimension in the Post 2015 Agenda relies on the incorporation of the bottom-up approach that a stand-alone SDG represents. In this sense, the CPMR response underscored that, in the interest of effectiveness and mobilisation, as well as local ownership and long-lasting partnerships, the future Post-2015 Development Agenda should feature a territorial dimension consisting of both the top-down approach of localisation and the bottom-up approach of a stand-alone SDG - and thereby address the challenges and the opportunities behind the 21st century megatrend of urbanisation.

It is recommended to the WG:

- To monitor and engage in the EU positions on Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership with a view to advocating for the empowerment of decentralised cooperation as a critical means of implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda; as well as for the recognition of the knowhow of regional and local authorities in the establishment of multi-stakeholders partnerships (including with the private sector) for local development.

Other critical processes in the overall discussions towards a global Post 2015 Development Agenda of particular relevance to the WG are:

- **A territorial Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)** - Enhancing the advocacy for a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on cities and human settlements. The formal adoption of the SDGs and the Post 2015 Development Agenda will take place at the UN Special Summit in September 2015. The coming months will see intense multi-lateral negotiations on the basis of the 17 proposed SDGs that were adopted by an intergovernmental open working group last July (<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>). Discussions on whether to keep the full 17 proposed SDGs or reduce the overall number by collapsing topics, merging areas or

mainstreaming certain issues across the overall framework instead of addressing them with a stand-alone SDG is already intense and will only get higher. Therefore regional and local authorities should not take for granted that the current proposed territorial SDG will make it through to the final set of SDGs to be adopted in September 2015.

It is recommended:

- To WG member regions, to consider mobilising their governments in favour of the global campaign for a stand-alone SDG www.urbansdg.org Members may be familiar with the mobilisation carried out by UCLG among local authorities.
- To the WG, to engage in the EU discussions on the matter both in the European Parliament draft report on Post 2015 (MEP Davor Stier) and the follow up of the European Commission Communication on the Post 2015 Development Agenda (which back in summer already hinted at the possibility of mainstreaming territorial issues instead of dedicating them a stand-alone SDG).
- **Regional and municipal funding** – Preparations towards the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, July 2015 - <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>) and the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Habitat III (Summer 2016 - <http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii/>) are under way. They offer an important window of political opportunity to draw attention to and shape policy drivers on financial decentralisation and municipal funding. As a matter of fact, the topic of municipal funding has been identified by the Secretariat of the Habitat III as a critical topic for the preparation of the Conference.

It is recommended to the WG:

- To monitor the preparations by the EU and advocate for the EU to champion at international level the opportunities offered by decentralisation and the specific needs for regional and municipal funding

Members are invited to read the [briefing note](#) prepared by Maruxa available from [Dropbox](#). The note contains background information on the SDGs and the Global Post 2015 Development Agenda; on Habitat III and its links with the Post-2015 Development and Climate Agendas; on the localisation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, This briefing note is a detailed version of the background note that Maruxa prepared to support of the Seminar ‘The Med beyond 2015 – How to Achieve Sustainable Development?’, which was co-organised by the Lazio Region, the CPMR and PLATFORMA last 10th November in Rome. The [background note for the Seminar](#) can be found from [Dropbox](#) here.

Due to technical problems with the connection it was difficult to follow the explanations provided by Maruxa Cardama. She proposed to update members on the state of play of **negotiations with Platforma towards the future Strategic Partnership with the European Commission** with a detailed brief to members via email. With the help of Claire Street, the CPMR Secretariat established a telephone line for member to be able to share views/ask any questions directly to Maruxa. Two sessions of 1h30 on the day of the meeting and the following day were arranged). The [detailed brief](#) that was circulated is available from the [Dropbox](#) of the WG.

It is important to note that the question on whether CPMR regions would need to co-finance that was raised at the meeting is not relevant to this discussion. The cash comes from the CPMR overall budget. Regions therefore are not requested to contribute any money beyond what is already their standing annual membership to the CPMR. There are regions of the CPMR who are also direct members of Platforma. These regions obviously have their own bilateral co-financing arrangements with Platforma, which are completely independent from membership fees to the CPMR and CPMR’s contributions to Platforma.

Negotiations with Platforma continued until the end of October. After that, the CPMR Secretariat circulated to members via email the latest papers from the Platforma Secretariat, reflecting the contents and budget of the future Strategic Partnership, The final agreement on the engagement of the CPMR is as follows:

1. Shaping a new generation of decentralised cooperation

- a. Format of the activity: Research paper with a think-tank approach also based on the practices and experience by CPMR regions
- b. Some key subthemes to be unpacked: What new models for decentralised cooperation? - What role for local and regional governments in those new models? - Way forward to enhance effectiveness and accountability? - Why to enhance smart specialisation and innovation and how to do it?
- c. This is actually an activity directly from the Action Plan of the External Cooperation Working Group. In this context, it would be useful to be able to use Platforma funds and capitalise on the full Platforma partnership to implement it
- d. Internally for Platforma this is categorised as the CPMR contribution to core activities, which as such should serve to develop the overall mission of Platforma (decentralised cooperation). Like for all activities carried out by and within Platforma, there has to be added value for the overall Platforma partnership

2. Towards a new generation of public-private partnerships for decentralised cooperation

- a. Format of the activity: Research paper with a think-tank approach also based on the practices and experience by CPMR regions
- b. Some key subthemes to be unpacked: Lessons learnt by the experience of regional and local authorities - possible new models for these partnerships on the basis of these experiences - monitoring tools adapted to these new models. Addressing the question of public-private partnerships separately and not only as a part of the wider topic 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 European Commission directorates beyond DEVCO, as appropriate.
- c. The topic has been highlighted as an area of interest to the WG. In this context, it would be useful to be able to use Platforma funds and capitalise on the full Platforma partnership to carry out specific work.
- d. Internally for Platforma this is categorised as CPMR contribution to core activities, which as such should serve to develop the overall mission of Platforma (decentralised cooperation). Like for all activities carried out by and within Platforma, there has to be added value for the overall Platforma partnership

3. Southern neighbourhood - Promoting integrated territorial development at regional level via decentralised cooperation

- a. Format of the activity: Manual on the delivery of public services at regional level and training courses facilitated by experts from the regions; establishing direct collaboration between regions from the North and South
- b. Aspects to be unpacked include: Emphasis on the regional and not only local dimension of public service provision; how to get to an integrated approach to territorial development; and also aspects such as public-private-partnerships and review of traditional cooperation tools such as twinnings and others.
- c. This is an activity that would allow to reinforce the regional dimension within Platforma. It will also complement ongoing collaborations and projects by the CPMR, particularly in this case with ARLEM. More importantly, it would allow to add and implement a decentralised cooperation component to the ongoing CPMR-ARLEM collaboration for a pilot project on capacity building.

Such a decentralised cooperation component and the regional dimension are of strong interest to the regions involved in this CPMR-ARLEM pilot but has no other sources of funding so far. Therefore it would allow for complementarity - i.e. the activity falls under a big umbrella inspired by what CPMR and ARLEM are trying to bring to life. Using Platforma funds for this and capitalising on its wider partnership would allow to fund an important dimension that otherwise wouldn't have funding. This activity is in line with the goals and targets of the Action Plan for the External Cooperation Working Group. The Southern Neighbourhood component builds upon collaborations with Platforma to date and follows from the negotiations between CPMR and Platforma over the past 12 months.

d. Internally for Platforma this is categorised as a partner led activity - i.e. an activity led by CPMR for the whole of Platforma. As such, a partner led activity would mean making some concessions to guarantee added value to the overall partnership of Platforma. For the particular component of Southern Neighbourhood, concessions to the overall partnership of Platforma will not dramatically deviate CPMR from what we would originally like to do, since a good number of the other Platforma direct members with an interest in the Southern Neighbourhood are either CPMR regions who are also members of Platforma directly, or organisations with whom the CPMR has a good working relationship. Being lead partner for the Southern Neighbourhood means that we retain the overall coordination. However it is important to note that the negotiation with each Platforma member (including with those who are also CPMR regions), is being carried out by the Platforma Secretariat.

As per the different info emails circulated to members and indicated on the meeting agenda, on 10th November in Rome Lazio Region, CPMR Intermediterranean Commission and PLATFORMA organised the **Seminar on 'The Med Post 2015 - How to achieve sustainable development'**. This was the first session of the *Mediterranean Cooperation Days* of the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission, which aimed to host political and technical debates on different aspects concerning the future of the basin and the opportunities that a macro-region strategy offers to the area

The objective of the seminar was to strengthen synergies between the needs of Local & Regional Authorities (LRAs) and EU development policies. It sought to encourage discussions on a shared vision for cooperation in the Mediterranean to be promoted also in the wider context of the Global Post-2015 Development Agenda. Political messages and discussions were anchored with presentations on decentralised cooperation case studies on the topics of climate change and energy. Speakers included local and regional elected representatives from European and African cities and regions, representatives from networks such as ARLEM, Arco Latin, MedCities, UCLG Med Commission and CPMR Intermed-commission. European Parliament MEP Davor Stier took part as rapporteur of the forthcoming EP report on the Post 2015-Development Agenda. The Basque Government Delegate to the EU Marta Marín represented the External Cooperation WG.

Members have received regular updates from the CPMR Secretariat since summer, also after the WG meeting, and the programme of the event and background note on the 'Post 2015 Development Agenda' produced by the CPMR Secretariat are available from the dedicated website <http://www.medmaritimeprojects.eu/article/rome-presentation-event>. The CPMR Secretariat will be circulating to members the report of the Seminar as soon as it becomes available

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) informed about its participation in the Strategic Partnership within PLATFORMA. PACA is focused on the South Neighbourhood area and the region wants to organise two conferences in Marseille (Villa Méditerranée) and one conference or seminar in a South Neighbourhood country, probably Tunisia.

Camila de Epalza explained too that **Euskal Fondoa** (Basque Local Authorities Fund) is a PLATFORMA member and participating in the Strategic Partnership with a concrete action and conference under European Cooperation Year 2015.

Members are encouraged to participate in the **Climate Action conference organised by Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region next 11th December in Marseille**, in collaboration with the CPMR (Inter-Med Commission and External Cooperation Working Group) and the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG. The conference will constitute a first CPMR milestone around the crucial climate change negotiations of Paris in December 2015. The conference is expected to adopt a declaration of local and regional authorities to be signed by several networks.

4- REVIEW OF THE TORs, ACTION PLAN AND MATRIX OF PRIORITIES

Members of the group have already received the final version of the [Terms of Reference](#), which were presented to the Political Bureau at the Annual General Assembly of the CPRM. They remain available in our shared Dropbox.

Among other things, the terms cover the objectives and targets of the WG's Action Plan, which have been included as well in the description of our working group in the website of the CPMR. Special thanks to Claire for updating the information and making the group more visible.

Camila de Epalza presented the update to the activities of the working plan already carried out or planned:

<p>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.</p>	<p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>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.</p>	<p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and cross-fertilize 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.
<p>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.</p>	<p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>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.</p>	<p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Bussan) 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 OCTOBER 2014

<p>Policy and Advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - July: Action plan - 16th June: Signature of open letter to EU MS “No decent life for all in the Post 2015 Development Agenda without European local and regional governments”, within the banner of PLATFORMA - 2nd July: Participation in PLATFORMA Steering Committee and Political Council meeting (Paris) - 31st July: response to the UNDP and CoR consultation “Localisation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda” + advocacy/contacts to include our messages - 16th May: EYD2015, Engaging Citizens for Global Justice (CONCORD) - Intervention of Marta Marín - 15th Sept: Conference topic proposal for the Assises of Decentralised Cooperation - 25/26th Sept: Participation of the “Forum on municipal cooperation from the EU” (Palma, Mallorca) - 3rd October: Participation in the Policy Forum on Development, workshop with the private sector - 9th October: Open Days Conference “Instruments and mechanisms for decentralised cooperation for development 2014-2020” - 14-15th October: Global Dialogue on the Localization of the post 2015 Development Agenda (Turin) - 15-18th October 2015: Third World Forum of Local Economic Development (Turin) - Sept: identification of MEPs and first introductory meeting with relevant MEPs and Commission officials - October: exchange of view with PLATFORMA, CONCORD, CGLU, ORU FOGAR, ALDA and the UN on the basis of the adopted Action Plan - Press releases and wider communication action
<p>Innovative processes towards empowering regional and local governments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matrix of priorities - Portal of Decentralized Cooperation - 10th Nov: Seminar on “The Med Post 2015 - How to achieve sustainable development” co-organized by Lazio Region, CPRM Inter-Mediterranean Commission and PLATFORMA (Rome) - Monitoring and participation in the elaboration and implementation of the EC’s Thematic Programme CSO and LAs - Strategic Partnership between the EC and PLATFORMA - Calls for proposals from EU Delegations - Map of current and future funding opportunities, projects and processes at European and International level - Concrete actions and projects in the field among member regions
<p>Complementarity and Synergy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3rd July: Transition meeting for handover from out-going chair (Catalunya) to incoming chair (Euskadi) - 15th July: Dropbox facility - July: Outreach to the wider CPRM membership to allow for new members - July: Distribution list of working group members including officers and contact details - 24th Sept: Joint meeting in the AG with Atlantic Arc, Inter-Mediterranean and Islands. - 15th October: 2nd meeting of the WG
<p>Accountability and effectiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised Terns of Reference - validation by CPRM General Assembly 24-26 September - Studies: explore the possibility of carrying this out under PLATFORMA (Partner Led Activities) - Identification of indicators for evaluation and monitoring - Exchange of views with European and international partners to share good practices and lessons learnt and improve and open new processes and initiatives

As far as the activities of particular interest to member regions, the following opportunities and actions were discussed:

Matrix of priorities: Graziana Galati, representative from Emilia Romagna, suggested some ideas: development of methodologies and approaches from the common themes of interest, research on the different interferences in decentralised cooperation of different regions, involvement of other actors and widening of the relations between different actions, potential projects to be carried in the field, invitation to participate in the Assises to NGOs and the private sector.

Meeting with relevant MEPs and European Commission officials: Due to the nomination of new commissioners and a new European Parliament, this initiative has been postponed. Regions have already sent information about their regional MEPs and, as soon as the new Commission is in place, the WG will organise these activities.

Map of current and future funding opportunities: Regions showed interest in having a detailed description of the funding opportunities at European and international level.

Studies / papers within the Strategic Partnership agreement with PLATFORMA: Regions discussed the possibility of involving regional agencies, universities, etc. in the research and publication of the papers and studies.

Possible case studies / good practice sheets: The WG has been thinking about the possibility of capitalising our best practices in a systematic way. It could be by the creation of “successful / meaningful case study” sheets. As discussed, not only other platforms, but also the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and national agencies have shown their interest in our practices and methodologies of work, which have a particular added value.

Hence, the WG could choose some examples per region of a project, of a collaboration among different actors, of the use of a particular indicator or of any other interesting example of a process or a project led by our regions, and present it in a fact-sheet format.

The WG could, by this mean, step up our expertise and capitalise on our experiences and best practices. Furthermore, it could be a first step to knowing each other and building a strong team for future funding opportunities.

Stephane Peyhorgue, representing Bretagne-Pays de la Lore-Poitou-Charentes, pointed out that France did this exercise in the past, and that we could check their examples.

Widening the membership of the WG - As regards complementarities and synergies of the WG, Marta Marin reiterated the interest to outreach to the wider CPRM membership to widen the membership (regions from UK, Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands, etc.). Maruxa indicated that at the CPMR Annual General Assembly in Umea back in September, the Secretary General Eleni Marianou explicitly conveyed this interest to the CPMR Political Bureau and asked for their assistance.

5- UPDATE OF THE MEMBER REGIONS' LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANNED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The **Emilia-Romagna Region** announced that it will actively participate in the Expo 2015 in Milan, from 18 to 23 September 2015, on the occasion of a week of visibility and leadership dedicated to Emilia-Romagna, within the Italy Pavilion. In this context, there will probably be the possibility to organise activities linked to development cooperation issues.

Emilia-Romagna Region will provide further information on this possibility to the external cooperation group in the next months.

Regions asked for more information about the **European Development Days** and the **European Year of Development**.

The **Basque Country** informed about a conference to be organised in the Delegation in Brussels end of November or December 2014 with EuskalFondoa. Also, Paul Ortega informed about the meeting of the Committee of Development Cooperation with all the Spanish Autonomous Communities taking place next month.

6- NEXT MEETING: STIMULATE A CREATIVE DYNAMIC OF THE WORKING GROUP

As far as the next meetings are concerned, the Group discussed the possibility of having guest speakers, such as an official from the European Commission, an MEP, a representative of the private sector or NGO, a member of the Cabinet of the new Commissioner for Development and Cooperation, etc. For the next meeting, and as long as the group will have the mapping of the financing opportunities, it could be interested to invite a Policy Officer from the European Commission DG DEVCO Unit B2.

It was agreed to hold a next meeting of the WG in January 2015 and in the meanwhile maintain the ongoing regular email updates provided by the CPMR Secretariat as appropriate.

TIMETABLE OF NEXT ACTIONS

Action	Lead	Timeline
Minutes of the meeting	Euskadi as Lead Region and CPMR Secretariat	17 November
Information about the negotiations with PLATFORMA for the Future Strategic Partnership	CPMR Secretariat	Ongoing
Information about the EDY 2014	Euskadi as Lead Region	November
Outreach to the wider CPMR membership to allow for new members	Lead Region and CPMR Secretariat	November
Policy Brief: New Commission's priorities as regards Development and Cooperation (Juncker's mandate and hearing at the EP)	Euskadi as Lead Region	December
Design and distribution of "case study or good practice" sheets	Euskadi as Lead Region	December
Identification of good examples, practices, case studies... per region	By all WG members	December
Identification of relevant MEPs (EP members from each region) and Commission officials and first introductory meeting	By all WG members	January
Map of current and future funding opportunities, projects and processes at European and International level	Euskadi as Lead Regions and CPMR Secretariat	January
Invitation to Policy Officer from the European Commission to the next meeting	Euskadi as Lead Region and CPMR Secretariat	January