



SUMMARY OF CPMR INITIATIVES ON MIGRATION

The purpose of this note is to summarise the policy initiatives undertaken by the CPMR since the outbreak of the unprecedented migration crisis.

2015

- On 27 February 2015, the CPMR created a dedicated Task Force on Migration Management, consisted of representatives of its member-regions from all over Europe, following-up on previous policy work by its Intermediterranean Commission. Its aim is to facilitate experience exchange and sharing of good practices on the management of emergency situations at EU borders by regions in receiving countries, for instance related to rescuing operations of migrants at sea, reception, registration and short-term hosting of migrants, as well as on medium-long term integration policies, e.g. socio-economic policies for refugees.
- On 24 April 2015 the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission addressed an [Open Letter](#) to the European Council and Parliament to reiterate their strong commitment and solidarity towards the citizens of the Mediterranean.
- On 18 May 2015 a delegation of Presidents of CPMR regions in a symbolic meeting in Lampedusa, Italy launched the [solidarity campaign](#) of the CPMR “We Are All Mediterranean”, which has received more than 1 400 signatures so far.
- On 20 May 2015 a delegation of Presidents of CPMR regions and Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR, met with Martin Schulz to seek the European Parliament’s support for establishing an effective Mediterranean Policy that takes into account the management of migration flows and addresses the challenges of the common destiny of Mediterranean people. Martin Schulz offered his “full support” to the public petition campaign “We Are All Mediterranean”.

- On 26 May 2015 in a working meeting of their Task Force on Migration Management, hosted by the Region of Sicily, CPMR regions decided to exchange good practices and further enhance their cooperation on the topic.
- On 12 June 2015 the CPMR Political Bureau conveyed the message that a European approach to migration requires a long-term effective, plural and integrated multilevel governance model for managing migration flows.
- On 25 June 2015 the CPMR Islands Commission's General Assembly approved a [Final Declaration](#) calling for a European solution to the Migration crisis and urging the European Commission to provide Regional Authorities with the means to deal faster and more accurately with the problems immigrants are facing through access to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).
- On 26 June 2015 the CPMR Task Force for Migration exchanged on good practices at regional level on migrant reception, socio-economic integration, and discussed current and future cooperation opportunities.
- On 3 July 2015 the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission's General Assembly gathered in Nafplio, recalled its previous positions on [Migration](#) and approved a [Final declaration](#) enlightening messages of peace and solidarity as the need of a global approach to migration and intercultural and interreligious dialogues.
- On 3 July 2015 the CPMR [responded](#) to the public consultation on Neighbourhood Policy stating that the reviewed policy should among others contribute to a comprehensive approach to migration and should rely on a genuine, partnership-based and long-term role for Regional Authorities that would allow taking on board the territories in their diversity and as contributors to development.
- The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission sent on 10 September 2015 a letter to President Juncker ([link](#)) proposing the use by Regions of unspent Cohesion and Neighbouring Policy Funds of the 2007-2013 programming period to address the current crisis.
- On 10 September 2015 the CPMR [commented](#) on the points on Migration that President Juncker made during his speech on the "State of the Union" and called for better use of EU funds to face migration by public authorities on the ground.
- On 14 September 2015 in an [article](#) published on the news portal "New Europe", eleven regional leaders present a common position on the migration and argue for a more efficient and reoriented EU Migration policy, with a global approach that includes the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as well as Neighbouring Policy.
- On 14 October 2015, the European Parliament hosted an Open Days debate on the role of regions in migration management, which was moderated by Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR.
- On 14 October 2015 the CPMR organised a working meeting between its Task Force on Migration and the European Commission (DG REGIO) to enable the [debate](#) on the flexibility that the European Commission would allow on the use of European Structural Investment Funds for migration priorities.
- On 6 November 2015 the CPMR regions adopted at their Annual General Meeting a [policy position](#) on Migration Management. Among others they committed to provide sufficient care and assistance to people in need and to contribute to the effective integration of refugees in their

territories. They also called on the European institutions for, among others, a fair distribution of refugees among Member States, for more solidarity to countries at EU borders, for more flexibility in the use of European Structural Investment Funds 2014-2020 for priorities linked with the migration crisis, and to strengthen the resources and means of regional authorities to deliver solutions on the ground.

- In November 2015, in view of the Valletta International Summit on Migration called by the European Council, letters from President of CPMR Regions were addressed to the Ambassador of France and special representative of the EU Council Presidency for the Conference in Malta asking to open up the National delegations to regional authorities.
- On 25 November 2015 the CPMR together with CEMR and EURO CITIES addressed a [letter](#) to President Juncker, calling on a European solution and an inclusive approach to the migration crisis, with more cooperation with cities and regions on the ground.
- On 26th November 2015 the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission's Political Bureau further developed these messages in a new political [declaration](#) recalling in particular the links between migration and the EU neighbourhood policy in the South of the Mediterranean as the need of improving and exploiting the added value of cooperation at territorial level.
- On 8 December 2015 the CPMR was invited to present the regional perspective in a [panel](#) on "Territorial aspects of refugee migration to Europe" within the ESPON seminar "A world without borders: Refugees, cooperation and territories"

2016

- On 21 January 2016 in a working meeting of the CPMR Task Force on Migration hosted by the Delegation of Catalonia in Brussels regions sought [further cooperation](#) on Migration Management. They also exchanged views on good practices and discussed with the European Commission (DG HOME) possibilities for funding opportunities for regions, e.g. through AMIF. Among other things, regions explored the possibilities to set up a [MIPLEX project](#) at regional level that would allow monitoring of the integration of migrants within their territories.
- On 23 February 2016 two regional governments members of the CPMR, Valencia in Spain and South Aegean in Greece, signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) in which the regional government of Valencia assumes the responsibility for the transfer of 1 100 refugees from South Aegean islands, covering all costs, to receive them in Valencia and assume their healthcare and education.
- The CPMR was part of a consortium that submitted a project proposal on 29 February 2016 on integration of migrants at work through the development of skill centres. The proposal was submitted by OPZZ to an AMIF call launched by the European Commission
- The CPMR was part of a consortium that submitted a project proposal on 3 March 2016 on the integration migrants in social and health systems. The proposal was submitted by Emergency ONG to an AMIF call launched by the Italian Ministry of Interior.
- On 17 March 2016 the CPMR [claimed](#) the right of regions to funds under the new emergency support mechanism and for extended eligibility of regions within other existing funds and instruments, such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), especially when it comes to housing, health care, social support, education and integration of people into societies.

- On 4 April 2016, the CPMR addressed a letter to Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, presenting solutions that regions can offer for the resettlement of refugees, within the EU relocation mechanism.
- On 6 April 2016 CPMR presented the regional perspective to migration policies and examples of solutions at regional level in a meeting on [“Migration and Health: a contribution of Regional Experiences to international and European Policies”](#), organised in Brussels by Tuscany region.
- On 6 and 7 April 2016 the CPMR, invited as key stakeholder in the 2nd EU Migration Forum, co-organised by the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Commission, took part in the participatory workshop on the [“Role of the local level in the effective integration of third-country nationals, including asylum seekers and refugees”](#) and among others proposed the monitoring of migrants’ integration through indicators at regional level, which can be found in the [final report](#) of the Forum.
- On 14 April 2016 Rena Dourou, Regional Governor of Attica, and Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR met with Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission.
- On 12 May 2016, Regions Attica, Lazio and Sicily sent a [joint letter](#) to the relevant EU institutions, the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament with regard to strengthening the Regions’ role in addressing the migrant / refugee crisis.
- On 20 May 2016, the CPMR Islands Commission’s Annual General Meeting adopted a [Final Declaration](#) urging the EU Institutions to strengthen the European dimension of their response to the global migratory pressures and to involve all relevant actors in effectively addressing the crisis, making the most out of the positive experiences and proposals that regions put forward.
- On 17 June 2016, the CPMR Political Bureau approved the continuation of the CPMR Task Force on Migration management with focus on advocacy work and experience and good practices exchange on both response to humanitarian emergencies and socioeconomic integration and development.
- On 1 July 2016 the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission’s Annual General Meeting adopted a [Final Declaration](#) urging the European Commission to consider local and regional authorities as part of the solution to the migration crisis and further involve them in decision making, as well as gradually adapt territorial cooperation programmes to migration issues. It also identified intercultural and interreligious dialogue, especially among young people, as a key element for reducing radicalization and building trust and solidarity between refugees and host societies.
- On 2 November 2016 the CPMR Task Force on Migration in a working meeting in the Azores expressed their worries with regard to the development of the policy at EU level and agreed that further exchanges and discussion is needed, including with regard to the way migration priorities will be addressed by the post-2020 cohesion policy.
- On 4 November 2016 at the CPMR Annual General Meeting in the Azores regions reiterated the role they can assume in the implementation of the EU policies for migration management, including relocation and medium and long term integration.

2017

- On 10 March 2017, the Political Bureau in Gozo held a session on migration with the participation of the Maltese presidency and MEP Roberta Metsola. The CPMR Secretariat highlighted its work on humanitarian visas and corridors ([link to paper](#)).

- In March 2017, the CPMR supported a grant application by the Consortium InSPIRe led by Tuscany Region under the EaSI Call [VP/2016/15 - Fast track integration into the labour market for third country nationals targeting exclusively asylum seekers, refugees and their family members](#)
- In June 2017, the CPMR signed an Agreement with the Consultancy INSTRATEGIES led by Anna Terrón for the provision of technical support to the CPMR Task Force in 2017-18 with a view to producing recommendations and proposals for lobbying purposes.
- On 14 July 2017, the Executive Secretary of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission participated in a seminar organised by Tuscany Region and based on its White Paper on the Reception and Integration of migrants.
- In July 2017, the CPMR Secretariat launched a [survey](#) amongst its member regions as part of a mapping exercise to determine the regions' capacity for reception and integration of migrants.
- On 6 September 2017, the CPMR Secretariat organised a brainstorming meeting between its Task Force members and EU institutions and other stakeholder organisations to discuss the regions' role in migration management within the context of the reflections on the future of Europe.
- On 18 October 2017, the CPMR Task Force on Migration met to take stock of actions and discuss the content of the draft issue paper on migration and asylum in EU regions.
- On 19-20 October 2017, migration was addressed during the CPMR General Assembly in Helsinki and a number of points were included in the [Final Declaration](#) adopted by member Regions.

2018

- On 7 February 2018, the [CPMR Task Force on Migration](#) met to discuss future actions and finalise the issue paper to be presented to the CPMR Political Bureau.
- On 8 March 2018, the a session on migration took place during CPMR Political Bureau in Patras in which the [Issue Paper: Migration and Asylum in EU Regions: Towards a multilevel governance approach](#) was validated.
- On 23 April 2018 the CPMR and Attica Region organised a [High level conference on Migration and the Role of the Regions](#) at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels to raise awareness among the EU institutions on the importance of multi-level governance and the involvement of regional authorities in tackling issues related to migration and asylum. The event was attended by over 120 people and involved key speakers from local and regional authorities, EU Institutions and other key stakeholders and organisations, including the OECD and ICMPD.
- On 30 May 2018, the CPMR Secretary General met with Director General of DG HOME, Mrs Paraskevi Michou, to discuss future opportunities to strengthen the role of the Regions and the alliance with the EC for better responding to migration related challenges on the ground. Mrs Michou expressed particular interest in the MIPEX-Regions initiative.
- On 27 June 2018, the CPMR Secretariat participated along with three of its member regions (Tuscany, Skåne and North Aegean) in a conference organised by the Balearic Islands Government on "[An approach to the response of European regions to the Refugee Crisis](#)".
- In July 2018 the CPMR launched an internal [survey](#) among its members on the external dimension of EU migration policies.
- On 20 August 2018, Paraskevi Michou, Director General of DG HOME addressed a [letter](#) supporting the recommendations of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission set out in its Final

Declaration adopted in Patras on 28 June regarding a holistic approach to migration and more solidarity, increased funds and complementarity of funding instruments, the importance of integration and the need for legal pathways for migration among others.

- On 17-19 October 2018 the CPMR held its General Assembly in Madeira. The programme included a meeting of the Task Force on 17 October and a session on migration during the General Assembly focusing on the CPMR's crucial activities to strengthen cooperation and partnerships that add value, are innovative and enable more effective migration management and governance. The adopted [Final Declaration](#) included a number of points on EU migration policies.

2019

- On 31 January 2019, the CPMR as leader submitted a project under the call [AMIF-2018-AG-INTE-1 "Integration of Third-Country Nationals - Local and Regional Integration Networks"](#). The project named REGIN aims to design, develop and assess an innovative toolbox for regions to facilitate, promote and strengthen migrants' integration. The expected contribution is to advance robustness, accuracy and reliability of the regional authorities' capabilities to promote inclusions, as well as improving cooperation and knowledge-sharing among them. Partners are Instrategies, CIDOB, MPG and member Regions Azores, Campania, Catalonia, Murcia, Sardinia, Skåne
- On 26 February 2019 in Seville, Spain, the CPMR in association with the AEBR organised a [side event on migration](#) during the 10th Plenary Session of the Local and Regional Euro-Mediterranean Assembly (ARLEM).
- In March 2019 the CPMR supported two projects under the Horizon 2020 call [MIGRATION-01-2019: Understanding migration mobility patterns: elaborating mid and long-term migration scenarios](#). Firstly, it participated as a partner in the project application "T.I.P. - The Institution in the Integration Policies" (project leader University of Naples Federico II), and secondly it supported as an associate partner the GEMIS project: Global and European Migration Scenarios led by University Paris Dauphine.
- In March 2019 the CPMR published an issue paper on the external dimension of migration policies [Working together: the regional strategy](#)
- On 2 April 2019, the CPMR participated in an event organised by the Basque Government to present the SHARE Initiative, which aims to promote an alliance among regions and local authorities wishing to show solidarity through the territorial distribution of efforts for the reception and inclusion of vulnerable migrants and to give them a voice and a proposal at European level regarding migration challenges.
- On 10 April 2019, the Committee of the Regions, with the support of the CPMR and three other European associations of local and regional authorities, officially launched its initiative [Cities and Regions for Integration](#).
- In April 2019, the CPMR launched the [visual mapping](#) based on members replies to its surveys on the internal and external dimension of migration policies and the role of the regions.
- At the CPMR Political Bureau meeting on 13 June 2019, the CPMR set out its key messages on migration to be addressed to the new European Parliament and Commission in the CPMR Strategic Plan "Towards a CPMR manifesto: 'Why territories matter'".
- On 19 July 2019, the REGIN project led by the CPMR (see above) was approved by the European Commission. The project is expected to kick off on 1 February 2020.

- On 16 September 2019 the Task Force met to validate its new Terms of Reference for the post 2020 period.



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The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) brings together some 160 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond.

Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory.

It operates both as a think tank and as a lobby group for Regions. It focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial cohesion, maritime policies and accessibility.

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